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FOUNDED 1880  
AN IMPRINT NEWSPAPER  
WINDSOR LOCKS, CT

# WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

1998

"CABBAGES & KINGS"



WITH JACK REDMOND

INSIDE

## Predictions

Are you on Cabbages & Kings columnist  
Jack Redmond's list for '98?

— *page 6*

# TownsPeople

## Jack Redmond makes his famous predictions for 1998

Like the man said "It was time to ring bells, or whatever your fancy in celebrating the new year.

1998 is here from the corner of Elm and Main streets and all streets west and north. Time also for my (sometimes) sage remarks or predictions for the good and faithful folks of Windsor Locks. So here goes:

**Peter Tria:** He never misses painting masterpieces of local people. (Mr. Glazier, are you ready for your seating?)

**Nick Giaccone:** To keep up with the latest in coiffures.

**Eleanor Leonard:** Successful year for the Windsor Locks Women's Club.

**Joan Slomcinsky:** Continue writing poems from the heart.

**Joe DeLuco:** Our local young singers waiting for that one big break.

**Mary Conway:** Our high school principal with lots of principles.

**Gary Mattesen:** Can't wait for another softball season with the local KofC team.

**Ric Brown Jr.:** More family trips on their Harley-Davidson.

**John McMullen:** Main Street's favorite mailman.

**Marc Eames/Jeremy Draghi.** Continued success during their first college year.

**Dan Sullivan:** Will always be our town's three-letter coach.

**Steve Mills:** Big shoes to fill as chairman of WL Fire Commission.

**Ryan Bucchieri:** Bring home the soap-box derby win to Windsor Locks.

**Tim Johnson:** Having your screen play made into a production in '98.

**Harry Seidel:** Stay active at the Senior Center. A helping hand is always appreciated by others.

**Joanne Briemann:** What's next after Smith College?

**Ed Coyne:** Another trip to Ireland in '98.

**Bill Steitz:** Pick up your writing talents in the new year.

**Dan Kervick:** In his case, needs no encouragement to write letters.

**Gary LaVoye:** 1999 is not that far off for another try at local politics.

**Shirley Horan:** Another year for Shirley, "Good Samaritan" role in own.

**Joseph Flynn:** His favorites, the Baltimore Orioles (better switch to the Sox or Yankees!)

**Keith Griffin, Alicia Barry and Mike Callaghan:** Our local journalists, for continued build-up of the Journal from Bristol to Windsor Locks.

**Len Liss:** Keep the Little League program growing in '98.

**John Lee:** Is he really retired from politics? Right?

**Bill Hamel:** For this loyal Red Sox fan, a steady job in '98.

**Steve Schwab:** How about a new flavor of ice cream, acorn magic!

**John Duffy:** As the Bradley Airport fire chief, a safe travel year.

**Walter Gale:** Keep running those senior races in '98.

**Brian McKeown:** For a successful year

for the WLHS girl's basketball team:

**Ted Mantel:** Another year at Bradley's information booths, with good cheer and "where's American?"

**Russ Gabrielson:** Good guys don't always come in first.

**Dave Farr:** Gets my vote for baseball coach at the Raider School.

**Bob Oliva:** Now with new blood and new concepts for the Board of Education.

**Ed Ferrari:** Our really true-blue politician in town.

**Doug Glazier/Doug Hamilton:** Speaking of new blood, with their own agenda.

**Vic Puia:** What can you say, wait for '99? Ed came back.

**Carl and Carol Schiessl:** To be there when the UConn Girl's basketball team wins the final four!

**To those loyal Yankee Fans:** Dave Farr and Ed Brazalovich, et al 1997 was forgettable, with 1998, the outlook for Joe Torre: "The gentle managerial touch will allow his team to contend, (or be contended), but it will be a very long winter!"

Oh yes ... Happy New Year!

*(Editor's note: Normally we don't add to Jack's column but we couldn't resist this time. Jack Redmond: a continued unbroken string of interesting columns about the "cabbages and kings" of Windsor Locks.)*

cabbages  
and kings  
JACK REDMOND

## Amber Mortensen:

The 1998 Senior Class at the Windsor Locks High School will stage the hit musical in March ... "How to Succeed in Business, Without Really Trying."

Their class president, Ms. Amber Mortensen, is a student who has succeeded in many of school activities at the Raider school, with or without really trying.

Her varied list of accomplishments are many, mixed with determination, a lot of school spirit, confidence, a friendly demeanor and a young girl who knows (in her heart) when she leaves for college, in the fall, will surely miss her friends, but is looking forward to achieving her career goals.

Amber's high school years have been one of full participation in student affairs and sports, known facts that were an important part of John and Phyllis Mortensen's story, her grandparents, as featured in C&K, in June of 1996.

When it came to admiration, she spoke of

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*"If you never learn to forgive, then how can anyone ever forgive you?"*

*Amber Mortensen's  
philosophy of life*

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her grandparents and two teachers who have made a lasting impression on Amber in her formative years.

Amber has lived with her grandparents since she was seven years old. ("They spoil me," she said) Amber is the daughter of Jay Mortensen and Theresa Mrykalo. Jay is a WLHS grad, Class of 1979, Theresa, Class of 1980. Amber has three brothers, Jacob and Jeffrey Mortensen, who live in Massachusetts with their father, and Christopher Mrykalo, who resides in

Connecticut with his mother.

Amber attended local schools, over the years, friends and fellow students have given her a few nicknames, such as "Gwen and Ambular." Looking back, before her high school years, Amber was a member of the singing group "Power Company," at the Middle School. In addition, attended dance classes for 12 years, as a seventh grader (ballet and jazz) in two productions, "Annie" and "Peter Pan."

Before listing her hobbies and other interests, activities during the high school

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
JACK REDMOND

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years, varsity tennis for four years; cheerleader, football, soccer and basketball; (boy's) this year's boy's basketball manager; Student Council for three years; Secretary of her class second year; class President junior and senior years, Prom Committee her junior year, Year Book Staff, Flag Corp, Student Aid and NCCC Choir.

Missed one, Vocal Motion, the local high school singing group, Amber has been a part the last three years. The group is led by Concert Choir Director, Frank Rendon. Amber said, "The group will enter into several musical competitions this year."

On the subject of hobbies, "Not much time, (but) do like spending time with my friends, into exercise, been bowling for years, love clothes, the latest fashions."

Amber enjoys all types of music, any special group?, "No Doubt and Aerosmith." (No Doubt I had never heard of them.) As

# — TownsPeople —

## more than just president of the Class of '98

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

for spectator sports, the pro football team, Miami Dolphins. She loves pasta, action movies and "X-Files" on television. Has traveled on vacation to Maryland, Florida, Virginia and most of New England.

Amber's role as president of her class, "Duties do change every year, we raise funds for different projects, the magazine sales are over, and the most important thing is bringing the classmates together, it's our last year together." Other class officers include Robyn Norris, Vice-President; Jennifer Smith, Secretary and Elizabeth Berube the Treasurer.

Another comment made by Amber, as to her fellow classmates, together since the Middle School, "Our class has always been looked down upon, now we have proved them wrong, a good group of kids."

Adding, "Friends to me are very important in my life, I'm excited about the coming graduation and going to college, sad about leaving my friends." Future plans, "Not sure what college, but it will be in the Boston area, want to study law, become a lawyer, (a minor in psychology), work with kids, be a children's attorney, they should have more representation in the courts," she said. In addition to making honors this past marking period, Amber was chosen for the role of "Hedy" in the senior musical in March.

When asked about admiration or role models?, she had this to say, "My grandparents raised me since I was seven, endless love for me, very supportive in all my activities." She went on to say, two educators, "Sharon Cournoyer, science teacher, if I needed someone to talk to, she was my advisor, and Coach Dan Sullivan, deserves all the credit as a coach that he has received. I look up to the coach, reminds me of my grandparents, a good guy."

Back to Amber and her personal philoso-



Amber Mortensen

phy, "If you never learn to forgive, then how can anyone ever forgive you?"

Epilogue:

Amber Mortensen, refreshing young student, activity her middle name, who knows where she's going and admits to being "honest and outspoken".

I'm sure she will agree, "Nobody can do for little kids (and older ones) what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of kids," as with Amber in her early years.

Postscript:

Amber's grandparents had this to say, "We feel that God has blessed us with Amber's presence and love, who keeps us very young and active, she is a pleasure to have around, yes, we love Amber very much and thank God for this blessing."

# Barbara Tague - meet our

Here I go again, down to the principal's office, but, at my age, to interview and meet the new principal. And I must say, it's always been a very pleasurable experience, and again it was.

I did meet and talk to Barbara Kathleen Tague, who, with many years experience in teaching and the role of principal, showed she was very much at home as the new principal of the Windsor Locks Middle School when we met before the holidays.

For Ms. Tague, in her new office and new staff, in fact everything is so new, a new structured environment, as with all of our schools. (Oh, there's still some work to be accomplished.)

Now, for some background on the Maine native, who came on board in October 1997 and is looking forward to the challenge, already "loves the kids, the school has tremendous potential, with a wonderful climate, one of the most important," she said.

Before detailing her educational years, no story of Ms. Tague would be complete without her own activities while a student in high school and the fact she was not certain as to a future career.

She was born in Farmington, Maine, the daughter of the late John Tague, also a native of Maine, a man she called "my best friend," employed many years in the heavy construction business, "Local 4, out of Boston," she said.

Her mother Kathleen was from New Hampshire and currently resides in East Longmeadow, Mass.

She has a brother Jerome, who lives in St. Louis, Mo.; two sisters, Connie and Lenora in Massachusetts; a brother Robert and a sister Beverly, who are both deceased.

Those high school years, beginning in Stratton, Maine, however, transferred to Farmington High School in her senior year, graduating in 1965.

Looking back, she said, "I did everything available in sports, track, basketball, softball and skiing at Sugar Loaf USA and even some cheerleading."

As mentioned, was not sure of a career, but her parents told her college was the right path. Which, of course, she took their advice

and attended the University of Maine at Farmington, where she received a degree in elementary education in 1979.

For Barbara, college was no different as to sports/interests, ski club, member of two



**Barbara Tague**

sororities, Newman Club, also became involved (as part of her training) teacher assistant, research assistant and student teacher.

It was at that point of her advance education, these diverse assignments, at the middle school level, "was something I wanted to pursue," she said.

Barbara began her teaching career, what she later classified as "an advocate of children's education," at the China Lakes, Maine, fourth-grade school. This was followed by her first middle school position (6th, 7th, 8th grades).

At the University of Maine in Farmington for a year, which she said "the college town, loved it," as part of the faculty.

Her first position as principal came at the

INSIDE

## New Principal

Jack Redmond interviews the new head of the middle school.

— page 6

## new middle school principal

Whitefield, Maine, Middle School (K-8th grades) for a two-year period.

Her longest stay was in Augusta at the middle school (5th-8th grade) for eight years. The next five years were in Northampton, N.H., which she called a time for "restructure of the school," the schedule

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### cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

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and making the staff more effective.

Her next move was to Connecticut and Windsor Locks in October 1997 and the middle school. Her views on students of today later.

Barbara Tague - the person - she's an avid outdoors person, be it walking, skiing and hiking, mountain bike is no stranger to her. She enjoys reading and admits, at times, "not much energy at the end of the school day."

Barbara is married to William Bell, whose father was in the foreign service, as was William, spending eight years in Holland. He and Barbara were married Aug. 5, 1996.

Mr. Bell attended Andover Academy in Massachusetts and is a Yale grad, cum laude. He has his own business - William Bell Associates in Maine. Barbara said her union with William "is a wonderful love story. We had been friends for years."

Barbara has two children, actually young lady and young man - Jennifer and Jonathan Charles Sinskie. Jennifer is a grad of the University of Maine, currently in grad school at Lesley College in Cambridge, Mass. (counseling psychology)

Jonathan, as we spoke, was graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. His mother expressed the good wishes in that he has a contract with Boeing Aircraft in California upon graduation.

Barbara has done her share of traveling - a few trips to Ireland, the islands and most

of the USA. This summer, she and William will visit Provence in the southeastern part of France, near the Riviera. Main reason, hiking and bed and breakfast.

Being from New England all of her life, she is a natural born fan of the Boston Red Sox; however, it's her mother who is the big rooter of the Sox, knows all the players.

Change of subject... Barbara enjoys all types of music, especially "New Age Music." Television is not a main enjoyment for Barbara, but does keep up with the latest news.

Barbara is a member of several educational organizations. Was asked if she had any New Year's resolutions? "Yes, be healthy and a happy person, and to spend more time with my family."

As for her future plans: "I have always been goal oriented. Down the road, a private consultant."

In her role as principal and years of experience, she was asked about the students of yesterday and today. "It's very hard to be a young person today, harder than yesterday. We must understand (their) temptations. They grow up too fast today."

In another interview, shortly after her arrival, she remarked, "One of (my) goals is to make sure teachers, parents and students all buy into new methods of instruction and evaluation, to stress new areas of learning, upper-level thinking skills, to real-life situations."

When asked who was her role model, "My mother, who had the most influence in my life - and for my philosophy, as I have gotten older, care more about the elderly and adolescents."

#### Epilog

That's our in-depth interview and a most hearty welcome to our new principal at the middle school. Because she is a big fan of Ireland, and the Irish people, I felt it most appropriate to end with her favorite Irish blessing: "May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

## Meet Marie Sienkiewicz

Last week, readers met Barbara Tague, principal of the town's middle school.... This week, meet Marie Sienkiewicz, co-president of the PTO at the middle school.

Marie, mother of three, is a native of Windsor Locks as well as her husband, Michael. They are both graduates of WLHS, Michael in 1977, Marie in 1978.

Looking back to those years, Marie said, in all seriousness but a slight laugh, "We both did nothing (real special) at the school."

After meeting Marie, and with the interesting descriptions of their life, their children and Michael's business venture, and her involvement in the children's education, the word "nothing" is no longer in their vocabulary.

Now for more detail on this interesting couple. Marie Eileen (Nadeau) Sienkiewicz is the daughter of the late Maurice Nadeau, who retired from Hamilton-Standard. He was a native of Maine. Marie's mother June (Dunphy) Nadeau was also from Maine, lives in town, but "winters in Florida."

Marie has two brothers, Wayne of Stonington, Conn., who also spends time in sunny Florida; and David of Windsor.

Michael Sienkiewicz is the son of the late Walter Sienkiewicz, was from Granby, retired from Windsor Manufacturing. Michael's mother Rita (Bates) Sienkiewicz was from Hartford, now resides in Windsor Locks.

Michael has a brother Robert of Enfield, and a sister Linda of Windsor.

More on Marie: After graduation from the Raider School, Marie had originally planned to be a physical therapist. The way she tells it, "I ended up a bookkeeper." She attended the Morse School of Business, earned a certificate and was ready for the world of accounting.

At this time of her life, with the knowledge of debits and credits, she decided they would have to wait and traveled to California for a year. But admitted, "I was homesick, missed my family and New England."

Marie's first position (in bookkeeping) was with First National stores in their Hartford offices, eventually the company moved to Windsor Locks. Her job there lasted two years.

Michael and Marie grew up in town,

knew each other, went together and were married on Sept. 29, 1984. Marie worked for Garston Sign & Supplies for six years, left, when the time came to have their first child. They had lived in South Windsor the first 10, and in 1994 moved back to their hometown.

Michael after graduation from high school went to work at Hamilton-Standard, in March will have 20 years service with the local company. According to Marie, "Michael can be called a workaholic, but he

doesn't think so." In addition, Michael is owner of Windsor Gear, located on Main Street in the Montgomery Building.

The three children of Michael and

Marie — that keep her as one busy mother — the oldest is Nicole Marie, 12, seventh grade at the Middle School, into pre-algebra, enjoys "Friends" on the television.

Then there's Lindsey Anne, 9, in the fourth grade at South, the athlete in the family, softball and on the court. Enjoys writing at school, never misses "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch" on the tube.

Waiting in the wings and very ready to keep up with his sisters, Steven Michael, at five, kindergarten at North, enjoys gym, plays some basketball, is a fan of the pro football SF 49ers, and when it's time for T.V., "Arthur" is number one.

When time is available Michael works on his cars (some foreign), with Marie (maybe) reading a novel, and admits (a few years back) enjoying the lite fantastic, dancing folks. Oh-yes, plays a mean game of pool. The family have made annual trips to Maine, in the new year, a visit to Florida to see Grandma.

As for television, for the big folks, Michael is into documentaries, with Marie a big "ER" fan. They will rent a movie now and then, and everyone in the family enjoys pizza and tacos.

Marie was asked for a few of her New Year's resolutions. "I do have a few, (do not) want to overwhelm myself, take better care of myself, with exercise."

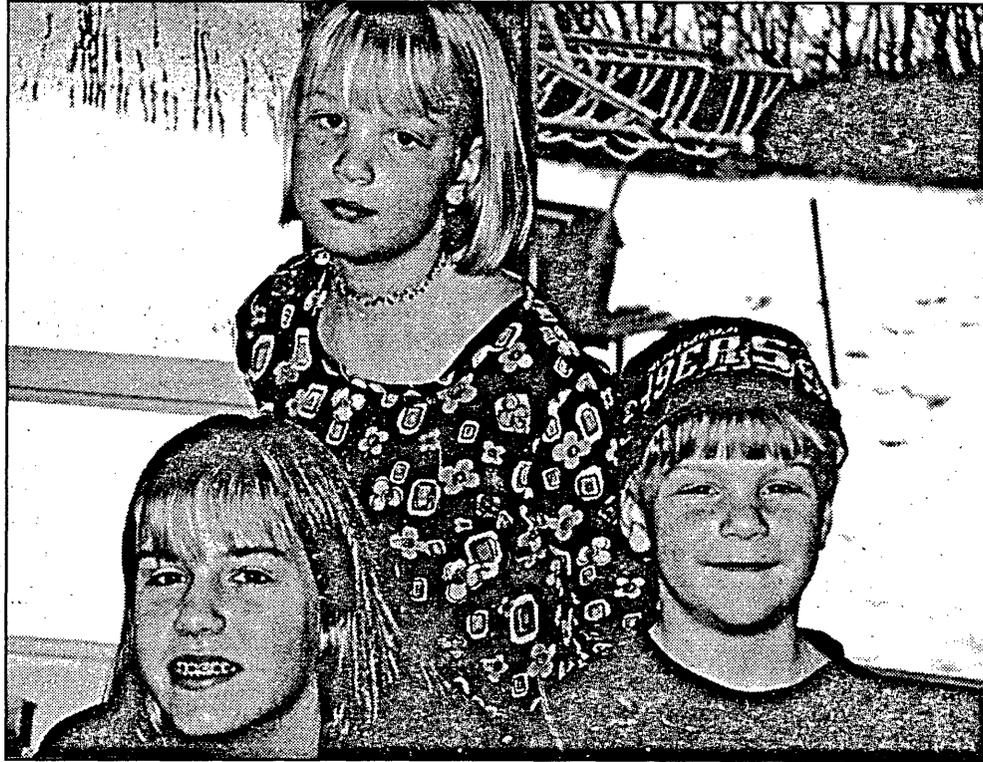
Marie: on the Middle School PTO. Incidentally, her co-president is Donna Encarnacion, husband is George, two children, Eric and Karen. Other officers include Don Raggio as secretary and Patty White as treasurer.

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cabbages  
and kings  
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## — Middle School PTO co-president



Nicole, Lindsey and Steven Sienkiewicz

This is Marie's first year, Donna's second year with the PTO. What follows are comments by Marie:

"When our oldest child was in the fifth grade at South, we were concerned and afraid of having her enter the middle school.... I felt that some amount of control would be lost and she would be allowed to stray there if she chose to. Because of that, I have tried to remain involved in her education and continued to volunteer to help at the middle school as I had always done.... One method we are using to reach out is to continue with our effort to sponsor activities that will involve and benefit not only the kids and their parents but also the entire community.

"Examples are the health fair that was held in November as well as the upcoming Technology Fair and spaghetti supper that will be held in the spring. The school is in need of support in many different functions.... The good news is that we now have a leader, Barbara Tague, our new principal. It is a really exciting time to be involved with the middle school."

More on Marie, the concerned mother of three. When asked who she admired — "No special role model, I've just chosen to try to learn from my favorite and least favorite traits in many people that I have known for

years."

Marie's philosophy of life: "Enjoy each day, life is short and holds no guarantees for tomorrow."

Her favorite saying, "As Thumper says in 'Bambi,' 'If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.'"

Epilog:

The story of Marie Sienkiewicz, the mother of three, who is looking at the bright side of life and proud to be a part of the PTO at the middle school, along with Donna, Don, Patty, parents, and in Marie's own words, "To work with Barbara Tague to update the PTO for the 21st century."

The following words of Father Theodore Hesburgh (Notre Dame), "One of the greatest heresies I hear from time to time is that in our world one person cannot make a difference. I do not believe that for a moment. One man or woman or a group of men and women banded together can make an enormous difference in our lives and our way of living. Dr. Albert Schweitzer did, Rachel Carson did, Mother Teresa did and Tom Dooley did. History is replete with heroic people who realized that they could make a difference, and did ... despite the conventional wisdom of the day."

The above do make a difference!

## Elizabeth Haberern

Elizabeth Lynn Haberern exhibited one of her many talents when the seventh grader at the middle school won last year's Peace Poster Contest sponsored by the local Lions Club.

Elizabeth, also known as Liz, will be 13 in July, active as swimmer for the town's Water Jets, plays a mean third base in the town's softball league, plus, plays the piano, enjoys reading everything on the Civil War, and big fan of the television show "X-Files."

Elizabeth is a part of an active family, teaching, engineering, plus the benefits of further higher education, with her parents Robert and Lynn Haberern earning several degrees and her brother Jonathan studying industrial electronics at Porter and Chester Institute.

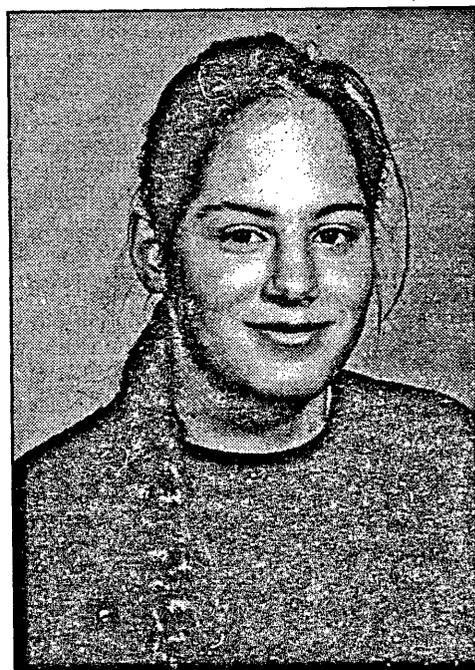
Some background on her parents ... and brother. Robert Walter Haberern is a native of Manchester, who graduated from the city's high school in 1966.

He is the son of the late Walter Haberern and his mother Frances Haberern, who makes her home in Manchester. Robert has a brother Richard, a sister Linda, both residents of Manchester.

After high school, Robert attended Hartford Technical College for two years, earning an associate's degree in mechanical technology. A few years later decided to go for full degree, which he did at the University of New Haven, receiving his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering (1973).

The next 16 years was a steady employee at Preston Engravers. After leaving (Preston) he worked as independent consulting engineer. A year ago went to work for division of Stanley Works as engineer.

Lynn Ertel Haberern came from Rockville (Bob's family was obviously from Manchester). Lynn and family all from Rockville. She is the daughter of Thomas and Norma Ertel. Lynn has two brothers, Craig of Rockville and, oh yes, David, now of Rocky Hill.



Elizabeth Haberern

Back to Lynn, a grad of Rockville High School, class of 1969, went on to UConn for a year, wanted to be a medical technician, stayed a year, "dropped out to be married," she said with a smiling face.

Lynn and Bob met on a blind date (I forgot to ask was it Manchester or Rockville?). They lived in Manchester for three years, then came to their current home in Windsor Locks.

Their son Jonathan Haberern, a 1992 WLHS grad, attended UConn for a year, now, as mentioned, is at Chester, where in June will receive his certificate in industrial electronics. Jonathan is into horseback riding and as with his sister, plays the piano.

More on Liz: her favorite subjects in school, science, math and pre-algebra. When it comes to television, whole family enjoys "X-Files." She is a member of the school jazz band, when it comes to movies BOND, James Bond, on the silver screen, Liz will be

## - winner of Lions Peace Poster Contest

in the front row.

As to her own reaction to winning the poster contest, "I was surprised," her dad, "excited," and mother was in New Orleans at an education conference, found out the news when she returned.

The awarding of the savings bond was presented to Liz at one of the Lions regular

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

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meetings at the Passport Restaurant, accompanying her were her parents and art teacher, Mary Spencer.

Elizabeth's poster next goes to the Connecticut Lions District 23B, when it will be competing with winners from among the other 56 Lions Clubs in the district.

Even at her young age, she is thinking of her future - graphic artist or forensic scientist. Both interesting positions in two different worlds.

How about hobbies/interests? Elizabeth is currently reading books on the Civil War and hopes someday to visit Gettysburg, into reading "Gods and Generals" and also "X-Files in Ruins."

As to her parents: Bob is called "Mr. Fix-it" around the house. Lynn has her sewing and then said, "Just teaching at St. Joseph's College is a hobby of mine," which, she said, "was master level course in preschool assessment, early childhood development," during the summer, the past two years.

Let's list Lynn's extensive educational achievements: she had left UConn in 1971, however, when Jonathan went to school (first grade), she returned to UConn and in 1985 received her special education degree,

when Liz went into nursery school, this busy mother was off again to UConn earning a master's in early childhood special education, went on to receive the "6th Year" degree at St. Joseph's College in 1995.

More on Lynn: the past four years member of the Capitol Region Education Council and currently teacher at North Street School. In addition, Lynn has been a dedicated teacher at St. Mary's the past 15 years, holding classes on the Catholic catechism.

Must be a family trait. Liz said her Aunt Linda Haberern is back in college taking up graphic arts.

Travel for the family: on their 25th wedding anniversary, Robert and Lynn traveled to Alaska. Other trips include Bermuda and visits to Cape Cod.

For the record: the family are big UConn fans of the girls basketball team and, last year on Valentine's Day, Lynn took Liz to one of the games so she could see the girls in action on the court.

When it comes to admiration for others: Liz mentioned her brother "for being so helpful," Lynn said, "Robert for being supportive and for his influence, and I must add Prof. Lois David of St. Joseph's, my mentor."

Lynn added, "Marriage is a joint effort. I believe in the Golden Rule, and you asked for words to describe Elizabeth - enthusiastic about everything."

### Epilog

Wanted to know more about the young girl, winner of the Lions poster contest. Found she was a member of an energetic family with high educational values to match and include their involvement in church school, music, sports and the world of engineering.

Robert and Lynn Haberern set the stage or better said, tradition, for Elizabeth and Jonathan. These words ring true: "Tradition lives because young people come along who catch its romance and add new glories to it."

# Meet Frank Rendon

The life of Frank Villagomez Rendon is not at all complex, far from it, just full with his personal desire to partake in various interests, like music, tennis, biking, karate, which also includes a teaching and musical career.

Frank is well settled in as director of the singing group called Vocal Motion at the high school, since 1997, in addition to General Music/Band Instruments at South School and the high school.

Yes, a busy and dedicated young man with a wide range of impressive credentials that foster the sounds of music for both schools and the town.

Some backgrounds on Mr. Rendon. Born in Phoenix, Ariz., growing up in San Diego, Calif., the son of Oscar and Ofelia Rendon, who were from Phoenix, and now residents of Connecticut. The senior Mr. Rendon is retired from Windsor's Combustion Engineering Inc. Frank has a sister Diana, who lives in South Windsor.

At the age of 9, Frank's family moved to Bloomfield, later to Windsor, where Frank attended junior high and Windsor High School, graduated with the Class of 1976. (I wonder if the class song was that's the spirit, with 76 trombones). Frank was involved in what he called "creative arts," today's Performing Arts Academy.

Frank was captain of the school's tennis team, a sport he still enjoys playing. He was already an active piano player hitting the ivories at local weddings, restaurants and other gigs.

When he left high school, "wanted to do something connected with music," he recalled at our January interview at the high school.

He soon became an active musician in the Hartford area, especially during his short time as student at UConn, where

he majored in music. He eventually attended the Hartford Conservatory of Music in the '80s, earning a "performance degree."

He also became involved in playing and directing musicals, in the area, for local theatre groups ... such as "Hello Dolly" and "The Little Shop of Horrors." At the time, Frank taught piano lessons to young children, which included musical director of children's theater.

This active musician had returned to classes at Central Connecticut State University where he received a B.S. degree in music education and his teaching certificates.

Frank's first teaching position, substitute in Rocky Hill (general studies), main reason for starting in a school system,

"I wanted to be in a system to get my feet wet."

Let's list later Frank's teacher highlights for a few chosen words on his new bride, Simone Lutz Rendon, born in South Korea, grew up in Switzerland, the daughter of Jurg and Erica Lutz of Switzerland. Simone has a brother Fabian who also resides in the land of the Alps.

In the fall of 1995, Frank and Simone met at a bowling lane, she had come to the States to study English at the University of Hartford. They were married on March 31, 1997, however, due to many restrictions in immigration laws ... (securing a "green card," etc.) the newlyweds had to wait until the Thanksgiving holiday before Simone was back in Connecticut and with Frank. They have set up their home in Hartford.

Simone "always wanted to live in the USA," Frank said, "She had watched movies and television on life in America, was very interested in the English language."

Some interests/hobbies of this most happy couple. Frank has been involved in karate (Qkanawin as in the movie "Karate Kid") for more than 20 years, truthfully he said, (when I started) "I wanted to defend myself, as a 95-pound weakling ..." That's what he said! He teaches the art of karate in Hartford, works out for his own personal exercise.

He's an avid reader, subjects like science, psychology, still at his tennis game, rides a bike, enjoys a good game of

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**cabbages and kings**

JACK REDMOND

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# TownsPeople

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## the new Vocal Motion director

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL



**Simone and Frank Rendon**

Scrabble. Simone on the other hand is very comfortable in the kitchen cooking. Oh yes, forgot to mention, the young couple did have a shared vacation in August 1997 on Frank's trip to Switzerland.

A Yankee or Red Sox fan? "No, I'm a fan of the Green Bay Packers quite familiar with the team, in that I had tutored (English/Math) to Eugene Robinson when he was a student at Weaver High School," now a player for the Packers who lost to the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl.

When it comes to food, Frank's favorites are Japanese and Indian (India). For music it's Bach to the Beatles.

Speaking of music, let's get back Vocal Motion, our town's best known singing group of high school students. Frank has been director since September of last year. His comments on the group, "It's about putting together various art forms such as music, dancing and art (customs)." He said there are currently 46 members of the group, and a spring concert is planned for May, "Smoky Joe Cafe Medley."

More comments on music: "There are many challenges in music, and I try to keep one step ahead of my students, and share the love of music." In addition, Frank has taught the following instruments: saxophone, clarinet, flute and trumpet, and has piano and voice students.

When asked, who he most admired he promptly said, "My wife Simone, for her honesty, patience, intelligence, fortitude and loving kindness."

Frank's philosophy of life, in these words, "Awareness, compassion, music and love."

His favorite saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself."

Asked for his future plans? "To be a better teacher and better music, I want to grow and yes, have a family."

### **Epilog**

Frank Rendon, teacher, friendly manner, talented, keeps up with the latest in the music world, the world of karate, an active individual, enjoys what he is doing. And knows "Without music, life is a journey through a desert."

## Michele Carney –

When Michele Traboulsi Carney left high school her plans were to attend college, be involved in health care or working with people.

The Brooklyn born native has certainly achieved those lofty goals.

Today, Michele is administrator/chief operating officer of the Newport Foundation Inc., which owns and operates the Bickford Home Care Center that has been a fixture on the town's Main Street since 1952.

A short history lesson ... Rose and Ken Bickford operated the facility from 1952 to 1981 ... then a private corporation took over until June 1996, when Bickford was purchased by the Newport Foundation Inc. I had the pleasure of interviewing the Bickfords back in April of 1980.

Now to our current interview ... we met Michele last month at the state-of-the-art facility. Actually it all started for me with a grand tour by Michele.

Her friendly manner made for easy introductions, by her, of personnel at Bickford and patients.

In her office, Michele was probably more concerned describing Bickford as to its benefits of home care than reminiscing about the good old days of high school and college.

But she agreed ... Michele was born in the industrial and residential borough of New York City ... the famed Brooklyn, formerly the home of the Dodgers ... she recalled her mother was a big fan of the team, also known as the lovable "Bums."

It was in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn she grew up, the daughter of Victor and Florence Katen Traboulsi, both natives of Brooklyn, now living in New Jersey. Michele has a sister, Janet, who resides in Pennsylvania. Their father is now retired from the manufacturing and design garment industry.

When Michele was in the fifth grade, the family moved to New Jersey ... with graduation in 1972 from New Milford High School. Michele showed early management leadership as a member of the Student Council.

Her first impressions of health care and working with people came as "Candy Striper" at a New Jersey hospital at the age of 13. She recalled, "It was my first volunteer job, and I have volunteered in different capacities in whatever I have ever done (in my life)."

Her college years began in Connecticut at the University of Hartford, studying Liberal Arts for two years, then transferring to the University of Rhode Island, earning bachelor degrees in Elementary Education/Psychology in 1976 ... "I did want to teach," adding, "never wanted to be a nurse or doctor." Michele went on to say ... "I got married and that changed everything." She had met Pat Carney when she was in college. They were married on Aug. 21, 1976.

Mr. Carney was born and raised in Rhode Island, the son of the late Lillian Carney, and Frank Carney, now retired after 40 years with Bostitch, and today resides in his native state of Rhode Island. Their son was an athlete at East Greenwich High School in Rhode Island, went on to Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I., where he continued his activity in sports. Today, Mr. Carney is into sales/engineering. He served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army.

Pat and Michele have lived in his home state, then (on business) they traveled to Arkansas, on their return to Connecticut in 1982, they lived in North Branford, Granby

# TownsPeople

## - administrator, Bickford Home Care Center

and today, reside in Simsbury.

While in Arkansas, Michele received her master's in Counseling from the Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Their two children, Sean and Kathleen, were born in Arkansas. Sean, 19, is a freshman at the University of Rhode Island, studying business, and like his dad plays football.

Kathleen, 17, a senior at Simsbury's Westminster

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### cabbages and kings

jack redmond

School, an athlete in her own right, ice hockey (co-captain), tennis and soccer. She plans to take up French/Law in college. Michele added, "Sean and Kathleen, for them, sports is the most important part of their life now."

When Sean was young, his dad was a midget football coach, president of the league in North Branford, and scout leader when Sean was in scouting.

When Michele was asked about hobbies ... she promptly said, volunteerism, her main interest ... examples ... "A Bushnell volunteer ... mentor for unwed mothers in Hartford, through our church ... Simsbury's First Church of Christ Congregational."

Michele is a member of American College of Health Care Administrators ("very active") and Connecticut Women Health Care Management.

Her other interests include easy-listening-to music at home and reading ... when it comes to sports, skiing in Vermont is a family affair ... and following the children in their sports activity. This past fall Michele was a teacher at Hartford's Rensselaer ... classes in gerontology (scientific study of the physiological and pathological phenomena associated with aging).

Her background covers many fields in health care ... work in nursing homes in Connecticut, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Michele did graduate work in Health Care Management at UConn and has earned her license and certificate in Home Nursing Administration.

Michele began her work at Bickford in December of 1995 ... during the interview she emphasized "the value of education in her field."

She strongly believes in the constant cooperation with the town of Windsor Locks in health care of their citizens. Currently, she said, "We have 48 patients at Bickford, majority are Windsor Locks folks." There are many benefits to what Michele calls: "Relationships with the community..." Listed are some of these relationships:

- Children's groups ... at the South Street School's third grade ... children's groups at the Connecticut Children's Place in East Windsor (formerly the Receiving Home).
- Local Brownies and Girl Scouts ... Nursery School and the High School.
- Center for massage center internship site ("we believe in providing holistic health").
- Home and Community Health Program, serving as an



**Michele Carney, Administrator for Bickford Health Care Center**

educational and internship site (for certification Home Health Aides).

- Teaching site ... internship for the following administration training for UConn and Springfield College.

An important part of Bickford, are honors to the late Rose Bickford, the courtyard known as "Rose's Court." The Courtyard is a beautiful recreation area where residents can tend their own rose garden and enjoy serenity and beauty outdoors."

It was also noted the following ... "Bickford provides services for senior citizens and other residents who have a need at some point in the broad health care continuum ... these professional services include traditional clinical care as well as social and emotional support in a stimulating and nurturing environment that focuses on harmony, human community, caring compassion and understanding."

When she was asked who she most admired, said ... "Greatest influence is my family - from my grandparents to my parents to my husband and children."

Her philosophy of life (and favorite saying) ... "If it wasn't meant to be, it wasn't meant to be, there's something better waiting around the corner." And "When God closes one window He always opens a door."

#### Epilogue

The new Bickford Home Care Center on our Main Street ... the story of a facility with "caring compassion and understanding."

And a way of meeting Michele Carney, dedicated administrator, who, when asked her future plans, said confidently ... "To continue to work and broaden my involvement in health care."

## Margo Marvin -

Margo McVinney Marvin is the first Director of Curriculum and Technology for the Windsor Locks School System.

The Connecticut native has a wide range of experiences and credentials as teacher, principal and supervisor of instructions in various positions in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and her home state.

Mrs. Marvin began her new role in January, and we took the opportunity to meet her in new quarters at the high school. It also gives the readers a chance to meet the newest member of the school system in the new position. More on that later.

First, some family background ... Margo is the daughter of the late Kenneth McVinney, and Olive McVinney who makes her home in Wethersfield. He was from New York State, she was from Newington. Margo has a sister, Leila, who lives in Marlborough.

Margo's first eight years were spent in Rocky Hill, the family then moved to Wethersfield, where she graduated from the high school in 1967.

Her activities at high school included gymnastics, in addition, "very involved in the school's musical productions, as dancer, playing the clarinet." (Margo has come to the right town, with its history of high school musical productions.)

After high school, she realized "I wanted to be a teacher..." First step, to attend Colby Sawyer College in New London, N.H. There she received an associate degree in Liberal Arts, transferred to Central Connecticut State

University.

However, time spent at Central was short, as she recalled, "I dropped out of college to marry



Margo Marvin

David Marvin."

David had grown up in Niantic, graduating from New London High School in the '60s. Later he received an associate degree from Dean College and bachelor in Business Administration from Keene State.

They were married on Oct. 17, 1969, with David, shortly after, being drafted into the U.S. Army, making Margo an army bride. She traveled with David to his first assignment in Virginia, then to San Francisco's army base at the Presidio, the period covered from 1969 to 1973. David was discharged with the rank of captain, serving as Military Intelligence Officer. Margo and David have lived in Virginia, California, Massachusetts, Vermont, and since 1992 residents of Simsbury. Asked about living in different states, she

said, "A different time of our life ... did special things in all of them ... no favorite place."

They have two sons, Jeffrey, 27, born in Virginia, and Keith, 25, born in the city by the Golden Gate.

Jeffrey is a grad of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y., Computer Engineering, Class of 1993. Today, he lives in Phoenix, Ariz., and is employed by Motorola.

Keith is a grad of Northwestern University in Boston, Civil Engineering, and now lives near Dallas, Texas. Both boys played soccer and baseball in high school, and were into ski racing in Vermont, while in high school.

Back to Margo's continuing education... when Keith was in Kindergarten she went back to college ... North Adams State College in Massachusetts, earning a bachelor's degree in Education in 1979. In addition, Margo has also earned two master's degrees ... Curriculum Instruction and Educational Administration from Keene State College in New Hampshire.

Margo's first teaching position was as a sixth grade teacher at Putney, Vt. for three years, followed by a year with third grade students in Wilmington, Mass.

It was at this junction of her teaching career, decided... "I want to be a principal." ... she then attended Keene to work on her second masters. While at Keene, taught the fifth grade in the lab school.

She achieved her goal when appointed principal at the Bernardston Elementary School in

# TownsPeople

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## -first Curriculum and Technology Director

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

Massachusetts for three years.

In 1988, came to Connecticut, was named assistant principal (for two years) in Columbia. This was followed by her role as principal om the Bristol, Conn. elementary school system for six years. She then moved to the Central Offices as Supervisor of Instructions. In January of this year, Margo

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### cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

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Marvin joined the Windsor Locks system in her new position.

When asked ... teaching vs. role as principal ... "I enjoyed both ... (but) one keeps growing and taking on new challenges."

Now for a more personal look at hobbies/interests ... the winters mean skiing, summer it's boating, and (something new) wind surfing for her and David on the lake, wherever. Vacation time is reserved for visits to their sons in Texas and Arizona.

Spectator sports ... Margo's mother-in-law is a big Red Sox fan ... and everyone in the family cheers for the basketball UConn teams. Easy listening music is her favorite ... not much for television, but she was anxiously waiting for the Olympic Games ... because of their interests in winter sports. Oh yes, must not forget ... other members of the family include two Golden Retrievers named "Abbey" and "Champ" ... brother and sister.

Margo holds memberships in two educational organizations ... Association of Supervision Curriculum Development and National Staff Development Council.

Margo was asked for her personal philosophy of life ... "Learn something new every day." Has she got a favorite saying? Yes, "Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have."

Her new role in Windsor Locks... Some excerpts taken from the announcement in December of her major responsibilities... "Will be to review and revise the curricula for all grades to make sure they're in line with national goals and to develop and implement a technology plan ... also be in charge of applying for grants for curriculum development ... in the technology (recent town moves) including building renovations that will wire all schools and a \$450,000 purchase-lease agreement for computer hardware."

Margo was asked for her future goals ... "Do the best I can ... for improvements in the Windsor Locks Schools."

#### Epilogue

So it is with Margo Marvin to view and advise on the present and future needs of the Windsor Locks School System as to curriculum and technology.

A warm welcome to Windsor Locks ... your role and the school's path to the 21st century.

As Paul E. Gray in "Technology Review" said, "The most important outcome of education is to help students become independent of formal education."

FEBRUARY 27, 1998

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## Jennifer Smith —

Jennifer Ellen Smith's philosophy has been to "Live each day to the fullest."

These choice words ring so true for the Windsor Locks High School senior, who recently was the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award for 1998.

Jennifer, known to her classmates as just Jen, is the daughter of Christopher and Lynn Kershaw Smith of Windsor Locks. Mr. Smith was from Suffield, with Lynn a Bloomfield native. They have three other active children: Julianne, Melissa and Anthony.

Jen, a high honors student at the Raider School, is already planning for college ... first choice being York College of Pennsylvania in York, Penn. ... "to study psychology."

Before listing the many activities of Jen, at the high school, a few interests/hobbies. When asked, she readily said, "Sharing time with my sisters and brother." Also reading just about everything, but it was hard to find time.

As for spectator sports ... "I was a Hartford Whaler fan ... until they left the capital city." When it comes to music ... member of the Vocal Motion singing group, also enjoys classical and what she called "the new age music." When it comes to popular music, her mother is a big fan of Barbra Streisand.

Her current favorite movie ... "Titanic," which she found "wonderful," has the sound track, and planning to see the Broadway version in NYC this month.

Jen admitted, when it comes to food ... pasta is her favorite. And when it comes to vacations for the family, trips to New York State and a recent one to DisneyWorld in Florida.

Jen's sisters and brother ... Julianne, 11, sixth grade at the Middle School, where she is a member of the singing group called "Power Company," can Vocal Motion be her next singing group? ... and must include the school's chorus.

Melissa, 9, fifth grade at South, plays the clarinet in the school band, into soccer and the town's softball league, as with Julianne.

Then there's Anthony, 7, second grade at North, the T-ball specialist in the family, waiting in the wings to keep up

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
JACK REDMOND

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# TownsPeople

## WL Senior Winner of DAR Award

with the girls.

Some information on their parents ... Christopher, born and raised in Suffield, has a degree (engineering) from Central Connecticut State University. He is employed by Bio-Plexus in Vernon. Their mother, Lynn, has taken secretarial classes at LaSalle College, currently works at the "Cuttery" in town.

Back to Jen and her high school activities, a few of her awards ... when it comes to sports, Jen's into cheerleading soccer and football, member of Vocal Motion, Concert Choir, Flag Corps, class secretary her junior and senior years, Prom Committee, senior class play, NCCC Select Choir, secretary of Concert Choir and Elite Choir.

Jen has been a volunteer at Community Bible School and Windsor Locks Elementary PTO. Took dancing classes from her first year in school till the tenth ... has kept busy as babysitter for friends/relatives and has worked at

Dairy Cream during the summer months.

Awards include the following ... School and Community Service Leadership for work on Junior Prom, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Daughters of the American Revolution, and All Academic (94 average or better).

And speaking of relatives ... a short history lesson on family background ... The family goes way back to the voyage of the famed Mayflower, which had as one of the passengers a relative named Mary Chilton. The family are members of the Mayflower Society. And during the American Revolution, Jen's great-great-great-great-grandfather, William Patterson Smith, was a "brave soldier and saw action," according to a proud Jennifer.

Reactions and comments on Jen's DAR award, with Jen saying, "I worked hard all year, my parents were pleased and proud."

Next month, Jen and Mary Conway, principal of the Windsor Locks High School, will attend a dinner in honor of all the winners from the state, at a local restaurant. Jen said she has applied for a DAR scholarship.

How the award was chosen ... three students were nominated by the school faculty, then students voted, with Jen the winner. The decision was based on the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.



From top to bottom: Jennifer, Julianne, Melissa, and Anthony Smith

Jen was asked who was her role model ... "My father, a very determined and high-spirited individual, a very positive person, nothing brings him down."

### Epilogue

Jennifer Ellen Smith, certainly the apple does not fall far from the tree. She is also very determined and a positive young student who lives each day to the fullest.

As the commercial says, "Life is a journey... enjoy the ride" ... and Ms. Smith does.

# Judy Martin — meet the

Since August 1997, Judith Miller Martin has been the town's postmaster. The Enfield native has been employed by the postal service for more than 10 years.

Judith, better known as Judy, held the position of letter carrier in Hartford, then was appointed into management supervision, until her position as postmaster at the Main Street location of our post office, a fixture alongside Bickford Home Care Center and Dexter Plaza, since 1965.

Some family background on Judy, mother of two, the daughter of Donald and Theresa Clairmont Miller. Mr. Miller came from Michigan, met Theresa, a native of Massachusetts, when he was in the Navy. He is a retired Enfield policeman. They have a son Mitch who lives in Florida and another daughter Sharon, who resided in Enfield.

Judy is a 1977 grad of Fermi High School in Enfield, and recalled at our meeting, in her office on Main Street, saying, "When I graduated, I wanted to get married and have a family, my career goal at the time."

She and Christopher Robert Martin were married on July 30, 1977, and have been residents of Enfield since the wedding day.

