

VOLUME ONE    1975

Opening CSM Column

William G. Reilly, Fire Chief

Joseph S. Urso, K of C

Wayne Carleton, Hockey Player

Joseph J. Fiore, Post Office

Clifford R. Randall, Lions

James W. Rumbold, Little League

Erma Olivi Pane, Town Clerk

Ruth McKenna, Travel Agent

Charles J. Rader, Politician

Francis J. Aniello, Little  
League

Dan Sullivan Story

Letters to the Editors

**“Cabbages and Kings”**

With

**Jack Redmond**

## “Cabbages and Kings”

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Move over Earl Wilson, William Buckley, Bill Lee, Art Buchwald, Erma Bombeck (mustn't forget the females) and the other columnists we read in our daily papers — a novice is endeavoring to break into the big leagues. Certainly Windsor Locks should be considered big league, to a certain degree, with the Ella Grasso story, the famous turkey hearings, the national bowling series and the other local news fit to print.

But enough concerning the writer...people want to hear and read about people. People who make up the news in Windsor Locks and Connecticut. People who have made their marks in our town by way of the political, civic, fraternal and coaching circles. My reasons are very simple...people make the best stories, events happen and mostly, in this day and age, for the worst, so the best items are still people.

Lowell Thomas, the renowned writer and explorer, once remarked, "We're on this planet, we don't know where we came from or where we're going. So why shouldn't we have a positive outlook while we're here? People should be doing something which interests them."...

## “Cabbages and Kings”

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### PROFILE OF A FIRE CHIEF

Dedication to his town, his men, and to the new Safety Complex is my way of characterizing William G. Reilly, chief for the past ten years of the Windsor Locks Volunteer Fire Company. There is no way to differentiate between Chief Reilly and the new complex of our police and fire companies on Elm Street.

Chief Reilly was to be my genesis into the writing world but one does not interview this busy individual without him selling the new complex.

The Reilly family, all six of them, were born and raised in Windsor Locks. Bill Reilly with his Irish humor, good looks, and easy-to-talk-to manner made my job very simple by most standards. The Reilly family, headed by wife Ann, and the four children, Joanne, Beth, Billy Jr. and Jim all live at 47 Oak Street. Ann, according to the chief, grew up in the neighborhood surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the police and fire activity.

Young Bill Reilly, a depression year baby, had a whirl at playing professional baseball, down south, with a few teams affiliated with the Chicago Cubs. Bill describes his short career by saying he was, “good glove, no hit.” He served two years with the United States Army during the Korean conflict. Bill never had any aspirations to be a “Yogi” Berra or General MacArthur...his real love, next to Ann and the kids, has always been the town of Windsor Locks and the fire company. That’s the feeling coming through all the time when a person talks to William G. Reilly.

The other organization Bill has been associated with is the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. He has been a member of the fire company for the past 25 years. He expressed no desire, as a younger man, to become a regular full-time fireman in one of our larger cities. I guess Bill wanted to go where the action is.

### THE FIRE COMPANY

The local volunteers number 71. Young men of 18 can, with the proper training, wear the uniform of the Reillymen. Two of the requirements for all volunteers is to attend 25 per cent of the fires and make as many as possible drills. All men are subject to these rules and are judged by a review board.

The chief provided the names of the former chiefs of the local company: The first chief was J.E. Egan, 1890-1906; followed by Messrs. Daube, Colli, Norris, Deming, M u r r a y, Wallace, Reeves, Carroll, Russell and Chief Reilly since 1965.

The following excerpt is taken from the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary issue of the fire department, “Several informal meetings were held to discuss organization of a fire department, which took concrete form on July 13, 1890 when the Windsor Locks Fire Department was organized at a meeting held in the Town Hall.”

For the past 85 years, the firefighters, under Chief Egan to the present Bill Reilly have protected the homes and population of his nine square mile town on the Connecticut River.

### DELUXE COMPLEX

The new complex will house five trucks. The sixth truck will be stationed at Bradley Field, our big brother to the west. I was given the honor of inspecting the new spanking clean structure with Chief Reilly proudly showing off, and rightfully so, every room, piece of fire equipment, the many trophies, the boiler room, the meeting room, and the other facilities making up this million dollar building on the 12 acre lot.

We also made a quick tour of the police area, equally sufficient and beautiful, after being provided identification badges by the officer in charge. Like the old saying goes, “A nice place to visit, but I wouldn’t want to live there.”

The exterior of the building is mostly made up of the rusty brick type and as the chief remarked, “The building is maintenance free.” The main point the chief wanted to convey to all concerned was that the complex was built with an eye to the future.

According to Chief Reilly the police and fire personnel were all in favor of this type of safety complex and from the taxpayers viewpoint it’s the only way to go in this economy-minded world we all live in today.

The night I toured the new complex, I met several firefighters. One was an old friend and neighbor, Ellsworth H. Case, a regular fireman and to quote the chief, “If you want something done good and fast, ask Case.”

Also met Jack Colli, fire commissioner. Mr. Colli and the chief remarked how the Building Committee was formed five years ago with three from the fire company, three from the police family and two so-called outsiders with knowledge in the building trades. The chairman was my good friend Jim Rumbold, who also doubles as a Little League coach.

The new building will not be without some hometown nostalgia...the large fire bell, from the Medillcott Mill and Dexter building, will have a place of honor at the front entrance of the firehouse. The dedication plans are incomplete. Chief Reilly said there are a few things to be done before the building will have that complete look. But he did say, “The complex will not be complete until the road from Elm to Spring is finished.” He thought maybe by the summer.

### EPILOG

Bill Reilly, when he isn’t at home, or at the complex, can be found on Main Street, where he’s been running Reilly’s gas station for the past 14 years. He’s quite a guy, even provides two services, fills up your car with gas and with a lot of good, hometown help, gives you protection at a time when it is most needed.

To paraphrase the well-known commercial, “Windsor Locks is in good hands,” with Chief William G. Reilly and his 71 faithful, hardworking crew of firefighters.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

### Jack Redmond

#### A KNIGHT FOR ALL SEASONS

Joseph S. Urso has accomplishments as long as his sleeve...in the Catholic church, fraternal, civic and even the sporting way of life.

Joe, fifty-three years young, a native of Wallingford, but for all intents and purposes, a self-made native of Windsor Locks, a citizen about town, and always searching to better people's plight for the better.

His philosophy, briefly defined, is to "help people in need of help."

He has geared his life toward this end. While a seaman for Uncle Sam, he witnessed the atomic explosion at the Bikini atoll in the Pacific. The year was 1946 and watching an experience of such magnitude certainly influenced him in helping people. He had joined the Navy as a young man in 1941 and served until 1947.

One of his shipmates was the famous baseball player Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians. While on shore duty, and during a sabbatical, Joe and Mr. Fireball himself found each other on the same team and Bob needed a catcher. Joe still has a crooked finger to remind him of catching a foul tip off the bat of a Navy man who couldn't touch one of the greatest pitchers of our national pastime.

When the war was over, Mr. Urso joined the Knights of Columbus. The highlight came last year when he was awarded the "Knight of the Year" for Council 26. His present position is District Deputy for the towns of Bloomfield, Simsbury and Avon.

Baseball being one of his first loves, he served as safety officer for the Windsor Locks Little League. Other town projects taking up his time is the "Run for your Life" conditioning program at the high school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights. Joe is involved with Bob O'Connor in the town Park Department; on the Republican town committee teaching adult classes in swimming one night a week; a member of the state Red Cross Water Safety Committee; recreation council of the Hamilton Standard Company in Windsor Locks (he has been employed at H.S. for the past 23 years as a production control planner) and finally, under his direction, a swim program got underway April 26 for the mentally retarded sponsored by the Connecticut

State Knights of Columbus in cooperation with the Windsor Locks Park Department and the American National Red Cross of the Greater Hartford Chapter.

Joe was asked what he did on his off hours and he calmly said he had a "green thumb" and was anxiously waiting for his 500 or so tulips to appear in his backyard.

His wife, Rena, with her usual calmness goes along with his civic projects and minds their lovely home on Roberts Street with daughter Mary, 18 and a junior at the high school, Mark, 19 and a senior planning to be a freshman at Springfield Technical College. The oldest boy, Charles, 21, will shortly graduate from Central Connecticut State College as an accounting major. Joe and Rena will be dancing at Charles' wedding in November.

One mustn't forget to add that Joe has been a trustee of St. Roberts Church for twelve years, and yes, even the head usher for many months of Sundays.

For the past few years, Mr. Urso was involved in such worthy programs as the pitfalls of drug abuse and venereal disease. With the help of the KofC these programs were used to inform the public of the seriousness of these sad conditions facing citizens of all ages. Recently, our First Selectman Edward Savino proclaimed a Knights of Columbus Alcohol and Drug Abuse Information Day...all these projects spearheaded by Joseph S. Urso.

As mentioned, his list of accomplishments is long. Windsor Locks can stand up and cheer for guys like Joe. Interviewing individuals of this class proves the adage that there are a great deal of sincere, hardworking, dedicated persons giving numerous hours of their time to worthy ideas and their good works deserve praise of the highest order from their fellow townspeople.

