

Courier Comments....

"Give Them Light With Which To See And Stimulus To Reflect"

Rocky Follows Through

Some months ago, a number of newspaper publishers and editors from all over the State were guests of Gov. Rockefeller at the Executive Mansion in Albany to a dinner for a discussion of his 1967 budget which he was to present a few days later to the Legislature.

During the question and answer period, we asked the governor what specifically is being done on his "Pure Waters" Program. The governor had sponsored a \$1 billion bond issue to implement a state-wide program to clean up the pollution of our streams and lakes from effluent and waste from cities and villages as well as from industrial plants.

I indicated to the governor that I did not understand what was being done to implement this program and I felt a lot of other average citizens in New York State felt the same way about it. I also suggested that when a project is undertaken that his office send out information to the local and area news media so that the news is presented as a local story. The average newspaper reader is confused when he reads of a state-wide program costing hundreds of millions or billions. It doesn't come very close to home. It is difficult or impossible for him to visualize what it means to him and to his community and his area unless it is specifically spelled out as to what is being done in the area with which he is most familiar.

The governor answered my question very fully. He had all of the facts and the figures on just what is being done in every part of the state to clean up the growing menace of water pollution. He graciously accepted my constructive suggestion that what is being done on this program should be told in terms of a local news story so that more people would read it and understand it. He gave a very convincing answer to my questions. After I heard him I realized that he had evolved a bold state-wide program to eliminate the frightful pollution of our streams, lakes and rivers and that he was accomplishing it on schedule.

Ever since we talked to the governor about this we have been on his list to receive press releases all of which have been localized on this subject. In our mail in the last week alone we received a story that under the "Pure Waters" program the State will provide a grant of \$6,800,700 to the Oneida County Sewer district toward the cost of a regional sewer district including a treatment plant and sewer system. This sewer district includes the City of Utica and five towns. "Construction of this facility," Gov. Rockefeller said, "will greatly alleviate pollution of the Mohawk River from the Oneida County area. At the present time 19 million gallons per day of raw or inadequately treated sewage is being discharged into the Mohawk and its tributaries from this county".

In the same week we received another story from the governor that the State has granted \$130 million to New York City toward a \$220 million north river water pollution control project. The plant will be located in an area between West 137th and West 145th Street. "Completion of the project expected in 1972 will result in correction of very unsanitary conditions now prevailing along the eastern shores of the Hudson between Dyckman Streets and along the south shore of the Harlem River", the governor said.

Our mail also carried a release that under the "Pure Waters" program, the state will provide a grant of \$354,000 to the Town of Colonie toward the cost of construction of a dry river interceptor sewer. This is in the Albany area. "Construction of this interceptor," Gov. Rockefeller said, "will greatly improve pollution control of this area's waste. At the present time 700,000 gallons per day of partially treated sewage is being discharged through the present system into the Hudson River. The new interceptor will be sufficiently large to take care of anticipated population growth to the year 2015".

The same week's mail brought a story from the governor's office that the State's "Pure Waters" program will provide a grant of \$27,272,000 to the City of Rochester for construction of a secondary sewage treatment plant. "When this plant is completed", the governor said, "we hope to end Rochester's pollution of Lake Ontario which has forced the New York State Health Department to close three beaches unfit for swimming."

We don't know whether our question and answer discussion had anything to do with this emergence of local angled stories on the "Pure Waters" program. Whether it did or not is incidental. We think the governor is doing a great job in cleaning up the pollution of New York State's water. When the voters voted the \$1 billion bond issue they voted it to a governor who promptly put it to work. He is doing this systematically and energetically and the voters of New York State are getting full value for the money they voted. The people are being told about it in terms of local news which is what most people are most interested in.

What Gov. Rockefeller is doing energetically and efficiently on his "Pure Waters" program he will do on his \$2.5 billion Transportation Program. He follows through on these major programs and gets the work done and the mission accomplished. What he is doing on his "Pure Waters" and anti-pollution project is convincing evidence of what he will do on his bold and imaginative program for a unified approach to the transportation needs of New York State in terms of not six months but 25 years. To answer our own question: Gov. Rockefeller performs, follows through, and does a great job on every project he undertakes. (FRL)

Courier & Freeman

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NATIONAL BUSINESSWOMEN'S WEEK — Mayor George E. Anderson this week signed a proclamation naming Oct. 15-21 National Businesswomen's Week in the Village of Potsdam. Mrs. Lorraine Richards, president of the Potsdam chapter of Business and Professional Women, was on hand for the signing. Businesswomen's Week is being noted throughout the nation to recognize the contributions of working women.

from the BOOK SHELF



Potsdam Public Library

POTSDAM PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES AWARD
The annual meeting and workshop of the North Country Library System was held Saturday at the Pine Tree Point Club, Alexandria Bay.

