

VOLUME FOUR

1976

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St. Patrick's Day- 1976

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With *Jack Redmond*

## "Cabbages and Kings"

### Jack Redmond



**RUSS MATTESEN**  
Perennial Coach

The scene is Pesci Park, middle of July, and stepping out of the dugout is a tall, good-looking individual, familiar to all the Windsor Locks sport fans, (especially Little League followers) Russ Mattesen, the perennial coach or manager of the local all-stars.

Russ has been an all sports fellow since his childhood days in Stafford Springs. The Little League program is an extension of his life as a baseball and basketball star for the east of the river town. He was born in Rockville, the Mattesens moved to the Springs town and Russ was off to school and a lifetime of sports.

For the past twelve baseball seasons Russ has shared his talents with the boys of town on how to bat, throw and most of all...win. Russ said his idol in the sports world is not a diamond star or court wonder but the only real coach in football...Vince Lombardi. And every sport bug knows Mr. Lombardi's philosophy...."winning is everything." Our local Williamsport expert feels "a well disciplined team of boys makes a winning team," and Russ has the record to prove the point. The all-star teams he has been associated with since 1963 have won 55 and only on the losing side ten times. After the big 1965 victory his clubs won state titles in 1966 and 1972. He has shared duties with Bob O'Connor and Lou LaTorra.

Memories of the 1965 World Championship are always pleasant for the Mattesens and O'Connors of Windsor Locks. Both Russ and Bob agreed on different sessions of the "great kids and their desire" when speaking of the little boys from town at Williamsport eleven years ago. Some folks, new to town, may think the World Champs of '65 is over-emphasized, either written or discussed, it was a great event. The boys, parents and coaches all remember, and rightfully so.

Through the years, Russ has coached some fine players. It would be impractical to list them all here, however, in the pitching end of the game he spoke of Roche, Boardman, Farr, Shapiro and Wezowicz. The hitting of big Dale Misiek, the great fielding of Sheerer and Tersavich, and the agility of Bob Creech in the crucial game with Danvers leading to the championship game. Russ said he, "enjoyed the whole episode" at Williamsport and feels the boys will appreciate the winning more now as they grow older.

Before Mr. Mattesen could live those moments of history over again a few vital statistics had to be recorded. Russ played basketball and baseball for his four years at Stafford Springs High School. One year he was on the football team but baseball and the court were his real claim to fame in the little town. In 1950 Russ was selected for the All-State basketball team (Class C). He attended A.I.C. on a baseball and basketball scholarship. After college he secured a position with Air Kaman. For a few years he performed on the diamond and court for the Bloomfield firm. In 1956 he joined the Hamilton Standard Division and participated in softball and basketball traveling all over New England on the division teams. After fourteen years in the aircraft business Russ departed for private business in the sports equipment line. The Mattesen Sport Shop, Inc. is located in Windsor and is

operated by Russ and Phil Scott, also of Windsor Locks.

When Russ came to Windsor Locks in 1955 he and his wife, the former Eleanor Gilman, had been married for three years. The childhood sweethearts met in the junior high school in Stafford Springs when they both were drummers in the school band. Russ and Eleanor have five children. Maureen 23, recently married to John Lisotto; Russell 20, Gary 18, Sharon 14, and Thomas 12. Rusty and Gary played Little League, major and senior, and both boys were on the State Championship teams under soccer coach Dan Sullivan.

Prior to his coaching duties in local circles Russ made a notable record as a player on the baseball paths of the Farmington Valley League with the Windsor Locks team. Softball and basketball had its share of his time. Russ remembers some of the players he performed with...Bill Reilly, John Flanders, Russ Jubrey, Pete Tenero, Joe Fitzpatrick, Carmen Guido, John Lusa, Rod Greene, Tony Romano of Enfield and many others.

The Windsor Locks Parks Department has had his talents the past ten years as a soccer coach and basketball supervisor. Just to keep things even up, Russ has been connected with the Hartford Chapter of the Connecticut Baseball Umpire Association. He has worn the black suit of the umpire at many American Legion contests and some local high school games. The Central Connecticut Chapter of Soccer Referees has had his name on the roster for years. This April will find Russ and Lou LaTorra in charge of the sixth grade basketball team in the home and home series with the Rockville, Maryland team. It's an annual event for the young court stars of town and the southern town.

In 1966, the Veterans of Foreign Wars in town honored Russ as the "Sportsman of the Year."

#### EPILOG

Russell T. Mattesen has been a sportsman all of his young and adult life. He believes, "the people of Windsor Locks are interested in all sports and make themselves active as spectators." Men like Russ have put the town on the sport map of Connecticut and the world. This Gary Cooper-type individual is a credit to the sporting fraternity of players, coaches and officials.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

Jack Redmond



DIANA RUNDE OF WINDSOR LOCKS AND KEN SIMLER OF SOUTH WINDSOR

### "HELLO, DIANA"

Petite Diane Runde, Windsor Locks' own ice skating star, will leave the ice for a short period for the lead in "Hello, Dolly." The senior class play, with Diana in the role Carol Channing made famous on Broadway, will be presented the first two weekends of April on the high school stage.

Diana's first love is ice skating, principally dance-skating with her partner Ken Simler of South Windsor. The twosome have been skating together a little over two years. In December the pair placed second in the Silver Dance event at the Eastern Figure Skating Championships in New York City. The high finish qualified them to compete last month in Colorado Springs, Colo., in the United States championships. They placed fourth in the national, highly competitive event.

Two of Diana's close friends, Judi Genovesi of Vernon and Kent Weigle of West Hartford won second place in the National Gold Dance competition at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs. The win earned them a place on the 1976 U.S. Olympic team and a trip to Innsbruck, Austria. The young pair worked under the guidance of Hugh Seaman, the coach of the Charter Oak Skating Club. Diana and Ken are also under the tutorage of Mr. Seaman at the Hartford Club. The olympic pair are not only friends of Diana but she admires them as students of the art of ice dancing.

Diana remarked, "I admire people close to me because I can relate more on a personal basis. I have, of course, heard of the Sonja Henies and Peggy Fleming but really do not know them personally like Judi and Kent."

Miss Runde was asked if she was contemplating, after high school, pursuing a career on the ice circuit with the Ice Follies or Capades? "No, I would rather turn professional and teach ice-dancing." She said the hectic life or traveling from city to city on one week stands did not appeal to her. The popcorn, feathers and sequins, and the smell of the cold arenas were not her idea of skating. The teaching offered her more, as to true ambition. She skates every day for practice and is "thrilled with her hobby. I do it for fun."

When not skating, going to school and homework, and now the play, Diana enjoys square dancing and some sewing when time permits. Her schedule in school is arranged so that she can skate every day in South Windsor or West Hartford and save the nights for the play.

The "Hello, Dolly" musical comedy production is her first attempt at a singing and acting role. The little blonde lovely, who resembles a very young Carol Channing, should find no trouble converting from the ice to the stage. The ice-dancing routines are a part of show business and with all her past success the role is in good hands, even without the skates. Beside Diana, the principal parts will be performed by Bill Burstzyn, Rich Broome, Jan Briere, Mike Thibodeau and Carla Deschaine. The cast has been practicing three times a week. Save the two weekends of April for a big show in town.

Diana was given her baptism on the art of skating at the tender age of four. Instead of being thrown in the water, like most kids, her parents figured she was a future Peggy Fleming and tried the ice and it worked. The young skater has traveled to Delaware and California at different times for sessions of practice and competition.

Miss Runde has found time to keep up with her subjects and is a member of the National Honor Society. The Windsor Locks native, who lives near another famous citizen of our town, Gov. Ella Grasso on Woodland Street was honored recently as a member of "Who's Who in American High School Students." The square dancing of the floor and not on ice is taken rather seriously as she is a charter member of the "Windsor Locks Undecided Squares." I doubt if Diana Runde has an undecided bone in her little frame.

### EPILOG

Diana Runde, cute as a button, not the Dick Button of a few years back, will play the part of the matchmaker in "Hello, Dolly" and will probably dance and sing up an icy storm, something she learned years ago on the cold surface and smoothly convert her talent to the stage. The Capades loss will be the future skaters gain, when she teaches on the ice of Connecticut in a few years.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

### Jack Redmond



#### RON STORMS LAWYER AND SPORTSMAN

Don't let the name fool you. Ronald F. Storms, better known as Ron, is far from a stormy individual. He's the calm outdoor type...skier, golfer, boater and enjoys these sporting activities with his wife Polly and their three children.

