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Earl Arno Hasn’t Lost His Maine Roots

Earl Scott Arno grew up on a farm in a town called “The Forks” in the state of Maine. He is a World War II Navy veteran and past commander of the local American Legion post. He is a man who hasn’t lost the humor, frisky disposition, hard working habits and slight accent, all hallmarks of folks from Maine, the “Pine Tree State.”

He left “down easters country” in 1946 (after the war) to live and work in Connecticut, was married, and raised a family, along with his late wife, Virginia Doughty Arno.

When this sincere man talks of Maine, the proud past shows up, along with the good and happy days of being born and raised on a farm with his four brothers. On the Arno farm, potatoes, were the “heavy crop seller,” according to Earl. His initial education was in a one-room schoolhouse, called “Ben Franklin,” with 30 students, in grades 1 to 8. There wasn’t much time, he said, for playing sports, (admitted baseball as his favorite) “with the farm, walking to school (five miles, if you missed the bus) and working on the farm.”

Three of Earl’s brothers live out of state: Leslie in Arkansas, with his own ranch, raising cattle; Roland, a heavy equipment operator for the town of Gray, Maine; Roscoe, head buyer for a leather company in Maine, and close by, Rodney, a welder for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, living in Tolland, Conn.

As a young boy, Earl remembers other activities in his area, namely the Lakewood Summer Theater, with some big stars and a slogan ... “Bringing Broadway to Maine.” And the time young Earl met the famous Will Rogers, another down-to-earth individual, who was vacationing there.

In the fall of 1932, it was not only a Depression year, but Mother Nature played a role in the eventual moving of the Arno family to Madison, Maine. The area where they lived was flooded out making for a very necessary move to higher and safer ground.

In 1939, Earl graduated from Madison High School after two years of vocational training (junior and senior years) in three classes: plumbing, electrician and auto mechanic. It was a tune-up for his career, and later in life, as “handy man around the house” on Spring Street.

After high school, putting aside his newfound talents for a year, Earl worked as a lumberjack, where he found hard work and, he said, “Good training.” As part of one of President Roosevelt’s programs, the NYA (National Youth Association) was formed in 1940, with Earl attending aviation school for aircraft maintenance. He graduated in 1942. When Pearl Harbor hit America, Earl’s fellow students wanted to join up but were sent back to school in order to learn more and given the opportunity to enlist upon graduation.

The boy from Maine did enlist in February, 1942, however, but was not called to active duty until that November. During this difficult waiting period, Earl worked for an engineering company in New Hampshire. He also met Virginia (during the summer), who said, “I was only going to be there a few weeks.” Earl stayed 37 summers, retiring in 1983. In September of his first year at Pratt, Virginia and the former sailor were married. They lived in East Hartford and Warehouse Point before moving to Windsor Locks in 1959.

Virginia and Earl had four children: Marilyn, Sharon, Earl, Jr. and Laureen. Marilyn, who works in the Research Center of United Technologies, and Laureen, head chef at the Standish House in Old Wethersfield, both live at home. Sharon, married to Dan Cole, lives in Maine. Dan and Sharon have two children, Jennifer and Stephanie. Earl, Jr. and his wife, Betzy, a nurse’s aide, live in South Carolina, where Earl is a head cook at an Italian restaurant.

In addition to being an active veteran, Earl is a member of the local Knights of Columbus and, when his son was young, was also involved in the Boy Scout program. Earl joined the American Legion 36 years ago, “going through the chairs, was Post Commander and District Commander,” he said. As an active legionnaire, Earl is also enrolled in the famed “40 & 8,” a World War I veterans organization. (Translation: 40 men or eight horses in a box car.)

Earl firmly believes in all veteran organizations, saying, “All vets should belong to some (veterans) club ... to be heard and to stand up and be counted.”

For a man who has worked all of his life (retirement only meant smaller jobs, to be busy), Earl does take the time to have a garden, do a lot of walking, some fishing and a hobby he advises all to partake in ... eagle watching. As mentioned, Earl is a handy man around the house. He’s a Red Sox fan, but has the crying towel handy in the fall of the year.

A few years back, he and Virginia traveled to Texas to see a few of his naval buddies, and have made trips to Georgia and Arkansas to see his brother’s cattle ranch.

Epilogue

Earl Scott Arno is a man of many stories, be it farm life, lumberjacking, serving his country, or the lack of progress in many fields. Most importantly he has never been afraid to work even after his so-called retirement.

He admired a late uncle, Percy Durgin, lumberman, who started with nothing, and when times became good, shared everything.

Earl shared his story, the good and sometimes rough part of life. They don’t come any more down-to-earth than this man, who has never lost his Maine roots.
MacDonald Gets New Lease on Life From the Knights of Columbus

"Niche . . . A situation or activity specially suited to a person's abilities or character . . ."
David John MacDonald has probably found his niche in life, at the local Knights of Columbus club rooms, with the title of permittee.
Actually, Dave's several jobs, in local restaurants and other clubs, prepared him for this latest position. But, according to Dave, a back injury has limited him in what kind of job or work effort is best for him. In the new role at the K of C, he said, "It's the best thing I have done, since the injury, and I really enjoy the K of C and serving the members in my new job."

Dave is the son of Albert and Joyce MacDonald of Windsor Locks. Albert was the subject of an earlier interview (May, 1984), as the "Resident Poet Laureate." The MacDonald family, including Dave, his brothers, James and Joseph and sisters, Katherine and Nancy, grew up in Easthampton, Massachusetts, the home of their father.

The father of this clan, while serving in England, during World War II, met and married Joyce Burrell, a genuine "war bride." Soon after Albert was discharged, Joyce joined her new husband and new country for the first time. They lived in Easthampton until 1957, moving to Enfield and then to Windsor Locks in the early 60s.

Back to the new man at the K of C, Dave spent his first two years of high school in Enfield, where he played baseball and football. He graduated from the Raider school in 1965, however, sports took a back seat as Dave began his working career after school hours.

Dave went from high school to Hamilton-Standard for one year. He found a draft notice, and quickly decided to join the U.S. Air Force, in November, 1966. Outside of a limited training period in Illinois, Dave spent nearly four years (until August 1970) in Louisiana. His main job was as weather equipment repairman, saying, "The time spent in Louisiana was great, even got to go to New Orleans for the famous Mardi Gras."

After being discharged, Dave entered Central Connecticut State University, graduating in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Again, side jobs prevented Dave in playing sports in college. However, he found time to be involved at Central, as president of the (returning) Veterans Club, which of course included many Vietnam vets. Dave said the Vietnam time was difficult, although he did not go overseas, he felt a strong part of the war. This feeling, plus the charitable work of the Veterans Club, at VA hospitals and the Newington Children's Hospital, and "what he saw there, changed his life and brought him back to earth," he said.

Once out of college, Dave attempted to secure a job with the state, but did not succeed in his efforts. He sold insurance, became a bartender, at many of the local clubs, and worked full-time job at Villa Rose.

In 1979, Dave went to work for Federal Express. Seven years later, due to a back injury, he had to seek other avenues of employment. He again worked as a bartender and at other jobs, until June of 1988. The local K of C was "looking for a permittee, and I applied for the job," Dave said.

Three years before starting his Federal Express job, Dave met and married Becky Gott of East Hartford. Becky is a graduate of the East Hartford High School, class of 1963. For the past five years, she has worked at the East Windsor Town Hall. Today, Becky is secretary to the East Windsor First Selectman Walter Gudzunas.

Becky is the mother of two grown children. Her son Mark works locally and lives at home; his sister Judy is married to John McGrath, a U.S. Airman. The McGraths' live in New Mexico, with their two children Johnnie and Irene.

When you discuss the Knights of Columbus, Dave's face lights up. He joined the K of C, soon after accepting his new position at the club, which he found to be "a great bunch of men (to work and serve with) and a (unique) camaraderie." In early December, of last year, Dave instituted daily luncheons at the club, in addition to Fish Fry Friday evenings. He said the club will also hold weekly dances with country/western type of music.

These days, Dave's new job keeps him busy with no time to think of the coming golf season. Dave said, "I couldn't get enough of golf, playing all the local clubs in the area." No golf swings for Dave, only swings of the right utensils, to satisfy the hungry, even since the trouble with his back. Dave admits he's a die-hard Yankee fan, Celtics follower, and gets to a few of the Whaler games.

Dave was in high school when the country lost John F. Kennedy. For Dave, he felt he lost a good friend and the tragic circumstances, of those days in late November, 1963, greatly effected him, as he so admired the late president.

Épilogue

Mark Twain once wrote, "A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval."

Dave has had his ups and downs. He is now comfortable with his new lease on life. He admits, in the new role it's good "to put on a good face, stay in a good mood, and (try) to be an easy-going guy."

Yes, Dave has probably found his niche.
Tradition of Fighting Fires

Gary Ruggiero's grandfather, Nick, was a fire fighter (Civil Defense) during World War Two. His father, Dominick, better known as Nick, was a veteran of three decades as volunteer fireman, and well-known photographer. Gary himself, a lieutenant in today's active department, has been in uniform since he was fifteen.

The tradition continues... his son, Tony, although only four, wears his "F.D." and other paraphernalia proudly, surrounded by fire engines, fire houses, as his main toys, and some day will surely follow in the boots of his great-grandfather, grandfather, his great-uncle and equally proud father.

The story of Gary Francis Ruggiero is one of dedication, loyalty and family togetherness, a heritage set down by the men before him, in the town, steeped in tradition, be it the Fire Department, Lions Club, veteran groups and active citizenship.

Native Son

Gary is a native son, as his late father before him, educated locally at Saint Mary's and the high school, class of 1969. He married a local girl, Carol Leroux Ruggiero, who came to Windsor Locks at age eight. In addition to little Tony, the couple have a nine-year-old daughter, Nicole, who is involved with the Girl Scout for whom she has achieved the status of top cookie salesgirl.

Gary started young in the work force, working as a junior janitor in the local schools, a clerk in a drugstore and a maintenance worker at Dexter's throughout his high school and college days. Gary earned an associate's degree in electrical technology from Hartford State Technical school.

Carol and Gary knew each other in highschool; she had graduated the year before him, but fate had a hand in their eventual permanent partnership. They met at a firemen's party (1972) and two years later were married, on October 26, 1974.

Carol is the daughter of Connie and Wren Leroux. Her dad operated a well-known auto body shop for many years downtown, before redevelopment. He was from Canada, her mother a native of Vermont. As mentioned, she came to town at eight, from San Diego. Carol has a sister, Evy Kaplan, a secretary at the South Street School, and married to Fred Kaplan, a lieutenant in the Windsor Locks Fire Department. Their brother, Connie, is head of the town's auxiliary police and recently became dispatcher.

A few months before Carol and Gary got together, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard, serving six years, with six months on active duty. He saw duty in New Jersey, Virginia and Governor's Island in New York. After active duty, Gary was assigned to monthly meetings in Hartford, New London and finally Groton, where he became involved in research and development.

Back home, Gary worked at Hamilton-Standard for two years, Air Kaman for six months, and in 1977 joined Crouse-Hinds in Windsor, where he is now employed in projects of design and drafting.

The young married couple, first lived on Dickerman, then on Fairview, where his mother, Grace Rossi Ruggiero still resides, and now live on Grove. Gary said that Grove Street is known as "Public Safety Street," due to the number of firemen and policemen who live on the old street between West and Main.

Gary has a sister, Gale, married to Charles Fay. The Fays live on South Elm with their two sons, Steven and Thomas.

Any story of Gary Ruggiero, must contain a few lines about his parents. His mother, Grace, is currently secretary to First Selectman Cliff Randall. Grace and her late husband were one of our first "Cabbages and Kings" interviewees in July, 1975. Nick, the successful photographer for many of the Hartford Springfield newspapers, plus the Windsor Locks Journal, passed away in 1984. He has left a legacy to Gary and Tony, as to the life of a volunteer fireman. Nick not only served as a regular fireman, but was chairman of the Fire Commission. Nick served for years with the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1945, serving twenty months in Germany.

Four-year-old Tony, a student at the Congregational Church's nursery school, also has a few great uncles to emulate. For the record, his dad's uncles -- Patsy Ruggiero, former fireman and now a member of the Police Commission; William Walters, fireman and the town dog warden; and current Fire Chief Joe LaPierre, Jr.

"Uncle Joe was best man at our wedding," Gary said.

Nicole Ruggiero, an active girl in her own right, is a fourth-grader at the North Street School, in the fourth year of Girl Scouts and as we said, the top cookie salesgirl for Troop 552.
Lt. Gary Ruggiero

Nicole enjoys reading and all types of arts and crafts.

Leisure Time
You might say, Gary Ruggiero is “into” firefighting. However, not as involved as his father was, in that Gary, at times, was bitten by the photography bug. He and Gale grew up watching their father, the pro, taking all kinds of pictures: celebrities, politicians and many local weddings.

A relaxing time off for Gary, is watching car races and movies on television. He spoke of an old fire rescue television program, popular several years back, which was aired at about three in the morning. The program was taped so Tony and his father could watch at a more convenient time.

Vacations are a family treat, with the Catskill Game Farm and a trip to Florida, a few years back, when Nicole was much smaller.

Gary is a member of the Lions Club. Gary first became interested in the Lions Club working with the club’s ambulance corps, where he earned the title of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). With his active career in the fire department, Gary said, “I just run out of time,” leaving most of his time to the volunteer company.

In 1972, Gary became a fireman, reaching the rank of lieutenant in 1985. For Gary, “The fire department is sometimes like a job... sometimes like a family, we are all real close... I watched my dad, as fireman, we lived across the street (Oak) from the old firehouse... I guess I always wanted to be a fireman.”

When asked who he most admired, Gary remembers a lot of people, saying, “My father especially, he always took the time (even with his schedule) for the family... and he cared for people.” The popular “Golden Rule” was Gary’s own philosophy, adding, “Life is too short, not to live by it.”

Epilogue
The tradition continues for Gary Ruggiero, passed down by a dedicated group of loyal citizens. Little Tony is on the same path.

With the Ruggiero family (and relations) their deeds in the volunteer sector will long be remembered, which proves the following. “Words, no matter how public, have a way of being forgotten, while deeds, no matter how small, have a way of making memories of their own.”

Windsor Locks Journal January 20, 1989

Runs in Ruggiero Family
Peter Barberie Is the Boy From Olive Street

Peter Douglas Barberie has been surrounded by local history, be it relatives, or well-known citizenry, on the street where he was raised. Peter can rightfully be called, “the Boy From Olive Street.” The same street that gave the town of Windsor Locks, Ella Tambussi Grasso and Eunice Grainger McGinn, and other distinguished family names.

The historical past was probably the chief reason for Peter’s involvement in the town’s Historical Society, the past two years.

For the record, Peter’s list of relatives would certainly earn a page or two in the history of Windsor Locks. His great-grandfather, John Rooney, built the house at 14 Olive Street, in 1898, home to many of his family. His other great-grandfather was Johnny “Jit” Barberie, whose claim to fame was that he drove the first horse-drawn wagon, transporting students to school and owned a gas station (a few years later) on Main Street. J. Douglas Barberie, Peter’s grandfather, worked at Roncari Industries. His grandmother, still a spry eighty years young, is Anna Rooney Barberie.

Peter is the son of the late Joan Barberie, and David Barberie, a local man, who still makes his home on Olive Street, and has been a land developer in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York.

To complete the family tree, (at least part of it) is Lauretta Rooney, Peter’s great aunt, a “Cabbages and Kings” interviewee in November, 1987, as was a great uncle, Bob Parmelee, February, 1980, the famed “Popcorn Yankee.”

History and Art

Peter’s younger years have been filled with interesting and diversified activities. The future plans, for this friendly college student, may include the law and journalism, with a heavy load of history and art.

Peter was born in a Torrington hospital and lived in Simsbury until he was two. He went to a private school, and then transferred to North Street School as a sixth-grader. He graduated from the local high school last June. Peter left his individual mark at the Raider School, as co-editor of the school’s newspaper and as a member of the year book staff. When we talked, Peter was home for the holidays, before returning to the University of Connecticut, where he is an art history major. He has not lost any time becoming involved at the state college where he is a member of the debating club and is practices creative writing. Peter had a taste of college, during his junior year in high school, attending drama classes at Boston College.

During those high school years, Peter worked locally and after school, became active in local drama, did some writing and collected antiques which he calls his main hobby. What kind of antiques? Books and coins, with Peter saying, “I buy what I can afford,” with furniture from the past, something for the future. As far as writing, his specialty is fiction (short stories) and he occasionally writes poetry. Peter’s interest in sports includes a year on the high school track team as well as outside soccer and basketball. Peter’s only spectator sport has been limited to the Hartford Whalers.

Peter has done his share of traveling, with trips to Washington and California, visiting relatives in these two far western states.

When he finds the time, the talented young man watches old movies such as “Casablanca” and “Gone With the Wind.” Peter said he does not agree with the new method of coloring these old masters. When it comes to music, Peter said he enjoys the Beatles and the current style of the Rolling Stones.

Peter is “very interested in politics.” Growing up on Olive Street, he said, “As a little boy, I remember Mr. and Mrs. Grasso and their daughter, visiting our family quite often. . . . She (Mrs. Grasso) was a family friend.”

In discussing the Windsor Locks Historical Society, Peter related other interests, saying “I have always been interested in old homes and museums. . . . I volunteered to work (with other concerned citizens) under the watchful eye of Mr. Howard White.” Since he joined the activities at the Noden-Reed Museum, Peter has organized a few special shows. One he is most proud of was the walking tour of Elm Street, from Memorial Hall along Elm Street, viewing and discussing the architecture and the contribution, to the town of Windsor Locks, of the original owners of these homes.

When asked who he most admired, Peter responded, “My grandmother, Anna Rooney Barberie, I have lived with her all my life . . . . She has brought me up and have given me my philosophy of life—no matter how hard things get, just keep going ahead and don’t give up.”

Epilogue

That’s the story of the boy from Olive Street, the street where the following families added historical notes to their town — Sullivan, Rooney, Tambussi, McCarthy, McGinn, Lyskey, Brett, Shaughnessy and Carroll.

The gauntlet has been passed from these common folks, with a sense of history of some, to young Peter Douglas Barberie. He has begun his own path with the study of art and history, and what messages the artists and contributors had in mind.

I believe young Peter would agree with the words of John F. Kennedy, “The life of the arts . . . is very close to the center of a nation’s purpose . . . is a test of the quality of a nation’s civilization.”
George K.F. Patterson Is a Man of Service for All Times

In July 1942, a young man left his hometown, with another year left of high school, to join the U.S. Navy. The 17-year-old newest sailor was George King Ferguson Patterson.

For those who know him best, it's just "Pat," but for the sake of his intriguing story during World War II, we'll stick to just plain George.

George grew up in Hartford, the son of Archie and Elizabeth Patterson. His dad came from northern Ireland, his mother from Scotland. Archie had his own distinguished career, however a bit earlier, in World War I as a member of the "Winnipeg Rifles," part of the English army. After the war, to end all wars, George went to work for First National Stores in East Hartford for the next decade. His next two jobs were for old beer favorites — Balantine and Rheingold. In 1959 he began a 30-year position with Windsor's Combustion Engineering Inc., retiring from the Water Pollution Plant just last month.

On Christmas Day, 1943, George received a strong taste of war — his ship was torpedoed off the coast of Nova Scotia, resulting in nine rough days on a life raft in the open seas with eight other sailors. They were eventually rescued by a Canadian destroyer.

During those five years the young sailor was reassigned George to the Third Fleet, on its way to the Pacific Theater. He saw the other side of the world with stops and action to match in places such as Okinawa, Iwo Jima, other islands to be won back from Japan. The boy from Hartford was a witness, with thousands of others, to the final surrender in Tokyo Bay in September 1945.

George's tour of duty continued after the war's end; however, his next assignment would be called special. He was a part of a May 1947 "Goodwill Tour" around the world on the USS Ingraham, a task force that originated in California, to Hawaii, Australia, the Indian Ocean, up through the Suez Canal, out to the Mediterranean Sea, and back home to the States.

The man, whose wife calls "unpredictable," was quite certain when asked who he most admired. He said, John F. Kennedy, General Douglas MacArthur, Admiral Chester William Nimitz (whom George met in the Pacific), and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "because he (Roosevelt) was our president during the war, and probably one of our greatest presidents."

Epilogue

George King Ferguson Patterson, former sailor, a survivor in World War II, now commander of the local V.F.W., is an admirer of great men in our history who represent a mix of diverse personalities.

This man, with the quiet personality, who resembles the old adage "still water runs deep," probably knows the words of Longfellow: "Lives of great men all remind us... We can make our lives sublime, And, department, leave behind us... Footprints on the sands of time."
Bill Stone –

The best time to locate and talk to Coach Bill Stone is at an afternoon practice session of his Enfield High School hockey team at the Enfield Twin Rinks.

The road to this popular rink, for the Windsor Locks native, L. William Stone, has taken him to numerous baseball parks, other hockey rinks, and as an equestrian performer in European Olympic Games, mixed with forty years of playing and coaching several sports.

Twenty-one years ago, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars honored Bill Stone as the 1968 Sportsman of the Year. They recognized, even then, the versatile athlete and coach was deserving of the award, which he said, looking back, was “the greatest thing that ever happened to me...”

Bill is the proud father and advisor to his four sons... Billy, Kevin, Paul and Rusty, all hockey players, who, along with dad, have made the name Stone synonymous with the game of hockey, in this area and other New England states.

The story of Bill Stone is one of dedication, hard work, diversified jobs and hobbies, always with a friendly disposition and certainly proving that good guys do end up first.

Bill was born and raised on Center Street, Windsor Locks, the sons of Louis Stone and Nellie Colli Stone. Bill’s dad was from Montreal, Canada, which accounts for the hockey love, and whose mother, was a local girl. Mr. Stone was a well-known mechanic, with a garage on Grove Street. Mrs. Stone was from an equally known family in town.

Sports and love for horses gave Bill an early start to his eventual career. Growing up in town he rode his first horse at the Reed Farm on West Street, was president of the 4-H Club, played football, baseball and basketball at the Raider School. Bill was the sixth man on the court, a pitcher and infielder on the diamond and his only year at football, was quarterback and safety.

During those high school years he got his first taste of hockey, playing for the St. Patrick’s team at Eastern States in West Springfield, in a Saturday morning league. One of the highlights of those times was meeting and knowing “Mr. Hockey” Eddie Shore. Bill said, “Mr. Shore was my advisor in hockey... gave the kids hockey sticks and even took the nets off the cages, making sure he had only the best equipment...”

Bill remembers other people who have helped him along this active life — his high school coach, “Spud” Shapiro, “a man I always tried to emulate,” and Eleanor Wells of Suffield, who taught Bill how to ride a horse, and changed his style of riding from western to English riding. Since 1955, Bill has kept his hobby of riding as member of the First Company Governor’s Horse Guard. Last month, this prestigious group took part in the inauguration ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

For the record, in 1955, Bill was a member of the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team (jumping class) in Innsbruck, Austria and Stockholm, Sweden. Thirty-three years later, his oldest son, Billy, represented his country, in the summer Olympics as part of the Jet (water) Skiing Team.

Speaking of the sons of Bill and Phyllis Bartholomew Stone, Billy, the oldest at 28, lives in California and is employed by Kawasaki Motors. Billy attended Suffield Academy where he was All-Prep in hockey, and played lacrosse. He went to University of Lowell and later transferred to the University of Hartford where he played hockey on the club team.

Kevin, 26, works in sales. Married, Kevin lived in Washington, Conn., with his wife, Jill, a teacher at Rumsey Hall. Kevin played hockey at Suffield Academy, and four years at Assumption College in Worcester. He also played lacrosse.

Paul, 20, attends New Hampshire College and is the second highest scorer on the hockey team. At Enfield High School, Paul was All-New England and All-State in hockey. According to his father, Paul played one year with Craig Janney, Enfield’s hometown star, now with the Boston Bruins, and a player that Paul emulated in hockey techniques.

Today, the youngest of the Stone boys, Russell, better known as Rusty, is a senior at Enfield High School, playing hockey for his father. Rusty has earned All-State honors in both hockey and soccer. Bill Stone, as a coach, emphasized, he did not take part in the voting for his sons, in the “All-State or All-New England” teams, the votes were made by other coaches.

It must be noted that Bill Stone is a 1956 graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in business. Bill has always found time to play and coach, in addition to a series of outside jobs. Bill worked for two years with the State of Connecticut at Bradley in the supply department. He later spent four years at

– Ice Hockey Runs in His Family
Kaman and ten years, when "the family took over the Windsor Locks school bus business." During the summer months, Bill worked for Roncari and since 1981, has been at steady worker at Dexters.

The ultimate coach, just to round out an active career in his home town, Bill served three years as a volunteer fireman. His coaching career reads includes two years as football coach at Windsor Locks High School; 10 years at Suffield Academy coaching football, baseball and hockey; coaching football and baseball at Enfield and Fermi High Schools; and running a summer baseball and soccer camp at Suffield Academy with Coach Dan Sullivan.

Bill recently took over the hockey duties from Coach Phil Clarkin, after six years as assistant coach of Enfield High's hockey team. Hockey clinics were on his busy agenda at rinks in Enfield, South Windsor and Bolton.

"I’ve had forty years, someday I want to get out, but I really enjoy the work and especially the kids, and teaching them the game, and I admit, I do learn something new every day," Bill says.

Bill considers himself "an all-round sportsman" and enjoys hunting and fishing which he learned from an uncle, Jake Colli. Bill also follows all the Boston teams, and his favorite hockey player Bobby Orr.

In addition to coaches along the way, Bill did have another mentor, his uncle Lou Lucia, former Patent Attorney, of West Hartford, now 96, who resides at the "Gables" in Farmington, with another relative, Bill’s aunt, Loretta Colli, 90 years old. "Mr. Lucia was a steady hard worker, and was always good to his family," Bill said.

When asked about his V.F.W. honors, two decades ago, Bill said he was very appreciative of the award, "especially to be included with the previous sportsmen to be considered in that capacity..."

A magazine once wrote a few words concerning a famous sports writer (Red Smith), and to paraphrase — This selection of highlights, spanning four decades, represents Bill Stone at his best... and they don’t come any better than that..."
Byron Enjoys Being Principal

John Stephen Byron, Jr. has lived and worked in his native state of Massachusetts in the field of education up until last June, when he was chosen principal of North Street School.

The Hadley-reared educator had spent 10 years as a grammar school teacher, and 13 years as principal in Greenfield schools, a role he fully enjoyed, before accepting his assignment in Windsor Locks. He has found the town, teachers and parents "very supportive" of their students, a positive approach, as principal and new man in the local educational system.

John Byron was born in Northampton, son of the late John Byron, Sr., a civil engineer from Hadley, and Barbara Byron, a nurse by profession, from North Attleborough. John, Jr. came from a large family with three brothers and three sisters. He attended Hopkins Academy, graduating in 1959, where he was an active student. While at Hopkins, he played baseball (third base and left field), was on the Student Council, played the trumpet in the school band, sang in the chorus and, just to round out the year before college, took part in the school plays.

As his senior year was coming to an end, John was not certain of his future field of endeavor. He began college at American International in Springfield, and it wasn't until his second year that he decided "to go into teaching, probably at the elementary level." Graduating in 1963, with a bachelor's degree, John began his teaching career at the Washington Street School in Springfield, as fifth-grade teacher.

A Career in Education

Looking back, he said, "Yes, there was a certain amount of apprehension, on my part, in my first job . . . a new venture, not only for me but the students, it took a lot of planning. I gained experience and really enjoyed my three years in Springfield.''

John's next assignment covered seven years, however, it was, what you may call, different. At the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst, he was a demonstration teacher in a "lab school" for fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders, where undergraduates observed teaching techniques in actual classroom conditions.

With a decade of teaching behind him, John applied and was accepted as principal of two elementary schools in Greenfield, North and South Street Schools. After a five-year period, he was transferred to the Greenfield Middle School, where he stayed for eight years. John then left his home state for Windsor Locks to assume his current position at North Street School.

When asked about the transition from teacher to principal, John said there was "a great difference, in that, you work more with adults, however, you are still a teacher, always training to be more efficient, keeping ahead (in the art) of teaching, and (a big factor) you are accountable to the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, teachers and parents.''

A Large Family

John lives in Deerfield, Mass., with his wife of four years, Michelle Bush Byron. They met when they were both teaching in Amherst, where she is still a teacher. Michelle was from Woronoco, just outside Westfield, and is a graduate of Westfield High School, and the University of Massachusetts.

As mentioned, John comes from a large family, and today, he has his own family of two girls, Jennifer and Bridget, a son, John, and two step-sons, Greg and Peter. Education is the name of the game for these five active students. Jennifer is a senior at Boston College, Bridget is also at the Chestnut Hill campus as a freshman, while John is a senior at Hopkins Academy. Greg continues the educational trend as a freshman at UMass, and his brother, Peter, is a senior at Amherst High School. All five children participate in sports: Jennifer and Bridget play basketball, John is a soccer and court player, and Greg and Peter are the skiers in the family.

