

Patchwork: West Potsdam Area News

BY MARY ANN MILLER 265-6708
This recent spring-like weather has done wonders for folks. It really does feel like spring, in fact, maple syrup weather. Maybe those flocks of robins I saw really did know what they were doing here, or should we remember the old saying that when March comes in like a lamb, it goes out like a lion?

My mail in the past week has been 99 per cent from Florida. My sister has sent two cards. Nancy Crane and friend did as much as they could fit into two weeks, picked up my mother in Satellite Beach and are on their way home.

From Bradenton, Fla., came a nice note from Margaret and Ray Harrington. I'll share the Harrington's newsy part. "We find lots to do around our mobile home. Ray is very active in lawn bowling and has been in several

tournaments. This past Monday we had guests from home, Cedric and Juanita all of Knapps Station and formerly of Parishville spent the day with us. Today we were pleasantly surprised when Sis and Al Bromling stopped by. We see Mildred Talcott every day as we live just across the street. Virginia Christensen of Canton is visiting Mildred. They had dinner with us last evening.

Then a letter from Shirley and Roy Hogle in Orange City, Fla. I'll share Shirley's note. "Thought you might be interested in hearing about some of the visitors we've had from up that way. Since we returned from a month's stay with (daughter) Nancy and her family in Eureka, Cal., we've seen quite a few northerners. Art and Irene Thompson of West Stockholm, Rodney and Louise Pierce of Norwood, Ken and Retha

McDonald of South Colton and Ormand Beach, Carl and Betty Newton from Hammawa Falls, Lee and Margaret Pierce from West Potsdam. Robert Bonno stopped by for a quick hello as did George Tyler of Parishville. Also, Roy's sister and brother-in-law, Daisy and Maurice Mace of Bonita Springs, Fla., spent a day with us and (daughter) Connie was here for her 20th birthday, Feb. 11th. My (Shirley's) cousins Lindley and Mary Robinson of Ludlow, Vt. and St. Petersburg were recent overnight guests. Last Sunday Seth and Margaret Fountain of Potsdam and Sebring and her brother and sister-in-law of Rome and Sebring called on us." The Hogies also say hello to everyone.

Next came a fun note from Margaret and Lee Pierce. They are vacationing for the first time in Florida and spending weekends with their son Douglas and

family in Orlando. Highlights of her note are: "I'm not going to try and tell you all the things we've been doing as I don't have the energy to write that much." She mentioned a few things such as a visit to Disney World, Silver Springs, drive to Tampa and drive up along the coast edge to Palm Beach and Crystal Beach. "Yesterday was our 43rd wedding anniversary and the kids insisted on taking us out to dinner which was very nice. This coming weekend we are going camping with them over to Cape Canaveral Space Center. After that we'll play it by ear. As things stand now we'll probably be home the last of March. Lee hasn't even mentioned coming home yet, he is enjoying it all as much as I am."

It reminds me of another letter I just received from a good friend, Fred Silvester in Fort Lauderdale. He always starts his letters with the temperature and time of day. After the temperature report he always draws a smiley face and puts in big letters, "eat your heart out."

One piece of mail was a letter from my son Paul who had left Newport, R.I., on the USS Damato bound for Mayport, in Jacksonville, Fla. From the ship's schedule, which I also received today, the Damato will be in Mayport until the end of April. Something interesting in that ship's schedule, the Damato will be part of a fleet maneuver called Computex 2-79 which will go to Puerto Rico. Part of that program will include the USS Ceell, which is Mike Moore's ship. So — the two boys will be rather together again.

I heard from Esther and Al Hough in Puerto Rico. They are in Rio Piedras visiting a daughter, Rosemary and family. I'll share part of Esther's letter. "It is pretty here but it is crowded and the traffic is something else. Al says he feels sorry for the men plowing snow — he knows what it is like. It's a bit hard to realize that it can get so cold when it is so warm here, about like July — of course there has been more rain this year than some years — in fact there was some flooding in low lands. We expect to be back in Florida early in March and spend a few weeks with daughter Margie and family before going home."

Enclosed in the note was a big clipping from The San Juan Star. The headline, "Airport tourist business humming with refugees for wintry climes."

With only a small number of northerners mentioned here traveling in the south, how come when one goes downtown there is a long line in the supermarket, and banks, and even a parking spot is not always nearby.

Cindy Talcott has just returned from the Potsdam hospital.

Shirley Lumley has also returned home from the Potsdam Hospital after surgery. She is doing just fine. She'd rather be working, however. She did mention they had a letter from son Charlie, now in England in the Air Force. Charlie has been working overtime, and mentions that a snowfall had crippled everything there.

Most of the people remaining in the

North seem to have many interests and one big one in this area is bowling. The West Potsdam Minutemen entered a team with Captain Dewey Pierce in the recent rescue aquad tournament at Market Lane. The team placed tenth. Team members are Don Kingston, Larry Roberts, Harold Wilson and Rodney Fraray.

The Sunday evening couples league has area couples tied for first place at this time. The team, Blue Jays, with Bill and Betty Grant and John and Gail Sheehan are tied with the team called the Pinworms, Weldon and Shirley Lumley and Rick Fadden and Jane Johnson. These two teams are tied for first place at this writing — we'll see next week what happens with Shirley Lumley recuperating.

