

editorials & commentary

Finally, The Relief Route!

This Thursday, an official ribbon-cutting ceremony will mark the opening of the Potsdam Relief Route, a project that, as anyone who drives a car around here knows too well, has taken nearly two years to complete.

Finished at a cost over \$6 million, the road has seen its share of controversy all the way: from the planning stages right through completion. Only time will tell, however, just how well it works to alleviate traffic congestion downtown. One thing is certain, traffic could not be much worse than it has been in the final days of construction. Tie-ups have been worse at the Maple

Street-Clarkson Avenue-Pine Street intersection of late than ever.

But putting that all aside, the contractor brought the job in on time and, as one official put it, "on the money, for all intents and purposes."

When the dust finally settles and Potsdam drivers settle into the new traffic pattern, there will be a new "entrance" to Potsdam, a new look. What was once the back side of town will now be the front. It may take some getting used to but, as the fly once said as he walked across the mirror, it all depends upon how you look at it.

ACID RAIN:

Plan For Reducing Emissions

The National Wildlife Federation, on behalf of the National Clean Air Coalition, has proposed a four-point plan to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions in 31 states in order to begin solving the nation's growing acid rain problem.

The plan was outlined by Dr. Jay D. Hair, executive vice-president of the NWF, at a house Energy and Commerce Committee hearing on acid rain. The NWF is a member of the National Clean Air Coalition, whose members include conservation, health, labor and consumer groups interested in educating the public about the danger of air pollution.

The coalition plan recommends that Congress mandate a ten million ton per year reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions in 31 eastern states by 1990. Hair noted that sulfur dioxide emissions should be dealt with first because they are responsible for "up to 80 percent of the acid precipitation in the northeast."

When sulfur dioxide emissions, mainly generated by coal-burning power plants, combine with rain or snow they form an acid which is often blown hundreds of miles from its actual source before it falls to earth. Acid rain has killed the fish in more than 90 lakes in the Adirondack Mountains, and a recent NWF report revealed that 15 eastern states are "extremely vulnerable" to the harmful effects of acid rain.

Under the plan Hair outlined, Congress would set a formula which would allow utilities in the 31 eastern states to apportion fairly among themselves the burden of a ten million ton sulfur dioxide reduction. Each sulfur dioxide generator subject to the reduction requirements would be given up to two years to submit a reduction proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Utilities, which account for about three-quarters of all sulfur dioxide

emissions in the eastern U.S., would be allowed to "trade" emission reduction obligations among themselves and non-utility plants. Although EPA would have final approval of the utilities' reduction plans, the states would have an active role in enforcing the plans.

Hair expressed strong support for an acid rain bill—S. 1706—recently introduced by Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine), and for similar legislation to be introduced by Rep. Toby Moffett (D-Conn.). In calling for effective acid rain control legislation, Hair said, "The NWF, the nation's largest conservation organization, is 'in the company of the bipartisan National Commission on Air Quality, the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, and the 86 percent of the American people—whom we all represent—who have indicated their support for a strong Clean Air Act.'"

PROPERTY TAXES:

Call For Compromise

ALBANY — Business Council President Raymond T. Schuler has called on Gov. Hugh Carey and the legislative leaders to begin work immediately to develop a property tax reform bill that "treats all our taxpayers in a way that is fair, rational and comprehensible."

He said that "the governor and the legislative leaders now have an opportunity to lay aside past differences and work together for a bill that gives our people the modern tax system they want."

Schuler, head of the statewide business organization, made his comments after the governor announced that he had vetoed S. 7000-A. The Business Council had opposed that bill and had asked for the veto. Schuler

said that the veto was "the only way out of a serious mistake the members of the Legislature would eventually come to regret, if the bill were allowed to become law."

He acknowledged that "this has been an extremely difficult issue for all involved, and the legislative leaders have made an honest and agonizing effort to deal with it. But we have to start anew."