Chris has been employed at Hamilton Standard for the past 21 years, currently in quality control. He's a 1975 grad of Fermi, the son of "Moe" Martin, former postal supervisor at Bradley Field's post office. Chris is a member of the Enfield Knights of Columbus.

They have two children, Joshua Tadd Martin and Katie Lynn Martin. Joshua, 18, attends Central Connecticut with political science his major. He spent a year in Germany (1995-1996) as an exchange student, "loved it, would go back," he said, adding that he enjoyed skiing in Europe. In addition to college, he is a member of the Air National Guard at Bradley.

Katie, 17, a senior at Fermi High School (the family high school - Joshua was a 1997 grad), is captain of the school's volleyball team and softball team. The following are her words of wisdom, "If you don't

have a ball in your hands, it's not a sport."

Katie has applied to Westfield State College, with elementary education as her goal.

Back to Judy and Chris ... both took up skiing this year on the slopes of Massachusetts. Judy said, when it comes to hobbies, "Working with exchange students as part of the Education Foundation."

Over the years (since 1989) the Martin family has had nine exchange students at their home, from Asia, South America and Europe. The foundation has brought to this country 103 students to the homes of different families.

Actually the main family hobby is traveling, with trips to Europe and Mexico. Spectator sports would mean divided loyalty. Chris is a Red Sox fan, while Judy cheers for those Yankees in New York City. Music means the top 40s, "ER" on television and Steven Segal in the movies for Judy, and also Mr. George Clooney. When it comes to food, "all ethnic," she said.

Back to the post office. Judy is a member of the National League of Postmasters and National Postmasters Association.

In Enfield a member of the "Safeguard Committee of Graduation" of Enfield High School seniors.

Before her career in the postal service Judy worked eight years at the New England Health and Racquet in Enfield.

In 1987, she applied for the position of letter carrier at the Hartford Post Office and was assigned to the St. Francis Hospital area.

She said she loved "being a carrier." But, "wanted a change," and went into the management supervision area, first in Hartford, Bloomfield and then Rocky Hill. In 1997, was appointed the Windsor Locks postmaster.

When asked for the record (so that citizens in town can visualize the number of pieces of mail on a daily basis (from Hartford) for delivery to homes and businesses: "Twenty-eight thousand pieces daily, weekly, 154,000."

Any problems at the post office?

## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

## New face

A profile of the town's newest postmaster.

— page 6

## town's newest postmaster



The Martin family and friends: from top, Katie, Josh, Kris, a German exchange student; middle row, Chris and Judy; bottom row, Jazzy, another German exchange student and Dylan, the family pet.

"Probably our biggest problem is the consideration for safety of our employees — dogs, weather and driveways."

When asked about her future, "I'm very happy as postmaster, I like being postmaster of Windsor Locks."

From the post office manual, "The goal, to satisfy the customers, improve employee and organizational effectiveness and to improve financial performance."

We shared an article in "Time," quotes from the U.S Postmaster General Marvin Runyon, in the battle to deliver mail in one form or another.

"At issue, is the survival of the postal service and its commitment to universal service from everyone from AT&T executives to Alaskan homesteaders, we deliver to every house in America six days a week, no competitor can touch that."

When asked who she most admired, it was not a surprise, "Don Pelliter (now

Vernon postmaster) when I worked in Rocky Hill, was my mentor, convinced me to be a postmaster, he greatly influenced me and that I should seek the job (because) it is an honor and very important being a postmaster."

Judy's personal philosophy "I believe what we do with our children (as to education, love) will be our future (our family and country)."

### Epilog

We all take for granted the daily mail deliveries, by our post offices around the country.

Certainly, the famed motto of the postal system needs repeating (and what better than a story of the Windsor Locks postmaster). "Neither snow, rain, heat and gloom of night stayed these couriers from the swift complement of the appointed rounds ..."

MARCH 13, 1998

# TownsPeople

## Meet the Thompson family -

We made arrangements to interview Jim Thompson Sr. and his family last month regarding the Northern Connecticut Hockey Association that Jim Jr. is a part of. We also found a family involved in other activities such as youth football, soccer and Little League.

However, they are primarily a hockey family, especially at this time of the year, having just returned from a four-day memorable trip to hockey country - Montreal, Canada - where the family cheered for Jim Jr. and his team, the Black Bears, member of the Connecticut league.

The Thompson clan includes dad; Cheryl, their number one fan and mother; Jim Jr.; and the next hockey player in the family, Michael.

Young Mike is already learning the fundamentals of the game in the family parlor and the Thompson driveway where the neighborhood kids all congregate and decide who's Wayne Gretzky or Mario Lemieux. (More on Gretzky later.)

But first, more on the family of James Douglas Thompson Sr., who was born in Portland, Maine, the son of Joyce Benefield Thompson, who was a native of Hartford and still resides in the capital city.

Jim has a brother Richard Tracy of Windsor Locks and a sister Joy Sedor of Enfield.

When Jim was a year old, the family moved to Windsor Locks. He attended local schools and graduated from WLHS, class of 1985, where he played football two years under Coach Pat Scelza.

Football was not his only sport. Over a 15-year period, Jim played deck hockey in town and two years ice hockey at the Enfield Twin Rinks.

After high school, Jim went to work at the J.C. Penney Warehouse in Manchester for two years, followed by his current employment the past nine years at the

Teleflex Inc.-Fluid System in Suffield (Aero Space).

The mother of the clan - Cheryl Whelan Thompson, originally from Wethersfield, when at two years, the family moved to Windsor Locks. She is the daughter of Michael and Mary Ann Cusick Whelan, both of Hartford, now living in town.

Mr. Whelan and family were subjects of C&K back in May of 1991. He's a former U.S. Marine and retired from the

Connecticut State Police.

They have two other daughters, Michele and Marie of Windsor Locks.

Cheryl was a WLHS grad, class of 1983, where she played field

hockey and admitted (at the time) to be "quiet and shy." Cheryl went on to Bay Path, earning an associate degree in computer sciences, and also attended Central Connecticut State University.

The past 10 years, Cheryl has been employed at the Cedarcrest Hospital in Newington in human resources and now as personnel officer.

More on the Thompson boys - Jim Jr., 9, in the fourth grade at South School, enjoys math; after homework, the favorite television channel Nickelodeon is on, but hockey is his sport, but he does add soccer, youth football as a kicker, and third baseman in Little League, farm team last year.

On the subject of sports, Jim Sr. has always been there as coach in youth football, a year of coach in ice hockey and Little League. Jim had played five years in the popular local sport of flag football.

Now, for the future hockey player - Michael James Thompson, 3 and growing, enjoy "Rug Rats" on TV and when it comes to hockey (in the house) a game called knee hockey.

When it comes to hobbies (yes, they do other things), Jim Jr. and his dad, into mountain bikes, sometimes in East Granby, Mt.

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

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## - 'Hockey R Us' & more



**The Thompson Family**

Tom, also with Jim Sr.'s brother Richard, with Jim saying, "We would ride anywhere."

Jim Jr. is a Yankee fan, with dad a fan of the Cincinnati Reds, the family are all UConn basketball fans, boys and girls. Cheryl is a "spectator fan," watching the boys ... enjoys baking and reading novels. Jim Sr. is a sports fan even in television viewing, with Cheryl a fan of stories on "Melrose."

The Wayne Gretzky connection - Jim Jr. and his dad waited in a Hartford hotel lobby for two hours for the great one to appear to sign autographs.

Mr. Gretzky finally showed up. A large crowd of young fans were there. Jim Jr. made it all worthwhile with a signed picture by the popular hockey player, who now plays for the New York Rangers.

Jim Jr. has several pictures of Gretzky and also pictures of himself in sports he participates in, all in plastic. Real neat, I must say.

More on the Black Bears - the team plays other teams all over the state, with their home base the Enfield Twin Rinks. As men-

tioned, the Montreal trip was great for the family, with the team coming in second place.

Speaking of hockey, something not strange in this family, yes, they said, the Whalers leaving was sad, have gone to a few games of the new team in town, the Wolf Pack.

Another organization that Jim Sr. is a member, the local Polish Club, with "his many Polish friends" and where the annual Youth Football banquet is held.

Jim Sr., when asked for a philosophy of life, said, "Take care of our kids, be happy." Asked about who may have influenced them, Jim said, "My mother, single parent (for years), easy to talk to, very understanding and down to earth." Cheryl said, "My father. I'm a daddy's girl."

### **Epilog**

That's the Hockey R US/& More - the Thompson family. Considering all the sports they are involved with, the following words ring true: "Through sports, a parent (or coach) can offer a boy a way to sneak up on the mystery of manhood."

# Amy Becker -

Amy Kristine Becker, with talent spread over several categories, from hockey to softball, honors at WLHS, CCD teacher at St. Mary's Church, with high hopes for college, be it years of training to be a veterinarian or science teacher.

Constant examples of hard work and perseverance has been the ever present steady influence of her parents, Joe II and Terri Becker, who have set lofty hopes for their daughter, themselves busy individuals locally, Joe at Hamilton-Standard and Terri as a school bus driver.

Not waiting in the wings, but on the rink himself, we have Joe III, a hockey player emulating his sister and father, coach and former player, at the Enfield Twin Rinks.

Yes, truly a hockey family, with dad first on the skates as a young boy, followed by Amy and now Joe III, always close behind, the mother of this clan, driver, cheer leader and moral booster.

But this is a story of Amy, however, we would be remiss if we did not list the other members of the family and their background and achievements.

Her father, Joseph II, son of Joseph Becker Sr. and Bernice Becker of Windsor Locks. The younger Joe was a 1974 graduate of WLHS. After high school, Joe entered the field of real estate for a period of four years, then found his niche as an employee of Hamilton-Standard since 1978, now in the purchasing department. Joe has earned an associate's degree from Asnuntuck College in business. More on his sports activities later.

Her mother, Terri Juliano Becker, a native of Windsor, WHS class of 1975, daughter of Tony and Christine Juliano of Windsor. Terri earned a degree from UConn (sociology) in 1979. The past 10 years she has been a bus driver in our school system, starting when Amy was in kindergarten.

Joe and Terri were married on Oct. 26, 1979, have lived in his hometown since their wedding day. How did they meet? Both were working at Hardee's (Route 75) during high school days. Terri has a sister Geri and a brother named Tony. Joe comes from a large family — seven sisters and two brothers.

Her brother, Joe III, will be 11 on March 27, in the fifth grade at South, favorite subject is math/science, enjoys "Home Improvement" on television. In addition to hockey, he played Little League the past

four years, now in the "majors." More on his hockey later.

Amy, the girl with the infectious smile, a sophomore at the Raider School, her favorite subject science, looking forward to graduation in the year 2000. Yes, Amy already has plans for college (she applied to several colleges) with Niagara University in New York her first choice, as of now.

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## cabbages and kings jack redmond

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At WLHS, Amy is on the school softball team, under Coach Pat Scelza, "a good coach," she said. She is a recent beginner to the game of golf (at Airways) with the help of her grandfather, Tony Juliano.

Amy began her hockey career at the age of 6, "because my Dad played," was her memory of the first try on skates. Today she plays hockey on a Triple A Girls Hockey team. Amy has been on boys' teams and has played with most of the boys on the Suffield/Windsor Locks/Granby high school co-op teams. This year, she tried out for an elite women's hockey team called The Connecticut Clippers.

Amy had tried out at the Pee Wee level but was selected to play at the midget level which is a level up. This select team includes hockey talent from Connecticut, Massachusetts and as far away as New York, and has won against select teams from New Jersey, New York and New Hampshire. In addition, they have played teams in Canada, including Toronto and Montreal (McGill University's Women's Team).

Amy sometimes practices or has games five out of seven days per week, her home ice Simsbury and Cromwell. Amy plays defense and right wing, and, yes, she has a "hat trick" to her credit. (To non-hockey fans, a hat trick is three goals in a game).

Does she have any favorites in pro hockey? The Pittsburgh Penguins and Phoenix Coyotes, favorite player Mario Lemieux. At one time she did follow the Hartford Whalers, remember them? Her reaction to the Olympic and the gold won by the USA Women's Team: "I watched on television. ... My favorite player was Karyn Bye."

# TownsPeople

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## - multitalented and hockey family plus



Amy Becker, in full hockey gear

Now the big question: the winter games in the year 2002 at Salt Lake City? She was affirmative when asked if she would love to play with the USA team.

As Amy said, it was because of her dad playing hockey.... Joe II played ice hockey for years, very involved in the town's deck hockey league, today still put on the skates at Twin Rinks in league with players 18 and older. Joe III plays in the Northern Connecticut Youth Hockey League at the Twin Rinks/Loomis in Windsor, with games all over the state, a game he has played since he was four.

Back to Amy. A proud mother's comments on Amy: "We are all proud of Amy for what she has accomplished. She wanted to play on the high school hockey team, but I was afraid she would get hurt. There is no checking in women's hockey. Amy played checking hockey up to last season. Many people do not know the level of hockey she plays.... She is the only girl that plays hockey at Windsor Locks High School. She gives up a lot because of hockey and still manages to make the honor roll each marking period and teach CCD each week at St. Mary's."

More on Amy and hockey, by her mother. "One of the girls on the USA Olympic team was from the Polar Bears, which is the organization Amy played for last year. Amy is a likely candidate to be on one of the first women's professional ice hockey teams should she choose to do so."

Some more information on the family: Vacations have been to Florida, Rhode Island, Washington, D.C. and up to Maine. As mentioned Terri, the busy mother, in addition to her bus driving duties, is secretary to the Parks and Recreation Department, under David Farr. She's the chief roofer for Amy, Joe II and Joe III. Joe II also is a driver to the games of their children. Joe III collects all kinds of cards and has a buddy, the family dog, Kellie. Amy at times finds the one hobby at home, making photo albums, and must not forget to mention she was in Girl Scouts for four years. A busy group down through the years.

Amy was asked who she admired. "My father, because if you want something (done), he'll do it." She also has a few favorite sayings: "Don't say 'can't', and 'You can't always get what you want.'"

Epilog from the Boston Globe: There was a time not long ago when the idea of women playing hockey would have been laughed at. No more. Nagano opened its arms to the fledgling sport and exposed it to millions of people around the world." As you probably know by now, three of the hockey players were from Connecticut: Sue Metz, Gretchen Ulion and A.J. Mieczko.

The Becker family and now one of the newest fans of Amy Becker have high hopes that she will be on the ice in Salt Lake City. We'll all be watching.

# TownsPeople

## Shirley Grandahl can be called

Shirley Wheaton Grandahl, our resident author, is a survivor of cancer.

Her experiences as a cancer patient are told in a book co-authored with Rose Welsh, also a survivor of cancer (not in remission), entitled "Cancer S.O.S. Strategies of Survival. A Guidebook for Women with Cancer." Mrs. Grandahl's cancer is in remission.

We had the pleasure of meeting and talking to this remarkable woman last month, after her daughter, Diane Grandahl Pomeroy, had requested we interview her mother, who, in collaboration with Mrs. Welsh, had co-authored a book on survival of cancer.

Some background on Shirley and family, before the illness consumed her life.

Shirley is a native of Windsor, the daughter of the late Arnold Wheaton and Marion Hartmann Wheaton, who continues to make her home in Windsor. Shirley has three brothers: Robert and Jerry of Windsor and Bill of Enfield. A brother Jim is deceased.

An honors student at Windsor High School, class of 1964, with Shirley saying, "Just a student who worked after school."

Her plans, immediately

after high school, were to go to college (which she eventually did). However, marriage to Russell Milton Grandahl on June 19, 1964 changed those plans. They met on a "blind date" in

employee of Hamilton-Standard.

Barbara and Anthony Spadafora live in town with their daughter Alyssa. Anthony works at Aquatech Lawn Sprinklers in town.

### cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

high school. Russell and Shirley lived in the Windsor area before moving to California for a year on business, and now reside in Windsor Locks.

Russell is the son of the late Russell and Leahbelle Grandahl, who is also a native of Windsor, grad of the high school, class of 1963, where he played football and baseball. His brother Richard is deceased.

Russell attended the University of Hartford at night, with classes in electrical engineering. The past 15 years he has been associated with Technology Sales as manufacturers representative.

They have four children - Diane, Barbara, James and Jill. Diane is married to Kevin Pomeroy and they live in Windsor Locks with their three children, Kristina, Melissa and Shaelyn. Kevin is an

James and his wife Robyn Day Grandahl live in Dallas, Texas. James is employed by Primeco Pcs.

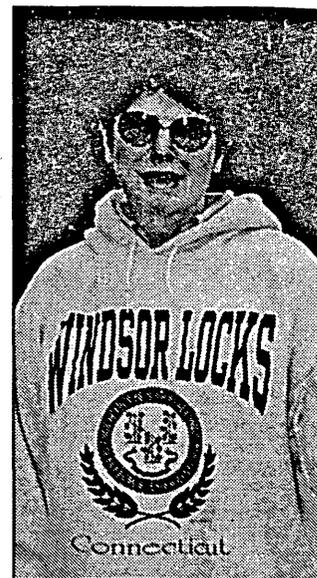
Jill and Robert Lee reside in Cromwell, with Robert in charge of Lee Builders in that community.

Russell and Shirley have been active in the Poquonock community Church ... "our whole life."

Russell spent two years in the U.S. Navy, in reserves and on active duty during the Vietnam War.

Shirley, when asked about interests/hobbies (they never stopped thinking of things they enjoyed), saying, "We are outdoor people, be it hiking, biking or skiing, have a garden, enjoy the fresh air. While indoors, I'm an avid reader, a collector of dolls and a writer, for sure, magazines."

Russell is into golf, also teaching Shirley the finer points of the game, with her



Shirley Grandahl

saying, "Russell plays any place, and badly!" Come July, they are volunteers at the GHO in Cromwell (their first year).

Other spectator sports include Red Sox and UConn basketball teams. Shirley's love of music goes from classical to country. On the television, they are fans of "Spin City" and "Frasier," and we must not forget the family cat "Max."

Back to Shirley's employment - was a "Kelly Girl" (temporary) as secretary, drove a school bus in Windsor for several years, went on to Asnuntuck College earning an associate's degree (liberal arts) in 1986, had classes at Central,

MARCH 27, 1998

## a cancer victor, not victim

and looking back said, "I love (the time) in college."

After college, Shirley worked as an editorial assistant for Avionics Magazine in Hartford, followed by some freelance writing and then desktop publishing, secretarial work and eventually went to work in the career counseling office at Trinity College.

Shirley stated, "After my illness, I did not go back to regular work. Instead, I stayed home, enjoyed being alive, and began writing on a regular basis."

The Illness: Shirley was not even sick when she scheduled a physical before training for a marathon. An abnormal blood test alerted her doctor that something was not right. She was later diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia, as mentioned, now "in remission."

Rose was diagnosed with breast cancer/ovarian cancer

and, as mentioned, now "not in remission."

The Book: "Cancer S.O.S...." or how the book developed - with Rose living in Lake Mary, Fla. They knew each other, calls between them for support in their illnesses ... the idea of a book took shape, explaining their own experiences with cancer, as the introduction of their book states, "A guidebook written for women who must battle cancer by women who have battled cancer."

The book gives advice from their own experiences as well as from other cancer patients, doctors and nurses they have interviewed.

Shirley further stated, "Our big break came when the magazine Better Homes & Gardens (Feb. 1998) validated the book."

It took two years to write,

**CABBAGES/page 6**

## Cabbages and Kings profile

Continued from page 5

which included the following scenario of events and modern technology, several visits by Shirley to Florida, with each of them writing chapters, then the review of said chapter, making good use of fax machines, the Internet and then (as all writers face problems or rejections by publishers), but success was theirs. Seven months after the book was finished, publication of the book was with Alba Publishing Inc., Lake Mary, Fla.

Some comments from the book:

• "Technically, Shirley was the

one with leukemia. But, realistically, we had it. This battle was not hers alone, it was ours." Russ (Shirley's husband)

• (After the diagnosis) "I went jogging. I guess I thought I could run away from the news. Then I came home and cried a lot." Shirley

• "Rose and Shirley have blended their own stories of triumph, humor and wisdom from having been there. I highly recommend and endorse this book as reference for any woman with cancer and their loved ones." Susan L. Curry, M.D., The Women's Center for

### Radiology

In the book, as part of Shirley's own introduction, she has this to say, "Cancer is about survival. The road to survival is knowledge and hope. The purpose of this book is to provide you with both."

Shirley on Russ: "I admire Russ's character immensely and have always been inspired by his strength of character and conviction. He is the most moral, honest, caring person I know and has overcome great hardship to become the man he is today. He is my strength and inspiration."

Russ has this philosophy: "Life is a trip, enjoy the journey." His favorite saying, "The place to be happy is here. The time to be

happy is now. The way to be happy is to make others so." (Robert Ingersoll)

Russ has a word for Shirley, "feisty." Admires her strength, intellect and integrity. Her philosophy of life: "Limitations exist only in the mind" and her favorite saying, "Never put off 'til tomorrow what you can put off 'til the day after."

Shirley's plans for the future: "To stay in remission, develop my writing, preferably not as a freelancer. I would love to work again for a magazine or periodical, or as an editorial assistant on any publication."

"Mostly, my plans for the future are to just enjoy it. I have a won-

derful husband, four terrific children, and four beautiful granddaughters to love and enjoy. By the time this interview goes to press, grandchild number 5 should be a reality. I have an endless list of plans and dreams that include climbing Mt. Washington again, riding my bike from coast to coast, hiking in Alaska, biking in Europe, learning how to play the flute and writing a really good novel. I have no idea which category any of these fall into and don't actually care. "It's enough for me to just keep thinking of the future!"

Another quote from the book: "A conquering hero (that's you) wins the cancer battle! Be a victor, not a victim."

APRIL 3, 1998

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## Benjamin Simborski Jr.

Lately its been my pleasure and learning experience going back to the town's schools, so to speak, interviewing principals, teachers and students — the latest (last month) was with a young and vibrant general music teacher at North and South Schools, Benjamin or Ben or even Benjy Simborski.

If Benjamin Joseph Simborski Jr. had a theme song it would probably be Barry Manilow's great hit ... "I write the songs that make the whole world sing ..."

And being true to Mr. Manilow's song, if Ben had his way, songs would be sung by kids in kindergarten to senior citizens. Ben sets the example at school, with the following daily class exercises ... "An active class, with singing, dancing and playing an instrument," the routine at North and South Schools.

Let's find out what makes Mr. Simborski ... or what music lovers might play ... go up the scale with Ben.

Ben is a native of Somers, Connecticut, and makes his home there. He is the son of Ben Sr. and Bernice Chemielowski Simborski, who also reside in Somers. Ben Sr. was from Somers, Bernice, an Agawam native. Ben Sr. worked at Pratt & Whitney for over 40 years, now retired veteran of World War II in the Pacific Theater, as member of the Navy Air Corps. Ben has two sisters, Joan of Houston, Texas, and Roseanne of Stonington, Ct.

Ben graduated from Somers High School, Class of 1990, played all sorts of sports with friends, in high school, a member of the jazz band and active in the school's musical (came to the right town). Ben took the part of Fagin in "Oliver," and Professor Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady." His instruments at the time, clarinet and drums.

Looking back at his youth. "Worked one day on tobacco ... not too long at an ice cream shop, after I left the ice-cream machine on ... but in the summer months served as camp counselor... got a good tan."

# TownsPeople

## music man at North and South schools

He admitted he was not sure of a career after high school, with the first step attending University of Hartford, and 1995 received a degree in music education.

He was on his way. In November of '95, became a part-

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### cabbages and kings

jack redmond

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time teacher in Somers elementary schools teaching band. Then he spent a year in one of Springfield's parochial schools (K-8) teaching music.

In September of 1997, became a full time substitute teacher in town, general music at South and North Schools. (At South with Mr. Frank Rendon)

How about hobbies for this busy music man? "I write my own songs, eat and sleep music ... play in two bands (just getting started) called "Bravo Sierra" and "Perry Como Estás." Adding, "I sing with the bands, play guitar and other instruments."

One vacation that stands out for Ben ... a trip to the Big Apple, New York City and Greenwich Village, with these words, "Fell in love with the city." And a musical vacation was to the music city, Nashville, and quick trip to Memphis, Tenn. In Nashville, visited Sun Studios where the great Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis got their starts in show business.

When it comes to spectator sports, Ben is a big pro football fan, both Dallas and Miami, and a Red Sox fan since he was a kid. Oh yes, another hobby he loves to eat: pizza, Chinese and spicy foods his choice menu picks.

How about Ben's favorites when it comes to music? ... rock and roll, singer, David Bowie, band, "Radiohead," and



**Ben Simborski in New York City**  
musical "Damn Yankees."

Asked about who he most admired ... "My mother, a woman filled with love and selflessness." Ben's favorite saying. Feel the emotion. When queried about his own philosophy of life, he said, (figuratively speaking) "The only way to grow, is to let go of the steering wheel."

Ben's future plans ... "Find a nice mix between teaching and performing." With Ben's close working relationship with Frank Rendon .... how about the same closing words ... "Without music, life is a journey through a desert."

## Meet the active and always on

If you were ever involved with singing groups, Power Company, Vocal Motion or Nutmeg Show Choir Festival, the Boy Scouts, Little League (a few years back) ) you certainly would remember the work and dedication of Marc, Tricia, Michelle and Keith Sevigny.

The Sevigny family is the epitome of involvement and volunteerism even today, with a full schedule, freely admitting, "Not much free time," when it comes to hobbies. Their involvement is probably their main hobby.

It did not take long (at our interview last month, right after the Nutmeg Show) to find Marc and Tricia dedicated to activities of their two children in their adopted town.

Tricia said, "Running with the kids," is the first priority. You just know they would not want it any other way. Their schedule also includes full time, Marc at Hamilton-Standard and Tricia with Walgreens in Enfield.

Marc and Tricia, both natives of Frog Hollow, the south end of Hartford. Marc is a grad of Prince Tech in 1973, with Tricia a grad in 1975 from South Catholic High School. They met as workers in a now long gone drug store, called Foster Heights, when they were students at their respective schools.

Marc is the son of the late Roger Sevigny, who was from Fall River, Mass., retired from Hamilton-Standard. Marc's mother, Lucille Nadeau Sevigny, still



**The Sevigny Family**

resides in her hometown of Hartford. Marc is one of 11 children of Roger and Lucille - Joe, Pete, Bob, Gerald, Ted and Mike, with sisters Roseanne, Dianne, Corinne and Michelle.

After Prince Tech, Marc, who had taken classes to be an electrician, attended State Technical College, earning an associate's degree (1975) in electrical engineering.

His first position was with a Newington dairy as the maintenance electrician and handy man for a three-year period. Then Marc joined Hamilton-Standard and come this winter he will have completed 20 years with the local com-

pany. Currently, he is involved with the ATLAS Development Group (software for test equipment).

Marc's further education included receiving his bachelor's degree and now working on an M.B.A. at Rensselaer in Hartford.

Tricia French Sevigny, the number one fan in the family, is the daughter of Robert and Therese French, who are now retired and enjoying life on Cape Cod. Robert worked for Metropolitan District, with Therese a member of the nursing profession.

Tricia has four sisters - Maggie, Kacey, Anne and Mary.

During her years at South

## Cabbages and Kings: meet the Sevigny family

# the go Sevigny family

Catholic, Tricia was very involved (the beginning of concern for others) with handicapped children. As for sports, she was a member of the school's ski club.

Tricia's experience at the drug store, where she met Marc, gave her start as to a career, a pharmacy technician in

Simsbury (Medi-Mart) for two years. The past 15 years she has been with Walgreens, as their bookkeeper and price administrator.

In 1990, Tricia earned an associate's degree in business administration at Asnuntuck Community College.

Marc and Tricia were married on April 21, 1976, lived in Hartford for two years, before moving to their current home in Windsor Locks. (1978).

Their two children ... Michelle and Keith: Michelle a WLHS grad, class of 1997, was a member and one of the founders of the Leo Club (connected with the Lions). In sports, an avid skier, president of the school's National Honor Society. Today, a freshman at UConn, studying education. During her high school years, Michelle worked at ABB in Windsor and continues now on weekends part time.

Keith, a second-year student at the Raider school, has been with Vocal Motion the two years, for-

merly with the middle school's Power Company.

At Middle, Keith had the part of Fagen in the popular musical "Oliver." Today, he is anxiously

waiting for spring baseball practice, when he tries out for the school team, as outfielder.

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## cabbages and kings

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jack redmond

Keith played Little League in town, T-Ball to Seniors, with dad as coach, and must not forget, Michelle played Little League softball. Oh yes, with proud mom, of course, their biggest fan.

More on Keith, plays the alto sax in the high school Jazz Band. He's been a Boy Scout for years, with dad again the busy parent as assistant scoutmaster, Troop 261. Keith needs one more badge to attain the high rank of Eagle Scout.

In school, he's a member of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a group of students (18 from Windsor Locks, 5 from Suffield) working with Hamilton-Standard engineers (which includes Marc), with Dave Leenhouts as lead engineer.

Marc and Tricia admitted, "Not much time for hobbies," with scouting, sports, FIRST and Vocal Motion. They do follow the Red Sox and, of course, the UConn

CABBAGES/page 12

basketball teams.

Previous vacations have included DisneyWorld in Florida, DisneyLand in California, and even DisneyLand in beautiful Paris, (1994).

They also admit, not much for television, but there are a few programs they watch - "X-Files," "3rd Rock From the Sun" and "Star Trek: Voyager." Marc is a member of the South Windsor KofC organization.

The Nutmeg Show Choir Festival, second year for Marc

and Tricia as co-treasurers, which is staged at the high school (every year) on the first Saturday of March. They said 15 schools participated (sold out performances) with funds going for new customs (Vocal Motion) scholarships for seniors towards college.

When asked for role model or who may have had influence on their lives ... both agreed, "The late Miss Motto, math teacher (7 & 8 grades) at Batchelder School in Hartford, who was from the old school of teaching, cared about her students and (only) expected the best from them."

Marc's personal philosophy, "Do your best (and as the

late and former college basketball coach Jim Valvano once said), 'Never give up.'" How about a family saying "Is your homework done?"

### Epilogue

The Sevigny family is another fine example of parents who donate their time and energy, not only for their children, but for their adopted town. They are POWER(ful) and VOCAL, and like Miss Motto, caring and expect the best. And they are not disappointed.

APRIL 17, 1998

# TownsPeople

## Kathy Munson - choreographer of

Choreographer: "One who creates, arranges, or directs dances for stage performances ..."

We have here in Windsor Locks and area towns, Kathy Munson, choreographer with years of experience, be it at her own dance studio or perennial role in the popular musical shows at the Windsor Locks High School from 1987 to this year's senior production. In addition, Kathy has choreographed musicals in South Windsor and East Granby schools.

We have seen her work on the stage for years, we met her last month at the Middle School.

Kathleen Scavetta Munson is a friendly young woman, we wanted to know more about the girl who has danced up a storm, so to speak, since she was only 3 and now mother of two girls and one boy, and yes, they all dance, she said.

Let's go back, Kathy is the daughter of the late Vincent Scavetta, who retired from G. Fox. Kathy's mother is Ruth Michaelsen Scavetta, who was from Hartford, and now a resident of Wethersfield. Kathy has a brother Mark, who makes his home in Boston.

Kathy grew up in East Hartford, a grad of East Catholic High School, Class of 1971. She was a member of the school's drill team, performed as dancer at football and basketball games.

With her early beginning at dance school, by the time she was a sixth grader Kathy was teaching other students the fine art of dancing. She assisted the dance instructor, who had taught her more about dance routines.

Originally Kathy wanted to be a teacher, however, her career took on a different turn, but not for long. She attended secretarial school in Hartford, her first job with Fuller Brush, until it closed, and their move to the state of Kansas. Our gain was that she stayed in the Nutmeg State.

With no job, her final career move, opened her own dance studio in Glastonbury, the year was 1975. She was dance instructor for many young folks in that area for 15 years, closed up when she had their second child.

Let's again go back a few years. Kathy would be at the dance studio at night, days worked at Travelers where she met Donald Munson Jr.

They were married on Nov. 23, 1985, had lived in Suffield five years, then moved to their current home in South Windsor.

Don is the son of the late Donald Sr., who retired from Roncari. Don's mother Sadie Spalluto Munson is a native of Windsor Locks. Don Jr. has four brothers, Gary, Brian, twins Bob and Dick, all reside in Windsor Locks, and two sisters, Carol who lives in Suffield, and Patty in the southern state of Louisiana.

Don is a grad of WLHS, Class of 1977, where he was a member of the marching and jazz bands. He went on to UConn (college marching band) and received his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1981.

His first accounting position was with Coopers & Lybrand. After two years, joined Travelers and today is vice president of annuities.

The children of Don and Kathy: Meghan 10, Katherine 8 and Donald III is 7. Meghan is in the fourth grade at the Philip

R. Smith School in South Windsor. She's into soccer and plays the viola.

Katherine in the third grade at Smith, plays the piano and also in the game of soccer at school. Don number three, second grade, plays the piano, soccer, Little League and just starting at hockey (ice) at Bolton Arena, with some time at floor hockey.

As mentioned, all took dancing lessons at mom's studio, and that includes dad. A dancing family. But in the winter months they may be skiing at Okemo Mountain in Vermont. Other vacations have been to Florida, Bermuda, St. Thomas and Cancun. Oh, must not forget, the Munson family are all Yankee fans.

Kathy's studio is in South Windsor, which she opened in 1992, calls it Footloose Dance Academy with tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical and aerobatics.

Besides the family taking lessons at Footloose, Kathy has had several of the former Hartford Whalers as dance students (with wives), Mark and Marty Howe and other hockey players, with disco in mind, at the (then) Glastonbury studio a few years back.

Kathy's credentials as choreographer, Power Company for three years, Vocal Motion the past nine years, (began in 1988). Her connections with the Windsor Locks Seniors began in 1987, with "Bye Bye Birdie" to this year's "How To Succeed ..."

Looking back to all those years, "So much fun, something I like to do, working with kids, it's not just a job ... always look forward coming to the studio."

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**cabbages and kings**  
jack redmond

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## local performances



**The Munson family**

Speaking of admiration, "My parents were always encouraging me in everything I wanted to do, and (helped) behind the scenes." Her philosophy, "You never know if you can't do something, if you don't try." On her husband Don, "very supportive."

### **Epilog**

Kathy Munson has been "footloose" and fancy free, since she was 3 and has taken along (for each step) Don Jr., Don III, Meghan and Katherine to enjoy the ride.

She's been an important part of school musicals, bringing the taste and sounds of Broadway to three towns.

APRIL 24, 1998

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## Meet Romita Ahluwalia - an

Romita Ahluwalia, better known to her family and classmates at South Street School as just Ro.

Ten years old, in the fifth grade, Ro was featured in the Hartford Courant's column, well known to the South School students, called "In Your Face."

Ro, also known as "Mitu" at home, is the daughter of Romi and Rita Arora Ahluwalia, both natives of India, who are very much at home in the United States, Romi since 1980, Rita since 1985.

Last year, the family's story was told in the Windsor Locks Journal as a local family celebrating India's 50th birthday. Romi has been involved as a member of the board of directors ... India Association of Greater Hartford for more than 18 years.

Before detailing the activities and future plans of Ro ... some background on her parents. Oh yes, Ro has a sister Amrita, 7 1/2, a student at the North Street School.

Arvinder Singh Ahluwalia, known to his business associates and friends as just Romi, was educated in India, receiving a bachelor's degree in economics.

In 1980, Romi left his native town of Betul, in central India, the nearest large city to New Delhi, capital of India. Romi said, "I left India for better opportunities in the United States."

Rita and Romi were married in 1984, with Romi returning for the wedding, and

Rita coming to the States a year later.

Looking back, Romi said, "The differences in cultures were big, but after 18 years used to the changes." Did he find it difficult to adjust?... "Yes, in the beginning."

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

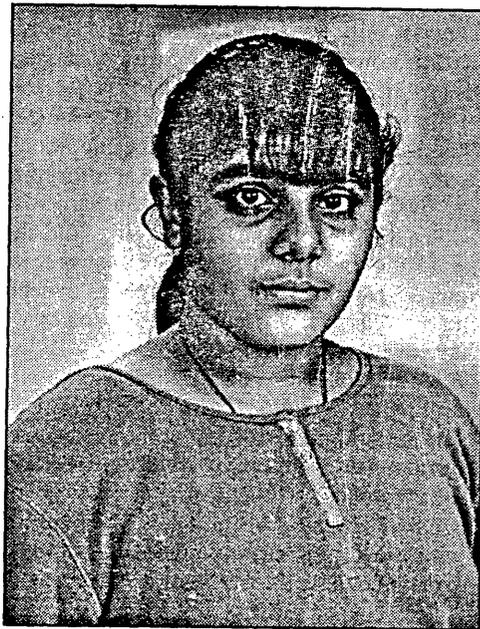
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Romi has worked at Kaman, at a convenience store in town, currently a route salesman for "snacks," in the towns of Windsor Locks, Windsor, Enfield and Stafford Springs. Rita was employed by the New England Bank in Suffield, the past year at Aetna.

Back to our future basketball star ... born in Springfield, began her schooling at the Congregational Church's nursery school downtown, and now at South. Her favorite subject English, is into soccer, swimming and her favorite is basketball. She also enjoys bike riding and working at the family computer.

When it comes to music, pop, rap and Indian are her favorites. When the television is on, it might be "All That, Aaliyah." Just like all kids ... pizza and spaghetti are num-

## active student at South School



**Romita Ahluwalia**

ber one foods.

She's a big UConn (girls) basketball fan, and said, what she plans to do with her life ... "When I grow up I want to be a basketball player! I would like to play for the UConn Huskies. My favorite team, of course, the UConn women's team. My favorite player is Nykesha Sales - No. 42."

And speaking of basketball, Ro enjoys

playing one-on-one basketball with her father or cousin Sam, and chat with her cousin or buddies on the internet.

Her best friends ... "Gina, Veronica and Cristina, because when you need them they are always there for you."

Her sister Amrita, 2nd grade at North, also into basketball and swimming. Enjoys fruit, when it comes to eating, and cartoons on the television.

The girls have their grandparents, aunts and uncles here in the States to share and know the history of their parents' homeland.

The family vacations have included "several trips back to India," which included the famed Taj Mahal, with Ro's comment, "a lot different than the USA." Other trips were to Virginia, New York City, New Jersey, Canada and Pennsylvania.

The journeys back to India by the family have given the girls and opportunity to see and absorb the different cultures of their parents' native country, plus the close relationships of the family in America.

Rita said (in the Windsor Locks Journal article), "I think it is very important to have (the girls) learn Indian cultures," with Romi adding, "It is good for them and good for us."

When Romi was asked, "What do you like about the United States?" ... "Best country," he said.

## James Doherty - Army veteran/former

James Doherty was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., however, at only 13 months old was taken to Scotland, the home country of his parents, who remained in the States.

Young Jim grew up in Glasgow, largest city in Scotland, shipbuilding and manufacturing center, where Nazi bombs would be a part of Jim's memories during World War II. As a student, going to air raid shelters was also a part of his early years in Scotland.

Jim is the son of the late James Sr. and Margaret Doherty, who were both from Glasgow. Mrs. Doherty was a "nanny" in New York and the state of Florida.

Jim's education began in Glasgow, high school years were as machinist apprentice, but he knew at the age of 18 he would have to serve his own country at the time of the Korean War.

He did not have to return to the States, was instead given orders to report to Paris for proper paperwork and further assignment.

In January 1951, Jim was in the U.S. Army and took basic training in Germany assigned to an ordinance group in Bamberg, Germany, for the next three years. During the time spent in Germany, Jim took furloughs visiting grandparents

and mother, who was then living in Scotland at the time.

In 1954, Jim was due for discharge from the army, but this time was returned to the States (Camp Kilmer, N.J.). After the necessary paperwork was completed, now looking back, he recalled, "I

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### cabbages and kings

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jack redmond

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was not sure when it comes to a career path."

He choose to live in Connecticut, where friends lived, and at the time his mother was residing in Old Saybrook.

Jim joined Pratt & Whitney, retiring in 1991 after 37 years with the aircraft, as machinist and process planner.

Jim met his future bride, the late Norabelle Booth Doherty, who was from Pittsburgh, during a month in the summer, when Jim came to Old Saybrook. They were married in 1955, lived in East Hartford a short time, before moving to his current home in Windsor Locks. Norabelle was the daughter of the late John F. Booth and Nora Booth, both

natives of Scotland.

Mrs. Doherty, who passed away in 1996, had received a teaching degree from the University of Pennsylvania, taught school in East Hartford, operated a nursery school in town, in addition to teaching in a nursery school in Enfield.

Norabelle and Jim had three girls ... Cindy, Christine and Patricia, all grads of WLHS. As residents of Windsor Locks, Cindy and her husband Peter Latournes, their two children, Christopher and Paige, were subjects of C&K in October 1997. Peter is an employee of Hamilton-Standard, Cindy is very involved in the music departments of our town's school system.

Christine and Paul Desroches reside in East Windsor with their four children ... Julie, Emily, Scott and Seth. Paul works at the middle school in town.

Patricia Doherty, MSW, a grad of St. Joseph's College, master's in social work from Fordham University in New York City. She lives in Southington and an employee for the town of New Britain.

Back to their busy dad ... Jim's hobbies include making models? ... what kind? ... ships and doll houses, which he has done for years. Jim is

## Pratt & Whitney employee



Jim Dougherty (US Army) on a German lake in the 1950s.

a golfer, and when it's time for the Greater Hartford Open at Cromwell, this year

the week of July 4, Jim's only spectator sport. He did play soccer and cricket as a

young boy in Scotland. Vacation time meant trips to Florida, Virginia and Pennsylvania, with future plans already set for a journey to Alaska.

When asked who he most admired? ... back to his Pratt days ... "I worked with John Fitzpatrick, who now lives at Black Point. We were employees the same length of time ... a very smart individual." Jim's own personal philosophy ... "Plan to stay busy ... (I) want to be on the go."

### Epilogue

James Doherty, in retirement a busy guy, with plans for trips, also a busy grandfather, a man familiar with his parent's homeland, where he grew up, but when the time came, he went on to serve his country as a soldier and later in the nation's defense at Pratt.

*(Editor's note: Story on Jim Doherty marks the 23rd year of "Cabbages & Kings" — 1975 to 1998.)*

## Redmond marks 23 years as

By Alicia B. Smith  
News Editor

"Once in awhile someone will call me," said Jack Redmond. "But that's rare."

Instead the writer, known to regular Windsor Locks Journal readers as the author of "Cabbages and Kings," will continually look for names of people in local newspapers, look to the schools or to his own list of names to find interesting people to interview for his weekly column.

And when Jack says a list, he means it. In his den is a compilation of all the townsfolk he has interviewed in his 23 years with "Cabbages and Kings." He has them listed in alphabetical order by last name and the date when the person was interviewed.

Throughout the years Redmond has interviewed 1,100 individuals. His very first was the late Fire Chief William Reilly. Since that time he has interviewed local politicians, business owners and ordinary townspeople. Other highlights of his career include interviews with celebrities and athletes,



Jack Redmond, writer of the weekly "Cabbages and Kings," sits at his typewriter. The writer has been submitting his column to the Windsor Locks Journal since 1975.

Staff photo by Alicia B. Smith

including former Hartford Whaler Ron Francis.

"I'm not sure if people in town realize what a valuable asset Jack is to the community," said Keith Griffin, managing editor of the

Journal. "Years from now, his chronicles of the 'cabbages and kings' of Windsor Locks will be priceless to people who want to know what our town was like in the last quarter of the 20th century.

INSIDE

### Cabbages Anniversary

Jack Redmond marks 23 years as 'Cabbages & Kings' columnist.

— page 3

## 'Cabbages & Kings' columnist

"Plus, I don't know if Jack realizes this, but he is an important part of the Journal. People tell me one of the first things they do when they pick up the paper is look to see who is profiled in 'Cabbages.' I think that's a great honor," said Griffin, himself a former subject of the column.

"I always wanted to be a writer," said Redmond. His early aspirations as a youth in New Haven, where he grew up, was to be a newspaper reporter. However, he said he was talked out of it. But when a person is bitten by the bug to write, nothing can stop them. Redmond enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Guam and Saipan, there he wrote for the camp newspaper. Later he would submit articles to local newspapers.

And now, once a week he has an interview with a local personality. He then returns home where he writes his column out longhand. Then, seated at his electric typewriter, he writes his weekly column.

His wife Rita then takes a look at his copy and edits the material. The two have been married for

more than 50 years. They have two daughters, Patricia and Nancy and five grandchildren.

Besides writing, Redmond keeps active in other ways. He retired from Combustion Engineering in 1985 and has kept himself busy. He exercises by walking. And he has spent a considerable amount of time out on the greens playing golf, including covering the Greater Hartford Open in Cromwell. He and his wife have travelled all over the world, including such exotic places as Australia, New Zealand and Tahiti.

The couple also volunteer at the information booth at Bradley International Airport. And the 75-year-old columnist, also said that he keeps his mind active. He said he does this by writing.

The people are what keeps his interest. "It is great meeting people. That's the beauty part of it," he said. "You go for one reason and you end up finding where they've travelled to. It's a wonderful thing to know so many people. I think its great."

MAY 8, 1998

## TownsPeople

### Millie Taravella Bushnik; active senior

Mildred Taravella Bushnik ... better known to her many friends, relatives and associates at the local Senior Center as just Millie, of the well known family of Taravellas.

Millie was one of 10 children of the late Andrew and Romelda Taravella, both born in Italy, coming here at an early age, meeting and being married at St. Mary's Church, in 1910.

Andrew Taravella was a machinist with 50 years experience at Pratt & Whitney Tool and United Aircraft.

Millie and I met at her home last month reminiscing of her life in Windsor Locks, family and a diversified career which included service during World War II.

But first, attending St. Mary's School, a year at the high school (in those days located in the current town hall) and going on to the Hartford Trade School to take up the fine art of sewing.

Looking back to those years, Millie said ... "Actually, my first job was sewing, but under conditions I did not like, in addition a short time at Pratt, so in 1943, I decided to join the Women's Army Corps, known as the WACs."

Her war time duty began at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., followed by two years at Dyersburg Air Force Base in Tennessee.

When the war ended in 1945, Millie was sent to Florida for a short time, then to Atlanta at a hospital doing clerical assignments (which she specialized in the service) with eventual discharge from the WACs.

On her return to Windsor Locks, attended secretarial

school to take up bookkeeping, that led to a position with Smith & Fazzina in Hartford for five years, until her marriage to the late Stephen Bushnik, who passed away in 1972. They had met at Smith & Fazzina, married at St. Mary's Church on Oct. 25, 1952. Stephen worked at Smith for 21 years. He was drafted into the army in 1941, served until 1945 in Europe and Africa.