Each year an award is given to the library that has shown the greatest improvement in overall service to its community.

Our Potsdam Public Library was the recipient of this honor and the gift of \$100, presented by Glenn Mallinson of the North Country Library System staff.

We are especially pleased because it is a tangible evidence of the quality of Mrs. Natalie Greer's efforts over the past two and one half years. It is the hope of the Library Board and staff that these high standards shall be continued. We sincerely express our appreciation to Mrs. Greer and North Country Library System. You will be glad to know Mrs. Greer is working two days a month as a consultant to our Library.

A word about parking — library patrons are permitted to park on the left side of Park St. for 15 minutes to return books. If you wish to stay longer, you may use the municipal parking area at the rear of the Civic Center.

Very soon, the book drop will be moved to a less hazardous place for your convenience.

We wish to emphasize our Inter-Library Loan service to you. In the event that we do not have a book or material on a subject you want, we can borrow the books from other libraries and have the material for you in a short time. Do not hesitate to ask when you do not find what you want. This is part of the service your Public Library gladly extends to you.

Ballot Box

First, a final reminder vote, particularly this year with a new constitution at issue; remember to register. There seems to be some confusion about the residence requirements to vote in New York State. These were changed by the voters in last November's election. The law has been simplified and residence requirements have been reduced to the benefit of all workers.

The article itself states: "Every citizen shall be entitled to vote at every election for all officers elected by the people and upon all questions submitted to the vote of the voters." (See Ballot Box, Page 22)

We Get Letters . . .

Mrs. Forbush Questions Airport Plan

Dear Sir:

People are peculiar about taxes and government spending. We are so inconsistent. And I mean Potsdam people as much as anybody else. For instance, we complain (with justification) about heavy federal income taxes and increasing federal intervention in local affairs, but we eagerly grab at any federal funds that can be had for purely local benefits and responsibilities such as airport expansion for private use, beautification, or an artificial ice rink (education, water pollution, and poverty are not purely local matters so that federal aid can be justified). We frequently deplore so-

cialism, but make no objection to the village going into the business of developing and running a small airport for private planes at considerable cost to the local taxpayers but with little discernible benefit to them. (Debt service and maintenance of the proposed airport would probably add at least 20,000 annually to the village budget, according to my calculations, which means almost \$3 per thousand on the tax rate at present assessment levels.) We believe that in general people should pay for the services they get but there is apparently no plan at present to charge fees of the

users of the airport; rather the householder will foot the bill to keep the runways clear in winter and to keep them lighted at night in case some hobbyist wants to drop in. We are thus in effect willing to subsidize the well-to-do fees, but when it comes to welfare or public housing that might actually help some people who really need it, we scream that we can't afford it. We (not everybody, fortunately) object to the proposition in the new State constitution making it possible for the State to issue bonds to authorize village borrowing of \$125,000 for the proposed airport without even a public hearing.

We might be willing to argue that building such an airport will provide additional employment at least temporarily for a lot of people. But so would putting an equal amount into low-income public housing and a skating rink-recreation center, and a lot more people would use the new facilities thus provided. Perhaps I shall be proved all wrong about the expanded airport. Perhaps economic projections will be made public showing without doubt that the airport will pay for itself by inducing new industry to locate here. Perhaps by inducing new industry to locate here. Perhaps The Courier and Freeman can do a public service by publishing these studies and predictions, showing great future long-run gains to the local economy as a result of this service to private flyers. Meanwhile, the taxpayer will continue to pay, and I shall continue to be skeptical. Do I sound terribly con-

servative? Not really; I just think scarce tax dollars should be used in ways that provide the maximum benefit to the community. I'm not sure the airport meets the test. If the village board wishes to subsidize transportation, local bus service to outlying towns and hamlets and to the Massena airport would help far more people and it might even pay for itself. Mrs. Dorothy Forbush

'For Sale ...Licenses'

(Editor's Note: Voters should be familiar with the duties of their elected town officials, so when election day arrives, they can properly pair the candidate and the job. In accordance with this belief, the Republican Women's Club of the Town of Stockholm has prepared a series of articles. The second article deals with the duties of the town clerk and tax collector.)

If all roads lead to Rome, then many of them do so by way of the town clerk's office. While local preference appears to play a role in the selection of the clerk, Masena appears to prefer to elect a man to this office, while Hopkinton seems to have had rather a long succession of lady clerks, while some towns elect both a town clerk and tax collector others like Parishville have combined the offices, the duties are generally the same.

The town clerk is most easily recognized as the sales lady in the town's retail outlet, a franchised dealer in licenses. Couples planning to marry go to her shop for their license. As agent for the Conservation Department she has in stock a complete line of five licenses (hunting and Fishing, Hunting, etc.) available in 11 different models plus Indian Resident and Archery to satisfy the individual needs of all sportsmen.

