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**"Cabbages and Kings"**

With *Jack Redmond*



THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

MARCH 24, 1977

## **“Cabbages and Kings”**

With *Jack Redmond*

Robert Anthony Taravella is in the banking business.

Everyone in Windsor Locks knows Bob. The local man with the well known name of Taravella is also known for his involvement with the local Cancer Drives, the Heart Fund, Salvation Army, Society for Crippled Children, the Knights of Columbus, Chamber of Commerce, and more. You name it in Windsor Locks...and Bob has been interested and involved. He simply said, “everyone should do these things,” which to Bob means civic involvement.

Bob is an easy-speaking individual who willingly tackles his work load...be it at the local bank or on a committee...with sincerity and a willingness to accomplish the end which benefits all concerned.

Bob was born on Elm Street, and his wife Margaret Sturino was born not far away...on Church Street. Bob married his attractive wife in 1956. I asked Bob how he met his wife, “From my bank window I could see this pretty girl crossing Main Street. She was on her way to work. I’d see her every day, and one thing led to another. I guess it was love at first glance.” Well that’s one advantage of a bank on Main Street.

Bob’s father, Alfred B. Taravella was one of the founders of the local bank. Today it is called the Northern Connecticut National Bank... but originally it was the First National Bank of Windsor Locks. Bob’s mother, Nellie Sabonis, lives in East Windsor.

The local banker has not always been involved in the banking business. After graduation from the Windsor Locks High School in 1947 he was employed as a plumber and heating helper until 1950. He entered the service with the Air Force and saw active duty during the years of 1951-53. He joined the Connecticut Air National Guard and was discharged in 1956 as a Staff Sergeant.

In January 1953, Bob Taravella entered the banking circles as a teller and administrative trainee. Bob

has held several positions as cashier, secretary and today is the Senior Vice President and Secretary.

In 1962, Bob was elected the Tax Collector for the Town of Windsor Locks. His election is endorsed by both major parties. He said he has no political ambitions for the future.

Bob’s list of organizations and positions of involvements is endless. He’s a concerned man and the title “Treasurer” seems appropriate for Bob when one speaks of the Heart Fund Drive, currently under way with Dick Williams, the Navy and insurance man, as head of the most worthy cause. During the years Bob has been active in the Salvation Army, Society for Cripples Children, the Cancer Drive and the Windsor Locks Industrial Development Commission. As for organizations... the Rotary, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, the Knights of Columbus, as Past Grand Knight, and in 1962 Bob was recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. No wonder.

His hometown is a subject where he is well versed,...and always speaks with Windsor Locks upper in his mind. “Windsor Locks has only one way to go..up. There will be another Main Street. I realize there is a great amount of nostalgia connected with the old Main Street...it will come back. I have great faith in the growth of Bradley Field. As for the town government...the commissions and committees, unpaid and unsung...are all for the benefit of the town and the citizens. It makes the community...the “why” I get involved.” He added...“the taxpayers get their money’s worth.”

### **EPILOG**

At the inaugural of Jimmy Carter, he remembered his old teacher and her profound words...I believe Bob Taravella would agree...when it come to Windsor Locks and his pattern of life’s work...“we must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles.”

Aldo Sartirana, with the proverbial long white apron, was always a familiar figure on Oak Street operating his small grocery store for 22 years.

Today is a familiar face around town and at the local Knights of Columbus home on Elm Street. Aldo's business had to make way for the downtown renewal program. Since his retirement, he's been the permittee of the Knights of Columbus Building Association and currently the president.

Aldo's working life has spanned four decades ever since the day Jimmy Franklin hired him as a part-time clerk at the Main Street A & P. The West Street resident remembers quite well receiving seventeen cents an hour as a starting wage in the early thirties. After graduation from the local high school, the Chestnut Street native decided to try his hand at a full time job at the A & P under the steady tutorage of Mr. Franklin. He worked in the meat and produce department and at the time probably never realized someday he would have his own grocery store. In 1940, he left the main stem for greener pastures with the Coca-Cola Company. He worked with the soft drink concern for eleven years with 3 and one-half years out for service time.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent young Aldo to far off England after the usual basic training period. Before the war was over (he spent 2 and one-half years overseas) Aldo managed to visit France and Germany...some of the trips in the line of duty and a few, site-seeing on leave. The Sergeant Major from the little Connecticut town of Windsor Locks witnessed the largest supply depot being formed and located in southern England for the enormous invasion of the Allies against the mighty German defenses. He hit Omaha Beach D-Day, plus four...and begged off discussing any of his actual war experiences. He said he did see some of the great ones...Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton and the English field marshal - Montgomery, and the French leader DeGaulle. He served with the 316th Engineering Unit and among

his fellow GIs was the late Francis Smalley from Windsor Locks. The local VFW club was named for the fallen Smalley Brothers. In 1946, Aldo became a charter member of the Smalley Post on Fairview Street.

But the war was the war and the past is the past...It was time for Aldo to become a civilian again...and he did. In a romance fostered on a blind date and as Aldo recalls..."I met Yolanda Campominosi down by the old mill stream." His wife of 32 years was also a local girl born on Grove Street. They were married when Aldo was fresh from the army in 1945. There are two children living at home...Robert, who is employed at Hamilton-Standard, and according to his father..."Bob is one of the greatest sports fans with special cheering for the Raiders and UConn." Ann Marie, a graduate nurse, works at the Mountain View Home in Windsor. Ann, the skier of the clan, graduated from Westbrook College School of Nursing in Portland, Maine.

In reminiscing of the "old days in Windsor Locks" Aldo said the 1934 graduating class had only 34 students. The Union School was the high school in those days and for gym classes the students would walk down to Main Street to the Central Hall building located on Oak and Main. There were three floors...the first level had a meat market...the second floor was occupied by the telephone company with operators...and the gym was on the top floor. The hall was also used for dancing, roller skating, amateur fights and some semi-pro basketball.

Aldo Sartirana remembers.. the grocery store on Oak Street, his years in the service of his country, the Knights of Columbus, his old friends' help, the town's assistance... the good and bad moments. Aldo said the greatest thing that ever happened to him was "meeting and marrying Yolanda." Also, he is a rare man...he loves his town, and as the saying goes..."love endures only when the lovers love many things together and not merely each other."

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

MARCH 31, 1977

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

## "Cabbages and Kings"

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The Reverend John I. Samsvick has been pastor of the Windsor Locks Congregational Church since November, 1963. He admits traveling an uneasy path of religious inquiries since his boyhood days in Waterbury.

Born of Russian Orthodox parents..young John grew up in a religious atmosphere, fostered in the old country, with dogmatic and deeply devout ideals for him to live with, and hopefully nurture.

The ecclesiastical profession he finally mastered had it's beginning in the Baptist faith his parents turned to, after arrival in the United States. John's father journeyed to America to find a new home and country...but as many in the same circumstances...left his young wife in the old country, to wait for instructions when to travel west. When the good news came, Europe was in midst of World War One. John's mother, only 21 at the time, went east. Being of a hearty stock, and possessing unknown fortitude, traveled by way of the Siberian railroad to the port city of Vladivostok, to Japan and then by boat across the Pacific ocean to Seattle, Washington. Her final destination was the small town of Coventry, Connecticut.

The Samsvick family moved to Waterbury where they settled down to have a family. John's mother is 84 and still lives in the Brass City. Four children came from the union of this young couple from Russia...two girls and two boys. John's brother, Michael, is also a man of the cloth...with a California ministry.

"Why did you decide to become a minister?"

Rev. Samsvick is today a distinguished, looking gentleman, and to me, every inch a minister, admitted, as a youth having a rebellious disposition and probably only consented to try the bible school route was because of the location... 1600 miles from home. His parents were strict disciplinarians when it came to religion in the Samsvick household. The feeling of unreligiousness and impiety were taught as the outside world's way of existence. John's parents had their Baptist faith for sustainment. John realized this condition of religious beliefs were his parents way...and he accepted it as a way of life. He admitted his real interest was music... but music was worldly and sinful...at least by the family's standards. He left Waterbury for bible training and stayed three years. He indeed studies religion at the school and was forming a background for later years. In addition he met a girl by the name of Eileen Golden

from Chokio, Minnesota.

"How did you meet your wife?"

"I was playing the piano (couldn't get away from the music) in the student center,"...probably one key led to another. John and Eileen were married in 1947. They came back to Connecticut and John, not a minister yet, or ready for the role, went to work at Chase Brass.

The family of John and Eileen grew by four. Pricilia, the oldest, is married to David Baldock, a teacher of music in Agawam. They have a son, Matthew. Tim, the man to carry on the name of Samsvick, is a junior at the University of Hartford. The Reverend Samsvick and Eileen were also blessed with twin girls...Rebecca and Elizabeth. Both girls are in college...Elizabeth is studying history and religion as a senior at Gordon College in Massachusetts. Rebecca traveled to India a few years back to "take some time off and study art." She's a junior now at the Hartwick College in New York State.

The move to Windsor Locks and to the Congregational Church was a big step and a drastic change in religion, and life in a large industrial city to the small town on the Connecticut River. The switch of towns was not as enormous as the change from the Baptist Church to the more liberal congregationalism.

John and Eileen have traveled to Florida and Minnesota several times on vacations...for their 25th wedding anniversary they went to the Middle East. The Reverend Samsvick said it was "a religious pilgrimage to Israel.. to see where Jesus walked and lived." They saw a great many of the sites of Europe and it proved to be the highlight of their lives.

Meeting people of different faiths and backgrounds makes for stimulating and interesting interviews. The Reverend John I. Samsvick was both stimulating and interesting...whether we were discussing his boyhood, religious beliefs or some worldly legal theory.

The man named John admits to having doubts early in his career concerning God's way and according to John... "has accepted God now." His early religious training in Waterbury was not always an open book but clouded in mystery without any thought of investigation. His bible school training, the early ministry and years in Windsor Locks...I'm sure...has proved an enlightenment with a happy ending on the bright and glorious side of his own chosen faith.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

### The Library with the Mostest

Linda Most is the head librarian at the Windsor Locks Library. The North Carolinian native has been in charge of the local book bank since 1969.

A recent interview covers her story book and, in addition, a few statistics concerning the local library. Linda emphasized the many benefits for all ages of citizenry in partaking of the facilities at the Main Street bookery. And what better time...next week is "National Library Week"...April 17-23.

Linda grew up in the small town of Jamesville, North Carolina. Her first schooling years were on the local level. She entered the East Carolina University at Greenville and graduated with degrees in Mathematics and Library Science. "How did you decide to make library work your career?" Linda, whose maiden name was Hardison, said, "My major was math, however, I just got hooked on library science and stayed with it."

In 1967, while a student in college, Linda met a U.S. Marine...Richard A. Most. The small college town was near the marine base and one of the favorite restaurant spots was the meeting place for many of the gyrenes and the college girls. Linda and Dick met over coffee and ...twenty days after the "brief encounter" they were married on her graduation day. Linda got her paper and man, all on the same day.

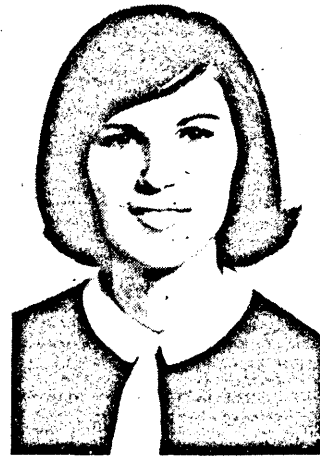
Dick had some service time to fulfill and Linda took advantage of the situation and secured her first library position in Beaufort, N.C. In

1968, the young couple moved south to Florida, Dick wanted to study art and he entered school in the sunny state. After a year of schooling they moved again...this time to Windsor Locks. In September of 1969, Linda became the head librarian at the local library. Dick, a native of Enfield, is currently teaching art at the Kosciuszko Junior High in his hometown.

The library services include...new editions of books with a lending period of seven days; older books for four weeks; musical records of all types for four weeks. In addition...the library offers toys and games for all ages...the lending time is one week. Town residents may use the Xerox copier machine. The cost is ten cents a copy. The holders of Windsor Locks library cards may use the card in any library in the state of Connecticut. A library card holder may check with Linda and, if a book or other reference material is not available at the local library, she will attempt to secure the needed book from another library in the area.

The library is open six days a week...10:00 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. on Mondays to Thursday, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Fridays and Saturdays. These hours are from Labor Day to June 15 or so. During the summer months, the library is closed on Saturdays, with the regular hours mentioned above from Mondays to Fridays.

Next Week is "National Library Week"...the local library will offer the film "Heidi" on Saturday April 23, at 2:00 P.M.



LINDA MOST

Tuesday, April 19, at 7:00 P.M., the Folktellers will put on a program for grades 4-6 at the Union School Auditorium. The "Heidi" film and the story tellers are a part of the library week where citizens of all ages may partake of the great world of books...just for the asking. Any week is a good time to gain knowledge.

The lady behind the books... Linda Most teaches crocheting at the high school one night a week for the adults. In addition to crocheting, Linda's hobbies includes the art of crewelwork. From the stillness of needlework, Linda just might jump on her motorcycle with her husband Dick for a spin around town. In good weather, Linda has been seen motorcycling down Center Street to work. The Most family have vacationed on their bikes all the way to Nova Scotia and back. In their spare time the busy couple have restored a 1932 Chevy pick-up truck. From books and art to trucks and bikes...variety is the spice of life.

In conclusion...Windsor Locks has the mostest in many fields...your local library is one of them. Put a little spice in your life...read a book next week.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

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### LT. BERNARD C. KULAS POLICE STORY

Lieutenant Bernard C. Kulas has been one of Windsor Locks "finest" for the past twenty-two years.

His adult life has been geared educationally towards police techniques and life-saving methods. In practice he has applied this education to be in step with the numerous new innovations facing all enforcement authorities in today's complex society.

Bernie's younger life was not the steady routine of today as a police officer. He was born in Suffield...moved with his family to Windsor Locks in his second year. His dad was Benjamin J. Kulas, tobacco grower and cigar maker of the "Roseland" brand. Young Bernie was educated locally and during his high school days played some soccer and basketball. To Bernie it made more sense to work in the tobacco fields...so he gave up his short sporting career.

After graduation in June of 1944...Bernie worked until it was the time for Uncle Sam's Navy to call. On his birthday in September he entered the navy. He took boot camp training in New York State. The states of Virginia and California were his mailing addresses until the navy

assigned him to the Pacific war in 1945. It was time for the invasion of Japan and Bernie and thousands of American boys were ready to strike the homeland of the emperor. Depending on a person's point of view...and Bernie and I agree in the positive...the United States government, Harry Truman and the scientist, with the help of the U.S. Air Force, decided to drop the first of the atomic bombs of Hiroshima. The rest is history and Bernie was home the next summer in Windsor Locks.

Back home Bernie achieved two goals...working in the tobacco business and probably more pleasurable and longer lasting...meeting his future wife Geraldine. Miss Bednaz and Bernie both were employed at Hatheway-Steane and to hear him tell it..."we met over a tobacco leaf." They married in 1953...two years before the bread-winner became a full-time policeman. The Kulas family increased by two...Sherly and Brian. It is now Mrs. Robert Curren and she is employed by Travelers Insurance Company. Brian works at Combustion Engineering in Windsor and according to his father..."Bowling duck pins is his only interest these days. Brian has a respectable 130 average in the

small ball game."

Bernie, when he put on the uniform of a policeman over twenty years ago, by his own admission, became a "24-hour cop." For two decades he worked on the night shift and it has only been for the past few years that daylight is his tour of duty. After a year of regular police assignments Bernie became a sergeant... five years after he made Lieutenant. Currently under Chief James Whitten there are eleven patrolpersons, four dispatchers, one detective, two sergeants, and Lt. Kulas to complete the police department.

The local police official has been interested in first-aid for over twenty years and proudly said all the local police officers are trained as Emergency Medical Technicians. He and Mrs. Enid Shea, a local nurse, have been active as instructors

in Cardio-Pulmonary Respiration. He received a "service award" from the Heart Association of Greater Hartford as a CPR instructor. Among his other awards is one from the Windsor Locks Fire Department for heroic action during a fire on September 20, 1960.

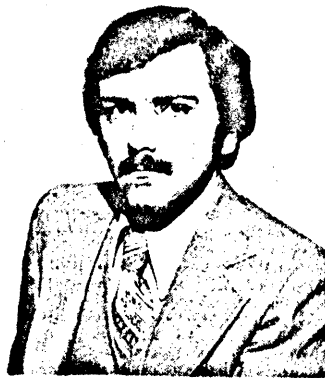
But Bernie Kulas can be a home body...especially on Tuesday nights. He watches television...and you guessed it...his favorites are Police Woman and Police Story. He did say the stories are real and he doesn't mind the busmen's holiday. Other nights he's an avid reader and thanks to his wife...likes to cook.

Lt. Bernard C. Kulas...policeman, veteran, tobacco worker, ambulance driver, heart attack victim himself who came back...knows how important the correct training techniques can be in saving a life.



## "Cabbages and Kings"

With Jack Redmond



**Frank Garon-Active Man  
About Town and State**

Franklin A. Garon, Jr. at a young time in life is a self-made man. And when you meet Frank for the first time...and it's Frank, not Franklin, he percolates a feeling to the listener he knows where life will take him and why he's going at the pace he sets. Frank is from the generation of the late forties, the war babies, if you will...and like so many of his peers made up their minds concerning their direction during the hectic sixties.

For the record...Frank is employed by the Southern New England Telephone Company in New Haven, associated in telephone union affairs, administrator with the Connecticut Jaycees, the local Republican party, and when asked, out-spoken on subjects affecting the town of Windsor Locks.

The young executive was born in Biddeford, Maine. Frank came to East Windsor at the tender age of five. Not by himself...but maybe Frank Garon could. Actually his family moved to this locality and Frank grew up across the river and attended the East Windsor schools with graduation from the senior high in 1965.

In the next twelve years, Frank saw service with the U.S. Navy, was married to his attractive wife, Karen, they

had two children, built a beautiful home in town and it makes for an active life style.

His wife, nee Karen Iwanicki, is from Enfield. Karen and Frank were married in 1967. "How did you meet your wife?"... "after a Naval Reserve meeting, a few of the guys decided to try a hamburger at MacDonald's...Karen was there with some girl friends, and..." I guess Big Mac came out second best. The Garons have two children, Todd is 9, goes to South School and according to his father collects about everything, especially stamps and baseball memorabilia. Renee at six, also a student at South, is the dancer in the family.

Todd takes after his father in the stamp collection field. Frank's hobbies also include electronics, stereo sound reproduction, and proudly mentioned that he built his own color TV set. The family usually travels by car at vacation time and this summer will attempt a few days of camping-out up north.

