

editorials & commentary

Is Nero Fiddling?

It almost seems like a classic case of Nero fiddling while Rome burns. At least that's how it looks from this vantage point in the wake of the weekend's conference on acid precipitation at St. Lawrence University in Canton.

Canadian representatives are imploring officials in the United States to help them do something about the acid rain that is seriously affecting both countries. Already, the Canadians have labeled the environmental threat a major priority and have taken measures to tighten the standards on air pollution in that country.

But the U.S. viewpoint, as stated by Congressman David O'B. Martin, is that there are too many conflicting figures to definitively state that air pollution from major industrial centers to the west is the cause of the acid rain. Simply shutting down those emissions could prove to be a regulatory nightmare, would run counter to the Reagan Administration's policy on cutting red tape.

It may be true that regulating the big smokestacks of industries to the west would not end all the acid rain problems. We are not scientists, we cannot say.

Mr. Martin is not a scientist, either. At this juncture, however, it appears clear from this non-scientific view, that those industries and power plants are at least partly responsible for the acid precipitation that is killing the Adirondacks. If it were a burning holocaust, wouldn't Mr. Martin at least pick up a shovel to attack a known source of the flames?

Certainly, more study of the problem is needed. But Congress should not ease the nation's air quality standards at present while it is clear that even a part of the problem is caused by emissions.

From the general drift, it appears that Congress is leaning that way. Mr. Martin represents a congressional district that is perhaps one of the most severely affected. He could at least be championing our cause instead of following the party vote in Washington.

Bare Branches

From their fragile holdings on hard wood twigs the brilliant leaves have fallen and lay in layers, one upon the other, pasted to the ground by the frequent, heavy rains of autumn. The earth is now carpeted with a colorful patch-quilt with which to contain its heat as well as to protect it from the cold.

Brighter yet, however, do those remaining leaves atop black cherries, popple and beech appear against the thick mesh of bare, gray-black branches. With their firmer grips these left-overs wait for stronger winds to end their flagging.

Closer to the forest floor and out of the path of lashing winds young beech trees and some hard maples still hold many of their leaves through though there be no trace of green in th foliage.

The leathery beech leaves quiver with the slightest breeze like serpentine tongues. The distorted maple leaves, on the other hand, shiver in the cold and await the wind that will finally break their moorings. Some of these sapling maple leaves will survive countless snowstorms before they fall. A few will even last until spring. Many more of the beech leaves will remain at their stations throughout the winter. By March, however, they will be weathered almost white with sides curled inward forming elongated cones.

The absence of the leaves on the trees has a dramatic effect on the appearance of the landscape, and on the attitude of people toward the land and themselves. It is seen with a sense of gloom by many who hardly noticed the trees when they were in full foliage. It's scary looking, say others. Others view it as a kind of dreadful preparation or fulfillment of an

ominous omen. For many this simply means winter with its many severe testings of life and its abilities to survive, be it people, plants or wildlife. The spectacle, however, might be more easily accepted if we thought of it less in the botanical and emotional sense. Say, with a little humor.

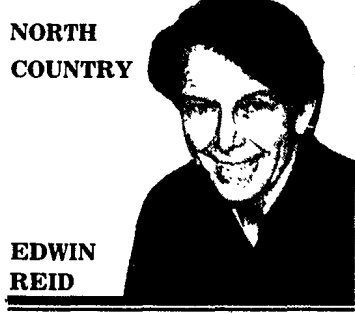
For example, imagine the naked trees with outstretched arms wondering why their attractive clothing has suddenly fallen from their limbs. Is this necessary? Balsams, hemlocks, pines and spruces go through winter

at first for it may quickly melt or be blown from your limbs. In fact, the weather has been so mixed-up in the last few years that we cannot even depend upon snow to insulate the earth when we should. Spring was the misfit in the past two winters. One day it was so warm you didn't need a jacket and the next day it was so cold you nearly froze. And then many of your relatives, they virtually died overnight right on the stump. That is, they never woke up in the spring because they were up too soon in the winter spring. Sure they want to blame it on bugs and disease and acid rain."