She is Man's Best Friend's best friend and issues the licenses for all Lassies and Laddies residing within her Town and is the person who should be notified in case of their death.

The clerk also takes the notices of special meetings, prepares legal notices for advertising, prepares an abstract of bills to be authorized for payment and cares for the actual claims appearing thereon, keeps an accurate record of receipts, deposits them regularly and disburses them to the proper agency. She prepares a detailed monthly statement of income. She houses, frequently, the town safe and numerous filing cabinets containing town records.

She is the trusted overseer of all election supplies which she obtains from the County Board of Elections and which she distributes to the proper person in each of the town's election districts: she is the one to whom the results of elections are taken as soon as they are tabulated following closing together with the attendant "hugage" on its return trip to the County Board.

In some instances she serves as unsalaried registrar for the Local Draft Board, the 18-year-old young men's first contact with the Selective Service System.

On or about Jan. 2 of each year, together with belated Christmas cards and straggling New Year's greetings, arrives the annual message from the Tax Collector and in spite of the fact that she has spent much time during her holidays to prepare these slips of paper (one for each parcel of land), the property owner feels he has been rudely jolted from the spell of the Christmas Season.

For this officer, January is a fast-paced month of short days, long hours and many trips to the bank. The volume of mail and the number of visitors decreases during the

remaining months during which taxes may be collected, but still she remains busy, writing receipts, mailing receipts, keeping a day sheet, making trips to the bank and computing the "fees" which she is permitted to collect the supervisor together with a complete report of all money received at the end of each month.

Upon expiration of the period in which taxes may be paid to the local collector, she must account to the county treasurer for all moneys and as a bonded custodian of public funds, is personally financially responsible for any errors, great or small she may have made.

It is true that many of the smaller towns are criticized for their lack of staffed-du-

ring-regular-hours public offices maintained in an official building but there are many who feel that the fact that a last-minute hunting trip need not be abandoned because the hunter had not taken time from his regular duties to obtain his license, or the housewife who sild the tax notice under the desk blotter remembers it at nine o'clock on the evening of the day which fees will be figured can still get to the collector's in time is important. These in-the-home offices may not even look like an "office," but when it comes to public service and serving the public, they are ahead by a country mile.

Next week.... "When it Snows --the Plows Go."

Political Arena

Flint Again Heads Stockholm Slate

Contributed
By Town of Winthrop
GOP Committee

Clyde P. Flint, who was first elected to the office of supervisor in November, 1959, veteran of three campaigns—two of which were hotly contested since, once again heads the slate of Republican candidates for office in the Town of Stockholm, according to Henry J. Wilkenson, Chairman of the Town Committee.

During Flint's eight years in office, he has built an impressive record as a member of the 36-man County Board of Supervisors where he has served on 14 of the 22 standing committees, a number of which he has chaired. He is currently a member of six committees, including Legislative, Compensation, Sheriff and Jail and Buildings and Grounds.

He has implemented many practices in the bookkeeping area of his duties which are modern, efficient and in accordance with state recommendations. Thanks to the continued cooperation of what has been a Republican controlled board for many years the Town of Stockholm remains debt-free, and therefore, not taxed for interest payments on bonded indebtedness, for the third consecutive year.

In addition, investments have climbed to \$12,900 in interest bearing Series H bonds and to more than \$2,500 in an interest bearing account.

Supervisor Flint maintains his office in his own home so that its services and he are readily available to serve the best interests of the Town of Stockholm. When he is necessarily absent, Mrs. Flint, who is a professional secretary-bookkeeper, is on hand to make appointments, take messages or provide whatever assistance she may.

Mrs. Duana (Dorothy) Carey, West Stockholm is the Republican candidate for reelection to what will be her second term of office as town clerk. Mrs. Carey, energetic young mother of three active youngsters, brings to the office many highly desirable qualifications. She is a graduate of Watertown School of Commerce and was employed for a number of years in various law offices where she gained a broad knowledge of legal and legal procedure which has proved invaluable in keeping the demanding records of a municipality. Like the supervisor, and in the tradition of Republican predecessors, Mrs. Carey maintains her office in her home, enabling those who require her services to observe (See Flint, Page 22)

The experience gained from operating my own business for the past 10 years has helped me as a town board member. The problem of controlling town expenses and still expanding services is very much the same as the problems encountered running a business.

I live on the Potsdam-Winthrop Road. Over the years our town councilmen have come from outside the village. This has given our town board balance. The three justices of the peace on our board reside in the village. I do not believe that all board members should come from within the village. In my three years as councilman I have had an excellent record of attendance of regular and special board meetings and a good record of participation in the discussion of issues under consideration.

One area where I have devoted quite a bit of time concerns new highway equipment purchased and rented by the town. Getting the right equipment (See Merriman, Page 22)

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