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# Another man named Hughes . . .

A JOURNAL FEATURE  
by  
Michael J. Blair

The name Hughes has been in the news a great deal lately in the international search for the truth behind the much disputed autobiography of Howard Hughes, the billionaire eccentric, but little has been written about another man named Hughes, Bill Hughes, of Port Leyden, who in this writer's opinion has to be the most unselfish, devoted and inspiring man I have ever encountered in more than ten years as a journalist. He is without doubt the Grand Samaritan of Northern New York.

William C. Hughes, known by all his friends as "Bill," has been confined to his bed, shown in the photo at the left, since he was taken ill with multiple sclerosis in 1954. But in spite of his handicap, which does not even allow him to raise himself to a sitting position, and the added hardship of nearly being blind, Mr. Hughes with telephone

and two-way radio at his bedside undertakes countless humanitarian tasks, many of which are, of course, not unafflicted, can always find a million excuses to avoid.

From his bed, Mr. Hughes has for many years served as Port Leyden area chairman or a volunteer in such fund raising drives as the National Foundation, the American Cancer Society and the Heart Fund, recruiting assistants and gathering pledges by telephone. In addition, he has aided fund drives for the Boy Scouts and for firemen for their field days, as well as collecting money for flowers when a fellow Port Leyden resident dies. He is the chief dispatcher for the Village of Port Leyden emergency car. A few weeks ago, for example, Harry Reese suffered what turned out to be a fatal heart attack at the rear of the Reese home on Pearl Street in Port Leyden. A neighbor, Mrs. Frank Bonhard, gave Mr. Hughes a call and within minutes the emergency car had been dispatched to the scene.

With his two-way radio and telephone, which is equipped with special large numbers for him to see in order to be able to dial, he assists firemen with countless emergency calls and dispatches ambulance service whenever it is needed.

During last year's bitter winter, Mr. Hughes on many occasions dispatched assistance by snowmobile to stranded homeowners. He even uses his two-way radio to assist town highway drivers and school bus drivers who have difficulty with their communications.

And on top of it all, Bill Hughes is never too busy to talk with anyone who seems to have a problem, whether the conversation is by telephone, radio or in person at his bedside.

In 1939, he moved to Port Leyden after marrying the former Theda Lyons of Forestport.

Five years after Mr. Hughes was stricken with multiple sclerosis, his son, Griffith, died suddenly in June 1959, just before graduating from high school.

The Hughes' have two other children, Mrs. Richard (Joyce) Sweeney, Lyons Falls, and Donald G. Hughes, Utica.

Mrs. Hughes keeps busy doing odd jobs and driving a school bus for South Lewis Central School. While she is out, Mr. Hughes is usually alone at home—but never really with his telephone and two-way radio at his side.

A few years ago, Mr. Hughes decided he wanted to visit the grave of President John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. It was accomplished by car. A special bed was prepared for Mr. Hughes in the back of a station wagon and the long trip was made. At

Arlington, the guards conducted him on a special tour of the cemetery, joining him in the car. He was taken to within a few feet of the eternal flame that burns at the Kennedy grave site, closer to the late President than the public is ever able to venture. It was an experience Mr. Hughes will never forget.

A neighbor says of her friend, "Bill Hughes is a real inspiration and joy to know." Undoubtedly, many will agree, particularly those who have been helped by Northern New York's Grand Samaritan.

So, if you're in the area and need a helping hand, give "Bill" a call, by phone 348-3253 or by radio KCRD, channels 9, 11, or 2. "Bill" will be glad to lend a hand and you'll be doing him a favor, because "Bill" is one of the fortunate people on this earth who have come to realize that being able to help your fellow man is truly the greatest gift one can receive.

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## Library Unit Circulation Up

The annual meeting of the Lowville Free Library Association was held at the library on Wednesday, February 2. Miss Alice Coffey was re-elected trustee for a period of four years. At the Board of Trustees' meeting, which immediately followed the Association meeting, the following were elected: President, Judge George R. Davis; vice-president, Varner Lyman; treasurer, Rodney Persons; secretary, Mrs. Frederick Parker; librarian, Mrs. Fred Ramage, and assistant librarian, Mrs. Floyd Ulrich.

