

Sad Story Ends Happily In Colton For 'Trap'

BY BETSY BAKER
COLTON — "Trap" can't talk, but if he could, he'd tell a sad story with a happy ending.

From his basket near the woodstove in Irene Heppburn's living room, Trap surveys his new home. It's where the medium-sized hound has come to recover from surgery to amputate his right hind leg. He lost the leg after injuries he suffered in a trap, a No. 2 coil spring trap intended for foxes or fishers.

Heppburn, a retired physical education teacher at Colton-Pierrepont Central School, and more than 40-year resident of the Colton-Parishville Road, adopted Trap after he was brought out of the woods near her home.

"He was a stray," Heppburn said in a recent interview, "caught in the trap a week or so before Christmas. He dragged the trap for me, and I found it in the woods."

Finally, after finding the dog hauled up in the remains of an old camp on Heppburn's property, a neighbor, Scott McRobbie, crawled into the camp, got the trap off the dog's leg, and brought the dog out.

McRobbie visited Heppburn and Trap last week. "The dog bounced over toward me and wagged his tail, almost like he knew me," McRobbie said.

Heppburn paid for Trap's medical care and has adopted the dog.

"Since the dog chose to hide out on this property, I thought he might as well stay," she said.

Several people, including the daughter of Colton-based Environmental Conservation Officer Richard Matzell, had seen the dog dragging the trap, but no one had been able to get close enough to help.

"I saw him the day before I got

him out of there," McRobbie said, "and it really bothered me during the night."

After hearing reports of the dog's plight, McRobbie said, "I've been half angry at this deal anyway, and just furious to find that somebody would trap around here."

The next day, McRobbie and Matzell went into the woods to try and find the dog.

"I knew he was in there, in the fallen-down part of the camp," McRobbie said, "so I crawled in there with the flashlight in my mouth and I spotted him. I had kind of a cute little conversation with him. I said, 'Now, guy, I'm here trying to help you so I'd appreciate it if you don't bite me.'"

At first, McRobbie grabbed the dog's nose with one hand and tried to get the trap off with the other. That didn't work, so McRobbie used both hands to get the trap off the dog's leg. He was successful.

The men brought a snowmobile in to carry the dog out of the woods, but Trap was afraid of the noise the machine made, so Matzell and McRobbie carried him out in their arms and took him to Potsdam veterinarian J.C. Palermo, who performed the needed surgery.

Illegal Trapping
Matzell said he believes the trapper involved was trapping on posted land and after the close of the season.

Another neighbor of Heppburn's told Matzell a man had come to her house several weeks ago to report a dog in a trap. The man said he was trapping on state land nearby, but Matzell said there is no state land in the area the man described.

The No. 2 trap was intended for a fox or a fisher, Matzell said, and the season for those land animals

closed at the end of November.

"I think he was operating in an illegal manner," Matzell said, adding that he has heard reports, as yet unconfirmed, that the trapper is from out of the area, perhaps from Tonawanda, N.Y.

"It could happen to a legitimate trapper," Matzell continued, "even a good trapper could catch a dog, but the trappers usually contact the authorities. It's really a sad situation."

Conservation law states that trappers must check their traps every 48 hours, and must not trap on posted land without the landowners' permission, according to Matzell.

And, the fact that the trapper has thus far escaped prosecution doesn't mean he's home free, Matzell said. "It's surprising with hunting and trapping violations, people don't get caught. It's surprising they can get away with it. This one may come back next year and we'll catch him then."

Matzell said that incidents such as this create "a bad situation" for trappers and residents of an area alike.

"Most trappers in St. Lawrence County are good, respectable people," he said, who would contact the proper authorities if they accidentally caught a domestic animal in their traps.

Matzell said the dog likely was lost by someone hunting rabbits. "That dog could be used as a rabbit hound," Matzell said, "and they'll stay right where they were hunting until someone comes back for them."

Trap's usefulness as a hunter may be over. But he's alive, eating well and recovering from his ordeal and from surgery, thanks to several people who cared.



NEW HOME — Friendly and calm, albeit a little wary, "Trap" surveys a visitor with a camera from the security of his basket near the woodstove in Mrs. Irene Heppburn's Colton living room. The dog was seen in Colton dragging a trap on its leg, and was

rescued from an old camp on the Heppburn property and taken to a local veterinarian for medical attention. The dog's leg had to be amputated. Heppburn named the dog Trap, and has decided to keep it. (Betsy Baker photo)

Clarkson Slated For \$1 Million

BY JIM REAGEN
AND RON ROBERTSON

ALBANY — Clarkson University's Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP) is slated to receive \$1 million to establish a Center for Advanced Technology (CAT) under New York State Gov. Mario Cuomo's proposed 1987 budget unveiled Jan. 20.