The Storms family lives on Elm Street in a house built in 1844, used in the 19th century as a boy's school, and renovated with loving care by Ron and Polly. An old house with all the modern conveniences but maintained with the older century style and grace.

Ron was born in Salisbury, Connecticut, a town located in the northwestern nook of the Nutmeg state with the Empire and Bay states as boundary lines. He was educated in the local schools, the Indian Mountain Prep School and the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut. He excelled in football, basketball, and baseball at the famous boys institute of learning. He came to Hartford and Trinity College where in his senior year he was the Corps Commander of the Air Force ROTC.

His wife Polly Ann Miller of Sheffield, Mass. met Ron while in high school and the two were married in 1952. After graduation from Trinity Ron joined the Air Force as a First Lieutenant and was soon off to the wild blue yonder with his young bride and the air fields of Texas and Nebraska. He served as a vital part of the Strategic Air Command for three years and via the air traveled to Europe, Africa and all over these United States. During his service time two of his children were born, Scott, now 20, in Texas, and Kim, 18, in Nebraska. Their youngest Holly, at 15, and a freshman at the local high school, is the only native of Windsor Locks. Scott is a junior at the University of Hartford, and according to Ron, will be studying for the bar in a few years. Kim is at Baypath in nearby Longmeadow.

After his service responsibility, which Ron described as, "a great time of our lives, my wife and I will always be appreciate of the service and the enormous benefits derived from those three great years." Ron entered the law school at the University of Connecticut. In 1960 he graduated with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

With only a few years in the practice of law Ron got his feet wet in the business of politics. In 1962 and 1968 he ran for State Representative as a Republican and lost in this Democratic dominated community. In 1971 he gave a better run for the laurels and just barely lost out for the Judge of Probate. He was on the GOP town committee for fourteen years. There are no political ambitions in the future for this counselor-at-law.

Ron's list of credentials as an involved citizen is rather long, and indeed impressive. Former member of the Park Commission, one of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, on the Board of Trustees for several years for the Windsor Locks Congregational Church. He was the chairman of the Building Committee for Montgomery Hall in 1965, a former member of the Public Health and Redevelopment Committees. Ron is a past chairman of the American Red Cross drive in town and for two years he co-chaired the annual

#### VFW Sports Night.

Son, like father, Scott Storms, was an Eagle Scout, an honor shared with his father. Speaking of the scouting movement, Ron has been a committeeman on the Boy Scout Council just to keep up with this worthwhile part of a young man's outdoor life. Sports have always played a part in Ron's activities. He coached Little League, minor to the seniors, for eight years.

When asked what organizations he was a member, his voice changed to a Lion's roar, a roar for the local Lions. He's a very active member and is a past president of the club, received the Lions Master Key Award, and quite proudly stated how his son Scott became a member at eighteen.

The Storms spend their spare time at Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. As mentioned, they all love to ski and boat in the true tradition of this area up north. Ron admits to being a golfer in the hacker category, however, he said, quite happily, of winning the Suffield Inn Invitational Tourney Hackers Award at the Suffield Country Club.

#### EPILOG

Ronald F. Storms is a civic contributor, lawyer, sportsman, and a family man who believes Windsor Locks is "our kind of town." He said quite frankly, in reference to the downtown situation, "People make the town, not the Main Street." I remember reading the following, which I believe capitalizes the Ron Storms philosophy... "A family relationship, complete with marriage and kids, can provide people with the constant support they need, a sense of belonging."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

Jack Redmond



### BLARNEY SPOKEN HERE

The word blarney by definition means...skillful flattery. The famous Blarney Stone at the castle near Cork, Ireland is the ceremonial mecca where visitors, and probably residents of the area, are held at a precarious position, and when at the right angle and moment, kiss the sacred stone, and therefore, and forever after, are considered skilled in flattery.

My wife and I have been to the old sod but our travel agent arranged for only a few days in Dublin. Maybe someday we'll kiss the holy stone. Oh well, I can still have flirtatious intentions by coating them with my own special brand of flattery.

Next week is St. Patrick's Day and everyone will say they're Irish, or have relatives from Ireland, or some lost uncle by way of Germany or Italy that was involved with an Irish colleen a few centuries ago when the invasion by foreign countries of the Emerald Isle was the rule and not the reason for visitation rights.

So on March 17 when everyone is wearing the green you'll realize it's their humble way of flattery for other humans. We all like to flatter our friends and sometimes our enemies and receive the same in return. It helps both sides. It makes us mortals feel all good inside. A cheery hello, or you look good today, or how about...gee, that's a great jacket or dress you have on, depending on the gender. See what I mean?

So start tomorrow, or better still, tonight, get a jump on the great day, and flatter your children, your wife, your husband, your neighbors or even

your boss. Everyone will be better for it. Right? I did say...blarney spoken here.

In our own Windsor Locks there are numerous families with Irish names or very close connections with the little island west of England. How about the Boyles on Woodland or Spring Street; the Courtneys on North Main or Elm; the Duffys on Pershing Road; and how about all the "Mc"...the McCarthys, McConnells, McCormicks, McDonalds, and the celebrated "O's"...the O'Briens, O'Connells, O'Learys, O'Neils, and on and on.

So folks, wear the green. Add an "O" to your name for only one day next week. You'll feel all perked up. Everyone will know you care, especially the recipients of your good judgment. Our little world will be a better place to wear the green suit, sweater, tie, coat or hat even that favorite shillelagh.

The way I see it a little blarney will help you survive in our everyday routine.

President John Kennedy said the following words on his visit to Dublin in 1963..."The playwright, George Bernard Shaw speaking as an Irishman, summed up an approach to life.... 'Other peoples,' he said, 'see things and say, why?...But I dream things that never were and I say, why not?' It is that quality of the Irish, the remarkable combination of hope, confidence, and imagination, that is needed more than ever today. The problems of the world cannot be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men who can dream of things that never were, and ask why not."

Erin go Bragh...





# "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
Jack Redmond

BOB CREECH, SR.  
"Okie from Muskogee"

Muskogee, Oklahoma is a western style town located in the Indian country called Cherokee territory... "where the living is right and free, where they still respect the college dean, where the roughest thing on campus is football, where squares can have a ball, and the wearing of leather boots is considered manly." Merle Haggard made these words famous in his great western and country song, "Okie from Muskogee."

Robert Creech Sr. is an Okie from Muskogee and when he wears the leather boots and cowboy hat (by Stetson) he symbolizes the true meaning of the Oklahoma spirit and the words by Merle Haggard.

Bob grew up on a 3,300 acre ranch with his family, made up of eight children and parents of Irish and Indian ancestry. His father was born in Ireland and came to the United States, settled in Oklahoma and married a girl who was part Irish and part Indian.

The ranch life was hard, according to Bob. It was the part of the west where everyone "fights the elements and found the territory life rough as it existed during the late twenties and early thirties," as Bob remembers his first eighteen years as an Okie from Muskogee. They worked seven days a week and Saturday nights were the only time for going to town. It was where a ride on a horse to school was the only mode of transportation and snow days just meant another day of learning.

World War II changed the life of Bob Creech... from ranchero to sailor and then a transplanted to the picturesque and tourist paradise of Cape Cod. The war was Bob's way of leaving his native state gracefully and an opportunity to view what was on the other side of the oil fields and Indian reservations.

He entered the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois. He remembers coming to Chicago for the first time in his cowboy boots and hats and just a little out of step. When he was decked out in his sailor's gob, he realized he was in the service and it sure felt different.



After boot camp he traveled to Virginia and trained as a "frogman" and made several trips up and down the Atlantic ocean with frequent stops in North Africa. Bob, who learned his baseball back home in Oklahoma, time permitting, was a member of the North Atlantic Fifth Fleet team. Bob played third base. He quite proudly mentioned two of his teammates were Mel Parnell, the great Red Sox pitcher, and Birdie Tebbetts, the catcher and manager in both major leagues.