Congratulations are in order to Don Kingston and Marilyn Henderson. Marilyn has a lovely diamond and the big event is planned for the end of August.

Karen Grant celebrated her fourth birthday on the 24th. A family party was held at home with grandma Marguerite Grant as dinner guest.

Should also mention that while at Richardson's store and chatting up a storm, Clarence Taber came in. Haven't seen Clarence in so long. He seemed to be favoring a leg as he walked, but had that big smile and the usual Clarence remarks and so I have to wonder after all our joking if he really is going to get hand cream for those chapped hands. Good to see you again Clarence.

Have a whole week of good days.

Collins Maintains Budget Is Legal

CANTON — Administrative Assistant William F. Collins, in a letter to the county legislature finance committee Wednesday night, reaffirmed his opinion that the county budget is legal.

Collins was unable to attend the meeting and sent a letter to the finance committee which was read by legislator Ralph Greco, chairman of the finance committee.

Collins' letter was in response to a resolution approved by the legislature at their Feb. 12 meeting in which he was instructed to investigate the legality of the 1979 budget. The resolution was in response to a letter from the Potsdam Areas Taxpayers' Association.

With regard to the point in the letter which reportedly referred to women's compensation payments, Collins told the finance committee that he had been instructed by the insurance committee to set up a meeting with former budget officer June O'Neill to discuss how it had been handled in the past. The taxpayers reportedly questioned how it had been handled over the past several years.

Collins told the board that a meeting had been held with Ms. O'Neill, F. Gary Reagen, county accountant, and Tony Miller, administrator of the workman's compensation plan, attending. Collins was out of town and therefore unable to attend the meeting. The committee is reportedly preparing a recommendation that will be presented to the insurance committee's March meeting.

Uncollectable Funds
With regards to the \$150,000 placed on the tax levy for uncollectable taxes, Collins told the board that if the finance committee and the board had been

advised earlier than they were, possibly the contingency fund would have been \$150,000, but the budget is legal, Collins stated in his letter.

Both Greco and Legislator Allen Rishe said that they expected that in the future, the \$150,000 (or whatever the amount would be for uncollectable taxes) would be included in the budget. Greco said that he had discussed the matter with Collins, county attorney Charles Palm and the Department of Audit and Control in Albany.

Legislator Robert Thompson raised the question about the comment made by Ms. O'Neill that the budget was not legal, because it didn't contain a resolution, which was seconded by Rishe, to amend the budget to state that the county has no indebtedness.

Abrams said that if the county had been in debt he could see that they might have a problem, but that's not the case. Greco said that it was Collins' contention that it was required to state in a tentative budget the status of the county's indebtedness, but not in a permanent budget. The matter is expected to be discussed again at the March legislature meeting. Thompson's resolution was approved unanimously Wednesday night.

In the matter of the towns claiming their excess sales tax funds, Collins told the board that the money belonged to the towns, and it was up to the towns to decide which way they preferred to handle it.

\$55,000 Above Budget
Finance Committee also approved a

January Is Busy Month For Center

Potsdam Neighborhood Center events for January, according to Betty Rush, director, include the following:

Outreach aides Ida Amo, Helen Richardson, Norwood; and Sharon Bonno, Colton; made nine new contacts involving 20 people and 142 follow-ups involving 504 people. Clerical aide Sheila Sochia reported that 140 people came to the center for services. Two families donated clothing. Thirty two SUCP and Clarkson volunteers are visiting Potsdam children as Special Friends. Eighty seven referrals were made to senior opportunity services, nutrition class, weatherization program, emergency fuel, Special Friends, CETA, Department of Social Services, Literacy Volunteers, Office for the Aging, WIC, Potsdam elementary school, ORC, employment office, landlords, North Country Legal Services, Section Eight Housing, Niagara Mohawk, and Planned Parenthood.

Cooperative Extension and the Neighborhood Center cosponsored a nutrition class on Jan. 10. Hilda Merrill demonstrated winter soup preparation. Jane Susice from Planned Parenthood spoke to inter-agency members on the new Teen Hot Line. Literacy Volunteers of St. Lawrence County, finance and administration committees, Youth Challenge community development committee, Potsdam, Norwood and Colton Neighborhood Center Advisory Boards were other meetings called. Betty Rush attended a volunteers workshop, Potsdam Youth Club meeting, spoke to Special Friends

volunteers at SUCP, and conducted Special Friends interviews.

The Norwood Children's Clothing Center, over the Golden Agers room on Mechanic Street, is open and staffed by Helen Richardson on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. The Colton Neighborhood Center office is located in the South Colton Community Center, telephone 262-2365. Sharon Bonno is in the Center Monday through Friday from 9-10 a.m.

Nancy Webster has joined our staff as dispatch-outreach aide. Her duties include scheduling county and handicapped buses, serving as substitute van driver, and visiting low-income families.

Linda Savage, domestic assistance program supervisor, reports that applications are now being received for domestic aides. Interested people must first apply at the employment office for CETA Title 6.

In January weatherization men Carson McCuen and Gerald Jandreau installed storm windows and doors; installed attic ventilation in preparation for insulation; and completed six referrals for prospective clients.

The extended emergency energy assistance program ends March 15. Anyone who meets income requirements and incurred energy bills for the period January through June 1978 may be eligible for help. For further information, call 265-3920.

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CLOSED SUN.

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