

Fat Cats Get Lots Of Attention

NORWOOD—Some people think Fat Cats are silly-looking, and they are. Plump, stuffed creatures with no-grin faces and pinball eyes, some with heart-markings, some with striped tails and heads, some with whiskers, some without. They have an -uhm-m-m- comical look that kids love.

The really nice thing about these enigmatic creatures is that they are not sitting there grinning at you day in and day out; one day they look wise, the next bored; one day they may appear to be thinking "Oh Hevins, what's he up to now!" the next day they may have that resigned look which tells you, come what may, here is your friend for life. Kids, especially, appreciate that kind of face.

And kids are why Fat Cats got born. Searching for imaginative toys for their two daughters, Michael and Patricia Berrini of Norwood found none to their liking so decided to invent their own. Fat, a potter up to that point, made some fat cats and then, in the tradition of most crafts that catch people's imagination and "take off," friends asked for one, and their friends asked for one, and more friends bought them as gifts, and...

First thing the Berrinis knew they were surrounded not only by fat cats but fat rabbits, fat dogs and fat birds. And so — Fat Cats and Friends.

Soon the menagerie became a traveling road show, with Mom and Dad Berrini taking the troupe on tour to a variety of craft shows around the country. After highly successful performances at a number of road shows, four years and 20,000 silly-looking animals later, suddenly a lot of people wanted a Fat Cat or one of its friends. By now they were looking down from the shelves of boutiques and craft stores as far apart as Hawaii, New York and Alaska.

Orders poured into Norwood; Pat Berrini was suddenly a businesswoman with commitments to keep. She set up a workshop in some former law offices above Harold's Mens Store in Potsdam, hired five helpers, got some second hand sewing machines — and went into big-time production.

Being featured in the Living section of the New York Times last spring helped, too. There they are; The Berrinis and a basketful of Fat Cats in a picture taken during the sixth annual International Craft Show at the New York City Coliseum; the Berrinis are smiling, the Fat Cats (and one Fat Rabbit) stare from the page with their usual "Oh Yeah? So what!" look. Fame isn't going to unsettle THEM.

It seemed everybody loved Fat Cats. The big catalogue company, Hanover House, with a circulation of five million,

wanted them for their fall catalogue. Women's Day magazine asked to license the design so they could have kits made for the November issue, with Pat getting a designer's fee and commission. Ladies Home Journal asked to use a Fat Cat for the cover of the January needle and craft issue. For this Pat had to produce a full size hand-painted picture of Fat Cat. The issue will offer three needlepoint designs of two large cats and three small cats as kits.

Success isn't All Fun
Even before this point Pat Berrini knew she was going to need to expand, get newer and better machines to speed up production, get enough money to be able to order supplies in larger quantities. She had already branched out, a year or so before, into note cards, tote bags, aprons and something entirely new, a wall hanging of 28 rainbow-colored birds, silk screened on a natural linen-like background embellished with the whimsical notation: "For Many Are Called...But Few Are Chosen." "It's purely for fun," is all she'll say when asked about it.

So last October she applied to the Syracuse office of the Federal Small Business Administration for a modest loan. Ten months, and piles of paperwork — and arguing — later, she got her loan. She's not out and out claiming discrimination, but she suspects it, and comments wryly: "If any other North Country woman is experiencing trouble getting a loan from the Small Business Administration I hope they'll get in touch with me. I could save them a lot of time. There's no reason we should each have to do it from scratch every time!"

She admits she undoubtedly made mistakes when filling out the required forms and financial statements to submit to SBA, but says there were many things she was not told and sources which she could have had access to but was never told about.

To this SBA Loan Officer Michael Walsh in Syracuse has commented that Mrs. Berrini was not discriminated against, that SBA has made many loans to women in business, and that the procedure in any loan negotiation is that collateral is required, such as a lien on the equipment or the inventory, if a direct loan such as hers is being discussed.

