

In Localized Legislature Races:

It Was Rosie, Doc And Pete Otto

CANTON — It was Rosie, Doc and — finally — Pete Otto.

They were the winners last week in some of the hotly contested races for county legislative posts in and around Potsdam. And they are all Republicans.

They joined Democrats Betty Bradley and Ernie LaBaff, and Republican Augustus Marscher in the winners' circle. But those three were unopposed, so attention was focused in the Potsdam area on the legislative races where the action lay.

By the time the smoke had cleared, Rosemary Sanford was the victor in Potsdam's District 13. An incumbent Republican, she successfully staved off by 72 votes a threat from Democrat Francis (Bill) Healey, a veteran legislator who had represented that district before she wrested it away from him two years ago.

It was even a closer fight in District 4, where Republican Peter Otto apparently unseated Democrat Anthony Kilcoyne in another replay of an old political rivalry. At first it appeared that Otto won by 47 votes, but that lead was narrowed to just 21 when Kilcoyne picked up additional ballots because of inaccurate tabulations from the towns of Brasher, Hopkinton and Lawrence.

But it was even a closer fight in District 16, where another incumbent and veteran, Donald (Doc) Bixby hung on by just 12 votes to emerge the winner over Democrat James Sabad, a former town justice in Norfolk.

With Republican Control, Would Marscher Be Chairman?

Across the county, the Democrats did pick up one more seat on the 22-member Legislature, but the Grand Old Party (GOP) held onto its majority.

In some cases, an undetermined number of absentee votes, including

military and emergency ballots, remained to be tabulated. But in this story, the figures in districts 4, 13, and 16 are final, official totals.

With the Republicans retaining the majority on the county legislature, it appears that Star Lake legislator Ralph Greco, Robert Thompson of Lisbon and Augustus Marscher of Stockholm may be in contention for the chairmanship. Greco is a Democrat, but as chairman of the Finance Committee he is regarded as a maverick and could be the Republicans' choice to replace Donald Livingston, who plans to step down as chairman.

Talles
Former Republican legislator Peter Otto scored a victory in upsetting in-



ROSEMARY SANFORD

cumbent Democrat Anthony Kilcoyne for the District 4 seat, which represents the Towns of Brasher, Hopkinton and Lawrence. It was the third rematch for the two candidates.

Otto received an official total of 1,151 tallies in Tuesday's balloting, 21 more than were cast for Kilcoyne. In 1979, Otto first appeared to be the apparent victor in the contest, but Kilcoyne surged ahead to win by two votes with the assistance of several absentee ballots. This year, it was close, too, but by Monday afternoon, Board of Elections officials had declared Otto the winner.

In a rematch of previous years, incumbent Republican Sanford destroyed Healey's chances of a political comeback to the county board. Mrs. Sanford, who carried two of the four individual districts, garnered an official 547 ballots to defeat Healey, who was able to muster 475 tallies. It was the third rematch for the two contenders.

Democrat James Sabad, a former Norfolk town justice, was apparently defeated by 12 ballots in his attempt to upset Republican incumbent Donald Bixby for the District 16 seat on the county legislature.

Bixby, according to official returns released Monday, was able to garner 912 ballots, while Sabad mustered 900 tallies.