Joe once wrote his thoughts on the qualities a Grand Knight of his order should exemplify. One was "needs." I believe, with apologies to Joe, his words may be paraphrased to all people. The good citizen must be a man or woman of capacity who will recognize and appreciate not only the needs of his town, but the needs within the church and the town in which he lives. Undoubtedly, Joseph S. Urso is a Knight for all seasons.



Joseph Urso

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

## Jack Redmond

### WAYNE CARLETON

There is an old saying concerning famous people...the bigger they are the nicer they are to deal with. Wayne Carleton of the New England Whalers is of the breed I speak of. He is also big in stature (6 ft. 3 in.) but as down to earth as any man you would meet on a daily basis.

This analogy came to light recently when I was welcomed to the Carleton apartment in East Granby. (The Carletons have since moved to their own home in Simsbury.) Liz, his attractive wife, three-year-old son Mike, who already hits a ball as a puck around the living room, and Wayne have been living in our area since the Whalers purchased the big center from the Toronto Toros in September of 1974.

The leading Whaler scorer for the past season and the disappointing playoffs began his hockey career in 1961 playing junior hockey in his native Canada. Born in Sudbury, Ontario in 1946 he is now in the process of selling two farms and some race horses in Collingwood, a small town 100 miles north of Toronto on the Georgian Bay. He said he will spend the summer months liquidating his holdings in those familiar surroundings for his home in Connecticut. Liz and Wayne both remarked how similar East Granby's weather and terrain is to the Collingwood section.

Due to the newly won popularity of the Whalers in Hartford and neighboring towns, I felt Mr. Carleton would make a timely interview. For those hockey buffs, Wayne Carleton began his professional duties with the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1965. He was with the great Boston Bruins in 1969-71; 1971-2 the California Golden Seals; 1972-3 the Ottawa Nationals; the 1973-4 season with the Toronto Toros and as mentioned, in September of 1974, was sold to the Whalers and to the new Hartford Civic Center.

depends on any new personnel the management may buy, the nucleus is good. When does the new season start? October, 1975. Will he follow the rest of this season's playoffs? Yes, in Canada, all the games are on television. Any big difference in the WHA and his arch rival the National Hockey League? Not really, considering the three years the World Hockey has been in existence. The NHL has the established players, while the WHA has the good rookies and many fine veterans. Did he ever play other sports in his youth? Yes, baseball, basketball and football. His wife said he was good at all sports..she should know.



Wayne Carleton

### Biggest Thrill

What was his biggest thrill in hockey? Being a member of the World Champion Boston Bruins in 1971. He was only 23 at the time and playing regularly for the Bruins was equally as thrilling.

What did he think of the new Hartford Civic Center? One of the nicest arenas in North America. Not a bad seat in the house for the fans. He also said as a young player his dream came true when he was on the Junior Hockey Memorial Cup Team. Of course, winning the AVCO World Trophy (WHA) is the quest of all the Whalers for the coming season.

### Best Hockey Player

We covered the next question thoroughly. I asked Wayne to give his opinion on who is or was the greatest hockey player who ever lived. "Maurice (Rocket) Richard, Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull, Phil Esposito, Bobby Orr. Do not underestimate Phil Esposito, a very underrated player." (I believe he resented my remark about Esposito being called a "cabbage goal scorer"). "Howe, one of the best all-around players; Richard and Hull, two great scorers. But Bobby Orr has the most natural ability and should be considered the best." I'm sure there will be no arguments with Carleton's choice around this neck of the woods.

What did he think of the reception at Bradley Field (April 20)? "A great feeling and a big lift to the Whalers after their loss at St. Paul. To think on a Sunday morning all those fans and Mrs. Grasso would take the time to welcome them home to Hartford, or should I say Windsor Locks, right?"

His plans for the future, and when he hangs up his skates? He feels he has four or five more productive years in the fastest game in sports. No real plans beyond his playing days. Would he like to coach someday? He said it was too early to contemplate what will happen, but he does like working with kids on their hockey fundamentals.

It was an enjoyable interview with the Carletons for this old high school player of 35 years ago. Bobby Orr might be the greatest but when someone asks me who is the nicest guy to chat with, Wayne Carleton will get my vote any day. Wait will next year, Wayne, for the Whaler big wins. Who said nice guys finish last?

The listing of the California Golden Seals could not be discussed without the name of Charles O. Finley, the Seals former owner and currently president and jack-of-all-trades of the World Champions of baseball, the Oakland A's. Wayne quickly gave his opinion of the great personality, who has since departed from the hockey scene and probably for the best, describing him as eccentric, egotistical, but always free with the food, drinks, the first class service for the players and their wives. When it came to salary talk, however, a different variety of human species emerged. Wayne related it was the first time he ever had to resort to arbitration in order to iron out what he felt he was worth from the great mule trader.

I asked the big man was he disappointed in the season past. He spoke of the fine record of the Whalers and their first place finish; the constant injuries during the playoffs and during the regular season; and of their opponents, the Minnesota Fighting Saints and what a better club they were, never really given the credit they deserved. He and the Whalers are already thinking of next season and how to pursue more scoring punch. Carleton's 74 points were high for the team with Larry Pleua and Tom Webster tied for second place with 64 points.

When September rolls around, the Whalers will be ready again to practice at the rink in Middletown at Wesleyan University. Wayne said he would be at the Enfield Twin Rinks on August 18-30 for a hockey day school, assisting Ron Ryan.

Other questions noted and answered quite freely by Wayne, the Whalers changes next year.

## **“Cabbages and Kings”**

With  
**Jack Redmond**

“Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stayed these couriers from the swift complement of their appointed rounds.”

Joseph J. Fiore, the superintendent of postal operations at our Windsor Locks Post Office, probably heard the above famous quotation that so accents our mail system as he began his postal career 37 years ago this month.

Knowing this gentleman those many years of sorting and handling the local mail, he certainly has lived by the sage words as to his appointed rounds.

Joe was born and raised in Windsor Locks. He attended the Union School and the Loomis School in nearby Windsor.

He married Dosolina Taravella and the Fiores were blessed with four fine children. Marie is the oldest at 21 and is at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. studying electrical engineering; Theresa 18, and Margaret 16, are both students at the Suffield Regional Vocational Agricultural School with emphasis on the study of animals; and John at 15 is a freshman at the high school.

Joe was not always a homebody. He joined the local KNights of Columbus in 1940. But like all the literary people say, “as the dark clouds of war appeared on the horizon,” Joe left the comfort of home, the Knights and his daily rounds of the mail route for Uncle Sam’s army and guess where they assigned him? No, not in the kitchen or motor pool, which is so typical of the services, but in the Army Post Office and far away from the Connecticut River in San Francisco, with the familiar ring of APO 244.

Having some free time, Joe and a friend decided to look around this famous city, and what better place for a view than the Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill. All of us acquainted with “Baghdad by the Bay” will always remember the “Top of the Mark.” Joe really conjures up the good old days when he remembers the 37 cent drinks at this popular place. Sitting there enjoying the view was Ray Bellingeri, current owner of the Skyline Restaurant on Turnpike Road. Ray and Joe exchanged experiences of their tours of duty as well as news from home. Another local man Joe ran into was Fred Barberi, a Navy man at the time, and now of South Elm Street. A little bit of Windsor Locks in San Francisco...those were the days, and nights too! For two years Joe handled the mail for the soldiers, marines, and sailors, and then in 1946 was called back to civilian life in Windsor Locks.

In 1948 he had the honor of being named the Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. Today he continues in future church activities by teaching the Catholic Youth Organization on a weekly basis, and all students remember his wise and fair counsel these past seven years. In 1960 at St. Robert’s Church he entered into a new layman field as a lecturer on Saturday and Sundays. He joined the Layman’s Retreat League in 1951 and has been attending relaxing weekends at the Holy Family Monastery in Farmington once a year. Joe is currently the president of the Enfield Chapter of the league.

Joe Fiore did not back down when he was asked what he thought of the Catholic Church in America today:

If the Church had followed Vatican Two, as proposed by the then Pope John, it probably wouldn’t be in the position it is in today.” To further explain, “It is the failure of the American Bishops and priests not to follow the true spirit of Vatican Two.” He said, “The adults and children need an education on church policy...”

On the subject of the movies of today, Joe felt the cinema was intended for entertainment and the films with their needless sex and violence are not entertaining young and old alike. He enjoys

good detective and action stories but not the ones portrayed on the silver screen. His hobbies are gardening, leather work, and fishing, when he gets the chance.

One pleasing part of interviewing people is learning about our town, and like the Rielly tour of the new complex, Joe gave me a trip around the post office with its mountains of mail for local residents and far-a-way places. He really stressed the need for usage of zip codes on all letters and packages. It helps the local post office to operate in a more business-like and economical manner. The system breaks down without the zip codes because the mail has to be sorted a second time so it can be routed to the appropriate branch office.

Joe is very satisfied living in Windsor Locks. He has always found the natives and new inhabitancy of his town warm and friendly. He mentioned that the local manufacturing concerns are all aware of their community and have a conscience to back it up with controls in this ecology-minded society.

Joseph J. Fiore is the salt of the earth.

His parting words were, “Jack, don’t forget your zip code.”