Before the family life and his troika working positions monopolized his daily routine, Frank entered the U.S. Navy after graduation. He saw service on a destroyer in the European waters and the cold Scandinavian countries. When his two years were up, Frank joined the Southern New England Telephone Company in 1967 as a Systems Switching Technician. Recently he became a trainee in their engineer program. On the union side of the coin Frank, for the past six years, has been the chairman of the Telephone Union job evaluation committee. His third position currently finds him in Meriden, Connecticut with the Connecticut Jaycees as an administrator. He commutes between New Haven, Meriden and Windsor Locks making for

long working days. On the local scene, Frank is the Chairman of the Fuel Bank for the Jaycees in the money raising end of this charitable endeavor. In the sporting field, Frank has been the chairman of the Jaycee Football program for the past two years.

Another involvement of this active man has been the Connecticut Prison Association. This type of activity finds Frank visiting a man at the Somers Prison offering moral help, writing to the prisoner and "keeping in touch" after the man's release. This is all in connection with the local Jaycees and another example of their civic involvement.

Frank is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the American Veterans. On the political side, as a member of the Republican Town Committee, Frank said, "The voters should not show complacency toward the elected officers.... these same officers are accountable to the voters." His comment on the downtown situation was as follows... "It's a mess, very sad situation, a lot of big promises not kept." He added, "A new court house located there is not the answer, it will not bring in new business."

Frank Garon has received several awards during his young career...in 1967 the Connecticut Jaycees rewarded him the "Spoke Award." In 1974 he won a State Public Speaking award and just this year he was the recipient of the 1976 Outstanding Young Man Award.

### EPILOG

Success comes in many packages. Frank Garon has opened a few...and I believe would agree... "Success is often just an idea away, or success is often the result of taking a misstep in the right direction." Frank knows what direction to take for his family, his work and his adopted hometown.

# Broadway Visits Locks' Stage

By Jack Redmond

A little bit of Broadway came to Windsor Locks the last two weekends. The Class of 1977 presented the Broadway classic "Fiddler on the Roof"...it was filled with laughter and tenderness.

The small peasant town in Tsarist Russia is the scene for the loves and life of Tevye, the dairyman...a pious man who has raised his five daughters with the aid of quotations from the Scriptures, most of which he invents himself. The role of Tevye was performed by Joseph Spalluto with a professional touch often only seen on Broadway. He was "Tevye"...the audience was his.

The audience was given a superior play performed by a superior cast of students. The play...directed by James C. Gatto, produced by Robert Rossi and musically directed by David Bongiorno...was brilliantly staged from the opening minute to the final standing ovation. Each acting

part and song was followed by heartfelt applause by a very appreciative audience.

Darlene Sylvester as Golde, Tevy's wife, and three of their daughters, Gisela Lankhorst, Ann Stanton and Lori Poggi, played the parts with feeling and were ably supported by Donald Munson, Dan Kervick, Jay VanSchelt, Danny Miller, Mary Skala, as the matchmaker, and the "Fiddler," Jim Barile. The entire cast deserved the praise and cheers given at the end of the perfect musical evening.

Keep up the good music, Dave...and also the grand choreography staged by Darlene DeGroate and Craig Downs...it all makes for such great evenings.

Yes, we all enjoyed a little...a better word would be "a lot" of Broadway coming to Windsor Locks. The capacity viewers were all richer for it. Thanks again to Joe Spalluto and his classmates...you all acted in the true sense of the word..."theatre."

## Predictions

MAY 5, 1977

## Notes on Baseball

By Jack Redmond

(Ed. Note: Jack Redmond usually writes of the people of Windsor Locks in his weekly column, "Cabbages and Kings.")

Baseball is in the air.

Hopefully, for the Red Sox fans locally, the air over the green monster at Fenway Park will be filled with their homers this season.

I'll stick with the Boston team on Jersey Street to win the American play-off. Their world series opponent will be the powerful Cincinnati Reds...after beating the Pittsburgh club. Sorry, New York fans...the Yankee days of glory...four straight to the Reds...are over, even with Reggie Jackson. The Mets...are they still in the league...(I may be sorry for

that remark...the old-timers remember Bill Terry and his famous line concerning the Dodgers.)but, I guess the past is the past...its 1977 and all the sounds of the past belong in the history of the sport.

Baseball, as we know it, is American as motherhood, apple pie...a popular car...but sadly, the high salaries have cast an ugly cloud over the great game. Even the experts aren't sure when the spiral will end...the economics of life being what they are with the increasing prices and wages.

The high salaries come right out of the pockets of Joe Fan. When the story book character..."Chicken Little" reports the sky is falling, I hope, for Joe's sake, all the stars and their compatriots don't come crying from the

bank and anticipate any sympathy for a situation they made and never felt the golden egg would break someday.

Speaking as a fan of over four decades with fond memories of Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mel Ott, Bobby Feller, Whitey Ford, Willie Mays...and the stars of today..Yastrzemski, Blue, Palmer and so on...I sincerely hope the players, owners and the lawyers will not ruin the game as we know it.

Multi-year contracts, options, fringe benefits are some of the new words a player has to offer at negotiation time with his lawyer at his side.

We don't want the sky to fall or have the golden egg break...we all love the game.

Enough said...Play ball.

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## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

MRS. EILEEN MEEHAN- MOTHER OF EIGHT

Mrs. Eileen Tromley Meehan, mother of eight grown children, when asked...do you have any advice for young mothers...she replied..."enjoy your child or children when they're young, they grow up real fast."

The remarks of Mrs. Meehan, an East Windsor native, but as local in spirit as her Spring Street home, were given in a recent interview in connection with Mother's Day this Sunday.

Eileen and her husband, John J. Meehan, of 38 years raising four boys and four girls are now enjoying their new found life style of a busy retirement.

Eileen Meehan remembers her home town across the river as a young girl and student growing up, however, when it came for high school she traveled by trolley to Enfield and on Sundays the family celebrated mass at St. Mary's in Windsor Locks.

East Windsor was mostly farm country...at the time no facilities were available such as a Catholic Church or high school. The citizens would journey to other nearby communities for higher education, shopping for the necessities of life, usually right on Main Street, Windsor Locks, and their Sunday obligations.

When it was time for Eileen Tromley to marry the handsome Irishman John Meehan from the locktown, St. Mary's Church, near the Meehan home today, on Spring Street, was already a familiar location for their holy wedlock. They met at a social dance at the Hayden Station hall, located near Route 159.

John Meehan was born on Suffield Street, Windsor Locks, and recalls his town as the central trading location for East Granby, Suffield and East Windsor, when folks would make it a day by coming to Main Street to purchase their goods and even take in a show for a nickel. He told of the trolley rides to Springfield and Hartford in the good old days. John attended St. Mary's School, as did all his children. His working life was devoted to financial affairs and after 17 years with the Hamilton-Standard Credit Union he retired two years ago. He's a red-hot Boston Red Sox fan and follows the action of the Celtics and Patriots.

Eileen, after graduating from Enfield High, attended Morse Business School, but wasn't fond of all that typing and entered nursing. After two weeks she contracted polio. Faith was kind to Eileen; her life wasn't to be either secretarial or nursing...but the life of a mother and homemaker. She managed to work five years with Motor Vehicle Department in Hartford until her wedding in 1939 to John. The children came on the scene and the Spring Street home, luckily was a large one. Their old friend and doctor, who incidentally delivered all the Meehan children, Dr. Ettore Carniglia, said to Eileen and John "you're the only family who could fill a two-family house." They both reminisced on the good deeds

of the well-known late doctor of Windsor Locks. They considered him a "great man."

The Meehan children began with John, Jr...today a professor at the State University of New York in Albany. John's wife Betty teaches nursing and their home is located in the Albany suburb of Averill Park.

Mary Ann Golden and her husband John live in Rocky Hill. She is employed at the Veterans Hospital in Newington. William Meehan lives in Atlanta, Georgia and works for General Electric. The night of the interview, Eileen and John were anxiously waiting for their trip to Atlanta the next day. Elizabeth is currently with the University of Connecticut as a librarian. She received her masters degree from the Southern Connecticut College.

Kathleen is married to Thomas J. Tirone and reside in Ellington. They have a son... Thomas John...or better known as "T.J."

Eileen, a graduate of Albertus Magnus in New Haven, is living and working in the windy city of Chicago. James Patrick is a Sales Representative for the Sheraton Tobacco Valley Motor Inn. He and Jeane, with their daughter Tracie, live in New Britain.

Thomas, the eighth Meehan, graduated from Bates College in Maine. Tom is the co-manager of Sid's Modern Drug Store on Main Street in his home town of Windsor Locks.

Both Eileen and John Meehan agree...all the children worked hard to achieve their goals in life with after school and summer employment.

The Meehans have been active in the local Senior Citizens Club...John is secretary and Eileen handles the publicity. This month...May 16-20, the club is planning a trip to Canada.

Eileen is a past officer of the Windsor Locks Catholic Council of Women. For the past five years she has been a volunteer at the Union School Library. When the children were young she was involved in the girl scout and cub programs.

Eileen and John Meehan are "making up for lost time," as they put it...enjoying the fruits of their labor for nearly forty years. Robert Browning said it all for this great couple.... "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, The last of life, for which the first was made, Our times are in his hand."

Happy Mother's Day to Eileen Tromley Meehan and to all the mothers and grandmothers on this Sunday.

# "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

JOSEPH B. RACCONE, SR.  
06096

Joseph B. Raccone, Sr. was the postmaster of his hometown for twenty years. Anytime you see the license plate...06096 (Windsor Locks Zip Code)...you know it's Joe's car, and he's probably off to a Knights of Columbus meeting or heading for his present working hobby at the St. Mary's Credit Union on Spring Street.

The congenial native son is all Windsor Locks. Born on North Main Street, educated at St. Mary's and the high school, Joe said he graduated in 1928 in a class of only 26. Among the alumnus were Frank Semino, Sy Preli, Anthur Mandirola, John Sullivan, Angelo Marconi.....to name a few Joe could remember.

After high school Joe entered the working world during the hard years of depression. His first employment was with the George P. Clark Company. He said all his jobs have been in Windsor Locks...he's what you would call a trueblue native son. To continue his working career...times were bad...and so were jobs...but Joe was there at the Montgomery Company working in the factory. Both jobs were machine-oriented...he had been educated for the business world as a bookkeeper. Before he reached his goal

as a fixture in treasurer functions...he recalls "as a kid" growing up delivering the Hartford Times for Mike King to all corners of Windsor Locks. He performed this job for years and a great way to make money as a kid. He finally arrived...out of the factory...and into the office with the Midelicott Company. He was their bookkeeper and he stayed with the sweater and underwear firm for 19 years. Due to adverse competition from the southern mills, the Medlicott company was forced out of business. Joe had attained the position of Assistant Superintendent of the local firm. However, all was not lost...Joe married during the period with Medlicott...in 1933 to a co-worker from Suffield, Anna Tenero.

Joe recalls with justible pride..."I never lost a day of working changing jobs from one company to another." After Medlicott...he was employed by the Fuller-Russell Tobacco Company for five years until he was appointed

postmaster for the town of Windsor Locks. According to Joe..."there was no problem in the selection, I placed top of the list for the postal position." His appointment was made by the then Republican President Dwight Eisenhower in 1955. He retired twenty years later after starting work at the old Main Street and seeing in 1965 a new building located near the Dexter Plaza. The former postmaster experienced many changes in the postal system and probably the biggest improvement was the added size and more modern facilities at the new complex.

When the local citizenry speak of the post office or St. Mary's Credit Union...Joe Raccone is the name everyone thinks of first in their connection. While Joe was working with the local companies he was also involved in the credit union. Just for the record...in 1941, there wasn't a bank in town...Father Charles McNerney, currently pastor at St. Gregory's in Bristol, along with Fathers Dunn and Lynch realized the importance of saving and the use of dollars for the town people and the St. Mary's Credit Union was born. Joe was one of the original directors....and now after 36 years of service...is Treasurer and Manager of the Spring Street office. The new office has been there a little over a year or so, after 34 years located at the home of Joe and Anna.

I neglected to add the Knights of Columbus as one of Joe's steady and hard working

accomplishments...as Past Grand Knight and today, after 45 years with the Catholic organization, handles the role of Treasurer.

Joe seems to be all work...but not really...his hobby today is the credit union...has traveled extensively to places like...Hawaii, Spain, Italy, Florida and other sunny spots in the world. He remembers years ago...being the treasurer, naturally, of the Windsor Locks Athletic Club and their baseball team. He played football...as a 130 pound center with the local high school team and the star was the good Doctor Peter Lingua.

Joe and Anna have three children and nine grandchildren. Robert and Roberta are twins...Bob and his wife Patricia live in Windsor Locks and have two children. Roberta is married to John McCarthy, living in Enfield with their three offsprings. Joe, Jr. and his wife Diana, plus four, live in locktown.

## EPILOG

Joseph B. Raccone, Sr. is what life is all about. Joe's living and working in his hometown and touching the lives of so many with his humble start delivering newspapers, performing factory work, office procedures, postal duties, scouting, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, the credit functions and the spirit and brotherhood of the Knights of Columbus. He admits..."loving his hometown of Windsor Locks."

Working and enjoying it with love...isn't that what life is all about?"

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1977.

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

### ANGELO C. ALFANO- COMMISSIONER TO COMMISSIONER

Angelo C. Alfano, who retired in December, after eight years as a bail commissioner recently became a member of the Windsor Locks Police Commission.

Angelo is now as busy as one person can be, in his so-called retirement. He still keeps an active hand in his "Tip Top" cleaning business, a business he has operated in Windsor Locks and surrounding town for 47 years.

His wife Helen, of the Windsor Locks Colli family, and married to the Suffield native for nearly forty years said... "Angelo retired? He's busier now than Carrie Nation ever was."

The congenial couple lived on Elm and West streets ever since the big wedding day. They both agreed... "we met at a dance in Suffield." In fact, Helen and Angelo have been dancing all through life... it's one of their favorite pastimes.

The Alfanos have two sons... Peter and Paul... who are both happily married and living in California. Helen and Angelo are proud grandparents of three little Alfanos. In July they are planning a visit to the western state. When it comes to traveling, California has been their vacationland.

Angelo admits to living in Windsor Locks... "only 39 years." He's from the town to

the northwest. He attended Suffield Academy and later majored in business at the Baypath Institute. While at the Academy he won three letters for sports.... football, track and manager of the baseball team. His record still stands for the longest hammer throw in the track department. His sport activity in town centered around the Little League. He served ten years in the administrative field as Vice President and President. Angelo remembers the Rotary Club as the original sponsor of the game in town. The first teams were made up of the Rotary, Lions and teams from Warehouse Point and Suffield.

In the civic and fraternity organizations in Windsor Locks Mr. Alfano has been active and successful. He's a past president of the Windsor Locks Chamber of Commerce, past head of the Rotary Club and said... "in 22 years I was never absent from a meeting of the local Rotary." Angelo was past president of the Italian American Club and a member of the Knights of Columbus for 35 years. He's now an honorary member of the Knights and a charter member of the 4th degree. On Sundays you'll find him at St. Mary's as an usher. In the Civil Defense program during the war years he served with pride. Both he and his wife are members of the local Senior Citizens group. Who said he

was retired? Helen bowls a great deal and Angelo walks for just the exercise... and of course they dance whenever the spirit moves them.

In 1955 Angelo, as member of the Windsor Locks Chamber of Commerce, was chairman of the Flood Relief Committee and organized the campaign to raise money for the victims of the disaster.

"How did you ever get started in the cleaning business?" The big man said it was out of necessity. After his schooling came the depression years.... a friend in the cleaning business of Suffield, wanted him to help out. That's how he started... picking up clothes for cleaning and delivering. He worked from his home for years. He admitted modern wash and wear techniques have slowed down the cleaning business. However, not to let any grass grow... Angelo entered the court system. It lasted eight years. He said, "it was something different everyday. I was on call, 24 hours a day... if the need was there to set bond in connection with a case pending in the court." He never gave up the cleaning business and today... he's still in tip-top shape... with some pick-up and delivery.

He tried politics once... back in 1940... running for First Selectman in town. He said... "I lost, but not by much." But one could tell... he was satisfied with the cleaning business and his court experience. His brother Charles T. Alfano is the former Democratic State Senator from Suffield.

THE WINDSOR JOURNAL

THE BLOOMFIELD JOURNAL

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1977.

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL.

# *Outdoors is Also Close To Home*

(Editor's Note: For some of us the "great outdoors" means enjoying our own homes - our terraces, our back yards, a swim in our own pool, or just simply having friends in for a barbecue. For those of us who still like to get away from home for at least a few hours a week, we have much to choose from. Here, columnist Jack Redmond, who is regularly featured in the Windsor Locks Journal, tells of one of his favorites.)

Golf...the game of the professional on television... but also for millions of weekend golfers...is now in full swing on the local courses all in driving range from our homes. Sorry for the pun...but in writing about one of my favorite pastimes...you must hit it right down the middle of the subject!

When you think of playing the Arnold Palmer sport... Copper Hill, Oak Ridge, Cedar Knob, Pine Hill and other links come to mind. These popular places of golfing enjoyment and possible frustration for all age groups, male and female, are usually filled at the 5 o'clock time period with one league or another. If you are a

member of those one-night-a-week quickie rounds it's probably a swift relief from the daily office or factory routine. Who could argue of the good theraputic value? If not a member of those week night nine holes...Saturday or Sunday afternoons are ideal times to slip away from the baseball games on TV, some housework, cleaning the car, or last minute grocery shopping and try your luck at hitting the little white ball fifty times or more for an enjoyable time.

A cousin of mine...another Jack Redmond by name...has been called the "Clown Prince of Golf" for over sixty years. Ask any oldtimer who has followed the game and they remember him for his trick shots in "Believe It or Not by Ripley," or the Arthur Godfrey and Ed Sullivan shows. Even at the young age of 85, Jack, a native of New Haven, is still working as a cruise director on one of those ocean liners, and giving lessons on the art of the game to passengers.

My resons for dropping his name is some sage remarks he made several years ago in discussing the game of golf. It

went as follows: "You may never be as good as a Hogan, Palmer or Walter Hagan but there are a few rules, which, if faithfully followed, could make you twice as good a golfer as you are now:

1) Learn the fundamentals from a professional before you set foot on a golf course again.

2) Practice in front of a mirror until you are absolutely sure your posture and movements are completely natural at all times.

3) NATURAL is your key word, stand naturally. Get a natural grip on the club. Try everlastingly for a natural body movement.

4) Keep your chin...not your eye...on the ball.

5) Don't start looking for the ball before you hit it.

6) Remember this...Anybody can drive...the shot to

the pin is what makes champions."