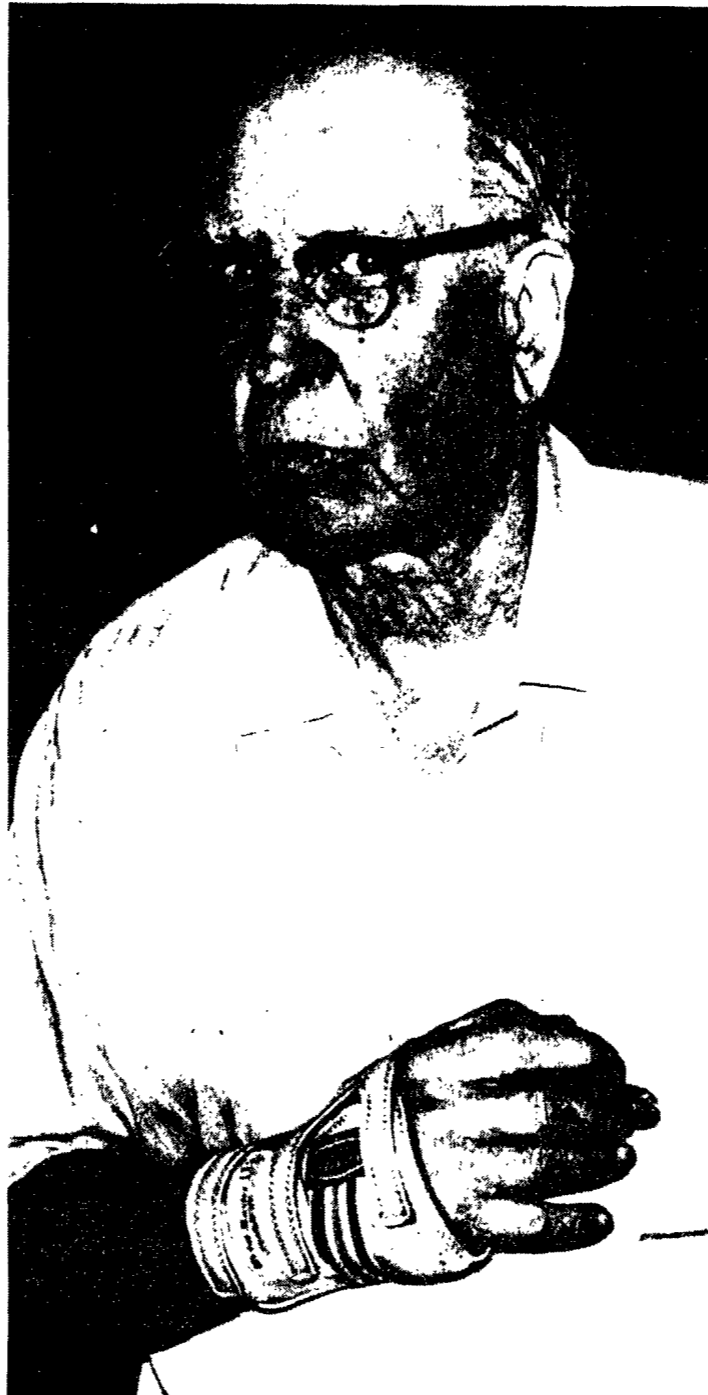
Unopposed Legislators
In District 3, Marscher gained 1,222 ballots.

Betty Bradley (District 14), got 404 and Ernest LaBaff (District 15) received 629.

Charles Cooke of Gouverneur, who died last week at his Gouverneur home, was unopposed for his District 12 seat in Tuesday's election and received 399 ballots. Cook's seat will be retained by the Republican party, which will appoint a successor to fill the vacancy created by Cook's death.

Ham Ferry, 77:

Drives Down From The Woods To Bowl



BY BETH CHRISITENSEN
Student Intern

With a buzz of conversation as a backdrop, balls rumbled down the alleys and pins shattered. It was a league night at Market Lanes in Potsdam, a Tuesday night, and Ham Ferry was there.

What motivates a 77-year-old man to drive 60 miles round trip once a week, even during the dastardly North Country winters? Apparently Ham Ferry enjoys bowling and that makes the trip more than worthwhile. In fact, he makes the trip twice weekly, on Wednesday nights he bowls in Canton. Not only does he enjoy it, but he's good at it, too. He bowled a perfect game in Potsdam once and he still makes his share of strikes.

Pausing while he bowled to have his picture taken, he joked that he'd probably "bust the camera." Thus when the flash failed to go off he said, "I told you I'd bust the camera," and laughed. Ham enjoys a good laugh.

With his wife of 53 years, Ham owns and runs Ham's Inn, a hotel in Sevey Corners, where his family has been since 1852.

Born in 1904, Hamilton Ferry has led and continues to lead what can only be called an active life. He's "done just about everything," and "been just about everywhere" in the U.S. except the southern states. He never had a hankering to go south. Ferry has been a mechanic, driven a Yellow Cab in New York, been a shop foreman for Ford, and worked for Pontiac and Cadillac in Potsdam. He's even mined gold in Oregon — and gotten some good chunks, too. He went to college in Cincinnati where he studied two years for the ministry.

Woodsman
He's done everything in the woods, from hunting to cutting lumber to skidding with a team. He was a guide in the Adirondacks for years. One of his hobbies is bowling.

Storyteller

Ham's favorite hobby though is learning and reciting poetry. He's liked poems ever since he can remember. Robert Service is his favorite poet. He often recites poetry at St. Lawrence University. Ham is, in fact, renowned for his poems and storytelling. He is featured prominently in a recent book, "Adirondack Voices: Woodsman and Woods Lore," by Robert D. Bethke. Many of Ham's stories are included in the book.

Ham's success at learning and reciting poetry has been aided by his photographic memory. Reading something once or twice that he liked, he could thereafter remember it, seeing the page in his head. He can't do it anymore, though. "My little brain is all filled up," he says with a smile. He takes poems and adapts them to his own liking. He currently has about 40 in his repertoire.

In addition to bowling and hunting, Ham the sportsman used to pitch ball. In this year's World Series, he was "partial" to the Yankees. "I never did like the Dodgers, even when they were in Brooklyn," he says.