## “Cabbages and Kings”

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#### LION OF A MAN

Clifford R. Randall, native of Sanford, Maine, a teacher in Casablanca in far off North Africa, and now a continuous resident of Windsor Locks...a long road for a man to plant his roots.

This congenial man who talks of “working with people and finding it very rewarding” made the big swing from the cold weather of Maine, with a slight detour to the heat of Africa, and now is a hard working pillar of his adopted community.

Following service with the U.S. Navy during WWII (he also witnessed the atomic bomb explosion at Bikini, a la Joe Urso) Cliff enrolled and graduated from the Gorham campus of the University of Maine in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts.

Before college Cliff married his childhood sweetheart, Harriet Acker. Mrs. Randall has been a math teacher at Windsor Locks High School for the past 18 years. Before the teaching profession, motherhood came with...Melissa, now married with a boy, David, age four...Priscilla, 21 and a junior at Russell Sage, Troy, New York...and the youngest Jeff, 18, a student at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Young Jeff was born in North Africa when the Randalls, after Cliff decided teaching Industrial Arts in Norway, Maine was not the whole world, accepted a position in teaching for the United States Air Force Dependent Schools in Casablanca. Cliff never mentioned meeting Humphrey Bogart in his stay at the famous city of northern Africa.

A considerable amount of ground was covered by the Randalls. During Cliff's two year tour with the government one summer was spent in Weisbaden, Germany formulating a course of study in industrial arts for the southern European area schools.

Finally, in 1957 Windsor Locks was to have the benefit of the Randall family. Cliff accepted a position as Industrial Arts teacher in the Windsor Locks school system. He continued his education by earning his masters in education from the University of Hartford in 1962.

Today Cliff is the administrative assistant to the Superintendent of the Windsor Locks schools, Dr. Peter D'Arrigo. He is the president of the Connecticut branch of the Gorham Alumni Association with nearly 300 members.

He is also active in church work...a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, Warehouse Point, where he is a licensed lay reader in the Diocese of Connecticut and very proud of this accomplishment. He represents the church as a member of the Board of Directors in United Faith Housing, Inc. which is working with the Windsor Locks Redevelopment Agency in the area of moderate income housing.

#### LIONS — WITH AN EYE ON PEOPLE

Our handy and good friend of journalists, Mr. Webster, gives the following description of a lion: “a large, powerful carnivorous animal native to Africa; a famous person sought after in social circles.”

Now we all know where Mr. Randall settled on becoming a lion...while in Africa. He certainly is not of the carnivorous animal species, but can be called a social animal. Currently he is president of the local Lions of Windsor Locks. This fine organization, with their eyes on people, has been in the business of people-helping here in Windsor Locks since 1943.

The first president of the local Lions was the Rev. Charles W. McNerney. The club ventured into the important ambulance service with a 1937 Oldsmobile. Cliff mentioned that a great

many of the old-timers would remember the fine Olds. Today the ambulance committee is headed by Bob Barberi, assisted by Roger Nelson, Bob Harvey, Bernie Kulas, Roger Ignazio, Larry Ferrari and Teddy Smalley.

The Lions, winner of the 1970-71 “Spotlight Award” from the Chamber of Commerce, has a long list of community affairs it shares, both in contributions and help, especially in the eye program for needy children. They give to three nursing scholarships, the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts movements, the R.F. Jackson Scholarship, Christmas parties, holiday cheer for the needy, Little League, and on and on...this group belongs in the spotlight of the town every year.

#### EPILOG

After traveling from Maine to Casablanca and back to the United States, Cliff remarked how enjoyable Windsor Locks was to live in...this man with the hobby of helping people sometimes finds a few hours to work with his hands in making cabinets for their fine home on Elmwood Drive.

Clifford R. Randall is a father, teacher, civic leader and a lion of a man...the lion was always known as the king of its kind...another king in our town.

## “Cabbages and Kings”

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**THREE HATS THIS MAN** Temple University, and there he James. W. Rumbold wears found a big city, the education to three hats...the familiar baseball stay out of the mines, and a cap seen around, the diamonds of pretty wife. Isabell was studying Windsor Locks these many to be a “Florence Nightingale” years...the hard hat of the and what better way to spend a heating and air conditioning life...a nice cozy house with the profession, where he earns his proper heating, as in the daily bread...and the traveling Rumbold home on Northwood chapeau he shares with his wife Drive, and a nurse to treat you in Isabell on their many trips down your older years...not that Jim is south, on the seas to the islands old.

off Florida, and even to Portugal. If any of Jim's adversaries Jim was born in the coal wonder how years after year his regions of Scranton, Pa. He Little League teams win their selected the white collar and hard share of all the marbles or close hat of the heating and air to it, the truth can now be told. conditioning field instead of the Those trips with his wife to digger's helmet with its light and Florida in the early spring are not all. His own father was a coal to lay around the swimming pool miner and Jim realized, at a very at the famous hotel, The young age, it was not the road to Fontainebleau, but to watch his pursue. He witnessed first hand favorite team, the Boston Red the hard life of the miners and Sox, in action and learn first hand this life was not for easy going a few more tricks of the national Jim Rumbold. pastime.

The war years of 1944-45 found Actually, the Rumbolds watch the Red Sox in the morning and Jim with the U.S. Navy in the go to Disneyworld in the afternoon. Real kids at heart. Jim

Pacific Theatre of Operations. When he was discharged in 1946 he ran off to Philadelphia, always comes north ready for action when the rest of the managers and coaches are just getting over the winter blahs.

This May Jim has been busy cutting the lawn and working around the house and yard. Usually he would be out every night managing the Senior League team, but something new has been added to the baseball scene. Next month Windsor Locks, under Rumbold's leadership, will be represented in the so-called “Big League” of the Little League. The boys, ages 16-18, will be called the “Bankers,” not because they are all wealthy, but because they will be sponsored by the New England Bank and Trust of Enfield. It's a new version of the Little League program and the town team will be made up mostly of the high school players and other young men who aspire to play ball after the senior division. Jim sees no conflict between the “Big League” and the American Legion program.

Big Jim will be at the helm of this new team and can't wait for the season to start. Frankly, he's sick of cutting the lawn. His assistants will be Ken Brough and Carl Schiessl. The season opens June 22 with all home games played at Reed Avenue field on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sunday afternoons. The following teams will be in the league: East Windsor, South Windsor, Somers, Windsor, Vernon, Enfield, Hazardville and Windsor Locks.

Sticking with the Little League concept, I asked Jim if he felt this form of youth activity was good for the younger set...an unqualified yes. Should girls participate in the Little League?...if they are good enough, enough said.

Jim's son Robert was on the Little League champs of 1965 (so was my son-in-law Bob Creech - had to get a plug in somewhere) and is currently at Southern Connecticut State College in New Haven as a physical education major. Privately, he would enjoy taking over Ted Leitner's job.

Jim Rumbold, who is well known for his quick laugh and pleasing personality, is not interested only in the baseball world. The newly discovered sport for the common man, the new world of tennis with the Connors and Lavers has always been a sport that Jim knew well. He mentioned his old and cherished friendship and tennis partnership with the former governor of Pennsylvania, William Scranton. Jim almost had a friend in the White House.

Actually, Jim is a man of many sports. Years ago he was a true fan of the fighting game when the Sugar Ray Robinson and other ring greats were in their hey day.

His civic responsibility has not gone astray because of the sporting energies he generates. For the past five years Jim could be found at meetings of the building committee for the Fire and Police Safety Complex. Jim did say the new complex was one of the greatest and most beautiful structures in Windsor Locks.

#### SPORTSMAN AWARD

The Smalley Brothers, Post 6123, Veterans of Foreign Wars, made a wise move a few months ago when they named James W. Rumbold the 1975 Man of the Year and awarded him the Sportsman Award.

A real gentleman, this Rumbold guy, wearing three hats equally well...Windsor Locks' gain is Scranton, Pa.'s loss.



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#### PRETTIEST TOWN CLERK AROUND

Well-known to the voters and old time residents of Windsor Locks as Miss Erma Olivi, the town clerk and treasurer, will now be addressed as Mrs. Erma Olivi Pane...June 7 at St. Mary's Church, was the happy scene of the wedding of Erma and Wilson O. Pane.

Interviewed at her office at the Town Hall, a week or so before the big day, Erma presented the dignified composure of our Town Clerk, but if one looked real close, "Those Wedding Bells" could not ring fast enough and were exposed in this woman's eyes.

Erma was born and raised in this town, went to St. Mary's and the local high school, in fact, began her political career, by working part time in the office of the Town Clerk, for the illustrious, kindly, and "admired by his peers," the late James R. Rabbett.

Erma, in telling of her duties, always recalled Mr. Rabbett and the three decades working so closely with this fine gentleman. She told of Mr. Rabbett receiving the first "Town Clerk Hall of Fame" award from the Connecticut Town Clerk Association.

Our lady of the column, who admits to being a "Josephine the Plumber" around the house, was appointed to the Town Clerk and Treasurer position by the Board of Selectmen in Nov. 1968 upon the retirement of Mr. Rabbett. She was elected by the voters in Nov. 1969 and since then the popular choice of the electorate.