The bill passed after six years of controversy over standards for property-tax assessments, was intended to legalize virtually all of the conflicting and confusing property-tax "systems" which vary from community to community across the state.

Schuler said that because the bill

would have future tax practices "unpredictable and often incomprehensible," it would damage the state's efforts to get business to expand or locate in New York.

The Business Council, he said, would be willing to work "in an intensive way" to help develop a new and rational system governing property tax assessments. Such a system, he said, should:

- Provide a "homestead" exemption to prevent a major shift in tax burdens to homeowners.
- Require that all taxpayers be treated uniformly.
- Require that localities formally state what their assessing practices are.

From Our Files

Sept. 14, 1932 — Cut postal salaries. Cuts of \$100 to \$200 a year due to declining postal receipts. Place columns on new post office. Eight pillars weigh 15,000 pounds each.

Sept. 14, 1932 — At the Rialto. Five big acts of vaudeville. Monday only. "Divorce in the Family" with Jackie Cooper, Conrad Nagel, Lewis Stone and Lois Wilson on Sunday.

Sept. 14, 1932 — O.P. Benson Co. specials: round steak, 28 cents; sirloin steak, 35 cents; White House coffee, 33 cents; H.O. oats, 11 cents pkg.; Moosehead salmon, 19 cents; lean salt pork, 13 cents.

WEST POTSDAM, Sept. 14, 1932 — Mr. York and Ardis Hazelton, Daisy Hogle, Florence Jones drive into Potsdam each day with F.D. Fufts. Iris Blanchard boards with Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Barnes and all attend Potsdam High. Miss Mary Jones lives at the home of Prof. Wm. Dori and attends Potsdam Normal School.

Sept. 10, 1882 — The hop yard of Messers S. Hemenway and son, between this village and Norwood is, we

believe, the largest in this section. They finished picking 6,000 lbs. from nine acres. They expect to get 50 cents a pound.

Sept. 14, 1932 — Sorry misadventure — Heck: "Have you ever had a motor mishap?" Peck: "Yes, I met my wife in a garage."

Sept. 28, 1932 — Hospital opening on Oct. 16. Bee to grade the hospital grounds got good support as 40 men worked all day.

Sept. 28, 1932 — Find man dead in field. Runaway team kills John Adams, 58, of the Potsdam-Madrid Road.

Sept. 28, 1932 — Sixteen day excursion to New York, Friday, Oct. 7. Round trip fare from Potsdam \$14.60.

June 11, 1874 — Last Friday the supervisors and assessors of this county passed a resolution recommending that all property, both real and personal, be assessed at its true cash value. The vote on the resolution was nearly unanimous, although there

were some fears that all counties in the state would not do likewise.

July 23, 1874 — 20,000 people assembled at Saratoga Lake to watch inter-collegiate regatta on Thursday. Many had to walk the four miles to Saratoga when the race was postponed. Columbia won the four mile race in 16.42.

July 30, 1874 — Trout fishing on the Racket — Friday morning we began fishing at 4 a.m. and caught on that day, by actual count, 600 trout which we sold for \$102.15. I claim this is the best day's fishing by any two Potsdam men. Hal Ives and J. Shaw.

Oct. 13, 1874 — Report of school No. 8 for year ending Oct. 13, 1874 — Income raised by tax, \$1,145.10; public money, \$570.99; total \$1,716.09. Expenses: Emma Fuller, teacher, \$550; Lucinda Washburn, teacher, \$500; Emma Parmenter, teacher, \$192; Maria Fuller, teacher, \$90; Master Gunn, janitor, \$39; wood, four men furnishing, \$88; stove and pipe, \$14.47; all other, \$225.46; balance on hand, \$7.16.

compiled by Earl Pattison

letters

'Mad As Hell' Over Dad's Arrest

To the Editor:

It was recently printed in your paper that my father, (Frances Bonno, Hopkinton), was arrested for alleged shoplifting at the Ames-Big N store in Potsdam. I would like all of you unsuspecting customers of Ames-Big N to hear the real story and then decide if you want to be future customers of the great Ames-Big N store.