John said he "was into skiing and jogging, but due to an auto accident (back injury) I had to curtail such activities, and now, cross-country skiing is my sport." He admitted he is "a definite Red Sox fan, all through the current disappointments." In addition to sports, John enjoys classical music, the "Cosby Show'', "60 Minutes" and reading. His travel experiences include a trip to Europe and summers spent at the Cape.

A Man of Education

Education is close to John's heart, keeping memberships in the Elementary Principals Association, Middle School Principals Association and the Phi Delta Kappan Society. "An organization that keeps (educators) up with latest in our field," he said.

John Byron is a man who enjoys his work, and said, "I am very content in my present position," when asked about his future plans. He put it all in proper perspective, by saying, "It's a nice feeling when you come into this building (North Street School)." When asked to compare students today to those when he first began teaching, he said, "Looking back, kids are kids, and (admitted) they do have more pressures these days."

Recently, North Street School was honored as one of six schools in the state to receive certificates in recognition of the way they have integrated students with disabilities into the regular class rooms. "Yes," Mr. Byron said, "We have integrated those students and the (honors) are a tribute to our staff." He also commented on the very involved Parents/Teachers Organization, at the school, saying, "They have given more support to this school, more than any other school that I have been associate with, during my years in education."

Adding, "The town is very supportive of education."

John Byron was very supportive of a young senator, during his own senior year at high school. The young senator went on to become President John F. Kennedy. John greatly admired President Kennedy. "He (President Kennedy) was a good influence on our generation, he was in a position to get people involved, as I was in his campaign in Massachusetts," John said.

John's own philosophy, he says, "Is very simple . . . (based on) respect for others, regardless of race and color," adding, "and to try to make society a better place."

Of North Street School
When Robert John Valluzzi was a young man, he watched his father, John Valluzzi, answer the fire call as the ultimate volunteer fireman.

Today, a volunteer fireman himself, Robert observes his own son, Robert, only 7, as the third generation, with his toy fire engine and fire hat, and awaits the day his son can follow the call of the fire alarm, as he has done the past decade and his dad before him for 20 years.

Last month we talked to Robert, on the life of his late father, his own family, his diversified employment career and two volunteer activities. In the middle of our talk, a fire call was made, he left home and the writer's questions, returning shortly after, ready to resume what makes him tick. (I'm becoming accustomed to these interruptions, as a member of the Fire Commission and as a writer.)

Some background on the man born in Manchester, the son of John Valluzzi and Jennie Cavanna Valluzzi, who still resides in town. Before young Robert began school, the family left Connecticut for Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where John Valluzzi took a position with a yacht club. In Connecticut he had been associated with the Manchester Boat and Motor Co. Robert went to school in Florida, but not for long. Mr. Valluzzi became ill and they returned to Connecticut and set up a home in Windsor Locks. Robert has a sister, Karen, who is married to James Hitchdale. They reside in Southwick, Mass. After Robert received his first schooling at Union, he went on to high school where he played baseball and soccer, graduating in 1974. During his years, from 8 to 12, he was an active young boy, playing Little League baseball and hockey with the Youth Hockey League under Coach Bill Stone.

A Variety of Jobs

As mentioned, Robert has had a different employment career, in that it covered the following: an employee at Emhart for more than nine years until the strike of 1982; a bartender at the Polish National Home in town; permutee of the Knights of Columbus Club; driver for Pilot Air Freight; at Terry Steam, until the company went out of business; and since September of 1987, he has worked steadily at the Loomis-Chaffee School in Windsor as the assistant grounds superintendent. He remembers Loomis well, as a hockey player at their rink and the days of playing wherever ice was available.

When Robert was in high school he double-dated with a friend. He eventually married the girl he didn't take out that night. She was a local girl, Maureen Sproul. They were married in October 1976, the year after she graduated from the local high school. Maureen is the daughter of Langdon and Kathleen Sproul. She has a brother, Wayne, and a sister, Linda. Maureen has worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston during the past 10 years.

She and Robert have two children — the future fireman, Robert, and a daughter Sarah, 4. Robert, a second-grader at South Street School, enjoys swimming, bowling and baseball. Robert also shares his father's interest in the drums. Sarah, who will be attending nursery school in the fall, "just loves to dress up," according to her mother, and is a loyal fan of "Sesame Street."

Yes, Robert plays the drums, saying, "I've been into music since I was seven-years-old. Not one to just bang away on the drums, Robert had his own band back in the late 1970s, called "OBG Express." The band, with a repertoire of oldies, played rock and roll and music from the 1950s and 1960s. He also did some studio work recording background with the drums. In addition, Robert played with other bands, specializing at weddings in the area.

An Outdoorsman

When time permits, he's an outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, hunting and tending a small garden at home. Vacations mean "outdoor stuff ... camping and the summer months in New Hampshire." Spectators sports are limited to rooting for the Yankees.

Adding to his volunteer action with the firemen, Robert has been a member of the local Knights of Columbus for the past seven years. He is the vice president on the Board of Directors of the Building Association. He has worked closely with the Knights' handicapped program for children. His talent with the drums has also given him the chance to perform with the Old Engine Two Fife and Drum Corps, a part of the Windsor Locks Historical Society.

Robert joined the Windsor Locks Fire Department in June of 1978. He will receive his 10-year pin tomorrow at the annual dinner-dance of the department. Like his father before him, Robert is on the department's Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. He regards the department as a "very dedicated bunch of men ... I became interested due to my father's involvement and just couldn't wait to join."

As one can readily see, John Valluzzi was a great influence on his son, Robert. When asked who he most admired, he said, "My father. He set an example for me to follow and (I must say) my best friend."

Epilogue

Robert John Valluzzi is a member of that special group of volunteers in his adopted town of Windsor Locks. His wife calls him "an active man." We have tried to cover these activities of this concerned family man. He strives for the best, which may prove the following: "It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."
Retirement in Florida Differs Greatly from Retirement in Connecticut

Last month, my wife and I took a week off from our retirement life in Connecticut to be in the sun and sands of Florida.

No big deal. Thousands of folks in Connecticut go south in January, February and March, just to get away from the cold and to feel the warmth of that 80 degree weather.

So why am I taking a column to tell my story about our week in Florida? Because I have finally found out the difference between retirement in Connecticut and retirement in Florida.

Let me explain further. Four years ago I retired. Well, not really. I continued writing my weekly column about the good people of Windsor Locks, and I found out I didn't mind talking to travelers at Bradley Airport as a volunteer worker at the two terminals' information booths. Then I was appointed to the Fire Commission. Not a busy schedule for a guy who had worked at a steady job for four decades. But let me explain a little further.

A Working Retirement

In Connecticut, when a man or woman retires, they are expected to do other things with their spare time. Other things, like another job. Because the other people who are still in the labor class are always asking, "What do you do, now that you are retired?"

You can't say, "I'm retired and don't do anything. Right?" What do you mean, you don't do anything. Well, I hope you get the idea. Some people spend their time at shopping malls, or going out to lunch everyday. That can be boring and expensive.

So my wife and I took off to Florida for a vacation and to see how other retirees pass the time. It was a great week with that 80 degree weather and keeping up with the weather reports of Connecticut and its 20 degree weather, without its usual snow.

Everything was fine. We stayed at a nice hotel, right on the beach. If we didn't walk the beach or swim in the Gulf of Mexico, we could use the hotel's heated pool.

One day we drove up the coast about 30 miles to visit an old friend and his wife, who were from Connecticut and had moved to the sunny state four years ago. Of course, they were retired.

Their directions were perfect. We arrived in the morning after an hour's ride. We took the scenic route, not the faster Route 275.

They were glad to see us. We had called the night before and did not want to surprise them. At our ages, surprises are not good.

Their house was comfortable and clean as a whistle. They lived in a retirement community. They told us the trash was picked up twice a week. (Not sure how much trash you can have that requires twice a week pickup, but I live in Connecticut.) They didn't have to cut the lawn. This labor-saving job was done by the folks who run the retirement community.

A Relaxing Retirement

In other words, they just sit back and enjoy the sun. Their home was not on the beach, just off a major highway. Not many homes are on the beach. However, we were told we could drive to the beach and take a picnic lunch. We didn't.

But I'm getting away from my story about retirement. The point is that when you live in a Florida retirement community, you are retired. You are not expected to work, just to enjoy yourself. I guess, down there, no one asks if you have a part-time job. You are retired; there's no need for a job. But when you retire in Connecticut, it's a different story. At least I see it that way.

Please do not get the wrong idea. We love and prefer the life in Connecticut. We'll take the four seasons, any year. We also admit getting away in the winter is great, but the way this winter has been, who's complaining.

So all you folks who are retired and have decided to stay put, tell all the rest of the working folks, you are retired and just because you live in Connecticut, it doesn't mean you have to be working. It's great to be busy, no argument there, but this latest trip of ours opened our eyes to the vast difference between living in the sunshine state and the colder but wiser northeast.

Like the latest greetings, "don't worry, be happy."
Blarney Spoken Here . . . and Other Fictional Fantasies

The dictionary defines that popular Irish trait of blarney as "smooth, flattering talk . . ." I've never been known to be too smooth, flattering, yea. So on this St. Patrick's Day, I'm probably still not smooth, but for this week's column, flattering, only to myself.

This will not be an interview about folks in Windsor Locks, just a fantasy trip, which the dictionary also says . . . must have "a vivid imagination, illusion, mental invention, literary or dramatic fiction characterized by highly fanciful or supernatural elements, and certainly make-believe," so here goes . . .

• A talk with President George Bush, in the oval office, about his days in New Haven, as a Yale student, and a discussion on world affairs.
• Hitting for the Boston Red Sox, in the World Series, last of the ninth, losing 2-1, two men on, and I hit a homerun off Orel Hershiser of the Dodgers.
• To be Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City.

• To do a tap dance routine with Sammy Davis, Jr.
• To win the LOTTO, just one time.
• To make the 25th reunion of the Windsor Locks Little League World Champs a reality, next year.
• To sit in with Jane Pauley and Bryant Gumbel on the "Today Show."
• To watch the television show when Willard Scott announces I'm 100 years old.
• To write that one great novel and be listed on the New York Times Best Sellers.
• To find the fountain of youth, it's still around.
• To act with Robin Williams, in any movie he wants to do.
• To interview a fantasy list of characters, that even Barbara Walters would envy . . .

The dictionary defines that popular Irish trait of blarney as "smooth, flattering talk . . ."

"cabbages and kings"

JACK REDMOND

• To play with the Hartford Whaler on the line with Ron Francis and Gordie Howe and score the winning goal for the Stanley Cup.
• Coming up to the 18th hole at the TPC in Cromwell, with Paul Azinger and Phil Blackmar and I get a bird to win the GHO.
• Start on the first leg of a trip around the world with my wife Rita.
• Winning the Pulitzer Prize for journalism.
• A private audience with Pope John Paul.
• To kiss the Blarney Stone on our next trip to Ireland.
• To attend the Masters (for the second time), Super Bowl and World Series with Arnold Dean.
• To be the photographer of "Sports Illustrated" magazine, doing their swimsuit issue.
• To sing "My Way" at Carnegie Hall with Frank Sinatra.

• To have a beer at the "Cheers" bar in Boston.
• To do a tap dance routine with Sammy Davis, Jr.
• To win the LOTTO, just one time.
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The dictionary defines that popular Irish trait of blarney as "smooth, flattering talk . . ."

So there you have it, a few fantasies, and definitively, where Blarney is spoken. On this most celebrated and happy holidays of our ancestors and the wearing of the green, a most happy St. Patrick's Day to all. Let's add a few words from A.W.E. O'Shaughnessy about the Irish:

"We are the music-makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams . . .
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world forever, it seems . . . "

"We are the music-makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams . . .
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world forever, it seems . . . "
When Terri Marinak was a young girl, she
wanted so badly to be a Girl Scout. It never
happened. However, years later, a friend
became a leader in the Girl Scouts, and when
Terri's daughter was the right age, she fol­
lowed her friend's course of action to become
a leader. The town of Windsor Locks has had
the benefit of Terri's talents for the past
eight years.

Today, Teresa McLaughlin Marinak, who
was born in Herkimer, N.Y., and grew up in
East Windsor and Windsor Locks, is now the
service unit manager of the local Girl Scouts.
She is the daughter of Bernard McLaugh­
lin, who lives in South Windsor and the late
Elizabeth McLaughlin, who was originally
from Whitesboro, N.Y. The McLaughlins were
living in East Windsor, and just prior to
Terri's birth, returned to New York. Terri
has a brother Bernard and two sisters, Mary
and Margaret.

Terri is the wife of Thomas Joseph Marl­
nak, a native of town, who has been on the
active side of sports as a player, coach and
official in baseball and basketball. To round
out their large family, they have four active
children and little Sam, just six months old.

Sports Enthusiast

Tom is the son of George (and the late)
Mary Marinak, who came to Connecticut
from Pennsylvania. He has a sister Jackie
and two brothers, Tony and George. Tom
graduated from the local high school in 1967,
where he played basketball, a sport he learned
at the Middle School, besides playing base-

ball. Baseball was his first sport, which began
at the Little League level.

Tom is still active in the Men's Winter/
Summer basketball league, where he does
double duty as president of the league and as
a referee. As soon as his sons were old enough,
Tom became involved in junior basketball
and the Little League program.

Tom served six years in the Air National
Guard and for the past 11 years has been an
employee at the Finast Warehouse in town.

As mentioned, Terri lived in East Wind­
sor, however, she attended St. Mary's School.
When she was in the sixth grade, the family
moved to Windsor Locks. Terri went on to the
high school, where she graduated in 1971.
She was a member of the ski club and partici­
pated in honor classes at the school. Terri
and Tom met at a dance and were married in
1979.

Family Affair

The story of Terri and Tom is surely a
family affair, with five children — Colleen,
Tom Jr., Jesse, Leo and little Sam. Colleen,
13, is in the eighth grade at St. Adalbert's
School in Enfield. She is a Girl Scout, very
interested in art, and she intends to go to
Windsor Locks High School. According to her
mother, Colleen "baby-sits a lot."

Marinak Family

The baby-sitting began with Tom Jr., bet­
ter known as "T.J." He's nearly 9, and a
third-grader at the Enfield school. "T.J." is a
member of the Windsor Locks Water Jets,
plays soccer, basketball, Little League base­
ball, is a Cub Scout (Pack 261) and also
enjoys judo. "T.J." is also an altar boy at St.
Robert's Church.

Jesse, 7, is a second-grader at St. Adal­
bert's, a Cub Scout and has begun a career in
baseball with T-Ball. Leo, 6, a kindergarten
student at the Catholic school, says he just
"can't wait until he can join the Cub Scouts."

Yes, Terri and her children drive up to
Enfield in the family van every day for school.
Then there's Sam, six months and "loved by
all." Before his arrival, they all wanted an­
other brother, and they didn't get Samuel,

"just plain Sam," said Terri.

Leisure Time

When Tom isn't working or doing his thing
in sports, and Terri is not caring for her
students and Sam, she enjoys crafts, sewing
and photography, while Tom spends time
working out in exercise routines.

Terri said, "the family had one major vaca­
tion (before Sam) driving cross-country as
far as Oklahoma and Texas, with our pop-up
tent for camping along the way, with Girl
Scout and Cub Scout training coming in
handy."

Terri, as mentioned, has been involved in
scouting for eight years, was a leader, and
today, in addition to her role as service unit
manager, is a co-leader with Diane Boyko,
for troop 555.

Scout Leadership

What's the role of a service unit manager?
Under the leadership of the Connecticut
Valley Girl Scout Council, the service unit

Is Active In

Scouts and Sports
manager sees that the local troops are organized and maintained in a given area, while developing a team approach to leader support by directing the work of organizers and consultants.

The responsibilities are as follows: potential memberships and needs for Brownie and Junior troops, suggests agenda items for meetings, recommends volunteer adults, recruits neighborhood cookie drives, administers program policies and standards, distributes leader packets and reviews contents with leaders. In addition, she works with the school organizers Sharline Dowd at South School and Carol Welch at North Street School in getting students interested in scouting.

For the record, Terri said there are 17 troops in town with 175 girls in the scouting program.

**Epilogue**

Two very involved parents, Tom and Terri Marinak both agreed they had good teachers—their parents—saying, “We feel they, with loving kindness, prepared us for adult life, including parenthood, and we find it rewarding.”

They have their favorite words . . . Terri's — “Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you . . .” (Matthew 7); Tom’s — “Life is an adventure, so dare to live it.”

They both are asking, seeking and knocking and they surely are daring to live the busy life.

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**Girl Scouts Appreciate Volunteer Suzanne Cyr**

To the Editor:

I was very interested to read about Guy and Suzanne Cyr and their daughters in Jack Redmond’s “Cabbages and Kings” column in your December 23rd edition.

Having had Guy in my high school French class, and graduating with Suzanne’s sister, Leslie, I found it fun to read about people I know.

However, I would like to add a postscript to Mr. Redmond’s column.

Suzanne, in addition to the accomplishments that were mentioned, is also a volunteer Girl Scout leader here in Windsor Locks. This is her second year in this role of leading girls — Daisies last year, and Brownies this year. From what I understand, she was also a leader in New Hampshire when her family lived there.

There are at least ten little girls and their families who are glad that Suzanne is back in Windsor Locks, and we adult leaders who have seen Suzanne in action feel that she is an asset to our community in yet another way.

*Teresa M. Marinak*

_Service Unit Manager*

_Windsor Locks Girl Scouts*
Though Stateside, Soucy Family Has Strong French-Canadian Roots

Paul Soucy Sr. came to this country in 1965, to visit his late brother, Charlie. It had been his French-Canadian young man’s “dream to come to the USA.” He eventually stayed, made Windsor Locks his home. He married a Canadian girl, from near his own hometown, and they raised a family of three sons.

Paul also became active in his adopted country in the Knights of Columbus, Volunteer Fire Department, Civil Defense and “Old Engine Two.”

Both Paul and his wife, Bernadette, came from large families, where “twins ran in the family.” Besides Paul Jr., the Soucys have twin sons, Roger and Richard.

Paul Etienne Soucy Sr. is the son of the late Girared Souey, and Isabelle Soucy, who still makes her home in Canada. Paul was born in the province of Quebec, near the Maine border. Bernadette Turgeon’s birthplace was only 18 miles from Paul’s, and they both grew up in the warmer months.

Paul has a brother, John, in Canada, and a sister, Louise Boucher, who lives in town. Louise’s twin sister, Lousette, is deceased.

Paul’s better half, Bernadette Estelle Turgeon Soucy, grew up with four brothers and three sisters, which included a set of twins. Their parents were the late Antoines and Aurore Turgeon of Canada. Bernadette came to the states (1968) to visit her cousin in Windsor Locks, and it was here she met Paul. Before the stay in Connecticut, she had her own hairdressing business.

Paul and Bernadette were married in September, 1970, and have lived on Main Street and Spring, before moving to their present home on Whiton 16 years ago.

Cabbages and Kings

JACK REDMOND

Struck by the States

After Paul’s initial visit to Connecticut, he returned to Canada for six months to work in the post office. However, for him, the states offered more; he returned and has been stateside ever since.

Paul went to work in East Granby for a tree service company. After a year and another 12 months with Choice-Vend, he joined Terry Steam. But, with two decades of steady employment, the company closed down and Paul had to start all over again.

Things do work out. He found another job offer and for the past year has been with Warehouse Point Industries, that specializes in commercial laundry facilities, which has included work at hospitals and prisons in Connecticut and nearby states.

Raising a Family

Paul and Bernadette have three sons. Paul Jr., 17, is a senior at the high school. He has two hobbies, “Building model trucks and working on the big (that operate) trucks.”

Paul’s twin brothers Roger and Richard were born November 19, 1974, which provided, to their parents, “happiness and shock.”

The boys grew up to play Little League for four years, and along with their big brother, were involved in the Boy Scouts. They are freshmen at high school and are interested in computers, especially games on the tube.

The twins are loyal Red Sox fans while their dad is a Yankee fan.

The mother of this active clan follows the action on television, when it comes to hockey, baseball and her faithful viewing of wrestling.

Vacations for the Soucy family is mostly to the north, but they have made a trip to sunny Florida. Paul Sr., at one time, was an avid bowler, but due to his employment and other activities, is now just a spectator.

Paul E. Soucy Sr. and his wife Bernadette came from large families where “twins ran in the family.” They have three sons Paul Jr., and twins Roger and Richard.

Paul joined the Knights of Columbus in 1971 and has been on the board of directors of the Riverside Building Association for the past eight years and past faithful navigator of the Fourth Degree. As mentioned, Paul participated in the town’s Civil Defense and has marched in parades with “Old Engine Two.” As a member of the Knights of Columbus, he has been part of their handicapped children’s program.

Volunteer Fire Service

Being a volunteer fireman runs in the Soucy and Turgeon families. Paul was a firefighter for three years, in his native country, before moving to town. He joined the local volunteers in November, 1967, after many years on the waiting list. Bernadette’s father was active in that line of work, for over 40 years, as were her brothers.

In addition to the raising of three sons, the Soucy family did manage to have a little girl in their home for six months. Bernadette enjoyed her role of baby-sitter for Jennifer Lai, who was born in Hong Kong. Jennifer returned to her native country for a year, and now resides in East Hartford. The little girl still visits the Soucy home and they consider her part of the family.

Growing up in Canada, Paul was close to his father, who he said was a hard worker. He greatly admired him and recalled their hunting and fishing expeditions and doing a lot more together.

Bernadette was asked for one word (or more) to describe her active husband. After a short pause, the girl from Canada said, “Paul is my reason for living here.”

Epilogue

There are many reasons for people to leave their homeland. Paul and Bernadette Soucy came here to visit relatives. They met and were married and are raising three sons. In their adopted country and the boy’s native land, they have been involved in scouts, sports and with dad a volunteer in worthy causes and as a firefighter. Yes, there are many reasons to come, but Paul stayed for all the right reasons, and to fulfill a dream.
Mary Ann Price Combines Several Careers at Once

When Mary Ann Gorczycr was a little girl, she wanted to be a nurse. She realized her dream, and became a nurse. She has added the roles of wife, mother, and firm believer in “equality of life for men and women,” along with an active part in women’s softball in both Windsor Locks and Windsor.

Today, Mary Ann Gorczycr Price, mother of three small children, with her “supportive husband,” Richard Price, is president, manager and pitcher in the Windsor-Windsor Locks Women’s Slow-pitch Softball League.

For the past 19 years, this friendly and outgoing lady has combined her nursing career, which has included services at a prison, Veteran’s Hospital and two local hospitals, plus playing the game, which she refers to as “softball is my thing,” a sport that began in her hometown of Wethersfield.

A Wethersfield Native
She is the daughter of Tedfil and Catherine Gorczycr of Wethersfield. Mary Ann has a sister, Irene, who she greatly admires and a woman who has made a name for herself in engineering. Irene was a standout softball player herself, earning All-New England honors.

Mary Ann’s husband Richard is the son of James and Louise Price, who were Cabbages and Kings interviewees back in July 1981, detailing their enthusiasm for owning vintage automobiles. Richard has a sister, Elizabeth (Beth), married to James Knecht.

Back to our active mother, Mary Ann was born in Wethersfield, graduating from the high school in 1970, where she excelled in three sports: soccer, basketball and softball. She entered the University of Connecticut to study nursing, and in 1974, received a bachelor of nursing degree from UConn.

During her freshman year at UConn, she met Richard, by way of introduction by his sister, Beth. They were engaged by her junior year, and in the fall of 1974, were married. They have lived in Windsor Locks since the wedding day.

A Career in Nursing
As mentioned, Mary Ann has had a diversified nursing career, which began with a year at St. Francis Hospital, the Newington Veteran’s Hospital for five years, and another half a decade at the Prison in Somers, which she called, “a learning experience.” She has worked part-time in the past three years at the Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Richard James Price is a Windsor Locks native, a graduate of the local high school, class of 1966. He was drafted into the U.S. Army right after high school, spending more of his four year tour of duty in Germany.

Returning to civilian status, Richard went to work for Firestone Tire & Rubber in East Windsor, now called Commercial Tire. He’s been with the tire company for close to 20 years, as assistant manager, and according to Mary Ann, “does a little bit of everything in the world of tires.”

Mary Ann and Richard have three growing children: Kate, Debbie and John. Kate, 7, is a second grader at South School, and is a Brownie, a bowler, and has signed up for tee ball.

Debbie, 6, began Kindergarten last fall. Too young for tee ball, she joined the ranks of tap dancing at North Street School. The little brother in the family, John, 4, is third in the family to receive his first introduction to education at the Windsor Locks Congregational Church’s Nursery School.

Active in PTO
In addition to her softball involvement, Mary Ann is “just starting to become active in the South Street School PTO.” She also helps out with Brownie Troop 565. She does manage to bowl once a week with the Tuesday morning Women’s League at Bradley.

Richard, a fisherman and hunter, can only pursue his hobby, “when he gets a chance,” said Mary Ann. However, he is active with the local Italian-American Club, as its vice president and has been a volunteer fireman for more than 10 years.

Some background on women’s softball in town and Windsor. The league was formed 15 years ago. Today there are 11 teams, three in Windsor Locks (Italian-American, Roncari and Sports Complex), and eight teams in Windsor, with over 160 women playing. Players must be 18 years old or older. The women play on three fields, three in Windsor and three in town: Denslow, Southwest and the new field on Southwest Avenue.

Women’s Softball
Mary Ann does triple duty, as the league president, manager and the pitcher with the Italian-American team. The season starts the first week of May and ends the last week of July.

When asked about young girls playing in Little League, she said, “They should have the chance to play, it should be open for them, if they are able to do it.” And speaking of ability, Mary Ann requests that if any women in town are anxious to play in the softball league, call her at 623-5431.

Epilogue
Mary Ann Price has many strong feelings and is not afraid to express those feelings. She believes in “equality in life. Things should be open for men and women, be it sports or in the work place.”

She is first a mother, then a wife and nurse, and just to add some spice to her life, she chose softball. And who was her mentor? Her sister, Irene, of whom Mary Ann said, “Irene gave me something to shoot for...” and Mary Ann Price is going all the way. She is anxiously waiting for “play ball.”
Fireman Ed Malec Jr. Believes in Helping Others

For a young man, Edward Joseph Malec Jr. has led an exceptionally full lifestyle, not only as a volunteer in his hometown with the Lions and the Windsor Locks Fire Department, but also as an observer and listener to his elders, an airport worker, a father of a small daughter, and husband of a pretty wife. Ed is a man who strongly believes in "helping others."

Ed, son of Ed Sr. and Bernice Malec, reminisced during our interview last month of his days at St. Mary's, working at the high school as a janitor, hunting and fishing with his father, and the time when he and friends he grew up with all joined Civilian Defense, a part of the fire department, at age 15. In three years time, they all became members of the department.

Dedicated Volunteer
Taking everything into consideration, Ed said, "I've been a fireman half my life." Today, he's a regular, with the additional responsibility of deputy fire marshal under Fire Marshal Jim McKenna.

He grew up on South Street, the home of his parents, both born and raised in town. Ed Sr., a veteran employee at Kaman, and his wife Bernice Glista Malec raised three children—Ed Jr., and two daughters, Linda and the late Joanne Malec.

The Malecs are a well-known family in town. Both of Ed's grandparents came from Poland. John Malec, his grandfather, operated a popular grocery store on South Street. He has two uncles, Ted and Vic Malec. Vic was the V.F.W.'s 1974 recipient of the Sportsman of the Year Award.

Ed was not into sports, growing up. "I was a working man, as a janitor at the high school," he said. Sports were left to his father and uncles who were "heavy into sports around town."

Hard Worker
He delivered the Hartford Times when he was 11. At 14, he went to work on a tobacco farm and after one day said, "Not for me." Ed went on to the high school to do janitorial work. The job paid more than tobacco and had some benefits.

"We would jump into the swimming pool whenever we could, telling the head janitor we were picking up the gum off the pool floor. And it worked," he said.

Ed tried college, enrolling at Manchester Community College, but discovered "it wasn't my style," he said. He went to work at Magovern Co. for six months. He later became a fixture at Reilly's for two years until he joined Air-Kaman. Now after 13 years, and two changes of names (Combs Gates Bradley, and currently AMR, subsidiary of American Airlines), Ed has been a steady employee in their maintenance department.

Ed met Gloria Tyrrell of Enfield at a dance. It took Ed seven long years of courtship to finally marry the 1974 Fermi High School graduate. On Labor Day, 1982, they were married by Father Ted Raczynski and have lived in town since that date.

Gloria worked at Combustion Engineers in Windsor for 13 years, until the arrival of their daughter Ashley, who will be two next month. Gloria is the daughter of Irene Bordeur Tyrrell, who lives in Florida, and the late Verne Tyrrell.