Mrs. Pane is a member of the local Democratic Town Committee and when asked who was her favorite political hero, Harry S. Truman, a real Democrat, came to her mind at once.

The town's "Our Girl Friday," (my description, not hers) is not all work. She is an avid skiing enthusiast, follows the Olympic games when the winter sport is on the tube. The newlyweds traveled to Bermuda on their honeymoon for a week, another week will be spent in New Hampshire, probably looking over the new ski jumps of our neighbor to the north.

A few questions posed to our town clerk, give a thumbnail sketch of our three selectment,

Mr. Savino, "boundless energy"; Mr. Colli, "faithful"; Mr. Quinn, "very cooperative." Ella Grasso as a likely vice presidential candidate, "fantastic idea, a most capable woman." She



further elaborated, "Ella has a real feeling for the people, we are long time friends."

Erma mentioned our town officials "overextend themselves" in all the duties of their positions and one of the main reasons for the town's low tax rate can be attributed to this zealous effort on their part for the voters and residents of Windsor Locks.

Just for the record, I didn't know that (that's me again) Windsor Locks is the smallest town in the state of Connecticut in area with the exception of New London. There are 3,477 Democratic voters registered, 1,234 of the G.O.P., and 2,541 Independents for a grand total of 7,252 voters in our town from a population of approximately 15,000.

Some more opinions. Bradley Field "put Windsor Locks on the map." When asked on her thoughts on the town's redevelopment, "The old landmarks are gone and because of this I have many mixed emotions, but one cannot stop progress." The tax rate, "Our town is in an envious position due to the low rate. Many attorneys from other towns and cities stopping in at the town offices searching a title will always remark about our great tax rate and how do we keep it down?"

#### EPILOG

This column rightly should be called "Cabbages and Queens"

this week. Erma certainly adds warmth and friendliness to the town offices, and when voters are to be made, prospective newlyweds, (incidentally Erma could not issue herself the marriage license, it had to be one of the other clerks) the residents, and other citizens in need of assistance, even for directions to the Tappan Zee Bridge, she recalled, receive full cooperation, the real mark of a town clerk. We are indeed lucky in Windsor Locks. We can expect this at our town office, and also see the prettiest town clerk around.

## “Cabbages and Kings”

With

### Jack Redmond

#### TRAVELING LADY

“If It’s Tuesday, You’re In Belgium,” a movie depicting the mixup life of many people on tours, never made it big at the box office. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on her movie likes and dislikes, Mrs. Ruth McKenna did not view this movie in question but has lived the life of exploring new and old tours for the traveling public for the past 15 years.

As director of sales for the R.J. McKenna and Sons Travel Agency in the Dexter Plaza and nearby Enfield, Mrs. McKenna knows first hand the good and bad features of the airlines, hotels, the meals and what other luxury items and benefits may be offered at the different stopping places in the many countries and cities of the globe where the Windsor Locks and northern Connecticut residents wish to spend their Yankee dollars and time.

Ruth McKenna, a pleasant and friendly individual, finally broke the all-male interview routine for “Cabbages and Kings.” There will be more of the female gender coming and Mrs. McKenna was a very interesting first.

Born in Agawam, Mass., she was a resident of Windsor Locks for more than three decades, but recently moved to Suffield where she and her better half, Bob McKenna, the R.J. of the business, make their home which is convenient to both the Enfield and Windsor Locks travel centers.

She reports that the travel agency was started in 1960 and that it has been a challenge for her and Bob these many years to satisfy the needs of the travelers. Before the full schedule Mrs. McKenna now handles, came the business of raising children. The offspring are spread from New York to Massachusetts: Richard now runs a restaurant in Long Island...Brian works in the agency with his parents...Betty

Ann (Caviello) is a housewife in Lynn to the East...and Janice is a schoolteacher, married to the junior varsity coach at South Windsor High School, Bob LaBrecche. Mrs. McKenna is the proud grandmother of six, but isn’t quite ready to pose as Grandma Moses yet.

Not Ruth McKenna, who has traveled to England, Ireland, all parts of Europe, Mexico, Hawaii, Iceland, South Africa and everywhere but behind the Iron Curtain.

She was quizzed as to the most unusual request from a traveler as to a final destination...a few years ago a woman and her daughter wished to book a trip to Lichenstein. No request was too small for Ruth. The two were off and running to the small kingdom located near Switzerland and Austria. As far as Mrs. McKenna knows they are still there and probably counting their money.

When asked for some travel tips, she mentioned each customer was given the “Ten Commandments of Travel” and with them the good advice to roll with the punches as to the foreign meals, accommodations and the probable language barrier that may arise when far from the comforts of home.

When I first contacted Ruth McKenna for an interview, she was in Buffalo, N.Y. at a convention for women travelers. She is past president of the Women’s Travel and Transportation Club of Hartford. Another try at meeting this busy lady proved negative as she was in Nashville, Tenn. Sure enough, she was on another tour, but not in the music city to make a record...she was visiting the new Grand Ole Opryland Park. She said it was beautiful, and for all you country and western music lovers a “must” to visit.

Nashville really isn’t far from Bradley Field by way of the airlines. For a special treat for the non-music kind, the famous “Jack Daniels” factory was inspected for all its goodness. I’m sure most readers are familiar with “old Jack Daniels” and the good spirit arising from its products.

A river cruise of the Cumberland River was a part of the tour and to top off the tour a real live barbecue of “catfish,” no less. You see traveling is not all work. Many times the traveling stops and the good times of life take over...that’s the name of the game...traveling to find what is on the other side of the mountain. Ruth said, “Try it, you’ll really like it.”

Mrs. McKenna was given the old question, “Do you ever tire of all this traveling?” “No, love it.” This woman speaks freely of her busy life.

In 1960, when the McKenna’s first opened their traveling business, Ruth was afraid to fly. She preferred the sailing ships of the seas. On a dare from her husband, Ruth boarded a plane at Bradley for the island of Bermuda. She couldn’t wait to get back to her seat on the next plane to Windsor Locks. Now flying is her life...she would rather be in a plane than the family station wagon. Are you listening Jackie Gleason?

#### EPILOG

Mrs. Ruth McKenna...the lady with a place in her heart for Windsor Locks...the world traveler...never finding the time for her hobbies of sewing and handiwork, but always finding the time to fulfill the wishes of the people in this area with her cheer. “Can I help you?”

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

### Jack Redmond

#### Political Conversation With Charlie

Politics, photography and reading historical novels are hobbies connected with Charles J. Rader.

Politics as a hobby...sounds strange...but you know the old saying, "politics makes strange bedfellows." That does not apply in Charlie's case. A political novice only a few years ago, Mr. Rader has grown in experience, political know-how, and processes the cardinal norm of a politician. He enjoys meeting people and finding "education in people."

He was schooled on the ability of the late John Fitzpatrick, whom he greatly admired. Charlie spoke fondly of the former Democratic patriarch and the sincere and honest job Mr. Fitzpatrick performed in local politics for many years. In Charlie's own words, "political people are colorful."

The Rader family have been residents of Windsor Locks for the past 15 years, but the tranquil surroundings of our town was not always their cup of tea. June Rader came from Newburgh, N.Y. and Charlie came from only a stone's throw away, Poughkeepsie. Charlie started with the Combustion Engineering Company in their New York City offices 29 years ago and traveled the streets of Manhattan and over the George Washington Bridge to Hackensack, N.J. for many years until this great industrial company (I work there too) concluded New York City was not the place for the second half of the twentieth century and picked nearby Windsor for their main facilities. Charlie and June jumped at the chance of living in this peaceful neighborhood.

Nearly nine years ago, the Redevelopment Agency was formed with four members of each party represented. Charlie was the lone Independent and both parties figured he was the best man for the job of chairman. Speaking frankly on the entire redevelopment picture concerning Windsor Locks Charlie said, "Redevelopment was badly needed, and will be an asset to the town when completed. Except for the standard bureaucratic operations, and a few critics, the job is being done. The reconstruction of the downtown area is for the best and in no way a decimation."

Charlie Rader has been an Independent voter and thinker all his life. Due to events and circumstances in Windsor Locks our man of the week decided to join the Democratic side of the room, but he would still be the Independent, to a degree, but at least be part of the action.

He is currently the vice-chairman of the party. His daughter, Mrs. Kathy Janik, is also a member of the Democratic committee making the only father-daughter combination in these parts. Kathy, a graduate of the University of Connecticut, works at the Combustion Credit Union, and is married to Steve Janik. Charlie's son Philip is also employed at Combustion, is married and he and his wife Marlene have a cute daughter Ann who is taking her first steps. Phil graduated from Worcester Tech.

Charlie, one of the few Chicago Cub baseball fans in this neck of the woods, was an admirer of old Hall of Famer catcher Gabby Hartnett. Charlie did play some American Legion ball back in New York State.

One can talk about work (Combustion) or some old sport hero, but with Charlie Rader politics seems to surface all the time. Question: How is Ed Savino doing? "Has grown in stature while in office". Charlie was Ed's campaign manager during the last election.

What is next on his agenda, after redevelopment? Elm Plains? No, not yet. Charlie felt no positive action will be taken due to the unsettled condition of various situations that surfaced the past few months. The time will come for action and you can bet Mr. Rader will be there for the benefit of Windsor Locks.