When the war ended he returned to Muskogee. However, in a few days he decided "no more ranching life for me." He had met Carol Alves of Provincetown, Mass., on a blind date back in 1945, and he left the ranch for the Cape, Carol, and in November of 1946, the wedding ceremony. Carol, native of the pilgrim's first landing place, lived a very normal life on the water's edge, but her playmates were destined for future notoriety. Among her acquaintances were Oona O'Neil, daughter of the playwright Eugene O'Neil, and later the wife of the great movie star Charlie Chaplin. Also the children of John Whorf, the artist, and Richard Whorf, the Hollywood director. Their children played the games of the day with Carol and she also remembers many a time sneaking a few looks at the actors rehearsing their lines under the direction of Mr. O'Neil. Carol recalls, Mr. O'Neil always had his favorite monkey perched on his shoulder, it be on the stage or the street, the little pet would be on his favorite perch.

Bob was employed by the City Water Works of Provincetown and during the five years with the town their first-born, Thomas came upon the scene. Then another war, another separation for Bob and Carol. In December, 1951 Bob was called back to the Navy because of the Korean conflict. He was discharged in March of 1953 and finally, they hoped, was home for good.

The Creech family, now with Robert, Jr. added, moved to Connecticut in 1954. The father of the house secured a job with the Hamilton Standard Division and was employed with the

aircraft company for 17 years. Carol is with Hamilton now. But Bob, after leaving Hamilton, tried his hand at his own business and even named it the Cherokee Manufacturing Company. Presently he's employed in Rockville with the ANO-Coll Company.

Before a rundown of Robert, Sr. is in order as to his sport and fraternal career a word or two concerning his three sons, Tom, Bob, Jr., and the youngest and biggest, Jeffrey. Tom is married to Susan Archambault of Rhode Island and they live in Manchester with their son Christopher. Tom played Little League and Babe Ruth baseball and was chosen for three years on the local All-stars. Bob, Jr., is a graduate of Hartford Community College and is currently attending Central Connecticut College. Bob was on the 1965 Windsor Locks World Champs Little League team. Last year he married Patti Redmond, and the newlyweds live in East Granby. Young Jeff played senior and big league ball in town and was on the 1972 New England Senior Little League Champs. He works with his father, gets his kicks out of owning a van and listening to rock music.

Bob, the senior one, has a very notable career in service organizations. He's past commander of the Provincetown VFW and has been a member for 30 years. The local American Legion also calls Bob a past commander and a member for 29 years. Bob's been a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus since 1961.

In the sporting end of life Bob, as mentioned, learned the basics of baseball as a kid back in Oklahoma where the season lasts for nine months. He said a great many of the major league players come from the southwest and to name only two... Mickey Mantle and Allie Reynolds. Bob was involved in the Little League program back in 1948 and his team won the Cape Cod championship. In 1960, he started to coach and manage Little League and American Legion teams.

He said his idea, on sports or life itself, is to win. He strongly endorsed Leo Durocher's line... "Good guys finish last." As to sports, "players are born, not made. Teach them the fundamentals, and if they're good, the rest will be easy."

He added, "I've enjoyed all my 25 years or so with the Little League and American Legion." One of the high points, he said, was the sports night he ran to raise money for the American Legion program. The speaker was Tony Conigliaro, better known as Tony C, and the night was a huge success. Bob, Sr. introduced the first "pitching arm" in town to aid batters. He and Carol love to travel back to the Cape and when time permits Bob loves to fish and hunt, two reminders of his boyhood days back in Oklahoma.

## EPILOG

Robert Creech, Sr., father of three good baseball players, veteran of two wars, was not afraid to tackle a change in life, whether it be a new career in the business world or switching from the code of the west to the shores of the Cape.

Bob's been his own boss, and has been a foreman of many employees, therefore, it makes sense to me to quote the famous lawyer, Louis Nizer, and the words fit Bob Creech. "A man who works with his hands is a laborer; a man who works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman; a man who works with his hands and his brain and his heart is an artist."

## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond

### MUSIC:

#### "THE SPEECH OF ANGELS"

"Bongiorni, Bongiorni," the literal translation for the non-bilingual readers... "Good Days, Good Days." And good days are indeed in store for the ears of music lovers of Windsor Locks especially if the likes of David J. Bongiorni has his way in music interpretation. The youthful music teacher at the high school is all music and the town is fortunate to have such talent in the educational system.

Dave, native born, and schooled in Windsor Locks, received his degree in Music Education in nearby Storrs at the University of Connecticut. When he graduated in 1974 he found in his search for a position an opening at the high school for a music teacher. He jumped at the chance of being in his hometown. The rest is all the good musical sounds pouring from the instruments of the students at the many concerts, Broadway plays and the fairs from Danbury to West Springfield.

Since his own fourth grade days Dave has been involved in the business of making music. He admits being experienced at the flute, alto saxophone, clarinet and a bit of the piano. I guess the music teacher has to know a little bit of everything in order to help the young musicians struggle at the horn or strings depending on their choice of instrument. With his background and love of music he studied at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford during his high school days.

Dave is a recent benedict and his wife has an equally colorful name.. Firoella... meaning "Little Flower." The former Miss DiFelice is from Stamford, Conn.



When Dave is not at the school, podium or rehearsing the latest "Hello Dolly" number, he enjoys picture taking, snowmobiles and how about a little night music by way of records, the radio or television. He admits to listening to serious music from the minds of Bach and Beethoven, but also has an ear for "good pop and good rock" and his favorite singers never sang at the Met. Would you believe Barbra Streisand, Aretha Franklin and the over-the-rainbow-gal, Miss Judy Garland, whom he said, "had a great voice." He's a long-hair with modern appreciation for all avenues of the music spectrum. Satisfaction was mine when Dave remembered and still listens to some of the old masters of the swing era... Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman.

I met the maestro at the high school instrument room and the interview was just before one of the many practice sessions of the Broadway play, "Hello Dolly." The show will be presented the first two weekends of April, and if you enjoyed "Camelot" last



year be sure to come to meet Dolly, played by the Dorothy Hamill of Windsor Locks, our own Diana Runde.

Dave feels the town is now "ready for the shows due to the new and general interest in music of the students and parents." All the grammar schools in town have music teachers and with their constant help to the pupils there should be no problems for the future bands at the high school.

When queried as to the selection of the cast for "Dolly", Dave said the job was made easy because of the able assistance of James Gatto and Robert Rossi, both teachers. He said, "There's a lot of talent in town and thanks to Dr. Peter D'Arrigo for his understanding and guidance the growth of a good music system is on the way to years of success in his important part of a student's education."

The school band, all 45 of them, rehearses several times a week and Dave admitted he has a certain amount of communication with his students. Playing an instrument is likened to playing soccer or basketball, in that it takes hours of practice, and a little push and understanding from a coach Sullivan or musician Dave Bongiorni, depending on one's talent, be it a Paul King or Lori Poggi.

Just to mention a few of the performances of the band in the past several months... the band was at the St. Mary's picnic, the Friday night football game, the Eastern States and Danbury fairs, the Concert Dance, the University of Connecticut Band Day, playing at the Enfield Square, at the fireman's festival, and the senior citizen's party. The band has been the official representative for Governor Ella Grasso at the Big E and Danbury Fair. Another honor will be the title of the official band for the Windsor Locks Bicentennial celebration in May.

### EPILOG

David J. Bongiorni, with a name ringing with good sounds, is a musical person and feels at home listening to Bach or Bobby Darin's rendition of "Mack the Knife." We Broadway buffs love the latest trend so Dave, the students, school system, and other interested music lovers keep the "Dollys" coming, the supply is inexhaustible.

## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond

Alice Levesque - The Polka  
Choreographer

Dancing the light fantastic... polka style... is the ideal way to keep active in body and spirit. So says Mrs. Alice Levesque.

The lovely blonde wife of hairdresser Robert Levesque is the mother of seven children, and advises everyone to put an extra step in their life and make the move, the polka way.

The former Alice Swiatek, born and educated in Derby, Ct., has been dancing the colorful Polish dance since her father, who had four other daughters, taught her the finer steps of the polka, when she was a young girl, with his own accordion accompaniment.

This dancing ability has given Alice the opportunity to perform at Madison Square Garden in New York City before over 14,000 fans of the art of fancy footwork. The famed Garden was the scene of the Harvest Moon Ball, sponsored by the New York Daily News and the late Ed Sullivan, where Alice and her partner became one of the twelve couples in the finals.