Stephen and Millie have two children ... Paul and Sandra. Paul and his wife Susan Miclon Bushnik reside in Windsor Locks with their two children Steven and Jennifer. Paul is a grad of Northwest Catholic High School and

currently employed with the emission company in Granby.

Sandra, a grad of WLHS in the '70s, and her husband Michael-Howard live in San Diego, Calif., with their daughter Sarah. Mr. Howard works for the U.S. Government.

And speaking of family ... The Taravella Clan ... Millie has three brothers ... Bob of Windsor Locks, featured in C&K in 1978, David who lives in Anaheim, CA., since 1937, and the late Tom Taravella. Six sisters ... the late Mary and Loretta ... Rosemarie, Julie and Anges live in Windsor Locks, and Betty, who resides in sunny Arizona.

Other Taravellas who were interviewed ... Robert Taravella, the banker in 1977, and a young couple Ed and Gina, and daughter Rose in 1992. Millie said, "We are all closely related in town."

Millie also mentioned ... "Our parents were grand parents of 27, and great-grandparents of 34." Adding, "Yes, we usually have family yearly reunions (with also some friends) at

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cabbages  
and kings  
jack redmond

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## /from well known family

Hamilton Park.”

How about hobbies/interests of this active senior citizen? ... Millie has only one now ... bingo! Bingo at the KofC in town, St. Phillips in East Windsor. One of her previous pastimes ... sewing, has never lost the art of sewing, but the days making clothes is not her interest, but good memories only.

Vacations these days are to sunny California to visit her brother Dave and sister Betty. As for a spectator sport, she's a faithful fan of the Red Sox. Enjoys the good old time type of music, and quiz shows on television.

Millie is a member of the local AARP, and former president of the VFW Auxiliary in town. She's been a busy member of the local Senior Club, has worked numerous projects, “runs the bingo,” and currently is vice president of the club.

This hometown lady lives “by the good book,” she said. Millie and Stephen lived in Hartford for six years after their wedding, and then returned to Windsor Locks. When asked who she most admired, a famous local lady came to mind immediately ... Ella Grasso. Saying, “An old friend of the family, a woman who always worked hard for what she achieved, I admired her greatly.”

Epilogue

Mildred Taravella Bushnik, active as a senior and a person who was not afraid to try new things, especially if she did not enjoy doing things that did not appeal to her.

The following words seem to fit Millie ... “Everyone is an explorer. How could you possibly live your life looking at a door and not open it?” Millie always did.



# The Retirees

Vol 4-Number 2

May 1998

## JACK REDMONDS AVOCATION



It is natural and enjoyable for retirees to occasionally look back on the days when their work efforts contributed to the success of CE. And the characters they met along the way. So its only natural that we wonder what these people are doing and where they might be doing their thing. Keeping this in mind let's look in on the Redmonds. Both have worked for CE for many years. Their daughter Pat joined later, working with such notables as: the late Walt Harding, Cliff Gilkey, Walt Siddall, Tom Jones, John Eggers, Dick Knapp and Les Phares. Rita joined CE as a staff member of the Nuclear Library managed by Marie Richardson which was later merged with the Corporate Library under the direction of Zena Grot-Zakrzewski. This facility was located where the original cafeteria was camped in the early days of CE in Windsor.

Jack was often referred to as the guy with the checkbook. If you had work done by someone outside of CE and the invoice was overdue, you looked to Jack for help. The more you needed help, the better you got to know Jack. During the seventeen years he labored in the Accounts Payable Department he associated with such capable money managers as: John Hughes, Jack Regan, Mike McCurry and Allan Kronick. Incidentally it was Mike McCurry's foresight that hired Jack. An aside about Mike: a Brooklyn, New York bred fellow who, when he and his family moved to Connecticut and heard of the rugged New England winters... immediately ran out and bought four snow tires ... one for each wheel of his new car.

You don't own cars in Brooklyn.

During the many years Jack spent in Accounts Payable he was responsible for thousands of checks which reflected vast sums of money. But the pressure was getting to him and about four years before retiring he found a transfer into Marshall Spieths department, you guessed it writing procedures. "These were the happiest years spent with CE" said Jack.

Redmond was born a long, long, long time ago. The blessed event occurred on December 24th, 1922... what a gift package! It all happened in the Newhallville Section of New Haven which was and is an Irish enclave alive with sports and politics. Both he and his parents were pretty well connected in town. Dick Lee, a former Mayor, was a close friend of the family. Foster Furcolo, who later became the Governor of Massachusetts was a next door neighbor who took care of Jack and his sister Alice when they were kids.

In his youth Jack was a sports hound. He played a lot of softball. And he was good. So good that he earned a position on a team that won "The City Champs of New Haven" title. He also played ice hockey and was on the Commercial High School team of '41 and played their home games at the "Old New Haven Arena". It was at this time of his life that he met Rita. She was one of the pretty coeds that rooted for the hockey team. After the game Jack would walk Rita home... soon hand in hand then much later (after WWII) they became husband and wife. When you look back to those days, many of us can recall, the kids, after a breakfast of Wheaties, filled their pockets with fruit and headed for a vacant lot to play baseball or to the street to play stickball. In those days there were no organized activities... long before little league and bleachers filled

## Porch

Published by: ABB/CE Retirees Club

with loud parents.

In 1940 WWII clouds were gathering on the horizon and Jack along with so many of us answered the call to patriotism. He served with the Army on Guam and Saipan, where incidentally, he developed a craving for "S... on a Shingle". In 1946, with a ceremony a bit less than a Divisional Field Review, the Army separated First Sergeant Jack Redmond back to civilian life.

Now a civilian, with a discharge in hand, it came time for a career making decision. He still considered writing a strong possibility but got very little support from his family, especially his parents. In spite of this lack of enthusiasm he and Rita moved to California where Jack enrolled in a Journalism course at the San Francisco City College. It soon became evident that journalism was not to be his life's work. So they moved back to Connecticut and Jack got an accounting degree from the University of New Haven in 1955. With ease he found a job with Miles Laboratories and moved et al to Indiana. After five years they decided they wanted to come home to Connecticut.

It was time to get a job at CE. At CE, Jack seemed to have his career in hand. But in the back of his mind he still felt he needed an outlet for his creative effort... writing. He tried sending letters to the editor of all the local newspapers. He also wrote short sports stories which appeared in the now defunct Hartford Times. Since he lived in Windsor Locks he sent more material to the Journal than he did to the other papers. They were impressed by this interest and ability and offered Jack a job as a reporter. He countered their offer by telling them he would produce a weekly column consisting of bio sketches of Windsor Locks outstanding citizens. The paper accepted his offer. By the way did you know that

the Windsor Locks Journal is the oldest weekly newspaper in the entire state of Connecticut?

What to name the column. Jack remembered that Lewis Carroll wrote the book "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and seven years later wrote "Through the Looking Glass". In the second book there is a poem, part of which reads: "The time has come" the walrus said "To talk of many things: of shoes and ships... and sealing wax... of Cabbages and Kings". Since Jack hoped to at times cover sports and other items, "Cabbages and Kings" would be a fitting title for his column. We mentioned earlier that both Jack and his family were interested in fire fighting and so it was only fitting that in his first column he feature a well known Windsor Locks Fire Chief named William Reilly and all the good he did for the community. After all Jack had spent five years as a member of the Windsor Locks Fire Commission. From then on he sought out the many outstanding townspeople highlighting their good works. To date he has written over 1100 stories. In between profiles Jack has covered sports and political events such as: The Greater Hartford Open... from its days at Wethersfield thru to its present location, the Sutton Open, Hilton Head, Phoenix Open and the US Open. While covering these events he has met, chatted with or interviewed: Lee Trevino, former Pres. Ford, Fuzzy Zoeller, Greg Norman, Paul Azinger and Nick Price.

Jack has a unique way of interviewing celebrities. For example: He asked Ted Williams if he still eats Nissen bread... nothing about baseball. With Jim Rice he told the athlete that he remembers seeing him, at the GHO, hit the ball into the pond, from the tee, on the 16th hole in Wethersfield. And he talked to Sammy Davis Jr. about Sally's Pizza in New Haven knowing full well that Sally's brother is a close friend of Sinatras and that in the "Rat Pack" days Sammy and Frank visited the establishment many times.

Jack enjoys meeting people period. He has met the late Governor Ella Grasso, Bob Hope, Gerry Ford and Chris Dodd. When the Whalers were in town he talked with Ron Francis, Wayne

Carlton and Tom Rowe.

Now that his daughters Pat and Nancy are grown, married and out of the house, Jack converted a bedroom into his journalistic headquarters. Here he displays his memorabilia. A golf hat signed by Gerry Ford and Lee Trevino, a portrait of "himself" painted by the uncle of Joe Tria, autographed photos of Gleason, Sinatra and Angela Lansbury. A shelf along one wall holds at least two dozen three ring binders. These binders contain copies of the bio sketches that were published. Jack hopes to eventually turn this material over to the Windsor Locks Historical Society for research use.

His political interest led him to a trip to Washington D.C. in 1990 as a guest, along with 43 other seniors, of Senator Dodd. They spent a week touring as official guests: the Capitol, the Senate Buildings, the Senate Chamber, and the Pentagon. "It's a great place to visit, to see and listen to the sounds of government" said Jack.

He worked hard at his career, and now he gives his column one hundred percent. But all throughout his lifetime his wife and children had top priority. Even before retirement the Redmonds have traveled extensively. They have been to Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand and Tahiti. Probably because of their interest in travel they now once a week volunteer their time manning the Information Booth at Bradley Airport. We asked them what the most often question asked by travelers and they quickly replied "where are the rest rooms". They are in constant touch with their daughter Pat who lives in Colombia, Tennessee and Nancy who lives in California. They continually spoil the grandchildren. And you can see the love in Jack's eyes as he tells you of the time he took his young grandson to his first Boston Red Sox game. "I'm retired from CE... not from life". You have made your point Jack!



MAY 15, 1998

# TownsPeople

## Michael Joseph Barile - an athletic

Michael Joseph Barile, age 11, is one of a continuation of athletic ability in the Barile family.

Young Michael is the third generation of the family to be interviewed - first his grandfather, Joseph Barile, well-known boxing instructor, in June 1978, followed by his son Mike Barile, another well-known local athlete as baseball player and the business world of real estate, a member of Realty Executives.

The younger Michael is definitely a sports enthusiast, student in the fifth grade at South School, recently featured in the Courant's "In Your Face," short description of young students at the local school.

Michael's dad still plays baseball in Hartford's over 30 gang. Not waiting in the wings, another athlete in the family is Michael's younger brother Kevin Gilbert Barile, 8 1/2, second grader at North Street School, and like his brother, a three-sport player ... soccer, basketball and baseball.

They are both Red Sox fans, however, that's where the similarity ends. Michael is a faithful fan of the Houston Rockets in the NBA, has a favorite player by the name of Charles Barkley. For Kevin, it's the Chicago Bulls, and of course, favorite player, a great scorer, with the name of Michael. As in Jordan.

When it comes to other favorites, television for Michael "X-Files," and the latest blockbuster on the movie screen, "Titanic." As for his favorite food, whenever "chicken nuggets" are served.

The boys are the sons of Mike and Lupe Arizmondez Barile, both of Windsor Locks.

For a young boy, Michael has already experienced two unforgettable moments, especially at basketball games. Number One ... at a New England Blizzard game, he received one of former UConn star Jennifer Rizzotti's shoes. Ms Rizzotti gives away each of her shoes, for that game, to two fans. Michael was there at the right time.

At a UConn game at the Civic Center, again he was lucky. Attendants actually throw UConn T-shirts into the crowd. Michael again was at the right place and right time.

For an update on their father ... who was interviewed in March of 1988, the son of Joe and Phyllis Moffatt Barile, who still make their home in Windsor Locks.

Mike has three brothers, Danny of Enfield, Jimmy of Somers, and Joseph, local teacher and Lions Ambulance

advocate, also a C&K interview in December 1989. The Barile family has been an important part of C&K stories over the years.

More on Mike ... he served in the U.S. Army for four years, saying, "I played baseball a lot during those years in the southern states and made the All-Army Team."

His own father was in the Army during World War II, participated in the famed "Battle of the Bulge." Mr. Barile is

retired from the postal service.

In 1986 Mike returned to Connecticut, deciding to enter the real estate business and make it his career, and has been most successful.

His first position was with the Manning group, followed by a time with Colli-Wagner, and today, with three years service with Realty

Executives in Enfield.

Mike has won numerous awards over the years in his chosen field, as one of the top salesperson for "eight years in a row," by the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors.

Mike is a member of the local KofC, was active for eight years as a "Big Brother & Big Sister" in Enfield. He's a member of the National Association of Realtors.

As mentioned, Mike is still hitting the baseball at Colt Park, in Hartford, and said, "I'm the last Windsor Locks native to be playing hardball."

One of his main hobbies is the very popular game of "Fantasy Baseball." Mike also sponsors and plays in the Windsor Locks Men's Basketball League (adults) for Realty Executives. He keeps in shape with five days of workout at the New England Health and Racquet Club in Enfield, and just for the record, like his boys, is a Red Sox fan.

Added note of the family ... it was Kevin who wanted it to be mentioned that his great-grandmother Mary Moffatt is in her 90s and resides in Rocky Hill.

And speaking of Kevin, a television fan of "King of the Hill," "Mortal Combat" in the movies, and when French fries are served, he's first at the table.

Some quotes from "In Your Face" by Michael Joseph Barile - Claim to fame: "I was the captain of my Hoop-it-up team and played in a free-throw contest." Worst gross-out: Getting sick after eating Halloween candy. Best friends and why: Keith, Jeremy and Jake ... "we can all play basketball together and talk about boy things. What I want to do with my life: I want to be a forward for the Houston Rockets,

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cabbages  
and kings  
jack redmond

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## InYourFace



JOHN LONG/THE HARTFORD COURANT

**Name:** Michael Barile

**Age:** 11

**School and grade:** Fifth grade, South Elementary School, Windsor Locks

**Claim to fame:** I was the captain of my Hoop-It-Up team and played in a free-throw contest.

**Worst gross-out:** Getting sick after eating Halloween candy.

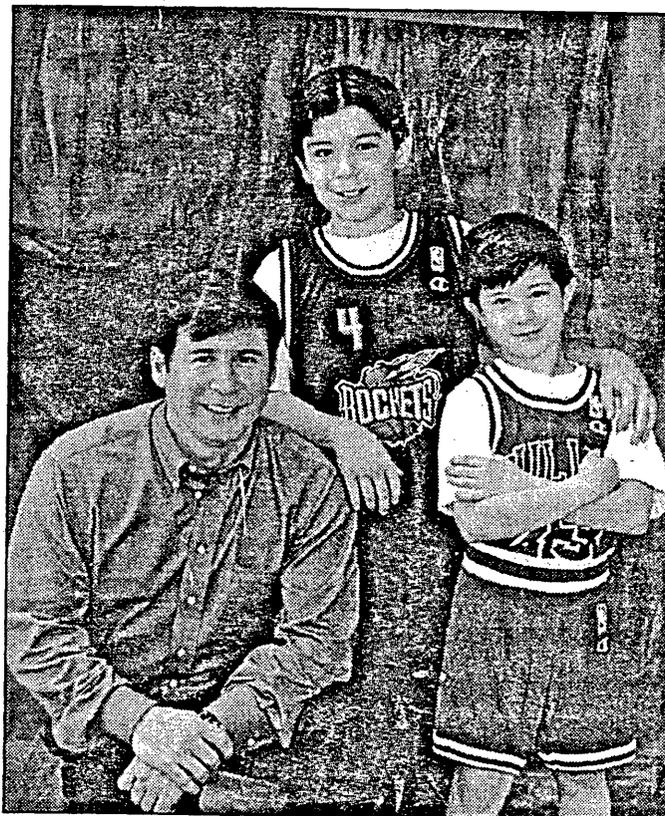
**My favorite object and why:** My Jennifer Rizzotti shoe she gave me after her game.

**Best friends and why:** My best friends are Keith Bednarz, Jeremy Ruitter and especially Jake Burr. We can all play basketball together and talk about boy things.

**What I want to do with my life:** I want to be a forward for the Houston Rockets, with a \$100 million contract. But I'd do it for free as long as I meet Charles Barkley.

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## chip off the old block



Mike Barile and his sons, Michael of the Rockets, and Kevin of the Bulls.

with a \$100 million contract, but I'd do it for free as long as I meet Charles Barkley." (Now that's something!)

More on Mike ... when asked who he most admired? "My parents, good people, put their family first." Looking back, Mike said, "I'm a product of this town (now it's time for the kids) and for them to do well in school and always show respect." Asked for one word to fit his sons ... "Michael reserve and for Kevin energy."

### Epilogue

Michael and Kevin, both chips off the old block. Their father has set the example for them on the field of sports. These words seem to fit ... "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But, for children play, is serious learning. Play is really the work of children."

## Pat Copes has raised three

What is it like at the Copes home for Pat and her three sons? ... "Entertaining, (they) are all different, and never a dull moment ..." she said at our interview last month.

Hers is a story in itself, just about Patricia Ann Fiochetta Copes ... add three strong big (6-3) athletic sons, it's even a larger story.

There's Brendon, Dan and Jordan (twins) with Brendon summing up (when asked about) their proud mother: "Our mother, single parent, raising three sons in the '90s," with Dan adding, "plus getting her masters."

Yes, quite a story. Pat Copes, also known as "Poppy."

Some background on Pat, before detailing the boys favorite things ... she's a native of Windsor Locks, the daughter of Albert and Julie Connor Fiochetta, who are also natives. Albert has had a most distinguished career, 20 years in the U.S. Navy, in World War II, followed by two decades at Hamilton-Standard.

Albert and Julie have a son William, who lives in Granby, and three other daughters ... Lynne in Cape Cod, Mary Lou in Glastonbury and Ann Marie Claffey, whose family was featured in C&K back in July of 1991, they are also residents of town.

Pat grew up on West Street, graduated from Northwest Catholic High School in 1970. She attended St. Joseph College in West Hartford, receiving a degree in education. Was a teacher for

four years at a Waterbury Middle School.

The boys are the sons of Pat, and John Copes of Windsor.

After Waterbury Pat stayed home to raise their sons.

Her next educational venture was obtaining a masters at Southern Connecticut in Library Sciences. She put that talent to work at the UConn Law School Library.

Today, after over five years she is currently employed by the

Capital  
Region  
Library  
Council in  
Windsor, in  
addition to a  
part-time position  
at the  
Enfield Public

Library in reference. Yes, a story in itself.

Over the years Pat has been a den mother for Cub Scouts, Little League Coach and now a member of the Project Graduation Committee.

Pat, a faithful reader of C&K, knew I would be asking for the boys favorites, so let's start with the oldest ... Brendon, 17, Junior at WLHS, captain of the school soccer and basketball teams under Coach Dan Sullivan, on the school golf team, sporting an eight handicap for 18, yes, an eight. Both Mr. Beaudry, the golf coach, and Mr. Sullivan are past interviewees.

More on Brendon ... his favorite player is Larry Bird, basketball is his favorite, the movie "Rocky", on television "Seinfeld," and when

it comes to the time for food, Corn Pops and Root Beer. Future plans include Phys/Ed and Communications. During the summer months works at the town Park & Rec department.

Dan, 16, Sophomore at the Raider School, is still a fan of Roger Clemens, his sport is soccer, enjoys pasta, "Simpsons" on television, and the movie "Good Will Hunting." Plays on the golf team, soccer and basketball. Wants to be a teacher, referees in basketball

and soccer  
leagues.  
Dan is a  
member of  
the CYO at  
St. Mary's  
Church.

Jordan, performs on the

baseball diamond as center fielder and first baseman, also plays soccer and basketball. His favorites ... baseball, steak, Don Mattingly, "X-Files," and the movie "Glory." Also a referee like Dan, with future plans to attend Bryant College and take up accounting.

Red Sox or Yankees? ... Dan and Brendon for that Fenway team, with Jordan a fan of the stadium team. Just had to mention, what about their free time? ... Jordan running, Dan the game of golf and Brendon sleep!

One of Brendon's most favorite memories ... as escort at a Lions golf tournament in Darien "helping the (one and only) Mr. Arnold Palmer make it thru the crowd," and autographing a hat ... one golfer to another.

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

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## athletic and active sons



Dan, Jordan, Pat and Brendon Copes

One fond memory of Dan ... watching his cousins Brian and Sean Claffey when they were basketball stars for the local high school.

Pat wanted to add something special about the boys ... their grandparents never missed a game of their grandchildren. She added one word to best describe each son ... Brendon "determined," Dan "thoughtful," and Jordan "confident."

Speaking of word association ... the boys had one word for their mother ... "determined."

Where do the boys get their athletic ability from? With Pat saying (she did not have girl sports when she was going to school) ... "I guess I would have to say that

ability may have come from their great-aunt Sue Ruggiero (now of Pennsylvania) who played semi-pro baseball in the '30s and '40s ... like in the movie "A League of Their Own."

Additional admiration of Pat was kind words about her parents and busy grandparents.

### Epilogue

Pat Copes is all those things that mark her son's personality ... "thoughtful, confident and (yes certainly) determined."

"My Three Sons," the old television show, Pat has experienced that theme (from the show) everyday, since the days of their youth, they are now big boys who are different, entertaining and never a dull moment.

MAY 29, 1998

# TownsPeople - Kylee Wierzchowski — young lady

Kylee Elizabeth Wierzchowski, native of Windsor Locks, computer specialist at Cigna, in addition to her activities at St. Mary's Church.

Kylee admitted when she left high school, it was time for college. "I wanted to get far away, to expand (my horizons) find out about different cultures, visit everywhere." She found what she wanted.

She chose Abilene Christian University in Abilene, deep in the heart of Texas, where the young lady earned a degree in education.

Some earlier background on this friendly, outgoing 1989 WLHS grad, where Kylee was in the choral group, marching band (played the clarinet), with the opportunity, plus the talent, to perform in three of the school's popular musicals, 1988 "Music Man," her senior play "Carnival," in 1989, and back in 1987, a member of the pit band for "Bye Bye Birdie."

Kylee is the daughter of the late John Wierzchowski and Elizabeth Covington Wierzchowski. John was born on the island of Sicily, came to the states at an early age, adopted by the Wierzchowski family in Boston. Elizabeth, who is from Clarksville, Tenn., met John when he was in the United States Army, were married in her home state, came to Hartford, where (years later) John was concessions manager of the Hartford Civic Center. He passed away in December of last year. Elizabeth is a resident of Windsor Locks, an employee of Hamilton-Standard for the past 16 years.

After Texas, Kylee returned to Connecticut, with a month of looking around, went to work at Aetna for three years, followed by her current position at Cigna, the past 16 months, with the Systems Department "working on new computer systems."

When hobbies were discussed, I checked our old collection of programs of high school musicals, found Kylee was listed in several, as tennis player and writer of short stories. When we met last month, her main hobby these days is the game of football, the flag type of football. Played on Sundays, after church, at Denslow Park. Three boys against three girls, yes, but not tackling. When not on the gridiron, Kylee was a girl "born to shop," in addition to traveling, "someplace warm," like "Florida or even California." She

has friends everywhere, she said.

At home she enjoys country music. On the television it's "Seinfeld" and "Ally McBeal," old movies like "The Way We Were," with Barbra and Mr. Redford. She admits to being a die-hard Yankee fan. That should please Mr. Farr and Mr. Borchetta.

Kylee's activities at St. Mary's include leader of the "Reflections Group," for parishioners over 18, that attend monthly meetings, which she refers to as "fun and spiritual, important for young people."

In addition, Kylee and others from the group attend mass at the Hartford Correctional Center (twice a month) led by Father Robert O'Grady, pastor of St. Mary's. Kylee said, "There's a discussion after mass with the inmates, which I always find both humbling and an incredible experience."

Asked about her future plans? "Back for more schooling, with a master's degree in education as my main goal," she said.

Was asked who she most admired? "My mother, for her patience and kindness. She has always believed in me, picked me up if I fell, instilled great moral (values), a great mother and friend."

Kylee's personal philosophy, "We take life a little too seriously," and for a favorite saying, she said, "Why is there

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## active in church



**Kylee Wierzchowski with Father Francis McDonnell of St. Mary's Church at the annual Saint Patrick's Day dinner dance at the Knights of Columbus.**

such a difference between a day off, and an off day?"

### **Epilog**

Kylee Elizabeth Wierzchowski, young lady with high ideals in church activities. She enjoys life, especially traveling and yes, even playing football. One has to admit, is like the following words, "Take a chance! All life is a chance. The person who goes further is generally the one who is willing to do and dare."

# High school athlete has a lot to

The story of Valarie Ann Gasparino, known to her classmates and athletic teammates as just Val at the Windsor Locks High School, a junior at the Raider school, emphasizes her outstanding talents in two sports - softball and soccer.

It is always interesting and enlightening to meet and interview families at their home, and equally enlightening to view, as in Val's case, playing softball, under the watchful eyes of energetic Coach Pat Scela.

We had interviewed Val's family last month, the next day watched the softball game against East Granby, won handily by her team, at the time, undefeated.

Val is a native of Windsor Locks, the daughter of Joseph Peter Gasparino Sr. and Anita Costanzo Gasparino, both natives of Windsor, now residents of town

since the year of 1985.

Before detailing the activities of Val and her brother Joseph Jr., another soccer talent now in college, some background on Joe Sr. and Anita.

Both are grads of Windsor High School in the '70s, proudly saying (by Anita), "We were high school sweethearts." They were married on Sept. 27, 1975.

Some family history ... Joe has a brother John, retired Windsor police officer, three sisters,

Eleanor, Marg and Marlene. Anita has a brother Paul and two sisters, Gina and Tina.

Joe, after high school, went to work for Suburban Propane in Windsor, that covered 15 years, followed by four years with Amergas in Westfield, Mass.

In 1997, Joe decided to operate his own business, called JPG-Propane & Natural Gas Service, with installation, services, repairs of natural gas and Propane. Anita was employed over a period of seven years for several medical doctors in Windsor.

Back to their kids ... Val had played varsity basketball for a year, three years with the soccer and softball teams. She admits "soccer is my favorite sport," with her dad (telling me at the next day's softball game) "Val scored the most goals last year for the soccer team."

Val was All-Conference her junior year in soccer, sophomore year All-Conference in softball, with the position of shortstop. Her comment on Coach Scelza, "I like him, knows the game of softball."

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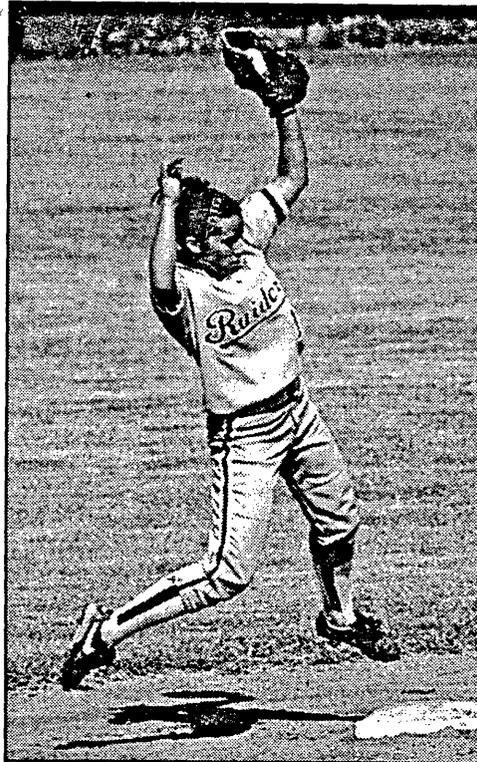


## An easy putout

Shortstop Val Gasparino throws to first for the out.

Staff photo by Lisa Brisson

## offer when it comes to sports



Val Gasparino in action.

Staff photo by Lisa Brisson

Val's interest and hobbies, never too far from sports ... "I guess I would have to say hanging out with my friends, but must say, played indoor soccer for three years, enjoy bowling, also a year of softball during the summer in Enfield."

Val does enjoy all types of music, well maybe not country, she said. When it comes to television how about "Dawson's Creek," and for old movies, "Stand By Me." When food is mentioned, it's "let's go to McDonald's."

The other side of the sporting kids ... Joe Jr., a story in itself ... played soccer at WLHS, graduated in 1997, was All-

Conference in baseball, his favorite sport, was All-State in soccer at the Raider school. Both he and Val played Little League in town.

His interests include the sport of snowboarding at Sundown in New Hartford. Plays golf with his dad, must not forget to mention dad, the hunter in the family, with mom bowling, just to round out the family activities.

The family has enjoyed vacations with trips to Cape Cod, New Hampshire and Florida. Oh yes, the family dog ... "Korrie," Doberman pinscher.

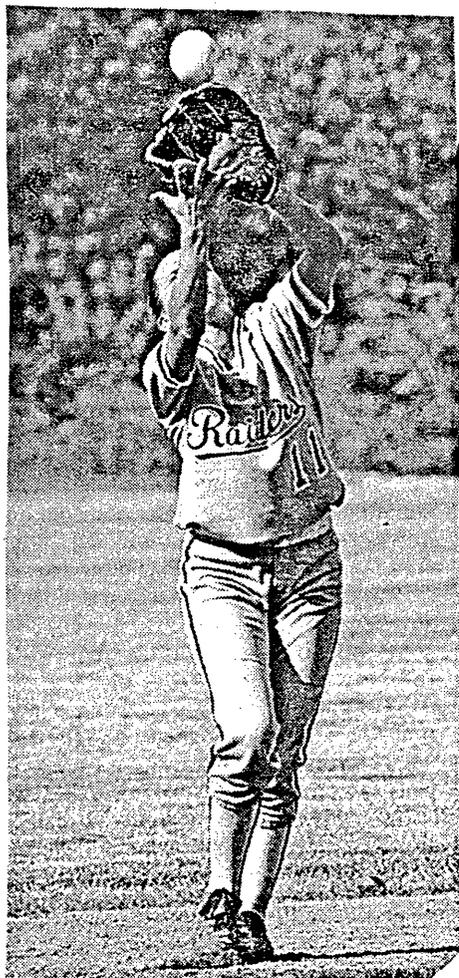
Joe Jr. has already started college, just completed his freshman year at Wentworth Institute of Tech in Boston, where he is studying electrical engineering. Although a student in Boston, does follow the Red Sox, but his favorite team the Atlanta Braves. Played for Coach Dan Sullivan and had this comment ... "Coach, a great guy, helped me (personally in school) in life's (goals)."

Val was asked was there one special individual who may have influenced her (in school?)

"Yes," she said, "Miss Wright at the high school, social studies teacher, always helped me a lot, if I had any problems."

Val has one favorite saying ... "Time will tell." For Val, she has loads of time to play soccer and softball for the Raiders. When it's time to take off the uniform, she'll be ready for college, studying elementary education or physical therapy, her long-range goals.

Speaking of time ... "Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."



Pop-up putout

Locks' shortstop Val Gasparino

## John Gunther –

If you check the 1998 Windsor Locks Little League annual published booklet you will find John Gunther listed as Minor League Administrator ... in addition, among the team rosters of players, John is manager of the Swede's minor league team.

Yes, John Charles Gunther, with his boys, Eric and Shane, are part of the tradition of our town's most popular Little League program. Eric is on his dad's minor league team, Shane member of the Apaches (T-Ball).

Little League is a household activity (with other sports) plus their active mother, Deborah Lusardi Gunther, on the sidelines as the boy's biggest fan.

Some background on the Gunther family. John is a native of Windsor Locks, Debbie was from the Boston area.

John is the son of Fred and Mary Lou Dorr Gunther, both natives of Massachusetts, residents of Windsor Locks for many years.

John is one of 10 children.

John is a grad of WLHS, Class of 1980. After high school he went into the trucking business, driver for Edwards (in town) for over six years, until the large facility closed. The past three years he's been driving for the local heating company ... Comoco. John is a life member of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut.

Debbie, is from Newburyport, Mass., located near the north shore of Boston. When her family moved to Enfield, she completed her high school education at Fermi in 1981. Debbie was involved in Food

Service Management.

Debbie and John met in 1983, after a meeting by mutual friends. They were married on Aug. 23, 1986; and have lived in Windsor Locks since their wedding day.

After high school Debbie worked for a manufacturing company in Broad Brook, followed by a part-time job in a day care center. After the boys were of school age, she decided to try college. She attended

Asnuntuck for two years, then went on to Hartford's Capitol Community Tech College where she earned an associate's degree as registered nurse ... graduation was at the end of May.

The boys of Debbie and John ... Eric, 11, fifth grade at South, favorites include math in school, "Simpsons" on the television, Little League, midget football and Water Jets, a sport he has received numerous trophies in, for outstanding performances.

Eric keeps busy, when not swimming or on the field of sports, by delivering the afternoon newspaper.

Not waiting in the wings, the energetic Shane is 7, first grade at North, also enjoys math, "Power Rangers" on the family TV, Little League, soccer (Town League) and Water Jets.

How about hobbies/interests of their parents?

After his managerial duties, John is into woodworking, Debbie is the gardener in the family. When its time for vacations, it means trips to Debbie's old neighborhood in the Boston area. John enjoys "X-Files" and Debbie is a big "ER" fan.

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# TownsPeople

## - very involved in Little League with sons



**The Gunther Family — they must be involved in Little League**

One of John's co-workers, Jay Miller, participates in the races at Riverside Park, with the Gunther family Jay's biggest rooters.

Both come from large families, reunions, especially at holidays, are common, with Eric finding a special treat playing with his many cousins.

John became involved in the Little League program because of the best reason in the world ... because of his sons, he said. Adding, "First as a parent, did not just want to drop off the boys ... became a coach and then a manager (over a two-year period)."

As mentioned, John is the Minor League Administrator. His assistants (as coaches) with the Swede sponsored team are Ken Barnes (his son Jeffry) and John McSeegan (his son Kyle).

Debbie was asked for a few chosen words to describe their sons ... "I always refer to them as our 10 little indians," she

said proudly. Her personal philosophy ... "There's a silver lining in everything."

When it came to admiration or influence of others John said, "My brother Mike, who always played sports."

Debbie had two individuals ... My late uncle Paul Crivello (of Boston) a very positive and upbeat man ... fun loving."

When it came time to seek a career in nursing, Debbie said, "My late grandmother, Dottie Lusardi, was a great influence-on my pursuing a career as RN."

### Epilogue

John and Debbie Gunther are active people in their chosen endeavors, also finding time for the activities of Eric and Shane.

The following words seem to fit this family ... "Forget quality time. You can't plan magic moments or bonding or epiphanies in dealing with kids. What matters is quantity time."

## Congratulations to Gretchen Rowe —

Gretchen Emily Rowe said... "Everyone should do their best ... and love what they do..."

For this senior at the Windsor Locks High School, a student who has always done her best, with results that have been outstanding.

She was chosen as this year's senior class Valedictorian.

When it comes to love, Gretchen certainly loves dancing. At the tender age of four, when she viewed the famed performance of "Nutcracker," she knew (in her heart) she wanted to be a dancer.

High honors and SAT (perfect) scores, notwithstanding, certainly a part of her growing years, when planning her future goals, it will be dancing, she said, at our interview (at the school) last month. Gretchen was not interested in becoming a doctor or lawyer, just a dancer, but in a very professional endeavor.

Gretchen, who was from Ashfield, Mass. ("out in the middle of nowhere," she said) came to Windsor Locks at the age of five. She is the daughter of George and Sharon Langer Rowe of Windsor Locks. Mr. Rowe is a native of town, Mrs. Rowe was from Massachusetts.

Gretchen has two brothers, Nathaniel, second year at The Raider School, JV baseball, and former Little Leaguer. Stuart, seventh grade at the New Life Christian Academy in town, also plays Little League.

George Rowe is a 1963 grad of WLHS, served four years in the Army (Germany) during the Vietnam war. He met the future Mrs. Rowe when they were both students at UConn. He is a teacher in the New Britain school system. Sharon had previously taught music, and currently keeps busy with two part-time positions.

More on Gretchen's accomplishments... National Honor

Society as vice president at school; captain of the Math Team; member of the Marching Band, the Pit Band for three years, plays the flute; was chosen as one of the "Governor's Scholars" (out of 20 students in Connecticut) ... met Governor John Rowland at his office and later the students had dinner with the head of state.

Other rewards include Science and Math, School Service Award, MVP math team for three years and Rensselaer Medal.

Gretchen won a \$2,000 National Merit Scholarship, chosen from more than 14,000 students nationwide who reached the finalist level in the 1998 Merit Scholarship competition and was one of only 31 chosen in the state.

Gretchen has pursued her anticipated career by taking dance lessons the past 14 years, currently with practice lasting 10 to 12 hours a week.

When time permits, is an avid reader of the classics. The past years she has worked after school at the Charles Carillo Insurance Agency Inc. in town.

Comments by Gretchen... favorite

class in high school ... math and science; hardest subject in school was history; best book she ever read was "Fountainhead." When it comes to music, the classical and, oh yes, Billy Joel. Television is a no-no for Gretchen, but has a favorite movie ... "Star Wars." Her favorites in food, chocolate and coffee ice cream.

What qualities are most important in parents? Gretchen said, "My parents have always encouraged me to work hard and do my best."

Her parents' reactions to their daughter's high honor... "Expected, top of her class for four years, a hard worker," Mrs. Rowe told me.

With Gretchen adding, "I guess hard work did pay off." It also paid off for Scott Weisel, who was named Salutatorian of the 1998 Class.

When Gretchen was asked, who may have influenced her ... with these words, "I would say, many with different attributes, especially my parents and Jesus Christ, who has inspired me."

Her future plans... to attend Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. and major in Dance/Liberal Arts. With the following remarks... "A dancer's life can be short. I hope to eventually become a choreographer and teacher Labanotation, a system of analyzing and recording movement."

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## WLHS 1998 Valedictorian



**Gretchen Rowe, valedictorian of the Windsor Locks High School Class of 1998.**

### **Epilogue**

Congrats to the seniors at WLHS ... Gretchen, Scott, and their classmates. Success in the years ahead and do whatever they seek as a career.

The following words seem to fit all graduates... "Guess what? When it comes right down to it, wherever you go, there you are. Whatever you wind up doing, that's what you've wound up doing. Whatever you are thinking, that's what on your mind.

"Whatever has happened to you, it has already happened. The important question is, how are you going to handle it? In other words, 'Now what?'" With Gretchen Emily Rowe... "I'm going to be a dancer!"

JUNE 26, 1998

# TownsPeople — Karen Marinone — Nurse with Other

When you converse with a person who has chosen nursing as a career, it does not take very long to find out her other talents ... skiing, computer wiz, bicyclist, outdoor enthusiast, an individual who accepts changes and not afraid to take chances ... you have just met Karen Elizabeth Marinone.

This native young woman, from a well-known local family, believes "skiing is life, the rest is detail," however, does manage to find the time and energy to enjoy all of the above avocations.

Karen is the daughter of the late Joseph Marinone and Pat Marinone. Karen has three sisters... Susan, Deborah and Laurie, and a brother, Bill Marinone. More on them later in the article.

Also known affectionately as just "K" by her nieces and nephews, Karen is a 1971 grad of WLHS, where she played field hockey. Growing up, Karen was always "sports-minded," played with the boys, mostly at their big yard on Suffield Street, which she also remembers "good for football."

At the high school, Karen was a member of the national honor society, also worked on the school's yearbook.

Did she know what career to follow after high school? "Yes, I wanted to be a nurse." First step was to attend St. Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., where in 1975 received her degree in nursing.

Karen's first position was at Hartford's Mt. Sinai Hospital for three years, chiefly in pediatrics. For the next 18 years she was involved in intensive care of babies at St. Francis Hospital.

She found it was time to make up her mind for her next field of endeavor... she always wanted to travel west (asked for a leave of absence), saying "I then quit my job, leaving St. Francis."

She knew there were places to visit and see, the beauty of our national parks and, of course, skiing in the winter months. She did seek hospital work and accepted a position in Albuquerque, N.M. but did not like the area.

Going north to Colorado, fell in love with Grand Junction. Karen convinced her mother Pat and her husband, George Mumblo, to come west, remembers saying, "to rough it with me for a short time." (It probably meant sleeping in a tent.) The adventurous twosome stayed two weeks,

taking in the sites of Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and the state of Utah.

The next eight months Karen was a full-fledged tourist, just seeing things, she said, then back to her home in the west ... Colorado.

At this point, she admitted, "not sure of a job." Spent the winter at Grand Junction, with skiing her main occupation.

Did manage a job at the local hospital that lasted six months.

In April of 1997, enough of the west for Karen, returned to Connecticut, feeling "It was time for another change, but I was not sure what was in store."

Karen worked at various hospitals in the area, until her present employment. Since July of 1997, has been

with "Telenurse," services offered over the phone, with advice to individuals regarding medical services available to fit their needs. A service that is offered seven days a week, 24 hours a day. She is located in Bristol.

Over the years we have had the opportunity to interview several local citizens with the name of Marinone. (With Karen saying, we are not all related.)

We interviewed her father in 1976, who was always active in town and state affairs. Also her brother Bill and his family in 1990, now operates the Jo-Pat business, began by their parents.

Other interviews were with Charles Marinone, post office retired, her dad's brother. Betty and Joe Marinone, Louise Marinone, John, formerly of JJs, and young Andy Marinone.

Speaking of her family, an update, since the parents' interview ... Bill and his wife Lynn and two children live in town; Susan is married to Michael Salzillo, reside in Southington, four children; Deborah and Jim Seymour live in town, one child; Laurie will be married on Labor Day to Norman Anderson.

In addition to skiing, mostly in Vermont, for Karen, she has a mountain bike, motorcycle, and when it comes to competition, has raced in what she called "off road races (dirt bike)" in different New England locations, along with her brother-in-law Jim.

Karen is into the world of computers, sometimes is referred to as the "computer nurse nerd." Vacations, over the years, when she was younger, always meant a family affair.

Karen admits, at one time a big baseball fan, until the

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## Multiple Talents



**Karen Marinone and her niece Joline Seymour, 6, at Stratton Mountain in Vermont this past February.**

strike, now follows other sports. Not a television watcher, does manage to catch the Weather Channel for its latest predictions. When it comes to food, there's nothing she doesn't like, so she says. Karen is a member of the Connecticut and national chapters of Neonated Nurses.

When asked about admiration of others, and her family, she had this to say... "I have a great and wonderful family life, appreciative of it." Individual admiration meant her parents, "My father, a most forgiving person with open arms ... my mother, my best friend, sincere, honest who raised five children."

### Epilogue

That's the story of Karen Elizabeth Marinone, who changed her life and went on, which brings to mind the following words by Coach Rick Pitino, famous basketball spokesman, a man who made changes in his life, from college to the pros... "Change is what keeps us fresh and innovative. Change is what keeps us from getting stale. Change is what keeps us young."

# Towns

## Veronica Rachel - Enthusiastic

If there ever was a musical called "The Music Woman," as sequel to the Broadway and movie hit "The Music Man," then our own Veronica Gregel Rachel should play the lead role.

Veronica, also known as Ronie, is resident music director at St. Mary's Church since March of this year.

Her credentials in the music field, be it locally or statewide, have left their mark on numerous churches as head organist, soloist, director of choirs and coordinator of music.

When you speak of music to Veronica, you are conveying her love, with devotion and loads of energy, in the music field, she admitted, and proudly so, "a way to let out your emotions."

We were given a note for note of her outstanding career, that also included the pet dog "Nicholas." After the interview was over, we were treated to an original song by Veronica, played on her organ, accompanied by Nicholas, her singing partner, also witnessed by Veronica's neighbor and friend, Mrs. Esther Cronin, who also brought along her dog, and would you believe, with the name of Nicholas.

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But first, some family background on Veronica, who was originally from Broad Brook, the daughter of the late Joseph and Veronica Shary Gregel.

Mr. Gregel was from Rockville, Mrs. Gregel a native of Broad Brook. Veronica has two sisters, Shirley of Windsor Locks and Nancy of Enfield.

Veronica and her family lived in Broad Brook, moved to Enfield, when she entered the eighth grade, then a year at Enfield High School, followed by another family move to Windsor, with her father opening a garage.

When asked about her activities at the high school, where she graduated from in Windsor, her classic remark was "It was

always singing." She had taken lessons (singing, piano and organ) since she was only four.

Before detailing more about Veronica's musical story, another local story on her late husband, Edward John Rachel, who died in August 1993.

Ed was the native son of Joseph and Ann Rachel, who came from Poland, settled in Windsor Locks and raised a family of nine children. Today, there are two remaining brothers, Ted and Frank of Windsor Locks, and a sister Frances of Rocky Hill.

Veronica said, "Ed's mother died when he was only four, his dad raised the children by himself."

Ed and Veronica met at a wedding. Their wedding day was February 11, 1956. They lived in Suffield for a short time, then moving to Windsor Locks where Veronica still makes her home.

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Ed was a graduate of WLHS, served in the U.S. Marines during World War Two, in the Pacific. Veronica said... "Ed was very proud to be a Marine." Ed later went into the oil business locally...the Ed Rachel Oil Company, serving the public for many years.

Veronica's own employment record was with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for more than 17 years, as buyer in the purchasing department.

Veronica's musical story includes several area churches as singer and organist, which had its baptism, so to speak, at the age of nine when she began soloing in Latin for requiem masses, funerals and weddings at St. Catherine's Church in Broad Brook.

She started studying piano at the age of ten, over the years with various teachers, studied voice and has taken courses in music appreciation and theory, both in private and at college level.

From 1947 until 1948, was soloist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Windsor, in 1949 played the organ and sang at St. Gabriel's Church in Windsor.

Other churches that Veronica has served with ... St. Robert's in town, Holy Family in Enfield, St. Bernard's in

## Music Director at St. Mary's

Veronica Rachel, music director at St. Mary's.



Continued from page 14

Hazardville, St. Philip's in East Windsor, St. Joseph's in Poquonock and St. Francis of Assisi in South Windsor. Looking back at those years, she said fondly, "My whole life."

However, Veronica's musical life has also includ-

National Pastor's Musicians (local chapter) and the American Guild of Organist.

She is a devoted fan of the theater, recently she and her friend Esther, traveled to New York City to see the Broadway hit "The Scarlet Pimpernel."

Locally she has always taken in the fine shows

ed a career singing with local bands, has starred in a few minstrel shows, was in "Mame" on the stage, sang at local convalescent homes, remembers listening to her own father, who, she said, "loved to sing," was active in several local shows.

Veronica is a member of two organizations ...

staged by the seniors at the high school...and agreed they were a touch of Broadway right her in little old Windsor Locks.

This is a lady who has combined hobbies with interests...like reading, has played the game of golf, admits "I was born to shop," has mastered the computer, used mainly as planning the various musical selections at St. Mary's, saying, "I'm in the modern world of church music." Has always enjoyed

the theater and ballet.

Speaking of favorites, she has a few, the sounds of the big bands of the 40s and 50s, two of her favorite singers, Beverly Sills and Placido Domingo, when it comes to composers, Johann Sebastian Bach, "Brigadoon" on Broadway, and must not forget to mention when it comes to eating, it's pasta, and watching comedies on television.