How about a candidate in 1976? "No real front runner at this moment, in either party." "Ted Kennedy has the charisma," Charlie remarked, "but the country needs a strong man."

Bradley Field: "Expansion should not be judged solely on dollars and cents."

Tax Rate: "Every taxpayer will agree, proud of the rate."

Any hero in government: "Harry S. Truman, also F.D.R., a strong individual, so lacking today."

A state income tax? "If administrated correctly, in an equitable way, not like the sales tax, I'm for it."

The railroad station downtown? "The Historical Society has been given every opportunity to keep it up and do something with it, and the Redevelopment Agency is for keeping it as a part of the area." (On June 10, the Agency decided to follow through on plans approved in 1969 and acquire the station.)

How about the latest talk concerning a dog track off Route 91 and 20? "Land should be put to better use, let's say for industrial growth. The Economic Development Commission should put the entire picture to the voters of Windsor Locks and let them vote by referendum."

#### EPILOG

Charlie loves to travel, and he and June do just that, but Windsor Locks is now their town, and as Charlie said, "I am interested in local affairs, and what happens here."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

### MR. LITTLE LEAGUE

When you talk of Little League in Windsor Locks one name will inevitably come to mind, Fran Aniello.

Fran, a native of Hartford, has lived in the Little League capitol of this region for the past 18 years. Windsor Locks without Fran would be like the town without Bradley Field or the locks. He has inscribed an indelible mark on the baseball scene, made up of little boys who ultimately grow to be men. When questioned concerning his greatest thrill in association with the Williamsport, Pa. oriented sport, Fran said, "it was very rewarding" watching the nine-year-old boys grown to manhood remember him as "Mr. Aniello."

It is appropriate on the anniversary of the tenth year since the town won the Little League World Championship to interview "Mr. Little League." (Courtesy of Jules Cirsuolo.)

In reminiscing as to the happenings of 1965, Fran believes the great victories achieved by the boys literally placed "the town on the map. Neighbors talk to their neighbors about the games. It was the big time, quite a year."

In connection with all the hoopla, Fran enjoyed conversing with all the newspaper men at the different stages of games and location, but of course the crowning was at Williamsport, the zenith of Little League success. The New York City papers were on the scene and when the "big apple" is reporting the action, well the big time has been informed and the headlines were in the Sunday papers.

Fran and his active and forceful wife, of nearly twenty-five years, Angela, have two sons who have participated in local sports. Bill, the youngest, played basketball in high school and was a member of the 1966 Little League State Champs. He graduated from Manchester Community College and is employed at the Hartford Insurance Group and will be married this month.

Fran, Jr., a member of the famous 1965 champs, is a graduate of Springfield College and is a substitute teacher and the junior varsity baseball coach at the high school. Young Fran was a standout court and diamond player for the local school.

Angela, always with a helping hand for the auxiliaries of baseball, football and Little League programs, was born in County Cork, Ireland. Need we say more. You know we Irish are close with the words.

Fran Aniello saw service during World War II from 1943-45 and in thinking back to those days, was "for the man of his outfit." This attitude came to light during the historic, bloody, and almost turning point of the war for the enemy...the battle of the Bulge.

Among the fraternal orders Fran has been associated with are the Knights of Columbus and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He has been the finance chairman of the Park Commission for the past six years. His church activities include a charter member of the St. Robert's Council, an usher at the 11:45 mass, and you probably heard his melodious voice as the barker at the annual Strawberry Festival in June, heard for many blocks in the vicinity of Roberts Street.

Talking of the "good old days" Fran remembers well the Hartford Clay Hills semi-pro football team that he was a member of; and being built like a fireplug was an asset in those rough days of the gridiron. For years he played softball for the insurance teams. He had an inside track with the insurance men, has been an insurance adjuster for 25 years. The past six years he has been with Travelers as a supervisor.

Talking to Fran, you feel the sense of pride this man has for the many boys who have placed in the Little League program... the Misicks, the Lashes, Dennis, Creeches, the Roches, and the rest of those fine athletes. But, as the years go by, the names change and something has been added to the program, the "Big" League. Fran, the treasurer of the program, is sure the new concept will go over. In addition, he is the assistant district advisor of the Eighth District. Fran cannot live in the past. The state titles of 1966, 1970, 1971 and on

and on; it is all history, but like some of the other officers of Little League hopes history may be repeated in our town of Windsor Locks.

Old time players always come to mind and Fran was no exception in his picks. Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams were his favorites, and now follows the road of the Boston Red Sox.

When it comes to politics, no ambitions, but follows the town activities with interest. Like many others, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was his top man in government circles, past and present.

Fran has his serious side. In discussing the many changes in the Catholic Church... "believes the changes are good for the youth, a proper dress is necessary, but young and old attending church on a regular basis is more important." He further stated, "The parents should listen to the kids point of view. They might learn something of value."

Question: "Why hasn't a boy from Windsor Locks not made the big time in the baseball world?"

Fran's answer: "This has been discussed fully many times with all the coaches, fans, and players alike. The desire was there, but, no boy had all the tools of the trade. Namely the speed, hitting, and good glove. If one boy could run like Lash, field like Dennis, and had the power of Creech, then maybe we all would be rooting for a local boy with the Yankees or Red Sox."

### EPILOG

Francis J. Aniello makes his voice heard in the church, his civic duties and the local world of sports. Jules was right naming him "Mr. Little League."

## 'Sarant wrap turkeys?'

Dear Editor:

Applause, applause, and then standing applause greeted Coach Daniel F. Sullivan Jr., at his public hearing on suspension last Tuesday at the Windsor Locks High School auditorium. The time was 8:02 p.m. when Mr. Sullivan entered the show-like atmosphere and it was not until after eleven o'clock when the hearing adjourned until Monday, March 24, same time, 8 p.m., same place, and same participants.

The auditorium setting was fitting. "Camelot" was evident and the town's prince of coaching and his court came by the hundreds to witness the play, spectacular in living color, hearing, meeting or whatever compelled his friends, students, old players, et al, to be in on the latest chapter of their favorite high school coach. It was a near capacity crowd (rowdy at times) facing the Board of Education with lawyers eyeing each other to prove or disprove the truth as to what really happened to all those good turkeys (Turkey Day was only a few days off and what better dish for a college student on Thanksgiving) at the now famous Marlborough Tavern this past November 20. Mr. Anthony Ward, Town Counsel and moderator for the evening, went for all the marbles, and rightfully so, informing the first-nighters to just watch and listen.

The guilt or innocence of Sullivan was not proven on Tuesday. The way proceedings went the first night it's hard to figure what will happen the second time around. (As this is written, no one knows.)

Sullivan was the first witness. He was followed by two young college student teachers, (Michael Tremblay and William Twardy), Coach Peter Sarant, James Muska, Athletic Director, and finally a quicker witness, Steven Matthews, who just happened to be in Mr. Sullivan's car hearing additional evidence in the coach's light.

The business-like lawyers Richard O'Connor and Martin Gould performed their "Petrocelli" roles to the hilt.

The entire three hours was both educational and enjoyable to the viewer and probably very nerve racking to the principals involved. The only sad note heard all evening was the

missing of "MASH" on the television. The only conclusion this writer came away with was: Is someone attempting to "Sarant wrap those turkeys." Every town has a little "Watergate" in it. (Special Note: My only connection with Dan Sullivan — I played golf against him at Copper Hill many years ago, and my son-in-law Bob Creech, Jr. is a former star baseball player under Mr. Sullivan.

John P. Redmond  
48 Pershing Road

## Letters to the Editor

### Act Two And Three of Dan Sullivan Story

Dear Editor:

#### ACT TWO

The Dan Sullivan story of turkeys or does it pay to take the turkey...Applause for Dan, Channel Three's Mr. Ted Leitner (he also gives autographs to the younger sect) the doctor, dentist, the former players, etc., etc.

But no applause for the Board of Education, Mr. Richard O'Connor, lawyer for the school, the principal, or even superintendent. Anyone from Warehouse Point would say it must be the good guys against the bad guys. Who determines the good guys from the bad? Not this Monday evening hearing.

Everyone has a right to his or her opinion, and all that jazz, but when the so-called good people are prejudging their hero's action based on the strong personal affection glorified by many victories on the court, field and diamond and fail to wait for all the evidence, who is the loser...the kids...Kids look to their parents, teachers, relatives and coaches for example in this crazy world we live in. What examples have we citizens of Windsor Locks been exposed to these past few nights?

A woman remarked, "Hasn't everyone stolen an ash tray?" Probably true of some people when they leave the Howard Johnson Motor Inn in Ashtabula, Ohio. But we are not talking about ash trays at the Windsor Locks High School or the Marlborough Tavern. We are in on the action of the prince charming of the coaching circle in our fair town. He is very popular, make no mistake of that fact. He must feel highly elated each night when he enters the room filled with 952 people (that's what the sign says on the wall) and realizes nearly everyone is backing him and his predicament. It must be a great feeling. Of course feelings do not pay the rent or food, however.