Thanks Jack...and as he says...you may never be a Palmer or Hogan, and when you think of it...they're in a class by themselves. Try the easy steps mentioned and the enjoyment on those sunny days of July and August will be yours.

FORE!!!!

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1977.

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

### With Jack Redmond

#### WALK THROUGH A MAN'S HOME

April 21...passed our way unnoticed...a lot like any April 21... and we didn't even stop and say...on April 21, 1910 Samuel Langhorne Clemens died. Now some people may say...who is Mr. Clemens? Well if you don't know...Mark Twain was his pen name. Remember Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn and the Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court? Of course you do.

Yes, he died in April ten years into the new century. But good old Sam Clemens was ahead of his times. Recently my wife and I visited his home on Farmington Avenue in Hartford. We have been in the capital area for the past twelve years and Connecticut for a life time and shamefully admit never taking the time for a visit to the Mark Twain Home. Well folks..you couldn't spend a better hour, or a dollar and one half, in visiting this landmark of one of America's greatest writers and humorist.

How's your imagination?

May I say who's calling?

"Yes, just say Jack Redmond of the Windsor Locks Journal."

"The Windsor Locks Journal, really. Just wait in the vestibule, Sir."

I waited for ten minutes and finally the man in black called from the staircase. "Please come up to the billiard room."

I quickly followed the man in black, up the winding staircase to the top floor and..there it was..a billiard table in the center of the room.

"Come in. Isn't Windsor Locks a few miles north of Hartford?"

"Yes Mr. Clemens." I decided valor was better than discretion...I walked right by the table and up to the desk.

"Sorry to bother you, Mr.Clemens."

"You already have..ah..Mr. Redmond, you say. Sit down. Want a cigar?"

I love cigars, but at this point in time, I was lucky I could find the chair. It was a large comfortable one, just made for interviews with the leading writer of the nineteen century.

"Thank you, Mr. Clemens. I was just passing and frankly Mr. Clemens...(a cough covered up my nervousness (I was wondering if you would give me a few minutes of your time for an interview for the local paper?"

"The Windsor Locks Journal...quite interesting. That's rich. The New York Times hasn't called in days. So why not the Windsor Locks Journal. Do you actually have locks in your town?"

"Yes Sir. We might as well get started. Where were you born?" I realized I couldn't have started off with a poorer question.

"Forget that Mr. Clemens. I have all those facts..how do you like the city of Hartford?"

"I can see you are a little jittery..relax..sure you don't want a cigar?"

"Yes, I'd love one. Are they from Havana?"

"Are there any other kind?"

"No I guess not, Mr. Clemens."

"Yes, I adore this town. I wouldn't have built this fine home if I didn't like the surrounding countryside and the great weather in New England. You know I was born, incidentally, in a small village called Florida, Missouri. You see Mr. Redmond your first question was correct. We all have to start somewhere.. even if it's in Florida, Missouri. How do you like my home?"

"I think it's great. Do you play a lot of billiards?"

"Yes, Jack, may I call you Jack?"

At this point... the man in black appeared again. He said the Mayor and the Governor were downstairs waiting for him on a few points of interest and couldn't wait.

"Sorry Mr. Redmond. The interview will have to wait for another day. It was my pleasure."

"Mr. Clemens, it was my pleasure. Just having one of these Havana cigars and meeting you was just great. I'll

give you a call."

"No you won't...I hate those newfangled contraptions. Drop me a letter. Sorry it wasn't longer, but you know these politicians."

How's that for imagination?

Getting back to our tour... we were guided through the Mark Twain home; with about twenty other interested adults and children, and my wife and I felt that Sam was still there. The guide always referred to him as Sam. We had the feeling that Sam was looking

over our shoulders as we stepped into each room and hallway. Any description of mine would not do the home justice where his greatest works and productive years were spent.

So if you have an hour or so..drive to Farmington Avenue... and as the saying goes.. visit this grand and unusual elegant house built by the creator of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. I'll even give you the times...Tuesday to Saturdays, 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M., and on Sundays one to four.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

### PETE COUTURE LOCAL BOWLER ON THE TOUR

When you want to interview one of the hottest tenpin bowlers on the Professional Bowling Association tour... Where do you go?

You go to his place of employment, if he isn't on the road. And he's the pro in attendance at the Bradley Bowling lanes on Turnpike Road in Windsor Locks. I'm, of course, talking about the young Peter Couture. Pete has been on national television twice, and his career has hit new heights...not only in prestige, but in winning over twenty thousand dollars. Pete has finally arrived.

The curly haired native of Lewiston, a town in southwestern Maine, on the Androscoggin River, is a very personable individual and was not afraid to expand on his career and the many facets of being a professional bowler.

It has only been a few years since the sport has gained national prominence on television, although...as Pete remarked, "bowling is the biggest participation sport in the world." He's proud to be a bowler and especially pleased with the treatment he, and his wife Mary, have been given the past three years at the Bradley Bowl. Mary, a fine bowler in her own right, with a respectable average of 180, is also from Lewiston, and "totally behind" her husband's budding vocation. Pete married Miss Bilodeau in 1971, after meeting her at a bowling alley, where else, when he was instructing young hopefuls in the art of knocking down all the pins with one ball.

Pete grew up in Lewiston and like all youngsters played little league, and the great sport of hockey, after his high school days. However, bowling was meant to be his sport. He's been at it for twelve years. His mother got him started in "candle pins," a variety of bowling, not known in these parts. He started with the "candle", but soon switched to the big ball. Pete has been at the professional side of bowling for six years. He said he was the only pro bowler from his home state.

The 125 pound, right-handed bowler, spoke of his father and another sport: the art of boxing. His father, Al Couture, was a former pugilist with an impressive record. The record is listed in the "Guinness World Book of Records" as the fighter with

the quickest knock-out of an opponent...10.5 seconds, (including the countdown). Pete recalls attending the infamous Clay-Liston brawl, in Lewiston, a few years back, with his dad, and the local Hartford favorite, of other ring wars... Willie Pep.

Pete and Mary struggled as newlyweds when his bowling career was attempting to get off the ground and they hoped for a tournament win just to meet expenses and have enough left over for food. Those were lean days. But the pins started to fall the right way...and Pete secured a sponsor. (A sponsor is an individual who pays your expenses with a hopeful substantial reward for being a benefactor.)

On national television... were you nervous, did the cameras distract you? "No, the cameras never entered my mind while I was bowling. I forgot twenty million people may be watching on ABC. I would say I was nervous...but to win...not because of the outside pressures."

A perfect 300 game in bowling, is like a hat trick in the hockey Stanley Club series, or a homer with the bases loaded in the baseball world series...how many has Pete Couture bowled? "Four, one in Denver in 1974, right here in Bloomfield, in 1975, and twice this year, once in Cleveland, Ohio, and recently in Rhode Island.

Pete said..."bowling is 65 percent mental and 35 percent physical. This certainly holds true on the pro circuit. All the pros are good, or they wouldn't be there, however, each city is different, each bowling alley has its own contour, and good mental attitude helps a great deal."

How are the other pros...as to personalities, etc.? "Real down to earth guys," Pete said. "There's a certain amount of jealousy, as in all competitive sports. On the plus side...I'll give you an example of their "nice guy" makeup. Usually each city has a pro-amateur for the kids. All the pros bowl, and help the kids. The final part is the banquet...where the pros break bread with the younger set. What other big sport would you find a fellow like Earl Anthony, the highest paid bowler in America, attending these functions and always teaching the kids the correct way to bowl and better said...how to act as young gentlemen."

Do you have any helpful

hints for young bowlers just starting? "Bowl as much as you can, but more important, practice in competition. Start at a young age." He added..."Instructions by a pro is much better today than when I started. The kids have in their favor...a much stronger body and are mentally suited to the game."

Pete said, "The Bradley Bowl is one of the better scoring houses in the east. The pros are always treated well in Windsor Locks...and it's one of their favorite stops on the tour."

Peter Couture has made it big in the big pin game. He has set certain goals for himself in the bowling world... may all your throws be strikes...Pete. We'll be watching you on national television, real soon. Good luck!

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1977.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

When you ring the bell at the Jules Van Schelt home on Ash Drive the music from "Fiddler on the Roof" greets the friend or visitor.

It sets the tone of the friendly feeling at his home and the love the Van Schelts have for family life...all eight of them.

The musical rendition is only one of the multi-talented engineer's way of applying his skills. These skills range from his position at Hamilton-Standard, where the complicated harnesser of energy is a daily routine, to the days, just to make extra cash, he would purchase Christmas cards, add a student's name on the family printing press, and sells them to the students.

Jules has been involved in Windsor Locks using his knowledge and understanding of young people in little league, boy scouts and the Junior Achievement program. After college he served three years with the Merchant Marines and for the past 21 years has been employed in the Engineering Department of the Windsor Locks based Hamilton-Standard.

To complete the full cycle... Jules and his wife Pamela have six children...ages 19 years to ten months.

Jules met Miss Pamela Doherty at the five and ten store where she was employed selling Christmas cards. The store was located in West Roxbury, Mass., their hometown. The young couple attended the same schools, played on the high school band without ever knowing each other. Jules has kept up his musical hobby with his playing of several instruments, singing in church choirs and even writing songs. He recalls many of the songs he wrote for his school class book. Today, he'd run off a quick ditty for any suitable occasion.

All his music can be considered his hobby...along with the six kids. The offsprings from the Jules and Pamela marriage of 1957 have all been active in Windsor Locks.

The oldest is Amy, 19, a student of math and economics at Smith College in Mass. Amy was a recent winner of the Dexter scholarship. Jules the Third, 17, or better known as Jay, was the singing jumping-jack at the great performances of the senior play... "Fiddler on the Roof." (That's where Jules, Sr., got the idea for his musical ring of the bells... the tone will be changed tomorrow night to "Pomp and Circumstances.") When Jay is not on the stage...he is active on the football field and track. He played little league and midget football a few years back.

Judy, 16, a sophomore at the high school, keeps up the athletic tradition with her softball, basketball and field hockey. Sheila at 10, a 4th grader at Southwest School, dances, plays the flute and just to round out her day can be found on the softball field these nights. Paula, is 8, a second grader at Southwest School and according to her father...is the "Tomboy" in the family.

Little Mark Barry is the youngest at ten months. His

mother and father consider him... "a very special person." The State of Connecticut was helpful at the time of Mark's birth when it was determined he was a retardate. Jules and Pamela are both members of the North Central Regional Center for Retarded Children. Little Mark was also a "Special student" at six months learning a few fundamental skills most parents would take for granted in their children. The VanSchelts explained how the authorities now realize these children can attempt to live a more normal life if proper training is applied at an early age. This special training includes the parents and the brothers and sisters of the "special child." Their complete understanding at home will go a long way to a better development of the child's life.

The Van schelt family have vacationed together for years utilizing their camper-trailer with trips to Cape Cod, Lake George, Niagara Falls, Prince Edward Island and parts of Maryland. Jules admits the vacation together as a family is "one of my smartest accomplishments."

Another achievement of this versatile father was his returning to the University of Hartford in 1965 to secure a masters degree. Jules had received his Bachelor of Science degree at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Buzzards Bay. It was after his first college try that he entered the Merchant Marines. In 1973 Jules was honored with his masters, and a 3.5 average. The telling of the average was not for Jules to say...it was Pamela's way of bragging, and rightfully appropriate.

Jules is a father for all seasons. His extra activities in town have been for the youth, his children and family, and church. He's a member of the St. Robert's Parish Council. Jules believes the changes in the Catholic Church are "great."

This special father, of a special family, writes the songs to make his fellowman sing. Happy Father's Day Jules, and to all the fathers and grandfathers in Windsor Locks.

There's an old apothegm I believe applies to Jules Van Schelt... "The work of an unknown good man is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground greener." Jules makes the ground greener in town, and in his family. life.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

"Pappy" Reeves...World War One "doughboy," and veteran of 35 years with the Windsor Locks Fire Department, three years as a Chief, has lived a peppy and active life for his 83 years.

Meeting the crusty "Yankee" gentleman was quite an experience and he's not about to change his life style...and who could blame him.

The Reeves home on North Main Street is filled with memorabilia of the first big war and his years as a fireman. He said the house was over a hundred years old when he purchased it in 1942. "Pappy" lives with his daughter Alberta and grandson Earle. His wife Elizabeth Schillert passed away a few years ago.

For a little background on "Pappy"...he was born in Somers, Connecticut, attended school there with eight other students. He went as far as the seventh grade...quit at the age of 14 to work on a farm. He gingerly added the pay was fifty cents a day and board. He readily said, he came... "from the school of hard knocks."

He had enough of the farms of Somers and journeyed southwest to Windsor Locks for a job with the Bidwell Company. The year was 1915 and "Pappy" spent over 40 years with the lumber company. When the Bidwell Company closed he became associated with the Kelly-Fradet Lumber Company. He worked with the Thompsonville concern for seven years until retirement at 72 years young.

However, the real story of "Pappy" Reeves must be told in the numerous feats as a "doughboy" and later as fireman who really enjoyed his work and admitted, "being a fireman must be in your blood." He's from the old school...and he called a spade a spade. They made the mold of "Pappy"...and then discarded it...there's only one. He's a grand story-teller.

"Pappy" was a soldier with the famous 26th Yankee Division, and the 102nd Infantry Regiment with service in the trenches of France.

When did you leave the states?

"The states...we left New Haven, about October 17 by train, traveled north to Montreal, Canada, then on to Nova Scotia. We were on foreign soil, and overseas pay. We finally boarded a ship...there were over 50 ships in the convoy to Europe and the war. Our next stop was Liverpool, England. I remember...there

was nothing to eat on our arrival, and mud up to our...well you know. Then, on to Southampton...another ship to France. But before I could see Paris...I had to be a soldier in the trenches."

What do you remember the most of the trench warfare?

"Trench fighting was hard. We usually spent six days and nights at the front...staying alive and hoping to capture or kill the Germans. After a week or so at the front, we would travel back to the supply area for rest." How did you get the purple heart? "I was gassed. On my wall over there, is a certificate all about the purple heart, signed by President Woodrow Wilson." Where in France did you see the action? "well, from January to November of 1918 I was stationed in different sections of France with a few months out for hospitalization, due to the gas. Where did I serve? Well let's see, Chateau-Thierry, Meuse-Argonne, Toul - Seicheprey, Chemines-Dames and Verdun...it's all in the books."

"Pappy" has among his pictures and souvenirs two books written concerning the history of his division and regiment. He proudly showed me pictures and stories where in France he soldiered. He said the famous movie..."All Quiet on the Western Front" was a near adaptation as to the life and conditions during the war of the soldiers on both sides.

Sgt. Reeves was discharged and returned to the states when the war was over. He did manage to see Paris and had a few interesting experiences to tell of the great city in those post-war days. During World War Two "Pappy" followed the action in France where history repeated in the same sections twenty-five years later.

Life in Windsor Locks probably seemed rather tame to "Pappy" after France...so in 1924 he joined the fire department and he recalled, numerous fires he was involved in...especially two big ones at the bank and hotel years ago. He used his talent as a mechanic all to his life at work and with the fire company.

"Pappy" Reeves has served his country and town for many years and I believe the following words given to him on a plaque by the Fire Department...best exemplifies their thanks to a man whose daughter said..."he's a fantastic human being."

"In recognition of the major contribution you have made to this department and your community. We, on behalf of the officers and men of the department, congratulate you for your timeless effort spent in making this organization what it is today, and we wish you every happiness in the years ahead."

Just to add a small footnote...my own personal observation of "Pappy" Reeves..."a single conversation across a table with a wise man is worth a month's study of books."



## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

The United States of America, and our own state of Connecticut, will be 201 years old on Monday, July 4, 1977.

Remember last year's celebrated birthday party all over the land? I will never forget turning on the television on that historic Sunday morning and hearing Walter Cronkite say... "Wake up America, it's your birthday." It was only eight in the morning, or was it seven? I'm not sure. But it made me feel good all over. Like a kid again...and having someone like Mr. Cronkite, everyone's favorite personality, telling me...it's your birthday...it was like listening to The Star Spangled Banner and wanting to cheer at the end so that the party could begin. And the party did begin. The tall ships in New York Harbor...the music at night, especially from Boston and Arthur Fiedler leading the songs. It was all, just too great for words. From Maine to Hawaii...the flags were flying.

200 years ago, plus one... the signing of the Declaration of Independence was the reason for all the celebrations.

For a little history lesson...did you know there were four men who signed the famous document from Connecticut? Yes, four gentlemen....Wolcott, Sherman, Williams, and Huntington.

Oliver Wolcott was born in nearby Windsor on December 20, 1726, the son of Roger Wolcott, governor and chief justice of the colony of Connecticut. He graduated in from Yale as a young man commanded a company of Connecticut volunteers in the Northern Army in the British colonies war against the French. He was chosen as a representative to the legislature five times between 1764 and 1770, and a member of the Continental Congress for eight years. He served as lieutenant governor of the state and reelected for ten years. He was chosen governor in 1796.

Roger Sherman was a native of Newton, Mass., and started a business life at the age of 22 as a shoemaker and came to New Milford, Connecticut. He soon abandoned that trade and became a lawyer. Sherman moved to New Haven in 1761

and was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court, a post he held for 23 years. He was a member of Congress 19 years and had the honor of being the only man in the 13 original colonies to sign his name to the four fundamental orders of the country. He played important parts in framing: the Articles of Association, 1774; the Declaration of Independence, 1776; the Articles of Confederation, 1777; and the Federal Constitution in 1787. I'm sure Mr. Sherman would be surprised if he ever came back today to view Sherman Avenue in the Elm City, the Roger Sherman Spa and theater of the same name. We in America sometimes cheapen our heroes with remembrances of rather shabby hallmarks.

William Williams was born in the town of Lebanon in 1731, and was 45 when he signed the Declaration of Independence.

Williams fought in the French and Indian wars and it is said that as a militiaman in that conflict he first began to believe that the colonies would be better off if separated from Great Britain. Legend has it that Williams once said, "I have signed the Declaration of Independence. I shall be hanged." A man hearing the remark reportedly told Williams, "If we fail, I don't know if I could be hung, for my name isn't on that declaration, nor have I written anything against the British." Williams is said to have replied... "Then you ought to be hanged for not doing your duty."

Samuel Huntington, born on a Windham farm, is considered, the "first" president of the United States. This was because he served as president of the Continental Congress from Sept. 1779 to Aug. 1781. In 1786 Huntington was elected Governor of Connecticut.

There you are...the four Connecticut signers of the declaration...a little history to remind us...we live in a great country and state, walk the same land as these great men who did their duty. Men we can be proud of on Monday, July 4, 1977...wake up Americans, it's your birthday again.