Over the years, she and Ed took the time to travel ..

among their stops, Europe, South America and Mexico. She, with a group of musicians, visited France and Israel. Her favorite place in all of the states ... Sedona, Arizona.

Lastly, Veronica was described by her friend Esther, as a "beautiful person." When Veronica was asked to name a person or persons who she admired, she said, "My parents. Dad for his music, Mother always there for me, and my best friend." Music has been Veronica Rachel's life, so the words of violinist Yehudi Menuhin seem adequate..."I can only think of music as something inherent in every human being...a birth right. Music coordinates mind, body and spirit. That doesn't mean that each person must have a violin or piano...the greatest service to the population would be if every school day began with singing. If people sing together, they have a feeling of individual coordination as well as within the body of the group. I have never met a member of a choir who was depressed."

## Jack's week at GHO;

Call it another shot heard round the golf world. The 40-foot chip by Olin Browne was the shot that won the playoff against Larry Mize and Steward Clink as they too watched along with thousands on the famed 18th hole amphitheater.

Browne won his first PGA tour event and will be always remembered as just how he won the 1998 Canon Greater Hartford Open. Browne, Mize and Clink were tied at 14-under (266 for 72 holes), after Mize's lead of four shots with only four to play opened the door for the playoff.

If the GHO was a movie, Siskel & Ebert would have to give it their famous "Two Thumbs Up," for its drama, suspense, cheers and pure enjoyment for the thousands of Connecticut golf fans, the most faithful and supportive folks on the PGA Tour.

Memories of the Greater Hartford Open ... writing for the Windsor Locks Journal the past 20 years (1978-1998) I've seen and written about some of the big names ... players from A to Z: Paul Azinger, Julius Boros, Billy Ray Brown, Lee Elder, Ray Floyd, Hubert and Ken Green, Hale Irwin, Justin Leonard, Nick Price, Payne Stewart, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and of course Fuzzy Zoeller.

Those years were also blasts, at Wethersfield and then Cromwell. And a few names that added charisma and enjoyment to the Pro-AMs ... Sammy Davis Jr., Bob Hope, Gerry Ford and Jackie Gleason.

And to steal a line from Mr. Hope ... "Thanks for the memories."

The Hartford Jaycee motto for this year's Canon Greater Hartford Open was "Have a Blast on the 4th."

How did you spend the 4th of July Week? Did you have a family picnic or go to the shore, watch the GHO on television or were you among the thousands of spectators at Cromwell to view the action? The field had a number of top players ... Justin Leonard, John Daly, David Duval

and a guy called Fuzzy.

Now for some highlights for the week that was the GHO from June 29 to July 5 ... Tournament Players Club at River Highlands...

### Monday, June 29

The opening ceremonies on Monday morning was the start of the week's blast, with U.S. Rep. Barbara Kennelly, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Mayor Mike Peters, Ann Parizo 1998 GHO Tournament Chairperson, Harvo Murase, President and CEO Canon USA, Inc., plus other local dignitaries on hand, witnessed by a good crowd, there to see the ribbon cutting.

Before some of the afternoon rains came, Howard Twitty, the 1980 GHO champion and a player consultant on the course changes in 1990, shot 1-under-par 69. His first shot of the week was right down the middle ... he was paired with four amateurs to open the Players Pro-AM.

Among the television crews on the first tee, with former local resident and now sports was Channel 61, reporter Bob Rumbold with the station, following the course action. Bob was a member of the famed 1965 Windsor Locks Little League World Champs ... you remember them!

### Tuesday, June 30 (CANCELLED)

What's that old saying ... making a decision to go to Cromwell or not ... "Discretion is the better part of valor."

By now its a fact, the second day of the "Blast", unfortunately, due to the over five inches of rain ... and better said, "The best-laid plans of mice and men, often go awry." For the first time, all GHO Family Day activities had to be canceled. Tomorrow — weather or not!

### Wednesday, July 1

Good weather to start the Celebrity



Casey Martin starts down the cart path

# TownsPeople

## real blast by Browne's shot in playoff

Pro-AM ... Arrived at 7:35 a.m. ... later caught John O'Hurley, Mr. Peterman of NBC hit series "Seinfeld," at the ninth green.

At noon, Stewart Cink, last year's GHO winner, plus Ann of the Jaycees and Harvo of the Canon officers, Karl Krapeck, Canon GHO Honorary Chairman and our own Governor John

Rowland off the first tee.

**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

The biggest cheers were for the next foursome that included the famed Fuzzy and Mr. Yogi Berra, old Yankee, who received the biggest

cheers of all. He's always a big hit for a guy who made the Hall of Fame.

This was followed by another cheer for our Coach Geno Auriemma of UConn basketball.

Another foursome included a man you see on NBC "Dateline," nearly every night ... Stone Phillips, who was a Yale football player in his college days.

Play for keeps, the pros start tomorrow.

### Thursday, July 2

The action began at 7:15 a.m. (first and 10th tees) under sunny skies ... with so-called "marquee" players in the day's threesomes ... David Duval, Justin Leonard, John Daly, Fuzzy Zoeller and newcomer Casey Martin, the first player to ride a cart in a regular PGA Tour. You just knew the Hartford Jaycees would do something special for this player who suffers from a circulatory disorder in his lower right leg.

When it was all over, scores in Pete Morgan, (who?), yes Pete Morgan, a Monday qualifier, who grew up in Massachusetts, was the leader with 6-under-par 64, followed by Kenny Perry and Scott Hoch with 65s, six golfers had 66s. Friday will be something to watch ...

### Friday, July 3

Yes, Friday was a great day to watch,

with an estimated 90,000 fans, and a great day for the leader Scott Gump, with a 62, ties the course record, combined with 68 for 130.

Of the first 12 players, only four are well-known, Larry Mize (87 Masters) at 131, Stewart Cink (97 GHO) at 132, David Duval at 133, five wins in 10 months, and Scott Hoch at 133. Oh yes, Omar Uresti at 131, named after actor Omar Sharif.

Among the 90,000 plus with great weather, met and talked to Phil Famiglietti, Windsor Locks Park Department official, at his favorite spot, above the 16th green.

Casey Martin, off at the first, cheered by a big crowd, did not make the cut, which was at 139, he shot 71-73.

Just for the record, no July 4 blast next year, the 1999 GHO will be July 29-Aug 1st.

### Saturday, July 4

Thursday it was Peter Morgan leader, on Friday Mr. Gump (not Forrest) ... when action was completed on Saturday, Scott Hoch (64) Larry Mize (66) and New Zealander Grant Waite (65) were tied for the lead at 13-under at 197.

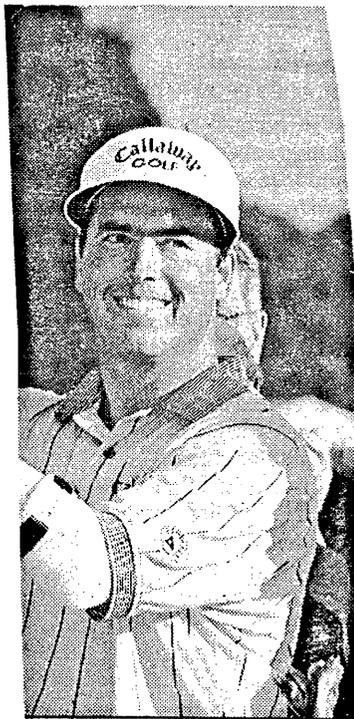
Attendance was estimated for the holiday at 40,000. Tomorrow ... is there a playoff possible?

### Sunday, July 5

The 1998 GHO is history, made by Olin Browne who won the tournament with his shot on the 18th green, from Larry Mize and Stewart Cink in a one hole playoff. The threesome was tied at 266 after 72 holes.

The complete breakdown of Larry Mize's game with a four shot lead with only four holes to play, made it necessary for Browne and Cink to have a chance to win the \$360,000 first prize.

Just for the record the attendance on Sunday was 80,000, making it a week's total of 245,000. A great week for Mr. Browne and me.



Olin Browne takes home the Canon GHO Trophy as well as the \$360,000 first prize.

JULY 17, 1998

# TownsPeople

## Scott Weisel — honored WLHS

Scott Eric Weisel knows the career he will pursue, come this fall. The Windsor Locks native graduated from the high school last month, chosen the Salutatorian of his senior class.

As to his career, for this honored student, it will be computer sciences, and realizes the numerous opportunities in his chosen field that will open come the 21st century.

Some background on Scott's family, the son of Eric and Beth Riley, both natives of New Jersey. The Weisels came to Connecticut when Eric joined Combustion Engineering Inc., now ABB in Windsor, as an engineer. Mrs. Weisel is a teacher at the Windsor Locks Congregational Church Nursery School. She is a grad of Rutgers

University in New Jersey, while Scott's dad is a grad of Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Scott has a sister, Lynn, also an honored student, will be a junior at the Raider School this fall. His brother Joel enters the fifth grade in the new year at the Middle

School, now currently the sportsman in the family, playing soccer, basketball and Little League.

Scott also played Little

League in town, with two years of basketball at the high school.

Scott was a member of the National Honor Society, had made the honor list for four years, member of the Computer Team, Boy's State, National Merit Commended Scholar, wrote several articles for the school newspaper called "The Gist." Other honors included high-

est average in Economics class, received the General Academic Achievement Award. Scott was vice president of his freshman class.

Outside the classroom, Scott was active with the youth group at the Windsor Locks Congregational Church, and during the summer assisted in the church Bible School.

When asked about employment, in the summer months he was umpire for two years at Little League games. Today, he is busy as an employee of K-Mart in Windsor.

As for hobbies/interests, his free time can be classified in three categories ... "Going to movies with my friends," reading Tom Clancy novels, and the computer, be it games, but mostly on the Internet.

He does follow most sports, especially the UConn basketball games on television. His favorite movie and book, "Clear and

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## student/college bound

Present Danger" by Mr. Clancy.

What about music? ... alternative music, he said, and when it comes to a favorite food ... pizza. Family vacations may include trips to North Carolina to visit his father's relatives from New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Comments on his role of Salutatorian, with Scott saying... "Congrats from my parents, something you should be proud of, and (I guess) hard work paid off, and now (at time of the interview) thinking of what to say at the graduation."

As mentioned, Scott's goal is computer sciences, will attend Drew University in Madison, N.J. in the fall.

When asked about influences and admiration, he said, "My father (always) looked up to him, he works hard for the family, honest and cares about people." Scott's personal philosophy ... "Set your mind to something, and do your best to achieve your goal."



Scott Weisel, salutatorian of the Class of 1998.

Did he have a favorite saying?... "You can only do your best."

Epilogue

Scott Eric Weisel apparently has always done his best ... and it has resulted in high honors. Now, as his fellow classmates face the new challenges of the 21st century,

JULY 24, 1998

## Tony & Evelyn Wogan,

Let us count the ways ... the devoted activities of Tony and Evelyn Wogan over the years has been volunteerism at its best, for their church and town services, especially for their fellow seniors and citizens of Windsor Locks.

Meals-On-Wheels, driving the senior mini-bus, as Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary's, veteran organizations, are just some of Tony and Evelyn's services performed in their adopted town.

Both of these friendly and sincere folks are originally from Brooklyn, New York, and still fans of their beloved Dodgers, even in Los Angeles.

Some background on this senior couple, where the saying on the wall at the Senior Center ... "Youth is a gift of nature, but age is a work of art," certainly a fact of life for Evelyn and Tony.

Now ladies first, Evelyn Nielsen Wogan, daughter of the late Niels-Peder Nielsen and Nila Hienze Nielsen, both born in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark. Mr. Nielsen lived to the ripe old age of

101. In the early 1900s, they came to the states settling in Brooklyn.

Evelyn was one of eight children, a brother, her twin, resides in Pennsylvania.

Evelyn attended (an all-girl's school) Bay Ridge High School, graduating in the early 30s. Even at an early age, she was an ardent volunteer teaching Sunday

School, and member of the choir.

Young Evelyn had her sights on becoming a nurse, this vocation did not pan out for her, so still determined to assist others, became a dental hygienist, for the period of seven

years.

Now for Anthony Joseph Wogan, known as Tony to his friends, as Buddy to his wife of fifty-seven years, they were married on August 31, 1941. Tony was the son of the late William and Mary Fitzgerald Wogan, both natives of Brooklyn. Tony had a brother William, two sisters, Frances and Dorothy, all now deceased.

Evelyn and Tony had met while in school, by way of introduction by relatives in the early 30s. They have lived in Brooklyn, Hartford, Long Island in the

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# TownsPeople

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## active seniors in their adopted town

**Tony and Evelyn Wogan are active in many areas in their adopted town.**



famous Levitt homes and in November of 1955 came to Windsor Locks.

The years when Tony was just starting out to-work, it was the time of the great depression that hit the economy of the United States. Tony managed a few jobs, and then finally became employed at the Brooklyn shipyard.

Tony's experiences in war time and post-war time is a story in itself...

Tony was drafted in January of 1944 into the U.S. Navy, with service time in two different stages:

First: Tony spent time on mainline China during the war... was released in January, 1946. He returned home and back to work at the shipyard.

Second: In July of 1946, decided to rejoin the navy and served until February, 1964... his home port was Brooklyn.

He did his share of traveling, especially to the Pacific Ocean area of Hawaii and off the coast of Alaska.

One of his first assignments (April 1947), was duty in Hartford, training navel reserves on the Connecticut River.

Among his ships served on ... USS Whilhoite, DER 397 .... and destroyer escort with radar.

Tony had a very diversified and outstanding naval career. But he was not fully retired ... went to work for Connecticut General for 11 years, after his two tours of duty for his country.

Evelyn and Tony have a son James Anthony Wogan, currently working in the town's tax department.

James was a 1962 WLHS graduate, where he was a member of the track and field team. After high school, he attended Boston College, until he was drafted into the U.S. Army, with two tours of duty in Vietnam.

After discharge from the service, James returned to college at American International in Springfield, earning a degree in Psychology, went on to Kent State University for his masters.

James received a fellowship at Kent (in Ohio) teaching at the university. On his return to Windsor Locks, he was a substitute teacher at the high school, and for the

past five years employed at the town hall.

More on Evelyn and Tony's hobbies/interests, they agreed, "Travel for us ... have made trips to Texas, Atlantic City, Colorado and the west coast to California and Seattle, Washington."

As mentioned, still root for the Dodgers, both enjoy classical music and on the television, its "Raymond" and "The Nanny."

They have held memberships in the local V.F.W., and American Legion, plus Tony, along with a group of former servicemen in an organization called SACO, (Sino-American Cooperative Organization) with yearly reunions all around the country with both of them making the trips.

Mention was made of volunteer activities for Evelyn and Tony, in addition: Evelyn was Vice-President of the St. Mary's Parish Council, taught CCD at St. Mary's for many years, and has been Publicity Chair-person at the Senior Center.

Looking back, Evelyn said, "Both of us enjoyed the Meals-On-Wheels activity, found it most interesting." Adding, "As to why I am an Eucharistic Minister....I always wanted to be a missionary. This work is for God, something I like to do." Evelyn and Tony do everything together, always did, she said, "My best friend, I'm very proud of him."

Both admired their parents ... Tony saying, "Got us through, the difficult years of the depression, taught us to do the right thing in life." Evelyn said this about her parents ... "They set goals for us, always a close-knit family, my mother always said "Give to the world the best that you can and the best will come back to you."

#### **Epilogue**

Evelyn and Tony Wogan certainly personify the best you can be as seniors in their adopted town. The years of service by Tony for this country, and later the time spent by their son James in Vietnam.

By their good deeds over the years, they prove the saying..."age is a work of art."

JULY 31, 1998

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## Sister Helen Ryan;

Sister Helen Teresa Ryan has always been active, involved in business of her order, be it as teacher, principal, secretary or business manager and former president of the Windsor Locks Senior Club 1996-1997.

Today, now retired, but only to a point, still very active in her order ... Sisters of Notre Dame de Namure.

We met Sister Ryan at her home (in resident with other sisters of the order) last month, soon found a delightful and interesting woman with a long list of outstanding credentials, dating back to the middle '40s, up and until her retirement in June of 1996.

I'm certain Sister Ryan has left her mark on the churches and schools she has been associated with over the years.

Now for some family background ... Helen Ryan grew up in East Boston (near where today's Logan Airport is located) the daughter of the late George and Cecilia Walters Ryan, both natives of East Boston. Helen had a brother George and a sister Mary, both deceased.

George served in the U.S. Navy during World War II ... married after the war and father of four children. Mary was the mother of nine children ... Sister Helen (we'll use her first name now, more personal) ... has a smile on her face when she mentions her brother and sister, and especially when her nieces and nephews, all 13 of them, plus the 22 grand-nieces and nephews. She is a very proud of her family and their closeness.

Now for Helen's beginning after attending an all-girl's Catholic high school, taught by sisters, the graduation in 1941.

After high school, she just wanted to go to work, she recalled, with no college or career plans (at the time).

Helen wanted to make sure her brother returned from the service safe and sound. He did, in October 1945.

Her first job was as secretary and book-keeper for the Armstrong Company in North Station, Boston, that lasted four years. She made her decision, to become a nun, something she had thought about for some time.

The next three years was a training peri-

od at nearby Waltham with Sisters of Notre Dame. She then took her final vows.

Sister Helen's religious life covers numerous churches and schools in Connecticut (others in Massachusetts and Maryland) from East Hartford south to Hamden.

Her assignment was in South Boston, strictly Irish, neighborhoods, as teacher at

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and kings**  
jack redmond

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St. Augustine School, from 1948 to 1951.

From 1951 to 1961, Sister Helen was a teacher at St. Justin in Hartford, St. Rita in Hamden and then became the principal of the Junior High at St. Rose in East Hartford, until 1967.

Her next position was as Junior High teacher at St. Rita's in Hamden once more, followed by one year at St. Philip-Neri in Linthicum, Md.

In 1970 until 1976 was co-pastor and administrator at St. Veronica Parish in Baltimore (inner city parish). I believe at this section of her story ... her future education should be mentioned ... B.A. at Emmanuel College in Boston, 1957, M.A. at Fairfield University in Connecticut, 1962, with additional credits at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Colgate University in New York and Certified CCD teacher in Hartford and Baltimore.

In Baltimore Sister Helen served on the Urban Service Agency Board, Commissioner Diocesan Urban Commission, Liaison with Department of Social Services Bureau of Recreation for the Handicapped, Baltimore City Fire Department, Mayor's Summer Program and Maryland Food Committee.

In 1976, another return to St. Rita's as business manager of the parish, a position

# TownsPeople

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## Still active/former president WL Senior Club



Sister Helen Ryan

held until 1983. Next move back to Boston, a "return to my homeland," she said. Sister Helen wanted to be near her mother (1987-1988).

This was followed by secretarial duties at the provincial residency in Fairfield, Conn. The residency then moved to Windsor in 1990, until the year of 1996, Sister Helen performed the duties of secretary. She then retired that year and now makes her home in Windsor Locks.

A story of Sister Helen's career would not be complete without the mention of many honors and rewards, they are worthy of note ... Sister Helen's "Volunteer contribution to Disaster Services" from the American Red Cross in 1980. Her "Meritorius Service" for the health of the Citizens of Baltimore, from the City Health Department. In 1976, received the annual "Best of Baltimore's Best," award for pro-

motion of their city, from the Mayor.

The former busy life style of Sister Helen with her various positions of dedication in her career, is not being, as she likes to say, "totally retired." However, in addition to clerical duties at home, her free time is fondness for reading all sorts of mysteries, her favorite author is Mary Higgins Clark.

Next comes the daily crossword puzzles, and large (hard) puzzles (that she was working on before the interview). Oh yes, sewing could be one of her pastimes.

A traveler, for sure ... with stops in Bermuda, Bahama Islands, Hawaii, Alaska and most of Europe. She has always been a Red Sox fan, plus years ago cheering for the Boston Celtics, with Larry Bird her favorite. She enjoys the music of the '30s and '40s, not much for television, unless "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy" is on the tube.

When asked about admiration of others, she immediately said, "My sister Mary, active all of her life, had nine children, happy-go-lucky, kind and patient."

When asked for a favorite quote from the Bible, she said a reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, 12:3-4 ...

No one can say: "Jesus is Lord," except in the Holy Spirit.

There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them on every one.

To each person the manifestation of the Spirit Is given for the common good.

The future plans of Sister Helen... "Grow old graciously ... keep up my life of prayer and share life with my other sisters."

### Epilogue

The life and times of Sister Helen Ryan is one of dedication to her faith., the students she taught, her sisters and her family. Her life has been one of teaching, administration, helping all those she came in contact with over her long and outstanding career.

Her parting words ... "I enjoy life, make the best of each minute. .. I love my family."

AUGUST 7, 1998

## Janice Zdun

Janice Lynn Goodwin Zdun is the president of TEAM, a group of local interested citizens, who are becoming involved in town affairs.

Before delving into the desired hopes and achievements of TEAM, more on Janice and the Zdun family.

Janice's working career has been one of executive positions in the banking world in Windsor, Tolland and currently in Simsbury.

She and her husband Robert Zdun, have a daughter Stephanie, in the 7th grade at the Middle School this fall. Bob is a former WLHS athlete. They were married on June 21, 1975, had lived in East Granby for three years, then moving back to his hometown of Windsor Locks.

Janice is the daughter of the late Robert and Jane Barlow Goodwin. Mr. Goodwin, at one time operated the Goodwin Bus Company, and was originally from Milford. Mrs. Goodwin was from Springfield.

The Goodwins had another daughter Nancy, who resides in Windsor, and three sons, Richard of Atlanta; Dwight of Granby, and Terry of Greenwich.

Janice graduated from Windsor High School, class of 1973, where she was active on her class prom committee, member of the Spanish Club, and most of her time was spent after school, working for her dad.

Now to Bob, the son of the late Joseph and Bernice Malec Zdun. Mr. Zdun was from Suffield, was employed by Suburan Propane for many years. Mrs. Zdun was a native of Windsor Locks, from a well-known family. Bob has two brothers, Dennis of Windsor Locks, and Jimmy who makes his home in Atlanta.

Bob is a graduate of the local high school, class of 1971, played basketball and participated in the town's little league as a

young boy. He met Janice, during their high school years, when they were both working for Mr. Goodwin.

Growing up in a business family, Janice knew what she wanted when she left high school. "I was already in banking, starting as a part-timer, and ended up 20 years with

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the Windsor Bank & Trust." Her next stop was short, with the Tolland Bank, "wanted a change to a different area," she said. Today she is Vice-President of Consumer Lending at the Simsbury Bank & Trust.

Now for the all star in the family. Stephanie, 12, according to her proud mother, "very involved in school, be it committees or plays." Stephanie is a member of the town's Water Jets and plays Little League Softball. She's a member of the town's Major League All-Stars. Janice said, "she is our All-Star."

Bob is a member of the Air National Guard, with more than 25 years of service at Bradley, and holds the rank of Master Sergeant. After high school, Bob attended Hartford Technical College for two years, studying Civil Engineering. For the two decades that followed, Bob worked for Beebe School Transportation in Madison as Regional Supervisor.

In 1993, when the company was sold, Bob decided to go into business for himself, but this time no buses, in the sign business;

# TownsPeople

## President of Team (a citizen's group)

and being a big Yankee fan, what better name than Yankee Signs! Some of the local signs (Yankee Company) in various places include: the Mario Gatti sign at the entrance to the Town Hall, Windsor Locks Commons, A.D.'s Pizzeria and Affordable Closets.

When it comes to hobbies/interests, both Janice and Bob are into scuba diving, with these two conditions ... Bob does his in Florida and on Long Island Sound; Janice is a "fair water diver, be it Florida or the Caribbean."

Travelers yes, to Mexico, Bermuda, Florida Keys, Cayman Islands and the Bahamas. One stateside trip was to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. In addition, Bob plays "golf all over the area", and they are basketball fans of UConn, plus GHO fans.

As you can see, the New York Yankees are their team, with Bob's memories of the great Mickey Mantle. Both enjoy television, especially action and drama shows. Janice is a well-read book enthusiast ... books by John Grisham and Mary Higgins Clark. The past five years they have been members of the local Lions Club, with Janice serving a year on the Board of Directors.

Bob's prized possessions are two softballs, signed by the "Webster Bank" team (97-98) ... the girl's major league softball team he coaches, both championship years for the team. Janice said Stephanie had signed both and they mean a lot to Bob, almost as much as the Mickey Mantle's autographed ball.

There are two teams in the Zdun family ... of course the Yankees, and then TEAM ... "Together Everyone Achieves More."

During the interview Janice said the following... "Town people should be more positive in aspects of their community." Actually, she said, the concerned groups was



**Bob, Stephanie and Janice Zdun**

started by Dan McNamara III and his wife Aly. The group meets once a month, and has 25 to 30 members.

Janice is president with Janet Paradis as treasurer. Janice added, "To better our town and community to live in." Janice also serves on the town's Municipal Resource Recovery Authority.

Janice was asked who she most admired. "My mother, who faced life with adversities, met them with a very positive attitude, most honest person you would have ever met."

As for Janice's personal philosophy and favorite saying, comes from the many years of sage remarks by that great pitcher Satchel Paige ... "Never let your head hang down, never give up, and sit down and grieve. Find another way. And don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines."

The Zdun family are surely optimistic (certainly never give up) be it a Yankee game, Little League game, or the success of TEAM.

# Suzanne O'Brien — WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

Suzanne Marie O'Brien always "wanted to do something in music," she said at our recent interview last month.

The Hartford native came to Windsor Locks with her family at the age of four, has certainly accomplished what she had set out to do.

Better known as just Sue, to family and friends, has been using her melodious voice since junior high school years, admitting, at the time, "Music gave me confidence, made me feel good (I was also shy) ... it drew me out."

But first, some background on Sue, her family which includes her parents, Bob and Laura, and her three sisters, Barbara, Doreen and Lori. The O'Brien family is not stranger to this column ... Bob, local Police Commissioner, was interviewed in

January 1986, and one of his daughters, Barbara Carlson in September of 1995. Just to update the girls ... Barbara lived in East Windsor, Doreen LaBlanc and Lori Walters reside in Windsor Locks.

Sue graduated from WLHS, Class of 1974, was a member of the drama club, involved in American Field Services, also played on the field hockey team, member of the school chorus and her instrument was the guitar

"Something in music," to a degree had to be put on hold, she recalled, at least temporarily, as reality came into play, when she decided to attend Assuntnuck College, earning an associate's degree in business.

Now to complete her working career up to the present, while her musical career has become an important and worthwhile part of her life. She worked at Cushman Industries in Hartford, Spencer Turbine in Windsor for more than 24 years, mostly with the title of customer service in sales. Today, Sue, is currently employed in Bloomfield, with

"Envelopes & More."

Sue was a member of the well-known Pine Meadow Players (for four years), which included performing in "Dracula Baby," with another local talent, Tom O'Leary, who went on to great heights in the successful run of "Phantom of the Opera." They also sang together in their high school years. Tom also appeared in the hit "Miss Saigon" on Broadway.

For the past year Sue has taken voice lessons. Sue's long list of accomplishments has included singing engagements, as follows: (over the years that she was also employed) weddings, family anniversaries. Enfield churches, (St. Bernard and Holy Family), and of course at St. Mary's in town, which includes the Folk Group.

Sue wanted to give enormous credit to two local individuals who have been instrumental in showing her the way to start and continue her musical career ... Veronica Rachel, St. Mary's Musical Director and Sue Cannon.

Music aside, Sue has a few other hobbies/interests which include collector of all types of tea cups, visiting with friends to tea rooms (there's those cups again) all over New England. Music love is always near, with attendance at shows at Hartford Stage and in New York at the Broadway hits.

At home, classical music is probably number one followed by more quiet time with poetry reading.

Sue is a fan of UConn basketball, both girls and boys, has attended games at Storrs. When the television is on, enjoys talk shows, science fiction, such as "X-Files" and "Babylon 5." She also mentioned her favorite "Touched By An Angel."

When it comes to individuals she admires singer Barbra Streisand, composer Felix Mendelsson, "The Rose," her favorite by Bette Midler. On Broadway "Phantom of the Opera."

Sue has been active at St. Mary's, in addition to singing at mass, a member of the "Small Christian Community" group, and service as Eucharistic Minister.

Singing at mass was discussed in detail ... with Sue saying, "Singing at mass, I have always enjoyed seeing the many smiles of the faces of St. Mary's parishioners, what I am doing essentially, the role of cantor (leader of song) to set the tone of the mass, my goal is for the people to celebrate the mass."

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AUGUST 14, 1998

## - singer with a song in her heart



**Suzanne O'Brien**

Some personal comments, asked for a favorite saying, "The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams," credited to Eleanor Roosevelt.

As for the future plans of this friendly, sincere and equally serious individual, would include becoming involved in religious workshops, partake in retreats, talk to women's groups on different subjects.

When asked who she most admired, "Mother Teresa, (1979 Nobel Peace Prize) she looks at every person and sees the face of Jesus in all of them, with love and compassion, be they rich or poor, especially the poor and dying."

Sue's own philosophy ... "To open your heart and listen to the music of the spirit within you." For Sue music is her life. Someone once said, "Music is the soundtrack of your life." For Sue, be it listening to records, watching television or the radio, and at church.

### **Epilogue**

Suzanne Marie O'Brien, with a song in her heart, serves her church in many ways. She has "set the tone" as leader of songs.

Quotes on music that she would agree with ... "Music, the speech of Angels ... the only universal tongue."

# Meet the Mayoros:

The Emery and Anne Mayoros family, with three children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, a story of different work efforts, travel, sports, and involvement in organizations, that covers more than 60 years after Emery met Anne when they were both students at a Hartford trade school.

Emery Charles Mayoros, Jr. and Anne Kupec Mayoros have lived in Windsor Locks since 1937, raising Margaret, Emery III, and Jack (all grads of WLHS) who are successful in their chosen fields.

More family background ... Emery Jr. was born in Hartford, on Barber Street, near the infamous circus fire, a part of history of Hartford. His late parents, Emery Sr. and Mary Mayoros were born in Europe. Emery Jr. was one of four children.

Before graduating from Hartford High School in 1934, where he played football, Emery recalls the gridiron battles with other football powerhouses in the state ... Hillhouse High from New Haven and New Britain High. He also played baseball and basketball locally.

Looking back to the Depression years after graduation, his ambition to be an engineer never was realized. He attended Hartford Trade School in the automotive field, which he would use later in different jobs. Actually his first job was with G. Fox, followed by work at Pratt & Whitney, drove a school bus, had a few automotive positions, worked for a time at Hamilton-Standard, then a 15-year period with the state motor vehicle department, finally retiring in 1989. During the period of 1971 to 1985 Emery served with the State Police Auxiliary.

Anne was the daughter of the late John and Mary Kupec, who were from New Britain. Anne was one of seven children. Although Anne was born in New Britain, the family moved to Warehouse Point, before settling down in Windsor Locks.

After their meeting at the trade school, Emery and Anne were married on Dec. 5, 1935, living in Hartford for a year, then moving to their current home in town.

Anne was ambitious, wanted to become a dietitian, however, her career took a different type of employment in the world of insurance, retiring in 1974. In addition, she raised three active children.

The children of Emery and Anne ... Margaret, wife of Ronald Avery, residents of Windsor Locks. Margaret, a nurse, grad of St. Francis School of Nursing, is now retired, likewise for Ronald, from Dexter. They have four children and four grandchildren.

Emery III and his wife Trudy live in Mississippi with their two children. Emery III is a grad of UConn, currently a vice-president of a bank in the southern state. He is a retired colonel of the Connecticut National Guard. At WLHS he was on the track team, and like his brother Jack a town Little Leaguer.

Jack lives in Middletown with his wife Linda and their two children. Jack is active in the K of C and V.F.W. In addition, Commander of Vietnam Vets, where he served in that area for 13 months. Today, Jack is employed by ABB in Windsor, as manager of Nuclear Security.

The parents of this threesome, were asked about their years of retirement? Both agreed, "We're happy homeowners!" said with smile all around, adding, "yes, busy too."

Different interests over the years for them ... he was a devoted Yankee fan, but no more, with all those high salaries. Emery enjoys reading the daily newspapers and magazines. For Anne crocheting was her main hobby a few years back.

The years back also included trips with the kids to Point of Woods in Old Lyme plus vacations to Las Vegas, Hawaii, New Orleans and now to Florida. Emery is a big fan of auto races on television, plus the show "Nash Bridges" mixed in with movie rentals.

Must mention, Emery recalling memories of yesteryear, when he played center on the local football team, the Windsor Locks Ramblers, that played on their home field where the Middle School field is now located, and games in other area towns.

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

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# TownsPeople

## a family with diversified talents



Anne and Emery Mayoros

Speaking of years gone by, Emery was a member of the local Italian - American Club and speaking of the past, Emery said he admired two men over the years, one locally, Bob Steele of WTIC, for his way of making listeners laugh and another great one Ted Williams, one of the greatest in the national pastime.

Anne was asked for a description of

Emery, "He's a very caring individual, with a sense of humor." When Emery was pinned down for a personal philosophy, he said, "Take one day at a time."

That's the story of the Mayoros family ... from Windsor Locks to Mississippi, and a lot of stops in between, making for a full life of these nice folks and their families.

# Meet Laurie Higgins

Laurie Jayne Higgins, known to her friends and family as "Munchkin," is all set for college. She will pursue music as her major, with anticipated future plans, saying, "I would love to teach music to young students."

Laurie was a WLHS grad in June, always an active student at the Raider school, sports and the school's musical bands.

She is the daughter of Harley and Donna Higgins, who were featured in C&K, along with Laurie and their son Mike, in January of 1992.

Some background on Laurie, who was born in Hartford, the family living in Colebrook at the time, came to Windsor Locks when she was four. Even at an early age, Laurie was into bowling, softball and skiing.

This all developed further when she arrived at the high school. She played JV and varsity soccer, varsity tennis, captain her senior year.

She showed her versatility by becoming the school mascot in football and basketball, wearing that three-foot head-dress (as a Pirate), which is familiar to local fans. She also took part in the senior musical, "How To Succeed ..."

Before detailing more on

Laurie's musical contributions at the high school, a few facts on her brother Michael Patrick Higgins. He's 15, in the second year at the high school, played Little League in town, T-ball to the seniors, soccer in the town league, a bowler from an early

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**cabbages  
and kings**

jack redmond

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age. The hockey player in the family, the past decade Mike has played at the Enfield Twin Rinks, this past season was with the Springfield

Indians Bantam team, played defense and has high hopes of making the Tri-Team hockey of Suffield, and Windsor Locks.

In addition, like his father before him, Mike has joined the Junior Firemen division of the local Fire Department. When it comes to spectator sports for the family, Mike is the "only Yankee fan in the family," with everyone else cheering for the Sox.

Speaking of his dad, Harley was the former Fire Chief of the Colebrook Department, and when the family moved to Windsor Locks, Harley soon became an important part of the local fire department, reaching the rank of lieutenant.

Today, Harley is employed at Mass Mutual, retired Master Sergeant from the Air National Guard.

Donna, a former employee of

# TownsPeople

AUGUST 28, 1998

## — music major all set for college



Laurie 'Munchkin' Higgins

Bradley Bowl, now a secretary at the South Windsor High School.

Free time for Laurie, could be found reading a mystery novel, usually by Mary Higgins Clark (relative?). However, her favorite book was by John Grisham, "Street Lawyer."

Back to family spectator sports, all big UConn fans during the basketball season. As for travel, two trips to Disney World, Virginia Beach, New Hampshire, skiing in Vermont, with Mike, Laurie and Harley hitting the trails, but Donna much more comfortable sitting by the fireplace at the lodge. Their favorite vacation spot is Ocean City in Maryland. Just for the record, Laurie's favorite food, can't get

enough of cheese pizza.

Speaking of favorites, her subject in school was English and the English teacher James Francoeur. Looking back, first day at WLHS, "I got lost twice," last day at WLHS, "I cried."

She is looking forward to college in September, feels it's "a new experience." Where, Plymouth State College in Plymouth, N.H., majoring in music education.

Back in May, Laurie and Jennifer Smith (C&K Feb. '98) received Art Awards from the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), the organization recognized that these two seniors had outstanding ability in the performing or visual arts at their school.

The music girl at high school, Laurie was a member of the following, Concert Band, Marching Band, (Drum Major for a year with Gretchen Rowe (C&K June '98), Jazz Band, Vocal Motion Rhythm Section (one year) Pit Band for Senior Play, her second

and third year, Student Instructor at South Windsor High School Marching Band Camp, plays Alto Sax, Flute and other instruments, also assisted fourth and fifth graders learning how to play the flute.

Towards the end of the interview, Laurie was asked, was there any special individual she has always admired? "Yes, my grandmother, Lorraine Schwerttfer (of Glastonbury) (with these words) one tough cookie, always set in her ways, gives advice and a lot of will-power."

The apple does not fall far from the tree. When asked for a philosophy or favorite saying, Laurie said, "There's one, on the road of life don't walk too slow."

After meeting Laurie, and her accomplishments at school, she probably doesn't do anything too slow herself.

As she turns from the memories of high school to college, may she find another dimension in the world of music.

## Teacher's assignment:

With school starting in Connecticut, let's fantasize!  
But I had no teacher's assignment (too many years ago)  
... what I did on our summer vacation was not even an editor's assignment.

But if I was given such an assignment, I would tell you that we took two summer vacations, one in North Carolina and quite a different one in Tennessee. Why two? ... Why not! It's a long story.

On the plane ride to Tennessee I read an article in "Newsweek," which stated the following ... "If you're planning a trip this summer, be warned, so is everyone else. And despite the crowds and stress, most people will have a great time."

Of course, we had a little stress, but also a great time. First, we had a family reunion in North Carolina; the second was a week in Tennessee.

The Newsweek story also gave out the following scenario ... "They are the orphans of summer, tourists shuffling toward distant ticket counters, time waiting for carousels and hoping they get the right suitcase, travel to the Grand Canyon, or feeling the Arizona heat, a Titanic-scaled cruise ship, ... they are discovering the price of prosperity; that the whole world wants to go on vacation with you." (With apologies to Newsweek, I could not have said it better.)

In our duplicate trips, to a point, sure, we waited for suitcases, had a few hectic moments at ticket counters, had the status of "standby," because our second booking was a senior ticket purchase which requires two weeks notification. At our age, we were excited to see the grandchildren again.

Why the southern states? The reunion would be at the beaches of Wrightsville Beach, N.C., where one of our grandsons, Mike Deshaies, hangs his hat near the water's edge. The reunion would also include Nancy (WLHS '65) and Frank Deshaies who live in Westlake Village, Calif., and their daughter Patty, also of the Los Angeles area, and the Creech family of Columbia, Tenn.. That is Bob Creech, you know of the 1965 LL World Champs, our daughter Patti, and their three children: Kevin, Lindsey and Brittany. They are former residents of East Granby. Bob and Patti are grads of WLHS, Class of 1971.

The two southern states, definitely a contrast in lifestyles, our vacations get-aways, the first in July in North Carolina. Known as the Tar Heel State, land of tobacco, Cape Fear and Cape Hatteras, the antics of U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, movie studios in Wilmington, near where we were, also location of the television show "Matlock," vast waterways, boats and yachts, half million and million dollar homes at Wrightsville Beach.

Our rental house on the waterway, only a half block to the beach. During our stay Kevin and Mike showed us their skills at water skiing.

Wrightsville Beach with its 3000 residents in winter, to



### On the Beach in North Carolina

Jack Redmond, a local columnist, took the Airport News on vacation to visit his grandchildren Lindsey and Brittany Creech and Kevin, all former residents of East Granby, now residing in Columbia, Tenn. They all posed for a photo at Wrightsville Beach in North Carolina.

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**cabbages  
and kings**

jack redmond

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# TownsPeople

## what you did on your summer vacation?

more than 40,000 on vacation in the summer months, with its variety of boats, restaurants, and famed surf, not for actual swimming, the surf waiting to be conquered.

Tennessee in August, just the Redmond and Creech families in the Volunteer State, home of Vice President Al Gore, U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, Davy Crockett, with Columbia, home of the Creeches, also home of the country's 11th president James K. Polk, in Nashville, the famous Grand Ole Opry, and yes, plenty of grits (Kevin's favorite) with biscuits and gravy for breakfast.

Little old Columbia, Tenn., where the Creech family lives in quiet and rather peaceful surroundings. Far from the maddening crowd, unless there's an reenactment of a Civil War battle in nearby Franklin or the week with a parade in Columbia, the town called the "Mule Capital of the World." The

town is 40 miles south of Nashville, 40 miles north of Lawrenceburg, home of Murray lawnmowers and bikes, where Bob Creech works. When you leave Columbia, you take Route 31 North, and there's the town of Spring Hill, with its white picket fences that surround the area where Saturn cars are manufactured.

Examples of life styles ... as in Mike's case, no adjustment was necessary, he being from the shore towns of Massachusetts. However, the Creech family had to adjust to new schools, a new job for both Bob and Pat (Bob at Murray and Pat at a middle school) and different types of southern ways and values.

The girls, Lindsey and Brittany are doing just fine. Lindsey is a 7th grader at Columbia Academy, and Brittany is in third grade at the elementary school. Kevin, a senior, attends the academy, is president of the Student Body, and star pitcher of the baseball team and also plays American Legion ball.

Well readers, hope I haven't bored you with our summer vacations, the reunions of the Redmond, Creech and Deshaies families in North Carolina, plus the added trip of Rita and I to Tennessee.

In Tennessee, we had (a sort of) another reunion ... with Tom Creech (WLHS '65) and his wife Sue, former Connecticut residents, now of Decatur, Ala. Also John and Diann Hassmiller also former Nutmeg residents, now living in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. John is also an employee of Murray.



**Jack Redmond enjoys a happy reunion with his extended family in North Carolina.**

Back home, we forgot the crowds at O'Hare, but we always remember the airlines with just perfect arrangements, with no stress, and certainly the best way to be on vacation, with family and friends, and that, I figure is why people love summer.

Note: Picture with article, taken at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., reunion T-shirts and all. Hope you summer vacations was as good as ours.

(Editor's note: Jack reports that Mike Deshaies (Jack's grandson) was evacuated from his home on Wrightsville Beach during Hurricane Bonnie but has now returned home and found a considerable amount of water damage.)

# Meet Sharon Neri

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## TownsPeople — the spokeswoman for W.L. CAN

"A need to improve communication and make effective changes in the best interests of the children in town ..." One of W.L. CAN's main priorities

Sharon Stumbers Neri, native of Windsor Locks, parent of two young boys, is a concerned mother

who feels as spokeswoman for a new group in town, called Windsor Locks Children's Action Network (W.L. CAN), there is a definite need to improve communication between the Board of Education and her newly formed group with about 20 members (parents, men and women) "growing every day," she said.

Before detailing the start of this group, some background on Sharon, the daughter of the late Adam Stumbers, who passed away in 1992, was originally from Brooklyn, then to Hartford and settling down in Windsor Locks. Mr. Stumbers was a civil engineer, worked for Lockner in South Windsor and for the State of Connecticut.

Sharon's mother, Joan Conrad Stumbers was from West Hartford, lives in

town, and retired from the Federal Reserve Bank in Windsor Locks. Sharon's brother Stan lives in Longmeadow.

Sharon and her husband Charles Neri, operate their

own business venture

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

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"Stateline Door Services," in Enfield.

It's a family affair, with Sharon, Charles, better known as Chuck, Sharon's mother Joan and her brother Stan, all part of the business.

Sharon grew up in town, is a WLHS grad, Class of 1984, was part of the senior musical that year, "Anything Goes," as one of the angels ... I looked it up in my collection of show programs.

Looking back, after high school, Sharon wanted to get married and have a family; especially working with children.

However, children and marriage had to wait for a while, she went to work for the St. Mary's Credit Union, which actually started in high school as part of the school's work program. After a year in the credit world, she entered the world

of insurance at Aetna and then to Combustion Engineering in Windsor.

Sharon had met Chuck by way of introduction by friends, they were married on Oct. 5, 1985. They lived in Suffield for a year and then back to her hometown at their current home.

Chuck was from Enfield, graduated from Fermi High in 1981. During high school, he worked on a farm in Ellington. Chuck's father, Charles Neri lives in Florida.

During our interview, Sharon said Chuck always wanted to be self-employed. His career goal had to wait a short few years ... working at two overhead door companies ... Central Connecticut for a year, and then Atlas for three years.

In 1987, the family business began, with Chuck leaving Atlas and Sharon leaving CE, they were now on their own, and doing just fine. The children of Chuck and Sharon ... Jacob and Kyle. Jacob will be 10 next month, in the fifth grade at South, a Little Leaguer, holds a brown belt in Kokondo, enjoys riding his bike, sports on television, plus a computer fan, and like the rest of the family ... it's the New York Yankees.

Kyle, 6 this month, first grade at North, also into riding his bike, "Rug Rats" and Disney on the TV, plus holds an orange belt in Kokondo. Two active boys just like their parents.

To complete the picture of the Neri family, Sharon has been a catechism teacher



**The Neri family**

at St. Roberts the past six years. Chuck and Sharon are members of the Door Operators Dealers Association.

Chuck's number one hobby is his "work" with Sharon busy with numerous crafts. Its safe to say, the time spent with their sons is the most important. Vacations have mostly been to Rhode Island and visiting the boys' grandfather in Florida.

Now that you know what makes Sharon and her family tick, so to speak, especially Sharon, as mother, wife, part of the family business, and concerned for their sons' education, more on W.L. CAN.

In July, the members of W.L. CAN gave a packet to each member of the town's

Board of Education at their meeting, asking for information on grievances, complaints, committees, job descriptions, staff evaluations, job openings, and employee transfers dating back to the 1992-93 school year.

Last month when we met Sharon (at her kitchen table, the scene of her group's initial meeting) at the time of the interview or writing this article, she or any of the members have not been given a reply to those requests.

How did W.L. CAN start? Sharon gave the following details ... "Parents were talking at a Little League game, a lot of issues on children (were discussed) ... the town was not listening, we wanted some

answers, (going on) ... we have a good bunch of teachers, teaching is a hard job, and they do not get the respect due them ..."

She went on to state ... "The group's number one priority is the education system ... (and) as parents and citizens of Windsor Locks we see a need to improve communications and make effective changes in the best interests of the children in town."

In an interview with another paper, Sharon said, "She could not specify what W.L. CAN will do if the Broad of Education refuses to provide the information ... I really don't want to deal with 'what if?' ... at this time."

**CABBAGES/page 12**

## Cabbages and Kings

**Continued from page 6**

At the close of our own interview Sharon was asked who she admired?..."My parents who taught me to have a strong will and stand up for myself ... and Chuck, who struggled most of his life, overcame those struggles, has a great outlook on life."

