

Traffic Light Had Been Looked At Where Bus, Truck Nearly Collide



AVOIDS SCHOOLBUS — The driver of this jackknifed rig, Samuel Distant, was admitted to Canton-Potsdam Hospital with injuries he received when he avoided a collision with a school bus in front of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School on

Thursday afternoon. One official said that there have been requests made for a traffic light in that location. (Hal Stokes photo)

NORWOOD — In the wake of a near-collision between a school bus and a tractor-trailer Thursday afternoon, the director of transportation at the Norwood-Norfolk Central School, Robert Steele, said that there have been several requests for a traffic light in front of the school, but that nothing had materialized from them.

The type of light he mentioned would be similar to one now in place in front of Canton Central School. The light causes cars exceeding a certain speed to come to a stop before reaching school grounds.

Meanwhile, truck driver Samuel Distant, 30, New York Mills, N.Y., was listed in satisfactory condition Friday at

Canton-Potsdam Hospital, where he was taken after he swerved his tractor-trailer rig to avoid hitting a school bus filled with youngsters on their way home Thursday.

Distant's rig jackknifed and went into a snowbank along the right side of Route 56, directly in front of the Norwood-Norfolk Central School.

Massena-based state police, who investigated the mishap, said that Distant was transported to the hospital by the Norfolk Rescue Squad after he complained of pain in his shoulder and back.

The driver of the school bus, Charles Bellus, 55, Norwood, was ticketed by troopers for a charge of failure to yield

the right-of-way. According to state police, he had pulled out of the school parking lot at 3:12 p.m. and into the path of Distant's truck. The truck, owned by Mercantile Services, Utica, was southbound at the time, they said.

In attempting to stop, Distant's rig jackknifed and went onto the right shoulder of the road, breaking a farmer's fence and coming to rest in a snowbank. The fence was on property owned by James Wing.

At the scene of the mishap, Steele said that the bus had perhaps 50 children in it.

Steele also said that studies had been requested on the possibility of putting a light in front of the school, but that so far, no light had been put up.

Harlow Hughto: He Played Sports Back When The Game Was The Thing

BY NEIL THOMPSON
When you shake hands with Harlow Hughto, be ready for a firm grasp, a friendly smile and a little reminiscing about the professional sports world before it became dominated by pampered athletes more interested in bank accounts than batting averages.

Hughto, 86, of 8 Hamilton St., played professional baseball and basketball,

starting around 1914. After that, he also had a long career as a baseball umpire.

In his playing days, Hughto said, he received about \$25 a week, and out of that had to come money to pay room and board.

But the bonus in those days wasn't money — the bonus was fun.

"I wasn't looking for money at the time," he said. "I played just to play,

that's all."

And he sees danger in today's trend of extravagant player contracts.

"I think they are asking too much," he said. "They'll kill the goose that lays the golden egg, I think. The people have to pay for it, and I think there's a limit."

If Hughto has strong opinions, it's probably because he has considerable experience in the sports world.

His credits include semi-pro baseball with teams in Tupper Lake, Cranberry Lake, and Poughkeepsie.

"But basketball's where I went the farthest," he said.

Hughto played his basketball in Kingston in the old New York State basketball league.

He also played semi-pro basketball for the Company K team in Malone.

In those days, he explains, basketball was a much different sport than today.

"In the old state league, four of eight teams had nets around the court, and the basket was on a rod with no backboard."

Players then could dribble with both hands.

Maybe the biggest difference was the officiating. "You had to be almost knocked out before a foul was called."

Hughto remembers.

Another difference was that fewer points were scored in a game back then.

"Excellent Basket Shot"

A scrapbook Hughto has kept tells sports stories from those days.

In one story, a sportswriter described Hughto this way:

"Hughto, one of the new men on this year's team, made a decidedly good impression and is apparently a man who can be trusted to bring home the bacon and sugar coated ham if hard work will do it. He played with the Kingston team of the State League last season, but returning to his home at Brushton during the summer, was picked up by Morrison for the local team. Hughto is a trifle underweight but very fast and an excellent basket shot."

In the game described in that story, Hughto had been playing for Malone's Company K against a semi-pro company team from Utica.

Company K had won the game, 39-10. Another Potsdam resident, John McMann, assistant Superintendent of schools in Potsdam also has memories of those days.

Like Hughto, McMann was born in Brushton, and he can remember Hughto taking him and his brother to watch the Northern League baseball games Hughto officiated.

"He would take by brother and myself to watch the games. He would treat us to dinner and bring us back home," McMann recalls.

"It was quite a thrill for my brother and myself because we were great sports fans," he said.

Then in the early 1960s, when McMann was principal of Potsdam High School, Hughto often umpired Potsdam's games.

McMann said that Hughto and McMann's uncle, Warren Brady, founded Brady and Hughto Insurance Agency in Brushton, in 1924.

When people talk about Hughto, McMann said, a lot of them claim that had Hughto been born 40 or 50 years later, he would have played big time sports.

"They always paid him that compliment," McMann said. "They say it's too bad he wasn't born 40 or 50 years later."

But once you've met Harlow Hughto, and you've heard him ask you to call him by his first name because it makes him feel younger, you discover it's hard to think of him as anything but a young man.



SPORTS IN HIS BLOOD — Seems you just can't help but associate sports with Harlow Hughto, a Potsdam resident who has been involved with sports most of his life. In earlier days, he was a widely respected player and umpire who was not above stepping in and settling game disputes, as the players at the left found out in a game between Syracuse and Clarkson. Even today, Hughto is an avid sports fan, as you can see in the picture below which shows Hughto reading his favorite part of the newspaper, the sports section, of course.