# "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

## FRANK R. LEARY, JR.- FATHER OF SPORTING FAMILY

Frank Leary believes in motivation...for himself and his family. The results have been rewarding and gratifying to Frank and his wife Arloa.

The Learys of Pershing Road have five children...all active, sportsminded and track stars...the best this part of the state has ever seen perform on the cinder path.

Frank, an Irishman from New Bedford, Massachusetts, set the stage for his children as an athlete at high school, the Dean Junior College and while earning his degree at the University of Vermont. The engineer did graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His sporting degrees were earned in baseball, hockey, swimming, basketball and track. At the New Bedford High School he set a record for the quarter mile in track. He gave the future Learys something to run for.

In college he met student... Arloa Dean of the Burlington, Vermont Deans. Arloa...the name is of American Indian origin. Frank related the following, for the history buffs. Arloa's ancestors came over on the "Mayflower," several migrated to Vermont, and were met by unfriendly Indians. In the true "Pocohontas" tradition...an Indian girl by the name of Arloa saved the new Americans from death. The name of "Arloa" has been handed down ever since that fateful day.

Frank married "Arloa" in 1952, and after graduation the young couple moved to Suffield, when he accepted employment with Hamilton-Standard. They lived in Suffield for ten years until 1964 when they purchased their present home in Windsor Locks.

The Leary family started to grow with Steve, the first son. The now 23 year high school teacher in South Burlington,

Vermont, he was honored at his own high school graduation in winning two awards...the United Aircraft Scholarship and the Harvard Book award. Steve graduated from the University of Vermont and in the "Leary" tradition played hockey and golf. Robb at 22, is a grad of the University of Massachusetts. He will attend the University of Wisconsin on a fellowship this summer. Robb, the "Windsor Locks Journal" Athlete of the Year in 1973, was a state champ in the mile race. His best time was 4:17:19.

Dean, 21, is a senior at the University of Vermont, as an English major, and as his brothers before him, a fine student, and participated in swimming and track at the local high school. The daughter with all the brothers is Dianne, 19. She wasn't about to let the males dominate the entire sporting scene. Dianne put the "girls sport" on the map at the high school. The local Lions Club voted her the "Woman Athlete Award" for her prowess in baseball, basketball, track and field hockey. This fall Dianne will be a sophomore at the Castleton State College in Vermont. Dianne, like her brothers before her, was a member of the National Honor Society. At Castleton she is active in sports...naturally... with an all-star status in field hockey as freshman.

Michael, a junior at the high school, is the hockey goal tender in the family. He was picked as the Most Valuable Player in the Enfield hockey house league. When he's not stopping pucks, Mike is a woodworking enthusiast. He hopes to be a Industrial Arts Teacher.

When Frank Leary had to give way to the younger set on the sporting field he did the next best thing...he went to coaching. In Suffield and Windsor Locks he was involved in little league. Currently in

town, he's the Director of Youth Ice Hockey...and been at it for nine years. He spoke very highly of the hockey talent in town and said..."hopefully we can have a hockey team at the high school in the near future."

Frank was employed at Hamilton-Standard for 17 years...he left for greener pastures seven years ago for the Turbo Power and Marine Company in nearby Farmington. He's their District Sales Manager for the entire mid-west. His hectic traveling schedule necessitated him to give up his reserve commission as a general staff officer with the 76th Army Division. He served with the army on active duty for two years and 14 years in the reserves.

Just to round out the all-American family...the Learys have three dogs and one cat. When Frank is not on the road, he finds some time to do a little fishing and hunting. He helps his alma mater by being on the University of Vermont Alumni Athletic Council as a recruiter for hockey players. At vacation time, the Learys hibernate to the family islands in Vermont.

Frank Leary as mentioned... believes in motivation. He said..."students must be motivated, I encourage my kids to seek all things and especially all schools. I never pushed them. The best advise I can give to other fathers is to become involved in your children's interests. Try to expose them to everything." Where did your children get their athletic ability, I asked? "Don't forget to mention Arloa was an athlete in school, in fact, she was on a state basketball championship team." Frank and Arloa both set the stage for their children. There's an old saying and I believe it fits the Learys... "when love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece."

# "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

## ALFRED C. COYLE FIRE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Alfred C. Coyle, better known as Fred to his many friends and business and civic associates, has been a member of the Windsor Locks Fire Commission for the past 12 years.

Fred has chaired the commission for five years and when asked...what are your duties? "We administer the affairs of the Fire Department, appoint officers, buy the necessary equipment and set up the budget." The efficient and hard-working commission is usually behind the scenes doing their job...and Fred said some citizens did not realize the Fire Company had a commission. There has to be someone to administer the affairs of the 70 members under Chief Bill Reilly.

Fred and his wife, Millie, the girl with the ready smile, and formerly Miss Crossley, are both natives of New Bedford, Mass. Where did you meet your wife? "Actually we didn't meet until our families moved to Plainfield, Connecticut," Fred said. "That's a long time before the dog track made the town famous."

The only sport Fred participated in was basketball while in high school. Soon after graduation and a year at UConn, Fred entered the service. The year was 1943 and the Navy was his choice.

Fred, being the type not to let surroundings bother him, volunteered for submarine service at Newport, Rhode Island.

After bootcamp he entered the waterlike world of subs at Groton. I asked the often inquiry...why would anyone join the submarine service and how does it feel way down there in the deep? He didn't say...someone had to, he just said, "It's really beautiful under the water. I didn't mind it a bit." After their initial training Fred and the young

gobs were off to California and then on to Pearl Harbor. Fred spoke of their three extensive patrols in a sub by the name of "Gato". He said all subs have names of fish. The patrols were in the South Pacific area with missions to "search and

destroy". The "Gato" had six Japanese ships painted on the side...their trophies, and part of the war effort.

Fred served his country and the Navy for three years. One of the high lights of those service years he remembers quite vividly...the signing of the surrender in September of 1945. The scene was Tokyo Bay...General MacArthur and all the brass...American, the allies and the defeated nation, all there. He said the night before the actual signing ceremony his sub was in close proximity to the battleship Missouri...the next morning when all the history was being recorded...the ship has moved during the night and the crew and Fred had to be content to use binoculars to see the end of the big war.

Once Fred was back home he wasted no time in returning to civilian status and in late 1946 married Millie, his hometown gal. Fred went to work at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford but shortly left the aircraft industry for the Retail Credit Company in Hartford. He stayed 23 years...the steady guy he is. Then he tried the Suffield Savings Bank for a year and today...is a Sales Representative for the Wright Premium Company of East Hartford.

Millie, a former Windsor Locks Journal employee, and Fred began their family and now there are five Coyles. Leslie, at 23 is the oldest, and a grad of the Manchester Community College, and a former dean's list member. Suzane, 19, is a freshman in New Haven at the Southern Connecticut with a 3.5 average. Kevin, is 16 and a senior at the high school and a member of the band. The youngest member of the family is a rabid Red Sox fan...and it's probably just to aggravate his dad...a New York Yankee and Jersey Giant rooter.

The Coyle family will be busy this fall with both Leslie and Suzane, both betrothed, and weddings planned for the cooler months.

Fred has always been involved in Windsor Locks activities...being a past presi-

dent and secretary of the local Lions for 22 years. His service connected organization has been the VFW for about 15 years. Oh, yes, Fred is a "life-long Democrat", he just added for the record.

When he's not attending a fire commission, VFW of Lions meeting, he loves to cook, just for the fun of it, reading a lot and watching sports of all sorts.

When the Coyles think of vacations...there's only one state they would even consider...the northern part of Vermont. Fred did say...a few years back the entire family motored across the country to California and it was all "just great."

Fred Coyle, not to let any grass grow under his steady feet, attended night school at the University of Hartford. He received his Business Administration, after several hard years as a worker and student. It was rough, he added, but worth it.

On the subject of the Fire Commission...Fred said during his tenure there has been three new apparatus added to the department and the rolls were increased from 60 to 70 active firemen.

Fred Coyle feels..."Windsor Locks is a good place to live" and he does his part for the town. There's a saying, "One trouble with the world today is that there are too many people in it who are willing to put in their oars but not willing to row." Fred has been a rower for the fire department for these many years.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

Frank S. Campisi, a Hartford native, knows Windsor Locks is the town for him. He has proven this over and over by his constant and loyal activity with the Park Commission and the Knights of Columbus.

The young man from the big city settled in the small town only after he met a truly native daughter...Dolores Mussetti. Frank did admit...the Knights were a big factor in making up his mind for permanent residency locally. And he wouldn't change it for an instant...the permanence, that is.

Frank grew up in the capital city...attended the local schools, with graduation from Bulkely High School. The army veteran met Dolores at a "jack and jill" shower. (you know what those are...the best way to make sure Jill doesn't stay too long and it's a guarantee date.) The year 1955...two years later Frank and Dolores walked down the path of matrimony and set up house-keeping (that's what they called it in those days) in Windsor Locks.

Frank, who resembles Phil Rizzuto of the old Yankees, joined the K of C in 1958...worked in his usual efficient manner and in 1966 was chosen the "Knight of the Year." He then assumed the responsibility of the "chairs" and in 1975 was the local Grand Knight. He said the greatest change in the fraternal body of men was their participation, locally, with the national program, in helping the physically handicapped and retarded children. For two years Frank was associated with the water safety program under the direction of our good buddy...Joe Urso.

Frank's contribution in town programs have taken many forms...the K of C, an active member of the Republican Town Committee for seven years, a charter member of the St. Mary's Parish Council, with added credit as a CCD teacher. Just to refresh his mind and body Frank attended, for many years, the annual retreats at the Holy Family Monastery in nearby Farmington.

A man must make a living...and Frank has always provided for his Dolores and their two sweet daughters.... Mari Ann and Cynthia. In that vain...he's been engaged in industrial engraving for 24 years. His first employment was with the Parker-Hartford company, the association lasted 15 years. Today Frank is a partner with the Valley Engraving Corporation across the river in Warehouse Point.

Mari Ann Campisi, 16, is a junior at the high school and was an active follower of the American Field Service. Cynthia, 13, an eighth grader, is a track enthusiast and former girl scout. The girls and their parents usually "play their vacations by ear" with day trips and have seen the beauty of Maine and Pennsylvania.

Frank, when he's not at a meeting or at work, is a devotee of model automobiles...especially old forms of the Henry Ford type. He loves the game of golf but admitted...he just hasn't the time. However, he never

missed the great wins during June of his favorite team...the Boston Red Sox. Strangely... his biggest heroes in the sporting world were Joe DiMaggio and Casey Stengel. When the Yankees figured old Casey was "too old" to manage the great New York team....Frank switched to the Back Bay Bombers. On the political scene...which Frank said he was not interested in seeking office....but only serving his party and town as a contributor...always admired John Kennedy and Harry Truman. Frank is the type of man who gives credit to all...even if they are Yankees or democrats. He said Mr. Truman was your "down to earth guy," and Mr. Kennedy had "charm or better said... charisma."

When you discuss the Windsor Locks park situation.. Frank Campisi is all ears and deeply involved. He's been associated with the commission for six years. He said..."the commission establishes policy for the parks in town. The parks cover 125 acres in the six square mile area of Windsor Locks. These parks are functional...within the scope of the manpower available to the commission." He further added..."I have



FRANK S. CAMPISI-PARK AND K OF C ACTIVIST

met a great many interesting people and I really enjoy the work and the problems. One of the best features is that the commission is administered by three members from each party and they only have Windsor Locks at heart."

### EPILOG

Frank S. Campisi, former Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, is truly a man who found friendship and benevolence in the small town of Windsor Locks. He realized the only small thing about Windsor Locks was its size on any state map. He has exercised his own brand of friendship and benevolence by working with the Republicans and Democrats, the Park Commission and the Knights of Columbus in hopes to make Windsor Locks larger in life on any map.

# "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

## Tom Cooney — Par Excellence

The song goes like this . . . "only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun." In Tom Cooney's case he and a few close golf zealots can be found in the noonday sun, not only in the good weather months . . . but also in January and February playing golf in southern New England. It's just called southern . . . because its Groton, Connecticut. Tom and his friends wear warm gloves, the proper underwear and hats with earmuffs . . . and it is all for the love and fun of hitting that little white ball. Call it crazy, call it abnormal . . . but Tom goes where the action is, as Ogden Nash once said . . . "you never get any fun out of things you haven't done."

Thomas Cooney, native son, wasn't always chasing golf balls . . . he's a World War II veteran with over three years across the pond and a baseball and basketball player of some renown around town. Of course it was just a way of reminiscing of the days during the late twenties and early thirties when Tom was a high school student . . . in the seventies, Tom plays a lot of golf, and even in the seventies, scores, that is, at the tender age of 65. He has a beautiful trophy perched on his television set just to prove it . . . for winning the 1976 Copper Hill Men's Club Championship. That's our boy . . . Tom Cooney.

As mentioned . . . before golf and wintery assaults on the course . . . there were other more important happenings in Tom's life . . . like being born on Olive Street . . . growing up and attending St. Mary's School and the high school, living during the depression years and the war period of 1941 to 1945. Tom remembers well . . . the year of 1941. He entered the army, one of the first draftees from this town . . . and on Saturday, December 6, 1941 . . . he married Ruth Krauss of Cherry Street, Windsor Locks. Oh yes, Tom and Ruth, remember 1941, quite well.

Tom was off to the Pacific theatre of operations . . . with hardly a honeymoon, for stops in Australia and the islands with the 208th Antiaircraft . . . fresh from Camp Edwards, Mass. Tom spent three and one-half years of his young life being a part of the war against the Japanese. He recalls seeing the famous man . . . General MacArthur on several occasions coming up the beach for the best pictures. But before Tom became a G.I. he had to graduate from high school and a few years making a few bucks on tobacco . . . it was the depression years. His high school class listed 16 . . . and Tom recalls Ed Connolly, Mary Tracy, Irene Biardi, Barbara McLeod, Sid Balf and Al Sicbaldi to name a few. But when it came to local sports . . . the names of Joe Gatti, Walter White, Pap Ferrara, Fran Colli, Lou Marconi, G. Mangiarolli and "Doc" Lingua were team mates on the baseball diamond and basketball court. In fact, Tom was the first sophomore to be elected captain of a basketball team in Windsor

Locks. The year was way back . . . in 1928. Before the army days Tom performed with the old "Clay Hills" in the local baseball twilight league.

High school sports end and so did the war. Tom came home to Ruth and entered civil service with the Veterans Administration. He retired in 1971 after 31 years of work and the last twenty years was the assistant finance officer. Tom Tom attended Hillier College, under the G.I. Bill, so he could brush up on his accounting skill for the V.A.

Tom and Ruth have one daughter, one son-in-law and two grandchildren . . . with the accent on "grand" according to the proud grandpa. Their daughter Sharon married Jimmy McKenna, the Physical Ed teacher at the high school. The McKenna family have two sons . . . Jay, who is 9, and Tim at 7. "Tom, where did you meet Ruth?" The likeable Irishman put on his thinking cap and said . . . "you wouldn't remember, but on Main Street there was a drug store, called Keefe . . . and we met over a Coca Cola. How's that for remembering?"

OK Tom . . . when did you take up your favorite sport of golf?

"About 18 years ago I played my first round at Keeney Park in Hartford with the V.A. and have been playing ever since. I now have an 8 for handicap . . . that's for 18 holes. My best score has been a 74 . . . but I have never made a hole-in-one, but plenty of birds. Just ask Jack Fraher. But seriously . . . golf is all concentration. you play against the elements and the terrain and you must have complete control and determined concentration. Yes, a few of us play during the winter months and we do dress warm. Lower Connecticut, especially Groton area and some parks in Rhode Island are still playable and open in the winter."

"Who are some of the snow players?"

Well there's Dick Dunlap, Jack Fraher, Pap Ferrara, Ed Katzbeck and Dave Livingston from Warehouse Point."

My main reason for picking the town's resident golfer . . . Tom Cooney . . . was the Sammy Davis, Jr. Greater Hartford Open at the Wethersfield, Country Club. Tom added during the interview . . . "watch the pros next week . . . they have the concentration. It makes champions."

Tom Cooney is the town 1976 champion at an age when the rocking chair is preferred to walking the nine holes at Copper Hill. Hit it down the middle every time Tom . . . it's the name of the game.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

with *Jack Redmond*

### MIKE GENTILE-NEW GRAND KNIGHT

Michael F. Gentile...has lived a varied life...as a familyman, he's really settled down....but his occupations have ranged from restaurateur to milkman to hair stylist. The latest deed of achievement was the recent installation of Mike as the Grand Knight of the local Knights of Columbus.

The Leominster, Massachusetts native, with the friendly smile and cigar to match, has lived in Windsor Locks for the past 22 years. He and his wife June, the former Miss Gleason, also of Leominster, have five children and it all started in high school. Not the children...the romance of the quiet girl and the typical high school "wise guy", with the devil in his eye, and ready with mischievous tricks to gain attention. Mike gained June's attention, matter of fact, they were married in 1952 when Mike was in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict. The homeroom sweethearts had to settle for letters during his two years of navy duty. When quizzed as to his sports in high school....Mike said, "my sports was gym class for 8 periods a day." In the service when he was traveling the Caribbean cruise route he was in charge of the "ice cream stand." Mike had a way of knowing where the action was, and life was not that serious until after his discharge and young Mike, Jr. came on the scene.

The scene was, his hometown and Mike entered the restaurant business in a small way...working in a night club, located near the army camp, Fort Devens. He was earning a living; during the day he attended business school. The opportunity came for Mike to open his own restaurant with a brother-in-law. It just wasn't to be...Mike's next venture was the milk delivery route.

He did good...but the company went bankrupt. During his high school days Mike had learned the skill of cutting hair. This was to be his eventual trade. The Gentile family moved south to Windsor Locks and Mike set up cutting hair in West Hartford. Today, after 22 years of crewcuts and hair styling, his South Main Street place of work is a success and known as the "Capilo Style Shop." For those of you who aren't familiar with the term...capilo means "hair" in his native Italian. Actually Mike is half and half...Italian and Irish. Mike has seen the style of haircuts go from the post-war crewcut to real long hair, of the past five years, to a more "clean and kept look" of today. Now we all know barbers have Mondays off...not Mike Gentile. You'll find him cutting hair for the senior citizens at the St. Mary's Home in West Hartford. That's his way...the former mischievous fellow with the friendly smile and cigar.

An important part of the Gentile life are the children...and as mentioned Mike, Jr., is the oldest. He's 24 and currently in the U.S. Air Force at San Antonio, Texas. He'll be discharged in March of 1978. Young Mike has a daughter, Carrie Lynn, age three and one-half. Mike Jr., a 1972 grad of the local high school, was a member of the four young men who wanted to see what American was all about...by bike, no less. The long bike ride took place in 1971 with Kenny O'Connor, George Wills and Kenny Colli joining Mike in the adventure.