Too busy to look back in bitterness, Pat says only, "Art school never prepared me for anything like that."

Meanwhile, Back At The Zoo...
Meanwhile, Fat Cats and Friends get fatter and look more prosperous the ever as they nestle in their big bins above Harold's Men Shop. Not for them the mere trials and tribulations of men. Imperturbable, they gaze at such goings-on with towering calm. You can't faze them.



FAT CATS—Shown with two of her Fat Cats and one real one is Patricia Berrini, Norwood, creator of the loveable stuffed animals. (Aileen Vincent-Barwood photo).

Committee Formed To Fight River Winter Demonstration Project

A study claims that it could result in the release of toxic chemicals. Water level fluctuations caused by it would reported have far-reaching, negative effects on power production and shoreline properties.

Overall, those opposed to it claim that it will cause irreparable damage to the area. The project in question is a winter navigation demonstration program proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers for the upcoming winter, and the area in question is a 15 mile stretch of the St. Lawrence River from Morrisstown to Ogdensburg. Some of those against the project are concerned that local citizens aren't fully aware of the danger of the situation.

The citizens are being totally duped," Tony Menkel, co-chairman of the recently formed "Save the River" committee said Saturday. The committee is appealing to local residents to join the fight to stop the demonstration. "We need help," Menkel stated, as he pointed out that Morrisstown-Ogdensburg residents will be directly affected by the demonstration.

The demonstration program is the first step in a long-range plan to extend the navigation season on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Seaway System to a full year.

The winter program would consist of ship passages on the demonstration corridor, with "a minimum of zero and a maximum of eight vessel transits" per day. A tug, ice breaker, and one or more 730-foot commercial cargo vessels would be used for the transits. Proposed activities include modifications to the ice boom in the Ogdensburg-Prescott region of the river.

The Winter Navigation Board, comprised of representatives of the St. Lawrence Seaway Corporation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior and others, will meet in Maryland on Friday to vote on the demonstration.

Lawsuit Threatened
Commissioner Peter Berle of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which studied the demonstration corridor and assessed the potential impacts of the program, has according to Menkel threatened to sue the Corps of Engineers if the demonstration program takes place.

The Save the River committee is looking for a similar statement from Gov. Hugh Carey, who will give a press conference on Wednesday addressing the matter. "We're not interested in people's opinions," Menkel stated. "We're interested in what they're going to do."

Some 500 people packed the Alexandria Bay Central School auditorium Tuesday night to argue with officials from the Corps and the SLSDC against the demonstration. "We feel as citizens that we have been totally pushed over," Menkel said. Barry Freed, also a member of the committee, felt that there was "something fishy" about the fact that a public hearing on the demonstration was held in Alexandria Bay, when the program will take place off the shores of Morrisstown and Ogdensburg.

"If the demonstration is going to be in that area," Freed wondered, "Why have the hearing down here?" Freed feels that a "realistic appraisal of their strategy" is that those behind the project wish to keep the individuals who would be most directly affected by it uninformed.

"Then they can go down to the meeting Aug. 11 and tell them there is some opposition, but it's relatively taken care of."

Hearing Here In Fall
Menkel pointed out that a hearing with the Corps and the SLSDC on the feasibility of winter navigation on the river will be held in Ogdensburg Sept. 15, after the demonstration program has been voted on. Menkel went on to say that those

protesting the demonstration include businessmen, such as marina owners who have a vested interest in the river, as well as residents concerned about their shoreline property, and those worried about the reportedly adverse effects of the program. He pointed out that "It shouldn't be forgotten that we're all taxpayers...the project will be federally funded." According to Menkel, the Corps has spent \$1 million on an ice model alone. Menkel, who lives year round on Cedar Island in Chippewa Bay, helped take scientists from the Department of Environmental Conservation out on the river this past winter to conduct their study.

DEC Asks Disapproval
According to the study, which was done in conjunction with the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY at Syracuse, the potential environmental impacts of the demonstration were such that the conservation department called for "disapproval of the Demonstration program."

