

PIERREPONT HISTORY: Smithies, Coopers, And Quarries—

Editor's Note: The following is the eighth in a serialized version of the history of Pierrepont being printed in the Courier and Freeman. The history was researched and written by Pierrepont Historian Betty B. Newton.

Most enduring of the blacksmith tradesmen was Richard Morrow and his son, Earl. For years they operated a shop across from the town hall. Earl equipped a truck and when motor cars became more prevalent than horses he took his trade to the farmer and shod the horses there at the farm. When that service dwindled to a trickle, he and Ruth went to Saratoga Springs where he practiced his trade with the race track horses.

There was also a blacksmith shop in Pierrepont Center in 1865 between the Hamilton and Leonard places. It would seem that it might be about where the new cellar is now and it may have been operated by Chauncey Thomas, one of the early blacksmiths.

Henry Bowers was a blacksmith in Crary's Mills. We also found a picture of a Crary's Mills house with the caption: "Home of the Village Blacksmith—Wm. Austin, Crary's Mills." It is the former home of Carroll and Irene Aldous just two lots north of the Grange Hall.

The blacksmith and wagon shop near White Church was run by a Curtis. This family name appears on both of the places now owned by Cort and Alan Ostrander. The corners of the now abandoned road were called Curtis Corners in 1865.

As late as 1916 a Randall ran a blacksmith shop near Clefflin Corners. This was one of the few remaining ones that was noted on the 1896 map.

Just down the road at the Corcoran intersection was a wagon shop. Again the maps were of no help as to the name of the craftsman. However, clustered near the area were Corcoran, Roach, Thomas and Stewart families, any of whom could have operated the facility.

Hannawa area had several blacksmith and wagon shops. One set was located directly in front of the Dimmick, Crandall, Bingham, Sullivan place. The area has been flooded since about 1900. As early as 1858, a blacksmith shop was located at the east end of the bridge. By 1865 this had

changed to a Cooper's shop and the blacksmith shop was over near the Post-Whitmore property. Alta Whitmore McCormick thinks that it may have been located in the little red barn. This is a credible supposition as this little building on the river bank is of the same general floor plan as the Morrow shop was.

Still later on Theron Storrs operated a blacksmith shop at the rear of his place which stood adjoining Lloyd Root's and to the north.

A blacksmith shop also existed in West Pierrepont. It was moved by Don Mandigo and incorporated in his cheese factory.

McCullums' shop was where Lillian Barriger and her husband Lloyd now live. Hogles also operated a shop.

None of these remain. In fact, the only building that may possibly have been a blacksmith shop is the Post barn and the only living smithy we know of is Earl Morrow who is enjoying his retirement over on the Canton Road.

Cooper Shops
Cooper shops and shops that made tubs, firkins, barrels and kegs were farther apart than other shops. Often they were near a cheese factory. Apparently each shop served large areas.

John Dimmick had one of the first cooper shops in Hannawa. According to the directions given it would seem that it was located over near Lynda and Carson James.

In 1865, Carlos Foster manufactured butter tubs, firkins, pails, barrels, buckets, etc. He lived in the house above the church where Hobart Frederick lived so many years, followed by Roberts and later by Howes. There is no evidence of a shop in that area now. He could have run the one that Cox had originally used for a blacksmith shop site.

The Fisk family ran a cooper shop in the White Church area. Which brother, the source did not state.

W. Lobdell and Lorin Couch were also listed as coopers. These sound more like Pierrepont Center names. Though they were noted for their fine products, the book did not say where they were produced or when.

There was another cooper shop up near Wilson Corners. It is very near the Robinson place, so presumably he ran it.



THE SMITHY'S—The blacksmith shop of William C. Austin, Crary's Mills.

Near the sawmill, just south of Riverside Cemetery, there was another butter tub factory. Products from there were quite likely used by the cheese factory just across the fields on the Butternut Ridge Road.

Quarries
Grist Mills seem to have been the least in number of any of the first industries. I could find only two mentioned. One was on Grammis Brook, no doubt established

by Cyrus Grammis and the other in Hannawa at the height of the Cox era. Whether it was in Hannawa or at the Dorothy Mill site is a question. Information in some old papers of Frank Olmstead's to substantiate the latter theory.