Ham enjoys his cigars, his bowling, his stories, and especially his poems. He likes to think that he has given people a few laughs over the years. If a person can't think back and remember a good time, well, Ham thinks that's a pretty special thing. Laughter and a pleasant memory are "something they can't take away from you." Spend a few minutes with Ham Ferry and you'll see what he means.

Overpass Opens

Traffic began moving across the new railroad overpass on Rt. 11 just south of the village of Potsdam Monday. It marks the opening of a major section of road construction in Potsdam begun two years ago.

Meanwhile, Department of Transportation (DOT) officials say the Relief Route, also under construction for two years, should be ready for traffic by Dec. 1.

Charles Lyman, regional director of the DOT in Watertown, told the Courier Freeman Tuesday morning that the engineer's estimates for the two projects would probably be less than the final cost.

Engineer's estimates were \$6,090,000 for the relief road and \$2,157,420 for the bridge project.

Stockholm Raises Taxes

STOCKHOLM — The Stockholm Town Board Thursday night unanimously approved a \$613,303.52 budget for 1982, up from the 1981 total of \$577,896.84.

The amount to be raised by taxes is \$280,870.44 for 1982, up from this year's \$271,046.96. The tax rate is \$84.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; the 1981 rate is \$83.70.

Salaries for town officers in 1982 will be \$4,500 for town supervisor; \$7,000 for town clerk; \$4,000 for town justice; \$1,600 each for the four councilmen; \$15,400 for superintendent of highways; \$2,000 for assessor and \$1,450 each for the two assessors.

The town will install half the crusher run for the Tri-Town Rescue Squad parking lot, at a cost not to exceed \$200.

The town will advertise for bids for a new backhoe, bids to be opened at the December meeting.

It was announced that the Tri-Town Rescue Squad is now serving the residents of the Town of Stockholm. The board meets next at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Municipal Building, Winthrop.

Not So In All Towns:

Local Propositions Approved In Potsdam

CANTON — Potsdam voters said "yes" last week to four local propositions.

A proposition to lengthen the term of supervisor from two to four years was passed, 1,064 to 1,002, while a similar proposition for highway superintendent was also approved, 1,106 to 972.

Voters supported increasing the term of town clerk from two to four years by a tally of 1,237 to 858.

Changes in the length of terms will not take effect this time around, but will be effective the next time there is an election for the positions.

Potsdam voters also passed a proposition allowing games of chance by a ballot count of 1,125 to 1,025.

Supreme Court Justice, Jail Bonding Issue

Throughout St. Lawrence County voters rejected a controversial \$500 million dollar proposal for prison construction and local jail rehabilitation, but handily supported a plan to double the bonding capacity of the state's Job Development Authority (JDA) from \$150 million to \$300 million.

Meanwhile, county residents supported the candidacy of Republican Thomas E. Mercure over Democrat William P. Willig for the vacant Supreme Court Justice seat in the Fourth Judicial District.

Mercure won the district and both propositions passed statewide.

In the Town of Potsdam, the prison bond issue failed by only 27 votes, with 1,084 "no" votes tallied and 1,057 "yes" votes.

The JDA amendment fared better, with 1,371 "yes" votes and 764 "no" votes.

State Supreme Court Justice Nor-

man Harvey, running unopposed on the Democratic, Republican and Conservative lines, polled 2,448 votes in the Town of Potsdam, while Republican Thomas Mercure will fill the second justice's slot with a vote total of 1,386 on the Republican and Conservative lines. Democrat William Willig finished with 1,034 votes.

Local propositions in the towns of Pierrepont, Norfolk, and Colton were also decided by voters in Tuesday's elections, while county Sheriff Keith Knowlton, county Clerk Donald Logan and county Coroner Dr. Hugh Frame all ran unopposed.

Justice Norman Harvey ran unopposed for reelection in the Fourth Judicial District and received an unofficial total of 21,388 ballots. Justice Harvey was endorsed by the Republican, Conservative and Democratic parties.

In the only other uncontested county government races, Sheriff Knowlton received an unofficial 18,944 ballots in Tuesday's election, while Logan received 17,452 tallies and Dr. Frame collected 16,758 votes.

In the Town of Potsdam Frame tallied 1,713 votes, Knowlton 1,879 and Logan 1,812.

Local Propositions

Voters in the Town of Pierrepont approved a local proposition authorizing games of chance by organizations possessing a required license, with 228 in favor and 123 opposed.

In Norfolk, voters rejected a proposal to increase the term of the town supervisor from two to four years by a total of 650 to 413. A similar proposal increasing the term of the town clerk was also defeated, 560 to 494, while the

third proposition to lengthen the term of the highway superintendent was also rejected by town voters, 615 to 449.