The old historical room was renovated during the past year, with new tables, recessed lighting and wall paneling installed. Library patrons are finding it an excellent reading and meeting place.

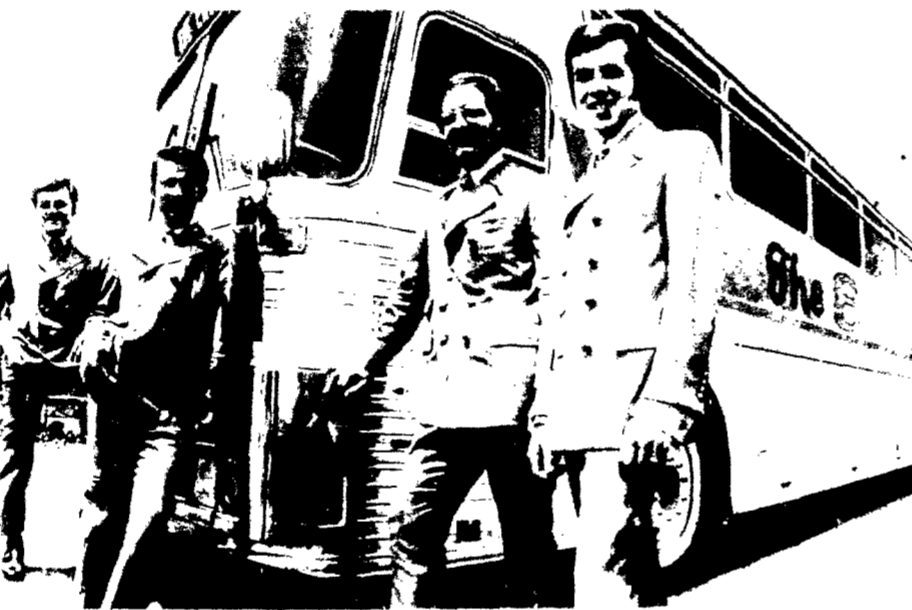
Physical items belonging to the library as of January 1, 1972, are books, 11,855; magazine volumes, 239; recordings, 266; wall catalogues, maps and pamphlets numbering 278. The library subscribes to 72 current magazines. Twenty-five topographical maps of Lewis County, "Collier's Encyclopedia" and a twenty-volume "Encyclopedia of the Animal Kingdom" were acquired.

In 1971, a total of 566 paperbacks were added to the holdings by purchase, gifts from patrons and a grant from the North County Library system. There are now approximately 1,400 paperbacks available for circulation.

In the last quarter of 1971, 2,018 students used the library's facilities. Children's programs were well attended. The Head-start group was invited to join story hours and movies. Children's Book Week, from November 14 to 20, was observed, during which time 162 students and their teachers toured the library.

Seventy-seven young adult books and magazines were given to the Youth Center. Paperbacks were loaned to the jail and to summer camps. Circulation of all materials in 1971 amounted to 39,096 items.

The cost of operating the Lowville Free Library during the year amounted to \$17,397.93 and covered salaries, books, repairs, supplies, insurance and utilities. These expenses were defrayed through moneys received from the Village of Lowville, the Town of Lowville, the County of Lewis, School District No. 1 and interest on private grants made to the Lowville Free Library.



## Tug Hill Agency Bill Introduced

Assemblyman Edward F. Crawford (11th District, Oswego and Oneida Counties) has introduced legislation to create a temporary state commission to study the Tug Hill regions of Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego Counties.

Assemblyman Crawford explained that much of the Tug Hill area is an unspoiled wilderness, comparable in many respects to the Adirondack area, without the high peaks. During the summer of 1971, local newspapers broke a story which revealed that an Arizona conglomerate known as Horizon Corporation had taken an option to buy about 70,000 acres of land in the Tug Hill area owned by the Georgia-Pacific Paper Company.