Quarries
Known as "Potsdam Sandstone," the reddish, stratified rock that lines many of the shores along the Racquette River

was quarried and used for many private and public buildings in the surrounding area.

Sandstone was quarried in Hannawa area, both sides of the river, just below the present bridge. In 1858, the Range M. Ralph & Co. was in business. Several houses, including Gardner Cox's own residence, that were completed before that date are constructed of sandstone. The Clarksons of Potsdam opened

quarries further to the north. Ed Elliott opened one about a mile south of Hannawa on his farm. At the height of production he employed about 20 men.

There are rumors of a marble quarry up in the Cook's Corners area, but this has never been verified by any of the residents. However, it is noted on the 1858 map and covers considerable area, so at one time some stone must have been available.

CONSUMER PROTECTION:

NYPIRG Executive To Speak Here

If today you or your college-bound child walked into a testing center to take a college entrance examination, you or your child would be entitled by law to the answers of the test. Four weeks ago that was not possible.

Today consumers are allowed to purchase many drugs under their less expensive generic name, rather than by the more expensive brand name. Four years ago this was not possible.

How did these and other reforms come about?

New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), a non-partisan student-directed and student-funded organization dedicated to environmental preservation, consumer protection and political reform, was instrumental. College students serve on NYPIRG's board of directors, decide policy, and approve all expenditures. They are aided by a full-time staff of lawyers, lobbyists, organizers, and projects specialists, who work with the community to provide continuity and expertise. Together they make a powerful team.

On Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Kellas Hall 104 at Potsdam College, Donald K. Ross, executive director of New York Public Interest Research Group, will be speaking about NYPIRG to interested people in the community. A Major Force

In just seven years, NYPIRG has

become the major force on public policy issues that its founders had hoped it would become. It has involved more thousands of people and helped more millions of people than ever its most ardent supporters could have imagined. And it has inflamed a citizen action movement so great that people are finally beginning to realize that they can fight City Hall and win.

Back in 1972-73, NYPIRG was merely a dream shared by Ralph Nader and a handful of other student organizers. These organizers, excited by the great possibilities of student activism but aware of the dangerous pitfalls it fell into during the 1960s believed that students could educate themselves and influence their government's policies at the same time.

The NYPIRG organizers also knew that to gain respect as a public interest organization, they would have to produce results. When a problem is identified NYPIRG students and staff work to solve it.

For example, student researchers at Brooklyn College formed the Education Testing Service (ETS) Complaint Center to assist students victimized by LSAT's and SAT's. Building on the experience of the Center, students at City College, Hunter College, NYU, and Queens College uncovered further evidence of testing abuses. The "Truth-in-Testing" bill, which was passed last

session in the State Legislature, was drafted by NYPIRG students throughout the state.

Some NYPIRG results include:
—Legislation: The Taxpayer Suit Bill permits citizens to sue public officials for illegal actions.

—Lawsuits: NYPIRG attorneys brought suit against Governor Carey's \$750 million bond issue. It was declared illegal in two courts, and the public overwhelmingly defeated it in the

election.
—Investigative reports: NYPIRG has researched and published more than 20 major studies.

—Legal interventions: NYPIRG experts saved the 10 cent pay phone call in 1975.

—Public education: NYPIRG has conducted major education and media campaigns around Sun Day, the Freedom of Information Act, and Voter Registration.

IN ALBANY:

Stafford Calls For Three-Year Budget

ALBANY—With a new session of the New York State Legislature begun on Jan. 9, State Senator Ronald Stafford has called for passage of his bill to implement a three year budget system in New York State.

Under the budget system now in effect, the state budget is issued each year for the upcoming fiscal year. The Stafford Plan proposes an amendment to the State Constitution requiring that the budget be formulated and considered each year for the next three fiscal years. If such a plan was being implemented for the first time this year, the Budget

would be put together for fiscal years 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83. The following year the fiscal plans already enacted for 1981-82 and 1982-83 would be reviewed and the budget for 1983-84 would be drafted and passed. The process would then continue along the same pattern.

Such a reform of the budget process, according to Senator Stafford, would provide improved long-range revenue planning, while at the same time would keep the budget within limits so that crucial adjustments could easily be made.

