

Patchwork: West Potsdam Area News

BY MARY ANN MILLER
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I visited Gene Ashley last week. Now, this may sound a bit dumb, but I left his house having made a decision: I was going to have a Valentine this year.

I had sat and visited for well over an hour with a tall handsome man. I had listened to words of wisdom, humor, concern for the future. I had seen a sparkle in world eyes as Gene modeled his new sport jacket.

I wish I were a lovely 80-year-old lady, since I'd be bringing cookies to this handsome man every day. I'd listen to him tell of his family all showing up to celebrate his birthday. I did ask him if he managed to blow out all the candles on the first try and he chuckled and said, "Yah, but there were only 24 candles, they didn't have a cake big enough for the rest." The remaining would be 66, because Gene turned 90 Jan. 10.

Gene showed me some of his cards and photos he received since Christmas. He had a special card set aside. It was special because it was from Floyd and Ruth Seguin of San Diego, Calif. Gene doesn't know them. They introduced themselves after reading of Gene in the Courier, and said they felt they "knew" him. He thought that so special, he sat right down and sent them a card back. Next thing he knew he received a birthday card from them.

Gene will tell you that since Christmas with all the snow his big trip of the day is to the mailbox. It sure is nice to have something in the mailbox after the hike out.

I mentioned in the past that Harold Adams has grown a moustache. Well, that's the first thing Gene mentioned when I arrived. Said Harold had stopped to visit and sported that new moustache. So, of course Gene had to tease him about it. Told Harold it was crooked. And Harold told Gene it was crooked because all the women kiss him on that side. I guess Harold's moustache is the talk of everywhere.

Jackie Swingle is diving right into her new project with tons of enthusiasm. She will take over the Trout Brook 4-H Club. Her first meeting will be Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be in her home and members will have the opportunity to sign up for projects and enjoy themselves. Jackie has two projects in mind. One is proper care of all kinds of animals. A tour of Canton ATC facilities is included. The other project is home buyer safety. That even adults will show interest because it is informative. Just in case anyone is interested and can't attend that evening, give Jackie a call at 265-4742.

Some area residents have left for warmer weather. Margaret and Lee Pierce left Sunday for the Orlando, Fla. area. Their son Douglas and wife Susan live there and Pierces will make Orlando their "homing" spot while they

do some touring of Florida. Kenneth and Dorothy Friedel left for Panama City Beach on Monday. They will join friends there for a few weeks of vacation.

Speaking of Florida, I received a note from Ret Burdick in Deland. She mentioned that Olga Wise left Deland and is now back in West Potsdam. As for Ret, she's off for a five-day tour of the West Coast in Florida. She's never been there and thinks she'll enjoy it.

Now for the interesting part of her note. "Saw your piece in paper about Paul Haggerty. He's home. His address is R. D. 2, Utica, N.Y. 13502, in care of Robert Powers. Got this from Gale, he sees him often." Gale is Ret's son who lives in Poland, N.Y.

Here the Norfolk Fire Department had a most successful annual banquet. Bob Schofell and wife Sue Marie attended. Bob is president of the St. Lawrence County Volunteer Firemen's Association. Bob said the dinner was great, prepared, by the way, by the Norwood Fire Department. The music for the evening was provided by The Flying Doves.

Bill Grant of Grant's Farm Supply spent Wednesday and Thursday in Syracuse attending the annual meeting of Dairy Kool. Dairy Kool sells milking systems.

Rev. Bill Cuthbert has put together a group for Great Decisions again this year. The group meets Tuesday mornings at 9:30 at the Baptist Meeting House. Attending from this area besides me, are Ruth Penrose and Pat Ward.

Lucy Bates did something interesting. Walked down the road and cut herself some pussy willows. Put them in water and has herself an early spring.

The West Potsdam Ladies' Auxiliary held their regular meeting at the Hall on Monday evening. President Shirley Lumley got things going. There will be a new cookbook assembled and hopefully off the presses in time for the field day. This new book will feature favorite recipes from local residents and also household hints. Anyone interested in contributing can get in touch with Shirley Lumley, Betty Grant, Rosemary Sanford, Marjorie Friedel, Lucy Bates or me.