She said, "It was just a big thrill being in the Garden and dancing before all those people." Her talent has been expressed in teaching hundreds of interested lovers of the polka in halls from Windsor Locks to Springfield, Mass.

She joined the famous Polish Hartford group of dancers, known as "Gwiazda," and danced in Hartford and at the New York World's Fair during the sixties. At the fair the group won their share of trophies in exhibitions of the popular polka. One of Alice's fondest memories of her own dancing career was the Pulaski Day Parade in Hartford a few years ago when she engineered the building of a float with a World's Fair theme. It earned one of her many personal trophies, and it was further enjoyable because two of her children participated in the annual parade.

Naturally, her dancing was delayed during her motherly duties and speaking of the children, seven of them, Allan, 23, is the oldest, and along with playing the drums, he inherited the grandfather's gift for the accordion. Dennis, 22, is at Ohio University after a few years with the U.S. Air Force. He played football during his service hitch and plans on showing his skill on the football field.



Cheryle, 21, is the Oriental dancer in the family. A great many misinformed persons call the dancing of Cheryle, belly dancing. Alice quickly spoke up and wanted the record straight. The correct term is "Oriental dancing." And she added, "No way should the dance be considered striptease." In fact, I looked it up in the trusty dictionary. Belly dancing is "Oriental solo dance, performed by a woman, emphasizing exaggerated movements of the abdominal muscles." Cheryle also teaches an adult class at the high school one night a week in yoga and aerobics. Alice said this type of exercise keeps the body in shape and is also informational as to proper foods and other healthful hints for the body beautiful.

Bonnie, 17, is a senior at the high school. She has a part in the musical "Hello Dolly" this weekend. Eileen at 14 is a freshman at the high school.

Jason, six, a kindergarten student at the North Street School, was born with a spinal bidfa. The young cowboy has had several operations and Alice said her son started to dance when he saw his sisters, and even mother and father tripping the light fantastic, and decided to try his luck, braces and all. His giant



Columbus in Somers, the Ramada Inn in East Windsor, the Polish Home in Enfield, and currently at the Mt. Carmel Hall in Enfield on Wednesday nights. She instituted these beginning lessons as a way of keeping active herself and as she states, "Everyone should get out once in a while. Don't get in front of the television all night or read the newspapers, 'Run for your life,' the polka way."

For two years Alice was a faithful Girl Scout leader and felt it was a part of the mother's role in helping the scout movement.

This energetic individual made a few headlines back in 1974 as a consumer advocate against the high utility rate hikes and carried on a hectic campaign with her own call letters, "WE SAY NO!" Alice says "yes" to dancing and Girl Scouts, but "no" to circumstances that bug her, and rightfully so.

step was probably the greatest Her ambition is to visit Poland therapeutic treatment he could the land of her ancestors. She have received. Jason can also be feels so much could be seen there seen in the production "Hello with a firsthand view of the Dolly." The baby of the family is Polish culture and customs and Jennifer, two-years-old, another then to be shared with her cute blonde, and at this tender children and friends.

age already has aspirations to be another Alice Levesque on the dance floor and showed off her talent to the writer with a few great steps, or was it belly dancing?

Alice keeps active with her many dance classes for new polka trainees of all nationalities. Her class of students have been formed at the Windsor Locks Polish Home, the Knights of

### EPILOG

Alice Levesque, pretty as the dolls of Poland she collects, has danced the polka across many states and it's her way of expression and feels a great program for keeping fit and happy at the same time. She is truly the syncopation of the modern dance, try the polka change, you'll like it. My Polish mother-in-law would agree.



## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond

### HERB STEARNS DUCK PIN KING

It probably would be considered rather ironic that when Herb Stearns was interviewed only a few blocks away the kings of the big-pin bowling world were knocking down the pins at Bradley Bowl.

Windsor Locks has its own king...king of the ducks...easy going Herb. Herb bowls over the pin with the smaller ball and said the big pins "didn't appeal to him" and feels there is a greater challenge in the good old ducks.

Herb, a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, got his start in bowling by participating in the popular game of candle pins. The candle pin is almost cylindrical and the bowler throws with a smaller ball.

It wasn't until Herb moved to the Nutmeg State with the little wife, Doris Long of Watertown of the Bay State (they were married in 1954) he tried his bowling arm in the duck pin world. And his arm was just right and he's one of the better ones in the world of ducks. Herb sports an average of 138.0 and ranks fourth in the state and 24th nationally.

At a recent match Herb hit his own personal high single of 222 and a 544 triple. For the record watchers, the world record in duck pins for a single game is 265 (a woman with a 109 average has the mark) and world triple high is 563. Herb has a few records to shoot at and from all reports one of these nights at Glastonbury Bowl, or the local Villa Rose lanes, the world record may fall to the local bowler.

He's always working at his game and like all bowlers the pins fall sometimes better than other attempts. Herb is in three leagues, the Glastonbury Mixed Foursome and the Tri-County League, also performed at Glastonbury. One of the nights Herb can be found at the Villa Rose where in 1969 he broke 200 for the first time at the Spring Street emporium and 203 at that.

Herb had some time out for the Korean War, from 1950 to 1953 as a U.S. Army Signal Corps linesman. He saw duty at the famous 38 parallel dividing line, Panmunjom, site of the truce talks following the United Nations police action.

High school days were at Arlington, Mass. where he excelled in baseball and basketball. Bowling had not yet captured his fancy. When he was a young ballplayer his favorite team was the Boston Red Sox, and favorite player was the great Ted Williams. As Herb expressed it, "Ever since I could hold a bat or put on a glove, I've been a Sox fan." Being in the Boston area he grew to admire Bob Cousy, the Holy Cross team, and the famed Celtics on the court, whenever they played at the big Boston Garden.

When he's not bowling three nights a week he enjoys music, of the record kind, and proudly says he has many of the old favorite 78 variety in his collection. He's also a stamp collector. Herb has been employed by Melso of Hartford

for many years, dealing in refrigeration and air conditioning, the industrial and commercial type.

I asked Herb if he would be a spectator at the big pin bowling at Bradley? He said, "I never enjoy watching a match, I want to be part of the action." No arguments there Herb, you're the real player type of individual.

He did say in all fairness that if he was younger he might consider hitting the big pins because of the more professional status attached to it these days with the lucrative television and big money prizes on the tour. He'd advise the parents of young athletes to have them practice at golf, baseball or bowling where the big dollars are waiting for the future stars.

He mentioned the duck pin followers do have two tours, the Tri-State of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts and the Duck Pin Bowlers Professional Association. This tour includes bowlers from New England and the southern cities of Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. These two cities have always been duck pin interest centers.

He remembers well a few of the big names in the Connecticut Duck Pin World, and two of them are still hitting the pins, Nick Tronsky and Harry Peters. I recalled Jack White, known as the New Haven Express a few years back, and Herb said he recalled his name and many bowling feats.

### EPILOG

Herbert P. Stearns, who finds "bowling in league play fun and tours just great" is a quiet person in his living room but is a tiger on the bowling lanes. His wife, Doris, sports a respectable 113 average and with her husband enjoys bowling with folks like Danice Lownds, Ernie Scavatto and Rod Larner. When the bowling season is over the Stearns have found the time to visit Bermuda, Hawaii, Florida and California. But when the bowling season rounds again Herb and Doris can be found hitting the pins with consistency and enjoyment. That's what life is all about, kids.



HERB STEARNS

# - Two Reviews -

BY JACK REDMOND

"Indescribably Delicious"... only way to characterize the "Hello, Dolly" production staged by the Bicentennial Senior Class of the Windsor Locks High School.

Broadway came to Windsor Locks on Saturday (April 3) and we really feel we were at the Wintergarden in New York City. The production had a touch of the magic of Broadway. The kids were good.

The music, the staging and direction was breathtaking. The musical sounds we all know and love, and frankly still get a charge out of, and even sing along, to the parking lot. A real good sign, even if we can't sing.

The changing of the scenes was handled in a very professional manner and totally with the audience in mind. The direction, the real proof behind any superior performance, was under the leadership of Robert Rossi, who also has the staging added to his credits. The producer was James C. Gatto, a real "David

Merrick" production, Jim. David Bongiorno, the maestro, sans the beard, was the man in charge of musical supervision and he was in control of every musical minute.