Sharon's personal philosophy ... "Life is too short, never forget to say I love you." She has two favorite sayings, "Just remember if things look hopeless, maybe you're facing the wrong direction ... (and) Some people come into our lives, and quickly go, Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same."

That's the story of Sharon Neri (also with a strong will), her family and W.L. CAN, certainly leaving footprints to think about.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1998

## Townpeople

# David Vaicunas — Veteran member

The town of Windsor Locks has another group of active citizens as of the newly formed Charter Commission, one of its members is David Arthur Vaicunas, who also served on the last commission in 1993.

The commission consists of 11 members, four Democrats, four Republicans and three unaffiliated voters, which David is one of the three.

Before the business at hand, some background on Dave, highly talented in the field of home improvement and former teacher. Dave is a New Britain native, however, his family came to town when he was only 3, so he can be considered a native son.

Dave attended St. Mary's, is a grad of WLHS, Class of 1967. He is the son of the late Vincent and Mary Kobos Vaicunas, Vincent grew up in Poquonock, Mary grew up right here in Windsor Locks.

Dave was active as a young boy growing up playing baseball, basketball and football with the neighborhood kids. During his high school days, he worked on Main Street at the Roth's Mens Clothing

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**cabbages  
and kings**  
jack redmond

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store, which later moved to Warehouse Point.

Dave was greatly influenced by his ninth grade woodworking teacher, Mr. Paul Thibodeau, now retired, who showed him the art of woodworking techniques. When it was time for college, Dave enrolled at Central State College, earning a bachelor of science degree in industrial education, a major in woodworking and minor in drafting. He realized after leaving high school he wanted to be an industrial arts teacher.

His first employment lasted a year, as teacher at East Hampton High School. Looking back, he said, "The pay was not adequate, so I decided to put teaching on hold and went to work at Stanadyne." This was for a period of eight years in the Quality

Control Department.

In 1980, a big change for Dave, decided he wanted to be in business for himself, something he had always wanted to do.

Today, he operates his own business, the Davco Co., in home improvements/remodeling, mostly in the Avon, Farmington and Glastonbury area. He recently completed work at a home with a Media Room and Wine Cellar.

Dave's family... he met Doreen Pilotte Vaicunas when they were both employed at Stanadyne. They were married on May 4, 1983.

Doreen was an Enfield native, the daughter of Bob and Muriel Pilotte, both from Enfield, now retired. She has a brother Bruce who resides in Agawam. Doreen is a graduate of Enfield High School, Class of 1974.

The past years, Doreen has been a school bus driver for the Smyth Bus Company here in town.

The children of Dave and Doreen... Christian Paul Vaicunas and Valerie Melinda Vaicunas. Christian is 10, South School, fifth Grade, favorite subject is social studies, (could be on a Charter

## of Charter Commission

Commission in two decades), a boy the parents say, "loves to read, read and read some more." What type of books, mostly about animals. His favorite television station is the Discovery Channel.

Valerie, will be 9 next month, also at South, fourth grade, average student, "the social butterfly in the family," who enjoys "Arthur" on TV.

When it comes to interests/hobbies of their father, he also enjoys reading, but mostly magazines on his favorite subject of woodworking. However, his most adventurous sport is scuba diving, up in Maine. The family vacations of course include Maine, also trips to New Hampshire, Hawaii and with Ocean City, Md. one of their favorites.

The family is active at the Trinity Covenant Church in Manchester. When it comes to music, from the '60s, Christian music, classical and even jazz. Rental of kids movies is enjoyed by all.

The Charter Commission ... made up of 11 citizens in town, meeting on the fourth Tuesday of

each month at the Town Hall, with Joseph Calsetta as Chairman.

Just to mention the mix of local people on the commission... John Dowd, Brian Levy, Town Clerk Bill Hamel, South School Principal Dennis Gagnolatti, Barry Gray, Peter Latournes, Christine Demaine, David Parry, Ricardo Rachele and Dave.

Dave said "The commission will be looking at numerous items in the present charter, plus recommendations of the Board of Selectmen, (and of course) the voters of Windsor Locks will approve any changes..."

Dave was asked who he admired over the years, saying, "My father, who was a kind and caring individual and helpful person."

### Epilog

David Arthur Vaicunas is again a volunteer in keeping Windsor Locks up-to-date in this changing world of community activities.

This endeavor of concerned citizens needs people like Dave, former teacher, entrepreneur and parent of two growing children, freely giving his time and knowledge to the project.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1998

## Kevin Moriarty —

“Sit long ... talk much ...” an old Irish saying, put to good use by the Moriarty family.

When you meet, and interview Kevin James Moriarty, the discussion of his Irish heritage is very much evident, and rightfully, so.

Kevin is an energetic and busy man with his own business, when it came time for a proper name of said venture ... H.A.R.P. was chosen, like in heating, air-conditioning, refrigeration and plumbing. A family affair since 1992.

Speaking of Kevin's family, his late Ireland born parents, Mike and Mae Egan Moriarty were featured in C&K way back in March of 1980. Twelve years later we told the story of Kevin's brother “Mo,” now for an update on this most enjoyable and close-knit clan.

Thomas, the oldest, former teacher, now associated with Northeast Utilities, lives in Suffield with his wife Kim, and their three children.

Kim is employed by the Suffield School system. John, and his wife Peggy, have two children, reside in Windsor Locks. John works for Airborne Express, Peggy for Pilot Delivery.

Michael, better known as just “Mo,” is employed by United Airlines, as his brother Kevin puts it, “MO is my shop foreman at HARP.”

Their two sisters, Elizabeth — resides in Wallingford

with her husband, John Berry, who's an electrician, they have one child. Marie and her husband, Windsor Locks native, Ted Sauve, live in Tolland, with their three children.

Back to Kevin, he's a WLHS grad, Class of 1980, was on the Dan Sullivan soccer team, also played indoor hockey before and after high school.

Kevin knew what he wanted as to a



The Moriarty family

career ... air-conditioning and heating, after high school, attended trade school, went on in Suffield for a company for over 10 years. In 1992, his world and career changed, he wanted and got his own business.

Kevin's business started by working out of his house, then to the Montgomery building on Main Street. Working on Spring Street, he was made an offer to buy the building he was working on, but it took some time for an agreement.

After six months, he had his own building. The business has been on Spring Street, across from the Donut Kettle, since 1997.

In the office Debbie Savage, of the well-known local family “runs the office,” Kevin said.

Commenting on the business, he said,

# Townpeople

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## He's the man behind H.A.R.P.

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

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### cabbages and kings

jack redmond

"There are changes to the business every day, and must attend classes just to keep up with the technical changes, which can be very dynamic."

Now for another working in the business ... Kevin's wife, Amy Dessaint Moriarty, a native, daughter of Roy and Ann Bucossi Dessaint, who were from Vermont, now live in Windsor. Amy has a sister, her twin, Allison.

Amy and Kevin met in high school, she is also a 1980 grad. They were married on April 24, 1987, and now live in Windsor.

Amy's employment record include work at CBT, Capital Fuel and now "works in the family business on a part-time basis," Kevin said.

Amy and Kevin have three children, Meaghan, Michael, named after his grandfather, and then there is Jack. Meaghan, 3-1/2, just started nursery school this month, is the "apple of her father's eye," and also "intelligent."

She enjoys "Arthur" on the television.

Michael, just 2, into trucks, tools and sports, was the Connecticut Children's Hospital Poster Child after his heart operation at a very early age, and today, his concerned father was all smiles, saying, "Now a very healthy 2-year old. As for Jack, he's waiting in the wings, just a year old."

Kevin was asked about any "free time?" ... "Not much, with three children and

the business, he said. He does enjoy playing volley ball, and some golf, but not too much time. He has become interested in the famed Soap Box Derby, due to his brother John's boy Brendan, as one of the derby entries.

In addition, Kevin has given his time and energy to the Special Olympics program the past five years, and Special Education in Windsor, coaching basketball to the youth in our neighboring town.

The Red Sox are Kevin's "curse," especially with all the Yankee fans at H.A.R.P. During the winter months he may find time to watch football and hockey on television. The best part of good weather and indoors, are family parties and all joining in for camping trips.

Kevin is past president of the Windsor Jaycees. Recently Kevin was named to the Windsor Locks Credit Union's Board of Directors along with Paul Anzalotti of the Deck Drawer. Kevin said the organization wanted "some young people from the business community."

Kevin was asked who he most admired? ... "My parents, who led a full life raising six children.

I learned from them my work ethic, especially in the business world, also my brother Tom, a hard worker." Kevin's personal philosophy, "treat people the way you want to be treated." Oh yes, his favorite saying ... "Sit long ... talk much ..."

#### Epilog

There was no question when it was time to give his new business a proper name ... H.A.R.P. certainly was Kevin's first and only choice.

Kevin is also a hard worker, as businessman and father of three young children with his wife, Amy at his side, at home and the business.

Now you just know its only right to end Kevin's story with an Irish blessing that was also at the conclusion of his parents ... "May green be the grass you walk on. May blue be the skies above you. May pure be the joys that surround you. May true be the hearts that love you."

OCTOBER 2, 1998

# Marino Camarco-

"If you want to be an artist, you must first learn how to draw, use the pencil, (eventually) the brush ..."

Marino's advice to aspiring artists

The life and times of Marino Marion Camarco is one of artistic talents as a hobby, World War II army veteran, plus 40 years as a tool and die worker.

Marino came from the southwest section of Hartford, met his future wife Santa Urgo, while they were both working before the war at Pratt & Whitney.

They were married on his return from overseas on June 28, 1947. They have lived in Windsor Locks since their wedding day, raising three daughters: Marian, Paula and Elizabeth.

Let the story begin with Marino, a quiet and reserved man, very talented — be it his art work or as a camera enthusiast.

He is the son of the late Michael and Elizabeth Bellafallo Camarco who came from Italy, were married in the states, and settled in Hartford.

Marino graduated from

Bulkeley High School, Class of 1938, and will join his former classmates this month for their 60th reunion.

After high school, he had high hopes for a college education. However, it was during the Depression, and going to work had to come first. He joined Travelers (where his father was retired after 40 years of service and World War I veteran) for two years, followed by employment at Pratt & Whitney.

Marino joined the U.S. Army in January of 1944, was trained in Texas, Louisiana and Maryland before being shipped overseas to Europe. He served with the Second Armored Division in France, Holland and Germany. With the end of the war, as communication sergeant, Marino viewed the total destruction of the Nazi Empire.

On his return to civilian life Marino went to work for United Tool & Die, retired in May of 1986, with 40 years of service.

Now for his better half, as the saying goes. Santa Ann Urgo Camarco is an Enfield native. Her family moved to Windsor Locks (Grove Street) when she was 7 years old.

Santa is a 1942 grad of WLHS and as mentioned worked at Pratt & Whitney during the war years.

Their three daughters Marian and her husband

"CABBAGES & KINGS"



WITH JACK REDMOND

- Townspeople ————— WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL  
local artist, tool and die veteran



**Marino Camarco-local artist, tool and die veteran**

Donald Bjorkland reside in Suffield. She is a former nurse, Donald is in insurance.

Paula lives in Andover with her husband William Hammon. Paula went to Central Connecticut State University, currently works for the State of Connecticut. William is employed in he specialty wire industry.

Elizabeth, registered nurse at New Britain General Hospital, lives in Suffield with her husband John Ventrelli, also a nurse, at Children's Hospital. They have two sons for Santa and Marino to spoil, Matthew and Gregory. The daughters are all grads of

WLHS.

Now for those quiet and eventful retirement years for Marino and Santa. Art, cameras, plus woodworking for Marino. Santa is also into cameras and has taken woodworking classes at the town's adult program.

When it comes to Marino's artistic talents what type of painting? Oils, water colors, pastels and acrylics. He first took up painting after leaving the service, with these comments, "I find it relaxing and also a challenge." He has taken courses at Asnuntuck Community College, under art teacher Tony Cirone.

When asked if he had any favorite painters? He did, naming three, Andrew Wyeth, Adro Hibbard and Harry Ballinger.

Any advice for anyone just starting out in the world of creative painting?

"If you want to be an artist, you must first learn to draw, use the pencil (eventually) the brush," words of wisdom by Mr. Camarco.

Both Santa and Marino are long-time members of the Pine Meadow Photographers in Warehouse Point. In addition, members of the local senior club, where Marino had one of his paintings on exhibit at the recent art show at the senior center.

Marino has three other interests after painting and the world of cameras ... football on television, classical music and renting war movies.

When asked for anyone he has admired in his life, he quickly responded, "My mother, good natured, (always) showed patience, a very creative individual."

For a personal philosophy, Marino said, "I try to take one day at a time ... and for a favorite saying, "Patience is a virtue." Santa wanted to add a few choice words to describe Marino, "He's calm, cool and collective."

#### **Epilog**

Marino Camarco worked many years in the tool and die industry, knowing retirement was at the end of the road. He served his country during World War II. Today, enjoys painting, cameras and as Santa said, he's "calm, cool and collective."

## Tim and Sherry Foley:

It's called T & S Sports (with accent on embroidery,) located on Main Street, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, USA.

Owners, husband and wife team, Tim and Sherry Foley.

Timothy John Foley has been in the business of real estate, operating a billiard parlor (all locally) and today, in the business of team uniforms, jackets, bumper stickers (and as their ad says) hats and more. Embroidery and Heat Transfer available.

According to the dictionary, "Embroidery, art, act or practice (of same) a piece of embroidered fabric."

His partner and fellow worker is Sherry Melvin Foley, originally from Morrisville, near Stowe, Vt., came to the nutmeg state in 1964 to be with her sister and attend school.

Some background on Tim, before his many ventures and T&S ... he is the son of the late Robert and Dorothy Hendering Foley. Robert was from Hartford, Dorothy from nearby Unionville. Tom was one of 10 children. He attended Hartford Public High School, receiving his diploma a few years later.

When Tim was asked, what he wanted as to a future career he said, "nothing definite ... first, had to help support the family."

Tim worked at a YMCA, a children's museum, other various jobs. However, in 1971, entered the world of real estate, first with the

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### cabbages and kings

jack redmond

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Marotta firm, then joined Merrigan & Lefebvre, with returns to Marotta, then M&L, over a period of years, with 20 years experience in real estate as salesman.

In 1989, opened up a billiard parlor on Spring Street, that lasted until 1993. Another change of careers, decided to go into the sporting business on Main Street in town.

Looking back, admitted, "Not knowing the business, had to attend sport and trade shows, plus seminars," and soon after decided to get out of the sporting equipment end of the business, and concentrate on uniforms, embroidery, (as described above).

Tim enjoyed both (realty and sports) but said, "I probably prefer the sporting end of business."

At it this point of the Foley story, how about some background on Sherry, daughter of the late Frank and Katrine Emmons Melvin, both from Vermont. Sherry has a sister Mindy in the Green Mountain State. Sherry said, "The big difference between Vermont and Connecticut, Vermont is dry, actually you do not feel the cold in the winter months, as you do in Connecticut."

She graduated from Enfield High School, Class of 1968. She had met Tim at the Villa Rose ...

were married on June 20, 1979, lived in Enfield for two years, before settling down in Windsor Locks. Her employment record before T&S was with Hamilton-Standard, Grants and Finast Warehouse, that lasted 10 years.

More on their family, two sons, high school students, Jonathan and James Foley. Jonathan junior at the Raider school, James in his second year. Both played Little League and midget football in town. Jonathan played varsity football for a year, with James a member of the sixth grade basketball team that played teams from Maryland, a few years back.

When it comes to hobbies/interests of the boys' parents ... Tim has played most of the area golf courses, bowls at Bradley, where he also sponsors a team. Sherry on the other hand prefers reading Stephen King mysteries, is also into glass designs.

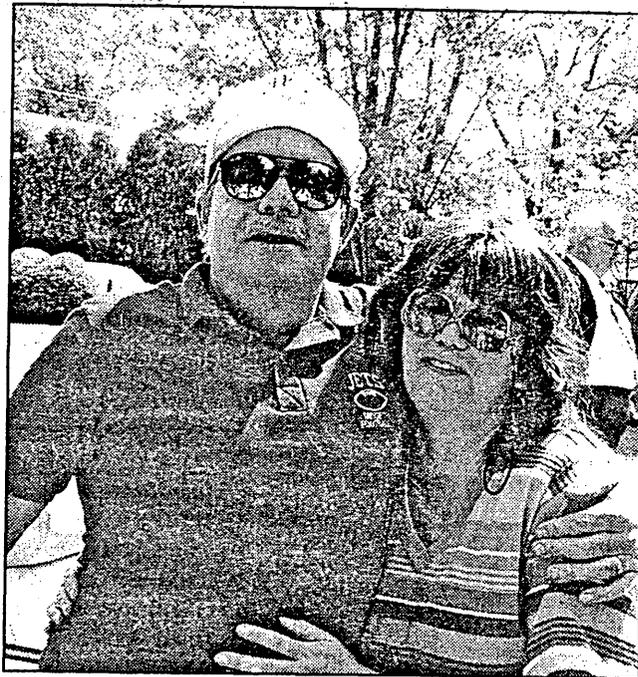
Both are UConn Girls basketball fans, plus roots for the Yankees. Traveling has been one of their pastimes ... with trips to Florida, Atlantic City, Virginia Beach and many parts of the eastern states. Oh yes, Sherry "loves television."

Must not forget to mention, Tim served in the U.S. Air Force for four years (late '70s), with active

# Around Town

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## Specialty in embroidery plus, their game



Tim and Sherry Foley

duty in Texas, with Sherry “just loving the state of Texas,” she said. To round out another of Tim’s activities, served on the town’s Auxiliary Police Department for seven years.

Tim was a member of the town’s Jaycee organization, serving on the Board of Directors. They are currently members of the town’s booster club, with Sherry as volunteer at the high school football and basketball games.

When Tim was asked who he admired, he took a different look at the question ... he went back to his Jaycee days, “They help me, woke

me up, showed me speaking techniques, and (what is) leadership.”

Tim and Sherry work together as a team, with Sherry saying (something that certainly helps in working together) “He’s a fun guy.”

As for future plans ... “Well maybe we’ll head south sometime in the future,” Sherry said.

As for the present ... its the T&S Sports Embroidery. Tim and Sherry Foley probably believe in the following ... “Always give a hundred percent, and you’ll never have to second-guess yourself.”

## Berube family -

Betty and Greg Berube, and their four children, who have lived in Windsor Locks since 1992, have already been an important part of Vocal Motion, participation in sports, middle and high school, plus their older daughters active as class officers and why we contacted the family of their role in the recent Nutmeg Show Choir Festival.

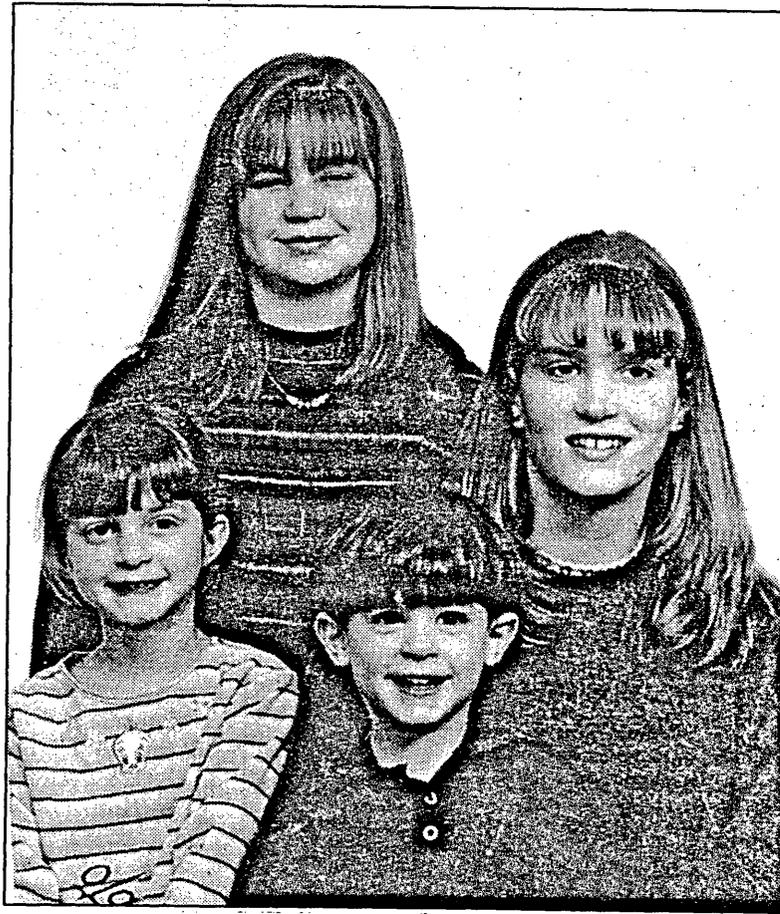
Yes, the Berube family fits very nicely in their adopted town.

This friendly and most happy couple both were raised in Enfield, Elizabeth Jean Tully Berube and Gregory Edward Berube are better known as just Betty and Greg.

First, some background on Betty, daughter of James and Elizabeth Tindal Tully of Enfield. James was from Hartford, Elizabeth a West Hartford native. Betty has two sisters, Kathleen of Enfield, and Maureen of Dayton, Ohio.

Betty graduated from Enfield High School, Class of 1974, where she was in the band, playing string ensemble and violin.

Some information on Greg, the son of the late Edward Berube, and Doris Berube, who lives in Southwick, Mass. He was one of six children. He also graduated from Enfield High, the year before Betty. Greg played football, in those days, both ways, defensive safety and tight



Daniel, Sarah, Joanna and Elizabeth Berube.

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**Townspeople** OCTOBER 16, 1998

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**- active in church, music and camping**

end on offense.

Betty and Greg actually grew up in the same neighborhood, knew each other as youngsters. Were in high school at the same time. Later years met at local club. They were married on May 9, 1980. Before moving to Windsor Locks, lived in Enfield, East Windsor and Windsor.

Before detailing Betty's quest for further education, Greg's naval experiences ... he admitted, after high school, not sure what to do next, so joined the navy, in early 1973. He trained at Great Lakes Station in Illinois. Reached the rank of E-3, served on the aircraft carrier USS Kennedy, mostly in the Mediterranean Sea area. His ship was all set to go to Viet Nam, but the war ended. Greg looking back said, "I joined to see the world, but not to spend my life on the sea, left the navy in early 1976."

Greg's employment record covers two years at Spensor Welding in Hartford, had various welding jobs, then joined the Stanadye in Windsor as process engineer for 18 years.

Currently, works in New Britain for the Creed Monarch Machine Shop as foreman.

Back to Betty ... she attended Central Connecticut for two years, left for various positions, which included driving a school bus for five years in South Windsor/Somers. After the birth of their first child, Elizabeth, Betty returned to Central and received her degree in accounting. She

would work for an investment firm in Farmington for five years, then becoming a full time mother.

The four active children of Betty and Greg ... Elizabeth graduated from WLHS in June of this year, where her parents said, "she was involved in just about everything," which included Vocal Motion, the chorus, swim team, basketball, track, and Little League in town in her younger years. Elizabeth Anne Berube was the class treasurer.

Sarah Noelle Berube also a former Little Leaguer, continued the softball playing at WLHS, now in her second year. She's 14, Vocal Motion, Chorus, Honors, band, swim

**MEET / page 14**

## Meet the Berube family

*Continued from page 13*

team and class vice-president. Sarah was Scholar-Athlete-at the middle school.

Joanna Michele Berube is six, second grade at North, has taken dance lessons, plays soccer and enjoys "Rug Rats," on the television.

The young man in the family ... Daniel James Berube is a big three, attends nursery school in town and Berube when it comes time for television he usually watches "Teletubbies." (I'm familiar with Rug Rats, have to catch Tele ...)

When it comes to interests/hobbies of their parents ... Betty is into crocheting, reads a lot, Christian novels and the Bible. Attends a local ladies prayer group.

Greg enjoys working on cars, the handyman around the house. When it comes to vacations ... camping for the entire family. They do admit to be Red Sox fans, with Greg taking in a few games at Fenway. On television the grownups like "Home Improvement" and car races.

The family is very active at their church, Crossroads Christian Fellowship in Feeding Hills, Mass.

Betty and Greg's involvement in local music groups (Vocal Motion/Nutmeg) actually began when their older daughters were in Power Company at the middle school. They continued helping: Greg stage crew and Betty with the Awards, as part of the Nutmeg Show Festival.

When they were asked on individuals who may have had an influence on their lives ... Greg said, "My father, who had the ability to do things that had to be done, he showed me the right work ethics." For Betty, since she was a little girl, she said, "The Lord, always important to me ... also my

mother, taught me about kindness, mercy and giving."

### Epilog

The Berube family ... they believe in a well-rounded life ... sports, music, camping and their church. Greg might just agree ... "The game of life is a lot like football. You have to tackle your problems, block your fears, and score your points when you get the opportunity." Betty might just agree ... "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

OCTOBER 23, 1998

# Mark Joseph:

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## Townpeople Profile of a former three-letter 'jock'

Looking back to his high school years at East Windsor High School, Mark Leonard Joseph played three sports, and was in his own words, "Just a jock."

Mark continued his playing days as softball star with the Pierce Construction team of Windsor Locks for a five-year period.

It was a traveling team, Mark said, a team that won a World Championship (in their softball slow pitch division) in 1991. More on Mark's athletic feats later.

Now for some background on this young father of a son, who is already learning to throw the ball. Mark was born at the Stafford Springs Hospital, lived in Suffield only a short time, then with the family moving to East Windsor, the town that Mark would probably call his home town.

He is the son of the late Linda Taylor Joseph, who was originally from North Carolina. Mark's dad Leonard Joseph was from Enfield, retired from Pratt & Whitney, and now makes his home in Florida. Mark has a brother Tim, a Duke University grad, now a chemist, living and working in North Carolina.

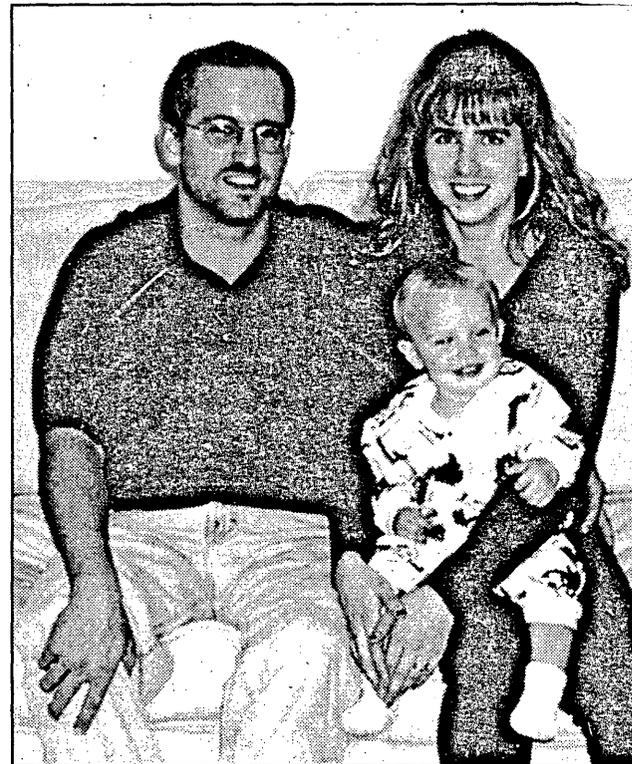
At East Windsor High School, for Mark it was the glory days of sports — baseball, soccer and basketball.

However, before high school he was a Little Leaguer across the river, followed by American Legion ball, playing just about every position on the team.

He also recalls the men who greatly influenced him on the fundamentals of baseball: Leo Bravakis, high school coach; Dave Farr and Matt Wezowicz (and Leo) as legion coaches.

During his senior year at EWHS, Mark earned the distinction of being named Most Valuable Player in three sports, an honor not duplicated since 1985 by any other player at the school.

Mark went on to Manchester Community College for two years, playing baseball at the college. He decided to leave school and go to work. After a few years at Chester's



Mark, Melissa and Nikolos Joseph

Market in Warehouse Point, he returned to school, but this time in Newington, working for the Board of Education as their maintenance engineer the past five years.

Mark met Melissa Anne Mona while she was working at a bank, located at Chester's Market. She was a grad of WLHS Class of 1992, where she played basketball, and was a member of the chorus in the senior musical that year, "No, No, Nanette."

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# cabbages and kings

jack redmond

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Melissa is a native of Windsor Locks, the daughter of Mark and Linda Mona, who were interviewed for C&K in February 1995. Melissa has a brother, Mark Jr., and two sisters, Melanie and Megan, all grads of WLHS.

Melissa attended Manchester Community College for two years, in general studies classes. She and Mark were married on May 31, 1996, and lived in Manchester, before moving to their current home in town. She is currently employed by Himes Company as an administrative assistant.

Now for the "apple of his father's eye," Nikolas, the son of Mark and Melissa, a year old, already hitting a ball off a baseball tee. The apple does not fall far from the tree.

In the Joseph family there are two things for sure: vacations at Hampton Beach, N.H., rooting for those New York Yankees, with Mark remembering the skills of Don Mattingly. Plus all types of music, except country, according to Mark. Of course, sports takes the center stage when it comes time for television, also according to Mark. As for Melissa her main interests and hobbies are gardening and all types of yard work.

If there is one hobby and interest of Mark (since he was 15 years old) it is collecting autographs of baseball players. Probably his prize possessions are the autographs of Yankee players, and a few of the old timers I remember well.

Back to his playing days and years ... Mark has played softball since he was 19, and remembers the games as mem-

*CABBAGES/ page 13*

## Cabbages and Kings

*Continued from page 12*

ber of the Pierce Construction team (already mentioned), made up of players from this area, with games in Canada, New England, Michigan and as far as Arizona. The team were members of the United States Slow Pitch Softball Association, ironically coached by Russ Mattesen, who in 1991 earned his second World Championship. Russ was a member of the coaching staff of the town's World Champs in Little League in 1965, along with Bob O'Connor.

On a more serious note, Mark was asked who he most admired ... his mother Linda Taylor Joseph, "The best person in the world (to me), she battled cancer, was tough and strong and made (all of us) stronger persons." Mark has a simple philosophy, "Just be happy, be good to others, and (always wear) a smile."

### Epilogue

Mark Leonard Joseph, former "jock," now has a more fulfilling career ahead, as father, teacher and coach of little Nikolas, his pride and joy. The following words seem to fit the Joseph family ... "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."

OCTOBER 30, 1998

# A visit to Tony Cirone's

"Just drive down on the river side, look for a red door, that's my studio ..." Tony said after a request for an interview — in the Montgomery building on Main Street.

Well, it was my first drive along the outer end of the building complex, that some business folks want to turn into apartments and stores.

The red door caught my eye, my entrance was a warm welcome from Anthony Peter Cirone, and I was in my first art gallery, with a whole new learning experience on portraits, drawings, sculptures and framing from this local expert, who has taught art classes at the University of Connecticut, the University of Hartford and for the past quarter of a century at Asnuntuck Community College.

But first, some background of the man better known as just Tony, who was born in Hartford and is an East Hartford High School grad of 1960.

Tony is the son of the late Anthony Cirone Sr., who was born in Italy, a former sheet metal shop foreman. Tony's mother, Geneva, is from Hartford, and makes her home in East Hartford. Tony has a brother Tom and a sister Pat, both residents of East Hartford.

At the high school Tony was a member of the school's art club, and member of the school newspaper.

Tony was asked about his future career as he left high school, admitting he was not sure, but he wanted to attend college. Tony certainly realized his dreams of college, with three degrees: bachelor of arts in psychology at the University of Connecticut, bachelor of fine arts at UConn, and master of fine arts in sculpture from the University of Hartford.

His teaching career (art classes) was on a part-time schedule at UConn, the University of Hartford and the educational department of the famed Hartford Wadsworth Atheneum.

In September of 1975, he joined Asnuntuck full time and today is full professor and head of Art Department. He is responsible for the entire studio art program — the credentials of one busy art teacher.

Before detailing Tony's professional development and numerous talents in his world of art, some personal information. Tony is into tennis, enjoys swimming, is a collector of early 20th century art, and yes, in spectator sports, is a fan of the New York Giants pro football team.

When it comes to music, he enjoys jazz, blues, folk and Frank Sinatra. Does he watch much television? No. When asked about favorite movies, he said "Citizen Kane" and "Casablanca."

**"CABBAGES & KINGS"**



**WITH JACK REDMOND**

# - Townspeople art gallery in Montgomery

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL



Tony Cirone's studios in Montgomery building.

Tony is the father of Cathleen Wool, wife of Scott Wool, who resides in Bristol. Cathleen is a Manchester High School grad, earned a degree in business at UConn, and master's from Rensselaer in business, and is currently employed at Hartford Steam Boiler, with Scott in business for himself.

Back to Tony and his life's work. He said he became interested in art as early as a student in grammar school. If the teacher asked for a term paper, Tony would express himself by drawing and with murals. He also enjoyed drawing comics from the newspapers.

His gallery features a collection of work which includes charcoal drawings, custom framing, photo collage, portraits and sculptures. In addition, there are architectural designs, which he supplies for organizations (banks) and private individuals.

Tony is a member of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he has memberships in the Society of Connecticut Sculptors, Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts and the Society for Photographic Education.

Tony's professional development: currently he is involved in the creation of drawings, sculpture, photography and photomontage, as well as the design and execution of environmental sculptures through public and private commissions.

When asked about his role as teacher and work at the gallery, he said, "I enjoy both, especially the interaction with my students ... and solitude time when I create."

On the much talked about development of the Montgomery building, Tony had this to say, "I would like to stay, but have no definite (new) location for the gallery. My dream is for a building of my own."

Favorite artists include Michelangelo and Raphael; favorite painting, the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. As for the future, Tony wants to continue teaching and his work in the gallery.

When it came to admiration, Tony said, he most admires "My father, a self-disciplined individual, a hard worker." He added, "Anthony Padovano, a sculptor teacher in New York." Tony's personal philosophy is, "Time and life are very precious. (There's) time to give to a person to fulfill dreams and promises."

#### Epilogue

Tony Cirone is a serious and friendly man, surrounded by his many works of art.

I'm sure he would agree with the following: "Your talents determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you are willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it." Words by former football Coach Lou Holtz.

NOVEMBER 13, 1998

## Townspeople

# Shelley Lyn Mayers: actress, sports fan

Shelley Lyn Mayers, a newcomer to Windsor Locks, after years in New York City as student, actress and even working at a sports club where a few Yankee players made appearances. (The club's owner was a part-owner in the Yankee organization)

We wanted to interview Shelley after finding out she was the featured actress in a recent play "Dial M For Murder," staged by the Windsor Jesters Community Theater group.

Shelley is a native of Williamsport, Pa. In Windsor Locks we knew it as the capital of Little League baseball. Shelley grew up in Maine, left for the big city, and eventually paid her dues as an aspiring actress, working at various jobs, with ambitions in making her life on the stage, but decided, "I wanted something more stable, went into nursing, always loved (working) with children."

More background ... she is the (daughter of Lydon and Sharon Mayers, he was from Connecticut and Sharon from Maine. Shelley has a brother Seth who makes his home in Rhode Island.

At the age of 3, Shelley's family moved to Brewer, Maine, near Bangor, began school and graduated from the Brewer High School, class of 1990.

While in school, Shelley took part in several musicals, member of the school chorus, in the band (talented in many instruments), actress in two musicals, "Sound of Music" and "Bye Bye Birdie."

In addition, was involved in the Bangor Community Theater, with a part in "Guys & Dolls." Those years she also found time for dance lessons.

Shelley knew after high school what she wanted to do - attend college - which she did going to Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., for a year, with psychology as her major.

Then the big change of scenery, a trip to the "Big Apple," New York, enrolled in the American Music and Drama Academy, located, would you believe, on Broadway.

Shelley lived in hotels, rooms provided by the school, worked as a waitress, and now looking back, after a two-year period, wanted a change, decided to go into nursing at



Shelley Lyn Mayers

the Catholic Medical Center in Brooklyn/Queens for two years, earning an associate's degree (R.N.) in nursing.

Shelley had "enough of the big city" after six years, came to Connecticut. Since November of 1997 has been employed as a nurse at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Shelley is currently attending Central Connecticut working on her full

"CABBAGES & KINGS"



WITH JACK REDMOND

## comes to town

degree in nursing.

When asked about hobbies/interests? she said, "(Acting) is my main hobby, but I do enjoy reading (anything) and skiing in New York State."

One big trip she made with her cousin Andrea Hughes, a two-week drive coast to coast, flying back east on their return. They traveled south, through Texas, New Mexico and on to California ... one stop that she called "amazing" was to the Grand Canyon in northwestern Arizona.

Shelley is a big Yankee and pro football fan, and as mentioned, worked in a sports bar in NYC, where she met Don Mattingly and Mike Stanley (now with the Red Sox), among other baseball players, plus served the Yankee owner George Steinbrenner. Due to the bar owner involvement with the Yankees, Shelley said she went to a lot of games at the famed stadium.

Her role in "Dial M For Murder," was not her first dramatic part (which she auditioned for) while in New York at the Queens Community Theater, she acted in three well-known plays, "Ten Little Indians," "Noises Off" and "Best Little Whore House in Texas."

When asked for any favorites in the theater? ... yes, Bebe Neuwirth ("Cheers" on television), who she saw perform on Broadway, "Chicago" and "Damn Yankees." As for favorite movie, it's "Gone With The Wind." Her favorite saying is a line she has lived ... "Life is what you make it."

Her most favorite person ... "My mother, who raised two children by herself at a time when it wasn't done ... and taught us to do anything you put your mind to."

### Epilog

Shelley Lyn Mayers, young active nurse and veteran of several shows, has certainly put her mind to work for a full young life, be it on the stage or her nursing duties.

Shelley "loves to sing and dance," also learned you also have to act. She, at an early age, had heard the sounds of music and knows "without music, life is a journey through a desert."

# Meet Bill McKoy, director of

*Editor's Note: The following column was run incorrectly in the Nov. 6 issue of the Windsor Locks Journal due to a technical error. What follows is the column in its entirety.*

"I want the kids to feel good about themselves in their performances. If they do that, they win," is Bill's direction of singing groups.

Meet someone on the high school musical scene, a second time: William McKoy Jr. He's the musical director of the Windsor Locks High School singing group, the Vocal Motion, plus a new all-girls singing group called Vocalise.

Bill McKoy, much traveled musical man, grew up in Japan, with the moniker of "army brat," his father being an army sergeant. Bill's story is one of travel as a young boy, now makes traveling a big part of vacations to "everywhere," he said.

However, his main career and goal in life, "wanting the kids to feel good about themselves, in their performances (in music) and if they do that, they win."

But first, his story does begin in far off Japan, in the army location at Camp Zama. Bill is the son of the late William McKoy Sr. and the late Thelma Bowser McKoy, both natives of New York City, with untimely deaths at an early age.

Bill has three sisters, who also experienced the travels to Japan and back to the states at army camps: Yvonne, who now makes her home in Kentucky, Laura in

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## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

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Maryland and Juliet in New Jersey.

For the first nine years of Bill's life it was "off and on travel," from Japan to Georgia, Ohio and New Mexico, as assignments of his soldier dad required the moves to various camps. Finally in 1973, a move to Kentucky where Bill attended grammar and then high school, graduating in 1980.

Looking back, Bill said, "Yes, I had two things on my mind to do after high school, be a musical performer or a doctor." As we will see, music was his only choice.

During his high school years, playing in the school band, just about every instrument, he also was a member of the school choir. He also performed at local nursing homes and put on puppet shows for children.

With college on his mind, he attended Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky., earning a music education degree in 1984, followed by a master's degree 10 years later.

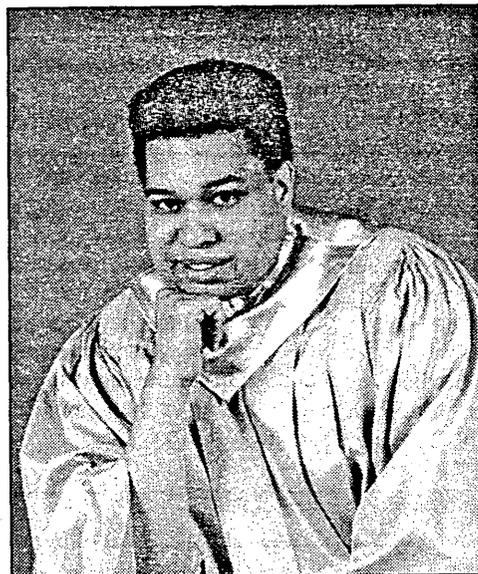
Bill's first teaching position was as substitute in the elementary school, followed by back to his alma mater, teaching for a year.

His singing career also took off, performing in television commercials for his first professional theater work in a play called the "Stephen Foster Story" (Mr. Foster's famed "My Old Kentucky Home").

In addition, Bill performed in many local operettas, over a span of years, for civic groups, churches, as singer, cantor and organist. In the "Foster" story, he came in contact with fellow actor, now a famous performer, Ned Beatty.

In 1986, for a two-year period in Louisville, Ky., Bill was a full-time elementary teacher. He went on to high school for the next seven years teaching his specialty, music, with the following comments: "It was a tough

## Vocal Motion and Vocalise



**William McKoy Jr. is the musical director of the Windsor Locks High School singing group, the Vocal Motion, plus a new all-girls singing group called Vocalise.**

assignment, students came from troubled homes, I organized a choir with 15 kids, and by 1995, there were 350 interested kids, with concerts taking up an entire gym."

At first, the kids, he said, were all Elvis Presley fans. "By the end of my stay, classical and chamber music were part of their life and programs we staged." The group won numerous awards, Bill said, which included tours around the area. Adding, "I told them they were indeed special and most of them believed in themselves."

Bill's next stop was of a different environment. "I needed a change of pace — the kids were working on how to go to college," he recalled.

In November of 1995, Bill came to Boston to attend a national Opera Convention, where he was a part of, and one of the benefits was meeting many famous opera singers.

On his return to Kentucky, he realized he wanted to do more than Kentucky would allow. He made more trips east to Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York over a period of six months.

Bill remembers well seeing an ad in a Massachusetts newspaper for a music teacher in Windsor Locks. He immediately

faxed a resume to the principal (Mrs. Conway), was accepted as the new teacher, with his first assignments with Vocal Motion and elementary music at South School. He began in July of 1996. However, in June of 1997, he resigned due to a family emergency.

Bill did return in the fall of this year and has the responsibility of Vocal Motion (mixed boys and girls, 40 members), plus 15 band members, Vocalise (all girls, 21 members) asked why? ... Because we have so much talent in the school," he said proudly.

Some personal interests, hobbies and outside involvement include membership in National Opera Association, National and Connecticut Music Educators, American Choral Directors, National and Connecticut Educators Association.

He admits, "My main hobby is traveling, just about everywhere. (I've) been to Maine, New Hampshire, Florida, Washington D.C. and Chicago.

"I'm a Yankee fan, no time for television, but enjoy an old movie and classical music," he added.

Among his favorites ... singer, Placido Domingo, song, "Ua Furtiva L'agrrma," and when it comes to Broadway, "West Side Story."

Other favorites include "God loves a cheerful giver," as his saying, philosophy of life.

We are here to give of ourselves, because of the gifts that we have, to help others recognize their gifts."

As for the future, "To perform in some, musicals and a few operettas."

When asked about any one person he admired: "My mother, the most gracious, giving, and generous person I have ever known, had the ability to find good in everyone."

### Epilog

William McKoy, with that almost constant smile, truly believes in what he does in the field of music.

His is a special story, which touched so many young people in Kentucky and now here in Connecticut.

Bill realizes his career path took many turns, but always guided by what he calls "God's will, Divine intervention."

For Bill McKoy, every day has the sounds of music for everyone to enjoy.

NOVEMBER 27, 1998

## Townspeople

# Jim and Joan Morin: Lifetime natives,

To say Jim and Joan Morin are active members of the local Lions Club would be just the tip of the iceberg, when it comes to their other interests, in addition to part-time work, and better yet, still enjoying retirement.

Now for some background: James Joseph Morin, the son of the late Joseph Morin and Julia Quagliaroli Morin, was from Windsor. Julia is a native of Windsor Locks from the well-known family in town. Jim has a sister, Judith Klocker of town, and Jim said, "We are all Windsor Locks folks ..."

Jim received his high school diploma a few years after leaving WLHS, where he had the position of manager of the school's basketball team.

Jim had joined the Air National Guard while in high school, then went to work for the First National Stores warehouse in East Hartford before his active duty with the Guard in 1958, as a mechanic.

He retired in December 1992, with 39 years of service, with the title of Organizational Maintenance Branch Chief.

While in the Guard Jim traveled all over the country, plus trips to Germany, France, Hawaii and Panama, all on special assignments.

Joan Glemboski and Jim met during her senior year at WLHS, Class of 1958. Joan is the daughter of the late Anthony Glemboski, former state employee.

Joan's mother, Evon Champigny Glemboski, and Anthony were both natives of Windsor Locks. She is currently at Bickfords.

Joan has three sisters: Anne who lives in Tucson, Arizona, Josephine in town and Dorothy in Kentucky.

After high school, Joan worked a few years at Aetna and at Kaman, and completed 20 years service at Windsor Hall. Today, she works part-time at Pegasus on North Main Street.

Jim and Joan were married on April 9, 1959, at St.



Jim and Joan Morin

Mary's, where they both were baptized, and have lived their in town since their wedding day.

Joan and Jim have two children, Kevin and Karen. Kevin lives in Agawam, with his son Mark. Kevin is employed by Hood in Suffield. He's a 1979 WLHS grad. Karen graduated in 1982. She and her husband, Rod Daigle, and son, John, reside in East Windsor.

As Joan works part-time, so does Jim, at the East Windsor Showcase Cinemas, two days a week, saying "It's fun, I enjoy it." As for hobbies, both bowl at the Bradley Bowl, two nights a week, one in a mixed group. Both sport over a 165 average.

Spectator sports include the UConn basketball games, with Jim a big Washington Red Skin pro football fan. Joan

# active with Lions

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## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

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has hobbles, too — one is watching the daily soaps “Young and the Restless” and “The Bold and the Beautiful.” The other can have good results (sometimes) going to Foxwoods.

More on the local scene for Jim: a 10-year veteran of the Windsor Locks Fire Department now a life member, in addition to life member of the NCO (Air National Guard) and the Elks in Windsor. Joan also served as member of the auxiliary of the fire department.

Four years ago they joined the Lions. Today, Jim holds the title of “Tail Twister.” They have worked the annual pancake breakfast, which Jim has coordinated the past two years, as well as the fun-filled basketball game by the Harlem Rockets. Both were involved in serving dinner to the performers of the Nutmeg Show Choir Festival. In addition, they both were volunteers in the painting of a local house. They joined because of the Lions civic involvement.

Both Jim and Joan admired their mothers. Jim said of his, “She was always doing something and showed us good

work ethics.” Joan said, “For her love and guidance she gave us over the years.”