The eldest daughter is married...Michele is now a Murphy. Her husband is also a Mike, a native Murphy at that. The young couple live in Enfield. Michele attended UConn and graduated from the Manchester Community College with honors. She's an

occupational therapist assistant in Monson, Mass.

Kathy, 19, graduated from the high school this past June and hopes to be an airline hostess someday. Her father said she was the "sportman in the family." Cindy, 18, will be a senior this fall at the high school. She admits to being the "talented one in the family." She hopes to be in the physiology field as a life work. Right now she's at MacDonaldis...as her two sisters before her. Susan at 15, is the youngest Gentile...the "little one or baby" in the family. She's the collector in the clan...collects everything according to her dad.

The father of the family has been an active fraternal member of the KofC for 20 years in addition...Mike is on the roster of the local American Legion. He has reached the pinnacle of success with the Knights by being elevated to the position of Grand Knight of the Riverside Council. When asked...what do you wish to achieve in your reign..."I will attempt to put closer ties between the Church in town and the KofC. I hope the Knights will be able to be more charitable in the coming months to needy causes."

Mike Gentile has no political ambitions...he's a registered Republican and their standard bearer for first selectman in 1967. He feels the two-party system is working in Windsor Locks because it has "a good check and balance on all the commissions." As to local conditions...Mike said..."the downtown situation should be at least started towards a completed goal of some kind." He said he felt the "school system was one of the best and Bradley Field just can't grow anymore."

Mike suffered a heart attack on December 14, 1976. He remembers the date well. He has recuperated fully and is back to working full time as a barber. Any words of wisdom Mike on reasons for your rapid recovery..."a proper diet and a lot of exercise. I receive my exercise by walking...at least three miles a day, usually in the evening. I was not aware of any problem before my attack...no warning at all...now I have to combat the problem and I feel great and hopefully beating the problem."

### EPILOG

Michael F. Gentile has accepted his recent heart attack with a methodical awareness that it was a part of life. The following quote by Sidney J. Harris fits Mike well..."However diverse their talents, temperments and differences, all great achievers have one trait in common: They never bother to compare themselves with other men, but are content to run their own race on their own terms."

# "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

Raymond Ulric Rosa - a member of the Board of Finance has always been interested in balancing the books of his adopted town and the Church of St. Mary's.

Ray, former State of Connecticut Deputy Commissioner of Finance, possessor of a C.P.A., has the understanding and friendly manner and equally complimented by a "regular sort of a guy" disposition - that's hard to beat.

The fellow with the dutch name, cut short - admits to be a dreamer as a young boy, and those dreams led to a eventful and meaningful life as a sailor, father of six, former Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and the financial affairs of Windsor Locks.

The native of New Britain at first - had a few misgivings for living in this small town, with the one-sided Main Street, but today wouldn't leave it "for all the tea in China."

Ray and his wife Irene, of the Windsor Locks Asselin Family, met at a most unlikely location - the hospital. The chance meeting found Irene as nurse and Ray a patient with appendicitis problems. Everything came out first - in fact the next year (1949) the nurse and patient were married. Irene returned to the hospital on six occasions as an expecting mother with six deliveries of three girls and three boys.

The oldest of the Rosa children is Jim at 26. He graduated from the Northwest Community College and is now employed at the Hartford Insurance Group. David at 25 is married and he and his wife Cheryl have a daughter Stephanie, age five, and "the apple of her grandfather's eye." Cathy is 24 and begins a nursing training program next month.

Mike is 21, and lives at the Mansfield Training School. His dad said he is "a very special member of the family - he is autistic." Nancy, the youngest girl at 18, is a recent graduate of the local high school, as were Jim, David and Cathy. Nancy is currently working at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford and "may become a nurse like her

mother and sister Cathy. The youngest boy is Kenny at 13, a student at the middle school and Ray said he is "interested in sports, especially soccer and golf".

The father of this clan grew up in New Britain. The family, however, moved quite often with stops in Hartford, Meriden, and Newport, Rhode Island. The seaside resort, and also famous for the magnificent mansions, was the town for Ray's higher learning at the DeLaSalle Academy. He participated in football in school and during the summer kept the girls busy as a lifeguard. As a young lad, he delivered groceries to the beautiful homes, some were shown in the movie-"The Great Gatsby". Although, he admitted he was from the "other side of the tracks" - he not only got to see the kitchens of the great homes, but he also caddied for the gentlemen on the plush golf courses.

Ray entered the service in 1944 and V-J Day 1945. Ray sailed for Guam and Saipan on the carrier Boxer. He spent a year on the famous ship and was discharged in 1946. The year Ray and Irene were married, he graduated from Hillyer College, now the University of Hartford.

With the family growing - Ray's next step was a steady job. The State of Connecticut provided him with the position from 1952 until 1971. As a C.P.A., he was involved in state finances for seven years and then was transferred to the state auditing function. He was a Director of State Relations and as mentioned left the state employment as the Deputy Commissioner of Finance. One of his treasured mementoes on leaving the state was a picture of former Governor John Dempsey duly signed to Ray for his outstanding achievements with the state. Ray regarded Mr. Dempsey as a fine individual - and ranked him with another political giant - Harry, Truman as his government heroes. Ray is now associated with the Society for Savings as Vice President and Auditor. Because of his accounting background Ray has been "doing the books" for St. Mary's Church for years. He's also a Trustee of the church and ex-officio of their council.

Ray's civic duties have included membership with the Board of Finance for the past five years. Ray said the board is "the check and balance for the town operating units representing the citizens best interests."

The large Rosa family have traveled to the "Cape" for many summers. However, Irene and Ray have enjoyed a few winter vacations in sunny Bermuda and at the famous golf mecca Hilton Head in South Carolina. They are both members of the Suffield Country Club where Irene recently "broke a hundred."

Ray was active a few years back with the Jaycees as their president and State Treasurer. He is a former Grand Knight of the KofC - just to round out his fraternal activity. He admits being a "Red Sox, Ted Williams and Dom DiMaggio fan" but reluctantly said "the older you get the less you look for heroes."

On the serious side, Ray had a few remarks for his adopted town when he said, "once you know the people of Windsor Locks - you'll love 'em." He went on to say, "the downtown redevelopment was right for the town. The school system is one of the best in the state for the dollars spent. A great deal of credit belongs to the Board of Education for our fine school system. Bradley Field has reaped many benefits for the town. Our taxes are one of the lowest in the state - the people are well represented."

## Epilog

Raymond Rosa, a handsome fellow with the financial background, admits to dreaming in his youth. Ray and one of his buddies would sit on the top of a shed in the backyard and just look at the sky and dream of their future - didn't we all. Ray Rose is a realist. He would agree that changes in life, good or bad, are all necessary for growth and are ultimately for the best. Just to prove the point, "It's pleasant to daydream. We yearn for perfect subordinates, for the ideal company or organizations, for flawless action within ourselves. What a great world that would be! Yet, would it? A life without struggle, without imperfection, without something to strive for would pall on us faster than we can imagine. We'd be like the fellow from the Maine woods who made his first trip to Arizona. At first he was delighted with the sunny, mild weather, but after a few weeks of cloudless skies he looked out of the window one morning and muttered, "Oh rats, another beautiful day."



# "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

## CHARLES P. CIPARELLI "CHIP" FROM EASY STREET

Charles Peter Ciparelli . . . known to his many Windsor Locks friends as "Chip" . . . is a man of many words and his favorite saying is . . . "I call a spade a spade."

Chip's life . . . 80 years long . . . has taken the path of diversification. The snappy little man, who looks ten years younger than his four score, had played semi-pro baseball in his youth, whereas his adult life has been a steady involvement in civic and political matters in his adopted town.

Chip left his native Italian town of Padarna, in the province of Alexandria, at the age of six. He remembers the long boat ride, the short stay at Ellis Island in the New York harbor, where immigrants stopped off before entering the United States, and the long train ride to his new home in Windsor Locks. The Ciparelli family consisted of father, daughter and two sons. Chip's mother had passed away in her home country.

The new folks in town had a safe and comfortable place to stay their first night . . . the Raccone home. A short time after becoming accustomed to the new surroundings . . . the Ciparelli family moved to Whiton Street . . . known in those days as "easy street". Chip said the "easy street tag" came about because it was really a tough street to live on. During the influx of so-called foreigners into town anyone new . . . had it tough . . . just to walk down the street, according to Chip. But today, he said . . . with a smile . . . "it's all beef stew."

Young Chip learned the ways of America after entering St. Mary's School. He later attended the local grammar school, leaving at the age of 14 to seek employment. That was the time before "child labor laws". Chip's first job was at Pratt and Whitney. In 1916 he went to work for Colts in Hartford. The first world war was going strong, and in 1918 Chip Ciparelli entered the U.S. Army. After nine months in Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia as a medical corpman he was discharged.

Chip had learned the art of playing baseball and it paid off. Many of the industrial firms were looking for "good" players for steady employment as their reward. Fuller Brush was his choice and Chip spent forty years with the Fuller Company until his retirement in 1962. In the late twenties and early thirties Chip performed not only for Fuller but also with Colts and Pratt and Whitney. He finally hung up his glove about 1936. He said, looking back, he enjoyed baseball and felt under the right circumstances he could have made it to the big time. He has fond memories of those days, and recalls playing in exhibition games against the great and near great. The greatest one would have to be . . . Babe Ruth. Yes, the great Babe. Chip remembers it well. Two other luminaries of baseball he remembers were . . . Robert Maranville and Joe Bush.

The former ballplayer was in

his glory talking about the game. He's been a Detroit Tiger and Pittsburgh Pirate fan for years . . . going back to Ty Cobb and Honus Wagner. These summer evenings his dial, on the radio, is turned west to the Motor City and where the three rivers meet for all the action of his teams. Chip remembered the days when most of the major league teams would stop over in Windsor Locks, in those days . . . Boston did not allow baseball on Sundays.

Chip said the teams played in a park located in the south end of Windsor Locks.

But Chip was not all Fuller Brush and Baseball. Not by a long shot. He did find time to meet a native Windsor Locks girl . . . Evelyn Colli. Ebbie and Chip, after "keeping company for nine years" and according to Chip . . . "she set the date" in 1936. They have two daughters. Marilyn is married to Edward Broder and they live in Suffield. The Broders have a girl and boy. Their other daughter is Karlene with the well known name of Quagliaroli.

Even as a ballplayer . . . Chip found time for politics and membership in local organizations. In 1930 he ran for the Board of Selectmen on the Republican ticket and "won". He served twelve years. He has served on the Board of Education, Registrar of voters and for eight years was Chairman of the Police Commission. Chip recalls pinning the police Chief Badge on the recently retired Chief

Whitten. His membership is recorded on the rolls of the local fire department for 25 years and the GOP town committee. He admits he's not as active as he was years ago but keeps up with all the politics and sports in town and nationwide.

In reminiscing of years past . . . Chip said he and Ebbie were issued their marriage certificate made out by the new Town Clerk. In October of 1956, during the height of the presidential campaign, Chip worked as Chairman of the Hartford County Labor forces for Ike. He still has the telegram signed by the former president thanking him for his efforts.

Chip proudly shows his charter membership in the American Legion with 58 years in the organization. He's a past commander of the local post.

## EPILOG

Charles "Chip" Ciparelli is an old-timer, with memories of his younger life in Windsor Locks, the baseball he loves and the great players he knew, and his active role in town affairs. Today he loves fishing, keeps busy at home making articles from wood and listening to his Tigers and Pirates. He showed off a new windmill in the closing stages of completion . . . unlike the "Man of La Mancha" Chip doesn't chase windmills he just creates them. He found "The Quest" by living hard and happy and calling a "spade a spade."



# FRANK ALLEN - FROM PUGILISM TO SIGN PAINTING.

Frank Allen has hobnobbed with boxer Willie Pep and actor Ernest Borgnine. What Frank lacked in size he made up for by leading a full life in different roles after leaving his native New Brunswick Canadian home at a very young age. Frank had 25 boxing bouts, has been an actor, song and dance man, bowler and today, his artistic talents are utilized in daily employment with...Signs of Frank Allen.

Known to his many friends as Frankie...he migrated to the United States to settle in Fitchburg, Massachusetts with his family. Ironically, a friend and buddy to be...Mike Gentile, lived in nearby Leominster. Frankie's first schooling was in Fitchburg. After his family moved to Hartford, he attended the local schools and graduated from Buckley High School in 1937. One of his classmates was the famous lawyer and sportsman...Edward Bennett Williams.

Before World War Two, Frankie's first steady job was at Colt's, making machine guns. There were many times during the war when Frank used the weapon and thought....was this the one I made? Frank was to learn a few things before Uncle Sam got him for foreign duty.

During his employment at Colt, Frank, on his off hours, tried his hands in the art of boxing. He worked out at a Hartford gym with the great champion...Willie Pep. Frank said he had 25 semi-pro fights...and added, "I was undefeated." In addition to the ring duty, Frank attended art and drama school. He had a knack of meeting a few big ones in his early days. One of his classmates was the famous actor Ernest Borgnine. He added the names of Mike Kellin and Ted Knight, both from this area, were members of the school. Both are well-known television stars.

## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond

In February of 1943, Frank gave up the ring, acting and the arts for a different uniform...that of a soldier. Frankie had a long and impressive record in his thirty-two months, traveling from Africa to Italy and France. He saw service with several anti-aircraft units, the infantry and finally ending up with the fly-boys of the aircorps. He said, "Luckily, I was transferred from foot soldier to the aircorp just before the famous 'Battle of the Bulge'."

Due to injuries, Frank was winged home to the Plattsburgh, New York hospital for rest and relaxation and eventual discharge. This was in October of 1945...and Frank was soon to wear civilian clothes again.

As all returning servicemen...Frank was a "hit" in his uniform...for a while. At a 1946 barn dance, in full uniform, Frank Allen met Gracie Okenquist of nearby Simsbury. It was a combination of Frank's charm and what he was wearing...because five months later...we had another Gracie Allen.

Frank and Gracie have one daughter...Beverly Jean Allen. On October first...she will leave their Warehouse Point home to marry Arthur B. Sias, Jr. of the same town across the river. I can't forget to mention...the Allen's two poo-

dle dogs...with the unusual names of Mr. Fitzsimmons and Chardalle.

Frankie is in today's business world with his own sign painting company. He actually learned the trade at the Hartford school where all the celebrities attended. Not that he didn't pick up a few pointers from them. Locally Frank has performed for the St. Catherine's Players of East Hartford. Some of his Broadway shows include... "Oklahoma," "High Button Shoes," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "Brigadoon." He has sung and danced at several variety shows locally, and recently was master of ceremonies for the Enfield Senior Citizens on two of the Hartford television stations.

Down thru the years when Frankie wasn't singing and acting, he found time to bowl duck pins...with Hamilton-Standard as a member of the 1954 National Champs. In Warehouse Point, Frank has been a volunteer fireman for a ten year period. On any Sunday he can be found as a commentator at St. Phillips Church in East Windsor.

In 1965, Frank joined the

Knights of Columbus, in Windsor Locks, and has "gone thru the chairs"...next year he will assume the reign of Grand Knights following his friend Mike Gentile. Speaking of old friends...how's this for a foursome on the golf links... John Macaluso, Vin Musco, Frankie and Mike. (I wonder who ever wins?)

Frank feels the Knights are "the best organization I have ever been associated with and am very impressed with their work." He was equally impressed during his life with John Kennedy, Ted Williams and the Boston Red Sox.

Frankie Allen is a package of energy, wit, enormous ability in many fields, and all business when the time calls for seriousness. Just to paraphrase the song going around...Frankie Allen, hopefully..."paints the signs for the whole world to see."

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1977.

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

### JOHN BASILE—THE FIRST PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

John Basile, truly a native son, was recently appointed the town's first Public Works Director in the newly created department.

It seems only fitting on the Thursday before Labor Day . . . we talk about an individual involved in the labor of park maintenance, highway work and sewer maintenance. However, before the job came the man . . . and John had the distinction of being the first baby brought into this world by the late and highly respected Dr. Ettore Carniglia. The year was 1932 and John has lived in his hometown with only a few years out for work in Texas and schooling in Indiana.

John's early school years were at St. Mary's and the Cathedral High School of Springfield with graduation in 1950. He traveled to the hoosier state for his higher training earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautic Engineering from the Indiana Institute of Technology in 1953.

John is a quiet man . . . in talk and manner. However, some of his actions are far from the inexcitable. He said, "in my younger days I enjoyed flying an airplane, even had my own pilot's license. But haven't been up lately . . .

really been to busy." The busy . . . being his latest position with the town. When he's not on the job he's still working around his fine home on Elm Street. Actually his work can be called a hobby. "There's always a lot to do around the house and I really enjoy woodworking and my latest is upholstery. My wife Shirley has her own business and she's a fine teacher."

Speaking of Shirley . . . John met his pretty wife, the former Miss Richardson of nearby Chicopee, when they were devotees of ballroom dancing around the area. They were married in 1975. They have four children, from previous marriages. Carol and David both work with their mother in her own upholstery business in Holyoke. John's son Jack is a senior at the Central Connecticut College. Young Jack left his mark on the baseball paths of Windsor Locks as a little leaguer, high school and American Legion player as a pitcher and hitting star. His sister Ann Marie is a June grad of the local high school and will be attending Baypath College this month.

Before John was picked for the new director's post he had been employed by the Kaman Company in Bloomfield for the past twenty years in their Engineering department. After graduation from the Indiana school, John traveled further south to Texas to work with the Chance-Vough Aircraft Company. For a little over three years he was involved in research and development. He then left the lone star state and returned to his hometown. Once a New Englander, always a New Englander.

The new Public Works Department is a new concept for Windsor Locks. John is facing it with his own brand of calmness and sureness. He said eleven other towns in Connecticut have decided to create this type of department, hopefully for more effective management of facilities. John will be in charge of eleven full time workers in highway, park maintenance and coordination of the job programs, with responsibility for all equipment and setting up budgets for the department. John is an independent person . . . not only in his manner, but also in his political beliefs. He said, "I was picked for this new job because of my qualifications, it had nothing to do with politics, or being a hometown boy".

## "Cabbages and Kings"

with Jack Redmond

### MARIE SMITH DENGENIS TOWN CLERK CANDIDATE

Frank and Marie Dengenis live in a comfortable white home tucked in at the end of Briarcliff Drive. It's within a stone's throw and shadow of the high school. However, neither of them live "tucked in" lives...he is a busy bank executive and she is part of the town government. These days Marie, a Democrat, desires to enlarge her scope of activity even further by running for the town clerk position recently vacated by the retiring Erma Olivi Pane.