"Hello, Diana," part two... petite Diana Runde. Not petite in her portrayal of the self-styled matchmaker. She's the skater turned into singer, dancer and actress right before your eyes. Miss Runde controls the action of the show just as Dolly Gallaher Levi was supposed to according to Thornton Wilder's play, "The Matchmaker." She accomplished the mischievous ends intended by the author.

Horace Vandergelder, the man Dolly is after, was played by Michael Thibodeau, a truly fine singer and actor.

Richard Broome, the Charles Nelson Reilly part on Broadway, is indeed a thespian of the higher level, and like Mike Thibodeau, puts himself into the role. Richard complemented the good pixie performance of William

Bursztyn as the comical Barnaby.

Janet Briere and Carla Deschaine were a great pair of hat shop singers and dancers. Kenneth Woodhouse and his girlfriend, of the crying delightful part, Deborah Jalbert, were a duo of amusing characters.

Bonnie Nesteruk was a riot... and a pretty one at that. The main players were the background for Miss Runde and it all came out just great.

We all felt the finale was just wonderful, and the singing of all the songs at the end, was worth the price of admission. I probably wasn't the only one singing on the way to the parking lot.

I personally felt a closeness because of my recent interviews with Miss Runde and Dave Bongiorno. The show is worth seeing again and again and again.

This Friday and Saturday (April 9 and 10) will be the final editions of the high school classic. Don't miss it...there's a lot of Broadway right here in Windsor Locks. "Hello, Dolly," the high school play, made the auditorium throb with vitality.

## "HELLO, DOLLY!" - A Review

The Bicentennial Senior Class of Windsor Locks has proven they are capable of carrying on the tradition of excellence in the musical theater with their production of "Hello, Dolly!" by Michael Stewart with lyrics and music by Jerry Herman. The musical, based on the play, "The Matchmaker," by Thornton Wilder, opened its four day run Friday April 2, and will again be seen Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10.

Heading the large cast is lovely Diana Runde as Dolly Levi, the durable marriage broker, and Michael Thibodeau as the tight-fisted feed and grain man from the Yonkers, Horace Vandergelder. Although the parts called for actors much older, after a period of adjustment you can easily forget their age and get on with the story line. Ms. Runde danced and sang with all of the ease that I expected of her, and she looked absolutely smashing in her many lovely costumes.

Kenneth Woodhouse and Deborah Jalbert were perfect as Ambrose and Ermengarde, the

crier. Janet Briere, the Widow Malloy, and Carla Deschaine, Minnie Fay, added their talents to making the song "Elegance," one of the evening's brightest numbers.

The bumbling antics of Cornelius and Barnaby, played by Richard Broome and William Burtztn, kept the audience amused as they popped out of their downstairs storeroom and counted their money. Mr. Broome's song, "It Only Takes A Moment" demonstrated that he could really sing with "the best of 'em."

Bonnie Nesteruk was just what the Yenta ordered in her cameo part of Ernestina Money. The part was originally for a fat girl. I liked it better the way she did it; as a fast girl.

James Saletnick as Rudolph, Richard Dombrowski, the judge, and Daniel Wawruck, the court clerk, rounded out the well polished cast.

It is a puzzle to me with all of the vocal talent that is evidenced in these musicals, that Windsor Locks doesn't have a mixed vocal group during the rest of the year. Class of 77, 78, and 79, take note, when you got it, as you obviously have. Use it.

The band, under the direction of David Bongiorno, was top-notch.

Congratulations are in order to Robert Rossi for his fine direction and to Mr. James C. Gatto the producer. All of the details in staging a production were carried out well. The set, programs, properties, posters and costumes all take so much time and can make or break a show.

Let us not forget Ms. Marietta Miano the choreographer. She must have a magic wand to transform mere students into dancers. The waiters Gallop was great.

Bicentennial Senior Class of Windsor Locks High School, I salute you. You have brought a bit of Broadway and the performing arts to our town that will not soon be forgotten. Performance time is 8:15 p.m., Friday and Saturday evening, April 9 and 10.

Richard A. Sterner

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

### JOYCE WOJTAS, DIRECTRESS CIVIL PREPAREDNESS

Mrs. Joyce Wojtas, a bundle of energy, was appointed Director (Directress is a female director... but in this day and age...) of Civil Preparedness by First Selectman Edward Savino last fall.

If Joyce has her way the town of Windsor Locks will be fully prepared for whatever disaster or emergency old Mother Nature or man has in store tomorrow or anytime in the near future. Her devotion to her new position comes out loud and clear and in spite of all the government red tape is progressing nicely. In years past women were not considered for such lofty ranks of prestigious status. She is only the fourth female appointed director of this type in the state of Connecticut's 169 towns.

As for some vital statistics, Joyce, born and educated in Windsor Locks, is the wife of Walter J. Wojtas, and mother of two children. The eldest is Stephan, 11, a student at the North Street School, who plays Little League, and because of a recent skiing injury was unable to participate in the LaTorra-Mattessen sixth grade basketball court battle with the Maryland team. Young Stephan greeted my arrival at the North Street residence of the Wojtas family with a request to sign his newly won cast on his leg. The youngest member of the clan is Danielle, 8, also a member of the North Street School program, who has taken dancing lessons for young ladies and a fling at gymnastics.

Walter is a former U.S. Army veteran with a tour of duty including the famed Honor Guard in our nation's capitol. His last assignment was the funeral for the late President John F. Kennedy. Joyce Zenzick married Walter in 1961 while he was in the service. After his discharge the two settled in Windsor Locks, their home town.

Joyce has been employed at the Windsor Locks Town Hall for the past six years and her current job is clerk for the Board of Assessors. She has, on occasion, worked for the Fire Marshall, Building Inspector and for a period worked evenings as the secretary for the Zoning Board of Appeals under Joseph Becker. In addition to the Civil Preparedness and role at the town hall Joyce is secretary for the committee for the Community Picnic on May 31 as part of the gigantic Bicentennial celebration.

There are many faucets to Joyce Wojtas, when she is not busy at town work one of her favorite pastimes is listening to all types of music, longhair to popular. She even admits to

dancing some fancy steps to the music when doing her household duties. For nine years she was a dance student and even her dancing went from modern jazz to creative foot work.

One of her hobbies is to refinish furniture and with Walter's help, the handyman around the house, proudly exhibits the handiwork in the living room. There is still more to this lady, she is a writer of short stories and poems. Joyce attended the Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield to gain additional writing technique. She admits her only hero, besides Walter, is Hemingway the writer...admiration would be a wiser choice of word than hero.

This active woman is no woman's libber. She feels "women are as capable as many men in certain fields of endeavor," but it ends there. In the important field of civil preparedness Joyce is not an alarmist... she "hopes we never have to use the facilities, but we should be prepared." She added, "Everyone cannot be involved in this type of work, but everyone should be aware if disaster ever strikes our town."

To further explain her role and what she hopes to achieve (from the Department of Defense, "Standards for Civil Preparedness.") The role of the Civil Preparedness Director is crucial, but is not that of a "commander" or director of operating forces. During emergencies, the director acts as principal aide or advisor to the chief executive. His or her major responsibility is to assure coordination among the operating departments of government, with nongovernmental groups such as hospitals and medical professionals, and with higher and adjacent governments."

### EPILOG

Joyce Wojtas is a person involved in the civil preparedness of Windsor Locks. When the smoke clears and time permits, Joyce and Walter and the two kids find the "quietest place we can find" for a vacation spot. She was born and raised in town and "likes working here" and feels a social obligation to the town and the citizens, and works at it all the time.

The late Charles Lindbergh expressed his feelings on survival and I'm sure Joyce would agree... "I believe that for permanent survival, man must balance science with other qualities of life, qualities of body and spirit as well as those of mind qualities he cannot develop when he lets mechanics and luxury insulate him too greatly from the earth to which he was born."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**



From the sandlots of San Diego, Calif. to the big league baseball parks, with a few stops in-between, was the magic carpet trip of John Elvin Harshman. Better known as Jack...especially to the many baseball fans who followed the national pastime from 1950 to 1960.

Jack and his wife, Lillian, a Baltimore girl, now can be found working diligently, and with great patience, at the Connecticut State Receiving and Study Home just across the river in Warehouse Point.

Jack, still lean and trim enough to go nine innings against the Yankees, has been employed at the home for nearly six years.