The \$1 million grant will be used by the university to establish a research program aimed at developing new alloys for several major corporations, said Robert H. Wood, Jr., director of government relations for Clarkson.

The \$1 million grant is part of the state's effort to spur new industrial growth and job development by working with state's industries in pioneering new technology and advanced research.

The funds will be used to help pay CAMP's operating expenses.

Thomas Williamson, Clarkson's vice president for external affairs, noted that so far the \$1 million is a proposed budget allocation. It has not yet been awarded to CAMP, he said.

Before the funds can be allocated, Williamson said, CAMP must first pass a review in April by experts in the materials processing field assembled by the National Science Foundation.

CAMP will likely hear whether it has been designated a Center for Advanced Technology in June, Williamson said.

The grant will help in a collaborative effort between Clarkson and five major corporations including Eastman Kodak, Corning Glass Works, The Grumman Cor-

poration and IBM to develop alternatives to traditional alloys.

The Grumman Corporation, for example, has used the research to help create new alloys for aircraft wings with higher strength to weight ratios exceeding traditional metals.

In the 1986 budget, New York State allocated \$400,000 to Clarkson for planning and development of the CAT. The release of those funds to CAMP were announced earlier this month. The program is administered through the state's Science and Technology Foundation.

"It's an indication of renewed gubernatorial support," said Wood. "We have every reason to believe there will be continued job growth. It wouldn't make sense for New York State to make this investment otherwise," he said.

The CAT will pioneer research in the field of advanced materials with a special focus on polymer science and composite materials.

The CAT at Clarkson will perform highly specialized research in the field of advanced materials processing and colloid and surface science. Research will be organized into five key areas: fine particles, crystal growth, polymer processing, electronics and other applications.

The CAT will also work closely with the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) Center for commercial crystal growth.

GOP Taps Two

Potsdam Republicans Friday night nominated David M. Alexander, 7 Broad St., and William J. Lawson, 127 Leroy St., as their candidates for Potsdam village trustee in the March 18 election.

Local GOP officials said the caucus did not nominate a mayoral candidate to oppose incumbent Democrat Paul J. Claffey.

Village Democrats caucus tonight (Tuesday), and are expected to nominate Claffey for mayor, as well as incumbent trustees Jeffery J. Belodoff and Robert D. Sullivan for re-election.

School Board Meets

Potsdam Central School officials are expected to continue their discussion of a plan to move Grade 5 students to A.A. Kingston Middle School, when the district's board of education meets at 7:30 p.m. tonight (Tuesday) in the high school cafeteria.

The plan would ease overcrowding in Lawrence Avenue Elementary School and allow for better curriculum coordination, school officials have said.

The school board is also expected to hear committee reports, administrators' reports and take action on finance and other items.

Committee meetings at 6:45 p.m. precede the board meeting.

Catholic Schools Week To Be Celebrated Here

Students and teachers from Saint Mary's School in Potsdam will celebrate "Catholic Schools Touch the Future" theme provided by National Catholic Education Association during National Catholic Schools Week, Feb. 1 through Feb. 7. Parents, parish members and the larger community are all invited to participate in the festivities.

Some of the many special events featured include a spaghetti supper provided by Tardelli's Feb. 2, at 6 p.m. A special assembly will be held Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. Awards will be presented to winners of a religious vocation art contest sponsored by Saint Mary's Parish Council. Grandparents Day will be held on Feb. 5. At this time a special turkey dinner will be enjoyed by the students and their guests. Concluding on Feb. 6 at 9:15 a.m. a special Catholic Schools Week Mass will be celebrated at the school. A 1 p.m. on Friday a talent

show will be presented to the parents and friends. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend all of the events.

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of the important role that Catholic primary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a well-rounded education for America's young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational system, which emphasizes the development of intellectual, spiritual, oral, physical, and social values in their

OTB Law Goes Into Effect

BY MICHAEL HIRSCH

CANTON — A law permitting Off-Track Betting parlors in St. Lawrence County went into effect last Thursday and it appears this time the law will stick.

A petition drive to put the issue to a public referendum failed when it fell about 1,500 names short of the required minimum, according to Dean Lincoln of Massena, organizer of the drive.

Lincoln had until Jan. 22 to submit 2,922 valid signatures, but by Thursday morning he had collected only about 1,500 signatures. Those 2,922 names represent 10 percent of the number of St. Lawrence County voters who cast their ballots in the 1986 gubernatorial race.