"They died of hypothermia? Maybe, that's what I am afraid of and why I am chilly."

Sure, the trees died of the cold when they were not prepared for it. Just because man concocted the word hypothermia does not mean he is its god. Think about how those bare trees feel about the situation. Well, it would make sense to call it arborthermia."

So, if you feel uncomfortable about the vacants of those familiar trees outside your window or on the distant ridge, think about how those bare trees feel about the situation. Well, let's just say they have some kind of feelings. Such a thought might give you a chuckle and brighten a few moments on a dark, melancholy day in autumn. What a trick has been played on them though the botanists are sure to say it is for their own good. All is not lost, dear tree, spring is but six months away. Then you will grow a whole new outfit just like the one you were stripped of these past weeks. That's how it is in this half-and-half country, half winter and half something else.



EDWIN REID
NORTH COUNTRY

From Our Files

Feb. 2, 1874 — There is unusual activity on the river this week. Parties are availing themselves of the opportunity to get ice over a foot thick. Geo. Stevens, supt. of the butter cars on the R. W. & O. R. R., is in town securing his annual supply of ice. He has ten or twelve teams drawing.

Nov. 19, 1874 — Nicholville butter factory closed Oct. 4, having made 12 tons of butter in 140 days from an average of 220 cows, being 100 lbs. of butter per cow from May 18 to Oct. 4. June, July and August butter sold for 35 cents per lb. by Capt. H. T. Sanford.

POTSDAM JUNCTION, 1869 — Furniture, ready made coffins and trimmings, also, cove spouts, agents for Vermont marble. Butler & Stuart.

Nov. 4, 1869 — Normal School boarding hall — We are pleased to know the advantages, convenience and prices of board in the boarding hall are proving entirely satisfactory. The price of board for the first month of the term, including room rent, fuel, lights and washing was \$3.13 per week. Those who wish to pay their

subscription in wood the coming winter should let us know as early as possible. Reserve good sound wood to pay the printer and thereby keep your conscience clear.

Dec. 16, 1860 — Mr. Clarkson must have been seized with a sudden inspiration when he attached the name of "Pleasant" to the street that crossed Leroy in front of his mansion. That hill, including its southern and western slopes, was the site of one of the first apple orchards ever attempted in town.

Nov. 5, 1964 — Chancellor's rock 'n roll combo popular with high school students in PCS area. Members of the group are Bob Scheyer, guitar; Pete Chase, guitar; Bruce Crossman, saxophone and Pete Fiske, drums.

Nov. 5, 1964 — Miss Brumelle named local teachers college fund head.

Nov. 5, 1964 — Potsdam High defeated St. Lawrence Central 32-6 to become co-champions of the Northern League with Gouverneur. Had six wins, one loss under coach Ted Strat-

ford. Massena's record was four wins, one loss, two ties.

Nov. 5, 1964 — Mrs. Joretta Creighton, accompanist for the choral choir at A.T.I., went with a group to Tupper, Saranac and Placid, where they gave concerts to the schools.

Nov. 19, 1964 — Local plant workers walk off jobs in sympathy with a local in Queens where supervisory personnel were handling jobs normally done by union members.

Nov. 19, 1964 — Smith's Big M — Turkeys, butterball toms, 16 lbs. and up, 41 cents; hens, 44 cents; frozen food specials, french fries, 9 oz. pkg., 9 cents; sliced strawberries, 16 oz. pkg., 35 cents; produce special, pascal celery 19 cents a bunch, cranberries 19 cents a lb.

Nov. 19, 1964 — Original senior jambooree to feature spectacular pageant at A.T.I., went with a group to Tupper, Saranac and Placid, where they gave concerts to the schools.

compiled by Earl Pattison

letters

'God Bless You,'

Dr. Stevenson

To the Editor:
I happened (just happened) to see the tiny article entitled, "Dr. Stevenson Commended," (page 19 — Nov. 3 copy of Courier and Freeman) which had evidently been copied from a Kansas City paper, citing a quarter-century membership in the American Academy of Family Physicians. (A.A.F.P.)