Soon after the newspaper stories appeared, it was discovered that Horizon Corporation was one of those companies which go into an area and begin wholesale development of entire new communities. Many conservationists were fearful that such a development would be extremely detrimental to the regions ecology and as a result of their concern Horizon Corporation decided not to exercise its option.

Assemblyman Crawford said: "We have been fortunate in averting one disaster in the Tug Hill area, and I want to insure that this type of problem doesn't recur."

Crawford's legislation would create a commission which would make an extensive study of the conservation and development of the natural resources in the Tug Hill area. Specifically the commission would study the flora, fauna, scenic beauty and environmental purity of the region.

The commission would also study the necessity of strengthening policies regarding management, acquisition and use of public land, the development of controls for highways, public buildings and utilities and other important issues which are crucial to the preservation and orderly development of the area.

Assemblyman Crawford said: "The commission would be comprised of nine persons, at least three of which would be residents of the Tug Hill area, and would possess and exercise all the powers of a legislative committee. The commission would be able to hold hearings, both public and private, and would have free access to any information needed to conduct its investigation."

Assemblyman Crawford also noted that the commission would report directly to the Governor and the Legislature.

The Crawford measure is being co-sponsored by five other upstate legislators: they are Sen. Douglas Barclay, Pittsford; Assemblyman John T. Buckley, Utica; Senator James H. Donovan, Washington Mills; Assemblyman William R. Sears, Woodgeton; and Assemblyman Donald L. Taylor, Watertown.

The Tug Hill Plateau, occupying over 800,000 acres in Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego Counties is a major sustaining force in the environmental quality of New York State, particularly as it affects the lives of the four people who reside in the four

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## Office Closed

The office of Dr. John H. Brooks, 121 Trinity Avenue, Lowville, will be closed from February 26 to March 12, while the doctor is on vacation.

The office will be open for regular office hours again on March 13.

**GOSPEL QUARTET** - The Envoys Quartet from Rockaway, N.J., will present four evenings of gospel singing and evangelistic messages at the Lowville United Methodist Church, February 20-23 at 7:30 p.m. The Lowville Baptist Church, the Bethel Church of the Nazarenes, and the Lowville Menonite Church are joining the host church in sponsoring The Envoys. Church are joining the host church in sponsoring The Envoys.

Personnel of the quartet includes: Don Storms, formerly of Carthage, manager and lead singer; Dallas Henry, pianist and baritone; Ron Kelly, tenor; and

Brandt Gillespie, bass. All are accomplished musicians, having a total of fifteen years of singing ministry throughout the United States and Canada. The Envoys travel in their own personalized bus. They have given concerts in 40 states and many large civic auditoriums and churches throughout Canada and Newfoundland. They have sung in Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C., and in the Farm Show Arena in Harrisburg, Pa. Most recently they spent several days in Labrador, which included an appearance on Air Force T.V. in Happy Valley. In addition to personal appearance,

Rev. Robert F. Nay, host pastor, and sponsoring churches are inviting everyone to hear The Envoys singing the songs that have stirred the hearts of many thousands.

## Phone Company Charts Profit

General Telephone & Electronics Corp. issued a generally bright earnings report for 1971, showing a 12% rise in revenue to \$3.8 billion, from \$3.4 billion, and a 16% rise in per-share earnings, to \$2.35, from \$2.02.

Telephone utility operations, which account for just over half of GET revenue, produced a 15% increase in revenue and a 24% rise in net. Manufacturing sales were up 10% and manufacturing profit went up 9%.

General Telephone Company of Upstate New York, Inc., a subsidiary of GET, is currently seeking a rate increase. The utility serves a wide section of Lewis County, including Lowville and Croghan.