Mr. Dan Sullivan was referred

to as the Vince Lombardi of our town, well that is great, but didn't Mr. Lombardi say, "Winning is not everything, it's the only thing." But did he say at what price, glory...

#### ACT THREE

Dan Sullivan's accolade night...and sincere feelings, freely expressed by a former mayor, several coaches, a few housewives, and former players.

No final decision was reached on Tuesday (March 25) as to the verdict in the board's opinion. Let me explain something in regards to these interpretations of the hearings: I did not write in defense of Mr. Sullivan or in the prosecution of this fine coach.

My wife and I have been just spectators among the hundreds because we are interested in the affairs of Windsor Locks. Our town recently was on national TV with the bowling series, made the headlines when the boys in 1965 won the Little League World Series, and now the town and Mr. Sullivan has made the Wall Street Journal (March 26) putting it as... "Windsor Locksians Cry Fowl Over Fate of a Turkey Thief"...

Front page in the east...our town seems to be in the thick of the news, but back to the hearing. Some of the cliches noted during the character witness display of loyalty to Dan...the board should show love and mercy...students will judge his moral character...damn foolish thing to do...punishment

does not fit the crime...injustice to Dan, his family and to the town of Windsor Locks...Dan has the students in his thoughts at all times...a good man...do not judge by one situation...all the good he has done...the human interest story by Russ Mattesen was the most fitting...a man in his own time...and to end it all a verbal journey. (The journey went the wrong road but the other accolades hit the heart of the matter).

The Board of Education just sat there and observed all the talk and did not say too much. A jury were they. The board looked and acted the serious role and when their verdict is handed down I feel it will be fair and with love and mercy...what else is there in this crazy world to go with.

Jack Redmond  
48 Pershing Road

## Letters to the Editor

### Sullivan: Act Four

Dear Editor:

Act Four: Scene One: for the Daniel F. Sullivan version of the Turkey affair last November. One has to give the man credit for his sensitive, touchy, matter-of-fact talk to the Board of Education on Monday, March 31, as to his regretful activity in the entire turkey lark with the two young student teachers. The 952 persons in the auditorium were as quiet as his players after a loss to East Windsor when he spoke. Dan Sullivan is human after all. A public hearing is just what it is, very public. All his friends, relatives, adversaries, and the real curious were there for the final curtain for the biggest event to hit Windsor Locks since the Mattesen-O'Connor boys came home with the world title.

Scene Two: Another O'Connor, Richard that is, certainly did his homework. Anyone want a good lawyer? (That's right they can't advertise.) Mr. Richard O'Connor, the administration attorney, was not about to let Mr. Sullivan leave the town of Windsor Locks with his story without him, O'Connor that is, shooting a few holes in the tale.

Mr. O'Connor knew Mr. Sullivan had the crowd more behind him than the other three acts of fowl play. The resourceful attorney went over the details about the turkey incident from start to finish. It's the only road to pursue in a situation so critical. Attack, when confronted with the sharpest kid on the block.

In Windsor Locks Dan Sullivan was the sharpest kid on the block. Make no mistakes about

that statement. If you were not in on the action at the high school those four nights just look at the "Sullivan Booster" stickers on the local cars. This guy could run for selectman. But he's from that northern town near Bradley, I think.

Back to scene two: Dan Sullivan won the first part of the evening, but Mr. Richard O'Connor won the second part hands down. Imagine two good Irishmen against each other. That's America for you. In closing, let me say, I firmly believe everyone received a good hard lesson from the Sullivan hearings: think twice before you have another one for the road or you'll have turkeys on the brain instead of being a good leader, teacher or coach, which Daniel F. Sullivan can certainly be again.

Let's not hear about turkeys, until Thanksgiving...

Jack Redmond  
48 Pershing Road  
Windsor Locks, Ct.

### Holier Than Thou?

Dear Holier-Than-Thou:  
(Mr. Jack Redmond)

It must be wonderful to be such a perfect human being! Only a person that has never done anything wrong and has lived a saintly life could act like "GOD."

The difference is that a self-made God has no compassion or any forgiveness in his heart. Any man who can publicly ridicule in a newspaper the very seriousness of a man and his family's future must be a little retarded.

To get so much enjoyment out of sitting four nights for three hours watching a man be crucified has to be a little sick of mind. I would suggest visiting a good psychiatrist.

I realize there are people who run to accidents because they enjoy seeing someone else's blood spilled all over the highway, but I can only feel sorry for them.

Their lives must be very empty to derive so much enjoyment out of seeing a fellow man bleed to death on the highway or to kick a man when he is down.

May you and your family never have to endure the heartache and suffering that people like you cause other people.

(Editor's Note: The writer of the above letter sent to the Windsor Locks Journal, in response to letters to the editor from Jack Redmond, did not have the nerve to sign his name. It was mailed in an official envelope of Windsor Locks High School, printed when postage was 8 cents, on plain paper, and duplicated on a duplicating machine and post-marked Hartford. Mr. Redmond has given the Journal his permission to print it.)

## Letters to the Editor

### "The Time Has Come---"

Dear Editor:

With apologies to Mr. Redmond, he was right about one thing indeed — "The time has come," the walrus said, "to talk of many things." However, our subject is not shoes and ships and sailing wax, etc., but of "things" that pertain to this community of Windsor Locks.

It is gratifying to know that he does not admit himself to the category of Bill Buckley, Art Buchwald, Erma Bombeck and others he mentioned. Nor that of Brooks Atkinson, the New York Times drama critic, because "categories" is not the name of the game. He would lead us to believe that the Sullivan hearings were a comedy-drama in four acts, and alas, this is not the case.

Perhaps the excellent set the seniors had erected for their production of "Camelot" confused him, in which case the title of his play should have read, "The King Must Die."

Enough about Mr. Redmond and his articles. He needs no words other than his own.

To return to the "things" that are of immediate concern to us, namely the "sentence" delivered to Dan Sullivan.

It is public knowledge that the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education have published multiple charges against Mr. Sullivan, the princi-

pal ones being theft and conspiracy. There remains considerable doubt about the validity of these charges, since intent to steal was never proven at the hearings and the charge of conspiracy should have been omitted because it was denied by Mr. Sullivan, contradicted by witnesses and Atty. O'Connor was never able to submit further proof. Therefore, it appears there is only one basic charge remaining. Theft? Involving one, dead, frozen turkey.

For this, Mr. Sullivan has been suspended for nine months without pay? It seems a rather severe sentence!

Upon reflection of this entire case, there appears an appalling coincidence — that the decision of suspension without pay until September is, in fact, the exact "deal" offered to Mr. Sullivan by Dr. D'Arrigo and Mr. O'Connor, during the hearings.

And does it not seem strange, also, to reflect and realize that Mr. Malone and Mr. Sullivan both involved in similar incidents have received such different consideration and treatment?

When can we close the book on the whole matter with the satisfaction and knowledge that justice has been done with wisdom and integrity?

Anne Kennedy

# Windsor Locks Journal

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1975

## View of The Wall Street Journal

### *'Windsor Locksians Cry Fowl Over Fate Of a Turkey Thief'*

By N.R. Kleinfield  
Staff Reporter of  
The Wall Street Journal

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. — As school authorities see it, the scandal has all the trappings of a major crime: a three-pronged conspiracy, moral misconduct and, even worse, a wide-reaching cover-up.

Dan Sullivan, one of the accused, contends it was merely a matter of lousy judgment — a college prank spawned after too many drinks.

Both sides agree it is a matter of three turkeys and one rum cake.

The murky turkey caper has so far resulted in the indefinite suspension of 39-year-old Mr. Sullivan as physical education teacher and coach at Windsor Locks High School. Unless he clears himself, he may be fired.

Mr. Sullivan's fate has become a cause celebre in this pleasant town of 15,000 just outside Hartford. His punishment has ruffled the feathers of townfolk: "It will be a mighty long time before this community recovers from this wicked blot on our history," a senior resident says.

#### **Dirty Work in the Kitchen**

The drama unfolded last Nov. 20, when the Central Valley Conference, a local athletic group, gathered at nearby Marlborough Tavern for its fall banquet, an annual bash honoring area coaches and athletic directors. Mr. Sullivan arrived at the dinner in the company of William Twardy and Michael Tremblay, seniors at Springfield (Mass.) College who apprenticed as student teachers under Mr. Sullivan last fall, and Peter Sarant, the Windsor Locks track coach.

Following what was by all accounts a jolly banquet, Messrs. Twardy and Tremblay happened upon some frozen turkeys in the tavern kitchen, and hatched the plot to snatch a few. The students' motivation isn't known. It may have been merely a high-spirited stunt. Then again, they may have been hungry. (Lending some credence to the latter theory is that just prior to the crime, the two apparently devoured a rum cake they also found in the kitchen.)

In hearings held on the case, the students testified that they told Mr. Sullivan of the planned theft, and he told them they were cuckoo. Ignoring this, Mr. Twardy said, he then asked Mr. Sullivan to "keep watch" while the turkeys were lifted. As far as Mr. Twardy knows, he did. All told, three turkeys disappeared.