NORTH ECONOMY:

Dyson Likes St. Joe Proposal

BY JIM KENNEDY

In a telephone interview Saturday, state Power Authority Chairman John Dyson called the proposal to build an electrolytic zinc refinery at Ogdensburg "one of the dozen best prospects" he's seen in the past four years in New York State.

Dyson, who formerly served as state Commerce Department chief, also said that he was confident that a deal for

power could be worked out to attract the St. Joe Zinc Co. to the North Country.

The St. Joe company is interested in building a new zinc refinery at the medium-heavy industrial park at Ogdensburg to process the raw material the company mines at Balmat.

If the company chooses Ogdensburg, it would also expand those mining facilities, creating a total of 1,150 permanent jobs between Ogdensburg and Balmat.

The deal is said to hinge on the price of power the company is seeking from the state Power Authority. Dyson said in an earlier interview that the project was "doable." Saturday, he said he had ordered the PASNY staff to study the proposal thoroughly in preparation for a meeting with the St. Joe people in the near future.

That meeting, which Dyson has said he will personally attend, has not yet been scheduled.

The PASNY staff is expected to research the options available to the authority before entering those talks with St. Joe, Dyson indicated.

No Santa Claus
The chairman, while very enthusiastic about the prospects for the St. Joe deal, said that he was not prepared to "give away" the state's power.

"Despite my flair for costumes," he said, "I'm not going to play Santa Claus." Dyson's costume comment referred to his well-publicized appearance in a "Lone Ranger" mask two years ago at a state Senate hearing.

The St. Joe company is reportedly seeking 58 megawatts of power at a price of 10 mills or one cent per kilowatt hour. Dyson said at news conference in Albany Friday that the power authority does not sell power at 10 mills to anyone and that PASNY would be "subsidizing" the St. Joe project at that price.

Dyson speculated that the 10 mill asking price was simply a "bargaining position" for St. Joe. The authority is said to be considering a deal that combines authority power with private utility power at a combined rate of 25 or 28 mil.

Dyson, making reference to a price in that range, indicated that it was still an attractive proposal for the St. Joe company.

The St. Joe company is weighing the Ogdensburg proposal against an alternative at Monaca, Pa., where the company is closing an existing plant. There is a company-owned power plant at that site which can provide the necessary power at a price of 28 mills, according to reports.

If the company chooses Monaca, it would utilize that power plant and build a new refinery. The company could also make use of some existing lab facilities at the site.

But at Ogdensburg, the company would be located much closer to its main natural resource, which is being mined at Balmat.

If it can get its power at an attractive rate here, the scales might tip in favor of the North Country.

Dyson said Saturday that he and his staff would put together a proposal for St. Joe that was "on the side of being generous."

Theatre Group Seeks Director

The Clarkson College Theatre is looking for a director for their spring production of "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum," scheduled to be presented in late March or early April.

Anyone interested in directing this production should contact Ruth Abramson at 268-4393 or Tim Wade, at 268-4452 as soon as possible.



ON EXHIBIT — The photograph above, by Geoff Dunn of Potsdam, will be on exhibit at the Everett Museum of Art, Syracuse, during the month of February. Dunn, a senior at Potsdam Central School, has been selected as a photography blue ribbon finalist by Scholastic Magazines. The central New York exhibition is

sponsored by MONY of Syracuse in conjunction with Scholastic Magazines and Eastman Kodak. Dunn's teacher at Potsdam Central is Sherwood Smith. The photo is titled "Geese."

Mayfield News

Get well greetings from Mayfield friends and neighbors to those who were hospitalized the past week, including Edith Morgan, and Betty Kimber, who had a fall, resulting in a fractured hip.

Emma Peet was pleasantly surprised the past week by a visit from her granddaughter, Nancy Peet.

The social hour on Jan. 16 was well attended, and cards were enjoyed.

A thank you to all who attended the Easter Seal meeting, Anne Gagnon, Geneva Knight, Margaret Edwards, Hazel Roda, Evelyn Bray, Grace McCracken, Charlotte Cullen, Cornelia Thomas, Lena LaClair and Laura Stanton. Their help was greatly appreciated.

The next Easter Seal meeting will be on Feb. 19, in Mayfield Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Margaret Avadikian is spending her birthday with her son, Pete Avadikian, in Glens Falls, N.Y.