Joan was asked for her personal philosophy of “Be happy, enjoy life, do what you can for others and not expect anything in return.”

That’s the way Jim and Joan Morin look at life, certainly emulating the Lions motto of “We Serve,” as an important part of their retirement years.

## Cabbages and Kings

Meet movie theater owners  
Bob and Kathy Laughran

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

# Bob and Kathy Laughran open up

There's a new movie theater in town. No, not our town, but just up Route 75 at the Suffield Village on Bridge Street.

The new owners are Bob and Kathy Laughran, residents of Windsor Locks, with previous experience and expertise in the operation of movie theaters in East Windsor and Agawan cinemas.

I recently interviewed the young couple on a Sunday noon, just before a group of youngsters were set to take over the spanking new renovated cinema, called Suffield Village Theater. The theater reopened in the middle of September.

Some background on Bob and Kathy. He's from Springfield, Kathy was a Windsor native. He's a grad of Wilbraham & Monson Academy in 1984, where he played baseball, soccer and basketball. Kathy graduated from Windsor High School, Class of 1980.

Robert Joseph Laughran is the son of Robert and Dorothy Homan Laughran. Bob has a brother Greg of Springfield, and a sister Michelle in North Hampton, Mass.

Kathy Pugliese Laughran is the daughter of Anthony Pugliese and Margaret Pardo Pugliese of Windsor. Kathy has two brothers, Michael who lives in Oklahoma, Anthony of Windsor and two sisters, Marie of Windsor and Jean of Windsor Locks.

After high school, Kathy moved to Florida to live with her sister Marie, had various jobs until 1987, when she returned to Connecticut joined the Ney Dental in the town of Bloomfield, where she is still employed after 10-1/2 years, in addition to her work at the theater. One note: we must mention...Kathy was a photographer for the Windsor Locks Journal back in the '80s for a year.

Kathy and Bob were married on Sept. 13, 1997, have lived in Windsor Locks since that date. They had met when they were both working in one of the theaters.

Kathy and Bob have three children ... Victoria, eight months, Kiara, 7 and Dustin, 11.

Going back a few years, Bob was asked about his future plans after he left high school? ... "No plans," laughingly adding, "still don't." However, he did attend UConn for a year, played some baseball. He then transferred to Westfield State College in Massachusetts, "to play some more base-

## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

ball."

After two years of college, Bob went to work for a Bloomfield landscaping company. Decided he had enough of that type of work, moved to New York City, worked for Wall Street brokerage firm for over two years. Across the river to New Jersey, for another new venture, became involved in the theater business, which included a manager job for over three years.

In 1995, Bob returned to Springfield, but before that, did some traveling to Florida and Mexico, playing semi-pro baseball, even had a tryout with the Twins.

Bob then took a job at the East Windsor Showcase, and that's where he met his future bride Kathy. After a year's time, they became co-owners of the Agawam Family Cinema.

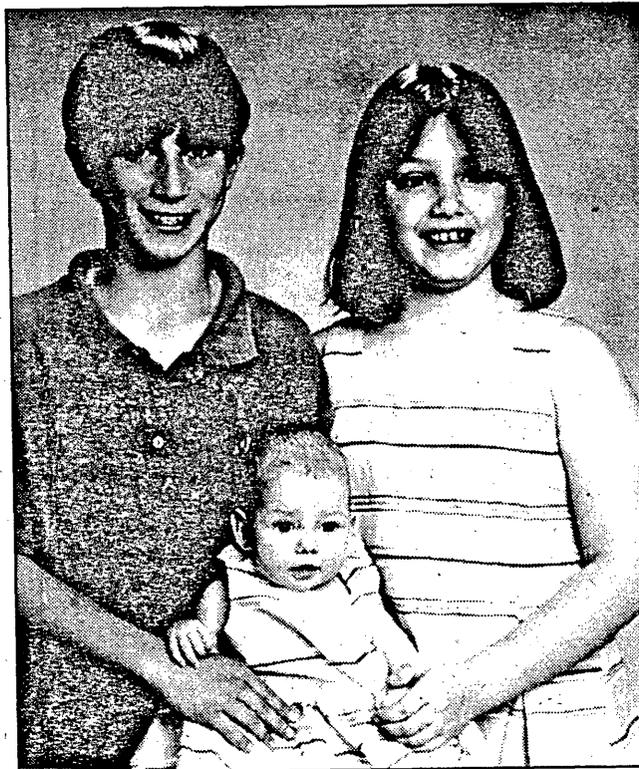
In July of this year they decided to take over the Suffield theater ... which took seven weeks to refurbish with new carpeting, a bigger candy stand, with 350 seats professionally cleaned and the entire theater repainted, with improved projection, the theater now has full stereo sound, Bob said.

Future plans for the theater include a Saturday morning kids club, in addition to working with the community for various groups (fund raising etc.) Bob and Kathy divide their time between Agawam and Suffield.

How about some personal time for this busy couple? For Bob it would be bass fishing everywhere he said. For the both of them time with the kids. They follow the Yankees, enjoy all kinds of music, with television limited to the 11 o'clock news, due of course to their full weekly schedule. They have become active at St. Joseph's Church in Poquonock.

More personal information ... when asked who they most admired Kathy said, "My father, who grew up as an orphan, came out ahead, and supported five children." Bob said his mother, "Was on her own with the children, working three

## renovated theater



The Laughran children

jobs." Bob and Kathy certainly can relate to their parents, with Kathy describing Bob as very "supportive."

### Epilog

Bob and Kathy Laughran have brought back to Suffield and surrounding towns a family theater for both the kids and adults.

Kathy's hopes ... "The theater's former popularity will return and we hope people will realize that this is new and clean ... where you can bring your whole family to see a movie ... at pretty reasonable prices."

# The Shark is back

Golf fans take notice: The Shark is back, and we were there!

Last month, we traveled to sunny California for the 10th Greg Norman Shark Shootout at the Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

To give local golf fans and readers some idea where Mr. Norman made his return to tournament golf and first competitive rounds: Thousand Oaks is 30 miles north of Los Angeles, located among the Santa Monica Mountains, which is 10 miles (west) to the city of Malibu, home to many movie and television stars, and Pepperdine University.

Another trivia note: Agoura Hills, town next to Thousand Oaks, was the actual location of the television shows "Dr. Quinn" and "M\*A\*S\*H," and the current movie "Pleasantville."

The Sherwood Country Club, a Jack Nicklaus course, was carved from the Southern California foothills, with an 18-hole beautiful setting and magnificent view of the mountains, surrounding the course with expensive town houses and spectacular clubhouse.

The course, with tricky

greens, just added to the excitement and the golfers' great skills of the game, but also playing for the \$1.3 million dollar purse — with winner's share (Norman and Elkington) \$160,000 each.

The crowds during the five-day event were small by GHO standards. On the final day 12,502 fans, a record for the tournament, were witnesses to the shark's win with partner, fellow Australian Steve Elkington, with a three-hole sudden-death playoff against John Cook and Peter Jacobson (both are favorites at the GHO) with Norman winning with a two-foot putt on the 18th hole after a great second shot to the green by Elkington.

This elite and carefully selected group (24 golfers) of the world's best were picked, we were told, for their friendly and cooperative demeanor with the fans in mind. The group also included other names familiar to this area: Fuzzy Zoeller, John Daly and Mark

Calcavecchia. Others included Fred Couples, Tom Kite, Ben Crenshaw and Davis Love III, among the names.

The tournament had a two-day Pro Am and a three-day format for the pros. The format may not be familiar to some fans, which consisted of a modified alternate shot on the first day, followed by best ball and the final on Sunday (Weekend on CBS) a scramble for two golfers as a team, making for an exciting and final day for everyone to see at the course or on television.

Connecticut fans of the GHO have had the opportunity to see Greg Norman at Cromwell, first in 1985 (29th), 1994 (second), as winner in 1995, and in 1996, being disqualified for using the wrong ball. (Remember?)

Some comments on Norman's medical conditions, leading up to this tour-

## cabbages and kings

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Greg Norman:

### INSIDE

## Cabbages and Kings

Jack Redmond takes you on a vacation with the Sharks.

— page 3



At the Sherwood Country Club in California are (from left) Rita Redmond, Jack Redmond, Nancy Deshaies and Frank Deshaies.

namement by the Los Angeles Times: "Greg Norman has won 18 times on the PGA Tour, won more than 50 times around the world and two British Opens. But that was with his old shoulder, before he had surgery that basically put his left shoulder back together.

"It has been seven months since Norman walked disgustedly off the course at the Masters after he missed the cut, his shoulder aching, his arm numb, his mood black and his future uncertain.

"So, when he played his first competitive round at the shootout, one of golf's superstars found the answer to what could be a very troubling question."

Some personal observations: we have been spectators at the Masters in Georgia, the Heritage in South Carolina, the Open in Phoenix, various tournaments in Massachusetts and New York, and, of course, the Greater Hartford Open, which I covered for the Windsor Locks Journal, the past 20 years.

This was our first trip to California for a golf tournament. We had made several trips to the home of our daughter Nancy and son-in-law Frank Deshaies, who live in Westlake Village, a part of Thousand Oaks, only a few miles from the course, with a breath-taking view of the nearby mountains.

In addition to our vaca-

tion at Nancy's home, we also had the pleasure of seeing our granddaughter, Patricia Deshaies, who just began teaching first grade in Culver City, Calif. She is a resident of Los Angeles.

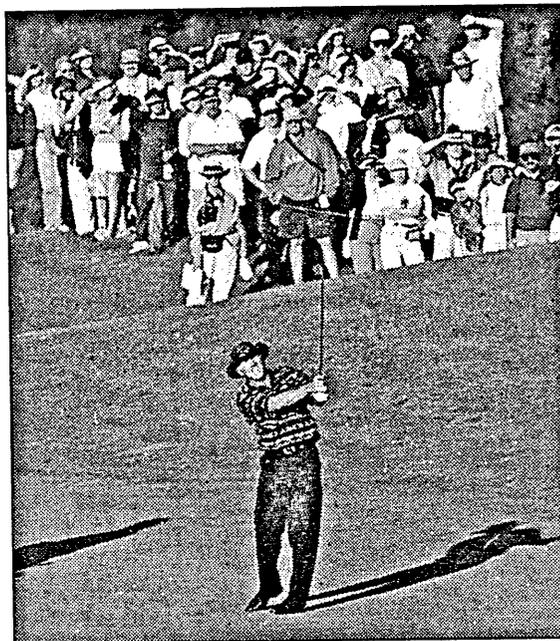
The ad in the local papers said, "Fans will be able to view the top PGA Tour golfers at one of the most exquisite locations in the country!"

We heartily agree — a beautiful course and just as beautiful setting for a tournament.

Mark Twain's assessment of the game of golf: "Golf is a good walk spoiled." No, Mr. Twain, you were wrong that time. Better to play or watch, than help paint the white fence of Tom Sawyer.

## SHARK SHOOTING:

Greg Norman hits a shot on the 10th hole in a sudden-death playoff with teammate Steve Elkington against John Cook and Peter Jacobson. Both teams tied the hole and moved to the 18th, where Norman and Elkington claimed victory. The playoff was the first in Shark Shootout history.



Staff photo by Juan Carlo

# Townspeople

## George and Trudy Cavalieri

George and Trudy Cavalieri are enjoying their retirement years, be it dancing or out to dinner or performing in the annual Senior Center musical shows.

George was from New Britain, Gertrude from Van Buren, Maine, who came to

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### cabbages and kings

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Connecticut after high school to live with one of her sisters. George was an only child, however, Gertrude, best known as Trudy, came from a very large family.

George graduated from New Britain High School, class of 1944, where he played football, remembering the classic games with the powerhouse team Hillhouse of New Haven.

For the class of 1944, only brought eventual duty to their country during World War II. George had enlisted in the Navy during his senior year, going on active duty in July of 1944. He served until July of 1946. His boot camp was Sampson, N.Y., and then became a gunner on two ships. First on a tanker and, finally, a Liberty Ship, on the tanker from South America to Nova Scotia, sailing on the Liberty ship from the port of New York to the Philippines and two islands of New Zealand.

In 1948, he joined Roncari Industries, first as a laborer, raising to the role of vice president of sales. During his 47 years of service, in addition, he was manager of Concrete Division, personnel manager, union negotiator and quality control engineer.

More about Trudy Fournier who met



Trudy and George Cavalieri

George in 1953 at a Christmas party. The following fall they were married. They have lived in New Britain for a year, followed by 17 years in East Granby and then 16 years in Avon, until their move to Windsor Locks in 1990.

Trudy had worked at Marlin-Rockwell for five years. The rest of the time a full-time mother to three children: Mark, Linda and Steven, who passed away in 1990.

How do their parents keep busy? Both enjoy golf and bowling, out to dinner and keeping their feet busy by dancing, mostly at the American Legion and Polish American Club in Chicopee, Mass.

When it comes time for vacations it's from New Jersey to South Carolina and

Florida. One big trip west was to the second music capitol in Branson, Mo., when they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Being dancers, their main music is the big band sound of the 40s, or as Trudy said, "Anything you can dance to."

But Trudy can't get away from the Nashville sound. Her favorite cable station is TNN in Nashville, while George prefers "Biography" on A&E cable.

George also finds the time for several memberships, starting with the local American Legion, and from his many years with Roncari ... American Concrete Institute, Connecticut Bituminous Concrete Association and Connecticut Road Builders, National Association of Home Builders,

INSIDE

### Cabbages and Kings

Meet George and Trudy Cavalieri, active seniors in retirement.

— page 5

## active seniors in retirement

### Correction

Due to technical errors portions of last week's "Cabbages and Kings" column on George and Trudy Cavalieri were inadvertently omitted. The missing information is as follows.

George is the son of the late Joseph and Mary Roncari Cavalieri, both from Europe, met in Windsor Locks, married and settled in New Britain. Trudy is the daughter of the late Eusebe and Alexina Laplant Fournier, both from Maine.

Their son Mark resides in Rocky Hill with his wife Nela and their three children, Jamie, Joseph and Michelle. Mark is employed by State Line Oil in sales. He and his sister Linda are grads of East Granby High School; Steven was a grad of Avon High School. Linda lives in Sarasota Fla., and is employed by a management company.

National Concrete Contractors Association, National Ready Mix Association and Connecticut Ready Mix Association (president 1975-1976).

More on their retirement years ... in addition to the dancing and dinner out, George and Trudy took part in the recent Senior Musical at the center, Trudy as part of the "Varsity Drag," along with Peg Shriel, Vela Sheets, Stephanie Dulka and Irene Pekrul. Trudy was also a part of the 1997 show, when George was one of the stage hands, however, this year he showed his own talents as one of the barbershop quartet along with Fran Cook, Joe Dulka and Richard LaMonde.

Oh, yes, there's another hobby, or better said, George's project under the direction of the Urban Research & Development Corporation (1963-present-president) essentially the recycling of solid waste into building materials. His personal project has taken him "all over the world," to Washington D.C. to Japan, Europe and South America, in attempts to convince other cities, towns and countries the benefits of disposing of "hazardous waste, industrial waste and municipal sludge." This has been George's pet project since the '60s.

Trudy in describing her husband, "...a supportive and caring person." Did they have a personal philosophy? "Cross the bridge when you get there." When asked who she most admired, "My folks, who gave us a start in life, makes you appreciate what you have today."

For George and Trudy Cavalieri life has been changes over the years, but always enjoying their time together, traveling, dancing and as active seniors in their retirement years.

## Cabbages and Kings

Meet Eleanor and  
Dominic DiBiase

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

In the News

# Dominic and Eleanor DiBiase active in

Dominic DiBiase and Eleanor Small DiBiase were both from Portland, Maine. But since 1950, have been residents of Windsor Locks, staying active; for Eleanor its quilting, Dominic with his woodworking and yard work. All in their golden years of retirement.

This congenial and most friendly couple, with over 56 years of marriage, have four grown children, 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren to love, at the same time probably spoil. When you first meet Dom and Eleanor (a little clarification needed) you just know it's very natural for them.

Yes, I and Eleanor both retired from Combustion Engineering Inc. in 1985, she (at the time in person) recalled me in my exit interview ... so this was sort of a reunion.

The interview was due to their connection with the Senior Center, after Director Betty Ann Reilly provided their names for an interview.

Dom is the son of the late Santo and Lucia DiBiase, who were born in Italy. Santo came to the states. to set up a construction company, mission accomplished, returned to Italy, married Lucia and they came to their adopted country by way of Ellis Island.

They raised a large fami-

ly, Dom was one of eight sons, and two daughters, and proudly said, "Five of the boys were in the service during World War II."

Dom had left the Portland school system to work in construction. In September of 1942 he joined the U.S. Army serving until October of 1945. After a few days at Fort Devens, he was shipped to Bradley (of all places) for five months of infantry training, as part of his company, construction aviation engineering.

His next port of call was Scotland, then spent 14 months in England (building airports) ... arriving on Omaha Beach just after D-Day. He saw action in France, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

But first, let's return to March of 1942, when his life changed. It was Dom the delivery man, who meets Eleanor the cashier.

On Aug. 8, 1942 the young couple were married. As mentioned, Dom, the new GI soldier, had to leave his new bride, just when conditions were all set for Eleanor to join Dom, but received his overseas orders.

More on Eleanor. She is the daughter of the late Ferdinand Small and Mary Payne Small, both natives of Portland, Maine. Eleanor's late brother, William Small, was secretary of Travelers



Dominic and Eleanor DiBiase

Insurance, and said, her brother was very active in Windsor Locks Little League program as Bill Small, Umpire.

Eleanor was a grad of Portland High School, Class of 1941, where she was captain of the school's swim team, in addition to being a member of the horseback riding team!

On his return from Europe and discharge, Dom and Eleanor lived in South Portland until 1949, came to Hartford for a few months, then in 1950 settled in Windsor Locks.

Eleanor worked for Connecticut General for eight years, then spent 18 years at CE, now ABB, in

Windsor, retiring in 1985.

Dom's employment ... after the war took up the trade of sheet metal worker under the GI Bill in South Portland, until 1949. They moved to Hartford, where he spent 21 years in shops, at his trade, moving on to Mayflower Trucking with 20 years service until his retirement in 1986, his position was as manager of the warehouse.

The four children of Dom and Eleanor ... Dominic Jr., Dana, Donna and Diane ... all Grads of WLHS. Dom Jr. and his wife Diane, and their four children live in Enfield. He's a salesman..

Dana and his wife Murielle live in Maine, with

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# their golden years

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## cabbages and kings

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their two children. He's a Vietnam veteran. Donna and her husband Dan Illick live in Windsor Locks with their three children. He's an engineer. Diane (graduated with our daughter Patricia in 1971) resides in town with her three children.

Their parents hobbies/interests in retirement ... Dom's handwork around their home shows he is interested in woodworking and yard duties. For Eleanor only one word and its shows ... QUILTING, with a capital Q, since 1995 she said, with her handwork, with special emphasis on quilts for the grandchildren and great ones.

This most happy couple enjoy traveling ... with stops in Bermuda, Hawaii, Florida and California. Every year Eleanor accompanies Dom on his army reunions (all over the country) with his buddies from the 840 Eng Aviation Battalion.

They are Yankee fans (a lot of them in town), enjoy the music of the '40s, and when it comes to television are fans of "Frasier," "Diagnosis Murder: and "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Their time at the senior

center is one of keeping busy and a way, as Eleanor puts its ... "keeping out of mischief."

When asked who they most admired? ... Eleanor said, "Eleanor Roosevelt, a lady way ahead of her time, always stood up for her beliefs." Dom said, "My father, had the patience to put up with all the kids, a great man."

In the family, Dom has the reputation of keeping things neat .. called "Mr. Clean," by his daughters. Eleanor has a favorite saying, "Live for today." On her favorite quilts, are the words in Latin ... :Vive in Praesons," (live for today.) Other words for Dominic ... by Eleanor..."Helpful and compassionate." Dom had kind. words for Eleanor..."The greatest, helps everyone."

With Christmas, just around the corner of events for the holiday season ... Eleanor said, "The entire family comes to our house, in the afternoon of Christmas, we exchange gifts, and then have a large supper."

A most happy couple ... be it work around the house, or Eleanor at her favorite

INSIDE

## Cabbages and Kings

Read Jack Redmond's predictions  
and well wishes for the new year.

— page 10

JANUARY 1, 1999

# Jack's predictions for

"Let us walk gladly, friend ... Perchance  
some greater good than we have known ...  
Is waiting for us or some fair hope-flown ...  
Shall yet return, O Friend."

So old friends of Windsor Locks, 1999 is  
upon us, what is waiting for us? We have  
listed a few hopes, ambitions and one or two  
laughs that may be in store for some old  
friends in the new year ... and then the year  
of 2000!

Keith Griffin: Much success with the  
Airport News.

Fran Cook: Keep singing those songs for  
folks, old and young.

Duke Marotta: Keep making those putts  
at Airways.

Carl and Carol Schiessl: Steady UConn  
basketball fans, Final Four for the boys and  
girls.

Edward Coyne: Another family trip to  
Ireland.

Joan Slomcinsky: Continue with poems,  
pure enjoyment.

Nikolas Joseph: Future three-letter star  
for the Raiders.

Ken Jeffery: After family, WLFD and  
those Yankees.

Dan Sullivan: Many good years in retire-  
ment.

Dave Farr: He keeps telling us how great

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### cabbages and kings

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those Yankees are ... you know, he's right.

Amy Becker: Keep those hockey skates  
sharp.

Val Gasparino: Can't miss as soccer star  
in college.

Shirley Horan: Crossing guard that keeps  
kids safe.

Mike Wrabel: Windsor Locks' loss, is  
Simbury's gain.

Gary Matteson: Keep those softball bats  
ready for another successful season.

Bob Bertrand: A Santa for all seasons.

Barry Gray: Now holds the title of  
Patriarch of the local GOP party in town.

Janice Zdun: Continue to be watchdog of  
local politics.

Bill McKoy: Keep those marvelous Vocal  
Motion shows coming.

Joe Kokofsky: Speaking of music, more  
singing parts for this young talent.

Bob Oliva: When is he coming back to  
local politics?

John Duffy: Bradley Fire Chief, airport in  
good hands.

Claire Howard: The perennial M.C. at the

# the New Year of 1999

Senior Center.

Mo Goldfarb: Has his own joke book-daily, a pure enjoyment.

Veronica Rachel: Cornerstone of music at St. Mary's

Suzanne O'Brien: Jewel of the crown, singer at St. Mary's.

Dan Kervick: What can one say ... he'll tell us.

Diane Gates-Dulka: You have many elections to travel.

Sister Helen Ryan: Retired, but not from her religious duties.

John Dowd: Where have you gone?

Carl Schiessl III: Good luck in new Hartford endeavor.

Pat Scelza: Football players play to his tune, or else!

Peg Sayers: Newcomer to state politics, success.

Father O'Grady and O'Donnell: Different personalities, result ... great mix at St. Mary's.

Jim Wrinn: Continue your involvement in Little League program in town.

Kathy Munson... The Ruby Keeler of local dance in school system.

Bill Latorra and Mark Senofonte: Dedicated managers for all season, when it comes to kids in sports.

Ed Ferrari: Mr. Nice Guy ... watchdog on Board of Selectmen.

Betty Ann Reilly: Dedicated to the pleasure and constant activities for the town seniors.

Some words of wisdom for the new year ... "The grand essentials of happiness are, something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."

"Character is what you are willing to do when the spotlight has been turned off, the applause has died down and no one is around to give you credit."

Speaking of happiness ... "Happiness is found along the way, not at the end of the road."

Oh yes, on a very serious note ... Y2K problem for the year 2000 ... a problem associated with how dates were programmed into hardware and software ... check with your computer expert how to solve?

Final words of wisdom, from noted children's author Lois Lowry — "Telling about things is the way we learn to live with them, and those of us who don't tell or talk about our own stories are the ones who have trouble grappling."

And more important ... Happy New Year!

# WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

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"CABBAGES & KINGS"



WITH JACK REDMOND

**INSIDE**

## **Cabbages and Kings**

Meet Lori Kokofsky, president of the Windsor Locks High School Class of 1999.

— page 3

**WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL**

# **Lori Kokofsky:**

“Smile and laugh ... it will make life a whole lot easier,” is Lori’s favorite saying and personal philosophy of life.

The Kokofsky family ... Joe Sr., Debbie, their son Joey Jr. (C&K January 1997) and daughter Lori Patricia Kokofsky.

Joe Sr., played baseball under Coach Dan Sullivan, Debbie was a former bowler.

Versatility runs in the family.

Joey, the singer and actor, Lori, also a singer, very athletic, was chosen the president of the 1999 Senior Class at the Windsor Locks High School.

Lori, native born, has demonstrated numerous talents and certainly versatility as class officer, member and captain of the school’s swim and track teams. This senior student has made the honor role the past four years.

This list of accomplishments cover many areas of school: vice president of her freshman and sophomore class, president of her junior class and this year, member of the yearbook, treasurer of the Student Council, prom queen her junior year, voted “Best Personality and Most Versatile,” of her senior class.

This past summer Lori was a lifeguard at the town pool and at the high school pool.

It was quite obvious when asked about any free time, saying, “With a lot of school activity, being with friends is always a plea-



**Lori Kokofsky is president of the Windsor Locks High School Class of 1999.**

sure.”

As to her swimming and track specialties, freestyle in the pool, hurdles and mile run (this year) on the tack team.

Lori has not forgotten her music, plays the clarinet in the school band, member of

JANUARY 8, 1999

## In the News

# Versatile high school class president

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### cabbages and kings

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the Vocal Motion group and the newly created group called Vocalise, plus the chorus and chamber choir.

Time for an update on her talented brother Joey, now a sophomore at the Raider school, also in Vocal Motion, a young man looking ahead as to a career, yes, attends weekly acting classes in New York City.

Lori and her senior classes recently completed an annual magazine drive. "Very successful," Lori said. Upcoming, the class musical (in the spring, not chosen yet, at the time of the interview) ... semi-formal dance, and at the end of the year, senior ball and outing.

Lori's fellow officers: Jessica Michalewicz, vice president; Anne Kearns, treasurer and Tracy Plis, class secretary.

More on a personal note: Lori follows baseball and UConn basketball, enjoys all types of music, except classical.

When it comes to television, it's "Dawson's Creek." Her favorite movie was the recent hit "Good Will Hunting." As for her favorite food, she never passes up lasagna. At school, math is her favorite sub-

ject. Oh yes, bowling was also one of her sports and for 11 years, took dance lessons. (Did we say versatility?)

Lori's junior year won the Smith Book Award, for "leadership and academics," in addition, attended Girl's State.

She was asked for her opinion her town, "Have always liked the town (many) colleges not too far from home." As to a future college for Lori, has applied to four ... UConn, Keene State, UofMass and UofRhode Island. Her majors would be math and education, with a minor in dance.

Speaking of dance, after college, may include a dance studio.

Admiration for others were for her parents, "I admire, they always work hard and have lived a happy life."

Her favorite saying and personal philosophy, "Smile and laugh, it will make life a whole lot easier."

### Epilog

My first impression of Lori Kokofsky was her smile, a student who enjoys the sounds of laughters. Knows what she wants, her future and concern for others.

In a play (written 20000), there were the words, "Let be the future, mind the present, need and leave the rest to whom the rest concerns ... present tasks claim our care: the ordering of the future rest where it should rest."

## Cabbages and Kings

Meet Jeffrey Kitching, director of special services for town schools.

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

In the News

# Jeffrey Kitching is advocate for town

"Hard work, key to everything, children are the key to the future," Mr. Kitching's philosophy of life.

Meet Jeffrey Craig Kitching, director of special services for the Windsor Locks schools and chairman of the school system's long-range planning committee.

I met Mr. Kitching last month to talk about his survey in March 1998 regarding a town youth center. I also found a friendly, understanding individual when it comes to discussing the youth and students of Windsor Locks. I will refer to Mr. Kitching as just Jeff, he's that kind of executive you just know prefers such closeness and familiarity.

Jeff has been in his new role since December of 1996, after positions in Deep River, Glastonbury and the state of Connecticut as teacher, with degree in psychology and earning certificate in teaching. But first, some background on this former basketball star (at 6'3") while at Canton High School, class of 1980.

Jeff was born and raised in Canton, son of Bryant and Roseann Mancini Kitching, natives of Hartford, now residents of Canton.

Mr. Kitching is a retired construction engineer. Jeff has three sisters, Janice and Linda of Canton and Elaine, who resides in West Hartford.

When asked about his future goals after high school, "I wanted to work with kids, never a doubt, especially troubled kids," he said.

The first step towards his career goal was his 1984 graduation from Eastern Connecticut State University, located in Willimantic, with a degree in psychology. His first position was at the Mt. St. John's School in Deep River, a Catholic school for



Bryant, Emily and Jack Kitching

boys 11-18 with family problems and trouble with the law.

He was in Deep River for two years, leaving for a job with the state of Connecticut Department of Children and Families at the Riverview Children's Hospital in Middletown for a period of six years, saying, "I loved every minute of it."

Jeff went to Central Connecticut for his teaching certificate which led to a teaching assignment for five years with the Glastonbury school system in grades 5 to high school.

Jeff joined the Windsor Locks school system in December of 1996.

While at Eastern Jeff met Hedi Schuld, also a grad of the university. They were married on Sept. 10, 1988, lived in Middletown, New Britain, and then to their current home in Farmington.

Hedi is the daughter of Wolfgang and Maryann Issa Schuld, who make their home in Florida.

Mr. Schuld was a native of Germany, Mrs. Schuld a native of Jamaica. Hedi was born and raised in Costa Rica. She has a

**"CABBAGES & KINGS"**



**WITH JACK REDMOND**

JANUARY 15, 1999

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## youth center

brother Peter who lives in Dallas, two sisters, Karen in Shelton and Tina in Fairfield. Hedi is a grad of Roger Ludlow High School in Fairfield, class of 1982. Hedi is currently employed by Cigna Insurance and works at home.

Hedi and Jeff have three children, Bryant 9, Emily 6 and Jack 4. Bryant attends Union School in Farmington, plays baseball, basketball and soccer and is a big Yankee fan.

In addition to professional organizations, Jeff has also found time to participate in the Glastonbury Challenge Little League Program for handicapped kids, saying, "I'm proud of the program and watched it grow."

Jeff was asked how he has found the students/parents here in Windsor Locks?

"The students really have strong work ethics, parents impress me for the amount of their involvement."

Back in March of 1998, volunteers called more than 2,000 of the 4,500 households in town, as to their feelings on a projected youth center and 94 percent supported the idea, Jeff said.

He said the town needs a place for the youth to go. Part of his job, he said, "Was to make sure the kids receive support in town for services they need."

Adding, he believes, "People would support the center and not at a lot of added expense. Business leaders will support , and there's a lot of grant money out there. We are still in the gathering information stage."

On a more personal note Jeff was asked who he admired?, "My parents, they set examples by the way they lived their life with hard work, dedication and love for others...helpful (in the way) I am today." Jeff's philosophy of life, "Hard work is the key to everything and children are the key to the future."

## Cabbages and Kings

Mondazzi is the 'music man'  
of many hats.

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

In the News

# Mondazzi — music man with other

The often-used moniker for energetic individuals is that he or she wears three hats, in business pursuits and/or pleasure.

With Edward Mondazzi, it's many hats, many, many business ventures, over the years, usually successful, in addition to his role as general music teacher at the Windsor Locks Middle School, since 1980. Ed is known to the students as just Mr. M.

This very friendly and talented young man, plays several instruments, a WLHS grad, Class of 1976, has operated different businesses, and can honestly say ... "I guess you would have to say, I'm a kid (at heart) just having fun."

Not that Ed does not take these various roles, as music teacher, gold and silversmiths, Mr. M's ice cream service store or limo services (to mention a few) as very serious endeavors ... in addition to helping start their own businesses. Yes, a man with motivating hats.

Background on Ed ... the son of the late Vincent Mondazzi, and Maria Mondazzi, who were married in their Italy, came to the states in 1956, settling in Hartford.

Mr. Mondazzi was a Dexter employee for over 30 years, who passed away in 1996. Ed has a brother Paul who lives in Windsor Locks.

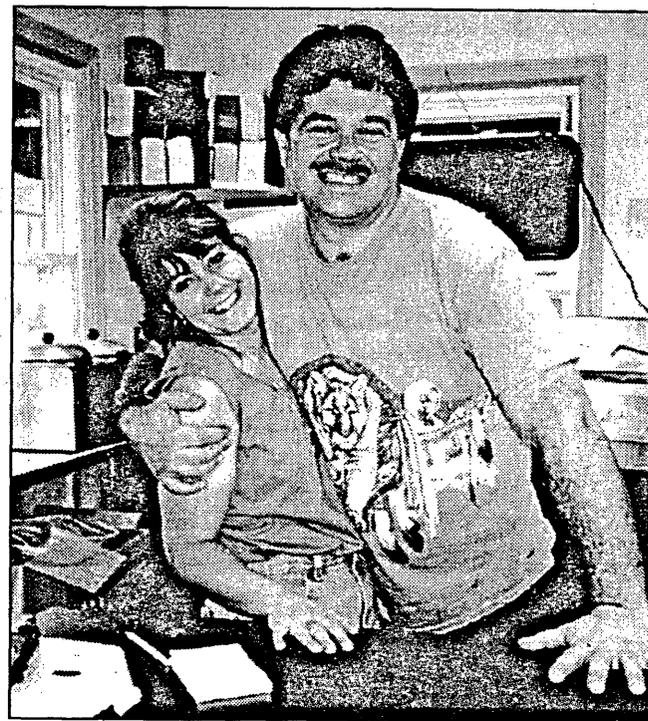
Ed recalled being a student at the Middle School, went on to the high school, saying, "music person in school and out." As mentioned played several instruments, in the orchestra pit (trumpet) for the class musical in 1976 ... "Hello Dolly." During his high school years, Ed was a part of the Youth Program at the U of Hartford.

When he left high school, he knew what he wanted to do, "be a music teacher." He went on to the Hartt School of Music (UofH), achieving a music education, graduating in 1980.

It did not take long for Ed to receive his first music position ... Richard Smith, music teacher retired, and Ed took over the music department at the Middle School, been there ever since.

Now for a scenario of Ed's continuity in search of various attempts in personal achievements ... in 1986, took over "Sir Speedy Printing" franchise for the next three years, followed by the operation of a limousine service in Hartford, for two years, with 20 chauffeurs covering trips from the city of Montreal to Washington, D.C., In 1990, said, "The business was bad and I sold the business."

Next on his list of ventures ... a vending business that lasted two years, and at this junction, one of his hobbies was making jewelry, gold and silver, attended many craft shows all over New England.



Sonja and Ed Mondazzi

Let's digress from his activities and bring in his wife to be ... Sonja Rilke, the daughter of Peter and Waltraut Rilke, who were married, in their native Germany, had three children (born in Germany), came to the states, settling in Massachusetts, where Sonja was born. A brother, Peter Rilke had passed away, as well as their father Peter. 'Sonja has two sisters, Maïke and Uta, who reside in Chicopee, Mass.

Sonja is a 1978 grad of Chicopee Comp High School. They had met in a leather store at the Holyoke Mall, where she worked. It was during his limo years, and he was looking for gloves..Sonja attended a retail management school at Holyoke College, worked at the mall for a decade.

They were married on Aug. 4, 1991, have lived on the Windsor/Windsor Locks town line since their wedding day.

When Sonja left the mall, the couple opened their jewelry store in Warehouse Point, February 1994, called Mondazzi Jewelry Crystal & Book Emporium, with Sonja as manager.

As part of the store, they have included a compact disc exchange, which is now run by his brother Paul and wife Paige.

Also included in the building, Yoga and Tai Chi classes

JANUARY 22, 1999

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# motivating hats

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## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

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are held, in addition to an assortment of rocks, minerals and crystals, plus books on natural health.

Across from the jewelry store (on Bridge Street) was a shoe store, now closed, Sonja suggested ... "Buy the building, serve ice cream," which they did in May of 1998, and called it Mr. M's Softserve and Import ASIA. Today, high school students, under Ed's direction, operate the store on a limited hour schedule, Ed said.

Back to Ed's musical career in teaching, still his first love, enjoys teaching, a whole life's work. At the Middle School, two performing groups, concert and jazz bands. He emphasized "a huge music program that includes a winter concert, in addition to his role as general music teacher, with class room required. He wanted to make sure I mentioned, "the best thing in my life is my wife Sonja."

Another side of Ed's personality ... giving free consulting advice for others who desire to start their own business. He rightfully enjoys starting others in business. This, what he calls his second hobby, first being making jewelry, oh yes, did I mention he's a gold and silversmith?

They do find some time for vacations, that goes along with buying trips to places like Florida, Arkansas and New Mexico. He mentioned, has made several trips to his parent's homeland, and other European countries. He's bilingual, grew up speaking Italian in their home, learned English in the local schools.

Last month caught Ed on A&E cable network ... no, not as an actor, narrating a commercial for their jewelry store. That versatile man.

Asked about admiration, philosophy and any new year resolutions? Admiration for his parents, both hard workers all of their life, I guess you would say I'm the apple of their family tree." Philosophy... "What goes around, comes around, both GOOD and bad." As for the new year, same one every year for Ed, "I write letters to 12 different people that have done something nice to me during the year."

One thing he was very emphatic about was his business activities, "I'm not an entrepreneur, considers his full schedule fun, not work, doing what I want to do."

That's the life and times of Edward Mondazzi, a young man of music, jewelry and other business ventures, who answers to the beat of a different drummer.

They threw away the mold.

## Cabbages and Kings

Meet Tony Fetko — in his 80s  
and still fishing.

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

In the News

# Tony Fetko — Octogenarian

"To have a friend, you have to be a friend ..." Tony's philosophy/favorite saying.

"I've been fishing since I was four years old," so said Anthony Martin Fetko, with his sincere smile, always ready to tell folks about places he has fished, plus pictures of the biggest catch.

Better known to his many friends and family as just Tony, born and raised in Broad Brook, son of the late Joseph and Ann Poliak Fetko, who came to the states from their native Czechoslovakia, where they raised seven children.

The family was Tony, his sisters Ann who lives in Virginia, Mary and Kay in Florida, and three brothers who have passed away ... John, Joe and George.

Mary Zimowski Fetko, a native of Windsor Locks.

On Nov. 19, 1998 Mary and Tony celebrated 60 years of marriage ... their wedding was at St. Mary's Church. Mary and Tony have lived in Windsor Locks since 1940. Mary was the daughter of the late Andrew and Ann Zimowski, who came from Poland, raised five children, Mary, a brother Stanley, who lives in Chicopee and three sisters, Vicki of Windsor, Helen and Julie of Windsor Locks.

Mary and Tony had two children ... the late Joyce Loughran, passed away in 1969. Joyce was an honor student at Bryant College and had two sons, John who lives in Coventry, and Jim in North Carolina.

Their son Stephen is married to Cindy Nethaway Fetko, they reside in Bristol. They have two grown children: Heather of Bristol, and Steve in Waterbury. Stephen by trade was an auto mechanic, with many years service in the Bristol area. That all adds up to four grand children and five great-grand children of Mary and Tony.

Tony's employment years, after farm work he went to



Mary and Tony Fetko

work at a mill in Broad Brook, followed by 35 years with the C.H. Dexter Paper Mill, with 20 years as foreman in the rewinding department. During World War II Tony was given a deferment by Dexter due to the war time equipment by the local company. He retired in 1976. Mary also worked for Montgomery and then Dexter, where she retired to join Tony in their golden years.

Those golden years (and before) have been his number one hobby ... fishing. His greatest years of fishing have included trips to New Brunswick, the waters of Lake Ontario and now some trout fishing. Tony maintained a garden, and previous to being home body, was a hunter/trapper (since he was only 10) mostly in Connecticut. When the children were young the family went on camping trips in all of the New England states.

### Correction

In the Jan. 29 issue of The Windsor Locks Journal, a portion of a paragraph was inadvertently omitted from Cabbages and Kings by Jack Redmond.

The paragraph should have read as follows:

After completing his school years, Tony worked on farms (tobacco and potatoes in the Broad Brook area), just across the river from his bride of 60 years, Mary Zimowski Fetko, a native of Windsor Locks.

The Journal regrets the error.

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# who still enjoys fishing

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## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

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They did not miss out on trips at vacation time, enjoying the Hawaiian islands, the beauty of Italy, the country side of Poland, with a bus trip cross country, east to west.

Must not forget to mention the main hobby of Mary ... it would be bingo and more bingo. In addition both are members of the town senior center, with Mary as volunteer on different projects at the center.

When it comes to spectator sports, Tony follows the Yankees, since the days of the great Babe Ruth. He also enjoys pro football, a Giants, Jets and Patriots fan. They both watch the UConn basketball teams, boys and girls.

Tony has given his time and energy to local organizations ... Windsor Locks Polish Club, served as secretary and president, former president of the Italian-American Club and served eight years on the Windsor Locks Fire Commission. Looking back to those years, Tony said, "I (always) like to be an active person."

When he was asked who he most admired he said, "I would have to say former presidents FDR and Harry Truman." As for a personal philosophy, saying, "To have a friend, you have to be a friend."

That is the story of Tony and Mary Fetko, married 60 years. They are still enjoying their main activity ... fishing and bingo.

Came across two quotes, the first by another president, Herbert Hoover ... "All men are equal before fish."

The second, author unknown, "Make new friends, but keep the old; the first are silver, the latter gold."

### FETKO



Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fetko of Windsor Locks celebrated their 60th anniversary Nov. 19, 1998.

They were married Nov. 19, 1938, at St. Mary's Church in Windsor Locks.

Anthony Fetko is retired from C. H. Dexter Paper Mill. Mary Fetko worked at C. H. Dexter.

The couple's children are Stephen Fetko of Bristol and the late Joyce Loughran.

They also have four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

INSIDE

## Cabbages and Kings

Burckbuchler is Windsor Locks  
Public Schools Business Manager.

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

# Scott Burckbuchler is Windsor Locks Public

Meet Scott Alan Burckbuchler the Windsor Locks Public Schools Business Manager since March of 1995.

Scott, a New Jersey native, graduate of UConn, also with many Connecticut connections, family-wise, now makes his home with his wife Kerry and their daughter Chandler in Mansfield Center, a short distance from the UConn campus, where he received his bachelor and master's degrees.

Scott's wife Kerry, also a UConn grad, where they met and were married on Sept. 2, 1994.

Some background before UConn on Scott ... the son of the late Fred Burckbuchler, a Connecticut native, with a career as physicist. Scott's mother, Lynn Hopkins Burckbuchler, formerly from New York City, now a resident of Cheshire. Scott has two brothers, Fred Jr. in Florida and

Andy who lives in Massachusetts.

Scott grew up in Chatham, NJ, with the family moving to Brick in the Garden State, when he was just beginning the third grade. He went on to the high school, the Brick Memorial High School, Class of 1988, where he played soccer and member of the wrestling team. He showed the first signs of leadership by being named president of his class, member of the Student Council, all which kept him quite busy, in addition to a part-time job after school. After his high school years, he moved to Connecticut to live with an aunt.

When asked about career goals, after high school, Scott said, "I wanted to serve in the public sector, in a leadership role, contemplating going to law school and (just maybe) enter politics."

Next move for Scott, a political science major (bachelor) in 1993, earning his master's in public administration, both at UConn, in 1995.

Was he active at UConn? ... joined a fraternity, and became involved in student government.

A big change of scenery and certainly opportunity,

## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

occurred in 1990-91, when Scott was offered a program by UConn, as internship and research assistant at the University of London (England) where he would spend nine months working with a member of the House of Commons (lower house of Parliament) when John Major was Prime Minister. He recalled, "A great city," and an experience.

On his return and during his master's program he had another first as intern in the Business Manager office with the East Hartford Public Schools.

Scott's second internship (after the masters program) was with the business manager of the Enfield School System for six months, before accepting his present role in Windsor Locks. manager was with the Business Before detailing his position at the high school, some personal notes on his family ... Kerry Macaluso Burckbuchler, born in Newport News, Va., the daughter of Richard and Maryann Macaluso. Both were from New York City and now residents of Virginia. Kerry has two brothers, Pat and Mike, a sister, Christy, all living in Virginia.

Kerry is a 1991 grad of Newport News High School, where she was a member of the swim team. She went on to UConn, graduating in 1994, with an English major. She went to work at Filene's in West Hartford until their daughter was born.

Chandler, now four, attends pre-school, with her proud dad saying, "A happy child, she's my sweetheart." She has a favorite television show called "Blue's Clues."

What hobbies of her father?... "I guess you would say working around the house, into golf, but want to get more involved, I do love the game, to me a challenge." Scott is a

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## Schools Business Manager

Red Sox fan, (of course) big UConn basketball fan, the television set is for limited viewing, unless "Law & Order" is on.

Vacation time has meant trips to Boston and Maine, one trip to London with Kerry seeing the sights that Scott enjoyed as a student.

Scott is a member of the Connecticut and national associations of School Business officers.

More on his school role at the WL High School ... he has found the position of Business Manager "Very challenging, requires a lot of dedication, with hours on the job ... I do love the job."

A brief position description ... the essential duties, functions and responsibilities:

Development of the budget, manages all business affairs for the district, purchases by competitive bidding, administers the operation of buildings and grounds, oversees negotiations and contract administration, acts as liaison with bus service. In addition, "ongoing dialogue with the Town's First Selectman's office and the Financial Department of the town," he said.

When asked about his future plans ..."Looking down the road, to attend law school (at night) continue this type of work or (even) town manager or political office."

Admiration was for Scott's father ..."Dedicated to his work, believed in self improvement by education, a learned individual, a grad of UConn." Scott's personal philosophy, "Work hard, be honest, the importance of the family."

### Epilog

Scott Alan Burckbuchler has taken on the duties of Business Manager since March of 1995.