"I'm not able to make it," Lincoln said. "I spent a lot of time and a lot of money to no avail."

"Part of the problem was my own inexperience circulating petitions — this was my first time — and a lot of people I contacted were not really aware of the importance of this. They think OTB is only an issue, but they don't realize it is a law now."

The county legislature voted 11-6 on Dec. 8 to permit OTB parlors for the first time in St. Lawrence County. And there doesn't appear to be

any support this year to rescind the law as the board had done in the past when a petition drive failed.

A legislator who had previously voted in favor of OTB in December would now have to offer a resolution to rescind OTB to prevent the betting parlors from being built here. James Smith (D-Canton) has served as this "switch vote" several years ago but he said he won't oppose OTB this year.

"It's got to be a person who voted in favor of it originally and I'm not going to be the one," Smith said. "We've been around on this enough."

"When I ran for office the first time, OTB was an issue and I said it should go to the voters. In that term, it came up twice and no one was ever able to get enough signatures on a petition. I don't believe there is enough interest one way or another to do it. I just don't think there is enough interest to block it."

Supporters say that the reported \$300,000 annual income that St. Lawrence County will receive from OTB will help to offset large revenue losses. But opponents argue that much more money will leave the county.

Hayes Is Advertising Intern

Anthony P. Hayes, a senior at Potsdam College, has recently joined the Courier-Freeman as a student intern in advertising for the spring semester. He will be working under the direction of advertising director Linda Moerschell.

Born on May 29, 1965, Hayes comes from West Monroe, N.Y., a small town north of Syracuse. He now attends Potsdam College, majoring in English/writing, and hopes to pursue a career in advertising after his graduation in 1987.

He is a Resident Assistant (RA) at Potsdam, and is also quite active in extracurricular activities (member and concert chairman of the College Union Board, manager of an intermural sports team and a member of Phi Chi Epsilon, a service/social fraternity).

Hayes' family consists of his parents, Hubert and Wilma Hayes of West Monroe, three brothers: Paul, Gary and Matthew, and three sisters: Deborah, Diane and Pamela.

He enjoys writing fiction, listening to music, intermural sports and

sky diving, and hopes to work for an advertising firm in the Connecticut area after graduation.



ANTHONY P. HAYES

UW Campaign At 91 Percent

Potsdam area contributions to the 1986-87 United Way campaign have reached 91 percent of goal, and the United Way executive vice president predicts Potsdam will hit 100 percent.

Giving in the Potsdam area is at \$33,447, compared to a goal of \$36,700, said Donald Ballou of United Way.

Overall, the United Way campaign for St. Lawrence and Northern Franklin Counties has reached \$410,249, or 91 percent of its goal.

Game Cancelled

Due to a scheduling error by the Potsdam College Athletic Department, the Potsdam-Clarkson University mens basketball game scheduled for Feb. 3 at Clarkson has been cancelled.

"Somehow we scheduled one game too many and did not save a game for our conference tournament," athletic director and mens basketball coach Jerry Welsh said.

"I guess we originally counted wrong and then failed to re-check Clarkson's athletic department has agreed to cancel the game. We are grateful to them and appreciate their understanding on this mix-up," Welsh said.

College Republicans Plan Local Meeting

A meeting for the Clarkson College Republicans will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Clarkson Science Center Room 111. The College Republicans is looking for interested conservative individuals to join their organization. The College Republicans is an organization that provides a forum for conservative thought and ideology for all students, professors and North Country residents.

All Republicans and conservative individuals should call 265-5543 or 265-3378 for more information.

High Winds Noted

During last Friday's snowstorm, the peak wind gust was recorded at 40 mph from the south-southwest, according to local weather-watcher Richard O'Hanlon, Jr. of Potsdam.

During the same storm, O'Hanlon reported, a record low barometric pressure was reached of 29.02 inches of mercury.

Correction

Due to incorrect information provided to the Courier-Freeman, a story in the Jan. 20 issue on a performance of the Concord String Quartet incorrectly stated that the concert is free.

Tickets for the concert at 8:15 p.m. tonight (Tuesday) in Snell Music Theater, are \$5 general admission, \$2 for senior citizens and \$1 for students.



NORWOOD GOP SLATE — At their caucus last week, Norwood Republicans chose a full slate for the upcoming March 18 elections. From left are trustee candidate Robert Haggitt Jr., mayor candidate

Mark Tebo, and trustee candidate John Murray. About 70 GOP faithful turned out for the caucus. (Ron Robertson photo)