The study found that probable impacts would include disruption of "significant vegetational, fish, bird, and other wildlife habitats," damage to shorelines and shoreline structures, and the disruption of sediments on the river's bottom, causing the "potential release of organic and heavy metal pollutants."

Chamber Needs Aid On X-C Ski Guide

CANTON—Asking someone not from the North Country to drive here in the winter may lead to frustration, but the County Chamber of Commerce is going to do it, and with some hope of success.

Dr. Harold Hughes, Chamber president, has announced that the group has begun preparation of a two-color brochure on cross-country skiing. The information will go to prospective Winter Tourists this fall, in plenty of time for the Olympics, and should prove a popular addition to its brochure series, which includes "Buying Land in St. Lawrence County," "St. Lawrence County: Heart of Maple Sugar Country," the new four color tourism brochure, and its outdoor recreation guide, "Outdoors in St. Lawrence County: A Map for All Seasons."

"The brochure should be accurate," says Dr. Hughes, "so we ask people all over the county and from adjacent areas to send information to us. We need to know where people can cross-country ski, where they can rent or buy ski equipment, what the costs are, and even whether there are plans for development within the next couple of years. If there are resorts which operate with cross-country skiing in mind, we'd like to know that, too." Information is being sought particularly from ski shops, nature centers, ski clubs, and any place with ski trails.

The brochure will also list recurring events, such as the Potsdam Langlauf, a day of citizen races which annually draws over one hundred racers on the second Saturday in February. Anyone scheduling such events as group ski tours, winter workshops, citizen or "fun" races, or cross-country ski instruction is asked to contact the Chamber.

The St. Lawrence Chamber of Commerce asks that individuals send information to Drawer A, Canton, 13617.

Seaway Trail Brochure Offered

CANTON—The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce has published a new brochure entitled, "The New York State Seaway Trail." The "Seaway Trail" covers 200 miles along the majestic St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. This includes four counties: St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Oswego, and Cayuga. Included in the brochure is a colorful map of the Seaway Trail. The brochure lists the major

In The Service

REPORTS FOR DUTY
Navy Mess Management Specialist Second Class Michael A. LeBeau, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald LeBeau of Route 2, Norfolk, has reported for duty at the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, RI. He joined the Navy in January, 1974.

HASSETT REASSIGNED
U.S. Army Maj. James P. Hassett, a former member of the Clarkson College ROTC Department staff, has been reassigned as Executive Officer with the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Castle, Korea.

MOLNAR IN ANCHORAGE
U.S. Air Force Captain Edward A. Molnar Jr., son of Mrs. Leah Molnar of Norfolk, has arrived for duty at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Captain Molnar, a personnel officer with a unit of the Alaskan Air Command, previously served at Altus AFB, Okla. The captain, a 1960 graduate of Norfolk-Norfolk Central High School, received his B.A. degree in 1972 from Park College, Parkville, Mo., and was commissioned through the Officer Training School, Lackland AFB, Texas. His wife Linda, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Coia of Massena.

COLLINS ARRIVES
U.S. Air Force Major Douglas F. Collins, son of Mr. Joseph Collins of 20 State St., Madrid, has arrived for duty at Scott AFB, Ill.

Major Collins, a procurement officer with a unit of the Military Airlift Command, previously served at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The major, a 1957 graduate of Vestal, N.Y. Central High School, received his M.B.A. degree in 1963 from the University of Arizona at Tucson. He was commissioned in 1964 upon completion of Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas.

ABOARD DESTROYER
A3 Resart Watson, Jr., son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Howe of Hannawa Falls, will be aboard the U.S. Navy's destroyer USS Robert A. Owens when it docks in Ogdensburg Saturday (Aug. 12).

Watson, who is married to the former Connie Howe, is currently stationed in Pensacola, Fla. His parents are former residents of Potsdam, now living in Arizona. His brother, Stephen lives in Potsdam.

