

History Buff Scans Files

BY BETSY BAKER
For a senior citizen, "Pat" Pattison at 76 is mighty lively.

He cuts wood on the 60 acres he owns in Parishville and Pierrepont, tends his furniture, keeps up with sports throughout the North Country, helps out at the local Methodist Church, and still has time to indulge his keen interest in all things historical.

Weekly he sits in the morgue at the Courier and Freeman, surrounded by newspapers dating back to the 1860s, scanning back issues for items he will use in his "From Our Files" column. Pattison has been doing the column for about two years.

Appearing weekly on the editorial page, "Files" takes the reader on a trip into the past, when Jean Harlow starred at movies shown in the old Rialto Theater, when ground beef was 59 cents a pound at the A & P, when Clarkson graduated its first class; when "The Normal" mourned the loss of Julia Ettie Crane.

Pattison's sense of humor frequently shines through in the items he gleans, such as this entry: "July 2, 1913, Arthur Wood pleaded not guilty of running a motorcycle faster than \$15 miles an hour. He was fined \$25; this one: "Oct. 3, 1917 — Potsdam in dry column. John Barleycorn gets the knockout Saturday and will stay dry for a year at least. The dry vote will put out of business five hotels and three saloons."

And Pattison finds things that remain timely today, such as a 1922 request for additional space at the county jail, or an early 1930s item announcing a new method to make Potsdam's water good-tasting.

Pattison and his second wife Rena, whom he married in 1973, live in the former Moore's Hill Schoolhouse, last used as a school in 1954. Pattison bought the schoolhouse at an auction

in 1959. Among his interests include researching records, deeds and wills at the county clerk's and surrogate's offices in Canton. He is also an avid sports fan, and attends most Clarkson hockey games. He served as statistician for the Potsdam High School track team some years ago.

Pattison comes by his interest in sports naturally. At Cornell University he was a runner, a two-miler, competing on a combined Cornell-Princeton team that went to England in 1930 for a meet against an Oxford-Cambridge team. His team won in England; Pattison came in second in his event.

He also ran a steeplechase in Philadelphia, coming in fourth and teamed with two men who later competed in the steeplechase event in the Olympics.

Pattison graduated from Cornell in 1930. Now retired, he worked for Cornell's farm management department, as a county extension agent in Genesee County, as an appraiser for the federal Land Bank, for what is now the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office in Chautauque County, for GLF (now Agway) in Crown Point and Potsdam, and as an insurance agent in St. Lawrence County.

Pattison and his first wife, Marjorie, came to Potsdam in 1949. She was also a 1930 Cornell graduate, and was librarian at Potsdam High School. She died April 23, 1972.

Pattison has three sons, Donald, Norman and Russell, and a daughter, Rosemary.

He is on the Board of Directors of the Potsdam Museum and is a member of the Essex County, N.Y., Vermont and St. Lawrence County historical societies. He is also a member of Cooperative Extension and the Potsdam United Methodist Church.



EARL "PAT" PATTISON

Freshmen Take Drinking Law Calmly

Editor's note: New York State's new drinking law went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Dec. 4.

**by Bernie Klem
Student Intern**

The raising of the legal drinking age to 19 has reportedly outraged many especially tavern owners and 18-year-olds who were already drinking legally. But in a telephone survey of Potsdam College freshmen, all of whom were 18, reactions were remarkably civil.

Some even came out in favor of the new law.

"I think it's a good law," said Paul Cannan. "I think it will keep a lot of high school kids from getting into accidents. We have a lot of trouble with that in my area."

The freshmen polled sided with Cannan on the law's probable effectiveness in reducing highway deaths. A total of 45 percent believed it would be effective, 36 percent did not and 18 percent were unsure.

Those that opposed the law did so mainly due to its restriction of their social life.

"I like to go downtown on Friday and Saturday nights and shoot pool," commented Joe Straub. "Now I'll have to find something else to do."

That "something else" will be returning to the books for Elizabeth Nardone. "I won't be going out as much," Nardone admitted, "but I'll get more studying done."

Nardone did find fault, however,

with the principle of stripping 18-year-olds of their drinking rights.

"I think that if you are old enough to go to war and old enough to be tried as an adult, you should be old enough to drink," she remarked.