To this was added: "Dr. Stevenson has long served as medical officer of the Town of Potsdam."

I was shocked, amazed, and yes, quite unhappy, that those few words were all that were added. "Medical officer" indeed!

In my estimation — this was Potsdam's Golden Opportunity to let Dr. Stevenson know how very much we appreciate his many years of kindly, efficient, and dedicated service to this community. Wouldn't it be more fitting to do it now instead of waiting until he was retired?

I would like to relate one personal instance, if I may.
Many, many years ago, my husband was stricken with carbon monoxide poisoning (thought to be angina pectoris).

Of course, it was on a Thursday and no doctors available. We were living in the country and I was desperate. Finally, I called Dr. Stevenson (who had just come off a case). When I explained our dilemma, he came at once — diagnosed the trouble, took away the 'nitro', and had us both feeling better in no time. And all for six dollars!
This is only one instance but I could add many more as, I feel certain, could many other people.

So Dr. Stevenson, if you see this — I want you to know how much we appreciate your many years of dedicated service to us. May God bless you and keep you with us many more years in good health.

Most sincerely,
Ida R. Folk
Mayfield Apts.
Potsdam, N.Y.

Mrs. Sanford

Thanks Supporters

To the Editor:
I want to thank all those who took the time to vote in the recent election, with a very special thanks to everyone who encouraged and supported me in so many ways. Thanks again.

Rosey Sanford

Healey Thanks Supporters

To the Editor:
I congratulate Mrs. Sanford on her re-election to the county legislature.

I wish to thank all those who supported me in the past election and especially those who worked so hard on my behalf.

Sincerely,
Francis "Bill" Healey

Owens Thanks Voters

To the Editor:
I would like to thank all the people in the Town of Colton for taking the time to vote on election day. I do not have the exact statistics, but I believe the voter turnout in the Town of Colton would be in the top percentage of the state and the nation. This is something that more populated towns and villages in St. Lawrence County surely must envy, and something that Colton should be very proud of.

Thank you for welcoming me into your homes while I was campaigning for assessor. It would take a full page of this newspaper to even begin to describe the hospitality and sincerity found in Colton households. This was my first experience at running for an elected position and although I was defeated by three machine votes, I feel that I gained a whole lot by making the acquaintance of so many fantastic Colton people.

A very special thanks go to the people who worked so hard on my campaign. There were many who spent a great deal of time and money for me. Words simply cannot express my gratitude.

Congratulations and best wishes to my opponents and all of the elected officials of the Town of Colton.

Sincerely,
Dick Owens
South Colton

Enjoyed Harvest Ball

To the Editor:
For the past three weeks I have been visiting friends in Potsdam and during that period I have had many warm experiences in a village that is especially cordial to strangers. For the exceptional reception we have received we are most grateful. Potsdam is truly a beautiful, and fortunate community.

One of the most memorable experiences was going to the Harvest Ball with some of our friends. I can't recall when we have such a delightful evening. The music of the Vintage Profs was as fine as anyone could get and the entertainment by Mrs. Regan (Maureen), Rev. Toth and the Dixieland band was top-notch. Most of all though was the wonderful mix of people attending and having such a grand time. It's a rare thing to see people of all ages really participating together. Everyone responsible for this successful venture deserves the thanks of all of us who were privileged to be there.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tryon
Seattle, Washington

Colton GOP Says 'Thanks'

To the Editor:
The members of the Colton Republican Team would like to express their appreciation to the voters of Colton.

Thank you, one and all, for the support shown on Election Day.
Harold Buck, Elizabeth Ford,
Thomas Frank, Edward Woolston,
George Fisher, Hamilton Ferry,
George Wright

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, GREAT LAKES: McEwen At The Helm

BY TERRY KOCH
As the new \$2,000-a-year chairman of the American section of the International Joint Commission (IJC), former Rep. Robert McEwen of Ogdensburg says his primary job is to get the confidence of the United States and Canadian governments in the IJC's function.