The Robert A. Owens is one of three Naval destroyers which will be in Ogdensburg Aug. 12 and 13. The public may go on board the ships from 1-3 p.m. on those days.



Navy Signalman Seaman Recruit Michael L. Loughren, son of James W. and Doris E. Loughren of 15 Main St., Madrid, is currently participating in Exercise "Unitas XIX" in the Southern Hemisphere. He is assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS William V. Pratt, homeported in Charleston, S.C. Rear Admiral John J. Ekelund, USN, commander, South Atlantic Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, is overall commander of the exercise.

A 1976 graduate of Madrid-Waddington High School, Loughren joined the Navy in September 1977.

PERRY IS GRADUATE
Staff Sgt. Theodore E. Perry Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore E. Perry Sr., Route 1, Colton, has graduated from the Aerospace Defense Command Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The sergeant, who was trained in military management and supervision, is a medical administrative supervisor at the academy.

Sgt. Perry, a 1969 graduate of Colton-Pierrepont Central High School, has studied at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, and Pikes Peak College in Colorado Springs, Colo.



S SGT. THEODORE E. PERRY JR.

Kathleen Sukanek Named To Associated Colleges Post

The Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley has announced the appointment of Kathleen L. Sukanek as staff assistant.

Mrs. Sukanek will assist Fritz H. Grupe, executive director of the consortium, in the facilitation of inter-campus cooperation. Her major responsibility will be the fostering of academic development and cooperation among the faculty of the four member colleges via departmental seminars, guest lectures and other modes of in-

structional cooperation.

Sukanek received her bachelor's degree from Molloy College and the master's degree from the University of Massachusetts. She previously worked as an administrative assistant to the Director of Graduate Studies of the School of Education, University of Massachusetts; as a counselor therapist with the United Way; and an academic counselor with Cerro Coso Community College, California.

Clarkson Stress Seminar Featured On CBS-TV Morning News

A seminar on the management of stress held by the Management Institute of Clarkson's School of Management was featured on the CBS-TV morning news on Aug. 14.

The seminar leaders were Dr. Victor P. Pease, a psychologist and a specialist in biofeedback, and Dr. John Beamer, the clinical director of the St. Lawrence County Mental Health Clinic. Dr. Pease, a professor in the School of Management at Clarkson, is also a visiting scientist at the University of California, Berkeley, and a guest associate scientist at the Brookhaven National Laboratories. Dr. Beamer is a psychiatrist who also holds

a Ph.D. in chemical engineering. He was formerly an associate professor of chemical engineering at Clarkson.

On the television show, David Culhane interviewed several executives who were attending the seminar to gain practical knowledge about stress and to learn techniques by which they could minimize non-productive stress, tension, and anxiety.

Seminar participants have included executives from such major corporations as Corning Glass Works, U.S. Steel, Niagara Mohawk, Xerox, and I.B.M.

Tracks, Reminiscent Of Bigfoot, Found In Hermon

BY RICH CARLSON

CANTON—Has Bigfoot moved to the North Country? That possibility was raised last week when a set of huge footprints, whose origin remains unexplained, was discovered in Hermon.

According to Dr. Ken Wheat, a dentist from Nutley, N.J., who owns property on the Campbell Road, the large footprints were discovered last Monday morning by his son, Bill, and a friend, John Cyszewski. "They found the tracks in mud, near a waterfall," Wheat said Tuesday, adding that the surrounding area is heavily wooded and "really isolated." Wheat said he went back to the location with the two teenagers and made a plaster cast of one of the footprints. The cast is some 14 inches long and six inches wide. It somewhat resembles a human footprint, having the same basic shape and what appear to be five toes. But the toes are very long and widely splayed, and there does not appear to be a ball or arch to the foot.

Dick Perry, of the sociology and anthropology department at St. Lawrence University, examined the cast Tuesday but could not explain what made the print.

