

# editorials & commentary

## Wood Smoke In Winter

For some weeks now the smell of wood smoke has been hovering in the air, a reminder that many of us in the North Country use wood for warmth and comfort in winter.

It is, in our opinion, the best of all good smells; better than the salt smell of the sea, the fragrance of newly mown grass or the sweet smell of a freshly laundered baby.

It rises from chimneys in country farmhouses, greets us as we drive along the highway, tells us that indoors is relief from the cold.

But like all good things, wood smoke is not an unmixed blessing. Where there is wood smoke there is also fire, and fire can be one of winter's worst tragedies.

Many more people are using wood stoves, furnaces and fireplaces for heat, and some of those people are ignorant, or careless, of safety rules that should be followed.

The rules are simple: don't burn green wood; check to see that chimneys and stovepipes are clean, free from creosote and properly installed; be sure any heating device is properly vented; read and follow installation and operation instructions on any stove, heater or furnace.

A few words should be said about kerosene heaters as well. We have been bombarded with advertisements recently, urging us to buy this or that brand of heater. The manufacturers promise us safety, comfort and convenience, but as with all advertising claims, this one should be checked carefully.

There are still questions concerning the safety of kerosene heaters, both from a fire safety and a health standpoint. The lack of adequate testing of kerosene heaters makes it even more important for the consumer to buy and use them with caution.

## St. Francis On A Stamp

"My God, Francis of Assisi on a U.S. commemorative stamp," was my instant reaction when a postal clerk handed me the 20-cent stamp. I immediately asked for a bulletin giving some particulars about the stamp. It says its first-day issue was Oct. 7, 1982 in San Francisco, the city named in his honor. This, in spite of the fact that this man of the Middle Ages lived before the American continent was even discovered. Yet, G.K. Chesterton called him the world's one quite sincere democrat. The commemorative stamp honors the 800th anniversary of his birth.

The Postal Service bulletin adds that Francis of Assisi "is being honored for his great humanitarian services." Good. That sets the record straight. Does it? So he is honored as a "humanitarian hero" but not as a great saint.

"His teachings stressed humility, work and kindness toward all living things," continues the bulletin. It fails to make any mention of the magnificent spirit of love he had for his God which in turn inspired his concern for his fellow men and "all living creatures" with which he came in contact, be they a flock of birds or the wolf of Gubbio.

Quite flatly the bulletin states that his world-wide fame stems from the founding of the Franciscan order in 1209. Really? Is this like saying, if he had not founded this order the world would have soon forgotten him or never even known him? No. Francis was not seeking fame and did not need a religious order to award him immortality. It was his followers who needed the order. Francis had everything in the realization that he had nothing but the enormous love that continued to grow even as it flowed from him.

Maybe this man from Assisi of medieval days is not remembered

most as a humanitarian, teacher, or founder of a religious order, but as a gentle and saintly human being. Though his teaching was sometimes severe and misunderstood his appeal to millions has continued through the centuries. It was not so much what he did that mattered most, but the spirit in which he did it.

How in this "me generation" does a totally "non-me" individual come to be so highly honored in this materialistic society? It is something of a modern mystery. Talk of mystery also brings to mind, mystic, which Francis was also considered. How



EDWIN REID

many profiles of mystics do we have on U.S. Postal stamps? Does this indicate a new trend? Maybe, but as far as the postal bulletin goes it's all a matter of his still-remembered humanitarianism. Nothing more. Should there be?

For one thing, humanitarianism and sainthood are not synonymous. For example, we all know lots of everyday humanitarians just by the work they do throughout much of their lives, but who, especially to themselves, fall far short of anyone's definition of what makes a saint. Acting rightly towards others is not a

guarantee of sainthood. And in the case of most outstanding philanthropists the actual work of helping others is performed by surrogate humanitarians. In this way, the dollars of the rich, be they from a millionaire, a corporation or a nation, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and educate the illiterate.

What can be said about a saint except that such an individual is above all this and for his reason is able to be a saint. The kind of giving a saint gives is not measurable for it is always pouring forth to others. It never centers on self. In other words, the saint reaches for something beyond the hand and the mouth and the stomach, though these basic needs passed on to the other. The saint is not a sporadic spirit, with sudden moods of giving and others of holding back. The saint is not two-spirited and here lies the difference, perhaps, between the two: humanitarian and saint.