"A great deal of our work," said McEwen, "is by reference from the governments. It's of the utmost importance to conduct our affairs to warrant the confidence of governments. If so, referrals will be made."

It is that confidence in the IJC's ability, he said, which will decide whether or not the Commission — a group of Canadians and Americans who oversee water quality in all boundary waters — will be more visible and active in the future than it has been in the past.

In an interview with the environmental group "Save The River" to his appointment.

"Save The River" has pointed out that during his tenure as 30th District Representative, McEwen had one of the poorest environmental voting records in Congress.

"I don't know any specifics on that," McEwen said. "It didn't seem very material. If that's what the President and the Senate wanted, they would have gotten Abble Hoffman."

McEwen was referring to the fact that Hoffman, under an assumed identity, had played a role in "Save The River."

Regarding his position on winter navigation on the St. Lawrence River, McEwen said "they (Save The River) have chosen to interpret my position contrary to my clear statement in the Congress. I considered winter navigation neither feasible nor desirable in the St. Lawrence. Regarding extension of the season, I have seen nothing objectionable about that."

McEwen lives on the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River, about four miles southwest of Ogdensburg. He is leaving open, for now, questions of whether or not being a "riparian property owner" will constitute a conflict of interest when St. Lawrence River matters come before the IJC.

"If it comes up here," he said, "I'll have to make a decision on it."

Another possible conflict of interest was his membership with the board of directors of the Augsburg Corporation. The company is involved in St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes shipping, and oil spills are one of the

concerns of the IJC.

McEwen said he has resigned from the firm's board.

Wide-Ranging Concerns
While the IJC's future role in St. Lawrence River issues are of most concern to local residents, the commission plays a role in water quality monitoring and recommendation for all bodies of water along the U.S.-Canada border, from New Brunswick and Maine to Washington and British Columbia, including the Great Lakes.

There is a chairman and three commissioners from each side of the border on the IJC (one Canadian slot is presently vacant); answering to the IJC are some 30 separate boards.

One of those boards is the Water Quality Board, chaired by a representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and of Environmental Canada.

The IJC must meet at least twice a year, to hear reports from those boards, and may meet more often than that.

As McEwen sees it, the IJC's primary "charge" is to carry out the specifics of the Water Quality Treaty of 1978, a joint U.S.-Canada document.

In that context the Joint Commission's functions, he said, are those of "monitoring" water quality and of recommending action to the two governments. The latter function, he noted, is complicated by the fact that not only two federal governments but numerous agencies and local municipalities may be involved.

Fishing, seaway shipping, water flows and water levels, would all come under the IJC's scrutiny, but only insofar as they apply to water quality.

Since water flow and levels are part of the Joint Commission's concern, it will also be working with the Seaway Development Agency and the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY). The two agencies have control over dams and locks on the St. Lawrence.

Confidence Needed
Rather than changing the direction or goals of the IJC, which McEwen says are spelled out by the 1978 treaty, he is leaving open, for now, the responsibilities we are charged with.

"Our role," he added, "is reporting to the two governments the progress and problems (involved in boundary water quality). This board has to rely on what it communicates being acted upon."

In the future, he said, he will work for greater confidence in the IJC on the part of the two governments.

McEwen noted that the IJC met recently in Windsor, Ont.; at that meeting, he said, the matter of toxic

Waite Thanks Voters

To the Editor:
Raymond Waite would like to thank all the voters of the Town of Parishville who supported him in his re-election as highway superintendent.

Raymond Waite

Urges Concern For

Owners Of Injured Pets

To the Editor:
On Tuesday, Nov. 3 our black Labrador retriever was struck and killed by a car driving on the Potsdam-Madrid Road. We are writing this letter hoping that the driver of that vehicle will read this and realize the distress we have gone through.

Our dog had a name tag on with our address and phone number, yet we were not notified until a concerned neighbor learned of the accident and phoned us. We only hope that our dog was killed instantly and did not lay there suffering while the guilty driver sped away.