Avid Traveller
As a young boy growing up in town, in addition to his stories about St. Mary's and janitorial experiences, Ed recalled the travels with his family, from Canada to Florida. When he and Gloria honeymooned, they chose sunny Hawaii. Since that memorable trip, they have seen the sights of Bermuda and Las Vegas.

Speaking of trips, Ed and his father went to the back woods of Canada for fishing and hunting, ending up living for a week with native Indians, who acted as their guides. Fishing (including ice fishing) and hunting have always been Ed's hobbies.

Active Club Member
In addition to the Fire Department, Ed has been a member of the local Italian-American Club, the Suffield Sportsman Club and the National Rifle Association. During a 10-year period, Ed was an emergency medical technician (EMT) with the Lions Ambulance Corps. He was in the pilot class of persons earning the EMT qualifications.

When Ed spoke of joining the Civilian Defense at age 15, he readily recalled the names of eight young men he grew up with—Bob and Rich Munson, John Duffy, Kenny Jeffery, Gary Ruggiero, Richard Price, Dean Ribaudo Jr. and Paul Wezowicz. When they became of age, Ed and his eight friends joined the Fire Department on the same night.

Ed could not say "enough good things" about the local Fire Department that he has been associated with since 1972. In addition, Ed has served in several capacities in the "Social Club," a wing of the department, as a member of the Board of Governors, and delegate to the state convention. In March, 1979 he was appointed Deputy Fire Marshal. He has served under Fire Chiefs Reilly, Colli, Ouellette and the current Chief, Joseph H. LaPierre Jr. Ed is deputy under Fire Marshal Jim McKenna, and their two fire inspectors, Joe Killen and Jack Cannone.

Epilogue
Edward Joseph Malec hasn't forgotten his roots and the lessons learned as a young boy, and the kids he grew up with, most of them having become active volunteers in their home town.

He greatly admires his parents, saying, "I feel they did a good job by us kids, spending time with us and giving us a well-rounded life (and teaching us) how to handle people."

"Gloria Malec best describes her husband as "honest." Let me add sincerity, that's what he is all about."
Whether in Sports or in School,

Mary Jane Hussey Lends Guidance to Young People

For the past five years, Mary Jane Hussey has been doing what she enjoys best—teaching special education students at the high school.

The former star athlete and coach for several years was born in North Providence, R.I. She has lived in Holyoke, Mass., Suffield and now resides in town with her husband, Jim Hussey.

Mary and Jim are an athletic and coaching twosome, who are "very busy people" with a schedule that leaves them only Sunday as a day off. But they are not complaining, just doing what makes life interesting.

Mary Jane Doyon Hussey, also known around the halls of Windsor Locks High School as just "M.J.,” is the daughter of Jeanne Caron, who lives in town. Mary Jane comes from a "large" family — with three brothers, all six-footers, as she is — Dennis 6 feet 6 inches tall, Gary 6 feet 5 inches, and Brian who is just 6 feet tall. She has a sister, Michelle (no height given). They are all graduates of Suffield High School.

Dennis played basketball and was on the track team; Gary, baseball and basketball; and Brian was a soccer player. So, with that legacy it was not surprising that Mary Jane was the "first girl to score 1,000 points at Suffield High School." The versatile young lady earned 11 letters in field hockey, softball and basketball, making All-Conference many times during four years in high school.

Balancing Sports and Academics

Saying, "That's all I did (sports) in high school," Mary Jane chose to attend the University of Maine, in Farmington, because it was not an athletic school. She enrolled in the university's special education program, which she was interested in pursuing. The school was small enough for her to play sports. The coaches at the school were certainly satisfied for a few seasons: Mary Jane played basketball for two years and field hockey for three seasons (gaining MVP awards).

In 1982, Mary Jane graduated with a degree in elementary education and special education, and today she is attending Westfield State College working to secure her master's degree. Jim is also at Westfield, two nights a week, while "M.J." goes one night — another reason to classify them as busy people.

And, speaking of her husband, James Michael Hussey is the son of Tom and Alice Hussey, who reside in Holyoke. Tom, a former teacher at Southwest, was a Cabbage Kings and Kings interviewee back in June, 1980. The Husseys have a daughter, Betsy, and another son, Thomas.

Jim is a 1974 WLHS graduate, who, immediately upon graduation, began working for Hamilton Standard. Jim will have 15 years' service at Hamilton Standard this year. He began in the shop and now works in the office as a senior process planner. As mentioned, Jim now attends Westfield state to earn his degree.

Where did they meet? On the ball field. Mary Jane was playing softball in the Windsor/Windsor Locks Women's League and Jim was then a coach. Obviously, it was a case of coach meets player and in June 1986, they were married.

They decided to live in Jim's adopted town of Windsor Locks. He was born in Westfield and at the age of 10, Jim and his family moved to this sports-minded town, which suits this active couple. Mary Jane continues to play softball and Jim plays in the men's softball league.

Gaining Teaching Experience

When Mary Jane returned home after her college years, her first teaching position was as a teacher's aide in Suffield. She worked six months in Suffield and six months in Enfield, in her chosen field of special education, this time as a substitute. The next school year found her in Windsor Locks at South School as "Resource Room teacher, providing individual help (for certain students) on skills they were lacking."

In 1984, Mary Jane became the special education teacher at the high school and today has nine students, ages 12 to 19, from Windsor Locks, Suffield, East Granby and Simsbury, in what she calls "a self-contained class, teaching functional academic skills consisting of daily living, community living, and recreation."

She went on to say, "The students are well-behaved, hard-working and I have high expectation for them." Adding a personal note, "It's the only kind of teaching for me. I intend to complete my master's and continue to teach special education."

Coaching Young Athletes

Mary Jane has had her own share of coaching — JV basketball at Suffield High School, coaching softball for seventh and eighth graders in Suffield, JV basketball in Windsor Locks for a year, and for the past four seasons as coach of the high school's Girls Field Hockey Team.

Mary Jane and Jim agree they are very busy people. Mary Jane's day includes walking and jogging as well as reading long fictional stories. Jim is a baseball card collector and, as time permits, attends the Red Sox games at Fenway (probably only on Sundays).

Another activity, close to Mary Jane's heart, is the Special Olympics Program, run by the Suffield Park and Recreation Department. She has been involved in this worthy endeavor since her senior year in high school, which takes place on Saturdays, from January to June.

Epilogue

When asked who she most admired, Mary Jane took a moment and responded, "My mother, I'm a lot like her, she has always said 'Live life to the fullest' ... and (I guess) that's why I keep going and why I teach, trying to help my students." Adding, "I enjoy my jogging time, it's my time for myself, and jogging helps in other ways."

This is the story of Mary Jane Hussey, former star athlete, now coach and teacher. To paraphrase words by Robert Fulghum, that apply to this friendly and concerned young lady ... Teaching is not something you wish for, it's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away...
Frank “Jasper” Maltese Proudly Wears Four Hats In His Hometown

Last month, we interviewed Frank Maltese, better known to the native folks in Windsor Locks, as just “Jasper.”

Talking to Frank and his sister, Josephine, brought back memories of a prior conversation in their comfortable home on Smith Street, seven years ago, with their mother, Jennie Maltese.

The matriarch of this active family passed away last July, at the age of 99 and six months. It was true, to know her was to love her.

Frank, Josephine and this writer reminisced over the family activities of their brothers, sister, father and of course, Jennie.

This visit was to cover the dedicated services of Frank Joseph Maltese, a Korean veteran, who has held memberships in the Knights of Columbus, V.F.W., American Legion and the Windsor Locks Volunteer Fire Department. Frank’s story is another good example of the town’s native sons, who were steady workers all their life, and joined organizations where being a volunteer was a reason to join.

Frank also has a sister, Anna LaFountain of Windsor Locks, two brothers, Nick and Peter. Nick and his wife, Madeline, live in Suffield, while Peter and his wife, Joyce, are local residents. It’s a close knit family, with card playing one of the family’s past times.

The father of this clan, “Sam” Maltese, passed away in 1976.

Frank was born on Oak Street, educated locally, and when World War II was declared, Frank went to work in the local paper mill. His brothers, Nick and Peter, went into the army. Frank was needed on the home front, to help the family.

**Worked at Dexter’s For 35 Years**

The years that followed found Frank working at the mill for a four-year period, two years in the army, a year at Canada Dry in Hartford, another four years at Montgomery and in 1933, retired from Dexter’s with 35 years of faithful service.

Regarding Frank’s two years in the army, he was inducted on Valentine’s Day, 1951. After basic training in Missouri, he was off to the Korean War, spending a year, where the winters were “60 below and the summers hot.” Upon leaving the Korean mainland, he did additional time in Japan, saying, “I loved it, a beautiful country.” Looking back Frank said, “It was the best two years of my life.”

He returned home and continued his employment at Dexter’s. It was also Frank’s time to join up, volunteer and he did just that. He became a member of the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. During the years Frank served on the committee for the annual “Sportsman Of The Year,” the popular sports night, which has honored many of the local men and has included noted celebrities as guests. In addition, Frank took part in the V.F.W.’s minstrel show, when they were popular in this area. His “great singing voice,” according to Josephine, was one of the highlights of those shows.

**Knight of The Year in 1976**

There are two other chapters in Frank’s life ... the KofC and the Fire Department. In 1975, he joined the Knights, and down through the years has served on the council’s handicapped program and was instrumental, for over a decade, organizing a bowling tournament for the handicapped. For his efforts, Frank was chosen the 1976 “Knight of the Year.”

Long before he entered the army, back in 1947, Frank Maltese joined the Windsor Locks Fire Department. He served more than 20 years in the organization which he calls “Just great.” He remembers well the fires around town, as a volunteer, and the fire chief—Deming, Murray, Wallace, Carroll, Reeves, Russell, Reilly and Colli—that he served under.

**Has Bowlled For 25 Years**

Frank has been a bowler around town for the past quarter of a century. Today, he hits the big pins with the seniors. (He’s also a member of the Senior Citizen Club). As for travels...he recalls two trips that stand out... a pleasure trip to the island of Jamaica and a trip, much more eventful. Three friends got into a car, left Windsor Locks and went west to Yellowstone Park and surrounding states. The three were Frank, Jack Pizzalle and Charles Wozwicz. Frank is a Dallas Cowboy fan and roots for the Red Sox, but says, “They never come thru for me...” maybe this year, Frank.

Josephine had this to say about her brother... “We take care of each other... he’s a wonderful brother, helps me around the house and keeps the yard beautiful.” Frank also had kinda words for former President Ron Reagan... “The best president we ever had...” (couldn’t be any kinder than that)

**Epilogue**

Frank “Jasper” Maltese is your ultimate volunteer, be it the KofC, veterans or as a fireman. Frank joins the long list of Windsor Locks citizenry who dedicate many hours of their time to worthy projects. Reminds one of the words of Mother Teresa... “We can do no great things; only small things with great love...”
Columnist Redmond Celebrates 14 Years Writing Cabbages and Kings

BY JULIE COX
Staff Reporter

John P. "Jack" Redmond will celebrate 14 years this May as a weekly columnist of his Cabbages and Kings article depicting local residents in the Windsor Locks Journal.

Mr. Redmond said he always brags that he never misses a week and he keeps a backlog of unpublished articles to use when he's away on vacations. Mainly, his articles are best known for their local appeal and recognition of Windsor Locks residents.

"I like to emphasize the wonderful people in Windsor Locks," said Mr. Redmond. Although he has had few refusals, he's constantly seeking new subjects. He keeps a list handy of prospective interviewees and when he finds a new subject, he jots the name down on his list.

His creative flow comes from an upstairs room in his Pershing Road home. Covering the walls are pictures and memorabilia from past interviews and acquaintances with famous people. A library of books contains every article he has done including 605 actual interviews.

Mr. Redmond's many articles are used by other community members as a source of information.

Used As Source of Information About Residents

Recently, when Windsor Locks resident Ann Bollea was nominated to receive the town's community service award, Mr. Redmond was involved in other activities which keeps his schedule busy. He volunteers at the information center at Bradley International Airport. Seeking to fill an interest in town affairs, last fall he became a member of the fire commission which he describes as a "learning experience." He said, "As an average person, I've learned a lot."

Redmond Is Sports Fanatic

As a sports fanatic, Mr. Redmond enjoys watching baseball and golf and today he belongs to the Combustion Engineering golf league. At 66, Mr. Redmond said he will still continue to write.

"I will continue to write as long as I'm able to write about people in Windsor Locks. When I started out, I had no idea I would be doing it this long."

Jack Redmond
Windsor Lock Journal Columnist

Mr. Redmond said he always wanted to be a sports writer," said Mr. Redmond who studied journalism first, then received an accounting degree from the University of New Haven after moving back to Connecticut.

Now a retired accountant from Combustion Engineering in Windsor, Mr. Redmond has always continued his interest in writing. "The Windsor Locks Journal has been my vehicle for writing," said Mr. Redmond.

Also, since retirement, Mr. Redmond is involved in other activities which keeps his mind busy. He contacts to retrieve information from an article he had written about her a few years ago which listed her many services to the town. Some­day, he hopes to contribute his articles to the Historical Society in town, he said.

His interest in journalism began early on when he studied journalism at a city college in California. "I always wanted to be a sports writer," said Mr. Redmond who last fall he became a member of the fire commission which he describes as a "learning experience." He said, "As an average person, I've learned a lot."

Redmond Is Sports Fanatic

As a sports fanatic, Mr. Redmond enjoys watching baseball and golf and today he belongs to the Combustion Engineering golf league. At 66, Mr. Redmond said he will still continue to write.

"I will continue to write as long as I'm able to write about people in Windsor Locks. When I started out, I had no idea I would be doing it this long."

One reason he enjoys writing is because it keeps his mind active, he said. To formulate each story, Mr. Redmond follows an outline with facts about the person. From there, he creates a story. "I enjoy creating a story. I firmly believe everyone has a story and their life should be told," he said, adding that he wishes he knew more about his own family. He also wrote his own autobiography at one time for future Redmond generations to enjoy.

"I've always wanted to be involved in newspaper work. I've reached my goal," said Mr. Redmond. Another interest he and his wife share is travelling. Mr. and Mrs. Redmond have travelled extensively and met many celebrities along the way.

Friendly and Outgoing

Although Mr. Redmond's nature is friendly and outgoing, he believes part of his success in meeting famous people is being pushy. It was a childhood dream to go to Fenway Park in Boston, he said. In one instance, he obtained press credentials to get inside and met some of the players.

Aside from sports, Mr. Redmond has been to several state-wide political conventions. Some of the people he has met in his travels include entertainers Angela Lansbury, John Davidson, Bob Hope and Sammy Davis Jr. He has met Hartford Whalers Captain Ron Francis and Wayne Carlton, former President Gerald Ford, golfer Fuzzy Zoeller and baseball player Jim Rice and Jack Harshman.

Aside from meeting the stars, Mr. Redmond will continue to write about the people in town and their important contributions. "It's really a great town," he said. "There are so many volunteers and I'm doing my part because I'm writing about these people, not only about volunteers, but everyone else," he said.

1955
John "Jack" Redmond recently celebrated 14 years as a weekly columnist for the Windsor Locks Journal. His column, titled "Cabbages and Kings," depicts local residents and the people of Windsor Locks. He is a retired accountant from Combustion Engineering.

University of New Haven
John Trainer Jr., One of Town's Bright Stars in Two Sports

John Trainer Jr. was one of Coach Dan Sullivan's key basketball players the past two successful seasons at Windsor Locks High School.

Before telling the story of young John, a senior, he joins a long list of fellow performers who have been subjects of prior Cabbages and Kings interviews, along with their families (some of these future court stars were in grade school and not familiar names on the sports pages of the WLJ). Names like Cunningham, Bravakis, Davies, Russillo, Collins, Simonetta and Tharaldson.

John, son of John Sr. and Mary Trainer, had already made a name for himself in the sixth grade basketball program, Midget Football, Little League, and as a star player on Coach Pat Scelza's football team.

The Trainer family have been residents of Windsor Locks since 1978, coming from Astoria, Queens (in the borough of NYC) originally, after a short stay in West Haven, five years in Naugatuck, and then to their adopted town. Our gain was very evident when John began participating in the local sports scene.

Found Big Difference in Connecticut

Looking back, the family agreed, "We found a big difference in Connecticut (from Queens), it was country, very conservative — we now love the town and a good place to bring up the children."

John Trainer Sr. spent three years in the Army (1962-65), worked for the New York City Board of Education, married Mary Olmez (April 1967). They were both born and raised in Queens, coming to Connecticut in 1972, joining AT&T, which has been his steady employment for the past 17 years. Mr. Trainer was a familiar spectator (along with Mary) at their son's games, carrying the family movie camera to document the team's and John's action on the court and gridiron.

The younger John, also known to his classmates as "J.T.,” began his Windsor Locks education at the age 7, the second grade at South School. John's first taste of sports was under the coaching of Mike Heneghan at the Saturday morning sessions on the basketball court. He played in the Little League program; however, he admits basketball and football are his sports. He has earned letters in both sports at the high school, playing all four years. In football, as a wide receiver, John was named to the All-Conference team.

Conducts His Own Saturday Morning Sessions

For the past two years, John has paid back (for his own Saturday morning sessions) by coaching the young boys coming up, along with help from Russillo, Collins and last year's star, Mike Mascaro.

John's football learning experiences came at a young age. He started in the third grade and played six seasons in the local Midget Football program. John's father was one of the coaches during those years. Mr. Trainer also has had a career in sports, playing sandlot football, baseball, handball, and at a local swimming pool in his Long Island city.

Personal Data

Some personal notes on "J.T." ... his favorite television show is "Cheers;" when it comes to food, it's pizza; and for music, rock and roll. However, that popular type of musical sound had to take a back seat in this month's annual high school Broadway show, "Carnival." John was in the chorus, along with fellow basketball stars Sean, Dan (the other John), and two Mikes.

When asked what was his favorite sport, he felt football and basketball are different, and he just enjoys playing both. Case in point... certain games stand out in John's career. In football, it was the 1988 game with Valley Regional. Windsor Locks won the game and the shoreline team went on to win the Pequot title. Two basketball games are well remembered. The 1988 contest in South Windsor, when the Sullivan boys beat Portland, 67-60, and earned the right to play Avon in the finals of the Class "S" tourney. And one, all local fans will remember, the victory over Ellington this year by the score of 57-54.

Future plans for John... college, either Springfield College or the University of Hartford. Basketball in college? Possibly. He's thinking of "staying in sports area," as a major in sports administration, or even as a sports agent. John follows the Yankees and Dave Winfield. His dad still roots for the New York teams — Yankees, Rangers, Knicks and Jets. You can take the man out of the big city, but the true New Yorker remains loyal. John Trainer Jr. says he roots for the underdog. To explain, he was asked who he most admired. After a few moments, the young man could not name any individual but said, in so many words... Windsor Locks is the small town, the small school and, at times, considered the underdog. Especially when playing the likes of Avon, Ellington or Old Saybrook. He feels the Raiders may not be given any chance of winning but the boys who learned to play under Mike Heneghan, and developed under Dan Sullivan always showed true grit, win or lose, and were in the game. Adding to his comments, John has played since the second grade, with Ludden, Mascaro, Collins, Russillo and Stoppa, and as Coach Sullivan remarked after the final game, "these players have brought back basketball to Windsor Locks."

John Trainer Jr.

In the future, John has plans to be a sports agent. He's also thinking of going into coaching. "I'd like to coach high school football and basketball, and major in sports administration." He would not only like to coach, but to also be a sports agent. John Trainer Jr. is no fan of the Yankees and Dave Winfield. His dad still roots for the New York teams — Yankees, Rangers, Knicks and Jets. You can take the man out of the big city, but the true New Yorker remains loyal. John Trainer Jr. says he roots for the underdog. To explain, he was asked who he most admired. After a few moments, the young man could not name any individual but said, in so many words... Windsor Locks is the small town, the small school and, at times, considered the underdog. Especially when playing the likes of Avon, Ellington or Old Saybrook. He feels the Raiders may not be given any chance of winning but the boys who learned to play under Mike Heneghan, and developed under Dan Sullivan always showed true grit, win or lose, and were in the game. Adding to his comments, John has played since the second grade, with Ludden, Mascaro, Collins, Russillo and Stoppa, and as Coach Sullivan remarked after the final game, "these players have brought back basketball to Windsor Locks."

EPILOG:

John Trainer Jr. off the field, shy and gives the appearance of the strong, silent type, is very competitive on the court and field, and if he plays in "sports," was there, when the big play was required.

His mother's comments... "John is always busy, very generous to his friends, and the word "loyal" was added by his father. They kidded John that when it was time to cut the lawn, John would say, "I've got to go play football or basketball." I was reminded of the words of ex-slugger Harmon Killebrew and I'm sure John Sr. and Mary would agree: "My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.' 'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply, 'we're raising boys.' "

sometimes John would play in spurts, but then he would always come through in the second half of the season."

Coach Dan Sullivan
Couple Handle Different Careers Successfully

Randy and Kathy Minde have their own careers. He's a teacher, an enthusiastic motorcycle side-car racer, while she's a "Day-Care Provider." Both are successful in their chosen fields, along with being the parents of two active boys, Randy Jr. and Joey.

When you stop and analyze their careers, Kathy can rightfully be called a teacher, with six children—plus their young sons—being cared for on a daily basis. Kathy, the more conservative one in the family, said, "They're good kids (under her wing), it's a busy time but I do enjoy it." Randy summed up their busy schedule with, "We move along..."

They met more than 10 years ago and were married in 1980. Kathy wanted to care for her firstborn, so with much enthusiasm (a family trait), began a new career, while Randy pursued the role of teacher, along with a very unusual sport, with a friend, riding motorcycles on ice.

Before baby care, teaching and Randy's hobby, a few lines on these two friendly Windsor Locks residents of eight years. (Kathy had actually lived in town as a youngster.)

Kathy Hancock lived in Enfield until she was five, the daughter of the late Frank Hancock, and Jane Heon, who lives near her daughter's home in town. Kathy went to the local schools, graduating with the high school class of 1976, and looking back, she said, "In school and out." She has now blossomed in her role as mother and day-care administrator. She has a brother, Frank, of West Suffield, two sisters, Nancy, who lives in town, and Carol, married to Dr. Edward Jaroszewski. They live in Hartford.

Named For Randolph Scott
Her husband, Randolph A. Minde, was
named by his mother, after movie star Randolph Scott. Randy's mother, now deceased, was Nenebelle Minde, originally from Mississippi. His dad, Alfred Minde, now lives in Margate, Fla. Randy has a brother, Mike, a 20-year Navy veteran stationed in Virginia, and two sisters, Denise and Lorraine, both of whom live in upper New York State.

Randy was born in Corning, N.Y. but was raised in Newark, N.Y., in the Finger Lakes area. He calls himself "a farm boy" because his folks lived near some farms, with Randy playing and working with his friends who were farmhands, and Randy helping them milk cows and pitch hay before and after school hours.

In June 1968, Randy had just graduated from high school and received his draft notice into the Army. He said, "It was the last heavy draft of the Vietnam period." He was trained at Fort Dix, N.J. and Fort Bliss, Texas, before being shipped to Germany for more than a year.

Randy "saw a lot of Europe" and felt the two years in the Army were "great." He was trained at Fort Dix, N.J. and Fort Bliss, Texas, before being shipped to Germany for more than a year.

Service Years Were Great
Randy "saw a lot of Europe" and felt the two years in the Army were "great." He was trained at Fort Dix, N.J. and Fort Bliss, Texas, before being shipped to Germany for more than a year.

Another career change... In September 1983, Kathy, as mentioned, wanted to raise her own children at home, so the best way was to open her own at-home day-care center. Randy is very supportive of Kathy's venture in the care of their sons and other children. During the day, young Joey, age 3, is home but in the fall will begin nursery school. Randy Jr., age 6, is in kindergarten at the South School. He is not into motorcycles yet, but has started "T-Ball," enjoys swimming, and roots for the Red Sox.

The Minde family did manage a trip to Disney World in Florida and some cottage time at the shore. Randy does not follow the Red Sox and admits he probably wouldn't know a Boggs from a Winfield, but could tell you the top road racer and motorcycle star. Randy also is a man who enjoys fishing and hunting, and especially "playing with the boys."

His fun hobby is motorcycle ice racing. From January to the time when ice melts on the ponds, you'll find Randy and his best friend, Rick Wasilasky of Coventry, racing their motorcycle on the ice, mostly in Sturbridge, Mass. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. In Randy's case, a videotape of Randy and Rick in action saved Randy making a long explanation to this writer, who had never seen this fast action before. He said there were no such races in Connecticut, and the closest is the famed Sturbridge area. In addition, they have raced in Maine and Lake George in New York.

This type of action, with motorcycle and sidecar, is called "Sidehack." There are different classes of motorcycles (in races), with their cycle in the "500cc class, size of motor." Rick and Randy have been racing on ice for 10 years, all, he said "for the fun and thrills of racing," with many trophies to show for their hobby. Rick, a big man, drives the cycle, with Randy riding the sidecar, and a definite role to play, especially on the corners of the icy track where technique plays a large part in how the machine takes the turns.

Randy and Rick are close in their special sport activity, with Randy adding, "Rick was best man at our wedding." Randy belongs to the American Motorcycle Association, Springfield Motor Club, and the National Rifle Association.

The New York native said, when asked who he most admired, "My father, who was a hard worker (in construction) all his life, and taught me to strive for the best in whatever career you follow..."

EPILOG
Kathy and Randy Minde are following different careers, teaching, raising children (at home) and, for him, something extra special, that takes skill and daring, and he's not kidding when he says... "we move along."
His Game Is Golf  
Vietnam Was Only Part

Dennis Joseph McGroarty Jr. came from the Boston area, served overseas during the Vietnam conflict, has worked in the electric power business for the past two decades, and has been an active member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1972.

When you talk to the big guy, he has one real hobby — the game of golf. He shoots in the 80s at Oak Ridge and his claim to fame in this gentleman's game was playing with a few celebrities on one occasion. However, there's a lot more to Dennis — his wife, Carmen, and their daughter Kelly, a high school student. Based on the family heritage, Kelly was properly named.

Dennis was born in Quincy, Mass., lived in South Boston until he was four, then the family moved to nearby Weymouth, all close to Fenway Park. Another event, which we will go into later, made this native Bostonian a Yankee fan. His mother, Mary Connors McGroarty, still resides in Weymouth. Dennis' father, the late Dennis McGroarty Sr., was originally from Quincy. Dennis has a brother, Brion, who lives in Martha's Vineyard, and two sisters, Maura and Noreen, who have kept their Boston connection by remaining residents of Dorchester.

Dennis graduated from Weymouth High School in 1965, where he was on the track team and defenseman on the hockey squad, with ice time in many of the Boston area rinks.

His first job after high school was at the Fall River Shipyards, as a welder, but a few months later he received a draft notice. Saying, "I decided to enlist (for three years), volunteering for helicopter training."

Trained at Many Camps

Dennis received training at various camps around the States — New Jersey, Alabama, Virginia and Kansas, specializing in aviation maintenance. His next assignment was in Vietnam, spending 13 months in the war zone, "mostly aircraft recovery, picking up damaged aircraft and putting them back for future use." He was discharged in January 1969 in Savannah, Ga., where he was stationed for a few months after his tour of duty in the Far East. He found the city of Savannah, seaport and oldest city in Georgia, a "beautiful city."

Looking back at that time of his young life, Dennis frankly admitted (as a returning vet), "There was no doubt, we were ostracized (by many civilians), we just didn't fit in..."

Dennis left the sunny South for a taste of New York City, enrolling at the Academy of Aeronautics at LaGuardia Airport to secure a government license to work on aircraft. He lived in Jackson Heights for two months. He switched to the 3M Company in Manhattan. That lasted a year. It was at this junction of his career that he made the big decision — coming to Connecticut and joining the Connecticut Light & Power Co. He lived in Rocky Hill (where Carmen and Dennis lived after their wedding) for a short time and then moved to Windsor Locks in 1973. He worked out of the Enfield office as a linesman for the next 15 years. He made another move before his current job... working in Southington for the Connecticut Valley Electric Exchange. In January 1988, Dennis took a job with the New England Power Exchange with headquarters in West Springfield.

Met His Future Wife in 1969

In 1969, Dennis met Carmen Larocque by way of introduction by a friend, and they were married a year later. Carmen is the daughter of Lucienne Larocque, now living...
in Florida, and the late Harold Larocque, who were from Canada. She grew up in Newport, Vt., close to the Canadian border. She was asked how the winters were ... "cold." (Ask a silly question.) Carmen came to Connecticut to work and live with relatives. She has a sister, Michele, who lives in the San Francisco area. The past two years she has been working at Aetna.

The McGroarty family has lived in town since 1973. Their daughter, Kelly, 15, is a freshman at the high school. Her dad calls her the “athlete in the family.” She proved that by making the school’s field hockey team and has now taken up the game of golf. Even Carmen has taken to the links, and the three will soon be hitting the ball at Oak Ridge.