Several of the students polled saw two factors as limiting the law's effectiveness. One is the availability of alcohol to those under age, especially from older individuals. The other is the "easing up" of enforcement which they foresee in the next few months.

One student felt that a one-year change in the drinking age would be negligible.

"One year is not going to make much difference," said John Ford. "If they wanted results, they should have changed it to 20 or 21."

An unusual aspect of the new law will see students policing themselves. Fraternities, which sponsor functions such as beer blasts and house parties, will have to refuse alcoholic beverages to their own members. The fraternity would be liable for any underage persons served. This task will prove difficult at blasts which draw thousands of students.

"I'm in a frat," said L.J. Elliott, "and I don't know how we're going to handle it."

The students polled appeared untroubled by the law, but this may be attributed to their preoccupation with final exams. The onset of spring may be the law's real test.

As for its effectiveness, time and statistics will tell.

Colleges Respond To New Drinking Law With Changes

Potsdam's two colleges, faced with the need to adapt to a new state drinking age law, have moved to enforce the law on their campuses.

At Potsdam College, officials held an open forum last week to acquaint students with the effects of the new law.

Daniel Hurlley, dean of student life, said that the college will enforce the new law "in a concerned manner."

Alcoholic beverages are served at the college in its pub, One Union Place, in the College Union. When One Union Place operates as a pub, during the evening, no person under 19 will be allowed to enter.

During the day, when One Union Place operates as a restaurant, patrons will be asked at their tables to show identification when they order beer or wine with a meal.

New regulations will be introduced in the dormitories to help enforce the law, and a corps of approximately 100 students will be recruited to monitor the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages at dormitory parties, college officials said.

The State University of New York plans no new regulations regarding alcohol purchase or consumption at state-operated campuses, officials said.

Clarkson College
At Clarkson College, dean of student life Norbert Smalling said the new law puts 89 percent of the current freshman class and almost 50 percent of the residence hall population under the legal drinking age.

In a release distributed at the college, Clarkson officials said that the college, through its Board of Alcohol and Responsible Drinking, will enforce the new law.

Reminding students that a person can be held liable for serving alcohol to those who are underage, college officials issued new guidelines for alcohol consumption.

Included in the guidelines are rules for residence hall events where alcohol is served, limiting the times and persons who may attend such events.

Also included are rules governing the college's coffeehouse, the Rathskeller. Students under 19 will not be permitted to enter the Rathskeller on evening when alcohol is being sold. Alcohol will be sold only on some evenings, with other evenings devoted to programming, with non-alcoholic beverages sold.

The guidelines also provide for review by the B.O.A.R.D. and sanctions.

Bar Owners React To New Drinking Age Law

When the clock struck midnight on Friday night, it was last call for a year for 18-year-old drinkers as the legal drinking age statewide was increased to 19 years of age.

While the new law was designed to reduce drinking-related automobile fatalities among young drivers, area tavern owners and managers feel that the legislation will do nothing but drive them out of business.

Bob Thorburn, owner and manager of the Rusty Nail on Market Street, said that he expects a 10 to 20 percent drop in business because of the increased drinking age. In addition, six to eight extra people will be needed to check ID's at the door on busy nights and during the holidays to enforce the new law.

"You can't be in a college town where 25 to 30 percent of the students are freshmen without business being affected," Thorburn said.

He added that while he is not necessarily against the motivation behind the new law, 18 year olds will continue to drink as they always have.

"You can't legislate morality," Thorburn said. "At some point a kid has to deal with the real world."

Mark Bellidini, co-owner and manager of the Boiler Room on Maple Street, called the law "kind of ridiculous", stating that it would have no effect on the 18-year-old's drinking habits.

Bellidini stated that the Boiler Room will also have to have more people checking at the door because of the new law.

"How do you say you can't drink here anymore when they've been good customers in the past?" He asked.

Ray Bond, the owner of the Whiskey One on Market Street added that it's still too early to tell exactly how much business will be affected by the new law, but he said that the cost of enforcing the legislation will be quite expensive for his establishment.

Bond is installing a new double door to provide for one-way entrance and exit to his tavern to make checking ID's easier. In addition, more help will have to be hired to make those checks.

Bond stated that he didn't see any real justification for the increase in drinking age. "If you're drunk you're drunk," he said. "Whether you're 18 or 35, you're still dangerous."