My father had a gallon of Prestone anti-freeze, a quart of paint, and a small package of washers. He went through the checkout, the girl rang up the items, told him the price (total) and he paid with a \$20 bill. She then taped the receipt to the paint, he put the washers in his coat pocket and left. When the security guards stopped him they accused him of stealing hacksaw blades. He said, "I don't have any blades, all I have are these items (paint, Prestone and washers) and here's the receipt." The girl had forgotten to ring up the washers, as it turned out, but the security never called her in to question her and they misused my father terribly. They then had him hauled off to the police station, but before he left the store he was told not to be caught in the store again. At the police station he was fingerprinted and photographed. Now, to top all of this off, my potential Ames-Big N customers, he has, at great expense, had to hire a lawyer to try to clear his good name. My parents are living on a retirement income because my dad, although not old, has a terminal disease, therefore forced to retire and they live comfortably, but certainly don't have a lot of extra money for lawyers to prove his innocence when he did nothing wrong. My parents have been humiliated in the community because Ames-Big N so-called security personnel were more concerned about misusing an older man than in finding out the truth. I ask you, do any of you think that checkout girl is going to step forward now with the truth? So, potential Ames-Big N shoppers, beware, it could happen to you, too!

Mad as hell
Bonnie Boyd
Daughter of
Frances Bonno
1027 Locust Ave.
Manteca, California 95336

'Way' Follower Calls Article 'Persecution'

To the Editor:

In response to the headline article on The Way in last week's issue of the C & F.

It amazes me that Hal Stokes should be allowed to make such sensationalized headlines out of a group called The Way, with little more than gossip column material to go by. Not to mention the defamation of the character of a man he has never met face to face, with nothing more than hearsay to go on.

I know Mr. Stephen Tully personally and can testify to his honest and upright character. This man, as is his constitutional right, worships God as he chooses. Your article insinuated that "The Way" had infiltrated the High School via Mr. Tully's presence there. Nothing could be further from the truth. These sort of sensational journalistic tactics only produce fear, which always produces negative results. There are presently no high school "members" in the Potsdam High School. Besides, what a man does in his private life is his own business, isn't it? Mr. Tully does his job very well at the High School. I'm sure the principal will agree.

Thanks To The Norfolk Voters

To the Editor:

The undersigned wish to thank those voters in the Town of Norfolk who supported them in the recent elections. We were especially gratified by the interest of the people and the resulting large turnout on Election Day.

I would also like to thank Mr. Jay Clark and Mrs. Ellen Smith for their guidance and constant support during the campaign and the election.

In whatever capacity we can, be it as concerned citizens and/or as elected officials of the town, our actions will continue to be for the benefit of all the people and for the betterment of the town of Norfolk.

Robert Bailey
Allen Baxter
Donald Bixby
Louise Bixby
Leon Burnap
Arlene Francis
George Leroux
Richard Merchant
Roger Perkins
John Tanski
Daphne Veneroni

WORLD HUNGER:

Fasting, Worldwide And Locally

On Nov. 26, millions of Americans will sit down to tables laden with glorious food — plump roast turkey, savory stuffing, mountains of mashed potato covered with rich brown gravy, fresh fall vegetables and sumptuous desserts.

While they are eating, in the course of one hour, 1,680 people in the world will die because they don't have enough to eat. That's 41,000 people per day. That's more hunger-related deaths in a year than the entire number of casualties of World War II. Some are refugees; some are victims of political oppression or natural disaster; all are desperately poor. Perhaps these grim statistics are inevitable. But a growing number of Americans believe they are not.

On Nov. 19, one week before Thanksgiving, some 450,000 Americans will share in another food-related celebration — a celebration of hope. As participants in Oxfam America's annual Fast for a World Harvest, they will stop eating for a day, donate their food money to fund self-help projects in poor countries and, in the process, learn something about the plight of the impoverished.