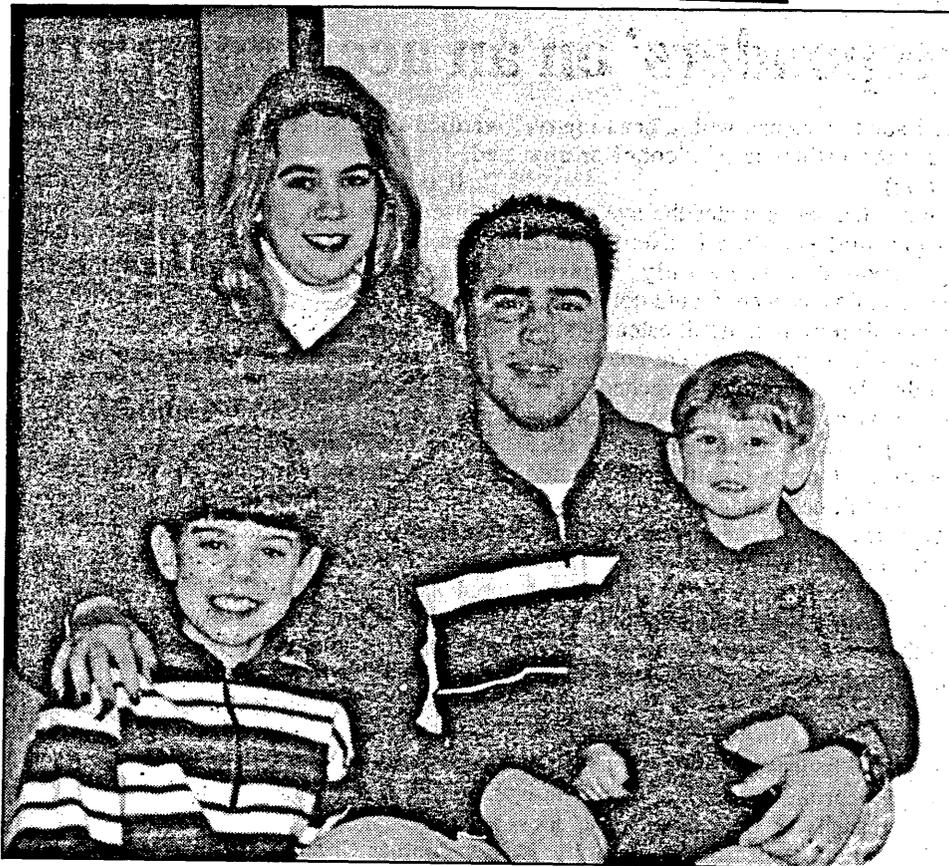
Dedication to his work came across in our interview last month. Oh yes, I'm sure if he wants to be a serious golfer, better check with Jeffrey Kitching in the nearby office, he's almost ready for the GHO.

## Cabbages and Kings

Joe Oliveira Jr. joins  
Windsor Police Department.  
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WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL



Above are Geoffery, Melaine, Joe, and Jonathan Oliveira.

### Joe Oliveira Jr. joins Windsor Locks' finest

Joseph Oliveira Jr. knew as a young boy of 5 that he wanted to be a policeman, not a fireman, not the president, a policeman.

The Windsor Locks native realized his dream when he joined the Stamford Police Department in 1996. Last December, closer to home, Joe became a member of the Windsor Locks Police Department.

Some background on our local man, the son of the late Joseph Oliveira Sr., former Auxiliary State Police officer, veteran of Roncari Co. for more than 30 years, a Massachusetts native, who passed away last year.

Joe's mother Marlene Kades Oliveira, formerly of Enfield, resides in town. Joe's brother Jason, who lives in town, is a truck dispatcher and auxiliary police officer. So you see, because of Joe Sr., the boys did not fall far from the tree.

Joe graduated from Windsor Locks High School, Class of 1988, was one of the River City Adults in the senior musical "The Music Man." On the sports scene Joe played for Coach Pat Scelza's football team (recalling "a great coach/very disciplinary") and for golf

coach Mr. Fran Beaudry.

After leaving the Raider school, Joe attended Manchester Community College (criminal justice) for a year, and decided, "College was not for me." The next two years Joe worked at Windsor's Knolls Power Atomic Lab.

Another change of scenery, in February 1993, Joe entered the U.S. Army, after basic training in Fort Benning, Ga., infantry. Joe reached the rank of E-4, serving until November 1995 in the Mohave Desert, near Needles, Calif.

While in high school, Joe met Melanie Mona, class of 1989, softball player and cheerleader, and member of the musical "Carnival." Joe and Melanie were married at St. Mary's on Dec. 17, 1994.

Melanie is the daughter of Mark Mona Sr., and Linda Pfaffenbicher Mona, featured in C & K in February 1995.

Way back in September 1979 her grandparents, Paul and Peg Mona, were subjects of C & K.

Melanie has a brother, Mark Jr., who attends

# Around Town

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## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

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college in Rhode Island, two sisters Megan Lundt and her husband Colum who resides in Boston, and Melissa, married to Mark Joseph who live in town, and also subjects of C & K last year. Melanie works at Cigna.

Melanie and Joe have two sons, Geoffrey, 9, attends South School, a soccer player, and when it comes to television, wrestling is number one. Young Jonathan, waiting in the wings, will be 3 in March.

Back to their active father, Joe, on his return from California, and Army duty, went to work at Hamilton for a year.

Of course, Joe was always on the lookout for openings in other police departments. In 1996 that opportunity was his to take, and he applied and passed a test for the Stamford Police Department, serving until 1998.

Looking back, he said, "It was a good experience, however, daily trips from Stamford to Windsor Locks was not the best of times."

In December 1998, much closer to home, Joe joined the local police department.

Melanie's comment: "I'm glad he's back in town." Joe is a collector, not the same vintage as Mark Joseph, the perennial collector of autographs. Joe collects license plates, plus publicity items of gasoline products of major companies. For Joe, then it's golf.

"My dad got me started when I was younger," he said.

Joe plays mostly at Copper Hill in East Granby. Melanie's time away from the office is with the boys and maybe reading a novel or two.

Vacation time is at Hampton, N.H., the yearly Mona family affair. As for spectator sports, Joe is a Washington Redskin fan, and took in several of the baseball games of the Angels when stationed in California. His favorite food is chocolate cookies. Their favorite television shows are "Friends" and "Profiler," (plus) "Cops."

The past years Joe has been a member of the local Knights of Columbus and Disabled American Veterans.

When Joe was asked for any special individual who he most admired, he said, "My father, always provided for the family, was always available for questions, and his views of life itself."

Joe's personal philosophy: "Every day, live to the fullest."

Joe, looking down the road, "Hope to go through the ranks of the department."

Joseph Oliveira Jr., family man and local product, now one of Windsor Locks' Finest.

## Cabbages and Kings

Meet the President of  
WL Women's Club.

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FEBRUARY 19, 1999

# Brickman is active as



**President of WL Women's Club, Elaine Lennon Brickman**

Meet Elaine Lennon Brickman, since June of last year, president of the Windsor Locks Women's Club, a member for the past 15 years.

Elaine, active in other endeavors, nurse by profession, mother of three active boys, along with an equally active father, Jeffrey Brickman.

Some background on Elaine's family, she is one of four children of Jim and Alice Carragher Lennon, featured 20 years ago in "Cabbages & Kings."

Jim Sr., former factory engineer, now retired, but not from life, in the church, K of C, golfer, born in Scotland, met his future bride when Alice, at the age of 3, traveled to her parents' homeland in

Scotland. Years later, they met and married, returning to the states, eventually settling in Windsor Locks.

Elaine has a sister, Jacqueline, who lives in Massachusetts, two brothers, John, who resides in New York City with his wife Laurel Wissinger Lennon, and Jim Jr., who with his wife Eve Grello Lennon, operate a bed and breakfast the past two years in Lebanon, Ohio.

Jacqueline graduated from Our Lady of the Angels in Enfield, class of 1976, as was Elaine, class of 1974. Jim Jr. is a WLHS grad, class of 1978, and John was a 1980 grad.

She was born in Hartford, her family moved to town when she was 2, she attended high school in Enfield, and wanted to "enter the health field" in either research or biology. At high school she played softball and was co-captain of the basketball team.

She entered UConn and graduated in 1978, two years later was a grad of the college's school of nursing. They met when they were both students at UConn.

Jeffrey, a Malden, Mass. native, is the son of Gerald and Barbara Leeds Brickman of Boston. Jeffrey also comes from a large family of four brothers, Stephen of Boston, Keith of New York City, David of Florida and Jonathan of Maryland.

Jeffrey graduated from Malden High School in 1973, a swimmer, football and track star, went to UConn on a swimming scholarship.

Jeffrey and Elaine were married May 24, 1980, lived in Storrs before moving to Philadelphia where Jeffrey received his master's from Temple University in hospital administration.

Elaine soon found employment at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia for two years, playing some softball for the hospital team.

# Townspeople

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## President of WL Women's Club

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

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### cabbages and kings

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This busy couple returned to live in Springfield when Jeffrey joined the Bay State Medical Center. Today, he is the executive vice president of the Springfield facility.

Elaine also began work at Bay State in various positions from 1982 to 1987 and during that period gave birth to their three sons.

She then came to Hartford's Mount Sinai, followed part time with the Hartford Visiting Nurse Association, was school nurse part time at East Granby schools and is now the school nurse at Windsor's Roger Wolcott School.

Their three sons, Joshua, 15, Matthew, 13, and Eric 10. Joshua attends Windsor High School, second year, played Little League, at the high school baseball and soccer. Matthew, middle school student, 8th grade, also Little Leaguer, now plays midget football, was on the sixth grade basketball team (like Windsor Locks, games with Maryland), as was his Uncle John in his Windsor Locks years. Eric holds his own, 5th grade at elementary school, Little Leaguer and soccer player.

Now for their parent's free time, Elaine is a collector of "Little Houses, the Cat's Meow variety, plus depression glass." Folks of the older generation will certainly remember so-called dish night at the local movies way back when during the Depression years.

Jeffrey is the runner in the family and is active in golf, follows the Red Sox, and

the entire family are UConn basketball fans. Public television and the Discovery Channel occupy the family set.

When it comes to vacation time, it's either Boston or New York City to visit relatives. They are also great fans of the baseball Cape Cod League. Both are avid readers, John Grisham and Tom Clancy.

Elaine and Jeffrey are active in Windsor and Springfield, with Elaine vice president of the Windsor Little League, Cub Scouts, PTO, with Jeffrey in Boy Scouts and the Springfield United Way Campaign.

Elaine is president of the WL Women's Club with 56 members that meets the third Tuesday of the month (September to May) at the WL Congregational Church. Other officers include Linda Coscore as vice president, Charlene Kearns as secretary, and Karen Henry as treasurer.

The club is involved in several state projects plus scholarships for Windsor Locks High School students, a new project called Wee Read for mothers to read to their newborns.

Elaine's personal goal for the future, "Looking forward to the boys going to college." She firmly believes in the "Golden Rule." When asked what she admires in one individual, she said, "My high school English teacher who instilled in me a love of literature."

Her favorite was by Margaret Mead, American anthropologist, "Never doubt what a small group of individuals can change, in fact, the only way there is any change." For example, the WL Women's Club.

We ended Jim and Alice Lennon's "Cabbages and Kings" many years ago, it still rings true..."When we know how to read our own hearts, we acquire wisdom of the hearts of others."

INSIDE

## Cabbages and Kings

Reale's retirement gives her time to watch UConn girls basketball.

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

# Reale's retirement allows her

As with many homes in Windsor Locks, the UConn flag (Husky Dog) flies in full view supporting the men's and women's basketball teams at the college campus.

In Ann Hodgdon Reale's case, her flag is also in full view at her home. Now retired from her duties at the Senior Center (Windsor Locks Housing Authority), she'll be watching more on television and attend a few games, especially the girls of UConn, her favorite bunch of young athletes.

Ann's home refrigerator is covered with family photos, plus a full team picture of the girls. Amy Duran is her favorite player of the Huskies.

Ann is mother of two active sons, proud grandmother of equally busy four grandchildren, and now can spend more time with them and continue her work around the yard and home.

Some background on this friendly lady, originally from the state of Maine, the daughter of the late John Hodgdon Sr. who was from Maine, and her 93-year-old mother Verna Foss Hodgdon, who lives in Seal Cove, Maine. Ann has three brothers, John Jr., Elwin and Frank, and two sisters, Louise, and Juanita, all residents of Maine.

She remembers the cold and snowy winters, growing up in Tremont, Maine. Ann graduated from Southwest Harbor High School in 1951. Yes, she said, "I played softball, basketball and volleyball."

After high school, "I wanted to go to a commercial school," but her brother John, who lived in Connecticut and worked at Hamilton-Standard, was paid a visit, her future changed.

Ann decided to stay, went to work at Hamilton, for the next eight years. This was followed by several jobs, which included a teacher's aid at (then) Southwest School, worked at Sweet Life, Casual Corners and a few area grocery stores. Adding, "Always worked around having our two sons."

During those Hamilton years, Ann met Edward Reale Sr. Ed and Ann and the boys were subjects of C&K in Oct. 1980. Ed, who passed away in July of 1990 was from

## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

Suffield and a graduate of Enfield High School. He was the son of the late Luigi and Pace Reale who were from Sicily. Ed was one of 13 children including four girls and nine boys.

Ed served in the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1952, with duty in Germany. After discharge was a member of the American Vets in Enfield.

Ed worked at Bigelow's, then became an employee of Hamilton-Standard for 38 years, until his death. Ann and Ed were married on August 3, 1953, raised two sons, Edward Jr. and David Reale. The family lived in Enfield for seven years, before moving to Windsor Locks.

Their two sons, Ed Jr. lives in Bloomfield with his wife B.J. and their two daughters Rachel and Samantha. B.J. is an office manager for a doctor; Ed, for the past 20 years has his own painting business in Bloomfield, called E&M. He graduated from WLHS class of 1974 and went on to New England Technical College in New Britain. I personally remember Ed as a member of the Villa Rose Senior League baseball team.

His brother David was bat boy for that team, now resides in Manchester with his wife Lynn and their son Alex and daughter Jamie Lynn. Lynn works at Cigna and David is an employee of Travelers. David is a 1981 grad of WLHS and has a degree in finance from UConn in 1985. Ann said her boys are still playing softball.

When Ann is not keeping track of those Huskies and grandchildren, her other main hobby is crafts. Ann is active at the Windsor Locks Congregational Church, at the Senior Center, many years with "Meals On Wheels" and is a member of the Windsor Locks Historical Society.

Ann and Ed always enjoyed traveling, especially the many trips to her home state of Maine, two trips to Bermuda and other trips

## more time to watch UConn girls



Members of Ann Hodges Reale's family, (From left to right) Alex, Samantha, (Proud) Ann, Jamie Lynn, and Rachel.

with the boys.

The past "17 years, 3 months and 3 weeks," Ann has been involved with "Section 8 Program Manager," part of the WL Housing Authority.

She says, "I have enjoyed those years, met a lot of nice people and (could say) have met just about everyone in town." She has worked closely over the years with Jean Glazier, also recently retired from the Housing Authority after 26 years. Jean will be replaced by Betty-Ann Reilly, former director of the Senior Center, "always enjoyed working with Betty-Ann," she said. Ann will be replaced by Kay

Ouellette.

Ann's personal philosophy, "One day at a time, don't plan ahead." She greatly admired her parents, who were easy going and helpful to the kids in their neighborhood back home in Maine.

Ann is taking (probably best said) one game at a time for her Huskies, plus enjoying the grandchildren.

She firmly believes in the following ... "The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

INSIDE

## Cabbages and Kings

Revelle is new finance director  
and motorcycle 'buff' in free time.

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

# Revelle is new finance director

Meet the town's new finance director/assistant treasurer, John Samuel Revelle.

The Hartford native was named to the position in January, replacing Mary Ann Harris. John has over 23 years experience in financial planning, with the town of West Hartford, in addition to several Connecticut industries in the private sector.

At work, at the town hall, where the interview was held in his office, John was all professional with his accounting persona, however, we found outside of work, he's a motorcycle buff ... more later.

John and wife Catherine and son John Joseph Revelle have resided in Simsbury, the past 19 years.

John is the son of the late Austin Revelle, who passed away in 1989, who was from South Carolina, a former employee of Pratt & Whitney. Mr. Revelle was a veteran of World War II, U.S. Army, serving over three years in the Pacific, which included the battle of Guadalcanal.

John's mother, Molly Thompason Revelle, was from Pascagouis, Miss., who resides in East Hartford. John has a brother Dan who lives in Granby.

John's family moved to East Hartford, when he was 5, started school, went on to Penney High School for a year, with the family then moving to Simsbury, where in 1971, John graduated from the high school. John played football, offensive tackle and defensive end.

After high school, John's main goal was "to go to college," which he did, attending Northwestern Connecticut College, earning a

## cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

two-year associate degree in accounting.

His next educational move was to receive his full degree from Central Connecticut State College in 1975.

John's first position in the accounting field was with a group of retail alliance stores in Enfield/Manchester area as Inventory Control Specialist for a year.

The next two years John was employed by Emhart in Windsor as cost accountant. This was followed by 4 1/2 years with Pratt & Whitney Machine Tool and Bristol Brass.

In 1983, he joined Purdy Corporation in Manchester until 1985 as manager. He then left the private sector to work for the town of West Hartford as internal auditor for a nine-year period.

In 1995, John decided to start his own business, All American Glass and Remodeling. But after owning it for two years, he realized that self-employment was not as lucrative as he initially thought, he said. He then closed the business, began looking to return to municipal work.

In the mean time, was employed by two Hartford companies, until he accepted his new role in January of this year with the town of Windsor Locks. He prefers to work, he said, for a town because it's very challenging, and it seems it's something he enjoys the most.

Before listing John's duties in his new position, some background on his wife and son ... John and Catherine Rotondo Revelle

## and 'motorcycle buff' in spare time

were married on October 18, 1975, lived in Suffield for two years, Bloomfield for three years, and the past 19 years in Weatogue, a section of Simsbury.

Catherine is the daughter of the late Nello Rotondo and Jean Rotondo, who makes her home in Simsbury. Catherine has two brothers, Mark and Matthew, two sisters, Susan and Elizabeth.

Catherine graduated from Simsbury High School in 1975, with her first employment at Cigna for 13 years, two years ago joined Lincoln National Insurance.

Their son, John Joseph Revelle, this month has his 14th birthday. He's a 7th grader at the Henry James Middle School, is very involved in the family computer.

When John was asked about free time and his main hobby, "I ride motorcycles," he said very matter-of-factly. Actually, so does Catherine and young John who sits in the side car. John Sr. has been involved in cycles since 1971. His type of motorcycle ... "Honda Gold Wing." Why do they ride? ... John said, "Fresh air (no better way) to become stimulated in the morning." What about coming to work in the summer? ... "No problem, so long as it's good weather... Simsbury to Windsor Locks," that's not far for John Revelle.

John and Catherine belong to two motor clubs, that organize runs/trips/rallies for their members. Last year, the Revelle family drove their Hondas (in the summer) all the way to Ohio, which is just ordinary for them. Other trips have included the Great Smoky Mountains (Tennessee/North Carolina border), with a stop at Dolly Parton's Pigeon Fork Park.

Speaking of membership, John is a member of the Mason Lodge in Simsbury and the Governmental Finance Officers Association.

Spectator sports include his favorite pro football team, the Buffalo Bills and the great Boston College star (now with-Buffalo), Doug Flutie.

Back to John's position in town. The formal job description for finance director/assistant treasurer includes the following: Under the direction of the first selectman he handles the day-to-day financial operations of the town, provides information and analysis of annual budgets and projection of expenditures and revenues, works closely with and supply information to town's appointed auditors, financial advisor, bond counsel and bank representatives, responsible for investment of town funds and exercises administrative supervision over all financial affairs of the town.

John stated, "I'm a team player, believe in the team management concept and looking forward to the challenge of the job and to project a positive image to the town."

When asked who he admired, he said, "My mother, she mostly influenced and pushed me to do things I did not want to do, she stayed after me." John's personal philosophy "Live for today, not sure what tomorrow will bring."

### EPILOG

John Revelle, our chief accountant at the town hall, when he leaves the debits and credits at the office for a ride on his motorcycle for the fresh air feeling.

For John it's a good mix for work and play.

INSIDE

## Cabbages and Kings

Judee Dixon is 'active' in community  
and is mother.

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

In the News

# Judee Dixon is 'active' in community

**cabbages and kings**  
JACK REDMOND

"I believe in giving back to my community, and being involved with my sons." Judee's comments on involvement in the local Boy Scouts.

Judee Dixon, native of Windsor Locks, always wanted to be a nurse, but it did not work out," as she recalled her goal after graduating from WLHS, class of 1975.

However, the mother of two active sons has made up for not achieving that goal in her adult years, as one involved with the local Boy Scout program, four years with the Windsor Locks Lions Ambulance Corps, also keeping busy hiking for exercise and at home, 12 years working with ceramics.

Judee is the daughter of residents Glenn and Arlene Belliveau Dixon, Glenn was from Kentucky, Arlene, a Massachusetts native. Glenn is retired from Hamilton Standard, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, they had met when he was stationed at Westover Air Force Base.

Judee has three brothers, Mark and Todd of Windsor Locks and Robert of West Suffield.



Pictured above is Judee Dixon with her two sons Kyle and Daryle.

Judee's employment record includes seven years with the Edwards Warehouse in town, until it closed. Her next job was with Park Plaza Parking in town as administrative manager for two years. The past four months Judee has been with Kaman Industrial Technology as purchasing expediter.

Her two sons, Daryle Brian Beauchesne, 17, a senior at the high school is "very involved

MARCH 12, 1999

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## and the mother of two sons

with computers" and plans to attend Springfield Tech to take up computer engineering. When not at the internet at home he is a big fan of the UConn basketball team. And when it came to name the family dog ... that's right they call it UConn. Daryle was a Boy Scout for a year.

His brother Kyle Brian Beauchesne, is 11 and is in 6th grade at the middle school. He played Midget football and soccer in the town program. Kyle is into scouts, since the days as Cub Scout. His mother said he is an outdoors young boy and when the television is on enjoys action packed-shows."

Judee could also be classified as an outdoors person, at home enjoys working in the yard (garden and landscaping), hiking is her number one hobby, especially at the Windsor Northwest Park. Also, at home she is into needlework and ceramics. Judee is one busy mother.

Judee's involvement in scouting ... Troop 261, as the secretary and takes part in the troop's main fund raiser, collection of refundable beverage bottles and cans. The next drive is this month, and the next in June. Troop Scoutmaster is Darry Ruitter.

Why does Judee serve? ... "I believe in giving back to my community and being involved with my sons."

In addition, she's active at her church, Immanuel Baptist Church in Suffield, as its treasurer.

Looking back at her four years with the Lions Ambulance Corps, she said, "I enjoyed it as medical response technician. I learned a lot, about myself and the people in the community. It gave me self confidence I have always enjoyed talking to people and especially helping people in need."

When asked who she admired ... "My grandmother, the late Adele Belliveau, which in French means 'pretty calf' ... she was a very strong person, a story teller, very determined, had a strong faith and one to have fun in life."

Judee's favorite saying and personal philosophy, "Work hard, play hard and leave the rest to God."

### EPILOG

Judee Dixon ... a busy single mother who keeps an active lifestyle as do her sons. She has given back many hours to her community, believing in the Lions motto, "We Serve."

## Cabbages and Kings

Sevigny travels to France and is  
'forever transformed.'

— page 3

WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

## Sevigny travels to France and is

What's that old song? You can't keep them down on the farm (as in this case Windsor Locks) after they have seen Paris.

Well, in Keith Sevigny's case, indeed (saw Paris) spent a month in France last year, toured the famed "City of Lights," was glad to be home, however, was greatly impressed by his experiences, the trip sponsored by the local Lions Club.

Before detailing Keith's month-long stay that started in NYC (JFK) to the Charles DeGaulle Airport in Paris, staying with a French family (member of the Lions) ... some background on this junior at WLHS, his family who were featured in C&K last April.

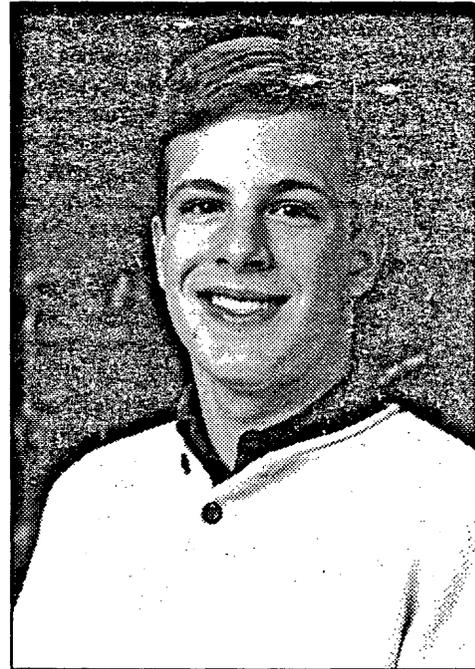
Keith is the son of Marc and Tricia French Sevigny. Marc is a 20-year employee of Hamilton-Standard and Tricia has been with Walgreens Drug the past 15 years as bookkeeper and price administrator.

An update on Keith's sister Michelle; A graduate of WLHS class of 1997, she is now in her second year at Uconn and hopes to become an elementary school teacher after graduation. The family all follow the UConn girls basketball team with Michelle holding season tickets.

At the Raider school Keith played JV baseball with spring practice starting up soon he has high hopes to be one of the team's outfielders.

Keith's singing activity began with the middle school Power Company. He is now member of the high school Vocal Motion group. Keith recalled his sister being in the concert choir and figured it was something he would eventually become involved in when he reached the middle school.

In addition to Vocal Motion and baseball at the high school, Keith has been in the Boy Scouts the past 10 years in Troop 261. He hopes he says, "will reach the rank of Eagle



Keith Sevigny (above photo) spent a month in France last year.

Scout in a few months." He is also involved in the Windsor Locks/Suffield Robotics Team. At home, he's an avid reader, enjoys drawing be it cartoons or just "real people."

When asked about spectator sports...He's a Red Sox fan with favorites Nomar Garciaparra and Pedro Martinez.

For the record...Keith along with his mother and sister, had already been to France for a week at Christmas time in 1994. Keith's father was on a work assignment in Paris where the family joined him to celebrate the holiday and even visited the Disneyland near Paris.

Highlights of Keith's trip to France ... he along with a student from East Windsor High School lived with a different family in

"CABBAGES & KINGS"



WITH JACK REDMOND

## 'forever transformed' by the experience

France and were set to leave Bradley for JFK Airport, but there was trouble with the plane. It was decided to taxi the students to the New York airport. Because of the inconvenience at Bradley they were assigned First Class seats, for the trip to Paris. On the trip home, Keith said, "We had to go coach!"

The students were met by Lions members and the boys went their separate ways to families they would stay with for the month. Keith then traveled to Mesnil-St. Laurant located in the northeastern part of France, near the German border.

However, before leaving Paris, Keith with his escorts went sightseeing which included visits to the Louvre Museum, the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, the Eiffel Tower, (yes, he went to the top) and the famous avenue, Champs Elysees.

Actually, it was Keith's second round of viewing the treasures of Paris, the first being the family get-together at Christmas in 1994.

Keith met the Duforest family with five children who would be his hosts for the month.

More sightseeing for Keith...the first order of the week was seeing the surrounding area of their town near a farm area.

The Duforest family spoke mostly French., very little English. Keith knew some French, but at times the dialects were difficult for Keith to understand. In time, conversation came a lot easier.

Keith said every meal was a full course meal. He realized after a while the French enjoy eating as well as the enjoyment of cooking.

The last two weeks were with the

Aubriot family, mother and father and three children. Their home was located in Liverdun (close to the location of his first family.)

The town itself was near many of the battlefields of both world wars, among the most famous the battle of Verdun in World War One.

The following were Keith's daily activities at both homes ... (as in the states) hanging out with the kids. No daily routine as everyone was on summer break and went to bed at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. and rising about 8 a.m. or 9 a.m.

As for watching television depending on the programs, (like at home) many American shows all in French of course. Most popular sport: soccer.

Keith corresponded with his parents during his month in France.

One thing he remembers and most important, he said, both families exhibited a community atmosphere ... the weather he found was about the same as here ... warm in the summer and cold in the winter.

Keith hopes to return some day, maybe when he is in college, but was glad to be home. On his return all in the family were glad to see him with big hugs all around.

Future plans for the young traveler ... college: biochemistry or engineering, probably a New England school.

### Epilog

That's the Keith Sevigny story of his month in France with two families, courtesy of the local Lions. Keith was the young Windsor Locks and American ambassador.

Two adequate quotes ... "Travelers are those who usually return brag and baggage."

"All travel has its advantages. If the passenger visits better countries, he may learn to improve his own, and if fortune carries him to worse, he may learn to enjoy his own."

## Cabbages and Kings

It's time for 'Cabbages'  
to come to an end.

— page 3

### In the News

# The time has come for Cabbages and Kings to come to an end



#### 'The Time Has Come...'

Jack Redmond (above) has been writing for close to 24 years. We are sure his column will be missed.

*"The time has come," the  
Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things:  
of shoes, and  
ships and sealing  
wax...Of Cabbages  
and Kings."  
Lewis Carroll*

Yes, that time has come, as in the Lewis Carroll classic..."Alice Through The Looking-Class."

For the past 23 years and 10 months I have been a small part of the Windsor Locks Journal.

It's not my age, have not lost the ability to write or type, or meet people face to face for an interview, in fact, I'm still a dinosaur, no computer for me, only my faithful electric typewriter-my tool of the

trade.

Frankly, it is just too difficult to find new people in town to interview for their stories.

At times, I had 10 or more intended interviewees, but the list is disappearing.

I have spent nearly a third of my life writing for the Journal, its been a delightful and fulfilling career, especially meeting over 1,100 families.

In addition, the media peaks, like visiting the Red Sox at Fenway, or in Florida at their spring training park.

Reporting a Whaler game from the press box, and of course, writing a column on the local Greater Hartford Open and other tournaments for the past 20 years.

Also, making a record of our trips from Melbourne, Australia, to Oslo, Norway.

Someone once said never say never ... I'll probably see a name in the paper or just maybe meet someone who should be interviewed or some resident just back from Florida or Timbuktu and has a story to tell the town.

#### cabbages and kings

JACK REDMOND

I have had the honor and sincere pleasure meeting so many fine people in town ... the clergy, politicians, coaches, teachers and students and just regular folks that make up this fine town.

It was always nice to hear someone say..."Oh, 'Cabbages and Kings,' I read that every week."

So for now, I'm taking a sabbatical, days of rest, the Journal being the oldest weekly newspaper in the state will certainly survive without my weekly contribution.

I want to thank Ms. Linda Levinson of the Journal and Keith Griffin, formerly with Imprint, for their continued cooperation and patience during my time with the Journal.

See you around Main Street or the Donut Kettle.



## Maureen Welch is 1999 Windsor Locks High School Valedictorian



Maureen Joanne Welch (above) is the Valedictorian of the 1999 Windsor Locks High School Senior Class.

Maureen Joanne Welch is the Valedictorian of the 1999 Windsor Locks High School Senior Class.

She is the daughter of Joseph and Carol Grills Welch of Windsor Locks, who we interviewed back in August of 1991 when Maureen was ten and her sister Paula was only five.

Today, the girls' parents are active in the business world. Joseph is a System Analyst at the Blueridge

### cabbages & kings

Jack Redmond

Insurance Company in Simsbury. He still plays basketball in a local senior league and coaches locally in soccer.

Carol was featured in the 1991 C&K as the local Girl Scout Service Unit Manager. She is now associated with Teleflex Fluid Systems in Suffield.

Paula will be in the eighth grade in the fall, with Maureen beginning her college career at Trinity College. Paula is now into dance lessons, soccer, plays the piano, and is a member of the Middle School Power Company. Maureen spent her freshman year as a member of Vocal Motion.

Maureen's parents are proud of her high school accomplishments, especially her being chosen class Valedictorian.

Maureen's numerous accomplishments include: Honors for four years; President of the National Honor Society; attended Girl's State; received Brown Book Award; English and Science Awards; attended U.S. Scholar/Athlete Games; 1999 Superintendent Award and was a semi-finalist in the Governor's Award.

Maureen pointed out, "My main concern when it came to high school activity was involvement as Editor of the WLHS newspaper, "The Gist." Her duties included assigning articles, writing and editing articles, laying out articles in her own department, and coordinating all staff and all departments of the paper.

Maureen was also Editor of the WLHS literary magazine, "The Ink Blot." Her duties included seeking submissions, editing and overseeing staff.

In addition, she found time for community service, as a member of the Helping Hands Club at WLHS, in partnership with North Street Elementary School. Maureen

was a member of the local parish's CYO group, with community activities such as visiting nursing homes, and lecturing church services for a year.

Maureen's hobbies over the years included many years of tap, jazz and ballet at the Greater Hartford Dance Academy.

More personal things... when it comes to music, she enjoys "everything." Her favorite singer, Ani DiFranco; her favorite singing group, Radiohead. When it comes to television, "Friends", and favorite movies include, "Star Wars" and "Empire Strikes Back." Her favorite actress is Leelee Sobieski in "Joan of Arc."

Other favorites in high school include English as her favorite subject; her two favorite teachers are Ms. Lucafo (French) and Mr. Widmer (Biology), adding, "They were my mentors."

Maureen has two special books, "Jacob's Room", by Virginia Woolfe and "Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Bronte.

When asked who she admires, her answer is, "My parents and women writers."

As mentioned, Maureen will attend Trinity with English as her major. Looking beyond college, and because she deeply enjoys writing, she hopes to publish some of her writings.

Like the song says, "These are a few of my favorite things," which only proves Maureen has always been a diversified student with dreams of a career in writing, with publications of these writings, and to join the ranks of other women authors.

Maureen does have a favorite saying, words by her favorite singer, Ani DiFranco, "It seems that different people have an idea of what I am, and what I should be. And then there's me."

To Maureen, Manish Dalwadi, Salutatorian of the class, and the graduating seniors, much success in the next century in whatever careers they may pursue... May the Force be with them.

DECEMBER 31, 1999

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# Townspeople Town's top 10 most notables

If Barbara Walters can come up with the (currently) "Most Fascinating People" list, I guess I can come up with my own 10 notables, of course, with one's own point of view, for the past 24 years as columnist for the Windsor Locks Journal.

And what better time with the new millennium just around the corner.

The past few months television stations, magazines and newspapers have listed their own all-century selections with different categories in education, sports, movies, science and/or politics.

My selection covers the past 24, people with their individual influence, dedication, business relations, civic duty, and political wisdom with the citizens of Windsor Locks.

Not for one moment would I suggest that other folks who serve on committees, commissions, educators, teachers and coaches are not to be recognized.

Its just that these 10 are well known, but always need the

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**cabbages and kings**

JACK REDMOND

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help of the above contributors, in more ways than they realize.

The following two women and eight men have, in my opinion, been the most notable in their chosen fields, over the years...

- Ella Grasso-The late Governor, a woman who served her town, state and national government so well, and will be remembered at the girl from Olive Street.

- June Hartford-Alley-She is noted for her own particular educational knowledge and doing what she believes is right for the town's school system.

- Dan Kervick/Mark Hancock-Have always voiced their opinions, thus making budget discussions, at times, a bit

# over the years

hectic.

- John Lee-His involvement with the Lions, as member of the Board of Selectmen and personal business connections at a time most appreciated.

- Sy Preli-For his many years in town affairs, always looking out for the common good of the community.

- Bill Reilly-The late Fire Chief, one of the good guys who ever came down the pike.

- Raymond Roncari-For his many endeavors over the years, be it business or charitable.

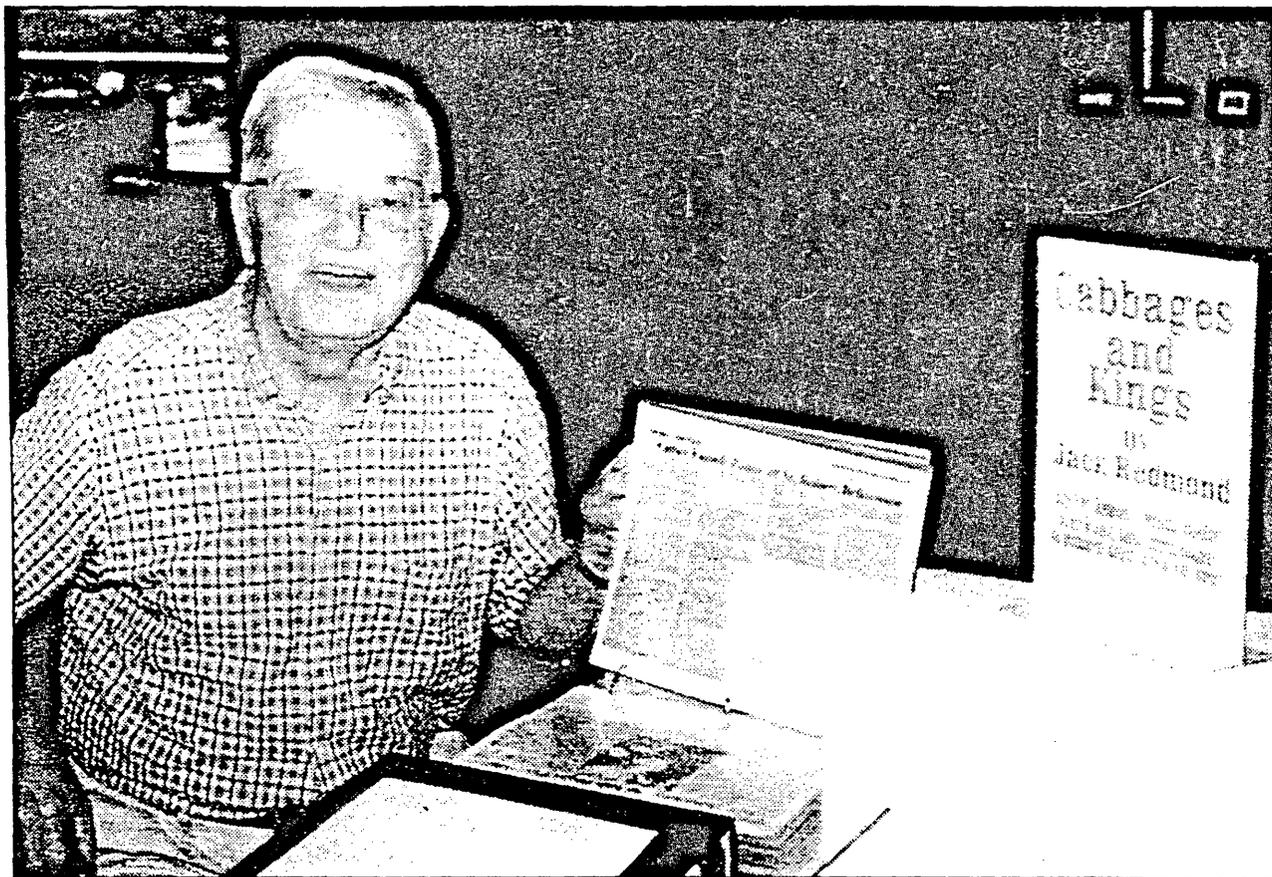
- Dan Sullivan-His legacies as coach at the high school will be long used as a coaching barometer.

- Peter Tria-His portraits have made our first selectmen remembered for their good works in town.

Now, we will soon be part of the new millennium, of course, Y2K...

Happy New Year!!!

## *Windsor Locks & Beyond*



Sitting in the public library, columnist Jack Redmond pursues material he wrote years ago. Redmond is best known for his “Cabbages and Kings” column. Redmond’s work is currently on display at the Windsor Locks Public Library.

*Photos by Maria Rampello*

Published Weekly For 123 Years

# WINDSOR LOCKS

Friday, March 15, 2002

Founded 1880

Windsor Locks, CT

## JOURNAL

### Windsor Locks' Living History, Part 1: Jack Redmond

By J. Wayne  
Correspondent

"The time has come," The Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things: of shoes, and ships  
and sealing wax -- of Cabbages and Kings."

The words dancing from Jack Redmond's lips sound as fresh as when Lewis Carroll first dreamed them up. This excerpt from "Alice Through The Looking Glass" inspired the title to the column Redmond published in the Windsor Locks Journal for nearly 24 years. He served as the town's storyteller, its griot, through the 1,084 interviews he conducted, some with the rich and famous, mostly with regular folks like him.

"Cabbages and Kings" has been compiled into 29 volumes of binders on a back shelf at the library, available for anyone wishing to take a fleshed-out peek into the town's history. David Brown, who recently came on board as library director, can't say enough about the value of having such an in-depth record. "Jack's columns have been very helpful to me in regard to getting in touch with the Windsor Locks Community," he said. "Many of the people that Jack interviewed still live and work in the community in positions where I need to interface with them."

On a Tuesday evening in February, Brown presented Redmond with a plaque honoring him for the donation of his columns to the library. Redmond was delighted for the opportunity to talk about

what had been his favorite hobby, and he also shared many of his other fond memories. He would not share his age, but gave out clues instead. For example: He was born on Christmas Eve in the '20s; he has been watching baseball since his father first took him to the New York Polo Grounds in 1932 to watch the Brooklyn Dodgers play the Giants; and he served in the Army during World War II. He still calls the airport "Bradley Field," even though he and his wife, Rita, are there every Friday afternoon, volunteering at the information booth.

Redmond first moved to Windsor Locks in 1964 when he took a position as an accountant with Combustion Engineering in Windsor. Born in New Haven, he and his wife grew up in the same neighborhood.

His father was a fireman and his uncle a fire chief, so he still shares a strong affinity with firefighters, especially his fellow former members of the Windsor Locks Fire Commission, on which he served for five years. He speaks fondly of the likes of Russ Gabrielson and Ed Ferrari, who are still around, and of late fire chief Bill Reilly, of whom he wrote, "One of the good guys who ever came down the pike."

Redmond had never worked as a journalist when he wrote an article for the Windsor Locks Journal in 1975 about high school coach Dan Sullivan. After that piece, then-editor Evelyn Lee asked him if he wanted a job as a reporter. Of course, Redmond

Living History/page 11



Jack Redmond, who authored the column "Cabbages and Kings" in the Windsor Locks Journal for nearly 24 years, is pictured in the town library near the stacks where bound volumes containing a compilation of his columns have been placed.

Photo by J. Wayne

## A Message from The Windsor Locks Public Library

We continue to add more new things to the library that will be of interest to everyone. One recent new addition is Jack Redmond's entire collection of "Cabbages and Kings". Jack's column from the Windsor Locks Journal profiles many of our local residents and spans over a 24 years history. The collection is available to anyone who would like to come and read through or copy specific articles. Stop by and visit some past memories of Windsor Locks.

Manchester  
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2004 / JOURNAL INQUIRER

### Ignore the pundits

"The world will never be the same."

I'm not sure who first coined these profound words right after 9/11.

Quite a few individuals watch international and national events as a daily routine.

And we invariably hear from the so-called pundits — wait a minute, I looked up "pundit" in the dictionary. The word means "a learned man."

Their views and comments on the November election, learned or not, have a way of mesmerizing the public. They tell the public on television programs, in newspaper and magazine columns, with words of wisdom, how to vote, be it for Sen. John Kerry or President George W. Bush.

Of course, one would say, you do not have to listen or watch, and rightfully so. But I do follow politics, it's a hobby in my retirement years.

Should we pull the same old lever in November and then wait for the results? Let's face it: Today it's about war and the economy.

I heard recently words by a prominent writer of The New York Times (William Safire) on "Meet the Press."

"Wait 'til the presidential debates in September and October, then make up your own mind," he said. I think I will.

JACK REDMOND  
 Windsor Locks

03 • THE HARTFORD COURAN

### Truman Made Correct Decision

I read with interest "Banning The Bomb; Smithsonian's New Enola Gay Exhibit Gives Minimal Information On Hiroshima" [Life, Dec. 11].

The Enola Gay — Hiroshima — World War II:

I served in the U.S. Army for three years, with a year (1945) on the island of Guam. In July of that historic year, I had the occasion to fly to the island of Saipan to visit returning soldiers from a part of my outfit, the 49th Signal Battalion, after their tour of duty on the island of Iwo Jima.

On the way to Saipan, we stopped at Tinian, where the Enola Gay was being prepared for the delivery of the first atomic bomb.

I have read numerous articles and opinions on the president's decision to drop the bomb. For some facts, read the biography "Truman," by David McCullough, especially Chapter 10, "Summer of Decision." President Truman gave all the right reasons for the bomb, in detail. I might not be writing this if we had invaded Japan, as planned.

Truman's decision was his alone. I'm sure the thousands of GIs stationed in the Pacific at that time would agree with it.

12/3  
 JOHN P. REDMOND  
 Windsor Locks

# Living History, Part 1: Jack Redmond

Continued from page 1

already had a job, but he told Lee, "I would like to write about people." That is how his career as a columnist began. He continued writing "Cabbages and Kings," even after he retired from Combustion Engineering in 1985, not putting down his pen until 1999. He interviewed a different person every week, missing only three weeks of publication in all that time.

"I've had so many fond memories interviewing people in town here," he says of his years as a columnist. "I also covered the Greater Hartford Open for 20 years where I was able to meet Lee Trevino, President Ford and Bob Hope. I went to Fenway Park and got to interview Jim Rice in the dugout. I went to Florida with Arnold Dean of WTIC so I've met a lot of celebrities in my time, but the nicest people in the world are right here in Windsor Locks."

Although on several occasions he met Windsor Locks' favorite daughter, the late governor Ella Grasso, he never did interview her for "Cabbages and Kings." He did, however, publish a column on March, 23, 1978 based on an imaginary interview with her. "It's nice to live in the same town," he pictured himself saying to the Governor, adding, "You're okay."

Between his fake interview and his penchant for Lewis Carroll, one detects a prodigious imagination behind the friendly facade. Jack Redmond once said that his own existence resembled the movie "It's a Wonderful Life." He was referring to the experience of living in a warm, close-knit community, but it doesn't take much imagination to draw another parallel with the beloved Jimmy Stewart flick. When serving in the army in World War II, half of his unit was assigned to the island of Guam, and the other half was sent to Iwo

Jima. "I Thank God that I didn't have to go to Iwo Jima. Two of my buddies were killed there," he recalled. Had fate taken a different turn, Jack Redmond might have died a war hero and never had the chance to write about the everyday heroes that populate Windsor Locks. Fortunately, he can still be found around town, at the public library, and especially at the Donut Kettle where he keeps up with the other old-timers.

When asked if he deserves to be called a hero, Redmond replied, "Don't ever say that I was a hero. My family would laugh. Your own family, they love you and everything like that, but they also know that you're not perfect by any stretch of the imagination."

## CABBAGES & KINGS

Jack Redmond, longtime author of the "Cabbages & Kings" column in the Windsor Locks Journal, has donated clippings of all of his columns to the Windsor Locks Library. Mr. Redmond's column, which features profiles of Windsor Locks residents, appeared in the Windsor Locks Journal from 1975 until 1999. Visit us soon and enjoy a blast from Windsor Locks' past! All of the columns are accessible to the public and are filed chronologically in notebooks in the back corner of the library next to the newspapers. We thank Mr. Redmond for sharing this important part of Windsor Locks' recent history with us.



## One Columnist To Another

Jack Redmond always attended the GHO, always said hello and always wrote a strong, entertaining column about the tournament for the weekly Windsor Locks Journal, which, Redmond said proudly, "is the oldest weekly in Connecticut, starting in 1880."

He was not a newspaper man, he was an accountant, but he always loved to write.

"I worked at Combustion Engineering in Windsor as an accountant," he said, speaking from his home in Windsor Locks. "But I wrote my column for 24 years. It was mostly local, but I got a chance to interview some celebrities like Jim Rice at Fenway Park, Ron Francis at the Civic Center and Sammy Davis Jr. at the GHO. I covered the GHO for 20 years." And loved it, he might have added.