"I don't know what to think about it," Perry remarked. "It doesn't look like it was made by an ape or a human foot."

Ferry said he would ask John Barthome, a physical anthropologist who will be teaching at SLU this year, to examine the cast when he arrives in Canton later this month.

Wheat said the print from which he made the cast was one of several in the area. "They were about five feet apart from step to step," he explained. He added that the prints did not appear to be distorted in a way that would make their size seem greater. "Whatever made them doesn't look like it slid," he said.

Wheat said a forest ranger, Paul Tooley, who lives nearby, told him the tracks could have been there three or four days old at the time of their discovery. He added that neither Tooley nor another ranger to whom he showed the cast could explain what made the footprint. "They said they'd never seen anything like it," he said.

The dentist, whose property is located near Trout Lake, on the Hermon-Edwards line, says he doesn't see how the prints could have been made as a prank. "It's pretty inaccessible back there," he pointed out. He also noted that the only reason the two boys had gone back into the woods was to see if the weekend rains had perked up the waterfall.

Wheat said the site is about three quarters of a mile off the road. He noted that the site is about half a mile from where the clearing for the 765 KV line is going on. "Maybe they've stirred up something," he remarked.

Clayton Is Site Of Annual Antique Show

CLAYTON—The Clayton Arena will be the setting for the 14th annual Antique Show, sponsored by the 1000 Islands Museum Crafts School.

The show will open Aug. 11 and 12 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Aug. 13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature 84 dealers from as far away as Florida and Kansas, as well as many parts of New York State.

Tickets which are \$1.75 for adults and \$1 for children 12-18, are good for all three days. Proceeds will go to the 1000 Islands Craft School.

Lifeguards To Race In Annual Competition

KEEWAYDIN STATE PARK—The Fourth Annual Lifeguard Proficiency Competition for the Thousand Islands Region Lifeguards will be held at Robert Moses State Park, Massena, Aug. 9. Competition will start at 1 p.m. and will end at approximately 3 p.m.

Three man teams from each regional park or combination of parks will compete in the following events: three man relay, barrel sprint, boat sprint, first aid problem, two man rescue, 200 yard swim, carry race. It is anticipated teams from Cumberland Bay, Macomb Reservation, Robert Moses, Coles Creek, Jacques Cartier-Higley Flow, Keewaydin-Kring Point, Cedar Point-Grass Point, Southwick Beach-Whetstone Gulf, Westcott Beach, and Wellesley Island State Parks will participate in this annual event. The public is invited to attend.

Outreach Stations Note Schedule Changes

Beginning this week until Aug. 21, the St. Lawrence County Employment and Training Department (CETA) will hold outreach stations according to the following schedule: Monday, 9:30 a.m., Gouverneur Town Hall, Russell Town Hall; 1:30 p.m., Potsdam Civic Center (side entrance by fire station), Ogdensburg City Hall Chambers; 2 p.m., Star Lake Youth Center; Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Waddington Town Hall; 1:30 p.m., Massena Town Library (downstairs); Thursday, 9:30 a.m., Norfolk Town Hall; Winthrop, 9:30 a.m., Office Building; Canton Civil Defense Building; (cafeteria); 1:30 p.m., Colton Town Library (downstairs).

All outreach stations will be closed the week of Aug. 21.

Used Book Sale Featured At Fair's Library Booth

CANTON—The St. Lawrence County Library booth at this year's Gouverneur Fair, Aug. 5 through 12, will feature a book sale.

The used book sale was a very minor part of the library booth at last year's fair, but more interest was shown in it than the booth's other attractions. This year the sale will be much bigger. Every library in the county is contributing books of all kinds, including novels, biographies, travel, mysteries, and children's books.

Prices will depend on what the individual wishes to contribute, generally from 10 to 25 cents. There will be a representative from one of the county's 23 libraries in the booth at all times to give information about the many kinds of service available in area libraries.