This year Oxfam's Fast for a World Harvest will return to Clarkson College for the fourth year and will come to State College for the first time. Students at both colleges will have the opportunity to join students on over 800 campuses across the country who will be fasting and contributing to Oxfam through a rebate plan arranged with the food service.

During the past seven years, almost \$2 million have been raised by this annual fast alone and every year more people join. People of the Potsdam community are also welcomed to hold a personal fast in observance of less fortunate people and Oxfam's efforts to reach them. Contributions may be sent directly to Oxfam America, 115 Broadway, Boston, MA, 02116.

Began in 1974, the Fast for a World Harvest has become the most important annual educational and fundraising event for Oxfam America, the Boston-based international aid and development agency. Says executive director Joe Short, "Fasting is a symbolic act — a statement against the inequities that contribute to the misery of the millions of people around the world who never have enough to eat."

Oxfam America was organized in 1970 by a group of concerned Americans who wanted to help the drought-stricken people of Bangladesh. The agency now supports 50 projects in 20 countries — some of the poorest in Asia, Africa and Latin America. While Oxfam America is perhaps best known for its emergency relief in Bangladesh and Kampuchea (Cambodia), the majority of its programs are small-scale grassroots projects designed to develop food self-reliance.

Our projects are aimed not only at meeting the needs of starving people, but at helping people to improve their lives, grow more food and break the cycle of hunger and poverty."

In Niger, West Africa, for example, a grassroots cattle loan and millet granaries project has been established with Oxfam America support to help nomadic herders expand their small herds and improve their food resources. And in Somalia, where

there are now one million refugees, Oxfam America has supplied 20 solar-powered pumps that will provide a daily drinking water for 132,000 refugees in five camps. These efficient, low-maintenance pumps are also being considered for longer-term development application, such as irrigation.

The annual fast, too, is a grassroots event. It is supported by thousands of civic, community, religious and school groups that hold fundraising events ranging from craft sales to marathons. In Decorah, Iowa, a rural community of 7,800 people, local groups join together to promote a town-wide response to the needs of people overseas. Students from Luther College and the local high school, church members, businesses and individuals are involved in the Fast organizing effort. Last year, Decorah's First Annual Auction for Oxfam America netted more than \$3,700 through the sale of donated items that ranged from homemade bread to Polish chickens.

As one fast participant, a high school student in the town of Harvard, Massachusetts, said, "Starving yourself is not the point. The purpose is to educate ourselves so that we can help educate others. It is through education that action comes. The more people that are aware, the more power there is to do something about world hunger and poverty."

Groups fundraising coordinator Dinny Breeden believes that the appeal of the Fast for a World Harvest is that it gives people an opportunity to do something constructive about a global problem. "Often when people are confronted in the newspaper or elsewhere with a problem such as world hunger, the urge is to ignore it because it seems too big, too far away and too hopeless. The idea of the fast is not to make people feel guilty about eating Thanksgiving dinner or any other meal but to help people make the connection between their lives and the lives of hungry people overseas and to realize that their contribution can make a difference," says Ms. Breeden.

People who join the Fast for a World Harvest also help spread the message of Oxfam America's work: a small input — a new well, an irrigation project, cattle for a dairy cooperative — can produce big results.

Check Your Pacemaker By Phone At Hospital

GOVERNEUR — The E.J. Noble Hospital here is now equipped to check pacemakers via telephone to an office phone and pacemaker checking equipment.

Heretofore anyone who had to have a pacemaker inserted had to go elsewhere, even for routine checks, but insertions may now be done in Gouverneur.

After the pacemaker is inserted the wearer can phone the doctor's office and hold the listening part of the phone to a transmitter from the pacemaker. The sound is carried to pacemaker electro-cardiograph equipment which records the information visually on a print-out or graph.