The rectangular stamp depicts this serene man in a head and chest portrait against a maroon background. His crown, upper neck and sideburns are shaven so as to form a band of hair around the middle of the head for which Franciscans were noted for centuries. A trim, attractive mustache and beard adorns his smooth, manly face. There's no halo. His right hand, with its long slender fingers, however, is lifted toward five birds in the branches as though bestowing upon them his blessings.

His piercing eye is fixed on the birds as theirs are on him, the man in the grayish robe with the hood pushed back. At the base is a wide yellow margin within which red lettering reads — Francis of Assisi 1182-1982 USA 20c.

## From Our Files

May 31, 1923 — Raise Regents passing mark from 60 to 65 after June 1923.

July 26, 1923 — The firm of Charles Sparkhowl of N.Y. City has set up a distilling plant on the Sullivan farm on the Madrid road for the making of cedar oil.

Aug. 2, 1923 — Brooklyn Cooperage Co. to open six casks in St. Regis Falls vicinity. Will employ 400 men.

PARISHVILLE, Aug. 27, 1923 — Commissioner Wilson started the town crusher last week. Some of the teamsters are boarding at nearby farm houses keeping their teams in the big barn on the Silas Sanford farm.

Aug. 27, 1923 — Drive to Winthrop and see the best moving pictures at Pearson's Perfect Pictures. Pictures coming in Aug. — "Treasure Island," "The Cold Nest," "The Live Burglar," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," admission 25 cents, children under 12, ten cents.

Aug. 9, 1923 — Police services here at low cost, officers earn over half expenses in fees. Spent total of \$320 for salaries in July. Receipts farm fines and fees, \$217.60.

Aug. 9, 1923 — "Dad, one of the chaps said I looked like you." "And what did you say?" "Nothin'. He's a good bit bigger than me."

Aug. 23, 1923 — Parishville Field Day a big success, over 1,500 people

attended the I.O.O.F. annual field day.

NORWOOD, Aug. 13, 1932 — Wage boost for mill men, all those receiving less than 54 cents per hour will get three more cents per hour by a voluntary advance by the St. Regis Paper Co.

Aug. 13, 1923 — Crary Mills School opened Tuesday with Mrs. Lura Aldrich as teacher. Mrs. Caylors is the teacher in the Howard district, Mr. John Perkins in the Northport district, Mr. Fred Roberts in the Brick Chapel School, Mrs. Milton Ayers the Giffens Corners School and Mrs. Margaret Hugley in the Copeland School.

Sept. 1923 — Many students in local schools; Clarkson has over 75 freshmen, Normal 160.

August 1923 — Pool price for milk is \$1.75 per 100 pounds.

Sept. 27, 1923 — New Norfolk High School costing \$100,000 is one of the finest in the state.

SINCLAIR CORNERS, August 1923 — Miss Blanche Williams attended a teachers meeting at Sterling on Saturday.

Aug. 1923 — Notice to cut weeds, briars and brush in town Dept. of Highways gives notice that all persons who own or occupy land abutting on a public highway shall during Sept. cut

and destroy such weeds, briars, and bushes within bounds of the public highway as required by Section 54 of the Highway Law. If you fail to do so I shall cause the same to be done and assess the cost against you, Earl Peltus.

Oct. 11, 1923 — \$50,000 is the price for Bannister Farm outside Potsdam as another source of water for the village.

Oct. 11, 1923 — Country Club seeks new members, purchase of \$50 bond is equivalent to initiation fee and purchaser will not have to pay any fees next year.

Oct. 11, 1923 — Endicott Johnson Shoes at Duffy Rivers Co.: Womens shoes; \$2.95-\$5.95, Boys shoes high cut; \$3.50-3.95, Mens dress shoes; \$3.95-\$5.95.

HEWITTVILLE, Oct. 11, 1923 — A pleasant surprise party was held at the home of Gordon Weaver Oct. 2, his 24th birthday. About 35 young people were present.

EBEN, Oct. 11, 1923 — The box social held at the school last Friday was a financial success. Over \$46 was secured to purchase a Victoria.

Oct. 1923 — Iron Industry at Port Henry, Wiltber Sherman to build furnace costing two million dollars with capacity of 500 tons daily.

compiled by Earl Pattison

# letters

## Elderly Couple Praises C.D.P. And Neighborhood Centers

To the Editor:

It seems that some people would like to get rid of C.D.P. and our neighborhood centers. It's too bad that the public only hears the complainers, and they don't seem to hear much about all the good work that is being done by them and through them.