Dennis joined the V.F.W. in 1972 and has been active, chairing the annual Fishing Derby and as co-chairman of the Sports Night one year, and serving on the committee of this local popular affair in other years. He feels the V.F.W. is a “good organization and a great lobby for veterans’ benefits.”

Vacations are Golf or The Beach
Vacation time is either spent on the golf course or traveling to the beaches of Maine. His spectator sport is baseball and it was in 1967, when the St. Louis Cards beat the Red Sox in the World Series, it was too much for Dennis to take (“They blew it”), so he soon became a Yankee fan.

His golfing highlight ... two years ago, Dennis was in Martha’s Vineyard and participated in a tournament. He was chosen to play with two celebrities — John Brodie, former great football star with the San Francisco 49ers, and Doug Sanders, veteran golfer and renowned flashy dresser and equally flashy golfer. Both men are currently on the Senior Tour. Dennis remembers the great day of golf, having kind words for both gentlemen, adding “fantastic” in describing Mr. Brodie.

Dennis was asked who he most admired. His choice (among others) brought back memories of Ivan Roger Lunn. The late Mr. Lunn was a C&K interviewee in March of 1984. He was a former V.F.W. Commander. Dennis admired “his style, was always straight-forward.” Dennis is straight-forward himself, when he described his personal philosophy, saying, “Live today ... you’re gone a long time.”

EPILOG
For Dennis Joseph McGroarty Jr. it has taken a few changes of jobs to finally settle on a career in the world of electric power. He also settled on golf as his game.
High Praise For Coach Sullivan

Tom Koren — Life after High School Basketball

This is a story of where and how one of Windsor Locks brightest basketball stars is doing since he left his mark back in 1969.

The boy was Tom Koren. Yes, it's been 20 years. Today, Tom is still a big guy at six-four, an electrician by trade, who has traveled the country, finding himself, working at his career, returning to Connecticut, getting married, settling down, to a degree.

He hasn't forgotten the glory days under Coach Dan Sullivan — who he gives credit for the success of high school sports — and the young men he played with back in the late '60s.

Thomas Joseph Koren, son of Joseph and Lorraine Koren who still live in town, has been a resident of Windsor for the past six years, and now with his wife, Barbara, will move to the country — Pleasant Valley in the town of Barkhamsted.

cabbages and kings
JACK REDMOND

In a recent edition of the New Haven Register, I came across some interesting facts with the naming of the 1989 All-State Basketball team and, in addition, the All-Time roster, going back to 1949. Windsor Locks has had a few outstanding players named to this select group over the years... Russ Jubrey in 1957, Charles Sidway in 1958, Dave Linqua and Bob Fraher in 1961, Dave Linqua in 1962, Tom Koran in 1969. Also included in the 1950 group was Russ Mattesen, then of Stafford Springs, now a resident of town, and well known as manager of the 1965 Little League World Champs.

Speaking of young men who played basketball, the following were teammates of Tom — John Scanlon, Billy Campbell, Steve Guglielmone.
Koren

Continued From Page 3

Szykula, Steve Scherer, Dale Misiek, Fran Aniello Jr., Leonard Jubrey, Brian Foster, John Carnevale, Vinny Calapietro and Tom Guglielmone, to name just a few.

He's A Native Son

Tom Koren is a native son, attended the local schools and graduated from the high school in 1969. He also played for Coach Sullivan on the soccer field, only in his senior year, as goalie, and recalled having only two goals scored against him during the season.

In basketball, it was the time of the great rivalry between the Raiders and South Windsor and the equally-great Tom Roy, who made the All-State team along with Tom Koren. One of Tom's high totals for one game was a 44-point effort and he said, "I scored 1,300 points during my high school career."

After high school, Tom went to UConn. However, college life lasted only six weeks, he said. He made the decision to become an electrician, which he did, joining the union (Local 35) apprentice program. He has never regretted the decision. The past 18 years Tom has served in the Air National Guard, and traveled all over the country as an electrician from job to job. The way he tells it... "I was single at the time, it was a great experience spending six years on the road — which included two summers in California, as far north as Wyoming and as far south as Mississippi."

Returning to Connecticut in 1980 to attend a local wedding (Morris Maltese and Sherry Knecht), Tom met Barbara Yeomans of Lyme. He had made plans to go back to the West Coast, but it was not to be. In October 1982, the girl from Lyme, who was a grad (1974) of Hale-Ray High School (in East Haddam), captured the heart of the big guy. They lived in Vernon for a year and, as mentioned, Windsor for the past six years, and now are moving out to the country. Barbara has recently joined the Aldin Associates in East Hartford, as a buyer.

Back to the world of electricity... Tom has had his share of big projects in the Hartford area — CityPlace, Hartford Steam & Boiler and the Aetna buildings, saying that he actually prefers working in different locations, that he's not one to stay put in one place.

Not one to forget the world of sports, Tom and Barbara are softball players from way back. Tom played in the Windsor Locks League for years and up to two years ago performed in the Windsor Locks Basketball program. Barbara played softball the past five years in the Windsor/Windsor Locks Women's League.

Tom never lost the travel bug, even after his cross-country different job locations. With Barbara at his side, they have seen the beauty of Mexico, Bermuda, Nassau, Florida and San Francisco. Tom roots for the Boston Celtics, Syracuse in college basketball (along with UConn), the Giants in football, and, because he worked and enjoyed the city of Detroit, he's a Tiger fan. But if you talk of a real hobby for Tom, it's fishing, especially in "upstate New York, getting the big salmon, with a few of my buddies."

Looking back at an outstanding high school career, Tom Koren said, "I probably was a good high school player (at that level), but college basketball, that's another number... UConn wasn't it, I was never sorry about (the path) I chose in life. I'm very content and it gave me the opportunity to move around and see the country." Tom had high praise for his high school coach, Mr. Sullivan. "He was a good coach, has had a lot of winning teams, deserves a lot of credit."

So that's the story of Tom Koren, where and how he is doing 20 years later. The past two years the fans had a lot to cheer about, with two Mikes — Collins and Mascaro.

No, Windsor Locks hasn't forgotten Tom Koren.
Music is His Life

Steve Wandzy —

It's been quite a senior year for young Steve Wandzy. The yearly class musical, "Carnival," Student Council, Youth Commission, captain of the Tennis Team, and yes, probably the high point, being named Valedictorian of the Windsor Locks High School Class of 1989. Quite a year.

Last month we had the pleasure of interviewing Stephen Arthur Wandzy, on the day he was named Valedictorian. It probably hadn't sunk in, especially after another successful musical in which he played a major role, which was still on the minds of students, parents and friends of Windsor Locks' own Broadway endeavors.

Steve, son of Edward and Betty (Logan) Wandzy, was born in a Hartford hospital, lived in Ellington (home town of his dad) for a little over a year, and then moved to his mother's home town — she of the well-known Logan family. Steve has a brother, Tobey, 14, a freshman at the high school.

The father of this honored student and actor is employed by the Krupa Oil Co. (the past five years) and is a U.S. Air Force veteran with three years' service, partly spent in Thailand and Laos.

Steve's list of accomplishments cover a wide range of talents. Very good examples — member of the Swim and Cross-Country teams, captain (two years) of the Tennis Team, took part in "Boys' State," co-editor of the school yearbook, "Herald," with duties of proofreading and "getting the book together, and organizing group communications." In addition, Steve is a member of the National Honor Society and treasurer of the Student Council, and holds the same office with the Windsor Locks Youth Commission.

The commission found an active student in Steve. He was part of the group that organized the twice-a-year dances at the Knights of Columbus for the youth of the town (13 to 21), co-sponsored enlisting cadets for police work in cooperation with the Windsor Locks Police Department, and even got a taste of politics. It's called "Government Day." In preparation for the day, two students (seniors) were chosen to work one day with town officials, after being voted on by other seniors in regular voting machines. A student to work with the First Selectman, Town Clerk, and so forth. Steve also mentioned the commission was working on establishing a "Youth Center," to be located in town ("and badly needed," he said). The commission had discussions with East Granby, Suffield and Enfield, in order to see what those towns were doing for their young people.

Music is His Life

Music has been Steve's life. In the "Who's Who in the Cast" of "Carnival," the following highlights his musical career: "A veteran of the high school's marching, concert and jazz bands, the NCCC Band, and the Northern Regional Jazz Band ... Steve played saxophone in the "Bye Bye Birdie" orchestra and in the River City quintet, as a singer, in "The Music Man."

Looking back at his participation in those three musicals, Steve said, "Bye Bye Birdie" was funny ... "The Music Man" got the audience involved, in "Carnival" we had the biggest audience and it really went over big ... I didn't have a favorite, enjoyed doing all three."

"Yes," he added, "I was nervous, tried not to show it, especially the singing solos, during the show Carnival." The cast worked long and hard, Steve said, three nights a week, for three hours, from late January to showtime.

Any future shows for Steve? "Probably get involved in playing an instrument (he plays the sax and flute), however, I wouldn't mind being in another musical," he said. Steve has not decided (at the time) which college he might go to in the fall ... either "Holy Cross or Connecticut College in New London," he said. Adding, "I would like to be a teacher ... I figure on two majors, education and journalism ... I do like to write."

Favorite Music is Rock and Jazz

Steve's favorite music — not Broadway — "rock and jazz." His favorite television show — "Cheers... I go for horror movies and my favorite movie star, Jack Nicholson... I'm a Yankee fan, follow baseball and tennis on TV and my all-time baseball favorite is Joe DiMaggio."

As a family, the Wandzy clan has "traveled all over ... in 1985 we spent two weeks in California ... enjoy the Connecticut and Rhode Island shore, camping in New York and Pennsylvania, and one trip got to see the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York," he said.

As with many students, Steve has had teachers who stand out and guided them from grammar school to their senior year in high school. For Steve, two teachers fill that bill — Robert Ewald, his 5th grade teacher at Westbrook ... Steve saying, "Mr. Ewald made us feel grown up, made us feel important."

Another teacher was Brien Ward, Steve's 8th grade instructor, at the Middle School ... "His presentation of (events and things) was always enjoyable, he showed things in a practical way, and was always looking out for us." Steve has his own personal philosophy ... "Never stop believing in yourself, work hard and keep going...."

Steve does keep going. He has been successful at an early age, which brings to mind some words by Barbara Walters (who has had her own brand of success) — "Success can make you go one of two ways. It can make you a prima donna, or it can smooth the edges, take away the insecurities, let the nice things come out...."

Stephen Arthur Wandzy has already let the nice things come out....

POSTSCRIPT: Steve received another honor this month when he was honored, along with Karen Gaidos, as scholar-athletes from WLHS, qualifying with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or better, and participated in a CIAC-sponsored sport in Connecticut for at least two years and demonstrated outstanding and community leadership.

Valedictorian and Quite A Bit More
Busy, Busy, Busy

Mike Biedrzycki –

The Biedrzycki Family (from left), Paul 13, Mary Jo, John 9, and Mike.

– It’s Taxis at Bradley, Buses at the Cape
Mike Biedrzycki's wife, Mary Jo, calls him "ambitious." When you hear this story, you soon find this friendly, down-to-earth family man from Pennsylvania is not only that, but a go-getter, eager-beaver, enthusiast and probably hustler, used only in good business terminology.

His employment record is long and diversified. Today, he has nailed down (to some) an exhausting schedule and lifestyle, with very early hours, but he admits, "To be active, (it's) the only way to do it right." Mike certainly proves the point, "early to rise...

But before we can tell you of taxis at Bradley, or buses at the Cape, here is some background on this father of two active boys.

Michael Joseph Biedrzycki was born in Scranton, Penn., the son of the late Michael and Hattie Biedrzycki. Mike has a brother, Eugene, who resides in Rocky Hill. Their father moved the family to Connecticut in the mid-1950s, to accept a job at the Holy Family Monastery in West Hartford.

Mike was 6 years old at the time. The family lived in nearby Farmington, where Mike and Eugene went to school. Mike graduated from Farmington High School in 1964. No sports. No time. He said: "I worked after school at the Popular Supermarket in West Hartford."

Mike's father retired from the monastery in 1979. As a high school student, Mike recalled working weekends, waiting on tables for the retreat participants. (He probably served many of the local men who have been on retreat over the years.)

Entered Goodwin Tech

Upon leaving high school, Mike entered E.C. Goodwin Tech in New Britain to become an auto mechanic. However, after two years, and a new talent gained that he would use a few years later, Mike returned to Popular on a full-time basis.

After three years, he switched from the store to the life of salesman, going on the road for the next 15 years as an employee of food brokerage companies out of New York and Boston. His next endeavor was also somewhat different, working at a car rental agency in West Springfield. It closed after a year and Mike went job hunting again.

But this time he went into business for himself. He operated not far from his present home, to Spring Street, with his own auto repair shop. Within a three-year period, he closed the shop and took the summer off. In the fall, he decided to drive a taxi plus do some night work. From 2 o'clock in the afternoon he drove a taxi, and from 7 to 11 p.m. he was at a local air freight company. He finally gave up the night job to work full time at driving a taxi.

At First, Worked Outside Bradley

In the beginning, Mike worked outside at the airport, in the taxi. Then, he was given the chance to work inside Bradley for the Airport Taxi Co., where he works today. In January of this year, Mike went inside for good, providing ground transportation for travelers at Bradley.

A $50 Tip

Did he ever meet any famous people while driving a taxi? No, he said, but one time he did drive a man to Old Saybrook. He received a $50 tip. You tend to remember fares like that. So Mike doesn't drive a taxi anymore, but he's at Bradley at 5 a.m. What time does he get up? Four o'clock. He says he has to be in bed by 9, just like Bob Steele and Bryant Gumbel.

Mike and Mary Jo's meeting was quite ironic. As mentioned, he was from Scranton; she was from Erie, Penn. Mary Jo Weindorf came to Connecticut to become a teacher. She had graduated from Villa Maria College in Erie, and positions in teaching were hard to find in her area. Her first teaching job was in Avon, and today Mary Jo is a veteran educator in the Avon school system with 24 years of service.

They met on a blind date in 1967 and were married the following year. They lived in Newington for the first two years, in the capital city for one summer and since 1974 have been residents of Windsor Locks, a town Mike describes as "A great place to live... We have met a lot of nice folks, we love the town."

Back home during the school year Mike feels there is a distant advantage, due to his hours at Bradley. With his early morning schedule, Mike is home after 2 o'clock each afternoon. What he calls, "Our reverse roles, the boys return home from school to be with me, while their mother is still in the role of teaching." The best of two worlds.

When asked who he most admired, Mike said "President Ronald Reagan. He impressed me as president, did a real good job, the economy was better, people had money in their pockets..." Adding, "I'm very conscious of the country's economy." Mike is a man who is up at the crack of dawn, has had his share of jobs, and admits "I still take one day at a time." But with Mike, he looks forward to a busy schedule each day.

EPILOG

Mike Biedrzycki is definitively "ambitious." He also, to his credit, has an ambitious family. He tried several careers — finally found one that fits. Reminds one of the words of Robert Frost, "Always fall in with what you're asked to accept. Fall in with it and turn it your way." That's what Mike has done.
Will Attend Maris College

Mike Gagliardi — Musical Young Man With Close Family Ties

One of the pleasant experiences in meeting and interviewing young talented high school seniors is that you also get to meet their families.

Case in point ... in a recent talk with Mike Gagliardi, we met his parents, Joe and Martha Gagliardi. This friendly, outgoing family, who have lived in town the past two decades, are very involved in where Mike is going in his musical career, their busy schedules, and a big point, is that their home is a welcomed home to many of Mike's friends.

Michael James Gagliardi, a native of Windsor Locks, is also known to his friends as "Gagz," or the latest moniker, "Mike-o the Magnificent," will shortly graduate with the Windsor Locks High School class of 1989. Mike managed to play basketball and track at the Raider school; however, his true talent has been musical. The clarinet, guitar and percussion instruments are all in Mike's repertoire.

In addition, Mike is a member of the "Vocal Motion," the school jazz show choir, which has included Denise Baran, Linda Frawley and John McLagan, fellow thespians in the recent high school musical, "Carnival," which Mike took part in as "Marco." Mike was also a member of the jazz, concert and marching bands. On the scholastic scene, Mike participated in the Student Council and Model U.N.

Mike has had several men who were "a big influence" in his life. In sports, it was Coach Mike Heneghan, in soccer, baseball and basketball. In the musical world, a special influence was gained under the tutorship of Neil Rinaldi and John Gionfriddo. When Mike is not in class, he's in the music room at school, for him, the best place to be.

Moved to Town in 1968

Joe served four years in the "Corps," with stateside duty in the Carolinas, and two years overseas in Japan and the Philippines. The young couple had only the U.S. Mail as their contact, but in 1963 Joe came home to wed Martha. For a year, the young bride got a taste of military life in Cherry Point, N.C. After Joe's discharge, the newlyweds and now civilians, lived in Hartford for a year until 1968, when they moved to Windsor Locks.

Where did Joe work? Saying, "I've been a truck driver all my life," just was the entire story of Joe Gagliardi. Mike told us, "I was a policeman in Hartford for three years, operated a few gas stations in town, and always wanted to be a farmer or cowboy."

Putting this into practice, the Gagliardi family has had a farm in Suffield (for 11 years), calling it a horse farm, with the name "Chesnut Farm" on Route 159. Today, Joe's regular job is driving a truck for Balf of Newington, with its main project, Route 91. As for Martha, she worked for Pratt & Whitney years ago, but today she is busy as a "paraprofessional" at the Middle School in town, in special education, the past seven years.

Back to our musical young man — Mike plans to attend Maris College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., what he calls "a good TV/Radio school." Mike wants to major in advertising and communications, in the field of television.

Today, like his dad, Mike enjoys riding horses on the family farm. Also included in his hobbies are motorcycle riding, "driving around town with friends," and especially, what he calls, "jammin' with the boys." Last year, Mike and the boys, called "Period of Function," played at the high school graduation party held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Looking back, the younger Mike was a swimmer on the "Jets," played Little League, was a member of the sixth grade basketball team, with the Maryland connection.

EPILOG

Mike Gagliardi, the musical young man. Joe, his father, a most happy, big guy, Martha, his mother, surrogate mom to Mike's friends. They all shared the fond memories of Mike's late brother, James, at age 2, and Jennifer, also taken at the tender age of 5. It was all discussed, their way of life and when you leave the Gagliardi home, you soon learn, like the song from "Carnival," they are folks who put those words into practice — "Love Makes the World Go 'Round."
Loved The Food Business

Tom Kanonas — Just an ‘Active Fellow’ with Background of Travel

"We wanted to live in a small town ... near a large one..."

After traveling and working in 22 states, with residence in 17, Tom Kanonas decided that Windsor Locks, for a lot of reasons and especially because of the change of seasons, was the place to hang his many hats, settling down here in 1969.

Saying, "I wanted to live (and work) in a small town, near a large one," he chose our town. His long list of career accomplishments cover some of the following: operating a restaurant, the food service organization, teaching culinary arts, and today he and his wife, Betty J., are in partnership with their own "Decorating Den," part of an organization with more than 800 interior decorating franchises.

The multi-talented individual, Thomas Spero Kanonas, was born and raised, until he made up his mind (once home) to go back East and was "ready to go home" after the war ended. He was discharged in April 1946.

In 1943. He did manage to play some basketball, softball and "plenty of exercise" just to keep in shape. In December of that year, he entered the Army, serving in Texas and Louisiana before being shipped overseas with an armored artillery outfit. Tom left the States from Seattle in late 1944, going first to Hawaii, on to the Philippines and finally to Japan. Tom served 17 months in the Far East and was "ready to go home" after the war ended. He was discharged in April 1946.

Back to civilian life, Tom remembered how "he made up his mind (once home) to go back to school." Under the G.I. bill, Tom went to school in Brooklyn, N.Y., entering Pratt Institute for two years of "Food and Institutional Management." Taking several college classes was something Tom took advantage of as he traveled the country (in later years), studying photography, evening earning a pilot's license.

But first things first. For a year after the college years at Pratt, he took a job with the "Harding Restaurants," one of 13 eating establishments in the Chicago area, being promoted to a management level in his final months in the windy city. However, he then returned to Saginaw to work in a family restaurant with his father, from the late 1940s to 1960. He left his home town to take on a cross-country job opportunity with a food service organization, as mentioned, working in more than 20 states and living in 17.

Worked in Food Business

From the '60s to the middle '70s, Tom worked several jobs, which included food director, trouble shooter and district manager, all in the food business. During those years, he taught school at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich., where he met Betty J. Harris, his future bride, who was from Jonesville, Mich.

Betty and Tom were married in February 1968. They have six children and seven grandchildren to brag about. Betty's children include Denise Zocci of Windsor Locks (one child), Michael Kiersey of Windsor (four children), and Marcia, who lives in Napa, Calif., with one child. Tom's three children include Thomas J. Kanonas, who lives at home, and his two California-based daughters, Sandra Cormier of San Francisco (one child) and her sister, Pamela Kanonas of Santa Barbara.

During his travels, Tom Kanonas was not one to stand still. He was active in politics, with the Young GOP in Michigan, and in fraternal brotherhood — as a member of Ahepa (Greek organization), serving as Past District Governor in Michigan and Northern Ohio. In addition, Tom said, "I have been an Eastern Star, Mason and a Shriner." When it came to hobbies, Tom is into woodcraft and photography, adding, "I used to ski and did some flying, but I guess you would say, anything to do with my hands."

Wanted To Teach Again

When Tom came to Connecticut, he was asked to start teaching again," which he did at the Associated Restaurants of Connecticut. Future chefs were his pupils. For a few years, Tom taught culinary arts at the Johnson & Wales College in Providence, ending "that long trip to Rhode Island" in January, 1989.

It was in January that Tom enrolled in the winter term of the United States School of Professional Paperhangers in Rutland, Vt. He completed the 10-week, 350-hour course and received a certificate of achievement as a professional wallpaper installer.

Just prior to our interview, Betty and Tom had just returned from a national convention in Nashville, Tenn. where they are both active in the "Decorating Den" organization. Tom is currently chairperson for the advisory board for Connecticut, Rhode Island and Western Massachusetts.

Admired His Mother

When Tom was asked who he most admired in his life, he said without hesitating, "My mother, she had a lot of physical problems but could always make us all laugh." Tom's personal philosophy, or his secret of success as he calls it, "is not to give up, keep trying, a busy person is the one who gets things done." Tom was also asked, of all the towns and cities he has visited and lived in, what was his favorite? "First let me say, every state has its good and bad points... my favorite, Windsor Locks, that's right, that's how I ended up here, decided to stay, and I love the change of seasons."

Summing It Up

How do you sum up an active man like Tom Kanonas? He did it himself. "I have no regrets, consider myself pretty lucky, life has been a lot of surprises, and never a dull moment," he said. Maybe he'll find the following true ... especially in his new line of work.

"I was ready to hang a customer's wallpaper and she couldn't decide if it should go above or below the chair rail. You do this for a living,' the woman said to me. 'You'll have a better idea where it should go.' It's entirely up to you, I told her. 'But you know which would be better,' she persisted.

"After going back and forth a few more times, I offered my opinion. Well, I suggest papering beneath the rail since...

"Oh, no,' she interrupted, 'that will never work!"

"The paper went up above the rail..."
Happy Teen Packs Four Active Years At WLHS

Denise Baran:

When asked... How was the trip to Virginia Beach?, Denise Baran said, “It was fun.” Her mother, in describing her younger daughter, also verified that point, saying, “She is definitely fun-filled.”

We're talking about the girl who played the part of Rosalie in her school's production of “Carnival.” She is also the girl who packed a lot into her years at the Windsor Locks High School, in music, cheerleading, and as president of the Student Council.

Denise Marie Baran graduated a few days ago with the Class of 1989. She's going to college in the fall to study psychology and, if the occasion arises, might join in a few musicals at Western New England College.

There's a lot more to tell about this pretty former senior with singing and acting credentials. She is the daughter of Edward and Doris Baran, residents of town for the past 20 years. But first, a few lines concerning her parents. Edward Baran was from Adams, Mass. and Doris Count Baran came from Lawrence, in the Bay State, meeting in Washington D.C., where they both were working for airlines.

About Her Parents

Ed, a 1952 high school graduate, attended Northeast Aero Tech in Bedford, Mass. before joining the U.S. Air Force, where he served more than three years. The Air Force training took him to New York State, Illinois and Texas, and to Korea during the Korean War, with maneuvers in Africa and England.

After his discharge from the service in 1957, Ed went to work for several airlines in the Washington D.C. area, with the familiar names of Capital, Mohawk, and Northeast. He is currently at Bradley with United Airlines as a mechanic. Doris, also a 1952 high school graduate, from St. Rose High School in Chelsea, Mass., was working for PanAm when she met and married Ed on Feb. 17, 1968. She is a former executive secretary for several companies, and managed a “trip around the world” as a vacation. They lived in Alexandria, Va. for a year before moving to Windsor Locks, where they raised two daughters.

Denise's sister, Allison, a WLHS 1987 graduate, set the path and pace for Denise as captain of the cheerleading team (as Denise was), a member of the “Bye, Bye Birdie” cast, manager editor of the yearbook, participant in the Model U.N., and president of St. Mary's CYO. Allison, a junior at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., is studying marketing and behavioral sciences.

Known As “Den”

Back to Denise, also known to her many classmates as “Den” or “Nici,” was given her first taste of our high school's Broadway, in the chorus of “The Music Man.” Denise was a member of the Concert Choir for four years, took part in “Vocal Motion,” and was vice president of her freshman class. Among the instruments she plays are the flute and piano. Admitting that she never took a singing lesson, Denise and her close friend Linda Frawley, Lili in “Carnival,” both auditioned for singing roles in the musical and, as they say, they were an important part of another hit for the high school Music Department.

Looking back at their daughter’s participation in “Carnival,” Mrs. Baran, who saw the performance four times (as many parents do), said, “Denise was spunky,” with Mr. Baran admitting, “I was surprised.” But Dad admitted he was happy with Denise’s acting and singing.

As mentioned, the recent trip of the high school’s music groups to Virginia Beach was not only “fun” for Denise, but the various musical groups won trophies in every area they entered, copping the contest’s highest choral award. The students will long remember the 11-hour bus ride to the South but, according to Denise, they soon forgot it when it meant a swim and lounging on the beach, a cruise and a dance during their stay.

Denise will also recall two of her favorite teachers — Mr. Purington, her math teacher, and Choral Director Mr. Gionfriddo. Denise, into all types of music, does have a favorite... “heavy metal.” Her favorite food... “everything, especially lobster.” She prefers horror movies and the “Bill Cosby” show on television. A few of her hobbies are “talking on the phone, going to the beach, writing letters (a lost art) and reading.” Because of the family’s airline connections, they have all enjoyed the beauty of Hawaii, Florida and Alaska.

Admires Her Sister

When Denise was asked who she most admired, the girl with the most-happy smile just said, “My sister. If I had a problem, she’s always there for me — the person who made the path (in school) for me, always with good advice.”

Denise Baran

As for the future, Denise said, “I’d love to be a clinical psychiatrist.” Why? “Because I’ve been interested in this since I was in the eighth grade.” Adding, “I do intend to take a minor in theater, and yes, I’d like to do another musical.”

EPILOG

With Denise Marie Baran, music has been one of her contributions to her town, her school, and to the delight of her parents. She’ll never forget the musical years in high school, probably because of fellow students and mostly the teachers and parents, who were doing their jobs... as with the words of Jim Trelease... “Artists, writers and musicians alone cannot keep a culture alive. They must be backed by the enthusiasm of a multitude of parents and teachers, people who treasure their heritage and will devote their energies to keeping its flame aglow. To them, more than to the artists, must fall the responsibility to pass it on.”
A True Triple-Threat Busy Guy

"I always try to be a part of the development of the kids..."

The Brian T. Bernard family has lived in Windsor Locks since 1984. The five years have been filled with membership in the local Lions, Little League play, and Boy Scout activities.

When you talk to Brian, the guy with the busy schedule, you find a dedicated, concerned and friendly man who thinks Scouts and baseball are not only "interesting, but excellent for the kids." The same goes for the Lions.

Brian and his wife, Elaine, both Connecticut natives, have a son, Jason, a young three-sport athlete, and a daughter, Kellie, who played softball as a student at the High School.

Before moving to Windsor Locks, and stops in two Connecticut towns, Elaine shared Brian's life in the Navy in the early 1970s. They traveled from Illinois to Virginia, even celebrating the birth of Kellie, who was born in South Carolina.

But first things first, Brian Timothy Bernard was born and raised in Meriden, the "Silver City" of Connecticut. He is the son of Romero and Bernice Bernard, who now live in Florida. The elder Mr. Bernard is a retired cut natives, have a son, Jason, a young three-sport athlete, and a daughter, Kellie, who played softball as a student at the High School.

