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In OUR CENTURY
1954

FIRE DESTROYS GREENWICH COMPANY
MURDER/SUICIDE IN SCHIEDAM
COUNTY FAIR PURCHASED
LOCAL MAN DID SPY WORK
PAGE 4

THE JOURNAL-PRESS

Established in 1842 - Washington County's hometown newspaper

The Greenwich Journal
The Salem Press

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GREENWICH, NEW YORK - THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2000

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Board of Supervisors organizes Cummings appointed chairman



White Creek Supervisor Donald Cummings taking the oath of office as chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, as his wife held the Bible, from Justice Thomas Mercure.



County officers in the front are Clerk to the Board Debra R. Prehoda, Board Chairman Donald Cummings, vice-chairman Bruce Ferguson, and County Attorney Roger Wickes. In the back row are new supervisors Kenneth Wheeler of Hartford, Leonard Reed of Hampton, Merrillyn Pulver of Fort Edward, Dan Shaw of Easton, and Andrew Williamson of Argyle.

By Tony Basile
The Washington County Board of Supervisors held its 2000 organization meeting Monday afternoon at the municipal building in Fort Edward. The first order of business was the appointment of a chairman. A motion was made nominating White Creek Supervisor Donald Cummings for the position. The motion received a unanimous second, and Cummings was appointed without opposition. He was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Thomas Mercure.

Upon taking the chairman's seat, Cummings thanked the board for its support and stated that the county has some difficult tasks to accomplish in the coming year. He named finding a solution to the trash plant problem and the erection of the new jail as being principal among them. He said he was looking forward to working with the supervisors and department heads in the coming weeks and months.

A motion was then made nominating Salem Supervisor Bruce Ferguson to serve as vice-chairman of the board. Ferguson, too, was appointed without opposition, and was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Mercure.

Evergreen Bank, Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company, HSBC Bank of USA and MBIA Municipal Investors Service Corporation were designated as the official depositories of county funds.

Debra Prehoda was unanimously re-appointed to serve as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Putnam Supervisor John LaPointe was appointed Budget Officer, with Hartford Supervisor Kenneth Wheeler

abstaining from voting on that appointment. Roger Wickes was unanimously re-appointed County Attorney for a term of two years. Margaret White was unanimously appointed Director of Personnel for a six year term.

Christa Construction was retained to provide construction manager services during the construction of the jail project. A motion to table this resolution made by Hartford Supervisor Ken Wheeler failed to receive a second.

Wheeler had previously attempted to introduce a resolution that would effectively halt construction on the jail for a year, pending a public referendum on the relocation of the Civil Office of the Sheriff's Department outside the Village of Salem. Introduction of the resolution was unsuccessful. A referendum on the relocation of that office and its five employees will be held during the next general election, as required by state law, and if the electorate of the county so decides, that office could remain in the village and not be moved to the Rexleigh Road jail site.

Wheeler also attempted to introduce a resolution directing the county attorney to draft a local "Whistle Blowers" law that would provide county employees the same job protection that is provided to federal and state employees under their respective statutes. This attempt, too, was unsuccessful.

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The Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Hamilton, Warren, and Washington counties will host "Learning the Ropes: Concepts & Resources for New County Board Members," on Thursday, January 13.

The event, at the county municipal center, begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 7:30. There will be opportunities for newly elected board members to discuss the challenges of the position with experienced local county board members.

The training is produced by Cornell University's Community & Rural Development Institute and sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the office of the state comptroller.

To register, contact the extension office in Hudson Falls by January 10.

Barn destroyed by fire on Sunday

Several fire companies including Greenwich, Middle Falls, and Victory Mills, were called out Sunday night, January 2, to assist the Schuyler Hose Co. combat a barn fire at the Clinton Barber farm on Route 32 in Bacon Hill.

The barn was completely involved in flames and the firefighters were unable to save the building. They were able to contain the blaze to the one building, sparing other structures on the premises.

The barn that burned had housed 25 calves. They all perished in the blaze.

New Year began without a hitch

Locally, as it did elsewhere nationally and internationally, the Year 2000, began with absolutely no significant disruption Saturday morning. Electricity flowed through utility lines and telephone service continued. Emergency personnel on duty through the turn from 1999 to 2000 had very little to do other than entertain themselves as the new year began.

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Red Cross blood drive in January

American Red Cross blood drives open to the public will be held at the following locations during the month of January. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. Donors can donate blood every 56 days, and public participation is encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are recommended.

Locations are: the Congregational Church in South Hartford, Monday, January 17 from 1 to 6 p.m. Contact is James Crandall.

