



PCS OFFICIALS MUM ON LSD REPORT

Editorial

Right To Know

(Editor's Note: This is National Newspaper Week with a theme of "Newspapers Get Things Done." This editorial by Theodore A. Serrill, executive vice president of the National Newspaper Association, seems quite appropriate.)

Who ever told that nosy editor he had a right to pry into what happened at our council meeting? What gave that reporter any idea that he could write about the school directors the way he did?

The answer is that there is no law, rule, regulation or order that specifically requires a newspaper reporter to cover city council, school board or court sessions. The Constitution says "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of the press."

The newspaper is not required to report the city council meeting or send someone to the school directors sessions. The reporter could stay home. Nor do laws specify that "the press" be accorded any special treatment before any public body. "Open Meeting laws" never mention newspapers, reporters, or news media. They simply affirm the right of the public at large to attend and observe meetings of governing assemblies.

Mrs. Smith, then, can "cover" the city council — for her club, her neighborhood, or just for herself. The principle of open government meetings was established for the people — the resident, the voter, the taxpayer, all the governed — not solely for the press or its representatives.

Then why is it that "the right to know" and "freedom of information" always seem to be linked with the press?

In the very early days of American settlement all of the people of a local community would gather in the town meeting and determine the affairs of the community. Almost everybody attended, and those who didn't, soon learned from the informed majority.

But villages soon grew into cities, and the "pure democracy" of the town meeting gave way to representative democracy. Government was growing more remote from the people. It was also growing more complicated. Yet the citizen, as a voter, had the same responsibility to keep himself informed.

It followed naturally that the Nations fledgling press should fill the role of reporter and commentator on public affairs. No one passed a law requiring it. The Founding Fathers simply had faith that a private press, given the guarantee of freedom to do so, would accept the responsibility. And of course it has. For nearly two centuries newspapers have attended meetings of governing bodies, reporting and interpreting in behalf of the public.

The reporter attends city council meetings as a member of the public. He has a right to be present only if the public retains that right. The editor comments on the council's decisions — or lack of them — as an ordinary citizen. While he is aided in his function by the printing press at his disposal, it gives him no special rights. He can comment only so long as the public has a privilege of commenting.

The "right to know" and "freedom of information" are concepts with which the newsman works every day. The same professional tradition which sends him to the city council meeting compels him to resist inroads on these public rights. For he knows, and the public should always realize too, that in all that he does, the newspaperman acts as a citizen, in behalf of his fellow citizens.

Raymondville Man, 72, Dead Following Accident

Daniel Sharlow, 72, Raymondville, was pronounced dead upon arrival at Massena Memorial Hospital at 9 a.m. yesterday where he was taken following a two-car accident on Rt. 56, 3 miles from Massena at one of the two entrances to the Bodah's Diner. An autopsy was performed to determine the cause of death. It was undetermined whether Sharlow had a heart attack or died of injuries from the accident. The Norfolk Rescue Squad took Sharlow to the Massena Hospital.

gated said that Sharlow was traveling toward Massena at the time and his car veered to the left and collided with another vehicle operated by William Dawley, 40, Lisbon, who was traveling in the opposite direction. Dawley was unhurt, except for a small scratch on the forehead. Both cars were demolished. The Sharlow car also struck a tree on the west side of the diner entrance. The Norfolk Rescue Squad took Sharlow to the Massena Hospital.

Murphy Opposes Charter

Richard H. Murphy, Republican candidate for supervisor of the Town of Potsdam in the Nov. 7 election contest, has stated that he is vigorously opposed to adoption of the proposed new State Constitution, mainly on the grounds that it is to be presented to the electors in one package.

"I believe the new document includes many needed reforms and good provisions," said Murphy this week. "but I object to the high-handed manner in which the convention decided to place all the Articles in one proposition on the ballot, thus taking from the public its inalienable right to vote on each issue individually, and on its own merits."

At the top of the list of items which Murphy considers objectionable is the one which empowers the legislature to approve state borrowing without holding a voter referendum.

He is also concerned about Article 9, which orders the legislature to provide for a system of higher education (See Murphy, Pg. 22)

Urges 'No' Vote

The Board of Directors of the Canton-Potsdam League of Women Voters unanimously agreed to oppose the adoption of the proposed Constitution for New York State and will campaign for its defeat at the polls on Nov. 7.

The League is urging a no vote on the charter because of its regressive provisions on the courts, legislative apportionment, suffrage and education, and because it does not give New Yorkers the simple,

(See League, Pg. 22)

Women Voters Plan Program

The League of Women Voters of Canton and Potsdam is sponsoring a public meeting, the Proposed Constitution — Model or Bad Example? as part of its voter service program.

The speaker will be Judge Edward L. Shea who was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and who served on the judiciary committee. Lawrence Kissel, a delegate from the education committee has also been invited.

The meeting will be on Oct. 23 at 8 p.m. in the meeting room of the Canton Free Library. The public is invited to hear the speakers and to participate in the question period following the delegate's talk about his insight into and impressions of the conven-

Fund Drive Leader Expresses Some Concern Over Campaign

With barely two weeks remaining in the Potsdam Area United Fund Campaign, reports as of last Wednesday night show only 34 percent raised of its \$41,050 goal. Area Chairman Ernest M. Moore expressed "some concern" about the slow progress to date. "There is a great deal of campaign activity in the works," stated Moore, "but time is running short." The campaign is scheduled to be completed by October 26 with no extensions according to the United Fund Board of Directors.