I might also add, that I personally know Carol Brandt, and her story is indeed a sad one. This girl's life has changed drastically since she was kidnapped against her will in August 1969. Now she lives in fear and bitterness. Afraid even to communicate with her closest former friends. Whereas before the deprogramming she was a joyful individual who loved God and His Word. Deprogramming is a highly questionable practice and I have known of its secretive, costly, and often violent practices for some time.

Now, as for "The Way in Potsdam," there are approximately 25-30 active members between Potsdam, Canton, and Norwood. We are hardly a threat! I have been involved with The Way by my own choice for six years now. I have also been a resident of the Colton community for at least eight years. My involvement with The Way has definitely given me sound answers to troublesome questions and a positive attitude and outlook on life. Something we could all use more of in today's world!

I can say for myself that I am a free thinker, and always have been. I have never been forced or brainwashed into doing or believing anything I don't want to. In fact, my husband has chosen not to be involved. And The Way does not cast off or excommunicate its people for failure to comply. But of course, as in any first class organization, there is order and purpose.

I see your article as undeserved alarm and persecution against an honest, sincere fellowship of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, called The Way, who not only love God, but believe His Word — The Bible unquestionably.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak out.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Gleason

So, Colton, N.Y.

Sabad Thanks Norfolk Voters

To the Editor:

I want to thank everyone who supported and voted for me and was very happy that I was well enough to campaign door to door, where I met a lot of new friends and also those that I have not seen for years.

I will continue to be active in my district and I will be attending as many county and town meetings as I possibly can.

I want the people of the 16th County Legislative District to know that I am definitely a candidate for legislator of the district in 1983. And I am starting my campaign today.

I also do not have any regrets, and I am glad I did what I did during my campaign and the results will be different in 1983.

From now until 1983, let's work together and support our elective legislator.

Thank you,

James Sabad

'Remember The Children'

To the Editor:

Each year schools (administrators and teachers) invite parents of students to sit down with them to discuss student progress. I have had occasion to observe and partake of both sides. With this in mind, I ask that we "remember the children" for at least one week in the game of "Pass the Buck."

I truly believe each of us cares deeply about our children — every child belonging to all. The world lies in the fact that our own fears get in the way at times and create distortion between the good feelings we have (and wish to pass on to others) and our verbalization of them. What happens could be compared to an eclipse of the sun where the moon (fear) comes between the sun (the good feelings we possess and want to share) and the earth (our verbalization of those feelings).

Our own agree, can we not, to the outcome of continuing solar eclipses. However, though we do not have control over solar eclipses, we do have power over our own self. Being in control entails varying degrees of effort since some people have had more practice than others. And we will make mistakes; yet, wouldn't it be worth knowing we've tried and that our children will be happier for it.

This spotlight still another "bone of contention" — control. What do we really want for ourselves and our children? Do we want each to be controlled by others, thus creating dependency, or do we want our children to be self-reliant? Can we control of one's self thus giving rise to independence? I can only tell you what happens to me when I feel someone is attempting to control my life for me. I feel the doors of my mind closing. It's like dominoes — bump one which can touch others in sequence, and they all go. And even if some remain upright, the frustration one feels is at best blurring to the positive aspects of those left standing. This is not what I want for myself or our children. I want guidelines (allowing for their nature) among which we have choices so we can feel in control. This leaves the doors open to the new concepts we need to acquire in order to grow.

Have not each of us proven to ourselves in some measure the outcome of behavior — that the positive effects are relatively short-lived and result in alienation of affection. Does it not make sense to attempt a method which gives hope for longer lasting benefits?

Please keep in mind that we need not lay blame. We need only celebrate our accomplishments and those of our children whatever they may be by concentrating on the task at hand — keeping an open mind. Have faith in human nature. Give credit for the knowledge we possess regardless of chronological age.

Winnie Silvernell

Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Courier & Freeman

A Park Newspaper

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