We are senior citizens. We have been hit hard by health problems and bad luck for some years now. We were forced to go on Social Security much earlier than we had hoped for and our pension is very small. Through so much sickness, our savings were soon wiped out and if it hadn't been for the Neighborhood Center and the Office of the Aging, we don't know how we would have survived. When we were so sick, they sent people here to clean for us. They told us about and helped us get in on several programs, like the winterization and the fuel adjustment and the list goes on. These people helped us get on Social Security Disability when the government was giving us such a bad time getting it. When we were too sick to drive and had no money for transportation to

see all these doctors and go for tests and go to court, they helped us get there.

Through the Potsdam Neighborhood Center, we became acquainted with Jim Forrest of the Office of the Aging. Between him and what Mrs. Lamendola had to say about the Neighborhood Center being so sloppy in their work. They made out our application for fuel adjustment several times and at least it was always right. We greatly appreciate what they have done for us and wish more people would send their letters and let the public know of the good they have done.

Yours truly,  
Emery and Edna Mossow  
Rt. 1, Box 47  
Norfolk, N.Y. 13667

## Video Tax Unfair

To the Editor:

Yesterday evening, while waiting to attend the Town Board (village board) meeting, I was astonished to listen to a hearing directly preceding this meeting on a video and entertainment tax.

This tax appears to be of a two-fold nature, the first segment consisting of a tax \$50 to be levied on each establishment that has these games on the premises in addition to the \$50 to be charged on each game or pool table on said premises. The motivation for this being the amount of time and money spent by young adults on these games... neglecting to mention the establishments (i.e. bars) where those entering must already be of an age thought to be "adult" who would be forced to forego their entertainment or directly take on the burden of the cost. It hardly seems fair. Yet my major qualm arises from the second part of this tax.

The second half of this tax demands a \$50 charge every time a band performs. This would not only escalate the cost of a cover charge, but could prove to be seriously detrimental to aspiring area musicians who might not be able to draw a crowd of sufficient magnitude to offset this outrageous cost.

As a student of Potsdam State, I have had to listen to all the merits of "Dry Tuesdays" on campus. It is contended that there should be other outlets for students, other alternatives to drinking. I find that going to dance to a band, or listening to a musician perform affords me such an opportunity. I might point to the fact that Django's has in the past two weeks had the noted Herb Ellis play as well as a fine jazz saxophone band. Do not mind paying a cover charge as long as it's affordable. The way this taxing policy reads, I seriously doubt that it will remain so.

In closing, I can appreciate that many townspeople view this as an issue concerning the children's welfare. I'd like them to try and project a few years ahead when their children will be in the same sort of cultural/entertainment vacuum we might be facing now.

Sincerely,  
Karen E. Bigelow

## Accusations Unfounded

To the Editor:

What a surprise to read in the Ogdensburg Journal the remarks made by Sherry G. Goggin, Director of the Department of Social Services concerning the handling of the fuel assistance program by CDP Neighborhood Center.

I am personally acquainted with the Neighborhood Center employees and would have served properly the fuel assistance program by CDP Neighborhood Center. CDP is needed in the community to help the working low-income population. Home energy assistance is but one of the ways this help is given.

Name Withheld By Request

## Center A Source Of Help

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to criticism of the Neighborhood Center. In the opinion of many people it is greatly needed because it is a local source of help. The community is much better served by people who live in our community and are interested in the welfare of our village and surrounding areas. I am very sure that if people were not being served properly there would be many complaints, perhaps people should look to the state to see where the problems are.

Eileen Sullivan  
106 1/2 Market St.  
Potsdam

## An Injustice Done?

To the Editor:

In reference to the news story on Nov. 23, in the Ogdensburg Journal, Mrs. Shirley Lamendola of Dept. of Social Services stated that C.D.P. was late in applications, and did sloppy work. Can she document these allegations? I know that C.D.P. and the Office of the Aging have done their part in getting these applications processed. I believe in giving credit where credit is due. Mrs. Lamendola has done an injustice to a very worthy group. Could it be that Social Services is trying to create more work to justify their opposition to the proposed budget cuts by discrediting the other agencies?

Vivian A. Smith  
48 Park St.  
Norwood

## Museum Exhibit Opens

The Christmas exhibit in the Potsdam Museum will open on Dec. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. Peg McLennan will play Christmas music on the harp. The theme of the exhibit is "Joy of Christmas Past." One of the featured exhibits will be a Schoenit Circus manufactured in Philadelphia between 1904 and 1920. It consists of a large tent plus 40 pieces of animals, cloths and circus performers. Schoenit sold the rights to Nelson Devan of Seneca Falls. One of the sets manufactured there will also be an exhibit along with drawings from an early catalog.