The Potsdam Area Campaign is behind the countywide 50 percent of goal raised to date. According to figures released by Joseph H. McCann, county chairman, a total of over \$138,000 has been pledged in the overall drive for \$275,000. According to McCann this report is better than any previous report at this same time



READY TO GO — Montgomery Ward and Co.'s Old Fashioned Bargain Days are ready to go today, tomorrow and Saturday. Members of the store's staff get into the swing of things with

Milford Curtis' 1928 Pontiac. As Roy Leyare turns the trusty crank, Sharleen DeShane, Ferne Lord, Etta Phelix and Ann LaShomb wait to climb aboard for a trip into yesteryear.

Chamber Suggests Bypass Meeting

The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce proposed at this Tuesday's meeting at the Town House, that a high level discussion be held on the proposed bypass for the village.

Members took about the same position on the matter as the presidents of the two local colleges advocated.

Thomas P. North, Jr., assistant to the president at the State University College at Potsdam and secretary of the chamber reported, that the two college presidents agreed "more dialogue is needed on the bypass."

He said both Dr. John W. Graham, Jr., president of Clarkson College, and Dr. Alfred W. Thatcher, acting president of State, were of this opinion when they met with

Mayor George E. Anderson recently.

Their main concern, North said is they want to make sure the State Department of Public Works is looking "far enough in the future" in making plans for the bypass. He cited how rapidly the colleges are growing.

G. Wesley Barnard, president, suggested that a meeting of village, chamber, college, and DPW officials be held to make sure all the plans are understood properly by all parties concerned. The membership agreed.

The route most recently considered is one which would approach Potsdam to the south of Clarkson's Hill campus before it turns north to cut through the village along the

Raquette River.

Recently, some people have complained the route would mar the natural beauty of the river.

Addressing himself to this objection, Philip A. Damon said he feels the highway can be "built in such a way that it is esthetically pleasing," as it follows the river.

Most chamber members felt the bypass cutting through the village would best serve Potsdam's retail area. If the bypass skirts the village, they pointed out it would "give rise" to shopping centers, which could drastically hurt the downtown area.

Robert B. Douglass, chairman of the Antique and Classic Rally held Saturday, reported 29 cars entered the competition, and a good crowd turned out. Several of the entrants, he said expressed hope that the chamber would consider making the rally an "annual event."

The winners of the various classes are:

1915-1925, John Weierman of Ogdensburg, 1916 Overland Touring.

1926 to 1936, Robert MacDonald, Moira, 1931 Pontiac sedan, and Frank Mace, Canton, 1934 Packard roadster.

1936-1942, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas I. Parks of Jacksonville, Fla., summer residents of Rainbow Lake, 1940 Ford station wagon, and Anthony Genito of Carthage, 1938 Buick coupe.

Model Ts, Milford Curtis of Potsdam, 1921 touring, and

Bert Beswick of Madrid, 1924 touring.

Model As, Don Stearns of Cazenovia, a Clarkson student, 1928 roadster, and Mrs. Alvin Wheeler, Ogdensburg, 1931 roadster.

Special Don Hay of Baldwinsville, for the vehicle showing the greatest promise of restoration, a 1930 Chevrolet pickup truck, and Colton Fire Department, for having the oldest fire truck still in service, a 1936 Dodge.

Terry LaFleur of Norwood won a special prize for his two-door, 1951 customized Ford.

Thatcher Recommends Ways State Can Assist Potsdam-Canton Area

Dr. Alfred W. Thatcher, acting president of the State University College at Potsdam, and Joseph A. Romola, Jr., vice president of the North Country Economic and Cultural Council, testified before the Joint Legislative Committee on Metropolitan and Regional Areas Study yesterday in Watertown.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Thomas Laverne of Rochester, is attempting to learn the regional problems of the state.

Dr. Thatcher recommended that the following efforts be made by the state to assist the Potsdam area:

1. That the cooperative efforts of the colleges and universities in the area be expanded to include the forma-

tion of a Center for Regional Planning and Development at the State University College at Potsdam or as a cooperative endeavor of the four colleges through the existing North Country Council. Such a center would provide a strong resource to study and solve the economic, social, cultural and educational problems within the St. Lawrence Valley region.

2. That the proposed arterial highways connecting St. Lawrence Valley with the major urban areas throughout the state be supported by legislative action, since they are essential to the economic and social growth of the area.

3. That state planning of the alternate highway routes for Potsdam and Canton be expedited since in-town traffic is a critical problem. It is also recommended that state officials work closely with village, town and college officials in determining the location of this route.

4. That air transportation facilities be developed for the Potsdam area. This would include a paved airstrip at the local airport plus the improvement of facilities. It would also include the establishment of commercial air feeder service.

5. That there be continued study of fire protection problems leading to improved relationships among college communities and the volunteer fire departments.

6. That there also be continued study of the community problems resulting from college construction and site development. These include such community services as damage to streets, pollution of water resources and burden on waste disposal areas.

7. That the State provide leadership and resources for regional and local planning so that interested municipalities may work cooperatively toward the solutions of area problems.

Romola, who also is president. (See Dr. Thatcher, Pg. 22)



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN — Not too many people can operate an old-fashioned spinning wheel these days, but one of the few who can was in Potsdam early this week to give demonstrations at the Potsdam Museum. Mrs. Virginia Partridge, assistant curator of the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, seated,

shows Mrs. Ralph Porter of Brasher Falls how to use the old-time wheel. Mrs. Porter will give demonstrations in the future at the museum. An exhibit of spinning wheels and early cloth is on display at the museum, which is open from 1 to 5.