College Library Hours

The Crumb Memorial Library on the Potsdam State campus will have the following hours during the coming week. Feb. 15, recess begins—regular hours; Feb. 16, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Feb. 17, 12 noon-4:30 p.m.; Feb. 18, 2:30-9 p.m.; Feb. 19, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Feb. 20, regular hours resume; Feb. 21, recess ends.

Student Chemists Are Commended

The Clarkson Student Affiliate Chapter of the American Chemical Society is one of the 58 out of 710 chapters commended by the American Chemical Society for activities during 1977-78.

The chapter advisor, Dr. Ramesh C. Patel, stated, "A good deal of credit for the commendation must go to the officers: Steven Dundee, Katonah, N.Y.; vice-president; Deborah Murphy, Rome, N.Y.; secretary; Paul Dobrowski, Somerville, Ma., treasurer; and particularly Edward Maytin, Potsdam, the president."

A major goal of the chapter is to help other students who may be interested in chemistry. For example, a list of volunteer tutors is maintained. These students, who tend to be the strongest academically, volunteer their time to work with students who run into difficulties in chemistry courses. The ACS students also set up a display during the annual Parents Weekend to demonstrate some chemistry experiments to campus visitors. In addition, they hold social events for incoming freshmen to help them become acquainted with faculty and other chemistry students.

One major project undertaken by the chapter was holding a miniature meeting patterned on the national meeting of the American Chemical Society. Undergraduate chemistry students who were involved in research at colleges in approximately a 200 mile radius were invited to speak about their projects and answer questions from their peers. This opportunity to defend their work "on-stage" is excellent preparation for students' future careers in industry or academia.

Other activities included raising funds to bring speakers and films to the campus and to support field trips.

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The new popcorn machine arrived and works well. The old one will go in the cotton candy wagon.

The West Potsdam Firemen held their regular meeting on Wednesday evening at the Hall. I have before me four solid pages of serious business from that meeting. Anyone who says fire departments are social organizations should take a look at these notes.

There were no new members. Fires for the month of January were on Jan. 8, Goldie's Greenhouse. On Jan. 17, a mutual aid call to Potsdam for barn fire at Ernie Wilson's. Also on that day a call back with more water. On the 18th, a mutual aid to Morley to a barn fire at Ed Jordan's.

Of interest to the public: the new bathrooms are nearly finished.

Dewey Pierce is now back from Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse after having four teeth removed. I've heard that he's doing just fine.

Josie and Walter Murray of Pennville were up for the funeral of Kenneth Basford (who was this area's substitute mailman). The Murrays stayed with Jack and Joretta Creighton while there.

A Real Heist

I was recently shopping for a card to send my nephew who broke an ankle while playing basketball. I had my heavy purse on the floor and was busy looking at cards. And then I met Barbara Day. We usually run into each other during the summer months at Ret Burdick's store (Barbaras mother).

Anyway, what a story Barbara had for me. She took one look at my purse on the floor and then told this: when traveling south recently she heard this news. It seems a lady stopped to use a rest room. The lady put her purse on the floor to her "compartment." We all know the dividers rarely go to the floor. At any rate, someone reached under the divider and took the lady's purse. By the time the lady was able to chase the culprit, the thief was gone. That evening, the

lady received a phone call from a stranger. The stranger was fully of apology. It seemed, as a joke the purse had been taken since the stranger thought it was someone she knew. This caller was full of humble apology and offered as amends to take the lady and husband to dinner at a very nice restaurant at which point they could also return the stolen purse.

Would you believe the lady who had nher purse taken and her husband both went to dinner at this very nice restaurant and had a lovely dinner, met the folks who called and got the purse back. However, when they returned home, their home was empty. Someone had come in and taken every thing, including the rugs, while the couple had dinner.

I would also like to thank Barbara for making me pick up my purse and not being able to check cards well with purse in hand bought the first one I picked up. Hope it was a good one.

Have a whole week of good days—and keep your purse in your hand good and tight.

This is where everyone will be on Monday, February 19th 9a.m. to 9p.m.

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