Brian T. Bernard

Played Football

Brian graduated from Lyman Hall High School (Wallingford) in 1967, where he played football for two years. He received a service dedicated baptism with the high school "Key Club," which laid the groundwork for his later involvement with the Lions. Brian has three sisters — Sandy and Cheryl, who live in Florida, and Donna, who resides in New Jersey.

Upon Brian's graduation from High School, he had all good intentions of becoming an art teacher. He entered Southern Connecticut State University. After a year, however, he knew college life was not for him. In January 1969, Brian joined the U.S. Navy where he found electrical work more to his liking. And probably best of all, he found a bride. The service gave him a chance (along with Elaine) to serve at Great Lakes in Illinois, South Carolina, Virginia and time aboard ship in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Sea.

Brian Meets Elaine

Brian met Elaine Corideo of Ansonia at a school dance. She was a High School graduate, class of 1968, where she was active in sorority life. The sailor captured the heart of Elaine and they were married in September 1969. Elaine joined her new husband, living in three states. They were only apart when he went to sea. Their first child, Kellie, was born in South Carolina. Kellie is a 1988 WLHS graduate and will attend Asnuntuck College in the fall. For the record, Elaine is also known as "Corky" to her many friends.

In January 1973, Brian was discharged from the Navy and the young couple and their daughter returned to Ansonia, where they lived for two years. Their next home, for a decade, was in Wallingford. In 1984, they moved to Windsor Locks. Jason, now 11, will be in the sixth grade in the fall. He's involved with baseball, soccer and basketball. When asked about his favorite sport, he said, "All of them, plus rooting for the Yankees and Mets." Jason has been in Scouts for the past four years.

Brian, looking back, said, "The time in the service was the most educational period I could have ever had," where he found as an "Electronics Mate" a new career. His first position in the civilian world, from 1973 to 1981, was as maintenance electrician in "cabbages and kings"

Jack Redmond

Born in South Carolina. Kellie is a 1988 WLHS graduate and will attend Asnuntuck College in the fall. For the record, Elaine is also known as "Corky" to her many friends.

Brian T. Bernard

In 1984 Moved To Town

His next move was to Meriden with MRM Industries, as plant electrical engineer until the fall of 1984. The family moved to town when Brian accepted a job with Combustion Engineering Inc. in Windsor. Today, Brian is a senior development engineer. His wife, Elaine, also had worked at C-E (three years) and is currently with the accounting firm of Bardaglio Hart and Shuman in town.

The busy schedule of one Brian Bernard includes many activities. He joined the Lions in 1986. He has worked on several of the Lions' projects, specifically the Walk-athon and the yearly food distribution. Brian, who was a Cub and Boy Scout in his younger days, is today committee chairman of Scout Unit 261. He had held the title of Den Leader before assuming the role of what he calls "the CEO." He says he finds the scouting program the most interesting for Jason and himself, "and being active can be a lot of fun."

Coaches Little League

Jason began Little League in "T-Ball," where his dad was also a coach. Brian became a manager and today is Umpire-in-Chief for the five Little League divisions, Minor, Major and Senior (of LL) and the two softball girls' division (9-12 and 13-15). His thoughts on Little League... "That's why I'm involved... (the kids) have a lot of fun and the program is excellent for them... it's structured around teaching the kids the fundamentals of the game."

When Brian is not working at C-E, or the Lions, Boy Scouts or Little League, he does manage some softball, some tennis, loves fishing, and loves even more the game of golf. Saying, "I started as a caddy, been playing since I was 15, played in college and the Navy." Adding, "I find golf, fishing and tennis peaceful sorts of sports." The family has spent the spring months skiing at Stowe, Vt. just to round out a full sport schedule.

When asked who he most admired, he said, "My father... for his mechanical abilities, a man who always solved problems, especially with mechanical devices... it has (certainly) rubbed off on me." However, Brian believes in the old adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." His personal philosophy... easy, he said, "I try to be a part of the development of kids."

Just as we were winding down our talk on a rainy June evening, neither of us could have played golf that early hour, Brian wanted to add something to his story. "Give a lot of credit to my wife," he said. "She has been very supportive in all my projects... the activities would not exist without her. She's been (with me) all of the trying times."

Again, another Windsor Locks man... who exemplifies the Lions' motto, "We Serve." And with Brian it's a triple-threat.
Thomas Kimball Unnold: A Man of Many Hobbies

“T’ma doer...not a watcher...”
There’s no “empty nest syndrome” at Tom Unnold’s home. When you talk to this Maine native, you find his entire life, indeed, has never been empty of activity. Tom left his native state at the age of five, lived in New York City, returned to Maine at 13, served in the CCCs (Civilian Conservation Corps), and created a distinguished record in WWII. He settled in Connecticut to raise four children with his wife Clorie, who has been at his side with her support for the past 43 years for all his involvements: the veterans, working all kids of hours at Pratt & Whitney, or as a radio ham and all-round sportsman.

Thomas Kimball Unnold was just five in 1927 when his parents, the late Frederick and Edith Unnold left the quiet life of Bridgton, Maine in 1927 to live in Middle Village, Queens, N.Y. In those days, however, Tom remembers a different environment in Queens, far from what you may find today.

Tom comes from a large family. He has a brother, Joe, who lives in South Portland, and three sisters, Francis of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Bernice in Fort Richey, Fla., and Edith, who still resides in Bridgton, Maine. The family moved back to Bridgton when Tom was 13, and he attended high school there. He completed his junior year in 1939. With the depression still gripping the country, Tom joined CCCs, where he earned $21 a month. After two years, he went to work in South Portland shipyards, before being called into the U.S. Army in December 1942.

Tennessee Maneuvers
Tom received his basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He endured the “Tennessee maneuvers,” and completed specialized infantry training at Fort Bragg, N.C. before being shipped overseas in October 1944. Tom was now ready for battle, spending a year in France and Germany as a scout observer with the 100th Division, 397th Infantry, 2nd Battalion, during the height of the famed “Battle of the Bulge.” It was there that he earned the Silver Star and Bronze Star for gallantry in action.

“Battle of the Bulge.” It was there that he earned the Silver Star and Bronze Star for gallantry in action.

Tom had met his future bride, Clorie Marie Leighton, of South Bridgton, Maine, in 1941. The correspondence during Tom’s three years away in the army. On his return, they were married in February 1946. Clorie is the daughter of the late Joseph Leighton, and Clorie Mae Leighton, who at a young 83, is still going strong in Maine. With Tom away, Clorie worked in Washington, D.C. with the Veterans Administration, in GI Insurance Benefits, until Tom was discharged.

Tom’s first employment after the war was cutting logs, but shortly after, he took on-the-job training under the GI Bill, and received an agriculture license in 1950.

Worked As Tree Surgeon
For the next five years, the newlyweds stayed in Maine, where Tom worked as a general tree surgeon. “It was interesting, but hard work,” he says now. The couple decided to go south to Hartford in 1955, where Tom switched gears, so to speak, going to work for Pratt & Whitney. Two years later they moved to Windsor Locks.

Tom and Clorie have four children. Daughter Paula Girard is married to Joe Girard. They live in town with their three sons; Fred, Matthew and Joel. Daughter Christine Havens and her husband, Dwight, live in Putnam, Conn. with their daughter, Rebecca and son, Daniel. Daughter Loretta Rampelli is married to Tom Rampelli and they reside in town, with their daughter, Amanda, who was a recent Poppy Queen.

Their only son, Stephen Unnold, tragically lost his life in a 1984 hunting accident at Hilton Head Island, S.C. Stephen was a graduate of the local high school, as were his sisters, an All-Star in the Little League program, Boy Scouts, and a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Pratt & Whitney in 1955
It was in 1955 that Tom decided to work at Pratt & Whitney. He retired in February 1987, after more than 30 years in the industry. He began with materials handling, inspection and as a foreman. The first 11 years, Tom worked the 2nd or 3rd shifts, and the schedule left him little time for social activity. He finally made the first shift, however, and his attention turned to the local Boy Scouts, Troop 204, as Committeeman and then as Scoutmaster of Troop 201. The troop was sponsored by Genes-Viola Post, American Legion. Tom had joined the Legion when he lived in Maine and rejoined locally in 1958. Tom has held all the legion offices with the exceptions of Chaplain and Adjutant. He has been Commander on two occasions, and Finance Officer for 12 years. He said, “I also joined the V.F.W., but some men can have but one master, and my time was devoted to the Legion.”

Parade Marshall
At the recent Memorial Day parade in town, the former soldier was honored as the Parade Marshall. Tom said, “I always wanted to serve. Some veteran organizations are social, some are service oriented, that’s what the local Legion is...” Tom says. In the many projects of the Legion, Tom has had the continued support of his wife, Clorie, who is a member of Unit 36, American Legion, holding the titles of treasurer and secretary for many years.

The couple has made numerous visits to veteran hospitals and other worthwhile projects of the Legion.

Tom Unnold is a man of many hobbies. He has his own garden, takes time for target shooting with the Windsor Marksman’s Association, and at times, “black powder shooting.” In addition, Tom is a member of the American Radio Relay League, New England Beagle Club and National Muzzle Loading Association.

Ham Radio Operator
Probably Tom’s biggest claim to fame is that he is a genuine “Radio Ham.” He’s been an amateur radio operator since 1951 and has had 25 years in the Army MARS (Military Affiliated Radio Systems) and 12 years with the Navy Marine MARS. With this connection, Tom logs about an average of 45 credit hours a month.

When asked who he most admired, Tom said, “President Franklin D. Roosevelt” (then came a laugh or two from his wife, because Tom is Republican). “President Roosevelt served during the depth of the depression, he put the country back in the right direction, a great statesman.” Tom said.

Tom’s personal philosophy is “Be cool...no time to do nothing anyway, like to help people.” Clorie added...”He’s a busy person...always doing something.”

Tom remembers words from an old song...that probably do not pertain to this distinguished looking gentleman...”What do we do in retirement? Wake up in the morning with nothing to do and go to bed with it only half done.” He’s definitely a doer, not a watcher.
Start Off Summer with Golf, Carnival and a Parade

The week that was July the 3rd to July the 9th. It was the week for the annual Canon Greater Hartford Open golf tournament and the annual Windsor Locks Fire Department carnival. And which probably didn't make a million like the GHO from Wednesday through Saturday, with a few nights of rain. The GHO had rain on that Wednesday, to shorten the Pro-Am. Saturday, the firemen's final day, saw the annual parade winding along town streets from Southwest to the high school grounds. As a member of the Fire Commission, I had the honor of marching. For the record, the last time I was in a parade was in 1943 in Jackson, Tenn., as a U.S. soldier.

Golf Came First
Let me recall the events of those days, July 3 to 9. The golf came first. The past 10 years I have spent the week of the GHO at either Wethersfield or Cromwell, taking in the golf, meeting local people at the Pro-Am, or the day the pros play. Some of those local people were probably playing hookey from their jobs or taking a vacation day. I never ask. Before I get into a daily rundown of the GHO, let's see what the firemen were up to.

For the record and a history lesson, this year's carnival chairman was Dan Riley. The local volunteers have had carnivals and parades for many years and one of the best sources for a history lesson of this local event is Joe Wezowicz, a fireman for 38 years. As long as the GHO has been in this area, Joe said the carnival has been held, all of his years and even before he joined with only a few

exceptions. Other year's sites for the carnival were the old St. Mary's School, the Middle School, the once-empty lot on Elm Street, and now the high school. We thank old reliable Joe Wezowicz for his fine memory of this worthwhile civic event.

The first night there was rain, and more rain. However, according to Dan Riley, the carnival ran to 9:30 p.m. and they were looking for better weather the next three nights. Unfortunately, it rained again on Friday. On Thursday, the grandchildren, Kevin and Lindsey Cleech, took in the rides, food and games of skill. Kevin had no luck with the bottles.

The Parade
Saturday night was the parade. I'll admit, outside of that ancient military parade, I never knew how a parade was organized. The town firemen are very organized. On a telephone pole, located in front of St. Robert's Center on Southwest, was posted the line of march. The firemen and women's auxiliary, all veterans when it comes to parades, dressed up in uniform. They were not concerned, as was this novice, when it comes to parades. But I had a few doubts.

Even the politicians were there — Senator Con O'Leary, Rep. Carl Schiessl, Selectmen John Dowd and Ed Ferrari. When the parade began, the chairman of the Fire Commission, Russ Gabrielson, was absent. The parade was off and running and I was marching all alone, behind the town and state officials. After a short walk, Russ and his pretty daughter Jenni Lind Gabrielson joined the parade and I was a little (actually a lot) relieved.

A quick turn into Elm Street, to South Elm and past the reviewing stand was the line of march, with the end coming at the high school grounds. The parade, before a large crowd on South Elm, was made up of march-ers, trucks and bands that made us want to march to that special beat. I made it and was quite happy to see my family standing near St. Robert's, cheering me on. Sounds corny, but it's true.

Will March Again
Next year will be the 100th year for the grand old Windsor Locks Fire Department and I'll be available to march again. Before the shootout, a Pro-Celebrity Long Drive Competition was held at the first tee. Glad I wasn't entered, those guys hit the ball on the average of 275 yards. The winner was Greg Ladecoff with a drive of 289! Weather was hot and humid.

Wednesday, July 5: Not that great a day ... no sun. Rain started to fall late in the morning. By the time the last pro and celebrity/executive went off, it was a steady rain story. But first things first ... met a few Windsor Locks folks along the way — Ed and Jean Ford (he of the Lions Club); Elmer Jones, retired from C-E; Joe Barile, medical man on the 9th. The best seat and view on the course ... Tony Montemine. Tony was doing his duty for the "Travelers" ... he got to see some of the best golfers, the well-known and unknown. Tony even made the early evening television show when one of the golfers and celebrities were teeing off.

I got to the course real early ... but a big disappointment. Roger Clemens of the Red Sox was a no-show. John Giovannucci said the Red Sox pitcher notified tournament officers he would not play at 8 a.m., just one hour before tee-off with Peter Jacobsen and group. Some of the celebrities did show —

Joan Brown. The young couple were both busy the first day, along with their own addition, 4-week old Betsy Giovannucci, who doesn't care if Fuzzy or Lee come into the building for an interview. She just slept. Wait a few years, John and Susan. The day, weather-wise, was beautiful to say the least. Ran into a nice and Jill Holcomb of Windsor Locks, watching the action on the 9th hole.

Tuesday, July 4: Probably the best way to celebrate the Fourth — not much noise at the TPC but plenty of golf. Three events, one for the kids, the golf clinic with Nutmeg golfer Ken Green and Mark Calcavocchia providing golf techniques for the kids. Mark must have been listening to himself and Ken. He went out and won the annual GHO shoot-out over the likes of Fuzzy Zoeller, Hubert and Ken Green, Lee Trevino, Peter Jacobsen, Mark Brooks and Paul Azinger.

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Summer

Continued From Page 4

Ken Howard, Gordie Howe and Kevin Diineen, Dan Lauria (TV star), Leslie Nielsen, Chad Everett, Sparky Lyle, Sergeant Slaughter and Maury Povich of "A Current Affair."

**Thursday, July 6:** First day of the pro golfers competition. If you believed the weather forecast, you probably would not have gone to the TPC. Umbrellas were the order of the day. Never opened mine. A great day to watch the pros. When it was over and scores entered, Paul Azinger, 1987 GHO winner was tied at six under (65) with Kenny Knox and Bob Glider. Among the many local folks, we talked to Bill Elrick, a teacher and GHO fan, Bob O'Connor of Little League fame, and nice guy Bill Asselin.

**Friday, July 7:** A hot day. In the 90's. Had to find some shade. Second day for the pros. That day, who makes the cut and who does not. A little story, probably very little. To paraphrase ... if clothes make the golfer, what about home towns! I followed, for a few holes, Rick Fehr of Redmond, Wash. As he walked to the 11th tee, we had a short conversation. No, he wasn't sure how his hometown got its name.

Leader after second round ... that's right, Kenny Knox, at 10-under. (Will history repeat? In 1986, Knox led after three rounds.)

**Saturday, July 8:** As the song goes, "Only Mad Dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun." I'm far from English, but did sit in the sun on the fourth green from 10 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon. A day to relax, no walking around, had to save my energy for the evening Firemen's Parade in town. My companions, daughter Pat and son-in-law of Little League fame, Bob Creech. After all the scores were in, Kenny Knox, Wayne Levi and Wayne Grady, all at 12-under. Tomorrow, the final day, and let's see how Mr. Knox does.

**Sunday, July 9:** Another beautiful day at the TPC ... crowd total for the week is more than 200,000. As the final day began, the two Waynes, Levi from Utica, N.Y. and Grady from far-off Australia, world's apart but close on the leader board, along with Mr. Knox.

When it was all over, Paul Azinger, with the Connecticut connections (born in Holyoke, with Simsbury and Manchester relatives) won his second GHO with a struggling 65 (he admits, with a 30 on the front nine) and a brilliant 45-foot clip from the right fringe at the 18th hole. In second place, Wayne Levi, who lost by one shot, going back to New York State with $108,000. For Paul, the tournament record 267, the $180,000 first prize and a spot on the U.S. Ryder Cup Team.

Mr. Knox ended up, way down, after shooting a 76, to duplicate his '86 performance. But the tournament had big crowds and two favorites, Fuzzy Zoeller and Lee Trevino. Fuzzy did not fare well (on Sunday) and Mr. Trevino, tied for fourth, had a great 64 on Friday and is ready for the British Open.

It's all history now — Azinger the champ.

To sum up the two "Summer Biggest Hits" — "Each year the biggest winners on the PGA tour is charity," the same is true of the Canon GHO for local fans. And each year, one of the big winners in the town of Windsor Locks is the volunteer service given by the Fire Department.

That was the week that was. Golf, carnival and parade. A great way to start off the summer.
"You are never too old to set goals..."

Kit Eves has been director of the Windsor Locks Senior Citizens Club since last August. When talking to Kit, a native of Maine, you find out early that she enjoys her job and the people she works with on a daily basis. This past year, Kit has found the seniors "very involved and they care about themselves."

But first, some background on this very social person who has a son, Joshua, and husband, Jamie, the latter very involved in teaching history at UConn.

There's a lot to tell about Katherine Lyndell Smith Eves. Kit, as she is known to all the folks at the Center, has the middle name of a favorite aunt, and firmly believes that her maiden name of Smith should not be forgotten. That's why on the monthly Senior Center Activities News, as editor, she is listed as Katherine L.S. Eves.

Kit grew up in Bangor, the daughter of David and Sylvia Smith, both of whom have had distinguished careers in the teaching profession. Her mother is now pursuing a second career with AARP. Her father, Dr. Smith, is a full-time professor of history at the University of Maine. He is originally from South Paris, Maine.

Mrs. Smith, the former Sylvia White, is from Brewer, Maine. The couple now live in Bangor. Mrs. Smith did not stay in retirement long. After 28 years of teaching home economics, she is now associated with AARP as the state's health coordinator, in what she calls her second career. Kit has a brother, Clayton, who resides in Baltimore, Md.

Had No Future Plans

Kit graduated from John Bapst Memorial High School in 1977. As a student, she admits, "I had no plans for the future... (I guess) I was only interested in politics, and a love of English history." College life lasted only three semesters at the University of Maine, the teachers' college where her parents had met. There was illness in the family (Kit's grandmother fell ill) which necessitated leaving

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college. Years later however, Kit received a degree in Sociology and Social Work. In addition to caring for her grandmother, Kit managed to work part time as a paralegal secretary.

There are three individuals who Kit greatly admires — her mother, her father and former U.S. Senator from Maine, Ed Muskie, a native of Rumford, Maine:

About her mother, Sylvia White Smith, she says: "She had a career and a family, was highly respected, taught me to organize and work with people." About her father, David Smith, she says: "Without his guidance, I could not have gone as far as I have." About Ed Muskie, she says: "I was much involved in his campaign for senator. I only regret I could not vote for him. I was too young."

Soon after, Kit met Jamie Howard Eves, who was born and raised in Stillwater, Maine. In 1974, he graduated from Old Time High School, going to the University of Maine and majoring in history. They worked closely together in the VISTA (Volunteers In Service To Americans) program. Kit and Jamie were married on June 13, 1982. At the time, Jamie was working at the university in the Student Legal Services Department. He was with the university for three years. He eventually returned to the university as a student, for his master's degree and as an instructor, until the young couple decided in August of last year to move to Connecticut.

Interested In Social Work

Kit had always been concerned and interested in social work, especially for the elderly, and was involved in volunteer work in Bangor. When the couple moved to Connecticut, the Windsor Locks senior citizens program had an opening ... and as they say, the rest is history. Kit Eves became director at the WL Senior Citizens Club.

Currently, Jamie is studying for his Ph.D at UConn, in addition to his role as history teacher at the state college. They live in nearby Willimantic, with their son Joshua.

The 6-year-old was born on March 17, 1983. Kit said, "Our son was a gift from God." Joshua will attend first grade in the fall, and is a boy who "loves to read." According to his proud mother, he also has an interest in Star Trek movies and the latest Ghostbusters.

When asked about any hobbies, she answered without hesitation, "politics." To Kit, politics has always been important in her life, explaining "I'm a Democrat; however, I do not talk politics when working, only on personal time."

Avid Reader

She is an avid reader, with a book a week, everything, she said, except Westerns. On a domestic note, Kit is into embroidery. In sports, she cheers for the Celtics and Jamie follows the Red Sox. Memberships for Kit include the Connecticut Coalition on Aging, Connecticut Association of Senior Citizen Personnel, and National Association of Social Workers.

She says "I'm here to stay," when questioned on future plans in Windsor Locks, then adds, "I do enjoy the work. The members are definitely interested in making their lives better, and they appreciate that I know how to do that." Kit believes "The people (at the center) are comfortable with my knowledge and I have the ability to organize them."

Like the ad says, they are in good hands.

Can-do Attitude

Kit believes in the "American Dream," with these words... "I do not believe in No! ... you can do what you set your heart to... it's the 'American Dream' — if you want to do it, you are never too old to set goals."

She adds: "It may take (your) entire life, (but) it can be done."

EPILOG:

Katherine Lyndell Smith Eves has indeed made an impression on our town's senior citizens. Kit believes in people ... she is a social person. A fellow Democrat, the late John F. Kennedy said the following... "We must recognize that older people have a right to decent food, clothing, housing; a right to a decent income; a right, earned by a lifetime of useful service, to live out their lives in useful, satisfying, continued service to their world and to those who love them..." Kit is doing her part.
“Take the gift of God ... and (share) it with someone else...”

Leopold Nadeau wondered why I asked him for an interview. Saying, everyone has a story to tell may seem a bit trite. However, in Leo’s case, I found an interesting story, certainly worth telling.

The Fall River, Mass. native, father of seven, grandfather to 18, and great-grandfather of one, served his country during World War II. He is a member of the American Legion and V.F.W., the Knights of Columbus, and served in the local Auxiliary Police for a quarter century. Today, he works as a volunteer at Mount Sinai Hospital. Leo is retired from Pratt & Whitney, with 39 years of service.

Large families run in the Nadeau clan. Leo has four brothers and three sisters, children of the late Omer and Marie Nadeau who were from Fall River. Leo’s sisters include Emilia, Irene and Blanche. Leo lost a brother, Lionel, due to a World War II injury. Henry was the third son to serve in the war. Leo has two other brothers, Victor and Joe.

Leo, at age 7, left the Massachusetts industrial city and headed for the farm life in Quebec, Canada. The time was the early 1930s. The French-speaking family operated a farm, where Leo and his brothers found the work hard. At 17, young Leo left the farm to work in the construction business. He spent time at the Notre Dame Hospital in Montreal, due to a knee injury, which would affect him later in years.
Returned To States

In 1940, Leo returned to the states and found work as a carpenter in Newport, R.I., building barracks for the U.S. Navy. November of 1942 found Leo in the uniform of a soldier. His Army career ended in February 1946, with a few interesting events along the way, from the California desert to the Rhine River.

Private Nadeau boarded a troop train out of cold Fort Devens, crossing the country, landing in hot Desert Center, Calif. where the temperatures soar to 100-plus during the day, and actually cool down at night. Soon after arrival, he suffered another knee injury and spent three months in a Pasadena hospital.

Returning to the desert location, Leo found his outfit was gone. When the truth was known, Leo's medical records were in Belgium. Leo managed to convince the Army of his status, and was assigned duty in Long Beach and Reno. When it was time to go overseas, Leo was told: "No overseas for Private Nadeau..." So much for Army doctors.

Leo was off, back across the country, landing in England, seeing the sights of Liverpool and London. He was shipped to the continent, and served in France, Luxembourg, on the Rhine River, Austria and in the Army of Occupation, after the war, in Germany.

Back to the states (Fort Dix), and it was discharge for new civilian Leo Nadeau, bad knee and all. But we must backtrack. Remember the doctor saying Leo did not have to go overseas? He was given a furlough and he went east to Fall River and married Annette Simoneau. They had met long before on a blind date. After their wedding in July 1943, they both returned to California where Annette stayed with Leo for eight months before he was shipped to England.

Annette Kept Busy

Annette came home and kept busy as a dressmaker, and also kept the U.S. Postal Service busy.

For the record, Annette has a sister, Rita, and two brothers, Tom and "Brother" Norman, a member of a men's religious order in New York State.

The newlyweds, once reunited, stayed only a short time in Fall River, then moved a little bit west to Hartford, where they lived for eight years. Leo had joined Pratt & Whitney as a carpenter, retiring in 1985. Looking back, Leo remembers working two jobs, as a man always willing to do what was necessary to raise a large family.

And the large family of Annette and Leo consists of three girls, Janine, Pauline and Janet, and four sons, Richard, Robert, Roland and Roger. Both Roland and Roger are in the Navy. Leo said, "Some live in Connecticut and also in New Jersey and Chicago," where Annette and Leo spend some time on vacation, in addition to Hawaii, Florida, New Orleans and Mexico. Leo added, "All our children graduated from the local high school."

There is only one hobby for this quiet, concerned father of seven — woodworking. But when it comes to membership and being a volunteer, that's another story. Leo belongs to the Windsor Locks Senior Citizens Center, joined the Knights of Columbus in 1954, the American Legion in 1956 (and was it's historian), the V.F.W. in Hartford in 1946, transferring to town upon his arrival in 1955. As far as veterans' affairs go, he said, "I've done a little bit of everything in those organizations. They are good for the vets."

Historic Flood

In 1955, soon after moving to town, this area was hit by the historic flood. It was time, Leo said, to help with all the problems, so he joined the Auxiliary Police Department and served for 25 years.

Leo is a religious man and has had the experience of attending weekend retreats the past three years at the Holy Family Retreat House in West Hartford. Just to add another notch to his volunteer belt, Leo was a member of the local Civil Defense. Another satisfying program he has been involved in for the past five years has been as a volunteer at Mount Sinai Hospital, from 6 in the morning to 2, two days a week. Leo put it this way ... "I love the work." He says he and the patients look forward to the times he spends in the hospital helping out.

When asked who he most admired, Leo said, "My wife ... everything I've been connected with, she has kept me straight." Leo's personal philosophy is: "Always take (and share) the gifts of God and give them to someone else ... a helping hand."

The evening Leo and I talked was a hot June night, as we sat in his comfortable back yard, near his garden. We stopped for a moment as one of his granddaughters, Jeanette Fontaine of Enfield, came to visit her grandparents. I remarked that she was a beautiful girl and she smiled and said, "He's a beautiful person," as she kissed her proud grandfather.
Kelly Jean Andrews Shares Talents As Town’s Summer Program Director

“Smile ... it helps to make things happen...”

This summer, from June 30 to Aug. 18, Kelly Jean Andrews has been and will be sharing her time, energy, experience and that familiar smile with the children of Windsor Locks, at Pesci Park, as the new Summer Program director.

Kelly, the daughter of Leroy and Lucy Andrews, is a native of Windsor Locks. Her parents were originally from Maine. This is Kelly's sixth year at Pesci Park, and her first year as director, taking over the duties of Barbara McHugh.

The 1986 WLHS graduate will be in her final year this fall at Southern Connecticut State University where she is majoring in Physical Education. Kelly's future plans include studying for a master's degree and teaching physical education at the elementary level.

As to background on her family, Leroy and Lucy Andrews came south to Connecticut in the late 1960s to live and work. Kelly has two brothers, Ronnie (WLHS '73) and Dana (WLHS '78), and a sister, Karen (WLHS '80). Karen is married to William Naismith. They live in town with their daughter Kristin, age 3, Kelly's godchild. Dana resides in East Windsor where her brother Dana has horses. At times she has traveled to Agawam, Mass. to pursue her hobby. However, when pinned down, she admits her main hobby is gymnastics, saying “I work out whenever I have free time at college.”

Kelly has gone that extra step in this conditioning sport. She is a coach from January to March of 9th and 12th graders at the Foran High School in Milford. In addition, Korean war and served overseas. He is currently employed at Barnes Central Metal Products in East Windsor. Her mother, Lucy, has been a familiar face to parents who bowl at Bradley Lanes, as the person in charge of the nursery for the past 15 years.