Marie Smith Dengenis is a New Havener, like a few of us, in fact, even graduated from my high school...Commercial of New Haven, now the Wilbur Cross school. She received her first taste of business procedures at the commercial school and later attended New Haven University taking applied courses in the sciences and advanced mathematics.

Her first position in the business world was with the General Motors Acceptance Corporation in New Haven. After a few years she was transferred to their Hartford office and met Frank Dengenis. The couple married in 1958 and moved to Windsor Locks. Due to company policy she was forced to leave the firm after the wedding bells. This suited Marie...she and Frank started their family of three children. Valarie at 18 was a June grad of the high school and will attend the University of Connecticut College of Pharmacy. Judy, 17, is a senior at the Raider School and Tom at 16 is a junior. All the Dengenis children are swimmers. Valarie, while at the high school, was a member of the girl's track team and placed third in the CVC shot put championships.

Frank is currently employed at the Connecticut Bank & Trust as an Assistant Treasurer in Dealer Relations and Consumer Credit Department. He's a former member of the United States Air Corps with four years service during the Korean War with assignments in England and North Africa.

Marie has always been involved in civic organizations with membership in the Windsor Locks Women's Club, having served as Treasurer for two years. When her daughters were growing up Marie became active in girl scouting for ten years as a leader, Association Chairperson, Fund Drive Chairperson and member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Valley Girl Scouts. She was thrilled and proud as recipient of the highest award in scouting...the "Thanks Badge."

Marie's entry into the political arena is not new for her. Last year she was campaign manager for the successful Joyce Wojtas in her victory as representative from town. Marie has been a Democrat Party member all her adult life. She feels the Town Clerk's office under the reign of Mrs. Pane has always been run in an efficient manner and she "wants to keep it that way." Marie was happy to report, "my husband is behind my efforts all the way." Bob Oliva will be her manager in the November election against Sandra Rabbett Hebert.

Frank's wife has had an

involvement in Windsor Locks since 1971. She started as a bookkeeper and secretary for the park department. At times she has worked in the town clerk office, was secretary to the selectmen, in the building official's office, secretarial duties for the Fire Marshall and in the assessor's office. In other words...Marie Dengenis knows her way around town hall.

Today she is employed at the town office setting up a new central bookkeeping system which includes the payroll and ledger control of all expenditures. She has served as the administrative aide for the Community Development Act Committee handling the secretarial and bookkeeping duties.

As for the town of Windsor Locks...Marie said, "I couldn't live anywhere but here. It's a unique town. People are all neighbors...there is no duplication anywhere."

### EPILOG

Marie Smith Dengenis is now a true locktowner by

choice. November will be her first try in the political game. Win or lose Marie will probably not change her active life with the understanding husband and family. Marie's creed would probably be...interested in others; their pursuits, their work, their homes and families. Make merry with those who rejoice; with those who weep, mourn. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard them as persons of importance."

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1977.

## *Fan Views Red Sox*

By Jack Redmond

All loyal Boston Red Sox fans listen to their favorite team's accomplishments, or lack of hits and runs, on the local radio station and television, whenever the Springfield station feels fit to picture the idols of thousands here in northern Connecticut and Massachusetts.

So forget the radio and television...let's drive to Yawkey Way and friendly Fenway Park for a real live game. OK...and that's just what my son-in-law Bob Creech, Jr. who knows what it feels to be a champ as a little leaguer, and his buddy Bill O'Brien, a good ballplayer in his own right, decided to take the action on September first. We had vacation time and what better place to be...watching the loveable Red Sox play the Cleveland Indians.

Our box seats were in section eight...if you don't know Fenway...section eight is located on the first base side right by the foul line. It's a great place to catch a foul ball. And it didn't take Bob long...only a few minutes in our seats and batting practice in full swing...Bob caught one of Denny Doyle's sharp line drives.

The three of us were in the thick of things at Fenway. At the Boston park the spectators are near the action, and on that hot Thursday afternoon, only thirty-one thousand faithful had the day off and were cheering the boys to victory over the Indians from Ohio. Bill Lee pitched a good seven innings before Don Zimmer felt it was time for his bullpen to take over. Some of the fans didn't feel Don was right...but that's what he gets paid for, and most of the times...he is right.

The Boston Red Sox are for real. Going to Fenway beats the radio and television any day. Of course, when the Sox are winning it's almost impossible to get a good seat. The day we were up there...the bleachers were full...and that's the sign of a full house, or at least near capacity. Being there is everything.

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1977.

## **"Cabbages and Kings"**

With *Jack Redmond*

### **A Correction**

In the issue of Sept. 15, the column of "Cabbages and Kings" had an error. The column, about Sandra Rabbett Hebert, stated that her mother resided in Suffield.

It should have read that "Sandra and family reside with her mother, Sally Rabbett on James St., in Windsor Locks." Mrs. Rabbett does not live in Suffield as reported.

### **SANDRA RABBETT HEBERT TOWN CLERK CANDIDATE**

Sandra and Charles Hebert live in the older and more established part of Windsor Locks on James Street, off Center. She of the Rabbett clan, with the equally established name, is running for the town clerk this fall against another newcomer to politics....Marie Dengenis. Both ladies are seeking the highly regarded position now held by Mrs. Erma Olivi Pane.

Sandra Rabbett Hebert is truly a native daughter of Windsor Locks with her schooling in the local public schools. She graduated from the high school in 1960.

Her family tree is sprinkled with active and respected men of Windsor Locks since the turn of the century. Her grandfather, now living in Suffield, William Rabbett, is the former postmaster of his hometown. Sandra's great uncle was James Rabbett...the patriarch of the town clerks of Connecticut. Her father was the late Mandell Rabbett. Mr. Rabbett was a certified watch maker, with service of 40 years or so, with Dexter and Company. Sandra's mother Sally lives in nearby Suffield.

But what's happening today...that makes the world go around. The family tree, notwithstanding, Sandra is out to win the clerk position in this Democratic town. She felt, "this is an honor to run for the town clerk job and I feel I can win. I'm really excited about the campaign. As a registrar of voters I have worked with Mrs. Pane and quite sure of the duties of the office."

Sandra has always been on the Republican side of the fence. In fact, before she could vote, Sandra was the treasurer of the local Young GOP. She's been a member of the Republican Town Committee for seven years and the treasurer of the Windsor Locks Women's Club. She added a twist to the fall election..."I am sure of one Democratic vote...my husband Charles," with smiles all round. The native of Windsor Locks said is was beneficial for all women to become involved in politics, and she is making the move this year instead of just thinking about it.

The couple were married on Columbus Day, 1963. Charles

admits coming from the potato country near Madawaska, Maine. He now earns his living with the C.G. Bostwick Company, specializing in sheet metal work. Charles and Sandra have two children. Mark attends the junior high and is active in the boy scout movement. His sister, Lisa, is a student at the South School and naturally...a girl scout. The young girl has been a member of the St. Mary's choir. Her mother is also a singer with the Congregational Church and has taught school at the local church. "She has always been...what one would call..."an active mother."

Among her duties have been in the P.T.O. and chaired "The helping hands" at the South School. This past year Sandra was a teacher-aid at the Union School.

After graduation from high school, Sandra was employed by the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company for four years until her family arrived on the scene. Her recent work has been mostly with the Republican party as the registrar of voters for the past four years.

When it comes to sports... Sandra said, "the entire family loves all the sports of today and I even bowl with the "Homemakers at Bradley." As for vacations, the Heberts usually motor up to Charles' home state of Maine with side trips to Vermont and New Hampshire.

### **EPILOG**

Sandra Rabbett Hebert is a worker, homemaker, active in her own choice of politics and admits having the desire to win this fall. Let me remind her "politics is like roller skating. You go partly where you want to go, and partly where the damned things take you." In Sandra's new political fling...her skates, she hopes, will only take her to the town hall.

May the best gal win...at least we can still say in Windsor Locks...all citizens can expect cooperation at their town offices, as in past administrations, and also see the prettiest town clerk around.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

### GARY LAURITO-VERSATILE MAN ABOUT TOWN

Gary A. Laurito is comfortable when hunting, fishing, playing golf, coaching youngsters, wearing a business suit in banking circles, or working hand and hand with his pretty wife Janice, on their new breezeway and garage. The young couple live in Hughes Lane. Janice admits her husband's latest home improvement projects keeps him at home on his off hours, after several years of active participation in civic and sporting activities in town.

Not that Gary is slowing down or giving up his involvement. His schedule will soon pick up with Jaycee work, hockey and the fall election on the local scene.

Gary is a past president of the local Jaycees and said, "it's the most active organization I have ever been associated with," and he speaks with authority. The hockey involvement came about when his son Corey, age 12, started to wear the skates and tried to emulate Gordie Howe at the fastest sport around these parts and Canada. Young Corey, a Middle School student, has played little league baseball and sure enough, his dad is coaching and managing the kids for the past four years. Next summer when Corey joins the senior league circuit...Coach Laurito will be on hand.

Corey's sister Gina, age 10, is into "crafts, and has a great imagination when it comes to creating" according to her parents. Gary and Janice of the Willey family, are both Hartford natives. The young couple were married in 1964. The Lauritos have lived in Windsor Locks since 1969 where Gary, in addition to the Jaycee and hockey, has been a Junior Achievement advisor for five years, auxiliary policeman for four years, Treasurer of the local Heart Fund and keeper of the funds for the Cancer Society in town.

When it came time for Corey to join the Boy Scout movement his dad could speak in a positive manner. Gary has been in scouting for fourteen years as a scout, cub leader and assistant scoutmaster. He recalled as a young scout traveling to Pennsylvania and New Mexico on scouting jamborees. In 1957 he journeyed to France, Germany and Switzerland for the world scouting gathering.

Gary grew up in the capital city attending St. Mikes and Weaver High School. He played baseball and football, and in later years used his talents on the softball diamonds...fast and slowpitch.

Before graduation from Weaver he worked at the Hartford National Bank learning the financial side of business. When it was time to work full time the bank sent him to the University of Wisconsin, and later to the School of Banking at Williams College in Massachusetts, to receive advanced training. He was employed by the Hartford bank for eight years until he joined the Bank Computer Center. After a two year stay he switched to the local Northern Connecticut National Bank in 1968. Today, he is an officer and controller of the local bank.

Last March Gary was selected for the Republican Town Committee. He said he had not personal political ambitions for himself other than "making things work in Windsor Locks." Because of his involvement in the local sport scene and love for the kids he felt that someday he would enjoy being in the park and recreation activities in town serving in an advisory capacity. Gary "loves the outdoors" and has been fishing and hunting since his own father had him hunting rabbits when he was about Corey's age.

The night of the Laurito interview found the banker and sportsman doing something a little different...working on his new breezeway and garage. In fact, the interview was held in the new addition. After it was over...back to work for Gary and Janice. Janice was given a break from her mailing job to make sure Gary gave all the facts. She took woodworking at the high school adult class and served as Gary's supervisor. They both admitted a few friends and neighbors helped them in the large endeavor.

Gary, as many in town

have stated, "we have no intention of leaving our adopted town of Windsor Locks." In discussing specific items of importance...Gary said, "the Windsor Locks school system is just great, the taxes...who can argue with? I believe Bradley Field should be opened up and become a freeport. The downtown needed development...it's the center of town. I feel the town could use a movie theater, just to round out the activities." He added, "we are not Yankee or Red Sox fans, we all love the Cincinnati Reds, and in football, not the Giants...how about the Dallas Cowboys?"

Gary A. Laurito is an all-around fellow...coach, advisor, banker and handyman around the house. As Thoreau said, "it is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is; what are we busy about."

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## "Cabbages and Kings"

With *Jack Redmond*

### "COUNTRY BOY RUSS"

Russell Carl Gabrielson is a salesman, policeman, Jaycee enthusiast, softball player and umpire...and probably would never be taken as a lad who grew up being called "country boy Russ."

Russ was born in nearby Worcester. However, his family moved to a small Vermont town by the name of Cuttingsville, when he was two years old. The next 16 years were spent on the family chicken farm. He recalls, with much delight, the six-grade one-room school house he attended and the farm life where he was taught good old-fashioned "yankee ingenuity." The years in Vermont were to play an important part in his down-to-earth outspoken and good sense approach to his present salesmanship and active participation in local Jaycee and police department matters. He's been a supernumerary policeman since 1964.

As other young American men have done in the past...Russ left the farm for the service. He found out how the other part of the world functioned. In 1958, after graduation from high school, yes, Cuttingsville has a high school, he joined the U. S. Navy. Russ sailed for four years traveling to many ports of the globe, in what he called a "people to people ship." The ship was the USS DAmato, DDE 781, out of Norfolk, Virginia, and the complement's main assignment was to stop at selected ports of call, and set up men on leave to live in foreign homes, in "sort of get acquainted with American servicemen." He experienced this type of goodwill in many parts of the European mainland, England, Scotland, in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas and South America. Not bad, for a country boy from Vermont.



RUSSELL GABRIELSON

And it never fails...once they have seen Paris, you can't keep them on the farm. Russ left the farm and Vermont for Connecticut and employment with the aircraft at Pratt and Whitney. He stayed only three months, leaving East Hartford for Colts at Hartford. He worked with the gun makers for five years and the grass was greener at Advo Systems for the next five summers. Today Russ is the Regional Sales Manager, in charge of Sales Development, for the Berkey Film Processing Company of Fitchburg, Mass. He's been with the film company since 1973 and his area covers Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Western Massachusetts. His salesmanship is in full gear these days with experience and a wide diversification of employment as background with the added desire in meeting people. He said, "everyone he meets is a potential customer, if the salesman knows his product." He further stated, "a person who gives 100 per cent of his ability will be a successful salesman."

During his 14 years in Windsor Locks Russ Gabrielson has been connected with

the police department; and the Jaycee organization for 11 years. In 1967 he was chosen as the Outstanding Past President of the state, in 1971 he was tapped as the Outstanding State Director. He received the highest award of the Jaycee...the coveted "Senator of the Year." Russ stated, "the Jaycee's, like no other organization in town, teaches young men how to be leaders." In 1969 Russ received the "Distinguish Service Award" of Windsor Locks.

In 1975 the country boy from Vermont married a Springfield girl, from the south end... pretty Joann Albano. The Gabrielsons expect an arrival from the stork...just about the time Santa Claus will be coming down the chimney at their Robin Road home. When Russ was active with the Jaycees...Joann joined her husband by working with the Jaycee wives.

Russ admits...he "enjoys people," and being a workaholic...but on his few off hours he will be fishing and hunting in Vermont. In this Red Sox and Yankee country Russ is a man who cheers for the Atlanta Braves...an allegiance he gained from the old Boston Braves. His sports hero is former Brave, the homerun king...Hank Aaron. Russ has been a ball player himself...as a fast-pitch softball performer for Colts in Hartford. For many years Russ has been an umpire connected with the Amateur Softball Association.

His early schooling in Vermont has been amended by the service and attending the University of Hartford in Business Administration classes. He has learned a great lesson working in different positions and selling...the following I believe Russell Carl Gabrielson would agree is his way of life.

"Above all else, good time management involves an awareness that today is all we ever have to work with. The past is irretrievably gone, the future is only a concept. British art critic John Ruskin had the word "Today" carved into a small marble block that he kept on his desk as a constant reminder to "Do it now." But another quotation, equally good, is by an anonymous philosopher: "yesterday is a cancelled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is ready cash. Use it!"

# "Cabbages and Kings"

With **Jack Redmond**

## DENNIS GRAGNOLATI G.O.P. FIRST SELECTMAN CANDIDATE

Dennis Gragnolati will be the Republican candidate for first selectman in the November town election opposing Democrat Edward Savino.

When the young (27) Windsor Locks native, and newcomer to politics, was asked... "Do you feel like David against Goliath or like Rocky in the movies?" Dennis said with some assurance... "David." Bible readers and movie fans will recall without hesitation... David was victorious and Rocky, although the hero of the show, lost the fight.

Other questions put to the candidate... Dennis, do you honestly feel you have a chance to win the election over such a formidable opponent?

"Yes, I do. I feel there is trouble in the local Democratic party and I like the talk among the people I have come in contact with concerning the election."

Why and when did you decide to run for the top job in Windsor Locks? "I actually thought about it seriously when I was in high school as a student. This past summer when I found out that Mr. Savino may run unopposed, I decided to run for the office. As for the 'why'... I don't like the way things are being run in town. I have been a republican all my life, in fact, when I was only six years old... I liked Ike. It's been that way ever since."

Dennis is a graduate of the Windsor Locks High School, class of 1968. He received his B.S. degree in secondary education from the University of Maine, class of 1973. In high school he was a member of the track and cross country team and while at Maine he captained the track team for two years. He received his baptism in the political arena as president of the Student Senate. For two seasons he was the editor of the school newspaper.

After college he returned to his home town and became a math teacher at his own high school. He said, being on the other side of the desk presented a different picture. During his five years at the Raider school he has coached the Girls J.V. basketball team and has been active as a track and cross country official.



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During the summer months Dennis has played softball with the local men's league. The winter evenings he has spent as an assistant scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts, Troop 263. Dennis is a former Eagle Scout himself. He keeps in shape playing ball and a great deal of running. In the practical side of life... his hobby of gardening has produced tomatoes and a few hundred pound pumpkins.

Any vacation time away from sports and the garden he spends up in Maine with some old college friends.

Dennis, with the well known name of Gragnolati, lives with his family on Old County Road. His dad, Francis Gragnolati is a native son.

Mrs. Gragnolati is the former Mary Foley of Hartford.

The young politician has been a member of the Republican Town Committee for two years. The candidate had a few opinions on town topics and it went like this... should the library be relocated? He said, "the town should listen to the library association and let them make the important decision on any move... to the Union School or elsewhere."

How would you keep the taxes at the present level if elected? "I would look at all phases of the town structures in a realistic manner and see what was needed. In addition I would seek federal grants, if available, but only with no strings attached, when it comes to the citizens being tied down because of them."

Any comment on the present administration? "The town government has got to start listening to the people who elected them. I plan to listen." He added, "the Board of Education has done a commendable job in dealing with the changing situations and they do back the teachers."

### EPILOG

Dennis Gragnolati should be given credit for running in the election against the party in such a strong political position. He is of the new generation. He is confident and sincere. The night we met he had just finished some work in the family garden... and was wearing a T-shirt. The back side read... Weicker in 1976. The front... "nobody's but yours." Dennis hopes 1977 is for Gragnolati... and he'd be the first to say... "I'm nobody but yours... Windsor Locks."



## "Cabbages and Kings"

With **Jack Redmond**

### MALCOLM K. HAMILTON- MUSIC, EDUCATION AND POLITICS

Malcolm K. Hamilton's hobby is music, he enjoys politics and is realistic in our changing society, as a member of the Board of Education, when it comes to educating the students of Windsor Locks.