City's Milk Strike Might Affect Locals

BY TERRY KOCH
St. Lawrence County dairy farmers should have no trouble "moving" their milk off the farm, if the New York City milk handlers' strike continues.

But a protracted strike could hit many of them in the pocketbooks.

The farmers won't know, however, how much their milk checks will be reduced until March 15, and in any case, the March check will only reflect about four days in February.

It will be the April check, for March milk, that will be more heavily affected if the strike drags on through this month.

The county's and the North Country's unique situation—an adequate market but a lower price—is due to two factors: first, most milk produced here goes into this region's own manufacturing plants to become cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, or yogurt; and second, most of the farmers are under the "Order Two" milk prices, which will be lowered by the strike.

This is the outlook of several persons whose job locally is to follow the milk marketing picture.

"They (the dairy farmers) are in a good situation in that their milk will go from the farm," said Allen Gilmore, Dairy Area Cooperative sales representative here.

Processed In North
Most North Country milk is processed directly in the North Country, at the Kraft Plant in Canton, for example, at Aiello's in Ogdensburg and Heuvelton, at Crowley's in LaFargeville where it becomes cottage cheese, and at a cottage cheese and yogurt plant in North Lawrence, to name a few.

But as the blend price in "Order Two" drops because of the strike, so does the farmer's paycheck.

"Order Two" is the district encompassing New York City and affecting many farmers here.

The "blend price" is a price created by averaging the fluid milk price and the price of milk that becomes solid products like cheese. The solid price is lower, ostensibly because the quality of milk need not be as high.

Blend Price Lowered
As one dairy expert in St. Lawrence County explained, as fluid milk "backs up" in New York City due to the strike, that highly perishable fluid must be turned into solid milk. Since more solid milk is being sold (at a lower price than fluid), then "blend price" to the farmer becomes lower.

Gilmore noted that since the strike did not begin until the last week in February, the dairy farmers' February check in March will reflect only about four or five days of the strike. The blend price for "Order Two" for February is

given to farmers on March 15, and the check arrives March 25.

Technically, one dairy observer noted, St. Lawrence County is not actually in "Order Two." It is because the "dealers" like Dairy Area, Kraft, and Eastern operate in "Order Two" that their prices here as well as downstate are regulated by that "Order."

Some farmers in the county, therefore, will not be affected by the lowered blend price, Gilmore pointed out.

They are the dairymen who ship their milk directly to local bottlers who have no operations outside the North Country, such as Dodd's and Brown's Dairy in Ogdensburg.

A majority of the farmers, however, work with the regulated dealers.

No Action On Burger King

No action was taken on site plans for a proposed Burger King restaurant at a meeting of the Potsdam Village Planning Board held last Tuesday night.

According to planning board chairman Quentin Reutershan the board had been asked to withhold action on the plans, which call for the renovation of the former Carrolls restaurant on outer Market Street.

Carrolls Development Corp. of Syracuse has proposed an 80-seat Burger King restaurant with drive-in window for the site.

Reutershan said he believed that "financial reasons" were behind the delay.

The board approved site plans for Periodical Publishers for a location in the Potsdam Industrial Center. Approval of those plans had been tabled at an earlier meeting.

Reutershan said the board had voted earlier to table the plans because the

"scope and cost" of the renovations indicated that the plans should have an engineer's stamp. While the first set of plans did not have an engineer's stamp, Reutershan said that the second set of plans did have the required stamp.

The board also approved site plans for an Electrolux retail outlet proposed for 51 Market St.

At last Tuesday's meeting, Reutershan also announced his intention to resign from the planning board effective March 15.

Citing his ten years of service to the board Reutershan said, "My time of service is over—I've enjoyed it very much." Reutershan also cited business pressures as a reason for his resignation.

He noted that he has "received a lot of cooperation from the Village Board of Trustees during the present administration."



ANNIE OAKLEY — The pistol-packing star of "Annie Get Your Gun" is played by senior Christine Compo, flanked by little brothers and sisters. Shown clockwise they are Renee Foisy, Wendy Simms, Heather Cameron and Ben Scharf. St. Lawrence Central School drama students will present the musical at 8 p.m. March 9 and 10 in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$2 at the door. (James Dawson photo)

Potsdam Country Club Burglarized

CANTON — Canton-based state police are continuing their investigation into a break-in at the Potsdam Country Club. Troopers said about \$1,500 worth of golf clubs, bags and covers was taken.

Entry into the building, located along Route 56, was made by forcing a window, troopers said.

The burglary occurred sometime Sunday night. The investigation is continuing.

Seminar To Focus On SALT Talks

POTSDAM — A public seminar on the subject of arms control and current Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) will be presented by Dr. Poeliu Dai at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, in room 203 of the College Union at State University College at Potsdam.

Dr. Dai's presentation center around a color slide and filmstrip presentation titled "The Race Nobody Wins." This presentation was produced by the SANE Organization: a citizens' organization for a sane world.

Dr. Dai and other consultants will also present their comments on the prospectives for SALT II.

Among those invited to participate as presenters are Col. William Sprinsky of the military science department at Clarkson College and Dr. Miles Wolpin of the State University College at Potsdam political science faculty.

The program is sponsored by the college's political science department and Political Science Association. "In the interest of evoking curiosity about this important question among members of the academic community and citizens of the region."