#### **Corpus Delicti**

Mr. Sullivan testified that he didn't recall being asked to stand sentry and that he never imagined the students were serious about carrying out the heist. Reconstructing the night of the crime, he said he was among the last to leave the tavern. As yet unaware of any misdeed, he spotted a frozen turkey on the sidewalk. (One of the students had dropped it in his haste.) "All I could think was that this turkey didn't belong here," he says now. "Then I saw the tavern owner, and got worried. Here I was with this turkey before me. I thought to boot it into the bushes, somehow get it out of here. Instead, I hid the beast under my coat and went off to the car to collect my thoughts."

Arriving at his car, Sullivan learned to his dismay that the

students had stashed two more birds in his trunk. Unsure of what to do and figuring it would be a mistake to jeopardize the students' college careers over some frozen meat, he says he drove off. In the car with him were the two students, Mr. Sarant, the track coach, and Barbara MacDonald, the cheerleading coach.

The students took home two turkeys. One turkey went home with Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan maintains that he fully intended to return his turkey. He just didn't know how to do it discreetly, without implicating the students. While he puzzled over the matter, the turkey reposed securely in his freezer.

Sometime during the ensuing week, the tavern owner discovered his loss (valued at \$45), and notified the Central Valley Conference. School officials at Windsor Locks were informed, and the school superintendent, Peter D'Arrigo, ordered a low-pitched investigation.

In late December, Mr. Sullivan found out about the investigation. He promptly phoned the students and urged them to return the turkeys and make a clean breast of it. They refused. Besides, the evidence had been obliterated; they had eaten the turkeys. Mr. Sullivan went ahead and returned his bird, though he didn't mention the students to the tavern owner, who was glad to see at least one of the turkeys.

At a later date, the students said they met with Mr. Sullivan and suggested that they clear their names by concealing the true facts of the theft and blaming it all on Mr. Sarant. The students testified that Mr. Sullivan agreed with the plan.

Mr. Sullivan testified that he violently disagreed. A fourth party present at the meeting supported Mr. Sullivan's recollection. Mr. Sarant says he knew nothing of the turkey caper. Mr. Sullivan testified that he must have; he says a frozen turkey was rolling around at Mr. Sarant's feet in the car.

#### **Rowdy Proceedings**

Near the end of January, the superintendent suspended Mr. Sullivan, who had taught at the school for 15 years. He also recommended that Mr. Sullivan's contract be terminated. The charges against Mr. Sullivan were insubordination, moral misconduct, conspiring to take certain turkeys from a tavern and aiding and abetting two persons in the theft. Legal charges, however, weren't pressed against anyone. Mr. Sullivan says he was shocked. He says at no time prior to his suspension was he given an opportunity to tell his side of the story. The school board, the ultimate arbiter in the case, is scheduled to reach a decision within two weeks.

Without a job, Mr. Sullivan has been doing menial labor to support his wife and five children. For the last month, he has loaded trucks at the First National Bakery in Hartford. He works from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. His wife, who had been attending college part-time, has abandoned her classes to take a secretarial position at the town hall.

The populace of Windsor Locks has rallied around Mr. Sullivan. The townsfolk are a gabby lot and news of the case has spread fast. More than a thousand people have attended each hearing, and when Mr. Sullivan

arrives, he is greeted with a standing ovation. More than 60 witnesses have been interrogated so far. Testimony for Mr. Sullivan is cheered. Testimony against him is booed. People are angry and astonished at what they regard as an injustice.

#### **Turkeys Just the Surface**

"People soon forget all the good things Danny did for this town," an elderly woman says. "It's a disgrace what's happening. This man is being publicly guillotined."

One of Mr. Sullivan's former students says, "I think the turkeys are just the surface. I think the school authorities think Danny takes the side of the students too often, and not their side. They're just using the turkeys to ride him out of town."

"I'm certainly not one to endorse turkey snitching, or any sin like that," a young housewife says. "But I think the coach's hands are clean of the dirty deed."

A local factory worker says, "I'm just thankful for the coach's sake that something really big wasn't involved. Like a bison."

Looking back on the incident, Mr. Sullivan admits he did wrong. He wishes he had turned in the birds the night of the theft. But he says his mind was clouded by the after-effects of a few too many drinks, and he says he was concerned for the students. "It was just a lousy play," he says. What amazes him is how much has been made of what, to his mind, is so little. If and when all the facts come out, he believes, he will be exonerated. But even if he is eventually cleared of the mess, Mr. Sullivan says, "I doubt I'll ever eat turkey again."



# School Board Gives Sullivan Findings

The Windsor Locks Board of Education voted unanimously on "findings of facts" and "charges" against Coach Daniel Sullivan, but split three to two in its decision. G. Glenn Flanders, Malcolm K. Hamilton, and James G. Loughran voted to continue his suspension without pay until the beginning of the new school year next fall.

Two other Board members, Bernard Casey and Mrs. Robert Jackson reportedly voted for reinstatement sooner.

The text of the report of the majority of the Board of Education is given below.

## FINDING OF FACTS

We, the Majority of the Board of Education of the Town of Windsor Locks, from the evidence presented to said Board at the hearings held in connection with the above captioned matter, find the following facts to have been established from said evidence:

1. Tremblay, Twardy, Sullivan, Sarant and Muska are all good friends, have high opinions of one another, and in some instances, i.e., Sullivan and Sarant, have been friends for many years. (R. 372, 373, 382, 410)

2. As part of his professional responsibility in dealing with Tremblay and Twardy, student teachers from Springfield College, Sullivan was the director of their behavior and responsible for their activities while under his direction. (Admitted, R. 370,

3. Respondent was aware of rules and regulations of the Board of Education which required that he be honest, tell the truth, not take property that belongs to others, and communicate his knowledge of wrongdoing on the part of others to the Board of Education and set a proper example. (Admitted, R. 347, 348, 370, 377, 380, 386)

4. Tremblay, Twardy, Sullivan and Sarant attended the CVC annual awards banquet at the Marlborough Tavern, Marlborough, Connecticut, on November 20, 1974. (Admitted, R. 16-19)

5. After the meal and awards, Tremblay advised Sullivan and Twardy of his intent to take turkeys; of the fact that he had put them outside of the restaurant door, and later identified the door that he had placed them outside of. (R. 72-74)

6. Twardy as he was leaving the restaurant took a turkey, asked Sullivan to act as a lookout for him; and, in fact, Sullivan did engage the owner of the restaurant in conversation. (R. 39)

7. Respondent, with knowledge that the turkeys had been taken by Twardy or Tremblay (R. 348, 376), and with knowledge that the turkey had been wrongfully taken from the restaurant, picked it up, concealed it under his coat, and took it to his automobile. (Admitted, R. 24-25, 348, 377)

8. Respondent knew before he left the restaurant parking lot that Tremblay and Twardy had two additional turkeys in his trunk. (Admitted, R. 26, 27, 380, 383)

9. With knowledge that he was wrongfully transporting three stolen turkeys, Respondent drove his automobile from the Marlborough Tavern to the parking lot of the Windsor Locks High School. (Admitted, R. 26, 383)

10. At the parking lot of the Windsor Locks High School, with knowledge that the turkeys had been wrongfully taken, Respondent opened his trunk and surrendered two of the turkeys to Twardy and Tremblay.

11. Before taking his own turkey into his home, Respondent opened his trunk to make sure that Tremblay and Twardy had taken the other two turkeys. (Admitted, R. 384)



Each of the three public hearings on the suspension of Coach Dan Sullivan began with a standing ovation by the crowd at Windsor Locks High School. Here Sullivan enters followed by his



lawyer Martin Gould. The door to the feudal castle is part of the scenery put up in preparation for the play Camelot. In the second picture, Sullivan listens as Gould questions a witness,



12. On November 21, 1974, after having allowed his turkey to remain in his freezer overnight, Respondent took the turkey and gave it to a neighbor where it remained until January 8, 1975. (Admitted, R. 28, 387)

13. Immediately after the Thanksgiving vacation and on subsequent occasions, there was conversation at the Windsor Locks High School and among other coaches outside of the school system in connection with the thefts, all of which created an awkward atmosphere for the Respondent and for the athletic department of the Windsor Locks High School. (Admitted, R. 387, 388)

14. On December 5, 1974, the Central Valley Conference Board of Directors learned of the events of November 20, 1974 and were shocked and embarrassed by these actions and purposely paid \$45 to the Marlborough Tavern in order to avoid further embarrassment to the Windsor Locks High School. (R. 194)

15. On December 23, Respondent approached Peter Sarant, a teacher/coach at the Windsor Locks High School, and said: "Remember, you didn't see anything." (R. 96, 98, 120)

16. On December 23, Respondent called Twardy, identified Sarant as the person who was giving the Administration the facts, for the first time directed Twardy to return the turkeys, and learned that Twardy intended to blame Sarant, an innocent party. (Admitted, R. 393, 397)

17. On December 24, the day after Respondent's conversation with Sarant, Sarant told Muska, teacher/Athletic Director at the Windsor Locks High School, that Sullivan had asked him not to say anything about the turkeys or to indicate anything that took place on the evening of November 20. (R. 120, 420)

18. On January 6, 1975,

Sullivan asked Twardy about the possibility of a cover up because Sullivan was afraid of losing his job; Sullivan, Twardy and Tremblay discussed casting the blame at least in part on Sarant and insulating Sullivan. (R. 43, 45, 46)

19. On January 7, 1975, Twardy and Tremblay reiterated to Sullivan their plan to blame Sarant. (R. 48, 82)

20. On January 8, 1975, after learning that Tremblay and Twardy had been required to give the truth in their affidavits to the Administration, and not before, Sullivan took the turkey from his neighbor's home and returned it to the Marlborough Tavern. (Admitted, R. 361, 400)

21. If faced with the same set of facts again involving wrongful taking of property by students, Sullivan would be required to act as he did in this case. (Admitted, R. 30; attempt at clarification, R. 348)

22. At no time from the inception of these events until March 31, 1975, did Respondent admit his involvement in these activities to any responsible administrative officer of the Windsor Locks school system, notwithstanding the fact that he met once on January 20, twice on January 23 and twice on January 27 with the Superintendent of Schools, all in connection with the facts of this matter. (Admitted, R. 399, 415-416, 443)

23. Respondent first publicly admitted his involvement before the Board of Education and the Administration on Monday, March 31, 1975. (Admitted, R. 347)

## CHARGES

From said facts, we find the following charges against the Respondent, Daniel F. Sullivan, Jr., to have been proved:

1. On or about November 20, 1974, Respondent wrongfully and improperly took one or more turkeys from the Marlborough Tavern, Marlborough, Connecticut.