He speaks of first hand information...when you discuss students. Malcolm and his wife Jeanette, married twenty-three years, have five sons who have all received their first school lessons in the Hamilton adopted town.

Malcolm was born in Medford, Massachusetts. His family moved to nearby Leominster when he was only four. At the age of twelve, Malcolm found himself moving to Houlton, Maine. His elegant English is sprinkled with Bostonian and down east sounds. He adjusted to the moves and excelled in cross country and baseball at the Houlton High School. He also found time for girls...or at least one girl. He met Miss Jeanette Conilogue, a local resident. However, the wedding bells did not ring until Malcolm completed his education. He attended the Ricker College...right in Houlton. He graduated from the Liberal Arts school in a class of only eight...with a B.A. degree in education. The high school sweethearts were married in 1954. His first job was teaching at the Aroostook Central Institute. The young couple, after two years, decided to move south. He

gave up his teaching career and accepted employment at Hamilton-Standard...in Windsor Locks. He said ..."I actually was seeking a teaching position...but the opportunity at Hamilton was there and I took it." He's been with the local firm for the past twenty-one years. His title is...Senior Gear Analyst.

The five Hamilton boys have all been students of the local schools. The oldest is David at 22. He's a grad of UConn with honors. The former little leaguer is now doing graduate work at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Glen is 20 and a Junior at UConn. Paul, 18, is a senior at the local high school. He's the winter sport follower in the family. Gary, 16, is a junior at the Raider school. According to his dad, Gary is the athlete in the soccer and baseball department. The youngest Hamilton is Todd, age 9, a student at the South School. He is following Gary on the field of soccer.

Two years ago, before the family went their different ways...with college, etc... the entire Hamilton family traveled to the far west. They explored the states of California, New Mexico, and up the coast to Oregon by car.

Malcolm's hobby and "real love" is music...with classical records filling the air at their South Elm Street home. He said a large part of his college tuition was earned by singing at weddings and other events. He's a member of the St. Robert's choir in Windsor



Locks. He admits to be a baritone...but is utilized as a tenor. (Probably to help Father Foley on the right notes.) Before singing in the bathtub each evening...Malcolm and Jeanette top off their day with a walk, just for the exercise.

Malcolm Hamilton loves music and has an equal fondness for politics and serving on the Board of Education. he has been a member of the local Republican town committee for 17 years. As to the local statistics giving the Democratic party the heavy advantage of voting membership he said..."it's an uphill battle, but the two-party is a definite must for our town." He was the chairman of the GOP committee for four years and remarked, "it was a lot of hard work, but I enjoyed it immensely." When questioned as to the continued victories in the past of the opposition party... "we do have a minority representation on all the boards and that's a plus." On the state political scene, Malcolm was involved as the local campaign coordinator for the now Judge Tom Meskill, when he was running for congress and the governor's chair. Last year, he performed the same task for

Senator Lowell P. Weiker's successful bid for Washington.

His service on the education board for the past three and one-half years has been fulfilling. His description of the board's function was..."It is the responsibility to provide proper education for all the children, in all grades, with a variety of progressive facilities including both mental and physical capabilities." He added, "the policy making board must also have an understanding.

### EPILOG

Malcolm K. Hamilton is a wealthy man. He has a fine family, a position of responsibility at Hamilton-Standard, he loves music, is active in the civic and political activities in town and therefore fits the real meaning of wealth. The dictionary calls wealth..."having any stated or implied thing in abundance." To add his creed and favorite saying ..."secret of success...constancy to purpose."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

with *Jack Redmond*

### COACH PAT SCELZA OF THE FOOTBALL RAIDERS

Football in Windsor Locks is Coach Pat Scelza...and Coach Pat Scelza is all football. He thinks, eats and sleeps the sport Knute Rockne and Walter Camp made famous.

The Hartford native, with the full name of Patrick, compliment of his English mother, has been directing football at the Windsor Locks High School since 1971. He is proud of the team's winning percentage for the past three years over the area's football schools in Enfield, Windsor, Simsbury and South Windsor.

Coach Pat, himself a winner of many laurels during his Hartford Public football days, said he tries to be an educator first and football coach second. During his high school career the young coach won All-Conference and All-City as a guard and line-backer. His senior year he co-captained the capital team alone with Bill Lesinski, the present Windsor High football coach. In discussing his philosophy he emphasized..."winning is great, however, building character in the boys is a much greater reward for the coaches and the players themselves. In America winning is our way of life. We all want to win. No one wants to win more than I do. But first, I teach teamwork and unity. It's a great lesson for the boys in later life."

As for the Raiders..."we play the toughest schedule in the state. Every year we seem to have smaller players. 'To give you an idea...we'll go play a team in Middletown... and even with the big Michalewicz boys, the opponents will have six the size of Steve and Paul. Our kids have always had a lot of heart and spirit, to make up for the difference. We've developed a successful program here at Windsor Locks...thanks to coaches like Doug Malone, Jim Muska, Jim O'Brien and Mike McDenmit."

Who were some of your top players? "That's always difficult, but to name a few...Dan Kycia, Paul King, probably the best all-around athletic from town, Jimmy Zein, Frank Netcoh, Scott Ramsey and big Brian Michalewicz, brother of Steve and Paul.

Do you have any problem recruiting football players because of soccer? "There was a problem from the beginning. You must realize in Windsor Locks boys start playing soccer at eight years old. Now the town has a midget football program and that helps. We usually hope for 55 boys coming out for the first practice...and this year we ended up with only 33."

Why then your tough schedule? "We play in the Central Valley Conference. We play seven teams in the CVC and usually four outsiders. We can't always schedule games outside of the CVC because we do play bigger and better teams and show up good against them. And some of the smaller teams won't play us."

Where did you go to school? "Springfield College, grad of 1964." Other vital statistics on the coach...married to Patricia Helfant, lives in East Hartford. Has three daugh-

ters...Christina, 14, attends Penney High School and is involved in football as a cheerleader. Patricia, 13, is a student at St. Christopher's in East Hartford. The youngest is Ann Marie, better known as "Billy," age 9, and a student at Barnes Grammar School.

After graduation from Springfield College, and before coaching at Windsor Locks, Coach Pat was associated with his alma mater, Hartford Public, as football, baseball and wrestling coach for six years.

I know you're also a teacher...but what happens after football? "I usually work with 30 of the students on weight lifting after school." What about the summer months? "Do some softball officiating, park counseling and construction work."

Who's your favorite football team? "That's easy. The Raiders." You mean the Oakland Raiders? "No, the Windsor Locks Raiders." Who could argue with that? What about other sports...who do you follow? "I love the underdogs...always want the favorites to get beat." You ask a question and Coach Pat Scelza will give you an honest answer.

"I musn't forget an important part of the Windsor Locks

Raiders...our film man... Eddie Goldfarb. Eddie's films of the games are reviewed after each win or loss and the players are rated. Ed's fine work in this department gives us an added coaching viewpoint and we can learn from our mistakes."

### EPILOG

Coach Patrick Scelza, former player, is now doing what he loves...coaching football. It only takes a person a few minutes to feel the dedication of this man towards the boys and football. A recent article by Dick Young of the New York News on baseball certainly fits what Coach Pat thinks every time he calls practice or hears the roar of the crowd... "the length of a man's hair has nothing to do with the size of his batting average, they will tell you, as though they had discovered some profound truism. A smooth shave does not make for a smooth fielder. True, true, true. Wise, wise, wise. I have never heard of an outfielder dropping a fly ball because his beard got caught in his glove, nor do I have to be reminded of that. The establishment of discipline on a team goes deeper than the simplistic arguments of libertarians. Discipline builds character, and character leads to superior achievement."

## An Interview With the Coach

Windsor Locks High School Football Coach Pat Scelza is interviewed by Jack Redmond in today's "Cabbages and Kings" column on page 5.

Describing his own philosophy, Coach Scelza says that "winning is great, however, building character in the boys is a much greater reward for the coaches and the players themselves...first, I teach teamwork and unity."

THE MUNROS-A GUNG HO FAMILY

Donald D. Munro III was a military man.

Elizabeth Murray Munro was a military woman. Their three children have followed with service time in the military.

Donald, a former major with 24 years of service with the National Guard, reserves and active duty for two years, met his wife when both were stationed in Germany. Don is from Kansas City, Missouri, and Elizabeth from nearby Hartford, Connecticut. Today the Munro family lives on the same street (Woodland) as Governor Ella Grasso, with two of their children, Andrew and Catherine, or better known as "Kat." The oldest son, Donald IV, is an Army officer with the 3rd Infantry Division in Kitzengin, Germany.

The Munroe family are multitalented individuals. Despite the years of military experience, the Munros are a happy and friendly group who fulfilled their duty when it came time to serve their country. They are all proud of the years of service in the true American spirit. Don and Elizabeth had a tradition to uphold...and they did. Both of their families...the Murray and Munro offsprings have served as fighting men and women in every conflict going back to the French and Indian Wars (except in the Spanish-American War), right up to Vietnam.

Donald, the third, grew up in the "show me" state of Missouri. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1950, with a degree in agriculture. Don joined the Army the same year and was shipped overseas to Germany. Fate being the inevitably predetermined factor... Elizabeth Murray's first assignment for the Women's Army Air Corps was also Germany. Their paths crossed in the service, but it wasn't until they returned to the states for the marriage vows in 1953.

The oldest son, Donald IV, attended Loomis School in Windsor. He earned the high

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award of Eagle Scout in local troops 155 and 204. He received his B.A. in German literature at the Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. (Fulton is the town where Winston Churchill made his famous "Iron Curtain" speech.) Today young Donald is serving in the infantry in Germany and probably crossing the same territory his mother and father did 25 years ago.

"Kat," not to be outdone by her older brother, traveled to Germany as a member of the U.S. Army Map Making team in Heidelberg. She served 27 months with the Army. In addition to map making, Kat was a part of the intelligence section for the military. While stationed on the continent she found time to be a camp counselor for dependent children of the military. The 1973 grad of WHS is now employed by the Northern Connecticut National Bank.

Andrew, like his brother before him, graduated from the Loomis School. He plans to attend college next fall and major in Electrical Engineering. Andrew did join the military, but with a "break with tradition," having a short career in the Navy. His off-hours are spent as a "ham operator." Both Andrew and young Don were members of the Loomis rifle team. The family were, at one time, all members of the Girl Scouts... yes, even the males. Actually, the men served as camp counselors.

Before Don, Kat and Andrew came on the scene, the major and his lady spent a few years in the farm country of America. After their wedding in Hartford, they moved to Missouri. Their stay lasted five years on the farm. Don, the agriculture grad, could not beat the severe drought and the young couple decided to return to Connecticut. They settled in Enfield for a few years, and then in December

of 1964 moved to Windsor Locks. Don has been associated with the United Bank and Trust in Hartford for the past 20 years. He is the Assistant Treasurer of the Installment Loan Department at the Hartford financial institution.

Don is a man of many talents. His hobbies consist of fishing, hunting, woodworking, gardening and camping. The Munro family have experienced the love of camping, the past seven years, in far off Nova Scotia, and nearby New York state, Cape Cod and Maryland.

The Munro family, during the interview, agreed on several issues concerning Windsor Locks... "the taxes are just fine, one of the lowest in the state. Good to have city water and sewers. Bradley Field is a definite convenience. It was here when we arrived... have nothing against it. In fact, they should enlarge the runways if necessary. The school system is fine...now the downtown. We all hated to see the entire Main Street knocked down. They could have saved portions of it. We now have a no-sided Main Street." They added, "we love the town." Even their cat of 17 years...Tom, would agree on enjoying Windsor Locks. Elizabeth called the cat "their geriatric cat."

### EPILOG

Donald III, Elizabeth, Kat, Donald IV and Andrew are a close-knit family, with an old cat reminding them, despite old age, one can enjoy life. And indeed the Munros enjoy life. They have the past and present dedication to the nation, scouting tributary accomplishments and memories of togetherness to complete the full and happy life.



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### BILL ASSELIN-G.I. WITH WORLD WAR TWO MEMORIES

William Joseph Asselin is one of Windsor Locks' native sons who experienced the agony of the Allied invasion, during World War Two, on the Normandy beach. Bill lived to tell of his "longest day," June 6, 1944. He left Windsor Locks a boy...he left France, a month after the historic invasion, a man...and minus a limb.

The fireworks of July 4, 1944, in far off France, were not of the American variety...but the real kind. During the Battle of St. Lo, near the little town of Asigny, Bill Asselin was hit by shell fragments. Bill remembers the invasion, the battles and being hit, and freely discussed the lasting impressions of his part of history.

He joined the Army in April of 1943. After a monotonous 54 hour ride on a troop train, Bill and the newly made privates, arrived at Ft. Mc-Lennan in sunny Alabama. The next thirteen weeks were basic training for the young soldier from the north. At the end of the period, Bill was made a member of the permanent cadre (the cadre train the new enlisted men). Bill endured this type of army

life until February, 1944. He volunteered for overseas...and got his wish. He left the states, and arrived in England to wait out the invasion as a replacement, with a group of seasoned veterans, of the Second Armored Division, resting from the invasion of Italy. They didn't have to rest long.

D-Day came. Bill Asselin remembers. "It was quite a spectacle. All the men, all the ships...all the war. We arrived on the Normandy beach the afternoon of the sixth of June. We had been on the ship, from England, for two days. We eventually advanced into France...the infantry alone with the half-tracks and tanks. Foxholes were dug, where necessary. We would return from battle to the rest area, when it was possible. On the fourth of July I was hit."

Bill's part of the war was over. But only the fighting. Ahead would be months of hospitalization and operations...with a new leg, and a discharge in March of 1946.

Bill said his parents, back in Windsor Locks, were informed by telegram that their son was wounded in action. Bill Asselin, having the greatest respect for his family doctor... Dr. Ettore Carniglia, wanted someone special to inform his folks of his injury. Bill had written Dr. Carniglia from his sick bed...and knew the matter would be in good hands.

After leaving the battle area, Bill was moved to England to wait evacuation and voyage home to the United States. The day arrived, and Bill still recalls the twelve day trip with the pretty nurses, ice cream and deck chairs to soak up the Atlantic sun. Charleston, South Carolina would be their arrival port and then on to an Atlanta hospital. The Georgia hospital would be his new home with many hours of therapy and numerous operations for the next 18 months.

Bill was born on Grove Street, Windsor Locks. He attended St. Mary's School and the Windsor Locks High School. He left in his senior year of 1943 to join the service. Of his day as a youth...Bill remembers the picking of tobacco with all the other kids

and delivering papers to all parts of the town. He admits he missed the Main Street section. He recalls when everyone went to the park and then to an ice cream parlor for their favorite flavor. Everyone knew everyone in town...but time changes and so did Windsor Locks. When asked about Bradley Field... "I remember stealing melons on those fields before it was an airfield."

It's difficult to separate Bill from his service time...but since 1946, Bill has led an active life, one could say very full life, and he never looks back with any regret. Today, Bill bowls, has been hunting in Maine since 1955, plays golf at Copper Hill with the Cooneys, Frahers, and Katzbecks with his respectable five handicap. With Bill Asselin there is no handicap.

The year of 1946 was his new year. He not only left the service but met his future wife on a blind date. There was Miss Marjorie Johnson of Southwick Mass. and Bill in his uniform, for thirty-one years the Asselin have been a twosome. They have three children.. Joyce is married to Wayne Waterman, living in town, with their own three children. Richard and his new bride, Carol, live in West Hartford. Lynne, another recent bride, lives in Windsor Locks with her husband, Michael Weiss.

Bill left the service on March 26...on April first, 1946, he joined the Post Office department. He delivers the rural mail by car, and has been doing it for 31 years. When he's not at the Post Office or Copper Hill you can find the Asselins at their own "shangrila" in New Hampshire. In fact, Bill and Margie built it themselves in 1968.

### EPILOG

"As long as there are postmen, life will have zest." It doesn't matter who said it...William Joseph Asselin has all the zest for life any person could muster. He was only a boy, he heard the call, left home, and did what was expected of him. He only looked back because I asked him to...

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**LEN SENOFONTE-PROUD FATHER OF ACTIVE CHILDREN**

Leonard Joseph Senofonte has disproved the adage..... "good guys finish last." Len is one "good" guy who has always been on top...be it the little league, his devotion to football for Windsor Locks, or teaching his five children the benefit of good sportsmanship while performing on the diamond, court or field or in their

everyday life style.

Len and his wife Jean, the former Miss LaPointe, are both natives of Hartford. Len is now the Recreation Director is a "south-end boy" and graduated from Bulkeley in 1948. Jean received her diploma from the Hartford High School the same year. The childhood sweethearts were married in 1950 and for seven years lived in the capital city until they found living in a small town can be just the place to raise a large family. And Len and Jean did just that...having three sons and two daughters with plenty of room to play and grow up. Laura is the oldest of the Senofonte clan. She was married, in May of this year, to Tom Kania. The young couple live in Windsor Locks. Laura works for the Southern New England Telephone, and as everyone knows, Tom is active with the Knights of Columbus and the Johnson-Kania Funeral Home in town.

The first athlete in the family was big Mark. He is also a newly married member of the family. In June of this year, he and Darlene Ollari tied the knot of matrimony. Mark is a recent grad of UConn with a degree in Physical Education (with distinction, per his proud father). Going back a few years... Mark was on the 1966 Little League State Champs. He played baseball, basketball and football for the high school Raiders. He was captain of the

senior baseball team under Coach Dan Sullivan. The former pitcher and outfielder is now the Recreation Director for the Kimberly-Hall Home in East Hartford.

The next boy was just as proficient in sports as Mark... Leonard Paul Senofonte was to follow, his older brother in Windsor Locks sports and leave a double mark on Raider sports for years to come. Young Len played little league in 1971, was a member of the Senior League State Champs.

On the high school scene, Len was captain of the football team in his junior and senior year. He also headed the diamond squad as a senior. Len is a graduate of the Porter School of Drafting and Design of Rocky Hill. Today he is pursuing his career with the Mohawk Design Company in Suffield.

Another daughter came on the scene... Diane followed her brothers by playing softball and baseball at the high school. The 1977 grad of the local high school is employed at Steiger's in Enfield. The fifth child... Paul, 11, has a lot to follow after Mark and Len. I'm sure the father wants young Paul to use his brothers as good examples in playing all the major sports. Paul has already earned his letters in midget football with the Jets for four years. The sixth grader was the winner of the Pass, Punt and Kick contest in Windsor Locks the past four years. He recently won the zone championship in Manchester and was on his way to Boston College for the New England's altar boy at St. Robert's also finds time for artistry and playing the clarinet. He played little league as his brothers before him... and the older Len remembers Mark and Len as the winners of the Pass, Punt and Kick contests several years ago.