Voters in Colton, meanwhile, narrowly approved a plan to lengthen the supervisor's term to two years by a single ballot. There were 197 ballots cast in favor of the move, according to unofficial returns, while 196 ballots opposed the proposal.

Colton voters also authorized increasing the term of town clerk from two to four years by an unofficial count of 217 in favor and 167 opposed. A proposition to lengthen the term of highway superintendent by two years was also approved, 208 to 180.

Potsdam Democrats Did Not Fare Well

BY BETSY BAKER

Subdued Democrats gathered in the Potsdam home of Betty Bradley last Tuesday night to lick their wounds and cut their losses after the returns of the day's election were in.

The Bradley kitchen on election night is always a center of activity; candidates and others crowded around the telephone, where Mrs. Bradley was getting information from election headquarters; other Democrats and friends, including Potsdam Mayor James Penock, talked quietly in the double living room and dining room of the Bradley home. The television was on; some watched for news of regional and national issues.

Everything but the election came up for discussion — local gossip, "Reaganomics" upcoming events — except when more returns came in and were greeted with moans or cheers.

Mrs. Bradley, LaBaff and others talked about the make-up of the new county legislature and which Republicans might be counted on to swing toward the Democrats on crucial votes.

Democrats Disappointed
Overall it wasn't a good evening for Town of Potsdam Democrats. Despite the victories of Mrs. Bradley and Ernie LaBaff, both of whom ran unopposed for seats on the county legislature, Shirley "Mickey" Harris, also unopposed as town justice and highway superintendent Don Jones, who defeated his Republican opponent Lloyd Moore 1,633 votes to 1,161, Democrats were unable to take control of the third Potsdam legislature seat from Republican Rosemary Sanford.

And Democrats were unable to take control of the Potsdam Town Board, losing supervisor and council races to the Republicans.

Mrs. Sanford outpolled veteran Democratic politician Francis "Bill" Healey by 72 votes, 547 to 475, retaining the District 13 seat she had taken from Healey by a closer margin two years ago. In their first match-up in 1977 Healey had been the victor.

In the Bradley kitchen, Healey told those gathered he knew he had lost when he saw his small margin of victory within the Village of Potsdam. Mrs. Sanford would, he knew, likely outpoll him in the rural districts. Later he called the Sanford home to congratulate his opponent; the phone was answered: "committee to defeat Bill Healey."

Democrats had been more hopeful about the outcome of the Healey-Sanford race this year. Observers said Healey and his supporters didn't work hard enough last time, but this time Healey campaigned hard,

visiting voters in their homes and lashing out at Mrs. Sanford for voting raises for county officials.

One problem for the Democrats may have been that while Mrs. Sanford has a record of conscientious attendance at meetings and hearings and a reputation for asking questions, she has not been a controversial legislator, one who might be attacked for unpopular statements or stands on issues.

LaBaff arrived late, shaking his head over the town and county returns, but brightening visibly when Democrat Dan Fay's legislative victory over Republican Bill Sheridan in Canton District 5 was announced.

LaBaff had retired from the legislature two years ago, but decided to return when his successor, Democrat Charles Turcotte chose not to run again.

Vowing early in his campaign to be "very visible," LaBaff repeated those comments Tuesday night, saying: "They're going to know I'm around."

LaBaff and Mrs. Bradley, both with reputations as strong and effective legislators, have faced lukewarm opposition from the Republicans in recent years, although county Republican chairman David Chamberlain slapped at LaBaff through the press earlier this year.

Cancer Teaching Day Set
The Professional Education Committee of the St. Lawrence County Unit of the American Cancer Society will present a Teaching Day for physician's assistants and other interested professionals from 4-6 p.m. on Nov. 15.

Dr. Louis LaGrand, professor of health and sciences at Potsdam College will be the speaker and will present a program on dealing with the

emotional impact of cancer on patients and their families. Dr. LaGrand is well known for his extensive work in counseling people with terminal illness, the families of these patients and the professionals who deal with life threatening illness on a day to day basis.

Three Day Blood Drive Set By Clarkson Rangers

The Clarkson College Army ROTC, Clarkson Rangers, will be holding their 19th Annual Blood Drive on Nov. 17, 18 and 19 at the Potsdam Presbyterian Center on Route 11 B and Elm Street from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. each day. People 18 or older are welcome to donate.

To date, the Clarkson Rangers have collected 13,224 pints of blood for the American Red Cross, making this the largest blood drive in St. Lawrence County.

The drive assists area hospitals during the holidays when blood supplies are their lowest levels.



REPUBLICANS WIN — Bob Dinello, chairman of the Republican Party in Potsdam, reads election results to the candidates last Tuesday night at a victory party in Norfolk. (Hal Stokes photo)