His baseball career started at the high school level in his home town. As a student he had a tryout with the San Diego Padres of the Pacific Coast League. The year was 1945 and Jack's baseball participation had to wait for a year due to Uncle Sam's Navy having first call. It wasn't long, Jack got his wish and break in the Abner Doubleday sport. He was signed up by the Modesto team of the California State League.

He was off and running and hitting. Each year Jack progressed to a higher classification in league status and as every rookie knew then... "back east" is the place to play for fame and fortune. But he was to pay his dues first, and indeed he did...as a raw newcomer he went to Victoria in the Western International League (Class A). It was his first break in the performance field as he led the league in homeruns and runs batted in for the 1947 season.

The New York Giants (now the San Francisco club) as most major league teams are on the look for fresh talent. The big city team sent their West Coast scout, former baseball player, Dutch Ruether, to see if this young Jack Harshman could make it at the famed Polo Grounds in "Fun City." He was signed to a Giant contract and sent to the Jersey City club in the International for 1948. Jack remembers he had a "fair year" hitting .270. The Giants, in those days, also had a farm in Minneapolis of the American Association. Jack went northwest, but only for the season of '49.

Finally in 1950 Jack saw the light of day and the big league with the parent team and manager Leo Durocher. Leo is from Springfield, Mass. As Jack explains it... "Leo, just to be different, or just to be Leo, started the season with five untested rookies in his lineup and said, 'Come Hell or high water, I'm going with the rookies.'"

Leo wasn't always right or wrong, but I guess the water got too high in the New York press, the kids did not make it and Leo was no genius after all. The club lost most of the games at the start of the season and in New York you have to be a winner. History has proven this to be true in the long run...the great years of winning for McGraw, McCarthy, Stengel, et al, to prove a point. Someone had to go, Leo didn't...Jack did. He was shipped back to Minneapolis and ended the season at an even lower level with Jacksonville of the Sally League. He was paying his dues.

Jack spent 1951 in Nashville. This was the year of the Bobby Thomson miracle homer against the Dodgers. When history was being made Jack was down south setting a few records of his own. Namely, hitting six grand slams

(bases full of Colonels), playing all the 154 games, and knocking in 141 runs with a lesser amount of hits, 136. As Casey would say... "You could look it up."

Leo and his Giants needed some pitching help at the end of the '52 season. The Giants had won in '51, per Mr. Thomson, and wanted the flag again. Mr. Harshman, the pitcher, not the hitter, was called up to the Big Apple. Jack said it was the worst time to be called because he had contracted a terrible cold and no way was he ready for duty at the Polo Grounds. Faith, for a time was with him. Rains came and the game was called off. He got the extra day rest and so did Robin Roberts. The Phillies won 2-0 and Roberts won his 28th of the season. Jack was back in Nashville for the 1953 season. The fortunes of war and baseball.

For the next four seasons Jack toiled in the American League for the Chicago White Sox and managers Paul Richards (the '76 new Sox head), Marty Marion and Al Lopez. During his windy city stay Jack won 48 games and lost 34.

The 1956 season was the highpoint for him with a 15-11 record. In 1958 he was traded to Baltimore and Richards where he managed 12 victories. The 1959 season found him starting with the Orioles, going north to New England and the Red Sox for a few months and ending the year with the Cleveland Indians. An injury closed out his career with Cleveland during the 1960 year. For the records, Jack won 69 and lost 65. Being an ex-hitter from way back, he hit 21 homers in the majors, a good feat for any hurler.

I asked Jack many questions concerning his years with baseball. Here are his frank and candid replies. Do you have a favorite team now?...Baltimore. Do you listen to the games on radio and TV?...As time permits, follow all the teams in the papers. Best Pitcher...Whitey Ford of the Yankees, was able to set up the hitters, had great control. Top m a n a g e r...Paul Richards, most capable, great instructor, especially with the pitchers. On superstars...Mickey Mantle was the super player, strongest performer he played against. What about a baseball hero?...Ted Williams. Ted was unjustly criticized by the press. He's a man's man. Ted had the best bat control and bat technique in baseball. Is reserve clause good or bad for baseball?...There's definitely a necessity for the owners to protect their investment.

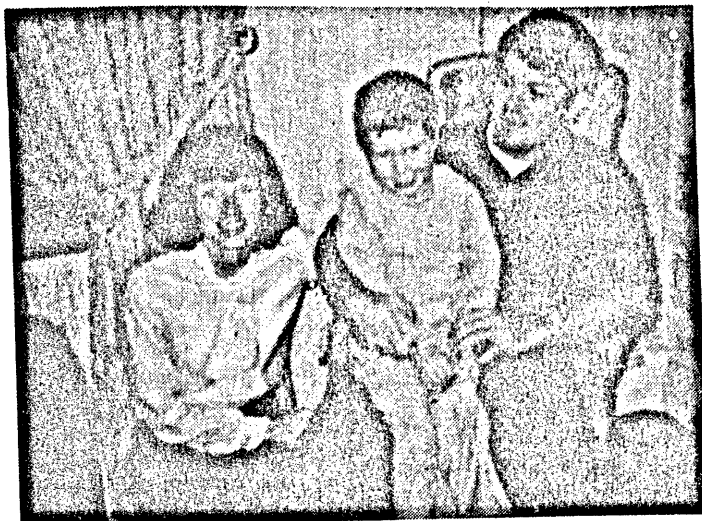
Are today's stars paid too much?...A player should be compensated for his ability; however, today the salaries are unreal. Joe Fan has to pay the bills. If the trend continues, it will certainly hurt the structure of the game.

Do you miss the fanfare and fame?...I missed it for a while but due to my injury I knew my playing days were over. I always knew, even as a kid, I would make the big leagues in time, it was my dream and it came true.

### EPILOG

John Elvin Harshman, a name in the records of baseball, came east to perform on the diamond, has settled for a time, far from the spotlights of Boston and Baltimore, in East Windsor. He's now using his talents in a different field with his wife and 14-year-old daughter, Jackie. The field is called child care, and he's really back in the big leagues....to all those kids.

## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond



LEO, CAROLYN AND  
SEAN MAKES THREE

Take two teachers, one a former baseball pitcher, now turned umpire, the other a female long distance harrier, and a cute little rascal named Sean and you have the Bravakis family of Pershing Road.

Leo and Carolyn are both active in their respective fields of endeavor, he the classroom, diamond or running a twenty-six mile race. Both are natives of Middletown, Connecticut, graduates of the University of Connecticut with teaching degrees. Leo is currently at the East Windsor Middle School. His female counterpart is a former English teacher at the local high school. She was also an educator in East Windsor for two years and now substitutes in the Windsor Locks school system. She manages to find time for the art of running several miles a day on the streets and hills of town keeping in shape for any eventuality, especially the Boston Marathon.

When asked how someone starts in his business of running the long miles Carolyn said, "I wanted to surprise my brother." Her brother, Dr. Robert McCarthy, of Middletown, a runner of some note, having run in the Boston event five times, was surprised when Carolyn won her first race last July in her native city. The race was six and a half miles long and Carolyn had only been running for a month before her initial competition. In August she entered the difficult Portland to Middletown grind. It was a rainy day and it rained all over her parade. She was not disheartened and 1976 found her at practice running for the Connecticut AAU Marathon. On March 7, Carolyn finished second running the 26 miles, 385 yards in the time of three hours, 16 minutes and 47 seconds. The second place of the woman entries was enough for Carolyn to keep at it until an injury hampered practice sessions. She's on the mend and running as time permits. If you see a lovely thin girl running by your house these days, watch her but also hook up your dog. Carolyn has as much trouble with the canine set as the local mailman.

The only running Leo ever was good at was on the paths of the Middletown high school diamond. He also excelled at football and basketball at the middle Connecticut school to round out his fine three sport career. He entered the University of Connecticut the same year as his childhood sweetheart, Carolyn McCarthy, and they both graduated in 1965. The young couple were married after earning their degrees.

Leo had a colorful baseball

career at UConn. He played on the varsity for three years and reached the pinnacle of all college baseball, the collegian World Series. The year was 1965 and the series was played in Omaha, Nebraska. Leo recalls the trip and said, "It was a very rewarding experience." The pitching corps of UConn, of which Leo was one of the mainstays, had the best earned run average of any college team in the country. The team won the fifth berth in the tournament and Leo remembers seeing Sal Bando, Rick Monday and Reggie Jackson Arizona State performing and were all major leaguers before their time.