Enjoys Food

As for a few personal notes on Ms. Kelly, she enjoys all kinds of food, but does have a favorite — steamers, especially at popular “Savin Rock.” When it comes to music, it's the top 40 in Rock and Roll. She watches the Cosby Show, movies featuring Tom Hanks, whether they have a comedy twist or are tear-jerkers.

Kelly is into horseback riding. She began riding in East Windsor where her brother Dana has horses. At times she has traveled to Agawam, Mass. to pursue her hobby. However, when pinned down, she admits her main hobby is gymnastics, saying “I work out whenever I have free time at college.”

Kelly has gone that extra step in this conditioning sport. She is a coach from January to March of 9th and 12th graders at the Foran High School in Milford. In addition,

organize special days, making sure the equipment is readily available, and that prizes are awarded for those special days. Kelly has an agreeable staff which includes Jon Russillo and Mike Collins, two well-known high school athletes, along with equally-talented Kate Cenci, Cindy Marinak and Nancy Leonard.

The month of July has been filled with activity, from arts and crafts and gymnastics to baseball and those special days, such as carnival, Balloon Day, Dog Show, and today (Aug. 4), Christmas in August. And this month there will be Pet Fair, and the last day (Aug. 18) the program ends with a summer picnic (Pie Eating, Bubblegum Day, and everything kids will enjoy).

In addition, the kids in town have taken advantage of the swimming pool under the watchful eyes of Rich Labbe and his pool staff. Coordinating all this activity is the town's recreation director, Brian McKeown.

Kelly was asked who she most admired. She replied, “A fellow student at Southern (and her boyfriend), Scott Miller, who has stood beside me, not in front, always there for me, always willing to help, getting me to organize and take responsibility; he has taught me a great deal about coaching and gymnastics.” Scott, a junior at the New Haven institution, is a management major.

In high school yearbooks, there is usually a capsule identity of each student, and most of the time they're right on the mark. In Kelly's 1986 yearbook, it mentioned her continual smile and the words that seem to sum up this friendly and energetic young lady: “Smile, it helps to make things happen.”

As director, Kelly's main function is to keep the children’s needs in mind.
Frank Monzillo: New Legion Commander is Concerned Veteran

A great many personal experiences — health-wise and added veteran responsibility — have transpired since Frank Monzillo and I last spoke several years ago.

Frank is still very involved with the local Boy Scouts, veterans' affairs, and was recently named to the office of Commander of Gensi-Viola Post No. 36, The American Legion.

In retirement, as in the years of working, Frank wears many hats — the Legion, V.F.W., Knights of Columbus, scouts, and now holds several positions, all in connection with retired service men and women.

In 1984, Frank underwent "triple heart by-pass" and since then has not curtailed his involvement in his activities or limited himself in keeping fit. As an example, he plays golf, bowls and some racquetball. Three times a week, Frank travels to Mount Sinai Hospital for physical therapy, which includes his new found racquetball experience.

Waterbury Native

Before commenting on the activities of the Legion and the latest information for veterans, a few notes on Frank are as follows: the Waterbury native has lived in town since 1956; he has a son, Ronald, who lives and works in Boston as a computer scientist; and a daughter, Kathleen, employed by an insurance company in West Hartford.

Francis Paul Monzillo graduated from Leavenworth High School in 1941. Soon after Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, saying, "I always wanted to fly." The new airman was trained in Mississippi before shipping overseas on the Queen Mary, for physical therapy, which includes his new found racquetball experience.

"with 25,000 troops," he said, landing in Scotland.

It didn't take long for Frank and his outfit to see action in the following campaigns: North Africa, landing at Oran (a seaport on the Mediterranean in northwestern Algeria); invasion of the island of Pantelleria; and the critical invasion of Italy (near the town of Toronto).

Licensed Aircraft Mechanic

Returning to civilian life in October of 1945, Frank attended the University of Detroit for a year under the GI Bill. He chose the east coast for further education, going to Putnam State Technical School and earning a license as an aircraft engine mechanic.

When the Korean war broke out, Frank joined the Air Force for active duty. (He had joined the Air National Guard in 1948.) He retired as a Master Sergeant in 1981 after a distinguished career. His employment record goes from Kaman to Sikorsky's, back to Kaman (all in the aircraft industry) and finally settling for boilers at Combustion Engineering in Windsor, where after 31 years, Frank retired in 1987.

A member of the local V.F.W. for two decades, Frank was added to the roles of the American Legion, saying, "The Legion wanted new blood, and with the Vietnam vets joining, I decided to become involved and was recently chosen commander."

The Legion, according to Frank, currently has more than 250 members. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at Memorial Hall on Main Street. There are many familiar names serving as Post officers. Along with Frank, there's Edward Sobotka, senior vice commander; James Capolda as junior vice commander; Tom Unnold, finance officer; Arthur Africano, personnel officer; Rudolph Desroches, chaplain; Judge Advocate is S. William Bromson; Adjutant is James Houlberg, Vietnam vet, as with Claudia Remotti, historian. The service officer's chair is held down by Joseph Valbona.

Veterans His Main Concern

Being involved in veteran affairs is Frank's main occupation these days. He is treasurer of two veteran organizations, Air Force Sergeant Association for the State of Connecticut and the Retiree Activities Program at Westover AFB, where he works one day a week.

Discussing veteran organizations with Frank, you find a dedicated individual. "The groups are very dear to me and I want to be involved, helping to continue benefits for the vets," he said, adding that "if any military retirees have a problem or question, they can call the following number: (413) 557-3918." Recent information has come to the attention of Frank regarding "lost" service medical treatment and hospitalization records being found.

The following could be of interest and service to many veterans: These records (nearly 10 million) cover the years 1942-45 and 1950-54. They involve individuals who served in the Army and Army Air Corps and may include personnel from other branches of the service who were treated in Army hospitals. They may also be records showing treatment of former prisoners of war and service men and women from other nations as well as civilians cared for in Army hospitals.

These should prove valuable to veterans whose claims for benefits were denied because their records were lost in the National Personnel Record Center fire in St. Louis, Mo. 15 years ago. Veterans of those periods who had claims denied by the VA because there was no evidence of their treatment are now advised to again contact the Veterans Administrations or their organization's service officer and ask about re-opening their VA claim.

EPILOGUE: That's the story of Frank Monzillo. He has the welfare of his fellow veterans always on his mind. Frank admired the famous airman, Lindbergh, and although he did not make the life of a pilot, "did the next best thing," being around aircraft all his life. Frank admits he's from the old school, save something for a rainy day; however, he is sticking to a new rule — "do it today, tomorrow may never come."
As High School Principal
Raymond Grasso

"Everything that limits us...we have to put aside..."
From Johnathan Livingston Seagull

Raymond Andrew Grasso has the best of two worlds. One world consists of his family, Judy, his wife; Jennifer and Matthew, their children. The other world, Windsor Locks High School.

Mr. Grasso, principal of the local high school, putting it mildly, is very fond and proud of the students, teachers and the school itself, and what they represent. His future plans, only include, he said "Making the (high school) the best it could be and we are off to a good start."

This dedicated mission is not taken lightly by this very sincere, friendly man who is at home as emcee at a teacher's roast, as principal with a very open door policy, or assisting with the annual school musical. The writing fraternity and theater work (two of his talents) may have lost a true devotee in Ray Grasso. However, there is still an avid interest in the theater and the written word. But the family and the high school is now his number one priority.

Ray Grasso is an East Hartford native, the son of the late Raymond A. Grasso Sr., a veteran letter carrier in 'East Hartford for more than 35 years. Ray's mother, Phil Grasso, resides in Hartford. He has two brothers, the late Donald Grasso, a teacher, and George, who Ray calls "his older brother," who lives in Forestville and is currently the Math Department chairman at Plainville High School. Ray said, "My parents were both cognizant of a good education, my brothers and I were a great joy to them, and proud their three sons were in the educational field."

Always Active
Be it high school or college, Ray Grasso was always in the active end of student participation. At East Hartford High School (Class of '64), he was involved with the yearbook, editor of the school newspaper, Honor Society, Boys' State, Salutatorian of his class. At Amherst (Class of '68), where he majored in Spanish, he spent two summers at day camps, helping handicapped children. He was already ready to assist in worthy causes. Looking back at those years, especially in high school, he said, "I was always observing teachers, was impressed by their performances and presentations."

He wanted to be a teacher, took literary classes, wanted to go to college and be a great writer...to write the Great American Novel, but found out it was already written.

cabbages and kings
JACK REDMOND

During those high school years, Ray had many friends and among them was Judy Waldhein. They were in the same class and when it came time for a partner for the prom, Ray Grasso asked Judy Waldheim. She said "First, yes," with him adding, "Are you kidding?"

The day he and this reporter met in his high school office, he added this to the story..."I've loved her since that moment."

They were wed on July 20, 1968. Judy had gone to Hartford Hospital School of Nursing after high school. Today, she is an R.N. Judy was a high school athlete and cheerleader. She is the daughter of Al and Harritt Waldheim, who are retired and living in Florida. Their son-in-law had the classic evaluation on their move from Connecticut. "They went to Florida to find the fountain of youth, and found it," Mr. Grasso said.

Vernon Residents

Today, the family of Raymond and Judy Grasso live in Vernon. They have two active children, Jennifer and Matthew. Jennifer is a graduate of Rockville High School, where she played volleyball. Next month, she will continue her education at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Penn. where she is majoring in Spanish. Matthew, "the athlete in the family and into soccer all year round," is a senior at Rockville.

Before elaborating on Mr. Grasso's higher education and different teaching positions, a few personal notes: he loves pasta (all variations); listens to theater music, some Rock ballade; TV viewing includes "Thirty Something; Wise Guy and cooking shows on public TV." He's a Woody Allen fan and his favorite movie is "Annie Hall."

When it comes to the outdoors, he enjoys fishing with his son and gardening (flowers and vegetables). The garden hobby was a family trait, he said, from his "Grandpa Grasso, who came from Italy and sold chickens and eggs in East Hartford, a very gentle man."

The theater is a part of Mr. Grasso, who has directed musicals, took part in the play "Fiddler on the Roof," ("that's when I started to grow my beard," he says). The past three years, he has assisted with the school's yearly musicals.

Vacation Time

Vacations for the Grasso family? A good question, they say. Judy wants a week at the
beach. Ray wants a week of Broadway shows in New York City. (You know who won? Yes, Judy.) Ray is a Red Sox fan, along with Matthew. However, his late father was a big Yankee rooter, and today, his mother, Phil, can't get enough of the Bronx Bombers (a term not used for today's team of Dallas Green).

Ray began his master's program (in Special Education) at Temple University, finishing at Central Connecticut and the "6th Year" at UConn.

After their wedding, the newlyweds lived in Philadelphia, where he was a teacher in the inner city while studying for his master's. Judy, in Ray's words, "is a true professional, a woman who needs her nursing career as much as I need the teaching profession." He had a long list of positions before assuming the role of principal at the local high school: he taught young "brain-damaged" children and handicapped students in the Philadelphia area, saying it was "an unbelievable experience."

His first Connecticut position was teaching Special Education in elementary and middle school in East Hartford. Soon after he moved to East Hartford High School, for a four-year period, he taught the first Special Ed in the high school. He was department head of Special Ed and in 1979, took over the role of assistant principal of the high school. He was named director of Secondary Schools before coming to Windsor Locks in May of 1986. He is a member of several national educational organizations and in addition, Phi Delta Kappa.

Who He Admires

As mentioned, we met at Mr. Grasso's high school office, and among the many questions asked was who he most admired? He said, "My wife, Judy, who always knew what she wanted to do, a good mother, wife and a good nurse."

Another individual fell in this category, a friend, Matt Sullivan, a young man who wanted to be an actor, a grad of Julliard School in New York. He's now a working actor, off Broadway and Washington, D.C. "Matt was another person who knew what he wanted, and willing to give credit to others along the way."

Also, among the many profound things we discussed, Mr. Grasso summed it up by saying..."Everyone has the capabilities to make a difference."

Epilog

Raymond Andrew Grasso has made a difference in the high school, where he found students "honest with themselves and ot-

For the Class of 1990 and beyond, he said, 'School begins Wednesday, August 30!

Raymond A. Grasso, Windsor Locks High School Principal

Has the Best of Two Worlds
Mary Colo Grew Up On Easy Street

Mary Colturi Colo never realized her early ambition to be a teacher. However, this native of Hartford — and as nearly a native daughter of Windsor Locks as one can become — has raised two talented children, Dr. Richard Colo and local teacher, Linda Colo, and has watched the growth of two grandchildren, Matthew and Geoffrey Colo.

Linda, a high school teacher since 1972, has surely fulfilled her mother’s ambition, while her brother, Richard, an optometrist in Suffield, is a well-known professional man. The doctor has two sons for Mary Colo to add to her proud moments of family sharing. Linda adds, “She’s the heartbeat of the family.”

Mary is the widow of Angelo Colo, who passed away in 1980, after a career at Pratt & Whitney. He was an active member of the local Democratic Town Committee and an ever-faithful St. Louis Cardinal baseball fan, along with several other town rooters.

A few facts on the matriarch of the Colo clan: Mary was born in Hartford, in the Colturi home, located across the street from the hospital. At the age of five, her family moved to Whiton Street, also known in those days as “Easy Street.”

Mary was the daughter of Angelo and Louise Colturi, who were both born in Italy. Angelo came to the states at the age of 11, while his future bride was 20 when she reached these shores. They were married in St. Patrick’s Church in the nearby Thompsonville section of Enfield. Mary has a brother, Louis, who lives in Enfield, and a sister, Elsie Nesta, who resides in Windsor Locks.

1935 High School Graduate
Mary attended Union School and is a 1935 graduate of the high school. Looking back, she said, “I wanted to be a teacher, but my mother felt there was no need to go to college.”

She did manage to go to Bay Path Junior College to pursue a business career, receiving an associate degree in 1937. It was the time of the great depression, and jobs were hard to find. She worked at Montgomery Company, for a short time, and finally put her skills to work in Hartford’s Lombardi Manufacturing Co., taking the train to the capital city every morning. In addition, she worked as a telephone operator in town.

Those jobs were all before Mary was married. After her two children were grown, and in school, Mary worked 19 summers for the original First National Bank of Windsor Locks, which changed its name to Northern Connecticut and is now CBT.

Where did Mary meet her future husband? “Our parents were friends, and we were kids together on Whiton Street,” she said. “Angelo went to St. Mary’s and trade school in Hartford, learning to be a machinist.” He was the son of Joseph and Palmina Colo, who also came from Italy. He had a brother, James.

Angelo worked two years at Horton, before joining Pratt & Whitney, where he was employed for 38 years, retiring in 1977 as general foreman. Mary said, “Angelo, at the time, received an award (for contribution to work process) that included the highest dollar amount.”

Husband Was Active
He was active in town, and organized the first Catholic boy scout troop at St. Mary’s. He was a member of the town’s housing authority and held memberships in the KofC (fourth degree), American Legion and the V.F.W.

Mary and Angelo were married on Sept. 5, 1942. In May of 1944, he was called into the U.S. Army, where he served until February, 1947.

He was trained in Texas and Colorado. He became a member of a ski troop, a part of the 10th Mountain Division, with time in the mountains of northern Italy at the height of cabbages and kings
JACK REDMOND
the war. Angelo was wounded and waiting for medical treatment, and Mary tells the unlikely but true story of two medics coming across Angelo, Peter Tria and George Harvey of Windsor Locks! After the war, Angelo served as a military policeman and visited his father's home in Pre Di Ledro, Italy, where he renewed relationships with several cousins and uncles.

In October 1944, just before going overseas, Angelo was home on leave, and was fortunate to see his first-born son, Richard. He would have to wait until discharge, from the army, before his next visit to see his Mary and young Richard.

Mary's Children

Now the story of Dr. Richard Colo and Linda Colo. Richard attended St. Mary's and Monson Academy, before higher education at Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y. and Massachusetts College of Optometry in Boston. After graduation in 1970, Richard supervised a clinic in Dorchester for a year. He then opened his own office in Suffield in 1971, where he still is in practice.

Richard married Alexis Constantine in 1967. Alexis is from Sturbridge, Mass. as mentioned, they have two sons. Geoffrey attends Ithaca College in New York state, with grandma saying, "He's into water sports," while her other grandson, Matthew, is the soccer player in the family. He also plays golf and is into all kinds of sports. He is currently attending Westminster School in Simsbury.

Linda Colo was a graduate of Our Lady of Angels in Enfield, class of 1965. She went on to Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass. where she majored in English and humanities. Linda has a distinguished list of higher education credits. She attended graduate school at Syracuse University, receiving her master's degree in journalism at the Newhouse Communication Center. Linda spent her junior year of college in Rome, as part of Loyola University of Chicago, based in the eternal city.

She received her teaching credentials at Trinity College and her first teaching position was as substitute instructor at the JFK Junior High School in Enfield. In 1972, Linda came home and has been teaching English at the WLHS. In addition, she was involved in the Year Book for 13 years and in the early stages of the annual musicals put on by the senior classes, as producer, stage manager and other roles in the "Broadway" type shows at the high school.

Mary and Angelo

More on Mary and Angelo: the Colo family began on Whiton Street for the returning veteran, but in 1952, they moved to Wicklaw, where Mary now resides. Mary and Angelo traveled extensively through all of Europe, Hawaii, Mexico and Italy several times, visiting the home towns of Angelo's father and mother.

Along with local residents, Welles Pease, Johnny Mandirola and Aldo Sicbaldi, Angelo was an ardent Cardinal fan. He and Mary attended the 1942 World Series against the New York Yankees, the Cards won in five. Today, Mary treasures a baseball mug between Ella and Angelo, they were both nursed by my mother-in-law (Palmina Colo)."

Mary's personal philosophy is "I like people, wouldn't hurt anyone, if anyone needs help, just ask. If you are nice to people, they'll be nice to you."

Mary added, "We are very family-oriented. Every Monday night is family night and I do all the cooking." Asked about her children, Mary Colturi Colo summed up her feelings. "I couldn't ask for anything better...they're good kids," she said.
Willy Watson, Honored Scholar, Is Part of Talented Family

"Our children are self-sufficient..." Bob Watson

A funny, or better said, pleasant, thing happened, when I stopped by to interview young William Morgan Watson, the recipient of several honors, as a recent graduate of the Class of 1988, Windsor Locks High School.

William, better known as Wills or Willy, we found, comes from a very talented family, with sisters, Maria and Erika, also active in their school years. Maria is now in college and Erika is a senior at the Raider School.

I had the pleasure of their company, along with their proud father, Robert Steele Watson, a senior engineer at Combustion Engineering Inc. in Windsor. Mr. Watson, an accomplished man of music, has passed his musical talents to his daughters.

Before listing the many awards of Willy Watson, let us go back a few years to the early life of his father. Bob Watson, the son of the late Morgan and Dorothy Watson, was born and raised around the Washington D.C. suburbs (Riverdale, Md.).

Bob graduated from high school in 1961, where he pursued his hobby of music, participating in the school's annual musicals, playing trumpet and piano, and assisting with arrangements in the musical scores. During the summer months, he played in a local band.

When it came time to choose a college, Bob moved a little more south to the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. In 1968, Bob received a bachelor of science degree in engineering, and two years later, a master's degree.

Bob Meets Adele

During those years at the "rambling wreck" college, Bob met his future wife, Adele. She was originally from Mt. Vernon, N.Y., growing up in Middletown, Conn., and spending two years in Switzerland, where her father was employed. She attended nursing school in Atlanta and married Bob on Dec. 21, 1967.

The Watson Family, with Willie Watson (standing center) surrounded by sisters Erika and Maria and parents Adele and Robert (seated).

Willy will attend California Institute of Technology this month, where he will major in math and physics. Willy received a grant and aid from Cal Tech. His future plans may include teaching and research work.

While in high school, Willy was the juggler in the musical "Carnival." Not to be outdone by his sisters, Willy participated in cross-country, tennis and indoor-track, for which he was captain during his senior year. He was the most valuable player for the math team for four years.

During the last two years, Willy was one of 150 students in the country invited to participate in the U.S.A. Mathematical Olympiad. He is a member of the computer team and the National Honor Society. He distinguished himself at the state chemathon.

Active in Church

Mr. Watson is an active member in St. John's Episcopal Church in Warehouse Point, and has substituted as organist. He said, "When the kids were young, I helped out in the scouting and Little League programs." Music is his hobby and he put this talent into action.

For the past three years, he has got together with a "gang of men, all interested in playing the music of the '30s and '40s," resulting in memorable evenings for many "in old folk's homes," he said.

When asked who he most admired, Bob said, "My father, Morgan Watson, who came from Georgia, was a man easy to talk to, dependable, came from a broken home...all the children knew their grandfather."

Epilog

Yes, Willy comes from a talented family. His father, putting it all in the proper perspective, had this to say..."My children have control of their lives, I never push my children, they are self-sufficient and are fond of each other."

"Talent in the Watson family runs from math to sports to music. Mr. Watson said, "They have the inclination to go with the flow (of life)."

At the end of the interview, Bob Watson sat down at the family piano and performed a musical piece he had written, he said, as a young boy of 17. Even to this untrained ear, I knew it was something special I was listening to and enjoying.

If I could capture the life-style of the Watson clan...it would be the following..."Spontaneity is the quality of being able to do something just because you feel like it at the moment, of trusting your instincts, of taking yourself by surprise and snatching from the clutches of your well-organized routine a bit of unscheduled pleasure."
Mark Urso Is Dedicated as an Innovator and Volunteer Fireman

Back in May of 1975, our second interview for “Cabbages and Kings” was Joe Urso. (The late fire chief, Bill Reilly, was our first.) We picked Joe for his civic and fraternal involvement.

This week, 14 years later, we will tell you about one of his sons, Mark Joseph Urso, and what makes him tick.

To sum up young Mark, dedicated local volunteer fireman, you would have to say he’s an innovator, mechanical, into carpentry, and general “restores” of homes. He has proven this worthy talent by changes at his home, which he shares with his wife Barbara.

Incidentally, the young Urso couple took over the home of Joe and Rena Urso when the couple left Windsor Locks for the life and sun of Cape Cod.

But first things first, how Mark got his start and how he keeps up with a busy schedule. Some folks believe baseball players are born, not made. With Mark, he was probably born to do things mechanical. As a young boy, he was always filling up the family garage with tools. Today, the tools still monopolize the garage, and the chief reason is the restoration of a 1949 Willys Jeep which Mark calls “his baby.”

Mark went to the local grammar schools, along with his sister Mary and older brother Charles. Mark graduated from the local high school, Class of 1975. He managed to play football two years, but admitted “I’m not the sportman in the family, more into mechanical things.”

Interested in Fire Department

At the age of 16, Mark became interested in the fire department. As part of the Civil Defense, he joined the junior division of the department, saying, “Kenny Jeffery got me involved.”

Looking back, Mark remembers, “A few of my high school friends joined at the same time ... Jack Cannone (still active), John Colli Jr., Dale Ribaudo and Brian Hillery.”

Two years later, Mark became a full-time volunteer fireman. After high school, Mark took on the life of student/worker by attending Springfield Technical Community College and as an employee of Hamilton-Standard.

Over a fire-year period, Mark earned an associate degree in automotive technology. He had joined Hamilton in January 1976 as an “industrial fireman.” In addition, he worked at the UTC location in South Windsor, in their “fuel cell.” He returned to Windsor Locks as a dispatcher. For the past 12 years, Mark has been involved in the purchasing end of the aircraft company and today has the title of “procurement technical specialist.”

Family Tree Diversified

Mark’s brother, Joe Urso, was a veteran employee of Hamilton until his retirement. His mother, Rena, had worked at Dexter’s, the family with local connections.

Mark’s brother Charles is an FBI agent in New Jersey, where he lives with his wife Jayn and their son Mark and daughter Michelle. Charles is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University.

Their sister Mary works and lives in the Boston area, employed by an insurance company. Mary is a graduate of Champlain College in Burlington, Vt. Speaking of education, Mark is currently attending Central Connecticut, pursuing his second degree in Industrial Manufacturing.

Their parents, Joe and Rena, certainly left their mark in Windsor Locks as two very active individuals. According to Mark, “they both enjoy the life at the Cape,” where Joe continues his health club activity and now has a sailboat as a true Cape-Codder.

Mark met his wife, the former Barbara Richards, through a mutual friend and they were married on Oct. 27, 1984. Barbara, originally from Marlborough, Conn., has the responsibility as assistant head nurse at Hartford Hospital. She is a grad of St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing.

Now, about Mark Urso, the fireman. The way he views the fire department: “No better way to grow up, a lot of hard work and some fun, a great bunch of guys to work with...” Adding, “There’s something special about being a volunteer fireman, there’s a lot of pride and you (find early) the art of fighting fires.”

Describing a Fire Call

He gave the following scenario, when the whistle blows at the Safety Complex on Elm street, if Mark is at home: Example ... It’s 2 in the morning. The whistle blows ... his personal alarm (at his bedside) goes off, type of call (emergency or fire), location ... Mark is out of bed, into his clothes, into his truck, drives to the firehouse, drives or accompanies appropriate fire truck to scene of emergency or fire ... if it’s a “working house fire,” as with the recent Spring Street fire ... definite water (fire hydrant) locations are noted, close to the property, so that hose can be put into quick use, before approaching the actual location of the fire...

Recently, Mark had an important assignment of chairing the fire department’s Truck Committee in the selection and purchase of “two custom pumpers” to replace older vehicles.

In recalling his early start in becoming a fireman, mark, as mentioned, gives credit to Kenny Jeffery, and also contributes “the helping hand of Chief Bill Reilly, who was responsible for me becoming a regular fireman. Chief Reilly was a man I had a lot of respect for, and he meant a lot to me.”

Likes to Travel

There’s another side to Mark Urso. He and Barbara like to travel, with Hawaii, San Francisco, Las Vegas and the islands in the Caribbean a few of their vacation stops. He’s not one for too much spectator sports, with the exception of rooting for the football New York Giants. Mark has had a pilot’s license since he was 20, flying out of local airports. However, the sky notwithstanding, when he wants to “get away from it all,” he goes to his garage, tools and all, and works on his jeep.

That’s what makes Mark Urso tick. I ran across the following and because it concerns pilots, and I must add volunteer and especially the life of a fireman, here goes: “If you are a pilot, your friends regard you with suspicion. Any form of striving that once made people heroes ... any quest that carries the acceptance of risk, now makes them crazies. To sustain comfort, we have to be safe ... safe from confrontation with other people, objects or elements. In a comfortable world the hard edges have been padded, rounded or soothed, it’s the home of the foam-rubber lawn mower. But where there is no risk, there is no achievement.”
Robert Barberi Celebrates 40 Years as an Ambulance Volunteer

There was no better place to meet and talk to Bob and Anne Barberi than the Spring Street location of the town's Lion Ambulance headquarters. For Bob, it's probably his home away from home.

Bob, also known as "Mr. Ambulance or Mr. Lions," has been a dedicated member of the Lions and Ambulance Corps for 40 years come next January.

Bob and Anne are natives of Windsor Locks, Bob from Center Street, with Anne growing up on Turnpike Road. The friendly couple now reside in Suffield, but Ann, kiddingly said, "Bob sleeps in Suffield, but lives in Windsor Locks," due to his Lions connection.

Their Windsor Locks connections go way back. Bob was born at 29 Center St. and is the son of the late Louis John Barberi, a native son who passed away in 1976, and Mary Campominose Barberi, who came to the states from Italy, at the age of 13. She passed away three years after her husband did. Mr. Barberi worked for many years in Hartford, for a steel ball company. Bob had a brother, the late Charles Barberi, and a sister, Loretta Barberi Giampole, who resides in Glastonbury.

Ann Christian Barberi, the daughter of the late Dan and Estelle Christian, is from another well-known family. "We were all Windsor Locks folks," Anne said, describing her large family of three sisters and eight brothers. Her three sisters are Bernice, Dorothy and Mildred. The brothers were just one short of a baseball team...Christian, Tony, Dan, Francis, Eugene, Richie, Kenny (C&K, Sept. 1983) Ronnie and Artie.

Tobacco-growing Family
As mentioned in Kenny's article, "it was a tobacco-growing family of eight brothers and four sisters and a family of kids who have worked on tobacco at the family farm in West Suffield."

Bob, who has been connected with the Christian farms since 1975, began school at St. Mary's, followed by two years at the high school, and another two years at Hartford Tech, with training in mechanics and tool-making (1940).

And in the '40s, a lot happened to Bob and Anne. Bob was a member of the Kettle Brook Sports Club, when baseball was number one in this area. Bob played right field and as a southpaw, did some relief pitching. He recalled the brothers, John and Vic Sasali, as outstanding players on the diamond.