The United Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, Friday, January 21, from 1 to 6 p.m. Contact is Jean Young.

The United Methodist Church in Valley Falls on Saturday, January 22, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact is Beverly Moore.

Kingsbury Volunteer Hose Co in Hudson Falls, Saturday, January 29, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact is Susan Kearns.

The American Red Cross also needs blood drive sponsors, and business, school, and community groups are urged to participate. The basics are easy, and organizing a drive typically involves recruiting 50 or more donors during a five-hour period in a minimum space of approximately 1,200 square feet. For smaller organizations with limited space, Associate Sponsorships are also available to help groups join together in support of nearby drives. To learn more about how to sponsor a blood drive or other volunteer opportunities at the Red Cross, contact their office at 800 North Pearl St., Albany 12204.

WEATHER

A warm beginning to the year 2000, it began clear and bright, balmy. Rain took over for the rest of the week. Temperatures and conditions for the past week follow:

| December 1999 | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|
| Date | Conditions | High Low |
| 29 | Clear | 27 18 |
| 30 | Cloudy, then clear | 42 18 |
| 31 | Mostly sunny | 36 16 |
| January 2000 | | |
| 1 | Clear & mild | 42 20 |
| 2 | Showers | 40 25 |
| 3 | Mostly showers | 54 36 |
| 4 | Rain, heavy at times | 57 32 |

Increase in return of OTB monies

Capital OTB Board Chairman, Jim Accatato, has announced that Capital OTB will have returned \$204,000 to Washington County at the end of December. This is a 7% increase over 1998 and a 54% increase over 1997.

The increase, according to Mr. Accatato, is due to OTB's continuing efforts to lower expenses and operate more efficiently.

Washington County is home of two of Capital OTB's 54 branches, with branches located in Fort Edward and Whitehall and an automated operation at Thyme Out in Greenwich.

Where is it?

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| Editorial Features..... | 4 |
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| Argyle..... | 5 |
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| Easton..... | 3 |
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The year in review

An index of the events of 1999

The Journal-Press this week continues a tradition which goes back one hundred five years: that of listing the events of local significance which occurred during the year just ended. Publisher Henry C. Morhous began this practice in 1895 with the publication of the chronology for 1894.

In 1969, The Greenwich Journal and The Salem Press were combined into one newspaper known as The Greenwich Journal and the Salem Press. For the convenience of everyone, because the official name is rather lengthy, it is usually referred to more simply as The Journal-Press.

Major news stories

Major news stories of the year included that of a trailer destroyed by fire in Easton. The occupants, Catherine Lewis and her family, having lost everything in the tornado in Mechanicville the year before, lost everything again.

Another fire in a trailer on Kilburn Road in Cossayuna claimed the lives of three children and two adults - Waites and Jaspers - unable to escape. The toll in terms of human lives was one of the greatest in recent county history.

In Schuylerville, the big story concerned the funds which former Village Clerk Kim LeBar on admitted to having stolen. The sum, in excess of \$50,000, was allegedly taken by her from village accounts between 1995 and 1997. She was found guilty in trial, fined, ordered to make restitution, and sentenced to 3 1/2 years of prison time.

The National Cemetery located near the Saratoga battlefield was completed and dedicated during the year. Burials are now taking place there. The controversy over a convenient route to the cemetery from the Northway was finally resolved between the state and Saratoga county.

Beginning in late January, there were many meetings and exchanges of opinions, including letters to the editor, regarding the construction in Greenwich of a Hannaford supermarket on Route 29, within the development of businesses occupying what was once known as McMullen flats. After considerable debate, an effort by a group of

citizens opposed to the proposed project was turned back and the town planning board approved the construction. Ground was broken for the new Hannaford on November 23. As the new year begins, construction at the site is ongoing.

School improvements and buildings in Salem and Greenwich began in the spring. Schuylerville deferred its project until spring 2000. Additional capital projects for expansions and other improvements were also approved by area school district voters.

A severe storm caused damage in July and the remnants of Hurricane Floyd, in September, caused additional damage throughout the area. Both storms brought power outages and disrupted telephone service.

Due to extremely dry conditions, Argyle and Greenwich restricted the use of water during the summer for lawns and gardens. The drought ended when storms came at the end of August, at which time the bans were lifted.

A tragic farm accident occurred on the Hanks farm in Salem. It claimed the lives of Paul Hanks and Jack Fleming. Seriously hurt was Tom Geraghty, who was pulled by co-worker John Irwin from the manure pit in which the other two men died.