Much of the time, Rita, his wife of 56 years, would accompany Redmond to the tournament. Redmond will be 80



OWEN  
CANFIELD

years old on Christmas Eve. He retired from Combustion Engineering in 1985 but remains an ardent sports fan.

"We have two daughters, Nancy, who has two kids and lives on Cape Cod, and Patty," he said. "Patty's

married to Bobby Creech, who was a member of the Windsor Locks Little League team that won the World Series in the 1960s. Remember? They live in Tennessee and have three kids."

Redmond looks back on his long, productive life with no regrets. He met Rita at a Halloween party in New Haven. Both are natives of that city.

"I played hockey at Commercial High School in New Haven," he said, "and later I was a softball player. Those were my sports."

He got his accounting degree from the University of New Haven. In 1943, smack in the middle of World War II, he began a hitch in the U.S. Army.

"I was at Camp Tyson and also at Camp Forest, both in Tennessee," he said. "I was in the Signal Corps. We shipped out and they split our outfit. Half went to Iwo Jima and half to Guam. I was lucky. I went to Guam."

Redmond and I re-connected last week when he sent me a letter, the subject of which was a former right-handed pitcher named Ray Crone. Know the name? Read on.

Ray Crone is 71, a Tennessean by birth who lives in Waxahachie, Texas. He pitched more than 50 years ago for the Hartford Chiefs, then played in the big leagues for the Milwaukee Braves and San Francisco Giants. His best years were 1955 (10-9) and 1956 (11-10) with the Braves. Those were "Spahn and Sain and pray for rain" days.

"He is now well settled in Texas," Redmond wrote. "I called him after reading that a Ray Crone is a scout for the Red Sox . . . but it turned out it is his son, Ray Jr."

Redmond said he first met Crone Sr., who lived in Windsor for a number of years, in 1976 when he interviewed him for a column.

"He was always such a pleasant guy," Redmond said.

Pleasant like Redmond himself, I'm thinking.

After our conversation, I'm looking forward to seeing him again at the GHO, although neither of us covers it anymore. Oh, don't worry too much. There will be a GHO in 2003 because too many owe too much in the Greater Hartford community to allow the tournament to sink behind the mountains. The \$2 million needed to keep it afloat sounds like a lot of money to me (and you, I'll bet) but it is small change in the big picture and it's got to be there somewhere.

*Owen Canfield is a former full-time columnist and sports editor at the Courant. His column appears monthly.*

# 29 Scrapbooks Of 'Cabbages

Library Exhibit Honors Columnist

Jack Redmond's Decades

Of Observations On Town

By PAUL MARKS  
COURANT STAFF WRITER

WINDSOR LOCKS—Oddly enough, it was a caper involving three stolen turkeys that launched Jack Redmond's writing career.

The man who in time would crank out more than 1,200 "Cabbages & Kings" columns for a local weekly newspaper first showed off his writing skills in a few let-

## WINDSOR LOCKS

ters to the editor. He started after a popular local teacher and coach, Dan Sullivan, was suspended by the school board.

It was January 1975 when Sullivan was relieved of his

teaching duties, and his many supporters were incensed. Three frozen birds had somehow left the kitchen of the Marlborough Tavern after an athletic association banquet, two of them with students who rode home with Sullivan. The third turned up in the teacher's freezer.

Redmond, an accountant for Combustion Engineering, attended school board hearings on the incident. In letters to the editor of the Windsor Locks Journal, he rendered his best account of the lengthy and acrimonious meetings. He says he kept his opinions out, but clearly he ruffled some feathers.

"Dear Holier-than-thou," began one acerbic letter, responding to his, that reached the Journal and is preserved among clippings Redmond saved from 1975 to 1999. The anonymous writer accused Redmond of playing God, saying anyone willing to sit four nights

"watching a man be crucified has to be a little sick of mind."

Evelyn Lee, then owner of the Journal, was more favorably impressed. She invited Redmond to work for her as a reporter. He declined, having a full-time job, but agreed to do a weekly profile of local personalities.

"I always wanted to be a writer," Redmond said. He'd studied journalism for a year at college, but had switched majors to accounting at the University of New Haven.

Now his carefully indexed collection of his own and related writings — there is even a Wall Street Journal story on the great turkey heist — is on display at the Windsor Locks Public Library. Redmond, who recently turned 80, donated the 29 scrapbooks earlier this

PLEASE SEE COLUMN, PAGE B5

# and Kings'

THE HARTFORD COURANT • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

## Column

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

*Redmond profiled politicians, lawyers, gadflies and the occasional sports star.*

year.

Redmond attained a certain local celebrity as he filed columns week by week, profiling town officials, politicians, doctors, lawyers, gadflies, business owners and the occasional sports star.

He even wrote an "imaginary interview" with then-Gov. Ella T. Grasso, a Windsor Locks native, figuring that she'd had enough real profiles written by the mainstream media.

"There is some great stuff in there," said library director David Brown. "When we first put them out there, people were pulling up chairs and leafing through to look up themselves, their parents or some distant relative they have in Windsor Locks."

"Cabbages & Kings" drew its title from the nonsense poem recited by Tweedledee and Tweedledum in Lewis Carroll's children's tale, "Through the Looking Glass." The stanza cited reads: "The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things: Of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings. And why the sea is boiling hot, and whether pigs have wings."

Interview subjects invariably were treated gently by Redmond, who had no aspirations to Carroll's satirical wit. He's not entirely certain what Carroll meant — but his profile subjects took the hint.

He recalled, "People would say to me, 'Am I a cabbage or a king?' I'm not trying to judge other people, but we all meet cabbages and we all meet kings."

Redmond didn't set out to rake any muck. One divorced woman called up and scolded him for portraying her ex-husband a tad too heroically, he said, but other than that, and the

angry anonymous letter, his work generally got a warm reception.

In 1990, he went with 43 other senior citizens to spend a week as interns in U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd's office. The column title, naturally, was "Mr. Redmond Goes to Washington."

A column that many still remember mused about his decision to end "Cabbages & Kings" for a variety of reasons, then abruptly reversed itself at the end. It was published on April Fool's Day.

"I'm a dinosaur," Redmond said last week, pulling the gray plastic cover from the IBM Selectric II to show where he pounded out so many profiles. It still sits on the desk of his upstairs den — across from the computer someone gave him, which gets used mainly for playing Solitaire.

He said he stopped writing in mid-1999 for a simple reason: "I did all the teachers and coaches and politicians. I did all the priests, too, and the ministers." And he did a lot more than that. In a town of 13,000, his supply of subjects was all but exhausted.

A hallmark of "Cabbages & Kings" was its epilogue, in which Redmond would sum up his subject in a stream-of-consciousness series of phrases. The epilogue to Redmond's long newspaper career is perhaps more poignant.

The Windsor Locks Journal now is owned by Imprint Newspapers, a chain of weeklies based in Bristol. Not long ago, Redmond called its office, not knowing who would be in charge of the paper that had published his writing for almost a quarter-century. He was startled. "No one there," he said, "knew who Jack Redmond was."

**'LAST OF THE OLD GUARD'**

They don't make them like this anymore! Or maybe they do, but the tools of the trade have changed drastically making the job much safer and easier.



**JOHN QUINN**  
ELM CITY CLARION

This is a story about a fireman, a very special fireman, who was often referred to as the "Last of the Old Guard."

His name was Patrick F. Redmond and he served the New Haven Fire Department with valor and distinction for 47 years during the late 1880s and early 1900s. He retired with the rank of assistant chief.

Pat Redmond also had a brother who served along with him, Lt. James H. Redmond, who suffered career-ending injuries while on the job.

Although Patrick had three sons, none followed him into the fire service.

One son John "Jack" Redmond spent his time on the links becoming a champion golfer known worldwide for his remarkable "trick" shots on the fairways and on the greens.

Pat Redmond and wife, the former, Frances McAvoy, also had a daughter Marion Redmond and two other sons, Minor Redmond and the Rev.



Patrick F. Redmond, assistant chief, New Haven Fire Department, May 5, 1910.

Paul J. Redmond, a Catholic priest.

Siblings included three brothers, Lt. Redmond, Dennis F. Redmond and Joseph F. Redmond.

**HE WAS 'UNCLE PATSY'**

Nieces and nephews called him "Uncle Patsy." One nephew, Jack P. Redmond of Windsor Locks, wrote of him this way:

"It was a cold winter's night in 1935 when word came that Uncle Patsy had passed away. It was Ash Wednesday and he was on his way to church."

He was known to the firemen he served with as the "guy from the old school of firefighting."

As one Saturday Journal article put it, "Redmond was a short jolly type of man who could go

through smoke and flame in advance of his men and come out without showing too much evidence of a trying experience." That was in a time when air packs were unheard of, and no doubt not even thought of. But Redmond took his smoke much like a cigarette smoker inhaling a puff.

Nephew Jack Redmond remembers his uncle's wake. He was 12 and his sister Alice was two years older. In those days, Irish wakes were held in the home and Uncle Patsy's casket was in the front window of the Redmond homestead on Howard Avenue.

The nephew writes that is was his job to escort visiting fire officials upstairs where Uncle James Redmond was there to greet them. The kitchen was filled with food from neighbors and, being an old Irish wake, there was plenty of libation.

The next day, the funeral procession on the way to Sacred Heart Church passed by the firehouse where the men all stood in prayerful salute.

**MANY COMMENDATIONS**

Patrick Redmond retired from the service in 1933 with a host of commendations for heroism in fighting some of the most stubborn of fires.

His most daring work was done in the days when all a smoke-eater had was a helmet, a hose and an ax. Things like

masks, chemicals, extension ladders and other modern-day equipment were never around.

Redmond's father, Thomas, was a fire commissioner in the city and councilman from 1874 to 1882.

Patrick's first taste of battling a stiff blaze occurred on Jan. 1, 1887, when fire razed the Audubon Street plant of the A.B. Hendrix bird cage factory.

Two other fires of note gutted the Atwater Building on Grand Avenue and the old Fesenius Brewery on Congress Avenue in 1888.

Pat nearly escaped with his life in the New Haven Depot blaze in March of 1892, when he was gravely injured and rendered unconscious. The tower of the depot collapsed and he and fellow fireman George Brown were on a stairwell inside the building when they were trapped by fallen debris. Brown escaped injury.

Another big blaze was at the Loomis Temple of Music at Orange and Center streets, when Capt. Joseph Condren was seriously injured. Condren died in the line of duty on Feb. 19, 1901 while fighting a general alarm fire on Winchester Avenue.

If they ever erect a wall of fame to the long line of heroic New Haven firemen, Patsy Redmond's name would be near the top.

**God bless**

**The Windsor Locks Senior  
Citizen's Club, Inc.**

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***'Cabbages & Kings'***

If you've lived in Windsor Locks over the past 24 years you certainly would recognize these words. For those many years the residents of Windsor Locks, myself included, were so fortunate to have been a recipient of *Jack Redmond's* wonderful column *Cabbages & Kings*, which ran weekly in the Windsor Locks Journal. You can now enjoy all over again or perhaps for the first time, Jack's column. The Windsor Locks Library has cataloged and preserved all of his works. He truly captured what life in a 'small town' is all about!

*Thanks for the memories, Jack!*

**DECEMBER 2008**

Jack Redmond, author of "Cabbages and Kings," is seen here standing at the back of the Windsor Locks Public Library, where his collection is normally displayed. The columnist is much respected for his work and general good character.

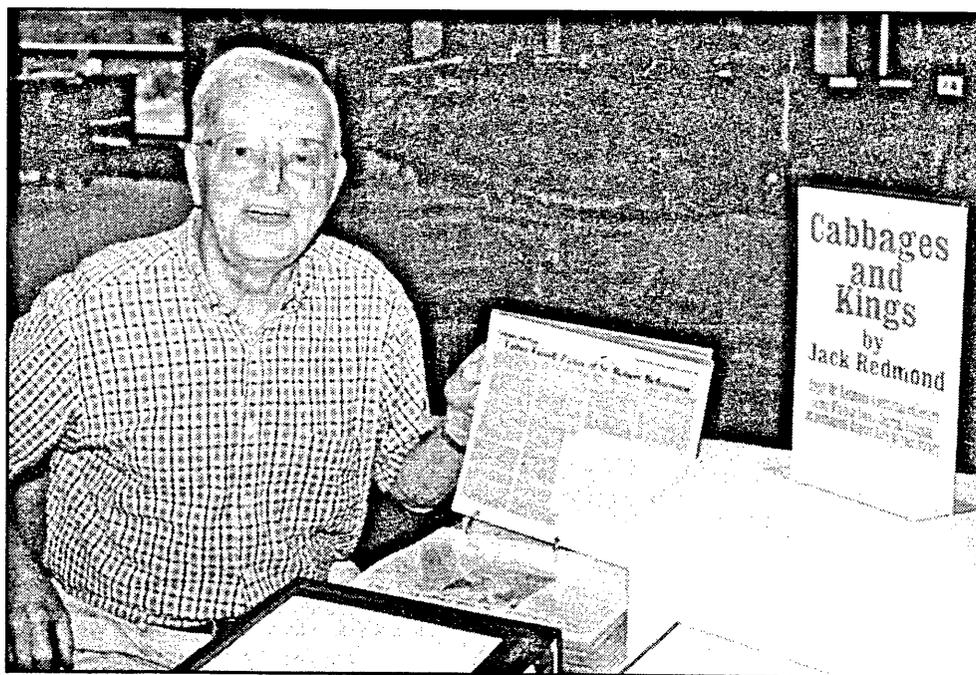
Photos by Maria Rampello



McDonald, Maria Rampello



## Windsor Locks & Beyond



Sitting in the public library, columnist Jack Redmond pursues material he wrote years ago. Redmond is best known for his "Cabbages and Kings" column. Redmond's work is currently on display at the Windsor Locks Public Library.

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# Journey Through the Past: 24 years ago

8 OCTOBER 3, 2003

Oct. 4, 1979

**Cabbages and Kings**

• The day disaster struck

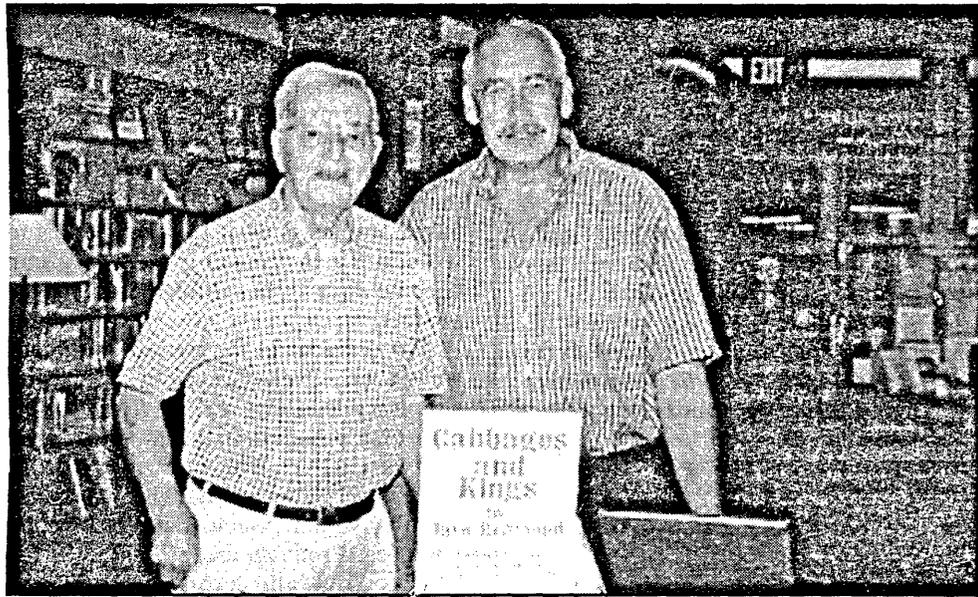
By Jack Redmond

Rain was in the forecast.

What happened wasn't in the forecast, or in the wildest dreams of local residents of Windsor Locks, Windsor or Suffield.

way I go home.) I guess my only problem was picking up my wife at the Combustion-Windsor office. For once I drove the way my feelings said to ... straight to Route 91, off Kennedy Road and to Old County Road on to Pershing and home. We really didn't know the serious situation at Route 20 and 75.

I arrived home and immediately watched



Jack Redmond and former Windsor Locks Librarian David Brown stand recently near the display table in the library where Redmond's "Cabbages and Kings" column appears. "It gets a lot of attention," Brown said. "People find a person they know and stay to read their story." For some time, the display of Redmond's work stood at the front of the library.

*Photo by Maria Rampello*

To most folks, it was just another Wednesday – the middle of the week. But that Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1979, will be long remembered by the merchants, homeless, hotel guests, truck drivers, families of the injured and the dead, and just plain people who were on Route 75, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, as the day the tornado hit Windsor Locks, Windsor and Suffield.

As for me, I was lucky. At three in the afternoon I was at work (Combustion Engineering Inc.) in East Granby. The power went off. As I looked out the windows, with my fellow employees, I recalled, to myself, the hurricanes I had experienced, but that Wednesday, the rain couldn't have been harder or the winds stronger. Naturally, work stopped. About 3:30 or so, someone figured it was about time to go home and call it a day. The sun was shining and the rain had stopped.

In my car I heard the 4 o'clock news and the unbelievable ... a tornado had hit Routes 20 and 75. The Ramada Inn was badly damaged. I said to myself (that's the

the baseball game on television. But the constant reminders on the bottom of the TV screen concerning the plight of Windsor Locks was too much for me to ignore. I wanted to be there and see for myself. My wife volunteered to stay put and if any relatives or friends called, because of the storm hitting our town, she could give them the details. (At that point we didn't know any of the details.) I would soon find out. (It was a nice feeling on my return home to find both friends and relatives called when the bad news hit the national television screens. Even an old friend in Indiana called, and it makes one feel good.)

We live approximately 1-1/2 miles from Route 75 and Bradley Field I decided to drive over to Denslow Street and walk to Old County Road. As I turned the corner on to Old County, my first impression was of people walking to and from an area and they weren't sure what they saw or will see.

**Continued from page 3**

The Koala Inn on Route 75 was my first disaster in view, with broken windows, walls, glass and metal from the roof spread over its frontal area and on to Route 75. The First National Store was a sea of water for parking cars. The popular eatery, McDonald's, was in darkness, with the big sign on the ground in two billion

pieces.

I managed to walk to the corner of Elm and Route 75. Vinny Musco's Texaco station was in ruins. I nodded to Vinny ... and he gave his usual smile. What can anyone say at a time like that? People were all over the place inspecting, watching and just being a part of a bad dream. I stopped to talk to Tommy Frechette, Dave Scotto, George and Dot Woolweaver and Eddie Katzbeck and we all shared the horror of the bad dream.

Our view of the tornado that hit these towns was from the non-casualty side. I usually write articles about people and enjoy it ... there wasn't any joy to write this article. However, we have all been touched by the storm.

Some of the victims are our neighbors or co-workers, relatives, friends, merchants we deal with on a daily basis. My own son-in-law, Frank Deshaies of Duxbury, Mass., informed me on Saturday that his cousin's home in Colonial Village and his aunt's home on Route 75 were completely destroyed. Mrs. Carole Dembkoski, who was killed by the tornado, was a former employee of Combustion Engineering in Windsor and worked in the accounting department with us a few years ago. Only our kindest thoughts and

prayers go out to Mr. Dembkoski and his family, and all the residents in that area of Windsor. It was a sad Wednesday for Windsor Locks and her sister town of Windsor.

Governor Ella Grasso was "absolutely horrified," and she went to work to help where it was most needed. The pieces will be picked up, but the memories of many citizens will be long remembered of the

day disaster hit the towns of Windsor Locks, Windsor and Suffield.

**Continued on page 8**

# World War II Veterans Remember . . .

**J**anuary, 1943, Ft. Devens, Mass: A snowy welcome greeted another unit of draftees, soon to be U.S. soldiers, from the New England states. After a few days of tasting Army cooking, and being issued uniforms and other necessities, the soldiers boarded a troop train to Paris, Tenn., and Camp Tyson. These young New England men were soon blended into one unit with another group of new soldiers from Mississippi. These men would serve together for the next three years.

In July 1943, the entire battalion was on another train, leaving Tennessee for Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and the Mojave Desert, for a month of training. We were deactivated in late 1943 and early 1944, and became the 49th Signal Heavy Construction battalion, and yet, another train ride to Camp Crowder, Missouri. In 1944, the 49th left Missouri on another train, for Ft. Lewis, Seattle, Washington. I was a member of Company A, 185 men and six officers. Destination: Guam.

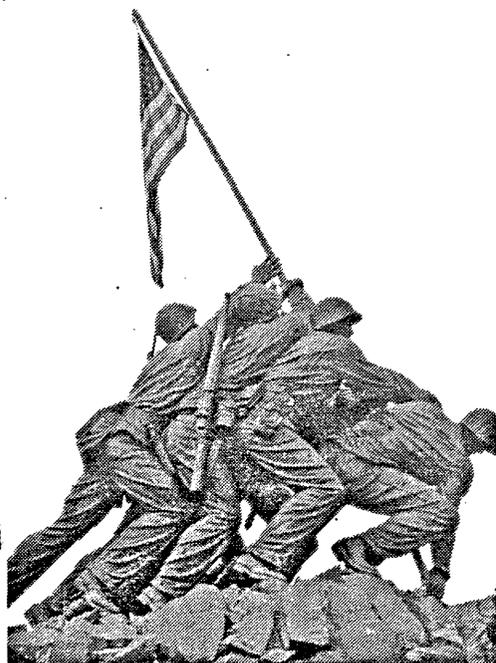
This company was selected for a very important assignment, the installation of a large communication system for the Navy under Admiral Nimitz, and the 20th Air Force under the command of Gen. Spaatz. My story will never go down in history, but Guam played an important role in the history of World War II, and my Company did its part in adding to the island's usefulness.

The Company's second consideration was the establishment of a community that would be suitable for all personnel. In time, the Company area developed into a neat and tidy tent city that resembled any Army camp in the States.

The landscape wasn't the only obstruction that hampered our Company from fulfilling its mission on schedule. The Company not only performed duties that were beneficial to the members of the immediate area, but in the communication field for the entire island of Guam. Their mission was to outfit the island with necessary signal work, and they did it in a way that earned them a high award from their Commanding General of the Pacific. In addition, Company A received the Navy Unit Commendation, and the Presidential Meritorious Unit Emblem.

The Company left Guam in January 1946 with memories vivid enough for this writer to put on paper.

**1st Sgt. John Paul Redmond**  
U. S. Army  
Jan. 1943 - Feb. 1946  
Windsor Locks



\*\*\*\*\*  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009 /

# The Reader's Page

Journal Inquirer  
P.O. Box 510, Manchester, CT 06045-0510 • Phone: (860) 646-0500 • Fax: (860) 646-9867 • E-mail: Letters@JournalInquirer.com

## 'A precious gift' of service

My reaction began when I received a letter from Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz.

The letter began, "As secretary of the state, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals who have served the state of Connecticut through my office's public service awards program. This year, we are recognizing veterans of World War II for their exemplary service and unwavering courage. Given your honorable military service, I am delighted to invite you to attend the Secretary of the State Public Service Awards Ceremony for World War II veterans in Windsor Locks. The ceremony will be held Nov. 17, 2008, at the Windsor Locks High School."

On that afternoon, a large gathering of concerned citizens, mostly seniors themselves, were indeed ready for their reaction to the proceedings, when veterans from all the services were to be honored. Also attending were the Rev. Robert O'Grady, First Selectman Steve Wawruck, state Sen. John Kissel, state Rep. Peggy Sayers, and Windsor Locks Town Clerk Bill Hamel.

After a few opening remarks, Bysiewicz asked for the veterans to share their war stories, from D-Day to the war in the Pacific. Each veteran was called on stage, presented with a certificate of recognition, and had a photo taken with the distinguished guests. The vets were in their 80s, and some were even in their 90s — the oldest was 93. Several needed assistance to walk to the stage.

Bysiewicz has held similar sessions in other towns and hopes of holding them throughout the state. She concluded, "As a United States veteran, you are an important part of what makes this state and country such a wonderful place to live. Your commitment to your state and country, and your willingness to serve your fellow citizens in very hazardous and life-threatening conditions, are characteristics truly deserving recognition. Your dedication to public service is a precious gift."

Speaking for the veterans honored, we appreciate the program and the dedication of the secretary of the state of Connecticut. Thank you from the members of the "Greatest Generation."

JOHN P. REDMOND  
Windsor Locks

# His Savings Earn Interest

Avon's DeMichiel A Hobey Baker Candidate



**OWEN CANFIELD**

**A**bout Jared, looking forward, and Jack, looking back:

The online fan voting phase for the Hobey Baker Award is open and Connecticut—namely Torrington, Avon and Avon Old Farms School—has a dog in the hunt.

Jared DeMichiel, originally from Torrington, plays goalie for Rochester Institute of Technology. The Baker award is the Heisman of college hockey. I did not realize DeMichiel was a candidate until his father, Greg, drove into my driveway one recent day and left an envelope for me.

I hailed him before he drove away.

"Jared has always loved playing hockey," Greg DeMichiel said. "Me? I think I was on skates once and could hardly stand up. But he took right to it."

Included in the packet of statistics and press notices was an announcement dated Jan. 20, 2010, saying Jared, 24, was named the Atlantic Hockey Association goaltender of the week for the second time this season and the fourth time in his career. After Saturday's 5-4 loss to Bentley, the senior business major is 14-8-1, with a 2.18 goals-against average and a .916 save percentage.

Greg DeMichiel remembered, with a chuckle, that his son got going in the game with a funny incident in Avon, when the family lived in Torrington and Jared was a lad.

"He wanted to go to a learn-to-skate session in Avon," Greg said. "So Cheryl [Greg's wife] and I took him over. When it ended, one of the instructors called Jared over and was talking to him. Later we asked Jared what the man had said. He said the man told him that he should get himself an ice hockey stick because what he was using was a street hockey stick. Well, that's how much we knew about it."

They have learned quickly and Jared developed swiftly into a terrific player. He began in the Watertown youth league and later switched to Avon's. What followed was a classic climb through junior hockey that began with the Connecticut Junior Whalers coached by Chris Kiene.

He made stops in three American junior leagues—U.S., North American and Eastern—and played with such teams as the Boston Harborwolves, Indiana Ice and Chicago Steel.

The top college programs like their recruits to have played in the junior leagues, so by the time Jared graduated from Avon Old Farms, three teams brought him in for visits. He chose RIT.

He has become one terrific goalie and while he may not be favored to win the Hobey Baker Award (the first phase of fan voting ends March 7), being considered a candidate is a high honor. You've got my vote, Jared. Hey, I'm a fan.

## New Haven, GHO Memories

Old friend Jack Redmond, who is headed for his 84th birthday, was a writer for the weekly Windsor Locks newspaper. We had many chats at the Greater Hartford Open in what some people like to call the old days.

Jack, in a reflective mood, sent me a letter recently about some of the neighbors he remembers from his New Haven youth when he was growing up on Dixwell Avenue, West Ivy and Bassett Streets in the 1930s and '40s.

Excerpts: "We lived next door to the Furcolo family on West Ivy. One of their sons, Foster, later became governor of Massachusetts. My sister, Alice Redmond Jackson, remembers Mr. Furcolo, babysitting for us."

"We later moved to Dixwell. Nearby, in a house on Brewster Street, was the home of the Keating family. One of the sons grew up to become Father Robert Keating, who became chaplain of the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance and received a Gold Key." (Father Keating, who is deceased, was a hilarious speaker with a staccato delivery.)

"Also on Dixwell Avenue were the homes of Dick Lee, Mayor of New Haven for 16 years, Fran Mautte, Fordham University Hall of Famer, and Albie Booth. I didn't know Booth personally but I did deliver *Liberty* magazine—popular at the time—to his mother."

"Further up Dixwell was Bassett Street and the home of Ernest Borgnine, Academy Award winner for his role in 'Marty.' "

I never saw "Little Boy Blue" (Booth) play for Yale, as Jack did, but I'm sure Redmond was at Wethersfield Country Club during the Sammy Davis Jr.-GHO when Borgnine came to the press interview area after his round, recited some lines from a play he was doing and charmed us all. The field was crowded with Hollywood types that day. Borgnine was a special guy.

Thanks, Jack. Write again.

Owen Canfield is a former sports editor and full-time columnist at The Courant. His column appears monthly.



**DeMichiel**

## Do you believe in memories?

Memories are important to nearly everyone. They're especially important to sports fans.

The best sports example: The famed "Miracle" at the Olympics, prompted by the 30th anniversary of the U.S. hockey team's victory over the mighty Soviet Union at Lake Placid. We remember the famous words of Al Michaels on the miracle win, and the stories and memories of the exciting night were all in the news. One player on the U.S. team, Mark Johnson, was the coach of the U.S. women's Olympic hockey team this year.

In the winter of 1983, Johnson was in town with Ron Francis, both members of the Hartford Whalers, to attend the annual sports night sponsored by our local VFW. I recall the night; I had decided to interview Francis. Johnson was already in the news, and I figured Francis was the up-and-coming star. I called him, and he ended up in the Windsor Locks Journal in my column "Cabbages and Kings." He had a great career and was named to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2007.

That's my memory of a great night for the hockey fans here in town. Yes, we do believe in miracles.

JACK REDMOND  
*Windsor Locks*

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010 / JOURNAL INQUIRER

### WINDSOR LOCKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

For some the phrase "Cabbages and Kings" sounds nonsensical, while for others it is a reminder of Lewis Carroll's whimsical poem, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*, from *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1872. For anyone who lived in Windsor Locks between 1975 and 1999, though, "Cabbages & Kings" has a very special meaning. It was during those years that Jack Redmond profiled more than 1000 local families and individuals in his *Windsor Locks Journal* column, **Cabbages & Kings with Jack Redmond**. In 2002 Jack Redmond donated his wonderful collection of original columns, cut directly from the Windsor Locks Journal, to the Windsor Locks Public Library along with related articles and some personal notes. During the past 10 years, the 29 volumes of columns have had several homes within the library. They have been used by staff and the public for reference, historical research, and just plain reading pleasure. Right now we are in the process of refurbishing Mr. Redmond's collection in new notebooks with an updated, cross-referenced index, hopefully preserving this important piece of local history for generations to come. We also hope to digitize the collection so it will eventually be accessible through our library's web site. In his final Cabbages & Kings column, published on March 26, 1999, Jack Redmond wrote, "I have had the honor and sincere pleasure of meeting so many fine people in town...the clergy, politicians, coaches, teachers and students and just regular folks that make up this fine town." Thanks to Jack Redmond and **Cabbages & Kings**, we still have access to this unusual living history of some of Windsor Locks' most interesting citizens and events. The Windsor Locks Public Library is proud to be able to offer you the opportunity to revisit some of our most notable moments in time through Jack Redmond's **Cabbages & Kings**. Stop down and browse through it someday. You're bound to come across people that you know!

Eileen Pearce

Politics, Sports and Movies  
from the Old Neighborhood

Looking back, as a young kid growing up in the New Haven area of Dixwell, West Ivy, and Bassett streets during the thirties and forties, there were six people who left their marks in the world of politics, sports, and the movies. I knew three of them well but recall all of them as part of this section of the Elm City.

I was born on West Ivy Street, next door to the Furcolo family. One of their sons, Foster, became Governor of Massachusetts. My sister, Alice Redmond Jackson, now living in Meriden, remembers Mr. Furcolo babysitting for the two of us.

My family moved from West Ivy to Dixwell Avenue. Nearby, in a house on Brewster Street, was the home of the Keating family. One of their sons grew up to become Father Bob Keating, well known in the sports world and recipient of the Gold Key Award.

Also on Dixwell Avenue were the homes of Dick Lee, Mayor of New Haven for 16 years; Fran Mautte, member of the Fordham University Football Hall of Fame and player under the great coach Vince Lombardi; and Albie Booth, famed Yale football player. I didn't know Albie Booth personally, but I did deliver Liberty magazine—popular at the time—to his mother.

Further up Dixwell was Bassett Street, home of Ernest Borgnine, actor and Academy Award winner for the movie “Marty.”

All of us can check our memory banks and come up with names of prominent people from our hometowns, people we grew up with and knew before they made it big. My memory came up with six outstanding individuals, all from the same neighborhood in New Haven.

Jack Redmond

Windsor Locks, CT

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America's Greatest Generation  
Living Their Finest Hour:  
World War II -- 1941 - 1945

Stories of Men and Women who experienced  
the greatest event in the history of the  
world -- World War II...As seen through  
their eyes and told in their words.

The pages that follow in the category of  
"Army Heroes" are dedicated to the men  
and women served with distinction in the  
forces of the U. S. (Military) Army.

They served in every theater of the war  
including North Africa, the Italian  
Peninsula, D-Day and the massive invasion  
of Normandy. Many served thought the

arduous campaigns of France and continuing on into Germany. Still others fought in the campaigns in the Pacific theater including the bleak, terror filled early days of the war -- during the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, the Batan death march -- to mention but a few. Though less heralded, there were many who served throughout the war at home and were just as determined and dedicated in their efforts. Many of these helped train the men who went off to fight and others served less glamorous rolls in guarding vital military installations stateside.

These men and women were common citizen soldiers who were placed into heroic situations and performed their duties -- not for glory or rewards; but, because the job had to be done. They did their part. These citizen soldiers came from every walk of life in this vast country, putting on their uniform and marching off to an uncertain future. When the war finally ended, most returned to family and home...many did not. They all served -- with pride!

Not all came home boasting a chest full of medals -- nor all did heroic deeds on the great battlefields of the world. But each one was a hero in his own right all the same; enduring and dedicating himself to the task at hand. Thus, another small piece of the vast picture we called the "great war" was fulfilled. Another

soldier had done his duty and could come home to his just rewards holding his head high in pride.

This series of pages will be a sounding board, have you, for the generation referred to as "America's Greatest Generation". Their generation, collectively, experienced the most turbulent and terrifying era in the history of this great nation. In their own way they played their small part in doing their part in World War II -- helping to shape the world and stopping the tide of world domination by some of histories greatest tyrants.



Left to Right: Bernie Kramer, CT;  
Ray Bushey, VT;  
John P. Redmond, CT; unidentified.  
1946, Riverside, California

### **Heroes: the Army**

John Paul Redmond

1st Sergeant, Co. A, 49th Signal Corps,  
Heavy Construction Battalion,  
United States Armed Forces  
Honorable Discharge, U. S. Army



**Young men were drawn together...**

"World War II: Servicemen from the North and South

Young men were drawn together from the Northeast and deep South, serving their country during World War II, from camps in Tennessee and Missouri to Guam, with eventual victory over Japan and then homeward bound.

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January 1943. Fort Devens, Massachusetts. A snowy welcome greeted another unit of draftees, soon to be United States soldiers, from the New England states. After a few days of tasting army cooking and being issued uniforms and other necessities, the soldiers boarded a troop train for the long ride to Paris. No, not Paris, France, but the warmer climates of Paris, Tennessee, and Camp Tyson. The young New England men were soon blended into one unit with another group of new soldiers from the state of Mississippi; these men would serve together for the next three years.

When the new recruits settled in -- and this experience I will never forget -- a few from New England were assigned to barracks with men

from Mississippi. I was one, and I took a bottom bunk. From the top bunk came the question "are you a Yankee?" Before long, the men from the east, who were probably fans of the Yankees, were just another bunch of privates, along with the "rebels" from the South.

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Under the banner of the 316th Anti-aircraft Barrage Balloon Battalion, with basic training finished, the technique of how barrage balloons operated as a defense mechanism was foremost on the minds of the officers in charge. A simple explanation is that a barrage balloon is anchored singly or in a series over a military objective to hinder the passage of enemy aircraft. Those familiar with these balloons will remember them in the opening scenes of D-Day during the movie "Saving Private Ryan."

In July of 1943, the entire battalion was on another train, this time leaving Tennessee for Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and, finally, the Mojave Desert in southern California, for a month of training. We figured we would be going to Africa, but the rumors were wrong. Other barrage balloon outfits were going to Europe, but we were being deactivated in late 1943 and early 1944 to become the **49th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion**. This meant another train ride, this time to Camp Crowder, Missouri. Instead of balloons, we were now trained how to be a soldier for a totally different mission: climbing telephone poles. Luckily for me, I was destined to be an office

clerk, so no climbing for me.

In 1944, the 49th left Missouri on yet another train, this time northwest to Fort Lewis in the state of Washington, near Seattle. We would spend our last days in the States over Thanksgiving dinner. I was a member of Company A which consisted of 185 men and six officers, all ready for overseas duty. Company B of the 49th didn't leave Fort Lewis until early 1945. Our destination: Iwo Jima.

We left the port of Seattle, first going north to Alaska, then on to Hawaii on a "Victory" ship, the **Fred C. Aimesworth**, a part of the fleet of ships quickly built for transporting troops. After Hawaii, we headed southwest to a small atoll called Eniwetok, part of the Marshall Islands. We were able to leave ship for a swim which felt just great after two weeks on board. Eniwetok would later become famous in 1948 as the site of the US atomic tests.

Our final stop was the island of Guam, a U.S. possession and the largest (216 square miles) of the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific.

\*\*\*



First  
Sergeant  
John P.  
Redmond,  
on Guam,  
1945

### Two Missions In Mind

(The following story is about Company A's stay on Guam and was written as an assignment when I finally got back to the States and attended college in New Haven, Connecticut.)

The trucks were loaded with GI's. The trip from the Guam shore was finally under way as these newly arrived troops from the States were driven through the ruins of Agana, main town of this island in the Pacific. This was just the beginning of the experiences of an Army Signal Corps Company of 185 enlisted men, six officers, and their missions on Guam. The date was December 28, 1944, and it would not be until January 28, 1946, that these men would again be on a Navy vessel homeward

bound. The trucks reached their destination at a clearing located two miles from Northwest Field. This airstrip, in months to come, would play an important part in the numerous bombing raids on Japan.

This Company was selected for a very important assignment: the installation of a large communication system for the Navy under Admiral Nimitz and the 20th Air Force under the command of General Spaatz. Before the actual story can be told of how these soldiers worked and found pleasure in their off-hours, background information concerning Guam should be noted.

Guam was to be the center point for all air and sea attacks on the island of Japan. The Central Pacific commands of the Army and Navy would issue the orders on when and where to strike next from Guam. It is all history, the bombing of Japan by the powerful B-29's and constant sea maneuvers by the Navy. My story will never go down in history, but Guam played an important role in the history of World War II, and my Company did its part in adding to the island's usefulness.

With their first and utmost mission in mind, the Company's second consideration was the establishment of a community that would be suitable for all personnel. While the regular crews of pole linemen were on scheduled jobs around the island, a home crew of electricians, carpenters, and all-around handy men were left in the company area setting up a camp. Try to visualize the many facilities around your home, place of work and city, and

you realize the vast amount of work that was in store for them.

Sanitary measures were of first importance. A water tank was erected for drinking water and bathing water. Bathing was a luxury considering where we were stationed. Once our tents were set up, the next problem was clearing away the outlying jungle for the use of the motor pool to house the many jeeps and trucks for a heavy construction outfit like ours. A telephone system also had to be set up because of the important contact between the crews and main office of the camp. A lighting system was installed in each tent. Streets that ran past the tents were named "Broadway" and "Church Street" by the men.

It may seem strange that a place of eating, or "mess" as it is commonly called in the service, did not enter the scene of our camp. Arrangements were made before we arrived on Guam to eat with the Navy. Our mess was a large Quonset hut. Spam and beans seemed to be the only two products the Navy could muster out of their storehouse. One good result of not having our own mess hall was that we were never troubled by hungry Japanese. All mess halls on the island had been raided on different occasions by these dejected "people of the rising sun."

In time, the company area developed in a neat and tidy tent city that resembled any Army camp in the States. Four men were assigned to each tent with ample room for beds and the belongings of each soldier. The officers had their own area located near the main

headquarter tent. Although troublesome, mosquito nets had to be used on the cots while sleeping. Mosquitoes were not the only pests to contend with since large rats were also plentiful in the area due to the thick jungle that bordered our camp. The medical staff took steps to rid these pests by setting food traps daily. The first few days, the rats would get a hearty diet, but, by the third day or so, poison was their main dish. This effectively eliminated these surly creatures.

Time hangs heavy for anyone on an island like Guam, even when the mail is filled with letters from the folks and friends back home. Our commanding officer found a remedy for everyone when he secured a motion picture machine and screen from the Navy. Now that I think back, the Navy was rather good to us Army "dog faces." The picture machine was just what the doctor ordered for those long evenings hanging around the camp. A spot was picked out for the theater location, and a stage and seats were set up. Everyone was eager to pitch in to help as this was an enjoyment for everybody. Back home, we took everything for granted; but, on an island in the Pacific, a motion picture about cowboys, love, girls, etc. is a treat and reminds everyone of home. The installation took less than a week, with the palm trees coming in handy as staging for the screen. We saw first-rate pictures from the States. Frequently, we had to watch the same movie two or three times. The larger theaters built by the Navy were the settings for numerous USO shows sent over from the States. Our little theater

wasn't important enough to warrant the USO. Whenever possible, however, we secured a jeep or truck and drove to the larger movies to see the real American players in action. Yes, life on Guam seemed like home with only a few minor adjustments!

People of all ages enjoy viewing a good motion picture, and a great many have an equal interest in the great American pastime of baseball. These GI's were no exception to the rule. With permission of the commanding officer, the sports-minded members of the Company decided to build a ballpark. Fortunately, a large enough clearing was vacant next to where the infield would be located. With the greater part of Guam a coral base, this diamond could rightfully be called a "diamond in the rough." This did not hinder the men; however, and, coral or no coral, a diamond was set up. To add to the atmosphere, a back-stop of chicken wire was erected, along with seats on the sides for players and spectators. It didn't resemble a modern park, but it was another example of Yankee ingenuity. To give it a real modern touch, lights were installed for night baseball. Many games were played with other outfits, both on Sundays and at night. This Company was building a reputation for themselves on Guam due to the theater and the ballpark, and everyone could enjoy good, clean fun and relieve the monotony of overseas duty.

As time went on, the line crews had their own troubles with difficult terrain. Guam has a coral base that made installing telephone poles almost impossible. This was overcome by

using special diggers that were attached to the equipment trucks. All the Signal Corps tools were used to advantage in jobs that kept the men busy from one end of the island to the other. The telephone lines had to be set up through thick jungle, since many Navy and Marine outfits were located several miles from their separate commands.

The landscape wasn't the only obstruction that hampered our company from fulfilling its mission on schedule. Japanese soldiers surrendered on a daily basis, and dealing with enemy soldiers fell into the crews' hands. During the invasion of Guam, many Japanese took to the hills and tried to live in the jungles; but, sooner or later, they realized that the Marine stockade offered greater comfort in living quarters and food. They would give up to the nearest American they could find. Transportation had to be provided back to the stockade, so this interruption would affect our work on the line.

The Company not only performed duties that were beneficial to the members of the immediate area but also in the communication field for the entire island of Guam. Their mission was to outfit the island with necessary signal work, and they did, in a way that earned them a high award from the Commanding General of the Pacific. It was a Company award and rightfully so because everyone did his part, either on the pole line or sitting all day at a typewriter. In addition, Company A received the Navy Unit Commendation and Presidential Meritorious Unit Emblem.

Looking back to those days on Guam gives this writer great satisfaction knowing that men of all races, religions, and backgrounds got along so well. Yes, these men were in the Army and had to obey orders but in the line of duty, not on their off-hours. The theater and ball field required cooperation from everyone, from the officers down to the lowest private. This company found that spirit of cooperation that is so lacking in world affairs today.

The two missions were accomplished to the satisfaction of the higher commands of the Army and Navy, the officers in charge of the Company, and all the GI's. To paraphrase an old saying, this Company came to Guam, they saw what was in store for them on Guam, and they conquered Guam. With the end of the war, going home was of paramount concern. In January of 1946, the entire Company left with memories that were vivid enough for this writer to put on paper."

-- John Paul Redmond

We at the **World War II Stories -- In Their Own Words**, wish to offer our profound THANK YOU to **Mr. John Paul Redmond**, as well as his daughter, **Ms. Nancy M. Deshaies**, for their kind offer to bring to us the story of daily life of an ordinary soldier in the U. S. Army's Signal Corps. It is by such kind efforts by wonderful folks such as Mr. Redmond and Ms. Deshaies, that we are allowed to learn a

little more about the events that took place in the most troubling times in American history -- World War II.

Original Story transcribed from e-mail messages submitted by the subject of this story on 24 June 2002.

Story originally submitted on: 24 June 2002.



Do YOU have a story to tell?

Contact me, Joe Richard and I can help you tell YOUR story.

Send an e-mail to this following e-mail address:

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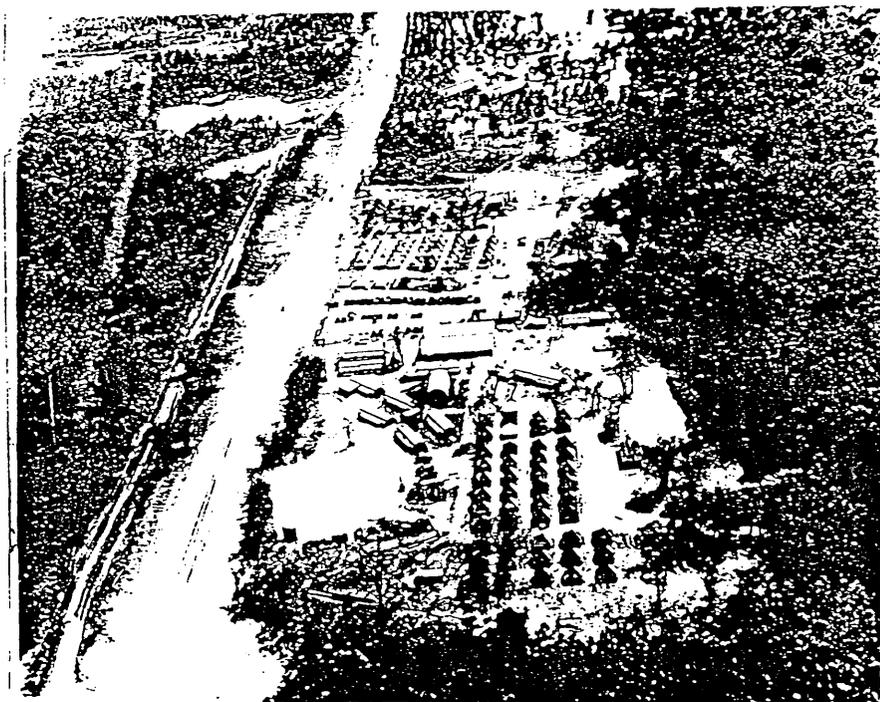
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View of outfield, showing coral on ground. Player in white shirt is the author of story.



Aerial photo of Conny with main road to fields on the right.

Photo of stage and screen with author and friend.