Due to his mechanical skills, Bob did not enter the service until November 1944. He had taken a job with Scully Machine Company in Hartford, whose chief products were related to defense contracts.

When he was called into the U.S. Army, his career as a soldier began at Fort Knox, Ky. After basic training and tank training, he was set for overseas duty. He was given a 30-day furlough, with time to visit his girlfriend, Anne Christian.

They met in the summer of '41, by way of introduction on the baseball field, by her brother, Tony. Their first date? Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Looking back, Bob said, "We'll never forget that date." It would be six years before Bob and Anne walked down the aisle.

The Army Days
Back to Bob's army days: he was all set for a trip to the European Theater, waiting at the New York Harbor, but as we all know, if you were ever in the service, things change. Bob ended up as a replacement, after a cross-country train trip to the west coast, on a ship bound for the Philippines.

Bob saw time with the 532nd Engineering Regiment in the Philippines, Pacific islands and Korea, all in an 18-month period. The U.S. Mails kept Anne and Bob as close as two young folks could be, under the circumstances.

In September, 1946, Bob was back home as a civilian. He wanted to work "outside," he said, so he did some carpentry work. That didn't last too long. He went back to Scully, but this time, he operated the machine company with other individuals, until its liquidation in 1975.

He then joined the Christian family farm, and today, as he puts it, "I'm still very connected with the farm, doing everything as a senior supervisor, but no pressure, a great place to work and, best of all, I see my wife every day." A very contented man.

As mentioned, Bob and Anne were not married until February, 1947 (six years after meeting, a lot of time, due to a war). The way Anne tells the story... "We decided to wait until my parents' anniversary, their 30th, and I was married in velvet, my mother's wish."

Has Long Term Dedication
And now some facts on the man called "Mr. Ambulance or Mr. Lions." Bob is also a lifetime member of the V.F.W. since the '40s. He does everything in a long term of dedication.

In January, 1950, he joined the Lions Club and is now a life member. Bob went through the chairs, was their president in 1967-68 and secretary for 15 years. The way he calls it, "a great organization, largest service club in the world, and we are proud of what the Lions have done for the town of Windsor Locks."

Bob was the first chairman of the Ambulance Corps, serving from 1953 to 1982. He was followed by Roger Nelson, Jack Navaroli, Roger Ignazio and the current chairman, Joe Barile. Bob continues to be busy as financial secretary.

Looking back at the early days of the ambulance corps, Bob recalls, the drivers knew basic first aid. "We learned a lot from the Red Cross and local doctors...with the familiar names of Kennedy, Burke, Carniglia and Eilbergs," Bob said. "In 1975, we became emergency medical technician, and today, there are 45 on the ambulance roster and that includes employees of Dexter's."

Bob did manage to find some time for sports. After his baseball playing days were over, he took up skiing, even teaching some tricks. For the past 30 years, Bob has been hitting the duck pins, and serving as president of the town league at the Villa Rose, for the past quarter of a century. Vacation time has been spent in Florida and Texas, and when it comes to spectator sports, it's the Red Sox and Celtics.

Again, in a reminiscing mood, Bob said, "Anne has been my personal secretary over the years. A history note: the Barberi and Colli families were among the first Italian families in town. "I admired my parents, and my brother, Charles, a natural born leader (and I must say, admiration includes, Ella Grasso, one of the most influential persons in the lives of Windsor Locks folks," he said, adding, "I try to live by the Golden Rule...and in all my years, the Lord has been behind me."

Anne put it all together... "I wouldn't trade Bob for anything else...." The town, Lions and Ambulance Corps, would certainly agree.
Sal Abbate — Retired Plumber and World War II Reunion Organizer

Sal Abbate has known the best of times and the worst of times. However, the New York City native, born in the roaring 1920s, does not dwell on the sad times. He talks about them, then goes on to describe what he feels is a most interesting story.

It began for this retired local plumber in “Little Italy,” a section of New York City. The Abbate family lived on the famed Mott Street, one end made up of Italian immigrants, the other portion was called “Chinatown.”

Salvatore Anthony Abbate lived only five years on Mott Street, but remembers the way of life on the streets of New York, N.Y. Sal was the son of Joseph and Margaret Abbate, born and married in their native country of Italy. Rocco, their first son (now deceased), and Millie, their first daughter, were born in Italy, and born in the states were a daughter Rose, and sons Joseph, Sal, Dan, Andrew and John.

The parents immigrated to the states after World War I. Mr. Abbate had served in the Italian Army. He came to America with his wife through Ellis Island, and two of their eight children. Today, this large family (the parents have passed away) have all settled and prospered in Connecticut. Dan is deputy fire chief for the City of Hartford.

It was Dan’s illness that forced the Abbate family to move to Hartford. According to Sal, young Dan became sick and it was suggested by the family doctor to leave the big city, so it was Hartford that became the family’s home. Mr. Abbate had gone to work in a clothing mill, supporting his growing family. They were survivors during the Depression years.

Young Sal went to grammar school, then attended Weaver High School for two years, completing his education at the trade school where he learned his eventual career as a plumber. As a young boy, Sal Abbate led a diversified life of working and playing baseball, his favorite sport.

Sal, to this day, has never lost the honesty and vivid description of life in his young years in the city, the three years he spent in the Army, in operating a business, and raising a son and daughter with his wife Lee.

For Sal, it was the life of “shoe-shine boy, delivering daily, 150 newspapers (Hartford Times) to the east side of Hartford, working on tobacco in Windsor Locks (not knowing he would ever live there), playing baseball, day and night, and sparring with the (famed-to-be) Willie Pep, a neighbor and friend.”

He spoke fondly of Willie from across the street who he grew up with. Willie’s father ran a store and in the backyard put up a makeshift boxing ring, so the future champ could spar with Sal and other kids in the neighborhood.

In the early ‘40s, Sal began as a plumber’s apprentice in the Hartford area, until the war broke out. He went to work at Colt’s (1941-42) and at the end of 1942 was drafted into the Army. Sal served until December 1945, with basic training in North Carolina, maneuvers in Louisiana and Texas, before shipping overseas via the “Queen Mary” to Scotland.

After training for the invasion of Europe in England, Sal entered France (D-Day plus 15), as part of the 486th AAA Battalion, 3rd Armored Division. The battalion was given five battle stars and honors from Belgium.

Sal also saw service in Germany, and after the war served in the army of occupation until he was discharged.

Sal returned to Hartford, working at his trade from 1946 to 1953, until he entered into the plumbing business with his brother Joe. In 1953, Joe had moved to Windsor Locks to “get away from the big city.” In 1958, he opened his own business in town, and retired in 1985.

He had met Ledia Corneillo in Hartford and they were married in January 1953. Better known as “Lee,” she was originally from Port Chester, N.Y.

Sal and Lee had a son, Sal Jr., who passed away in August 1984. Sal Jr. was a 1975 WLHS grad, played Little League and Babe Ruth baseball in town. He was married to Susan Mandrolo. They had a son, to carry on the family name, Salvatore Abbate III, now 5 years old. Their daughter, Maria, a 1971 WLHS graduate, has a son, Dean Ribaudo Jr., a student in the South School. He is a young boy who follows the Yankees, plays “T” ball and enjoys miniature golf.

Back in Sal’s day of baseball, there was no “T” ball, just old-fashioned sandlot baseball. For Sal, baseball goes way back. He fondly recalls playing ball in the morning (Camp Courant), CYO baseball in the afternoon, and to complete the day, Twilight ball, as a pitcher, around the parks of Hartford.

In the 1964-1965 season of baseball, here in Windsor Locks, was a special time. The boys of summer were good players. Sal and Bill Coakley knew that, with Sal as coach and Bill as manager of the “Homeowners” team. They had a pitcher named Mike Roche. Mike was the famed pitcher who went on to pitch the town team to the World Championship at Williamsport in 1965. Sal took in all the games at Williamsport and was one of Mike’s biggest fans.

When it came to rooting for one team on the major league level, Sal forgot about his local Yankees; it was the Detroit Tigers and his favorite player, Charlie Gehringer, Hall of Fame second baseman.

When asked, what are your hobbies? Sal said, “Just one, I enjoy gambling ... since I was a kid, have a limit, stick to it and that’s it.” Sal just returned from a trip to Las Vegas and has attended the casinos in Atlantic City. When it comes to traveling for other pleasures, Sal and Lee have seen the beauty of California, Florida and Aruba.

Sal has another pastime, organizing reunions of his World War II buddies. Since 1946, every two years Sal and the 486th AAA members have gathered together in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine. They have just completed a reunion in nearby Springfield, where Sal was in charge of the banquet. He’s been chairman for the past 20 years.

He said there’s about 100 men and their wives who attend these affairs. He added, “We don’t talk about the war ... we are all friends, the wives know each other ... a great time.” As for Sal: “It’s great to see old buddies, the three years I spent with them were the best years of my life,” he said.

EPLOG

I knew Sal Abbate would agree with the Academy Award movie “Best Years of Our Lives.” He lived those years. We found Sal a very agreeable man, a man who speaks his mind, as a boy loved to play baseball, and now years later hasn’t forgotten his war buddies or his son Sal Jr.

Sal is more than just a retired plumber by trade or a World War II super organizer, he’s a very human being.
"She's one of those kids that only comes around so often..." Quote by Melissa's Coach... Ken Malone.

Melissa Sargent is following in the strokes (swimming, that is) of her sister Kimberly, brother Mark, and a few years back, her mother, Janet Plympton Sargent.

The Sargent family are ardent swimmers, and Melissa, a Windsor Locks High School senior, is carrying on the tradition. She is well on her way of bettering individual swimming records at the local school and around the state. The athletic and pretty girl has been swimming competitively since the age of five, with the town's Water Jets. Today, Melissa swims with the high school and the Aqua Bears swim club.

Any Olympic dreams for Melissa in 1992? "Sure," said Melissa, with a big smile, "but first, I hope to be in the Junior Olympics, next year in Ohio." Right now, the new senior will be concentrating on her studies and keeping up with her swimming, which means many hours of practice that are a big part of this highly competitive sport.

Notes on the Family
First, a few strokes on her sister, brother and mother. I met Melissa, Kimberly and Janet last month, the day before young Melissa was preparing for her final year at the Raider school, a school where Kimberly graduated in 1982, leaving her mark in the swimming pool. Kimberly went on to Becker Junior College in Massachusetts where she earned an Associate Degree. Today, she holds the position of Assistant Credit Manager at the Viking Office Products Inc. in Windsor.

Mark, Class of 1985, played Little League and soccer in his younger days. High school included tennis, playing drums in the band, and membership on the swimming team. Mark qualified in the State Finals, specializing in Back Stroke and IM (Individual Medley), and won the 100-yard Back Stroke.

Today, Mark is a senior at State University of New York. He is into triathlon (swimming, biking and running), a difficult sport that Melissa is just starting. She credits her brother for helping her to get started.

Janet, the mother of this swimming threesome, was reluctant at first to discuss her swimming as a young girl. The Hartford native and Buckley High School graduate, said in her day, there was no swimming for the girls, but, luckily, "I went to the swimming pools in the Hartford parks and was a member of the "Hartford Mermets," which included synchronized swimming (now an Olympic sport), which I participated in through my high school years."

Today, Janet is employed at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston in town, for the past 11 years. Janet has lived in town for 22 years.

Now About Melissa
More on Melissa...a few personal favorites...music, rock and the songs of Ziggy Marley (who?); food, "everything, especially Italian," television, Cosby Show; movies, "Gone With The Wind;" and favorite actor, Tom Cruise. Melissa enjoys reading, riding a bike, shopping with her mother adding, "we are not talking groceries.

Highly Qualified Raider Swimmer
Traveling has been one of Melissa’s favorite pastimes, to Florida, Texas, South Carolina and New England, with friends and family. She may be a swimmer year-round, but finds the time to be a member of the Student Council and was vice-president of her Junior Class. Her future plans? “College, not sure where, but it must include swimming and my major would be Travel and Tour.”

More on swimming...Melissa has been a member of the Connecticut All-Star Team, performing over all of New England and New York State. The team, sponsored by the U.S. Swim Association, is one that “you have to qualify each year,” Melissa said. Melissa not only “enjoys the sport, but you meet so many nice kids around the state,” she said.

She has two favorite events, Breaststroke and individual medley relay. She has two coaches, Ken Malone at the high school and Jon Levine, who coaches the Aqua Bears, who swim at the Suffield Academy.

Both coaches, she said, “are enthusiastic, motivate and encourage me in swimming.” She said the practice sessions in high school require five days a week with 1-1/2 hours, fall season only, while the Aqua Bears require six days a week for two hours and a quarter.

Setting Records
To compare Melissa’s best swimming times with past Olympic Champions — you can look it up — in 1932, Eleanor Holm won the gold medal in Olympic Games’ 100 meter back stroke in the time of 1:19. Melissa’s best time was 1:13.

When we mentioned another past champion, Johnny Weismuller, Melissa had never heard of the former swimmer and Tarzan character. She was familiar however with the 1988 three-time gold medal winner, Janet Evans.

Near the end of the interview, we changed subjects with Melissa, and asked questions about her school life. Here’s how it went: with questions from U.S.A. Weekend). What’s today’s definition of cool? “Sports and good friends are cool, doing well in school, drugs are uncool.”

What would you change to improve your school? “Not that much to change, teachers care about the students. Mr. Grasso, a good principal.”

Does school prepare you for the future? “It’s up to the individual student, it’s what you make of it.”

Given the choice, would kids attend a different school? “No, in my case I like my school...friends and teachers.”

What’s best about school? Going to school to see my friends.”

Melissa was also asked who she most admired. “My mother, I look up to her...she supports me in everything I do, be it swimming or having a positive attitude...has given the right decisions...” The young lady’s personal philosophy. “You have to be a very positive person and have an optimistic approach to life...”

Epilog
To the Editor:
A recent article caught my attention while looking at your publication in anticipation of running some help wanted advertisements.

The article involved a story written in the Sept. 29, 1989 issue by Jack Redmond, about the accomplishments of Melissa Sargent, and other members of her family, particularly in swimming.

I’m familiar with the Sargent family. In fact, Alan Sargent (Melissa’s father) is in my employ. Over the years, I’ve shared many stories with Alan, in regard to the success that all three of his children have had in competitive swimming.

For all the years since Alan’s children first started competing, he and I have worked out the schedule here, so that he would be able to attend the competitions, wherever they may have been. He put in lots of time supporting the program.

The curiosity that was aroused in me upon reading this article was the fact that Alan Sargent, who over the years has shown tremendous interest and support as a caring father, was never even mentioned!

Thomas E. Protheroe
Hartford, Conn.

Editors Note: Melissa has contracted mononucleosis and will be out of commission for the next month, it was learned at presstime.
Dave Carillo Continues

"Treat family like friends...treat friends like family..."

Dave's philosophy of life

Dave Carillo is continuing the local insurance business that his late father, Charles Carillo began years ago. Like his dad, before him, he would be the first to admit the old adage (paraphrased), "there's a good woman behind every successful businessman."

When we interviewed Charles (Sept. 1981), he gave credit to his wife, Maria, and Dave has given the same accolade to his wife, Linda.

David Lawrence Carillo was born in Norwalk. At the age of five, the Carillo family moved to Maria's hometown of Windsor Locks, where Dave and his brother, Charles, grew up on Grove Street.

Now a veteran of the insurance business, Dave was a go-getter as a youth. At 11, he delivered the Windsor Locks Journal for three years, "on my bike, the south end of town." He also became a paperboy ("100 papers a day") for the old Hartford Times.

He worked tobacco, like the other kids in town. During his high school years, he took on the job of janitor at Union School. Dave played soccer for the Raiders only one year, until the opportunity for a paying job came at the school.

Dave graduated from the local high school, class of 1965. He went on to St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vt. At the Vermont college, Dave's major was in political science, saying, "I was very interested in politics." However, politics would not play a part of his life. He graduated in 1969.

Dave continued his busy schedule, with a full load of class work, in addition to a job at a local Howard Johnson Hotel. He admitted, "I was not sure what I wanted to do...looking back, I was a good time charlie, I enjoyed people and they (to this day) are very important to me." Added note: his old friends might just remember his nickname, "Deuce."

Liked Vermont Living

Dave was enthralled by the life in Vermont. He left the hotel position, and entered the world of insurance with the National Life of Vermont, based in Montpelier. He joined the Vermont National Guard, serving six years as a medic.

In 1971, he moved back to Windsor Locks, and completed his duty with the guard, traveling back and forth to the Green Mountain state for the necessary drills and yearly active duty.

Looking back at those years, Dave said, "It was a wonderful life, I still keep in touch with many of my friends who were in the guard with me."

Upon his return to Connecticut, Dave entered the insurance business locally with his dad, and continues today, to operate the Charles S. Carillo Agency, Inc. He said the agency was originally on Main Street, and in 1977, was moved to Suffield and North streets. Dave's father passed away in May of 1987.

The Carillo family (from left) Dane, Linda, Dave and Jared.

A few words on the busy life of his mother, Maria Ferrari Carillo. Back in 1981, at the time of Mr. Carillo's Cabbages & Kings, she was a volunteer at the Bradley Airport information booth. Today, she is still going strong giving out information to travelers. In addition, Maria works with the Red Cross, and keeps in touch with her many friends around town.

Dave's brother, Charles Paul Carillo lives in Avon with his wife, Carol and their two sons, Christopher and Charles Kenneth Carillo. Charles is a teacher in the New Britain school system, with Carol giving up her role of teacher after the birth of their two sons.

Has Two Sons

Speaking of family, Dave and Linda have

'A Life of Insurance'
active sons: Jared, seven, a 2nd grade in Windsor's (where they have their home) Oliver Ellsworth School, a boy into swimming with the “Windsor Water Jets,” with his best stroke butterfly. Just to round out his sports, Jared plays soccer and “T” ball.

His young brother, Dane, five, is in kindergarten, and according to his dad, “too little for water skiing,” (a sport that Jared has taken up). However, Dane has done some skiing on snow with the family.

Dave admits, when we started to talk about skiing and other sports... "I do not have much time for hobbies, but when I manage to get away, play racquet ball, the family goes skiing in New Hampshire, water skiing in the summer and play some baseball with the boys.” Dave goes way back as to following one baseball team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. When Dave and his brother, Charles were young, he rooted for the Bums and Charles stuck with the rivals, across the river, The New York Yankees.

Dave holds several memberships, locally and national: Windsor Locks Chamber of Commerce, KoC, Enfield Elks and serves on the board of the Tobacco Valley Tourist District. In the insurance world, Dave has a certificate from the American College as a Chartered Life Underwriter, also from the American Institute for Property and Liability Underwriters. When you catch his name, CPCU follows: Charter Property Casualty Underwriter.

Dave has been in the insurance business for nearly two decades. He feels insurance “should provide service,” and emphasized, “the importance of dealing with people and the responsibility to take care of their needs.” Dave considers himself “a small-time agent,” added, “It's a time consuming and demanding business, and I must say, You have to have an understanding wife...and I do.”

His wife, Linda Page Carillo, was originally from Selma, Calif. Her parents, James and Marilyn Page came to Connecticut when Mr. Page took a job with Travelers.

Where did Linda meet Dave? According to Dave, "we met in a swimming pool,"...but its a question as to who started the conversation that led to the September day in 1977 when they were married.

Dave's mother, Maria, has played an important role in her son's life. The way he tells it..."My mother has kept the family together. She is a very loving and understanding person and has qualities my family and I admire."

Epilog

Dave Carillo can rightfully be called a local boy who considers himself a small-town agent, who has grow with the town. Dave must have heard a few thousand insurance jokes, so here are two more...A female voice came over the telephone: “Is this the Fidelity Insurance Company? Yes, Ma'am. “Well,” said the voice, “I want to speak to someone about having my husband's fidelity insured.”

And another, “Some weeks after receiving a $1,200 check for the loss of her jewelry, an elderly woman informed her insurance company that she had found the missing property in her cupboard. “I didn't think it would be fair to keep the money, so I think you will be pleased to know that I sent the $1,200 to the Red Cross.
Jim Houlberg - Vietnam Veteran, A New American Legionnaire

"We should make Vietnam account for the MIAs..."

James Arthur Houlberg has strong feelings when it comes to the Vietnam War.

The East Hartford native, carpenter-turned-accountant, has recently joined the local American Legion Organization and is serving as adjutant.

The father of three sons, Jim served in the U.S. Army for three years, with a period of time in Nam, near the end of the Far East conflict. He has lived with his wife Brenda and their boys, in Windsor Locks the past seven years.

Jim's story is one of going after what you want, working hard and changing careers. He is the stepson of John Riach of Enfield. Jim has six brothers (all who were or are now serving in the armed forces) and three sisters.

Before telling Jim's story, here's some background on his brothers and sisters. Eddie (Vietnam), Bill, Scott and Tim are army veterans. Bobby is currently stationed at nearby Fort Devens in Massachusetts, Bruce is south at Fort Benning, Ga. Eddie owns a video store in the Bay State, Bill is a buyer at Raymond Engineering, Scott works at Hamilton Standard and Tim is employed by an oil company. About his sisters, Holly lives in Rhode Island, Wendy in East Hartford and Brenda in Enfield.

At the age of 15, Jim's family moved to Enfield. He attended Cheney Technical School in Manchester, where he took up carpentry. In his younger years, he played some baseball, but admitted he had more interest in tools. That's why he decided, at the proper time of his life, to go to trade school and learn the art of carpentry. He also enjoyed being outside in a working environment. His first jobs were on construction sites.

In July, 1971, Jim joined the U.S. Army. Were you drafted? "No," he said, "I actually missed the draft, I joined anyway, I felt the army would be a good experience." After his training at Fort Dix, N.J. and Missouri, Jim was sent overseas to Vietnam.

Jim's reaction to Vietnam... "Saigon was a nice city... I still feel the people of Nam wanted the Americans to be there. Yes, the war was political, but (I feel) we were supposed to be there, to fight for democracy, we had a lot of help from the French."

Looking at today's situation: "We should make the Vietnam government account for the MIAs...I feel there are Americans in prison camps and we should go and get them out."

Jim returned to the states near the end of the war. When asked if he received any hard feelings (from the public) he said, "No, not when I came home."

"Yes," he added, "I have seen movies and TV shows on Vietnam, but I was not in the bush, so can't relate to many of the stories of the war."

Jim served some time in the states on his return. He was discharged in September 1974. On furlough during his service time, he had met Brenda Smith of Bolton, by way of introduction by relatives. When Jim came home from Vietnam in June of 1972, he and Brenda were married in December of that year.

After they were married, Brenda got a taste of army life at Fort Bragg, N.C. and according to Jim..."Did not care for it." Jim admitted, "If Brenda had liked that life, I would probably be still in the army." After a year, they were back home and Jim was a civilian. They lived in East Hartford and Manchester before moving to Windsor Locks in 1982.

Brenda is the daughter of Pearl and the late Garnet Smith. Mrs. Smith resides in Maine. Brenda is currently employed by Kemp Enterprises in South Windsor. The Houlbergs have three sons, James Jr., 16, John 13, and Donald 10. Jim Jr. is a junior at the high school, and was into Little League a few years back. John is a student at the Middle School and Donald attends the South Street School.

When their father came home from the war, he found a few roofing jobs, but he wasn't satisfied. He wanted a chance for advancement and a change of careers. He attended Central Connecticut State University, receiving an accounting degree in 1981. Jim worked in the area as an accountant and controller for Mercury, TLC and State Line Oil companies.

This year, he went out and established his own "Accounting & Tax Service." Jim is a former member of the National Association of Accountants and now a member of the National Association of Tax Preparers.

Jim has continued his involvement in the service, as staff sergeant with the Connecticut National Guard in Meriden, since 1976. His yearly active duty has been at Camp Drum, N.Y. He joined the local American Legion post last year. He said, "I have found an active and good organization...that helps the vets." Jim was recently chosen the post's adjutant, describing the role as secretary, taking minutes of meetings and other business functions.

For the past 10 years, Jim and Brenda have been bowling the big pins in South Windsor, as part of a mixed league, with him near the 170 class and his better half, close to 160. They and the boys enjoy camping and have made trips to Virginia and Canada.

Jim sticks with the famed Yankees and football Giants, when it comes to spectator sports. He admitted, "I became a Yankee fan because my hero in baseball was Mickey Mantle as I was growing up." The young accountant from East Hartford has a simple philosophy that works well for most people..."Treat people the way you want to be treated yourself."

Epilog

Jim Houlberg was not afraid to switch careers, from the hammer and nails to ledgers and tax advise. He served his country in Vietnam and now intends to serve his fellow veterans in the American Legion. He hasn't forgotten the MIAs and doesn't want America to forget them either, or the Vietnam government.

"Want, working hard and changing careers...the MIAs...I feel there are Americans in South at Fort Benning, Ga. Eddie owns a video store in the Bay State, Bill is a buyer at Raymond Engineering, Scott works at Hamilton Standard and Tim is employed by an oil company. About his sisters, Holly lives in Rhode Island, Wendy in East Hartford and Brenda in Enfield. In ro uc Ion of a me ren a mI 0 0 on, y w y When thel'r I'.ather came home from the in Rhode Island, Wendy in East Hartford . t d
Mark and Lora Morelli Prove Old Adage Wrong

"Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet"...Kipling

Mark and Lora Morelli proved Mr. Kipling wrong. Mark, an Enfield native, and Lora, born in Hong Kong, met in an unlikely place, in Enfield, where Mark has his own business.

It's an interesting and fact-filled story of two young people, recently married, both having intriguing backgrounds, and Asian connections: Mark as a sailor, serving in Asia, and Lora, with a diversified career, educated in the far east, and (would you believe) received her diploma from Windsor Locks High School.

Before east meets west, a few facts on Mark William Morelli. Mark is the son of Joyce Lingner of Enfield and Mafaldo Morelli of Windsor Locks. He has a sister, Linda, who resides in Bush country, Kennebunkport, Maine, and a brother, Craig, who lives in Enfield.

Mark left high school in September 1974 to join the U.S. Navy, and he certainly saw a part of the world. He found navy life, "More interesting than high school" which he found "boring". After boot camp at Great Lakes, and gunnery school, Mark left the states for Japan, serving on the USS Oklahoma City and gunnery school, Mark left the states for... (as with hers) and have no close feelings towards the mainland of China.)

She is the daughter of Grace and Charles Jung of Longmeadow, Mass. Lora has three sisters: Betty Neoh (who came over to the states from Hong Kong for Lora's wedding), Barbara Chan of Middletown, and Angela Tjon of Longmeadow.

Lora was educated overseas, coming to the states in September of 1979, because, she said, "I could not resist the following question to this former resident of Hong Kong. How did you survive? I have visited China on two occasions to visit relatives. In discussing the China situation, and the June uprising of students, she said, "I have never lived there (in China) (as with herself) and have no close feelings towards the mainland of China."

When Mark and Lora have available free time, he's into target shooting, as a member of the National Rifle Association and Springfield Sportsman Club. Lora enjoys travel, music, gardening and meeting people. She also collects stamps and cooking recipes, but, admittedly, is not the cook in the family. Mark handles most of the dinner selections.

When it comes to television, they usually watch the latest news and HBO, will tape movies, if they fall asleep and the view later. Last month, just to keep their hands in the art of Chinese cooking, they both worked at the "Big E," where the family restaurant (China Jade) was part of the food scene. And speaking of Chinese food (not my special meal), Lora said, "That's because you never had a good (Chinese) experience when it comes to eating Chinese."

And who do these folks admire most? For Mark, it was "Inventors...Edison and Franklin, they did things to improve our lives, and did not have all the modern technology you now have." Lora is a person who "loves to learn more," and admires, "knowledgeable people."

Just to exhibit Lora's versatility one step further, she was part of a television commercial on the China Jade Restaurant, along with her mother, with speaking lines, seen many times on the cable network.

Epilog

We began the story of Mark and Lora with words by Kipling. Taking words by American playwright, Neil Simon, that best describes the talents and lifestyle of individuals, who went out and achieved their special goals... I firmly believe that if you follow a path that interests you, to the exclusion of love, sensitivity and cooperation with others, but with the strength of conviction that you can move others by your own efforts, and do not make success, or failure the criteria by which you live, the chances are you'll be a person worthy of your own respect."
Jimmy Frank Is One of the New Breed of Local Fire Fighters

Jimmy Frank was always interested in becoming a fireman. He took exams in Hartford and East Hartford for full-time duty, and has settled for volunteer service with the local fire department the past nine years.

The Windsor Locks native is a quiet guy, married to a local girl, Ann Bristol Frank, who takes his work as fireman seriously. As with many of the volunteers, Jimmy; spends many hours weekly on the maintenance of fire equipment, under the guidance of two veterans, Assistant Fire Chief Dean Ribaudo Sr. and Safety Officer George I. Doak.