Since Django's on Market Street normally caters to an older crowd, manager Joe DiMatteo stated that

they will not be hiring additional staff because of the legislation. He did say that the bartenders have been instructed to be more aware of who they are serving and will check anyone they consider borderline.

White DiMatteo said that business should not be drastically affected at his establishment. "Every little bit hurts." He added that he doesn't feel that the one year increase will make any difference in alcohol-related accidents.

What he and many of his fellow proprietors do fear is that the increase to 19 years old is just a stepping-stone to increasing the drinking age to 20 or 21. That could have a crippling effect on the industry, they feel.

March For Life Contest Seeks Student Entries

The LifeRight Organization of Jefferson County and the Seaway Valley Right to Life Committee of St. Lawrence County will be numbered among hundreds of pro-life groups which will participate in the March for Life Students Contests. The theme for this year's contest, which will mark the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on abortion is, "Humanity of the Pre-Born Child — Each Human Beings Life Begins at Fertilization."

Any student in junior high, high school or college under 21 years of age is eligible for the student contests. Students in the immediate family of a member of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund Board of Directors shall not be eligible.

A student may enter the essay, poetry or poster contest, but shall make no more than one entry for any of these contests. Each entry must show the name and address of the student, plus the name and address of a parent or guardian, who shall accompany the student to Washington if the student is judged to be a winner. Each entry may also show the name and address of a local pro-life organization or group which the student designates to receive a contribution of \$100 should the student be judged to be a winner.

Entries for the contest must be postmarked no later than Dec. 21, 1982.

W. Lee Matott Named 'Citizen Of Year'

W. Lee Matott, manager of Weston's Book Store, has been named the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce's "Citizen of the Year."

Matott received his award from chamber President Paul D. Mills at the organization's first annual dinner meeting Nov. 30 at Flacco's Restaurant.

Approximately 120 persons attended the dinner, at which other Potsdam business people, homeowners and residents were cited for their efforts to make Potsdam a more attractive community.

According to chamber officials, Matott is the person most responsible for the growth of the Potsdam Summer Festival. He is a past member of Rotary and Jaycees and presently a member of the Potsdam Elks Lodge.

He was re-elected chamber second vice president on the 30th.

Those receiving chamber certificates for local improvements are Ray Bond; Chris Theodore, Robert Bicknell and Richard Maginn; John White and Herschel Evans; Peter Lekki and Marcia Barnett; Larry Hazen; Lionel Hewitson; the Robert Burns family; Delta Upsilon fraternity; Dr. B. Bassim; Robert Juravich; Anderson's Fur Shop; Roy Barstow and Randy Crawford.

At chamber elections on the 30th Rev. Mills was re-elected president; others elected or re-elected include: Carol Lee Blair, first vice president; J. Richard Durkin, third vice president; Joan Stanford, secretary; Harold Hughes, treasurer. New chamber board members are Bryan McNamara and Joseph Bouvier.

Beautification Efforts
The Potsdam Beautification Committee, formed during the summer to improve the appearance of the village, plans to collect Christmas greens to be decorated and distributed for the holiday season.

The group, led by chairman Cindy Talcott, is composed of chamber members, business people, residents and village community development representatives.

Mrs. Talcott reported at a recent committee meeting that Village Administrator Victor Bortnick expects the village will be able to manage "with greater results" the maintenance of village parks, landscaped areas and plantings next year.

This year overgrown grass and weeds overtook some landscaped areas and apples, from trees planted along Elm and Market streets, rotted on the sidewalks and in gutters.

The committee expects to coordinate volunteer efforts at improving the appearance of the village; the Potsdam Zonta Club has offered its help and the Potsdam Garden Club and Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity planted flower bulbs in several locations this fall.

Former and present Potsdam village officials have signed a \$30,000 out-of-court settlement, apparently ending the threat of an \$18.2 million lawsuit filed against the village by two Potsdam police officers.

Village trustees authorized the settlement in early September, but all parties named in the suit did not sign until the end of November.

The two officers who had filed the lawsuit against the village, Dale G. Sochia and Sgt. Malcolm A. MacGregor, are expected to receive \$10,000 each from the settlement, with the remaining \$10,000 to go to Dennis C. Sbraga, Massena and Robert Halliday, Potsdam, attorneys for the two.