Because of his fine pitching at college Leo was offered a look-see by the New York Yankees but an injury prevented him of any hopes of a vocation at the famed stadium.

The male part of the Bravakis family is still an avid follower of all sports and when spring and summer comes he can be found in action as an umpire at high school and college games all over the state. He's been wearing the black togs for ten years and is the Hartford Chapter president of the Connecticut Umpire Association. The State Board of Umpires recently voted him their vice president. When asked about a sport hero, Leo gave an answer not heard too often, umpire Tom Gorman of the National League.

The Bravakis family are Kennedy fans. Leo has admired the late President and Carolyn was a Robert Kennedy follower. Speaking of respecting certain individuals, Leo said he would be remiss if he didn't mention the man who most influenced his career in sports, his high school baseball coach John DiNunzio of Middletown. While at UConn, Leo knew two of the football coaches who are now head football coaches in the National Football League, Rick Fassano of the Detroit Lions and Leo Holtz of the New York Jets.

Leo keeps busy in the teaching end of his life as the vice president of the East Windsor Teachers Association. He said, when asked about children's behavior at school, "They are growing up too fast. Not necessarily physical, but their mental outlook. The lack of respect for authority is unbelievable. There's too much permissiveness in the society and it is reflected by the student's attitude in class." Carolyn and Leo agreed it was up to the parents to instill respect in their own children.

Ten days ago, with the heat in the ninety degree range, Carolyn made the trip to Boston and finished the grueling 26-mile marathon along the streets of Beantown. She said many of the viewers gave encouragement and some even used their garden hoses to wet down the hot and tired runners. Just to finish the race is quite an accomplishment for this young woman who just wanted to surprise her brother. She probably surprised a great many of the veteran track enthusiasts.

# Marathon More Than A Sport

By PAM ROBBINS

## Could Win

I doubt that more than 10 of the 1,898 runners thought they could win it, but I think I know why the rest of them ran in that scorching sun, calves knotted like aged oaks.

It has something to do with courage and will and stamina, with bodies pitted against their own limits and their own pain.

When the marathon has been run and the blisters heal and muscles uncoil, each runner wears a private laurel wreath—the knowledge that they said they could and would—and they did.





## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond

### MARGARET LINEHAN COLLI A MOTHER FOR ALL SEASONS

A woman with many children recently was asked what quality she most admired in her husband. Said she: "Moderation."

Margaret Linehan Colli, mother of ten active children, would now probably say the same for her husband, Assistant Fire Chief John R. Colli. Margaret and Jack have been married for over thirty years and with their children, ages 30 to 13, have never shown moderation in their love, understanding, friendship and all-around togetherness.

I once remarked the beauty of interviewing was meeting the nicest kind of people. The Colli family, and even their lovable dog, Opie, extended the welcome mat at their family-size home on Elm Street. In a few minutes I was made to feel at home by mother and father Colli. A few of their brood were in attendance, anxious to find out just what this reporter would ask their favorite mother.

Any woman with ten offsprings deserves to be a Mother For All Seasons.

Would you believe Margaret Colli was an only child. She was born in Haydenville, Massachusetts. Mrs. Colli said the town is on the map and is a part of Williamsburg. After high school at Williamsburg, Miss Linehan entered St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. She was employed at Hartford Hospital as a Medical Social Worker and in 1944 married Jack Colli, a Windsor Locks native. Jack served in the U.S. Navy during the big war and after the end of the celebration of victory the young couple set up house in Wethersfield and then New York City until the first of the Colli children arrived on the scene. They moved to Windsor Locks and their Elm Street residence has seen the children grow up from the oldest, Kathy, to the youngest, David.

In all fairness, I inquired of Mrs. Colli the names and ages of the children. Jack, I'm told, has a convenient list in his wallet of all the vital statistics if any wise guy dares him to name them all in chronological order. Mrs. Colli, spoke their names and ages with pride, and other pertinent information was supplied by everyone in the living room.

So, here goes. Kathy, 30, is now Mrs. Steve Wasseluk. Steve, Kathy and the grandparent's pride and joy, little Susan at five months, make their home in nearby Cromwell. Kathy is a former U.S. Army Nurse and she spent a year and a half in war torn Vietnam. She was a member of a M\*A\*S\*H unit and said the television show of the same name is only a takeoff, and not really true as to the medical units in the field.

Patti, 29, is a graduate of Central Connecticut College, with a teaching degree. She is now in Colorado and has hopes of being an educator in the western state.

Thomas, 27, is a graduate of Hartford State Technical School and is currently employed by

Superior Electric Company. Tom spent two years in Germany with the U.S. Army.

Betty Jane, 24, attended the University of Connecticut and has a degree in Special Education. She is working in Colorado, and is only miles from her sister Patti.

Jackie, 26, is an Industrial Arts Major at Central Conn. State College.

Ken, 23, will graduate from the University of Connecticut this month, is listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and recently was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Ken served in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman. He was on the 1971 Windsor Locks soccer state champions team.

Judy, 21, is a junior at UConn, and is majoring in Physical Education.

John, 18, attends Springfield Tech Community College and his major is Fire Technician. John is a part of the town's Civil Preparedness program of the fire department.

Peggy, 16, is a junior at the high school, and the young man of the family, David, 13, is a seventh grader at the Middle School. David recently broke his leg being a good scout, Boy Scout that is.

The Colli family has kept the military service and the college enrollment busy for many years and the children's records are worthy of any young group of this or any generation.

We mustn't forget dear old dad. Jack Colli has been an active fireman for 25 years and is secretary of the Fire Commission. He's a member of the local American Legion, the Suffield Sportsman Club and many state and regional oil and firemen's organizations. Jack is employed by Mercury Oil in Wethersfield.

Mrs. Colli, according to Jack, is a fine cook, and with her large family and numerous house guests would be expected to have the green culinary hand for filling the plates at the large table.

When the family desires to get away for awhile, Vermont, Wyoming, California, and locally the Point of Woods in Connecticut have been their retreats from the hustle and bustle of their busy home. Mrs. Colli, always the gracious hostess, said, "Everyone is welcome at our home" and from all reports a great many of the children have friends who will attest to these statements. Someone added, "There's a relaxed feeling" at the Colli home. Jack said, "Everyone leaves, but everyone returns." No tribute could be nicer.

### EPILOG

Margaret Colli, a mother like a mother should be....has love for her children and I believe summed it all up by saying, "Enjoy your children." She's a Mother For All Seasons, and proves the axiom of the American Flag, Motherhood and apple pie are the best. Sunday is Mother's Day...remember her, honor her, don't forget her...mothers are special, God Bless them.

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## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond



**PAUL AND RITA ROY  
FOOTBALL BOOSTERS**

When you think of spring, baseball comes to mind. When you think of fall, Paul and Rita Roy and football come to mind.

The Roys have been boosters of Windsor Locks football for several years and even in this sunny springtime they didn't mind one bit expounding on their favorite topic.

In 1971, some of the local Raider rooters of all sports wanted to break into the forbidden territory of only soccer in the fall by hoping for a football team at the high school. But tradition is tradition. But the Roys are the Roys. They knew enough active individuals in town would help organize a club to booster football and start a football tradition. And move they did in a traditional way.

The Roys provided the necessary stimulant with a program whereby parents and other interested citizens could help coach Pat Scelza get things off the ground. With the assistance of the local Jaycees, who had sponsored a midget football team, the Roys made the first step and the fruits of their labor has paid off these past few years. Since the beginning the club has provided two scholarships each year to worthy players. In the summer months the boys spend a week at Suffield Academy getting into shape for the fall season.

At the end of the gridiron season the boosters have rewarded all the players with a banquet and have been fortunate to have Governor Ella Grasso and the Yale football coach, Carmon Cozza, at their head tables.

The club, according to the Roys, has functioned for the betterment of the town, school and especially the youthful players who wanted to play football. The Roys agreed that the sport being played isn't as important as what the kids can learn from the Sullivans and Scelzas. In other words, be it soccer, football, baseball or basketball, the playing is good for the boys and girls.

We think we know what makes kids tick. What about the Roys. It's probably the steady Maine and French influence instilled in them as youngsters back in Sanford that gave them the idea to do something special for students.

They met in high school when Paul excelled in baseball, basketball and football, and she was a cheerleader. Rita said her husband was an exceptional pitcher and after high school played some twilight ball with the local college kids.