But we mustn't forget dear old dad... he also played sports in his native Hartford. Of course, he recalls, the sports were not as organized as today. He remembers going on the nearest available back lot and "choosing up sides" and having a great time...until supper was ready. Len became involved in the Windsor Locks LL program back in 1963 as a coach. In 1965 he coached the American Legion LL team... one player made the all-stars and eventually on to the World Championship. The player... Bob Creech, Jr. (seems I know that name). Len said... "I predicted the all-stars would be the world champs, no kidding." In reminiscing, of the players Len said... "I coached a lot of good players... Bob, Mark Dennis, Bob Lash, Joe Flynn, Steve Deegan and two guys by the name of Senofonte."

Len Senofonte can be seen at every high school baseball,

basketball and football game. At the football games Len is on the field... as a "Down Marker Linesman." This volunteer work started with the advent of football at the high school. In discussion over the good or bad of little league play... Len felt "it never hurt my boys. In fact, I think it has made them better young men." His hobby is "watching my kids in sports." The Senofonte family usually travels to the Cape on their vacations... so Len and the boys can be near their favorite team, the Boston Red Sox. Two years ago, Len and Jean celebrated their 25 years together by going to Bermuda. O yes, Len works for a living. For the past 17 years he's been with the Violette-Silvester and Sons as a construction foreman. For 13 years, before the heavy work, Len was a retail salesman for the General Baking Company. Len and Jean said their "greatest thrill was watching Mark pitch and young Len catch for the high school."

### EPILOG

Leonard Joseph Senofonte is an active individual doing his part for the sporting fraternity of Windsor Locks. He's always available at a game... be it as a spectator or official. Len is not anxious about any credit due him. He does his best and is patient. He forgets about himself, let others remember, success Len Senofonte is much sweeter that way.

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### DICK AND JAN—ON THE FERRIS WHEEL OF LIFE

On Harvest Lane the home of Richard and Janice Ferris has something a little different than any of their neighbors. That's right...on the lawn is a miniature ferris wheel. How's that for originality?

Jan is a girl from Maine... Dick, a Hartford native. They met at the most unlikely place...the year, 1961, the place, the Lithuanian Hall of Hartford. Miss Pellitier and her family left the little town of Fort Kent, located near the Canadian border, in 1951, to see what Connecticut had to offer. She still gives her husband, of thirteen years, a hard time as to her "good Maine stock." Dick, being a true "nutmegger", takes it all in stride. He realizes it's the mixture that makes the world go round.

The Ferris family of four now, have lived in Windsor Locks since 1969. Their enthusiasm for the town and the people they have met, are an integral part of their activities.

Dick is a former Vice President and Director of the local Jaycees. Jan was president of the Jaycee Wives. Both were involved with the civic organization for the past five years. During the fall months, Dick has been helping the Jaycees with their midget football program. Richard, Jr., ten years old, is a student at the Southwest School and he is under his dad's tutorage as a member of the Eagles football team. When the gridiron season is over, young Richard is one of the many swimmers in town. His dad said, "he is just an all-round boy who likes all sports."

The Ferris daughter, Kim is eleven years old and also attends Southwest. Kim, in addition to her cheerleading job, is the artist in the family. Her mother commented that, "the local schools have always been helpful in teaching Kim the many benefits of pursuing her artistic talents."

Dick has been associated with the Troiano Oil Company of Enfield for the past eight years as a service manager. The former army reservist was with the Windsor Locks Police Department as an auxiliary, with the rank of sergeant. During his time with the Jaycees, he helped organize the "teen center" that was located off Old County Road. One of his most important accomplishments was the raising of money to be used for the eventual purchase of a cardio vehicle. He said, "the revenue has been there and we are all hoping the dream of having this essential vehicle will come true one of these days."

Richard, Sr., is also a former football player in his high school days and feels "today's organized midget football program is good for the kids. It has a lot of discipline for the boys at the right age group."

And the "gal from Maine" is a career woman. Since 1971, Jan has been a licensed real estate agent. Today she is employed by the Marotta Real Estate firm on Spring Street. In discussing her position... she said, "I love to talk or, even more important, I like people and in the real estate

business that's an asset." Among her other activities in town...she's on the advisory committee of the Visiting Nurses Association of Windsor Locks, the principal of the CCD program at the Southwest School, teacher of the CCD program for eight years and director of the midget football cheerleaders for two years.

Richard and Jan have their own idea of a happy and endearing marriage. One way they strengthen the union is by attending a "marriage encounter." Now it's not a group of married couples meeting in conflict or opposition to holy matrimony. Just the opposite. Better let Jan explain it...

"Dick and I joined a group of married couples for a weekend at the Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford. In capsule form...it's a teaching of better communication be-

tween married couples. It gets things in order. It's what life is all about. Of course, each person derives something different from the experience. We, as a couple, really believe in marriage. It makes a good marriage...great."

### EPILOG

Now you know I couldn't let "Ferris Wheel" go by without an explanation. To quote my handy dictionary... "an amusement ride consisting of a large upright wheel rotating on a permanent stand and having seats suspended freely around its rim so as to remain horizontal as the wheel revolves. Named after G.W.G. Ferris, 1896, American engineer."

The Ferris family...only resembles the wheel movements by enjoying life's ride with love and understanding. Like the man said... "it is not what we have, but how much we enjoy that makes happiness."

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When you check the rosters of the Windsor Locks organizations...the name of Bev Church is usually listed.

And there's probably an asterisk alongside her name. The \* would stand for...active, dependable and really enjoys doing her job. Some of the organizations Bev has been associated with over the years have been the Windsor Locks Women's Club (incidentally, for the past 16 years), the St. Robert's Women Society, the Auxiliary of the Italian-American Club, the Mother's Auxiliary of the Boy Scouts, the Southwest PTO, the Windsor Locks Historical Society, the American Legion Auxiliary, and yes...the Women's Republican Club of Windsor Locks.

Beverly Sicard Church is a woman for all seasons, helping her clubs and their worthy functions. When she wasn't at one of the club meetings, she would be at home typing up a weekly column for the "Northern Connecticut Bazaar." Recently she gave it up, after a little over a year, reporting the news of Windsor Locks. Actually, she's always enjoyed the fourth estate work as a hobby since her high school days at the John Fitch School in Windsor. She graduated from the Windsor school in 1951...the next year, the town dropped old John and renamed the school, the Windsor High School.

Bev and her husband, Robert F. Church, are both natives of Hartford. She spent her first eight years in the capital city and then her family moved north ten miles to Windsor. Bob came from the "south end" of Hartford. He met Bev at a dance and they have danced together since 1956.

Bob works at Hi-G in Windsor Locks as the manager of drafting and design. He's a former chairman of the GOP town committee and today... keeps busy bowling, playing golf and "running for his life."

Bob and Bev were married in Windsor, lived in Hartford for a few years, then moved to Enfield, in 1962 settled in Windsor Locks.

The Church family has increased by two...Jeffery, 20, a grad of the high school, is currently a trainee with Bausch and Lomb Company as an Optical Technician. Robin, 15, is a sophomore at the Raider school. She's been a member of the student council and the high school newspaper. Robin is a Boston Celtics fan and gymnastic enthusiast at her school.

In discussing Windsor Locks, Bev Church is a woman who cares for the town. The active participation in the "club" end has given her an understanding of the town's problems from a different angle.

She added for the record, "I've enjoyed every minute of my time in club work." The taxes in Windsor Locks... "you can't beat them. The low rate makes it a nice town to live in," she said with her ready smile. "Bradley Field is an asset to Windsor Locks. The schools give a good education. I know first hand...been a teacher's aid at Southwest for the past four years. Her only negative statement was concerning the downtown situation. "Sorry to say, there isn't a downtown. But glad to see the new five and ten. I hope to see the entire downtown built up with additional stores again. I'm sure some of the old downtown could have been saved.

Bev, as mentioned, has always had the "writing bug." For five years she wrote a newsletter for the town's Women's Club with the idea of being another "Erma Bombeck." Her columns in the "Northern" were always sprinkled with her love of poetry.

Another love...and who could argue...has been her club work. She mentioned the many scholarships given by the organizations in town, especially the Women's Club of Windsor Locks that gives four to students at the high school level and two at the middle school.

One of her biggest responses from readers, of her weekly column with the "Northern", was her "basics of life." It's her own original works and I believe it should be repeated, in part, "...to me the basics of life are love for our family, friends and neighbors, an interest and loyalty to our community, a love and patriotic sense of duty to our great country and a respect for our flag...a special respect should be shown to our aged...when you really stop to think seriously about it, you can come up with a great many basics of life...to teach to our youngsters."

A poem, one of Bev Church's favorites, seems to say it all...Bev has left her mark in

several ways.

"Bequest: What will I leave, to mark I was here.

A sheaf of poems, a fallen tear.

Fragile flowering on living threads.

Treasured recipes of favorite breads?

What will I leave to mark I was here.

Old world traditions, simple and dear.

Echoes of laughter, a lock of hair.

The memory of a childhood prayer?

Will something be left, a minute apart.

To tell that once I gave of my heart?

What will be left at horizon's end?

Enough, if one voice will whisper,

'Friend.'"

Westenberger.



# CABBAGES & KINGS

With Jack Redmond

## Eileen S. Chapman- Civic Activist

Eileen Sheehan Chapman is articulate, sincere and rather an exuberant lady in her beliefs...when it comes to solving the problems facing our complex society. She believes people should be properly informed, because she said, "we should, as voters and citizens, find out how the government works, and who does what...and then, watch to see if they do it."

Her watchdog theory is a genuine look at life, knowing everything is not perfect. Her supposition is to strive for better conditions. One way is ...better checks and balance.

Eileen, a teacher by trade, is a member of the League of Women Voters of North Central Connecticut. She frankly admitted, "I thought of Common Cause and Civil Liberties...as an outlet in becoming involved, the league was my choice."

She earned her degree at the Fitchburg State Teachers College, graduating in 1949, with a B.S. in Education. The first teaching position, for the Springfield native, was in a small mill town, Taunton, by name, in her home state, just south of Boston. She said it was unreal...and not the ideal place to start as a teacher at the first grade level. The conditions weren't the best, and after a month she decided to move east and back to home territory. She secured a job in Connecticut at Warehouse Point...teaching the first grade to farm boys and girls.

In 1950 Eileen married Raymond W. Chapman, a native son of Windsor Locks. Ray's been an employee of the State of Connecticut for the past thirty years. They have two children...Raymond D. Chapman, of Hartford and a daughter Mary. She is married to Roy Pinette. The Pinette family live in Windsor Locks with their one year old daughter, Alison.

When Eileen is not attending meetings or watching how things develop in the community, she keeps busy sewing, reading a great deal and writing essays.

Eileen and her husband are also busy with two gardens...with "a great crop of tomatoes." They are firm believers of recycling, especially reprocessing raw materials in their backyard compost pile.

At a recent public hearing of the Sewer Commission... Eileen was the only resident to speak. She inquired about the idea of using sewage sludge as a "good source of fertilizer" for gardens. One of the engineers, agreed to a point, he said, "sludge was a good soil conditioner, but not a well-rounded fertilizer." The Chapmans would probably disagree...with all those good tomatoes.

Mrs. Chapman's diversified activities included a recent program on parliamentary procedure at the local library. She conducted the session and said, "in parliamentary procedure, the majority rules, however, the minority has the right to say their piece." She added, "if we always give our two-cents worth, we can be richer for it."

One of her goals for Windsor Locks is to form a "Citizens Information Group." Eileen said, "the main idea of the group would be to have people of the community become better informed...and become more influential in the government. It's worth the effort."

Another activity that keeps Eileen busy is her membership in the Third Order of St. Francis in Springfield. She said, "this is a lay group, learning the way of St. Francis...loving our neighbor and teaching the will of God."

When it comes to her adopted town of Windsor Locks Eileen had a few things to say..."the downtown situation, well, I can only say...grass is the only thing that is being grown there. Bradley Field. That's the real hub of Windsor Locks. The entire future of this town is tied up with the field with the restaurants, hotels and the other travel facilities, at the airport and close to it...that's the way Windsor Locks is going." she added, "Bradley means progress...be a part of it. Don't be a rip Van Winkle." The schools and the tax rate...were both given kudos by Eileen and Ray.

Eileen's choice for political action was the League of Women Voters. What is the league all about? The following is from their latest brochure..."League members are doers working in city halls, state legislatures and Congress, for changes to meet the needs of our society. They know that responsive government needs responsible citizens...people who are concerned about making things happen. The national action program includes: working for congressional reform, backing changes in campaign financing laws, promoting non-restrictive trade policies, protecting every citizen's right to vote, and supporting measures to create an environment beneficial to life, by reducing air and water pollution and improving solid waste management and backing the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment."

## EPILOG

Art Buchwald once said, "no system in the world works better than ours, and maybe over the years, little by little, we (meaning columnists) can have an effect."

And maybe people like Eileen Sheehan Chapman can have an effect...I'm sure she thinks so.. and so do I.



# **TOM FRECHETTE—HEAD OF ROYAL FAMILY OF SIX CHILDREN**

Thomas Edward Frechette has taken his philosophy from the pages of the Vince Lombardi story... "in little league or midget football... the kids playing to win, it's the only way to enjoy the game." Tom is a fierce competitor. His players, fellow coaches and family would certainly agree.

He remembers well... the boyhood days in Hartford playing "all the sports," coaching teams in his adopted town... and most often... coming up the winner. He proudly said, "I have coached, at one time or another, most of the better athletes in Windsor Locks." His generalization was due to my question... "Who were some of the better players... you have coached?" He did mention one... Paul King. I'm sure Coaches Sullivan and Scelza would agree. But, in all fairness, he did admit... "being involved in my kids' sporting abilities, is my real big hobby these days."

Tom and Pat have six children. Three boys and three girls. The good looks come from the mother. The dedication to work and sports... from the father. Tom and Pat, both from Hartford, were married in 1957. They grew up on the same street in the capital city. Before we give you the background on Tom and his bride, Patricia Christie, the six kids will have the spotlight. Roxanne... how could she miss with a name like that... is 19, a grad of the high school, class of 76, and currently studying dental hygiene at Springfield Tech. Tommy Jr. is 17, a senior at the Raider school, and has been through the mill of little league, senior baseball, JV baseball at the high school for three years, a hockey player for seven years, indoor hockey and football player for many of his young years.

Reine, 15, like her sister Roxanne, received their names because of dad's French extraction. She's a sophomore

in high school and when not playing softball... is a cheerleader in all sports. Gary, 13, in the eighth grade at the Middle School, has performed for the midget football teams the past four years. As his brother Tom, before him, Gary is now performing for the senior little league. He's really into ice hockey. The future "Gordie Howe" plays for the town team. Kathy, 12 years old, is a seventh grader at the Middle School with a love for soccer and softball. Her parents mentioned she was number two in the total point program in physical fitness when she was at the South School.

We mustn't forget the smallest of the Frechette clan... Greg, a snappy eight years old. He's in the third grade at South School. His first love is the New York Yankees. Yes, he plays... as his brothers... at soccer. He "just can't wait until Santa Claus comes down the chimney on Tracy Circle," (neither can I Greg, don't ever outgrow the feeling of Santa Claus and Christmas time.)

Father Tom Frechette has been active as a coach in little league for seven years. He has played softball in town, and Hartford, and during the winter months keeps in shape playing basketball. In the administrative end of sports... Tom helped organize the Windsor Locks Booster Club and was past president of the town's Athletic Association. He said the association was instrumental in starting the football program at the high school. When Tom is not watching his boys and girls perform, or playing himself, or coaching football and baseball... he can be found hitting the little white ball around the ninth hole of the local and Hartford courses. He said his game was a little off this past summer... and with a two handicap... he can't be off too much. He plays in the YMCA Industrial League, at Goodwin

Park, for the Royal Typewriter Company. Tom is a design engineer with the Hartford

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THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1977

# **"CABBAGES AND KINGS"**

With Jack Redmond

## **CABBAGES AND KINGS**

(Continued from Page 5)

additional chore on that busy night. On Christmas morning company. He's been with we were only permitted to Royal for the past twenty open one package. After years. Tom attended night mass... then home to the other school at the University of gifts of the family and Santa." Hartford for six years during Today, on the big day, the his apprenticeship years at Frechette family usually holds Royal.

When the Frechette family families to open the gifts and thinks of places to vacation... enjoy the great day together. it's either the Cape or camping

### **EPILOG**

Thomas Edward Frechette out. Last year, for a complete change of scenery, they all is the disciplinarian in his hopped into the family car and family. As a coach, his players drove up north to Canada and knew he meant what he the beautiful city of Montreal. said... for their benefit and Greg Frechette is not alone in always for a winning effort. I thinking ahead next week to believe the following... is Christmas and all the festivi- Tom's way of treating every- ties. Tom, Sr., recalls his own one he is near, loves or childhood days in Hartford at admires... "never let an oppor- this most holy and happy tunity pass to say a kind and period of the year. He encouraging word to or about said, "the Christmas tree was somebody. Praise good work, never setup in the "parlor regardless of who did it. If until Christmas Eve. And the criticism is needed, criticize tree was not trimmed by the helpfully and never Spite- children. Santa had this fully."

THE WINDSOR LOCKS JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

## “Cabbages and Kings”

With *Jack Redmond*

### LET'S COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

I read this recently...it seems appropriate for the day before Thanksgiving...“It's so easy to take the good things in life for granted. Have you paused lately to consider what you have to be thankful for?”

That we have a Bradley Field to complain about.

That Windsor Locks is the second smallest town in Connecticut, in area, that is.

That drinking one beer a day is good for your health.

That we have the Red Sox and Yankees to cheer about, and if we don't want to cheer that's OK too.

That we have four seasons in New England...and can use all our different types of clothing...instead of running around in shorts all year round.

That we can rake all those nasty leaves every fall...and the shade they provide during the hot summer months to make up for the raking.

The price of turkey for tomorrow's meal.

The ability to pay for the same turkey.

That we have newspapers to read.

That we have a library to use...wherever it is located.

That we have local schools... all in walking distance, I mean, busing distance.

That we have television and radios...that we can turn off...if they are turning us off.

That we have people who run tag sales...and the ability not to bother with them...if they turn you off.

That we have...active senior citizens.

That we have boy and girl scout leaders, Junior Achievement advisors, coaches and managers for all sports, concerned committee members for the town government...from both parties.

That we have a good police force and an active volunteer fire department.

That we have a historical society with interested citizens who keep the past as a lesson to remember.

That we have national holidays as Thanksgiving...a holiday for giving thanks to God...and we can worship Him in our own way.

That things could be a lot worse.

Have a good turkey dinner. Remember to smile. Take time to show appreciation. “Thanks”, is the frosting on the cake of life.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**  
**JACK REDMOND**