Sochia and MacGregor were charged by the village in September 1980 with violations of departmental rules of conduct after they allegedly shut down a college beer blast improperly.

Most of the charges were later withdrawn during a civil service hearing held in the fall of 1980. The two officers had been suspended without pay when the charges were filed; they later received the 30 days pay that had been withheld.

The officers subsequently filed an \$18.2 million lawsuit against the village and officials, charging malicious prosecution and public humiliation.

Months of negotiations led to the \$30,000 settlement.

Named in the lawsuit along with the village were former Mayor Ruth F. Garner, former Village Administrator Sanford D. Dewey, former Deputy Police Chief R. James Adams, former trustees John Chapple and Robert Burns and Trustee Paul Claffey.

United Way Reaches 70% Of Goal

With the United Way Campaign in its final three weeks the United Way office has announced that it has achieved 71 percent of its goal of \$405,000, with \$288,558 raised.

Don Ballou, executive director, commented "that it is safe to assume at this point the United Way Drive will come very close to reaching its goal."

"Given the economic picture this is very gratifying when one considers that when the economic picture is bad, there are more requests for all United Way services," Ballou said.

Again this year, the workers in the area plants are the leading contributors with \$208,000 contributed in this sector of the campaign thus far. One new plant, in operation a short time, St. Lawrence Pulp and Paper had a very successful first campaign with 95 percent of the work force contributing to the United Way.

In the education division, Clarkson College with only half its campaign completed has contributed \$8,000 and St. Lawrence University has turned in over \$7,000 toward its goal, with two-thirds of their campaign completed.

Ballou stated that there were still many areas that have not completed their drives. He asked that all volunteers make an extra effort to complete their calls on all their remaining cards so that the campaign might be completed before the holidays. He urged that they also make all the calls on cards in their possession as every contribution is very important this year.

Ballou added: "It is gratifying to see the response and I hope that anyone who has not contributed will

Deficiency Payments For Corn Available

CANTON — Anne Prouty, county executive director of the St. Lawrence County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has announced the release of \$51,100 in advance deficiency payments on 1982 corn to 93 eligible farmers.

This payment represents about 70 percent of the total projected deficiency payment.

Farm program participants become eligible for deficiency payments when the national average market price of corn falls below the government established target price of corn.

see their local volunteer or send their contribution to 430 Ford St., Ogdensburg N.Y. 13669. Thanks to you it works for all of us — the United Way.

The following are the goals, results, thus far and percentage achieved by each community:

— Malone: goal, \$24,000; raised to date \$16,087; percentage of goal to date, 67.

— Massena: \$26,500; \$6,061; 23.
— Ogdensburg: \$51,500; \$30,519; 59.
— Gouverneur: \$10,500; 3,086; 29.
— Canton: \$41,500; \$13,034; 31.
— Potsdam: \$28,500; \$10,883; 38.
— Tri-Town: \$2,500; 0; 0.
— Chairmans: \$220,000; \$208,888; 95.



ANTIQUE CIRCUS — This Schoenhut circus, manufactured in Philadelphia between 1904 and 1920, is complete with ringmaster, performing animals, clowns and acrobats. The circus will be on display at the Potsdam

Museum through the holiday season, as part of the museum's "Joys of Christmas Past" exhibit." (Betsy Baker photo)

AREA MEETINGS



AT A GLANCE



THURSDAY

St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce regular monthly meeting at 12:15 p.m., Dec. 9, Best Western/University Inn, Canton. Dutch treat luncheon followed by business meeting.

St. Lawrence County Planning Board, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9, Tardelli's restaurant, Route 11B, Potsdam.

Potsdam Village Planning Board, 7 p.m. Dec. 9, Civic Center.

Potsdam Zoning Board of Appeals, public hearing, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9, Civic Center.

MONDAY

Norfolk Town Board, 7 p.m., Dec. 13, Norfolk Town Hall.

Parishville-Hopkinton Central School Board of Education, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13, in the board room at the school.

Norwood Village Board, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13, Norwood Municipal Building.

TUESDAY

Potsdam Town Board, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14, town offices, 35 Market St.

Stockholm Town Board, 7 p.m. Dec. 14, Municipal Building, Winthrop.

Potsdam Central School Board of Education, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14, high school cafeteria.