Accidents happen — we can accept this. What we can not accept are the actions of drivers who injure and kill family pets without so much as trying to notify the owners. Please — if you are responsible enough to get behind the wheel be responsible enough to contact owners of injured pets. These pets are a part of the family and sadly missed.

Should you even strike a family pet please have the courtesy and courage to check for a name tag and phone number — that's what they are for. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nancy and Jack Fuller
Route 1
Norwood

'Save-A-Pack' Rumors Probably Untrue

To the Editor:
As is the yearly custom, there is a rumor that the saving of empty cigarette packs will help defray the costs for some type of equipment for lung disease victims. Your lung by association regularly receives calls from individuals trying to confirm this type of rumor.

We have tried to check this most recent rumor and have as usual found none, nor any organization, that really know anything about it.

My advice to anyone, smoker or nonsmoker, before undertaking or participating in this type of project, is to check the rumor thoroughly. We have yet to find one of these "save-a-pack" rumors to be true.

They say "there is a sucker born every minute." Do not be a "sucker" for a worthless project such as this.

Jeffrey A. Berman
Executive Director
American Lung Association of Central New York

wastes in the Niagara River was "very much discussed."

The Niagara was recently described as "The Ravaged River" in a report of the same name by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG).

One of the contributing factors is a water treatment plant.

McEwen said the IJC "doesn't build treatment plants," but it does make recommendations regarding prevention of discharges into boundary waters.

The IJC was created by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909.

Its purpose even then, said McEwen, was to attempt to control pollution in boundary waters. "but it was somewhat less complex than what we deal with today."

Poetry Corner

The trees have lost their colored coats a chill wind whistles autumn's call.

The barren branches beckon to the sky and motion winter wonders toward us all.

Once green corn now bends toward frosted ground as the stalks which held their life are old suddenly in their new fall coat of brown.

The animals in the field turn their backs to the northerly breezes, while giving backward glances to the summer spirit now disappearing slowly as he pleases.

The distant calling of the geese echo through the skies as they fly, Chesapeake bound, the grudgingly give their goodbyes.

Another summer season fades slowly into fall and a North Country town begins its silent slumber.

As a chill wind whistles autumn's call.

Matthew F. Breitenbach
24 Cedar St.
Potsdam

Courier & Freeman

A Park Newspaper

Published every Tuesday by Park Newspapers of St. Lawrence Inc. (USPS 135-460), 71 Market St., Potsdam, N.Y. Member of the New York Press Association, the National Editorial Association, and Audit Bureau of Circulations. Subscription rates: carrier home delivery in Potsdam, 25 cents per week. By mail outside Potsdam in St. Lawrence County, \$11.00 per year and \$11.50 elsewhere in United States and Canada. Entered in the post office at Potsdam, N.Y., as second class matter. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Courier & Freeman, Inc., 71 Market St., Potsdam, N.Y. 13676.

HAL STOKES, Editor

SALLY RANDOLPH, Business & Circulation

PATRICIA A. MONGADA, Advertising

PAUL LASHOMB, Production

will
write
and th
Her
Potsd
senior
Straul
positiv
ment.
The sit
follow
"leavi
know
are o
"trah
headq
The
organ:
Paul V
United
old, b
Miss
after
Way,
father
wonde

Wier
ing to
God in
from
Semin
table
trine
Trinity
day h
audit
would
had n
Centu
Said,
said,
openec
from
relater
By
public
gram
chang
Way,"
farm a
But
United
asked
corn
greate
"churc

At th
the lat
Wierw
gospel
eventu
cisco's
there's
He r
wards
messag
ment t
Living'
the
Soon
began
financi
Way's
quired
their g
many
the
assets:
\$1.2 mi
\$750,00
in sev
million
And
the "D
began
the wor

Ente
a junk
Spain c

Ele

Edite
always
keep tr
didates
the pr
unoffic
ballots
cases,
In the f
are Off
ficial a

Pots
Cook,
by a 21
challen
on the
Democ
Reason

The J
seat o
William
Democ

MONE
presen
Unit of
raised
Parish
are Ma
neth R