Vandals destroyed an outdoor bench at the Greenwich Free Library, and benches were overturned in the Commons in back of the Greenwich town hall. In Argyle, three people, including two from Argyle, were arrested for vandalizing Argyle Central School.

The Washington County Fair ended in tragedy. An *E. coli* outbreak traced to the fair sickened over 1000 people. Three-year-old Rachel Aldrich of Clifton Park and Ernest Wester of Wilton, a man in his 70's, died from the illness. Allegedly the *E. coli* came from a well contaminated when heavy rain swept the fair and caused manure matter to invade the well supply. The fair's insurance company later maintained that its policy does not cover the situation.

The bridge over the Batten Kill at Battenville was reopened just before Thanksgiving after more than a year's work of reconstruction.

Finally, Y2K came and went. Here, as elsewhere, the concern over computer glitches proved mostly unwarranted.

Baseball champions of 1999



The G.C.S. baseball team won the state Class C title in Rome on June 12.

The Chronology of the events of 1999

We again follow our practice of recent years of presenting the chronology of the events of the year past in the form of an index of the stories which appeared in the weekly issues of this newspaper. To determine precise dates of events, check the issue dates cited.

JANUARY

January began with a weekend storm of snow and ice on the first two weekends.

January 7 issue
The annual review of 1998 was begun in this issue and was continued in the January 14 issue.

College freshmen shared their first impressions of college with Greenwich high school students just prior to Christmas vacation.

Agricultural engineering students at Greenwich Central school refurbished an army truck for use as a fire truck by the forest rangers.

Students at Belle Vue Country Day school on the River Road in Greenwich helped Grandma Ziehm celebrate her 90th birthday.

The Salem Central school board hired project engineers for their building expansion program.

Additional computers were installed in the Salem Central school library.

The Village of Victory applied for grants for community enhancement.

Stewart's shops shared profits with local communities.

January 14 issue
The Town of Saratoga received grants from the NYS Department of Agriculture for the preservation of farm lands.

Samantha Arnold, a student at Salem Central school, received a reply to her letter, a class assignment, seeking information about another community. The response came from a man born in Cambridge.

Parking at key intersections in Greenwich, especially during business hours, is a problem for the fire department trucks. Bonnie Dickey of Greenwich was honored by the College of New Rochelle. She was inducted into their Hall of Fame.

Donna English was not reappointed to a position on the Easton Planning Board. Julia Hoover received the appointment.

Kayla Burt, a first grader at Argyle Central school, won a recycled steel bike as a result of signing a pledge to recycle.

Salem FFA members worked at the Bromley Ski area learning hands-on experience chain sawing, brushing, cutting and trimming.

The Town of Saratoga selected a firm to develop a master plan for Lock 5 during its meeting to organize for the year.

January 21 issue

Battenkill Ministries sponsored first breakfast meeting for increased fellowship of area men.

Harold Lutgens was honored by the Chase Manhattan Foundation by a monetary contribution in his name to the Mary McClellan Hospital.

Iced slicked roads on January 18 caused many area accidents including the jackknifing of a lumber truck by Hollingsworth and Vose in Center Falls.

Grace Mattison of Greenwich was hurt in an accident on County Route 113 on January 12.

Washington County Board of Supervisors voted to delay payment to Foster Wheeler. Passed landfill law.

Carl Derby was reelected to the Greenwich Town Planning Board. Board worked on proposal to change law regarding double widths.

Dan Fronhofer of Argyle Central School was the recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Science award. Several students at Argyle Central school were inducted into the honor societies at the school.

The Town of Salem held its meeting, organizing for the year. The agenda included a public hearing about the proposed gravel mining issue.

The Rev. Virgil Cruz, formerly of the Cambridge area, was to speak at the Salem United Presbyterian Church on Sunday, the 24th.

The Olde Time Easton Association was formed, meeting at the Easton Library.

The planned skate on the canal in Schuylerville was thwarted by mild, rainy weather.

New lights at the library, the unfinished visitors center, parking regulations and the question of a police force were the main items considered by the Schuylerville town board.

January 28 issue

The American Tissue Mills gave members of the Greenwich Town Board a tour of their facilities.

Captain Israel Harris-Gene... Williams Chapter and the Willard Mountain Chapter... announced their selections for the area school... Citizens.

The Battenkill Conservancy... received a \$5000 grant to continue its Batten... project.

The question of Hanna... Greenwich appeared.

The Greenwich Board... with contracts for schools, an independent audit of the school... date on the Capital... ard.

The... by... con...