Paul is the silent type, however, makes up for this coolness by his action around town. All of his sport activity was highlighted by Rita. She is very proud of her man of over twenty years and jumps into all the action in town just as she did when they were students in Sanford.

Speaking of Sanford, the Roys were born in this mill town. It was a town geared to manufacturing of wearing apparel, notably the famous brand, "Palm Beach", but due to various economic conditions the bottom fell out of the industry. Rita and Paul decided to come south to greener pastures and Windsor Locks has been greener. However, there's still a lot of love for Maine whenever they talk of the old home. For the past two decades Paul has been employed at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford and Rita has worked at Hamilton Standard, on and off, for eleven years. Their two children, Suzanne 20, and Dennis 18, were both born in Maine. Rita would travel down east at the proper time so her babies could have their first breath of life in beautiful Maine.

Suzanne is at the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Boston. Dennis is a junior at the local high school. He has played Little League, Babe Ruth, Amer-

ican Legion ball and is currently on the JV baseball team as a catcher. In the fall, Dennis spends his time playing center on the football team so his folks can watch him in action.

One of the Roy's favorite pasttimes is running the teenage dances at the KofC hall. It's all part of the Booster Club's way of helping the kids. Another program Paul Roy gets a charge out of is chairman of the KofC dance and party after the graduation of high school seniors until the wee hours of the morning.

The faces of Rita and Paul have always been seen behind the counters of the refreshments at the Babe Ruth and American Legion baseball games. And many times Paul has worked handing out the soda after a full night's work at Pratt and Whitney. Many a pizza and soda treat was given at the Roy home. It was just their way of expressing their thanks to the kids. These are just plain folks who feel "most kids are good. Give them responsibility and it will pay off. It is rewarding."

Paul has been an active man behind the scene at the KofC and on Wednesday nights he bowls with his brother Knights. The Roys always journey up to Maine. Rita loves to visit her two grandmothers whose ages are 92 and 91 years young. French is the language of the visit and even when Rita calls on her mother, on Old County Road, French is spoken and being bilingual is necessary to stay with the conversation.

### EPILOG

Rita and Paul Roy, born in Maine, residents of Windsor Locks, are always mindful of the kids. I want to thank Mrs. Robert Farmer for her suggestion to interview the Roys. Mrs. Farmer mentioned the Roys' unselfish deeds performed and felt it was worth telling. It was. Kind words from a friend are always the best kind.

The Roys give their time. Someone wrote that..."Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
Jack Redmond

### BIRTHDAY OF A COLUMN or THE WINDSOR LOCKS BEAT

"The time has come, the walrus said..."

What a difference a year makes.

Last May "Cabbages and Kings" appeared in the Journal for its baptism and it seems fitting and appropriate for a few lines from the guy with the writer's itch by way of an anniversary column and a printed thank you to Windsor Locks and all the different people I've met.

"Cabbages and Kings" has run the risk of being unable to come up with an interview each week, but a name or names will pop up and the cabbage or king or queen, depending on one's point of view, makes the deadline. We started with Mr. Nice Guy...Chief Bill Reilly and last week those lovers of football, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Roy, completed the first year of interviews.

During the twelve months we have asked serious and sometimes comical questions and have inquired about their birthplace (not birthday), schooling, any service time, hobbies, and any items of interest (we hope) to give the readers a palatable synopsis of the person or persons being quizzed. I'll have to admit...you can meet the nicest people on the Windsor Locks beat. You gain an insight in what makes people tick. At least the ticking in Windsor Locks. We even talked to a few sports celebrities just to break the spell.

Just to shake up your memory...the local folks included some of the following: the sincerity of the late Joseph Quinn. The dedication of Mrs. Enid Shea; the happy faces of Grace and Nick Ruggiero; the eagerness of Kathy and Mike Heneghan; the youngness of Diana Runde and Jay Caron. And the one who really is young at heart...Mrs. Evelyn Williams. The beauty of Alice Levesque, Bob Oliva...truly a native son; Joe Fiore...the "salt of the earth."

Joe Urso, a knight of a nice guy; the always busy Lions...Cliff Randall, Moe Goldfarb and John Lee. Jim Rumbold, with his three hates; Mrs. Pane, still the prettiest clerk around; Mrs. Ruth McKenna, a real nice lady; Bob Creech, Sr., the real American from Muskogee; Ron Storms, lawyer and sportsman; and can't forget the political talk with Ed Savino, Bill Leary, Con O'Leary, Paul McCarthy, Harold Heintz and mustn't forget Charlie Rader.

Sport talk with Lou LaTorra, Fran Aniello, George Hall, Russ Mattesen, Bob O'Connor and good old Doc Lingua...well you know all the names. But how about the good scouts...Howard White and Ed Sabotka and the "Music Man," Dave Bongiorno.

To paraphrase the old television show, "There must be 15,000 stories in the airport town."

Thanks to Dotty Gill and her Valentine story, my life is now an open book (PG, I hope.) While on the subject of that hard working crew at the Journal...also would like to thank Mrs. Lee, Milly Coyle and old faithful, George Wallace, for their assistance during my first year on the beat.

Like Dotty said, we Redmonds

have lived in this town on the Connecticut River for twelve years and we feel this has to be a convenient town. Oh, I know we have problems. What town or city in America doesn't? Downtown isn't finished, Bradley Field is noisy at times, Route 91 is jam-up at seven and five, but what highway in America isn't? But it is convenient, Windsor Locks, that is, between Boston, New York City, Hartford and Springfield, take your pick. We have the airport to the world, the best of two worlds, and we can't complain on the tax rate either.

Look on the bright side (sounds like an editorial). This is not a money ridden New York City, a crowded Hong Kong. All the business in town is on the perimeter (Harold Heintz told me that, and you know, he's right)...Route 75, North Street and then Main Street. Was it planned that way? There must be a great many unsung architects of the town needs who did something right.

Next week the town, who gave the citizens the world championship and "Hello, Dolly!" will be celebrating their part of the American Bicentennial. The men and women in charge, and their committees, deserve all your cooperation and if you love to dance, see a parade, or go to a picnic...join in the fun.

It's a great town...support it...and thanks again all you cabbages and kings.



**BICENTENNIAL LANDING** — Crowd views Russian-built jet owned by LOT (Polish National Airlines) Monday, first Polish craft to land at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. Plane took

off for Warsaw after ceremonies. It stopped here in honor of American Bicentennial.

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL, THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1976

## LOT Lands Here At Bradley

BY JACK REDMOND

To commemorate the Polish-American Bicentennial observance the LOT Polish Airlines landed a giant jet at Bradley Field on Monday evening.

To the happy beat of some polka music, the cheers of friends and relatives, 168 tourists from the Connecticut Valley will be making history as the first Polish flagship to land at Bradley International and leave into the night sky for a direct flight to Warsaw.

But before the actual flight, the press and state and local dignitaries were treated to culinary delight including the famous Polish kielbasa, naturally. Windsor Locks was represented by First Selectman Ed Savino; Springfield by Mayor Sullivan, the television media by Frank Knight of Channel 40, and the State of Connecticut by our own Ella Grasso, who welcomed the Polish Airlines in her own congenial style.

For the first time in the history of Bradley a jet plane bearing the markings of Poland landed here. The Polish Airline made preparations for the historic flight last summer at the request of Ben Wegiel, who books Polish American tours from his travel service in Springfield.

It was stated at the press conference how the officials of LOT (meaning flight) Polish Airlines in Warsaw, in connection with our Bicentennial Birthday of 1976, felt it would be the right time to make history and participate in the celebration by having a Polish aircraft land at Bradley. After all, it was a Polish nobleman who fought and died for America's independence....

Count Casimir Pulaski. His name and picture is on the fuselage as one enters the large plane. We all inspected the giant bird.

After the reception the tourists left for Poland. After 14 days, the Polish flagship will return the tourists to Bradley on Memorial Day, May 31. There are other flights planned for the trip from Connecticut to the Polish leading city.

Frank Knight, the TV star of the Polish Dance program, is making his second trip to Poland and before he left told my wife and me that today's date is rather significant. The plane landed and departed on May 17...76.

To Mr. Knight and the Polish Airlines...a happy trip...and to say it in the Polish and great way...Na Zdrowie!!!