The only obvious problem area in GET operations was the company's GTE International Inc. subsidiary, which is responsible for all GTE manufacturing and marketing outside the U.S. The subsidiary's revenue fell to \$10.3 million for the year from \$16.1 million in 1970. The company traced the decrease to lower prices and higher costs for color television sets and components in Europe.

Growth in telephone revenue last year resulted from rate increases on local service in a number of areas, including those serviced by General Telephone Company of Upstate New York, Inc. Improved revenue-sharing arrangements with American Telephone & Telegraph Co. and other telephone companies on long-distance service, increased long-distance calling and the addition of 574,000 telephones during the year, according to Leslie H.

## \$1,116 Youth Grant

Governor Rockefeller has announced that \$1,116.79 in state aid has been allocated by the State Division for Youth to Lewis County for a youth service project conducted by Lewis County Sheriff's Department, marking the ninth year that the county and the state have joined together in providing youth activities for area young people.

Paul Metz, chairman of the Lewis County Board of Legislators, indicated in his application for state aid that a total of \$8,156 will be spent to provide organized youth activities.

The telephone companies will spend more than \$1.1 billion for

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## Hirschey Quits Co-op Director

Upwards of 200 persons attended a special meeting of the members and stockholders of the Lowville Producers Dairy Co-Operative, held last Wednesday afternoon at the Town Hall Theatre, Lowville.

The meeting was called to order by Gerald Reed, Glenfield, president, and conducted by Attorney John Carroll, of the law firm of Carroll and Carroll, Syracuse.

It was announced that Leland Hirschey was resigning as a director and secretary of the Board of Directors, since there was some question that under the by-laws he was ineligible to serve on the board since he is not a producer of milk.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning revision of the by-laws on various issues.

## Races!

Lowville Fish and Game Club will sponsor a Lewis County Snowmobile Race on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 9 a.m., at the Lewis County Fairgrounds, Lowville.

The event will be open to everyone. It will include junior, women's, men's, stock and modified classes, as well as a free for all for a traveling trophy.

All sleds must have snow flaps. Those wishing information may contact the chairman, Randy Colwell at 376-7146, or Martin Boyer at 376-7250.

## Carthage Honor Roll

Honor roll at Carthage Central School for the second marking period was announced today by school officials as follows:

Grade nine - Doris All, Gwenlyn Brockway, Patrick Burdick, Cathy Caldwell, Dawn Chartrand, Sandra Goodspeed, Janine Haver, Merry Lee Homan, Debra Klock, Bonnie Kufchock, Lynne Malerk, Diane Perck, Teresa Beckham, Christine Rivers, Lora Rogge, Verna Rae Thompson, and Dorok Wapman; Grade ten - Anna Mae Astafan, Dean Chartrand, Valerie Eggleston, Mary Ann Hastings.

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PARENTS' NIGHT - Lowville Academy and Central School observed parents' night for grades 9 to 12 in the school gymnasium.



A feature of the observance was a display in the gymnasium set up by the physical education department, explaining what school physical education is all about. The display - "Physical Education is to Promote Growth and Development Through a Variety of Activities" - is now on display in the window of the National Bank of Northern New York.

## SL Board Studies Buildings

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Lewis Central Schools was held on February 10 at the Junior-Senior High School in Turin.

A report from the New York State Board of Health was given to the board, indicating that the food service preparation areas met the criteria established by the Board of Health.

At a special meeting held in January, the board received a report from the area committee appointed to inspect four of the elementary buildings in the district. The report indicated the necessity to consider minimal renovations in all buildings. The board has authorized the architect to provide a cost figure on the recommendations as presented by the committee.

Approval was given to order three sixty-passenger school buses through state contract. This purchase was authorized by the voters at the annual meeting held in June, 1971.

Authorization was given by the board to do a limited amount of work at the former Turin Elementary School to provide office space by the installation of temporary partitions in two rooms.

Student scheduling at the junior-senior high school will be done by computer next year. The procedure will provide considerable supplementary data for staff use much earlier than has been the case in the past. Scheduling will be done through the BOCES Center at Glenfield and a computer in

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