2. On or about November 20, 1974, Respondent wrongfully and improperly aided and abetted Tremblay and Twardy in their respective thefts of one or more turkeys from the Marlborough Tavern, Marlborough, Connecticut.

3. On or about November 20, 1974, with knowledge that said turkeys were stolen and in an automobile owned by the Respondent, the Respondent transported said turkeys from Marlborough, Connecticut, to Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and there surrendered two of said turkeys to Tremblay and Twardy, on the grounds of the Windsor Locks High School.

4. From on or about November 20, 1974 until January 8, 1975, Respondent, with knowledge that said turkey or turkeys had been wrongfully and improperly taken from the restaurant and/or its owner, did keep and secrete said turkey or turkeys in contravention of the law.

5. From on or about November 20, 1974 and at various times thereafter, Respondent wrongfully and improperly conspired with Tremblay and Twardy to fabricate facts in connection with the thefts; conspired to exculpate himself from wrongful activity or involvement in connection with the thefts; and conspired to affix blame for said thefts on other party or parties innocent of and/or party to such activity and all of the foregoing in an effort to cover up the true facts.

6. On or about November 20, 1974 and on various dates subsequent thereto, Respondent failed in his responsibility to communicate with his superiors regarding his knowledge of the thefts from the Marlborough Tavern and in fact deliberately misrepresented the facts as he knew them to be on one or more occasions.

7. On or about November 20, 1974 and on various dates subsequent thereto, Respondent failed in his responsibility as a certified profession employee of the Windsor Locks Board of Education to set a proper example for student teachers who at that time or previously thereto had been under his supervision as an employee of

(Continued on Page 3)

the Windsor Locks Board of Education and in that regard failed to comply with the minimal acceptable standards of performance of a certified professional employee of the Windsor Locks Board of Education.

8. Respondent failed as an experienced employee of the Windsor Locks Board of Education to set a proper example for less experienced staff members and in that regard failed to comply with the minimal acceptable standards of performance of a certified professional employee of the Windsor Locks Board of Education.

9. Respondent failed as an employee of the Windsor Locks Board of Education to comply with the minimal acceptable standards of performance of a certified professional employee of the Windsor Locks Board of Education.

10. On or about November 20, 1974 and on various dates subsequent thereto, Respondent's actions have caused the reputations of the Windsor Locks Board of Education, its Superintendent, its Assistant Superintendent, its high school administration, and its athletic program as a whole, to suffer loss and to be the subject of public and private criticism, all to the detriment of the Windsor Locks school system.

## DECISION

Based upon the findings of fact, the charges proved, the conclusions made thereon, the record as a whole and the credibility and demeanor of the witnesses, it is hereby determined that the contract of Daniel F. Sullivan be terminated.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event Respondent elects to accept the judgment of the Board of Education, or in the event that a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the Board of Education does have latitude within the extremes of reinstatement and termination, the judgment of the Board of Education is that Respondent be suspended from his duties as a professional staff member in the Windsor Locks School system until the opening of the academic year September 1975, without pay.

In the event it is determined that the board does not have the power to suspend the Respondent, as above set forth, we decide that his contract be terminated as of April 22, 1975; and that he will receive back pay and severance pay from January 24, 1975 to the end of the school year; reduced, however, by the amount the school has been obliged to pay the person who replaced him during this period.

C. Glenn Flanders, Chmn.  
Malcolm K. Hamilton  
James G. Loughran  
A Majority of the Windsor Locks  
Board of Education

# Court Upholds Board in Sullivan Case

WINDSOR LOCKS — A Hartford County Common Pleas Court judge has issued a ruling upholding the decision of the Board of Education last year to suspend teacher-coach Daniel F. Sullivan Jr.

Judge Henry J. Goldberg's memorandum of decision, received by school officials Wednesday, resolved an appeal filed by Sullivan contesting the suspension by the school board.

As a result of testimony presented at four public hearings requested by Sullivan last March to hear details on the theft of three turkeys from the Marlborough Tavern Nov. 20, 1974, the school board initially voted to terminate Sullivan's contract.

The board also voted that if Sullivan elected to accept its judgment, or if a court ruling determined the board had latitude within the extremes of reinstatement and termination, Sullivan was to be suspended from his duties without pay until the opening of the school year in September 1975.

The board also voted that should it be determined it did not have the power to suspend Sullivan until the start of the 1975 school year, his contract would be terminated as of April 22, 1975, and he would be given back pay and severance pay from Jan. 24 to the end of the school year — reduced by the school system's expenses for a substitute teacher.

## Hearing Testimony

The school board's decision was based on about 11 hours of testimony given during the public hearings last year, as well as briefs from legal counsel for both Sullivan and the school administration.

Sullivan was first relieved of his teaching duties Jan. 23 of last year. His suspension came after investigation of the theft of three turkeys from the Marlborough Tavern after a sports banquet for coaches in the Central Valley Conference.

Two Springfield college students who attended the banquet with Sullivan admit-

ted taking two turkeys from the tavern kitchen and placing them in the trunk of Sullivan's car.

Sullivan also testified he picked up a turkey he discovered near the restaurant steps while leaving and took it to his car after being seen by the restaurant owner.

He said he did not report the incident because he did not want to get the college students "in trouble." He subsequently returned the turkey to the tavern owner when the school administration's investigation of the incident came to light last January.

The school board subsequently based its decision to suspend Sullivan on the grounds that, among other things, he failed to comply with the minimal acceptable standards of a certified professional school system employee.

Sullivan then appealed the board's decision under statutes covering tenured teachers.

## Resumed Teaching

Sullivan's suspension began Jan. 23, 1975, and continued until last September, when he was allowed to resume teaching and coaching duties by the school board on a per day basis pending outcome of his appeal.

In his appeal to the Common Pleas Court to have his name cleared, Sullivan claimed the facts found by the school board were not supported by the evidence presented, and that he was the object of a contrived plan on the part of the administration to punish him without cause.

His appeal also contained several procedural challenges toward the action of the school board.

## Judge's Decision

Goldberg, who heard testimony on the case Jan. 20, issued a seven-page decision rejecting Sullivan's attempts to get the board's evidentiary findings over-

turned.

"The findings and facts of the board and its conclusions as to the charges proved, were fully and amply supported by the evidence," Goldberg said. As a result, Sullivan's claims of innocence were rejected.

Regarding Sullivan's procedural arguments, the court ruled that the school board lacked the statutory authority to suspend a teacher without pay before holding a fair and impartial hearing on the charges prompting the suspension.

Goldberg directed the board to compensate Sullivan for wages lost between the time he was initially suspended and the date of the final decision by the school board after his hearings.

In keeping with Goldberg's ruling, Sullivan is entitled to wages he would have received from his initial suspension Jan. 23 to April 21, the date of the board's final decision.

The judge's ruling, meanwhile, said the disciplinary suspension imposed after the hearings was deemed entirely proper by the court.

The judge's decision also held that the board was under a legal obligation either to fire Sullivan or impose a lengthy disciplinary suspension after its findings on his misconduct.

The judge's decision noted that the school board found all the charges against Sullivan were supported by the evidence, but indicated that a severe disciplinary suspension, rather than complete dismissal, was an appropriate penalty.

In reviewing the procedure followed by the board in deciding what steps to take in punishing Sullivan, the judge ruled the board should have either fired or suspended him, and should have avoided any ambiguity in the type of punishment imposed.

Commenting on the judge's decision, C. Glen

Flanders Jr., board chairman, said he is "satisfied" with the ruling, in that facts determined by the board were upheld.

Flanders said the board was faced with a serious "dilemma," and that although the charges were extremely serious and had been proved,

the board did not wish to fire Sullivan, but was uncertain whether it possessed lawful authority to impose an extensive disciplinary suspension short of dismissal.

Goldberg was asked to resolve the board's dilemma, the chairman said.

Under the judge's decision, the chairman noted,

## Windsor Locks