Another case will hold some of the Norman Rockwell collection belonging to Margaret Burnie. This includes some of the Rockwell Christmas cards and tree ornaments. Of special interest is the Christmas plate taken from a painting of the O'Connors of Potsdam, the family of Rockwell's first wife.

There will be several decorated Christmas trees, a train layout loaned by Richard Partch, toy soldiers and other toys of Christmas past. The Christmas Festival is prepared in cooperation with the St. Lawrence County Historical Association and includes a number of activities at the Silas Wright House including a reception on Dec. 4 and a talk on Victorian Christmas on Dec. 6.

## SOCIAL SECURITY: Benefits May Still Be Due

Under a change in the law that some may not be aware of, widowers or widows age 60 or older receiving Social Security benefits may remarry and still get their Social Security benefits. John G. Joly, Social Security district manager in Ogdensburg, said recently. However, the benefits of widowers or widows under age 60, will continue to result in the termination of benefits.

This rule was designed to make it easier for older people to marry without the risk of loss of income. For many, Social Security continues to be the primary source of income.

For all other persons receiving dependent or survivor benefits following the retirement, disability, or death of a worker who has worked long enough under Social Security, the rules regarding marriage or remarriage still apply. This includes children, disabled widows or widowers, dependent parents, adult disabled in childhood, and divorced spouses or surviving divorced spouses.

However, if the subsequent marriage ends, a spouse or surviving

divorced spouse may become re-entitled to a benefit on the former deceased spouse's work record. The renewed benefits may begin when the subsequent marriage ends, whether by death, divorce, or annulment.

Widowers or widows 60 or over who remarry may also receive a benefit on their new spouse's record if that would result in a higher benefit.

The rationale behind the termination of benefits for beneficiaries under 60 who marry or remarry is simply that they are no longer considered dependent upon the earnings of the insured workers. The new spouse is expected to assume that obligation. This presumption is not considered as sound in the case of widows and widowers over 60, since the primary income of both parties is likely to be Social Security and other retirement income.

For more information on Social Security rules regarding marriage and remarriage, contact the Social Security office, The Ogdensburg office is located in the Mall in downtown Ogdensburg and the telephone number is 393-0880.

## ADIRONDACKS: Study Will Profile Region

ITHACA — New York State, home of one of the most sophisticated cities in the world. As well as rich, fertile soil for a booming agricultural industry, also is blessed with the Adirondacks, one of the most beautiful mountain regions in the East.

Although the charm and natural resources of the Adirondacks are well-known, there is no comprehensive set of information to form a social and economic profile of the region, essential for setting public policies. To develop such a data base, Cornell University has undertaken an eight-part, 17-month study designed to explore a variety of issues. The results will help local governments and agencies in the area make well-informed decisions concerning development and environmental protection.

"Our goal is to provide a better basis for those whose job it is to assess the economic and social consequences of environmental regulations and land use management, and to structure this information so it may be used efficiently by state and local officials in development planning in the future," said David Allee, professor of Agricultural Economics at Cornell and director of the study.

## HOME HEATING: Steps To Saving Fuel Dollars

It is really time to start getting ready for another cold winter of high heating bills? Unfortunately, yes. If you're tempted to sit and dwell on the last leaves of autumn instead of preparing for winter — don't. A little time spent now could make your winter more pleasant and save you money on heating bills.

According to your Cooperative Extension home economist, there are many strategies for reducing fuel bills, but unless you use them they certainly aren't going to help.

Houses that have not been tightened

## Snowflake Tree

### Aids Cancer Fight

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Unit of the American Cancer Society will again trim a memorial "Snowflake" Christmas tree in its Canton Office for relatives of cancer victims who want to make a memorial contribution to the society.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry King of Canton, co-chairmen for the Memorial Committee, said that the special tree will bear the names of those persons remembered with contributions to the memorial fund.

Anyone interested in participating may send contributions to the Memorial Fund, St. Lawrence County Unit Office, American Cancer Society, Box 124, Canton, N.Y. 13617.

# Courier & Freeman

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BETSY BAKER, Editor

SALLY RANDOLPH,  
Business & Circulation, Office Manager

PATRICIA A. MONGADA, Advertising

PAUL LASHOMB, Production

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