James John Frank is the son of Dominick Frank and Greta Lynch Frank, both natives of Springfield, who make their home on Sutton Drive, where Jimmy grew up. Jimmy has two brothers, Dominick and Leonard and a sister, Patricia. The younger Dominick now lives in Houston, Texas; Leonard lives in nearby West Springfield; and sister Pat has settled for Topeka, Kansas.

Leonard played Little League as a young boy, and according to Jimmy, Pat was the real sports person in the family, playing soccer, field hockey and basketball at the Windsor Locks High School from where they all graduated. One year, Pat was named the female athlete of the year.

Jimmy was a member of the class of 1980. During the years growing up, the family would move to Cape Cod for the summer, as soon as school was out. For Jimmy, it meant plenty of sun and swimming but also cutting lawns and washing dishes at a restaurant, where his brother, Dominick was a chef.

He has come a long way from the lawns and dishes at the Cape. Jimmy is shop foreman at the Kinetic Tool Company Inc in Agawam. In December of 1980, he joined the company as a young machinist. During his high school years, Jimmy took advantage of the Hamilton Standard machinist training course at the school, ending up making it his career, in addition to being an active volunteer fireman.

cabbages and kings
JACK REDMOND

Met Ann in HS

It was during those high school years when he met Ann, a junior. Jimmy was a senior. So they were "high school sweethearts" who went on to marry on Aug 11, 1984. Ann is the daughter of Art Bristol and Mary Ann Rink Bristol, who came from Hartford and who make their home in town. Ann has a sister, Judy, of Windsor, three brothers, Art and Tom Bristol of town and David Bristol, who resides in Springfield.

Ann also took advantage of the high school "work experience," by learning business procedure at the office of Dr. Thomas J. Geary, local dentist. Currently, Ann is employed at Cigna in Bloomfield as a computer programmer. She is also working for an associate degree in computer sciences at Asnuntuck Community College.

For the past three years, Jimmy has added to his already busy schedule with membership in the local Lions Club. He has taken part in the club's oil raffle, and served as chairman of the Candy Day program.

Now for one of the new breed of local fire fighters. Jimmy got his start with the fire department back in 1978 as a member of the Junior Program, along with Michael Bracken, David Palmer, Mike Balfour (C&K interviewee, Sept., 1988) and Donald Quagliaroli, all still active in the department.

In 1980, Jimmy became a regular and currently is serving as department steward, with the following duties: "washing the fire trucks, making sure the trucks have fuel and (most of all) perform preventive maintenance."

In addition, Jimmy is assistant safety officer, to "enforce the safety rules of the department." The past months Jimmy has also been active on the truck committee in the purchase of new equipment.

Jimmy is on the upcoming 100th Anniversary (1980) Committee, a celebration for the town and the department. While her husband is busy at the department, Ann is pursuing her college education. They both agreed, the weekends are for relaxing.

Department is His Hobby

When asked for hobbies, he said, "The fire department is my hobby." Ann, on the other hand, "enjoys reading, some needlepoint and time for her college homework." They both listen to soft rock, television's sitcoms, the Discovery Channel on cable, follow the Whalers and love pizza.

Jimmy and Ann's recent fifth wedding anniversary was spent in Hawaii. Their honeymoon was in sunny Florida and during their five years of marriage they have made trips to Texas and Kansas to visit relatives. They also agreed, "We have 11 nieces and nephews to keep us busy."

It appears to be difficult for the younger generation to come up with person or persons they may have admired, off the cuff, so to speak. But once Jimmy and Ann gathered their thoughts, they agreed (as with many of our questions), saying, "Our parents (for the same reasons) have always worked hard...have given (us) a good life and the incentive to go for what (we) want..." Jimmy and Ann Frank

"Our parents (for the same reasons) have always worked hard...have given (us) a good life and the incentive to go for what (we) want..."

Epilog

So there you have, Jimmy Frank, one of the new breed of firemen, with an understanding wife. Jimmy has that quiet exterior, which can be misleading, in his tenure as part of the fire department, where he has taken on the duties of steward and safety officer.

Young men like Jimmy, Palmer, Balfour, Bracken Quagliaroli, Joe Killen (C&K, Nov. 86), Joe LaPierre Jr. and John Cannone, to name only a few, the young lions who are keeping the tradition of volunteerism alive, with their unselfish duty as fire fighters.

Youngest Fireman

This is Jimmy Frank, one of the youngest members of the Windsor Locks Fire Department. Mr. Frank was featured in last week's Cabbages and Kings column, written by Jack Redmond.
A Visit To Kennebunkport:

With the local election just around the corner, political talk and stories are filling our daily and weekly newspaper. The past month or so, we wanted to talk more politics, but not really, just the political way or manufactured procedure on how the President of the United States is handled on his visits to his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Last month, Rita and I traveled with a group of Combustion Engineering retirees to this picturesque, tourist-oriented part of lower Maine, with stops in Kennebunkport and Kittery, using nearby Ogunquit as our main sleeping quarters.

Unless you were in Outer Mongolia the past few years, everyone knows that our President, George Bush, has a home on the water's edge of Kennebunkport. (Of course, the dock in downtown Kennebunkport, the owner was told the President and Mrs. Bush were coming for dinner. The owner, knowing the gravity of the situation and historic event for his small restaurant, quickly told the folks who were waiting or sitting, eating that last part of the lobster, to leave. The President of the United States was coming for dinner. When the President and his wife heard the story, they were quite embarrassed. It turned out not to be an historic event.

When we were on the road that leads to the Bush estate, along that same road were cars parked, with eager people, some with cameras, just looking at the house. To the locals, these people are known as "Bush Watchers."

Taking everything into consideration, it is satisfying that our President and his family are well protected. The local police also assist the government agents in this important duty. However, we were told it has cost the town a great deal of money and some of the duty has been turned over to the Maine State Police.

The town is probably happy when the President is back at the White House and worrying about the troubles of the world instead of being at a local golf match or on a fishing trip.

If you are contemplating on becoming a "Bush Watcher," you'd better check before coming to Kennebunkport. But be assured, in that part of Maine you will find plenty of shopping, lobsters and clams. We had a good trip, and now know where the President hangs his hat and golf clubs.

Among the local people in our group was Betty Smith (C&K Sept. 1988) and the organizers of our trip, Lillian and Elmer Jones (C&K Aug. 1983). For the record, we stayed at a motel at Ogunquit-by-the-Sea, with its famed "on the Marginal Way."

Also for the record, don't forget to vote on Tuesday.

Bush Country

you have to cross the bridge from Kennebunk to get to the "Port."

We were lucky. We saw his home from a short distance for two or three minutes (the allotted time for a bus to view the home across the water to the President's Shangri-la.) But, to me, it's not much of a Shangri-la, just a nice looking large home, with protection, from all sides, that just about drives the local citizens mad, especially when George and Barbara are home, which was the case this past August.

Before describing a few stories (from our local guide) on the trials and tribulations of George's visits, this part of Maine, just over the line from New Hampshire—in case you haven't been there—is just loaded with all sizes of motels, restaurants, outlets and shopping emporiums that would satisfy most women and a few men. (I'm talking about the shopping, fellows.)

When George and Barbara are in residence, the area around their home closes down, literally. According to our guide, a woman who has lived in Kennebunk all her life and knows the town, said the roads close and security is tighter than a visit to the United Nations. The Secret Service men are all around, checking on whatever they check, to make sure the northern White House is safe.

If the President decides to go fishing, which he did on that last visit, the boat and waters are thoroughly checked. The President went fishing several times and, on the last day, caught one fish which was mentioned in all the nation's press.

The President Plays Golf

When the president wants to play a round of golf, it's the same case of checking the area, tees and greens. We were told the story of a local farmer, with his home and farm just across the street from the golf course. The course, if any readers are interested, was Cape Arundel Golf Club in Kennebunkport. For the record, 69 is par.

Back to this famous farmer (probably not in his eyes), he innocently went out hunting for destructive little animals that had been making holes (not golf ones) on his property. He had his trusty 22, not a five iron, with him. After a few missed shots at his mischievous culprits, the shots nevertheless were heard around the course and probably in Kennebunk. The farmer was quickly facing government agents with drawn pistols.

The farmer and his animals were fortunate to live another day.

At one of the local restaurants, located on the main sleeping quarters.

cabbages and kings 

JACK REDMOND

Unless you were in Outer Mongolia the past few years, everyone knows that our President, George Bush, has a home on the water's edge of Kennebunkport.
James Capolda:

After spending three years in the army, it took some time before James Capolda settled down to a permanent career.

Today, Jim is an employee of Connecticut Light and Power Co., part of Northeast Utilities.

In years past, Jim pumped gas, sold vacuum cleaners, worked on construction and — thanks to an uncle and grandfather — was taught to be a machinist, not only as a hobby but as a skill.

James Peter Capolda was born in Hartford. At the age of 10, he moved to East Windsor. He and his wife, Colette, lived there too, in addition to several area towns, before settling for Windsor Locks. They have a son, Michael, who was an active student there too, in addition to several area towns.

But first, some background of his versatile father. Jim attended East Windsor High School. At 17, however, he decided to join the Merchant Marine and a graduate of the WLHS, class of 1989.

Upon Jim's return to civilian life, he worked on a local dairy farm, the same farm he had worked as a youth. He found it to be "hard work, but something you don't mind doing."

Learned To Be Machinist

As mentioned, he tried several jobs, at gas stations, selling, rebuilding industrial furnaces. He never forgot the help he received from his late grandfather, Harry Herrington, in learning the trade of machinist. For a short time, he pursued the labor of a machinist, but then switched back to construction with the power company (then HELCO).

Today, Jim is involved with CL&P's maintenance department.

Became Radio Operator

Before serving in the army, Jim had the good fortune of having his uncle, James Herrington of Manchester, and his grandfather, teach him the basics of radio operator, including the codes. Since 1978, Jim has had his license and is currently a member of the "Pool of Emergency Communication Operators," an organization which serves the town in case of disasters.

Jim remembers the floods on the Connecticut River a few years back, and the tornado that hit the area in October 1979. At that time, he was the assistant communication officer under Roger Ignazio. Today, Jim is communication officer with the town's Civic Preparedness with Mr. Ignazio as director.

Jim's continuing fascination with radios probably dates back to his grandfather's stories, when the elder man was involved in the 1932 Chicago World's Fair. This talented man gave an exhibition on how radios were made and the use of different models known at that time.

Joins American Legion

In veteran affairs, Jim joined the local American Legion, Gensi-Viola Post 36, and was recently chosen junior vice commander. His duties are "to assist in the social end of the organization." He calls the group "a fine group of veterans dedicated in securing benefits for all who served."

In addition, "The Legion does its part in local sports, Boy Scouts and other youth activities." Jim was also involved in the recent breakfasts served by the Legion at its Main Street hall.

Jim and Colette have traveled back to Canada to visit a few relatives and have made one special trip that included New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Oak Ridge Museum in Tennessee. Jim admits to being a "die-hard Yankee fan," but that's about it for spectator sports.

Who does this quiet man most admire?

"No one famous," he said, "Just my Uncle Jim, who had definite ideas on what he wanted to do, and went out and achieved those goals," he said, adding he is a former audio engineer for TELRAD.

What is Jim Capolda's personal philosophy? "As a kid, I just ate, drank and was merry (but things change)...now as a father, each day, I make sure the family love is still there, (you have) to work at it everyday."

Epilog

That's the story of James Peter Capolda, a new officer of the American Legion. The following words are for the benefit of older legionnaires: "A certain University of North Carolina professor found himself in somewhat of a dilemma recently when he received an invitation from a local Post of the American Legion to make a Memorial Day address. The invitation read as follows: You are invited to be one of the speakers at our Memorial Day meeting. The program includes a talk by the Mayor, recitation of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address by a high school boy, your talk, and then the firing squad."
**Dr. 'Marty' Hartranft:**

**New Director of Schools’ Special Services**

Dr. Martha Hartranft calls Windsor Locks, “my Connecticut home town.”

Her personal philosophy is “to do the best I can, to make a contribution and to make sense of it all.”

She added: “The people here have been wonderful, have gone out of their way” to make the Iowa native feel at home, at her new position as director of special services and curriculum for the town’s school system.

Dr. Hartranft replaced Dr. Edward Gorman this past July.

Windsor Locks’ Bradley Airport would be the first Connecticut town (they would see and land at) for Martha and her husband Bob, when he accepted employment as an engineer at Combustion Engineering Inc. That’s why she calls it “hometown.” The availability of new roles at a later date just added to these strong feelings about Windsor Locks.

But first, let’s go back to Clinton, Iowa, birthplace of Martha Eggers. Known better as Marty, she is the daughter of the late Walter Eggers (a former city attorney, who passed away in 1970) and Mildred Smith Eggers.

Mrs. Eggers is still active at 70, selling real estate in Clinton, a town right on the Mississippi River. According to Marty (we’ll call her Marty for the story, because Doctor seems too formal for this friendly lady who is a horseback riding enthusiast), the town of Clinton has a population of 35,000, with a minor league baseball team, the Clinton A’s.

Looking back to her childhood, she said: “It was a good experience growing up in that part of America.”

She went on to say, “My grandparents had a large dairy farm, we lived in town, but I spent many a summer on the farm, with its Jersey cows and horses.”

**Belonged to 4-H**

Marty was a member of the “Boys 4-H” because of the animals on the farm and her love of horses and riding. Marty has a brother, Arthur Eggers, who followed in their father’s profession as a lawyer in Rock Island, Ill.

Marty graduated from Clinton High School in 1964, where she was an active student, on the debating team, member of the Pep Club, and editor of the school newspaper. With no organized sports for girls at that time, Marty spent her free time horseback riding.

Leaving high school, Marty said she has a primary interest in art and psychology. She attended Mt. St. Claire Junior College (a women’s college then), receiving an Associate of Arts degree.

Further education for Marty covered classes at the University of Iowa, University of Michigan (where her father attended law school), at which Marty received her bachelor of arts in 1968 and her master’s the following year in special education. In 1977, Marty attained the title of Doctor in special education, from UConn.

Where did Marty meet her future husband, the engineer? While she was a student at UMich, he was attending the same school in the graduate program. More on Robert Moore Hartranft Jr., he was born in Philadelphia but grew up in the greater New York metropolitan area, in a town across the Hudson River called Riveredge, N.J. According to Marty, Bob was involved in cross-country in high school and graduated from Cornell University in 1966 with a bachelor of science degree in engineering.

Bob is the son of Robert Sr. and Eleanor Hartranft who reside in Caro, Mich. Bob joined the U.S. Navy in 1968, serving until 1973. After boot camp, he served in California and the Newport, R.I. Officers School. The couple were married in Clinton, Iowa in August 1969 when Bob was still in uniform.

One of his later assignments was in Maryland, at the Nuclear Power School. They lived in Delaware when they were first married, and Marty had her first job of teaching. They moved to Connecticut, when Bob joined C-E, and Marty worked in a teaching position at Central Connecticut State University.

In addition, Marty was in special education at UConn, and in Ellington, where she was director of special services, before joining the Windsor Locks School System in July of this year. Marty and Bob have a young son.

**Duties in Windsor Locks**

The duties of the director of special services curriculum are: “To make certain the programs and services offered are appropriate for the students, both handicapped and gifted/talented.” The educator’s future plans include: “To stay here, I was always interested in working in Windsor Locks and have found it a very positive community, and I consider it my Connecticut home town. The people here have gone out of their way, the parents and teachers, it’s a nice community,” she said.

Marty is a member of the Simsbury Junior Women’s Club, where she, Bob and their son reside. They love to travel and if the facilities are available (where they go) she “will rent a horse,” just to keep up on her main hobby.

When asked who she most admired, she said, “My mother, a woman who came through difficult periods in her life, a person with strength, who always kept our needs uppermost on her mind for my brother and me.”

Marty’s personal philosophy, “I feel I should always do the best I can and make a contribution and (try) to make sense of it all.”

**EPILOG**

Dr. Martha Eggers Hartranft, better known around the halls as just Marty, is a teacher and director for special students who need to make sense of their young lives.

She was a girl from Iowa, who was and still is, a horseback riding enthusiast, and found the Windsor Locks school system, where she wanted to pursue her career. A belated warm welcome to the land of steady habits.
Michael J. Pardi Is Young Republican, Custom Home Designer

I first came across Michael J. Pardi when his name was listed as candidate on the Republican slate for the Board of Tax Review in the recent fall election.

Always on the watch for new people to interview, be they old-time residents or newcomers, I called Mike. The net result was last month we sat down at his Grove Street home, met and talked, along with his wife, Holly Noel Pardi.

The young couple have lived in town almost three years, she being employed at Connecticut Natural Gas, and Mike at Aetna, doing what he likes best, interior office design. Holly also doing what she likes, teaching fellow workers how to best use a personal computer.

Like all C&K interviews, we start at the beginning of one's life; in this case, Mike's story is first. He was born in Hartford, the son of George and Antoinette Pardi. George, a capital city native, is a retired pipeliner for Connecticut Natural Gas, and Antoinette Maynard Pardi, a native of Brooklyn, Conn., is a retired nurse from St. Francis Hospital.

Mike's family moved to East Hartford when he was eight. Mike has a sister, Denise Pardi Kutz, who resides in East Hartford with her husband, Larry, and their two children.

Mike is a graduate of East Catholic High School, Class of 1975. In the high school years, he had a full schedule, playing football as wide receiver for four years, was on the student council for those years, after running for president of the freshman class. On his first political try, he didn't win.

Played With Rock Group
Along with this activity and class work, Mike was playing bass guitar with a rock group. This gig lasted throughout the high school years and after, with the group playing local dances and nightclubs in the Hartford area.

Three years ago, Mike stopped playing rock when he joined a church group, providing what he called "Christian music, playing mostly at nursing homes." Holly, who plays the flute, also has joined this select group of musicians.

Mike's working career had its highs and lows, mostly highs. Along the way, he also has attended school. Manchester Community College would be the first, with a year of political science.

The college try came after two years of driving a truck, which he found out "wasn't much of a future." He then started what would be his eventual career, enrolling in Rocky Hill's Porter and Chester Institute to take up architectural design.

After receiving his certificate, Mike joined the Travelers Insurance to use his new-found talent and ambition in interior office and space design. The next several years, Mike worked at BKM: Home Design Service at Dexter Plaza, TLC Homes in Marlborough and then back to the insurance world. Since February of this year, Mike has been employed at Aetna in interior office design.

When Mike is not at Aetna, or playing guitar, he has his own custom home business, which he calls "New England Home Design," which includes garages and barn additions.

All About Holly
Now, to the girl with the Christmas names, Holly Noel Pardi. She was born in Vernon in August. She's a 1979 graduate of Rockville High School. Holly admits, "nothing special in high school, just a good kid." And how did the girl, who would take a shine to computers, meet her future husband?

He was rehearsing with the rock band and the wife of one of his fellow musicians played softball with Holly. Due to a rainy night, there was no game, so Holly and her teammate went to watch the group practice. The meeting, the rest of the story was complete, when they married in August 1982.

After a few odd jobs, Holly went to work at C-E (1980) in the office systems department. As mentioned, she's works with computers, a skill she describes as "self-taught," teaches other workers the fine points of bits and bytes, which is more computer talk.

Mike and Holly are into golf, playing in local courses, as with riding their bikes, sailing (have their own boat) on Connecticut lakes and all mixed with gardening at home. Vacation times mean, mostly, at Newport, R.I. They are not involved with watching television, unless it's "Public TV." They are "homebodies" and enjoy easy listening music.

When it came to someone Mike admired greatly, he said, "My Aunt Helen, a nun for over 50 years, as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, is always smiling and a happy person, has a good word for everyone and great at hugs and kisses." She is retired as a teacher.

Two years ago, Mike put into practice those college classes in political science, when he joined the local Republican Town Committee. Saying, "I wanted to get involved with town government, to be a part and make my voice heard." He took his first step, running for office, however, unsuccessful but he's a young man and there will be other elections.

EPILOG
That's the story of young Mike and Holly Pardi. He's involved in home and office design, Holly has her computers. That's quite an active combination in this day and age. Just to add spice and goodness to their life, they are part of a church group making music for ones who need it most.
Johanna van den Berge:

‘God gives us strength...when you have to make important decisions.

Mrs. van den Berge’s personal philosophy
I was told: “she is some kind of lady; she has a million stories; she should make a great interview.”

Johanna van den Berge is all that, and more. This world traveler, with her natural wit, intelligence, frisky disposition, says what she believes and is not afraid to come out with frank and funny remarks. She is every inch an elegant woman of the world.

On Nov. 23, Johanna celebrated her birthday, a beautiful 93 years young.

To meet her for the first time was to immediately fall under her spell. I usually try to control any interview, but with Johanna, she took over and the interview just rolled on and on, with (I must say) good results.

When I arrived, I said, “Nice to meet you.” Her first words to me were: “I hope you can say that after you leave.” When I left, I agreed, it was nice to meet her. You find, after talking with her, a wonderful lady. Her daughter, Elly, and son, Dick, were present as spectators, as I was. She has traveled from the island of Curacao, her birthplace, to Holland, Indonesia and hasn’t missed much of this crazy world, during her 90-plus years.

Throughout our talk, over a cup of afternoon tea, some questions to her would result in a comical response, and she did manage to keep one on his writing toes, so to speak. It was just Johanna’s way of treating serious or factual inquiries — a true mark of a gifted person.

Born in Curacao

Where do you begin? Johanna was born in Curacao, saying, “All nice people are born in

“Our family was musical, life in Curacao was filled with music, singing and I love to dance,” she said. However, she went on to say, “There was no dating for young girls. When we went out (socializing) it was in groups, our parents always knew where we were, it was very strict.”

Johanna went to a private school. In 1912, at the age of 16, she traveled by boat to Brooklyn to visit an aunt and to attend school, to learn more about typing and bookkeeping. She had her first job with a Dutch company in New York City, with employment at times, interrupted with her many trips back and forth to Curacao.

In 1922, Johanna Johansson met and married a military officer, Leendert van den Berge, who was stationed on the island. He

was in the Dutch army, and later became a lieutenant colonel during World War II. How did this young energetic lady meet her future husband? “On the tennis court,” she said, adding, “I was very good, had a great back hand from the beginning, but he wasn’t that good a player.”

Life of Travel

From the first meeting to their eventual wedding day, Johanna and her army husband led the life of traveling, beginning with her stay, and first trip to Holland, where he was from originally. “Now for the juicy part,” as she reminisced of days and years gone by.

She spent six weeks in Paris, seeing the sites, the beauty of the Left Bank, along with the night life, the famed “Follies Bergere.” and equally famous, American singer Josephine Baker. It was the roaring ’20s.

The next several years were filled with
more travel for Johanna and Leendert, who was in the service of his country. The full itinerary included Holland and to far off Indonesia (four weeks on a ship), the other side of the world. Every sixth year, they would return home (to Holland) for a six-week furlough. In 1934, they lived near Nymegan, where later, during World War II, was the site of a famous battle scene, ultimately made into a movie.

In 1938, it was back to Indonesia. Johanna remembers over the years, making seven trips through the Suez Canal. Just a note on Indonesia; it was located in southeastern Asia, formerly the Netherland East Indies, and made up of the islands of Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi and the Moluccas.

In 1939, World War II broke out and it meant the invasion of Holland. They could not return to his homeland. He did manage to return to England, with his newest assignment, training Dutch troops for duty in war-torn Europe. At this time, Johanna was in Indonesia.

In October 1941, Johanna and two of her three children were forced to leave, due to advancing Japanese armies. They were the last ones to go, she said. With Elly and Rudolf at her side, they began their travels, flying to nearby friendly Australia, boarding a ship to San Francisco, and then a train ride across the states to New York City. At the time, her other son, Dick, was in school in Europe.

Speaking of the children, here are a few words, Elly Vozzola, a local resident and instrumental in arranging this interview, was the wife of the late Peter Vozzola, a former engineer at Hamilton Standard. Elly has three children, Elizabeth, married to former basketball star and now Dr. Vinny Colapietro. They have two boys and live in Tuckahoe, N.Y.

Catherine is married to Darrell Wilcox and they reside in Windsor with their five children.

Elly's son, Robert, and his wife, Diane, live in Ohio with their two children. Robert is a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

Yes, I mustn't forget, Elly was born in Holland, Rudolf in Indonesia and their brother, Dick, in Curacao. Dick is a retired engineer from Hamilton Standard. Rudolf, another engineer in the family, lives in Rochester, N.Y. with his wife, Dorothy and their two children:

Johanna returned to Sydney, Australia, one more time. Her husband had been assigned to the Pacific war zone. During that period, Elly was in college, stateside, Rudolf in military school, and Dick (a story in itself), a student in Holland, was interned by the Germans for working with the underground. You see, the children, as well as their mother, were victims of the war, with the increased separation.

It is difficult to summarize the life and times of Johanna van den Berge. After the war, and up until 1980, she had the urge to travel. She lived in Virginia, Wisconsin, Hartford and now in her present home in Windsor Locks. She has seen most of the states, visited Canada, Mexico, South America and the island of the Caribbean.

**Worked at Travelers**

What about the years since the war? She said, “Almost forgot, I worked at Travelers for 13 years and loved every minute of it.”

What about today? Staying with her fluctuating between being serious and funny, she said, “It takes a lot of time to do nothing,” but she enjoys coffee breaks with Elly at local restaurants. She enjoys all types of music, loved Julie Andrews in “The Sound of Music.” When it comes to television, she likes the news, especially politics, and also watches satirist Mark Russell, when he's on public TV.

Any advice to her children and grandchildren? “Stand tall in life,” said the lady who once had lunch with the Queen of Holland, adding, “Keep in touch with old friends.

Admiration for others included, “Churchill and General MacArthur.”

What contributed to living past age 90? “My healthy upbringing and eating plain food,” she said.

This is also a lady who speaks three languages, English, Dutch and Papiamento (mixture of Spanish, Dutch, English and African). She is a very proud lady, with dual citizenship, American and Dutch.

Elly added a few notes of interest: “My mother saw and heard John Philip Sousa in the Hippodrome in New York City, as a young woman; she also saw and heard the senior Strauss in Vienna, as a young married woman. And the reason (we) finally settled in the Hartford area was because two of my mother’s Swedish/American cousins lived here...”

**Epilog**

Yes, I found Johanna van den Berge is some kind of lady, does have a million stories and she carried on the interview, as most grand ladies would ... in complete control, serious at times, but always with a bit of humor, obviously her trademark, showing why she is a lady with plenty of class.

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**Matriarch with Plenty of Class**
He Heads Lions Volunteer Ambulance Service

Joe Barile has had two mentors since joining the Lions Volunteer Ambulance Service, Roger Nelson and Bob Barberi. Joe is currently the chairman of this local civic-minded organization, a position held by Roger and Bob for many years.

Joe also was greatly influenced by his father, Joseph A. Barile, a well-known boxing enthusiast, and a subject for C&K back in June of 1978.

In this day of volunteering, young Joe, or Joey to some, fits the credentials that President George Bush was referring to as one of the "thousand points of light."

For this young man, it's been a long list of volunteer work, which began with the Youth Commission that he helped found when he was in high school. He said: "That's what really got me started in civic involvement."

Addition volunteer work has included political and church affairs.

But first things first. Joe's dad, a retired postal worker in Hartford, is still very interested in boxing and was instrumental in starting the career of Windsor's "Gentleman John Scully."

Joe's mother, Phyllis Moffatt Barile, like the older Joe, is also from Hartford. The family has lived in Windsor Locks for many years, however. Young Joe is the youngest of the couple's four sons, which include Dunny, Mike and Jimmy.

Some words on Joe's brothers: Danny is employed by Elfman Carpet Company; Jimmy works in the computer world at Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, while Mike (also a C&K subject in March 1988) is into local real estate with Manning Realty.

An interesting note on Mike and his wife Lupe, and their 3-year-old son Michael Joseph is that according to his proud Uncle Joe, "he has learned Spanish and even speaks it." Mile and Lupe were recently blessed on Nov. 13 with a second son, Kevin Gilbert.

He's A Local Graduate

Joe is a graduate of the local high school, Class of 1980. He was active in school and participated in the Youth Commission, senior yearbook staff, and was one of its staff photographers. He was a member of the National Honor Society and manager of the school's cross country team.

As a young boy in town, he said: "I went the gamut of the little leagues."

In high school, and then college, Joe's career goals changed considerably—from veterinarian, because "I loved animals"—to lawyer and finally settling for a teaching position which he calls "very satisfying."

At one time, not sure of what he wanted, he worked for a local car agency for a year. He went on to UConn, graduating in 1984, with a degree in foreign languages which include Latin, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

His First Teaching Job

He took his first teaching job at St. Thomas More High School, a boarding school in Montville. His versatile knowledge of foreign languages gave him the opportunity to work in other schools: Our Lady of the Angels Academy in Enfield, and currently, at South Windsor High School, where he began in the fall of 1987.

During those years at St. Thomas and OLA, he secured his teaching certificate and eventual master's degree from the University of Hartford.

In discussing a student's desire, if any, for taking foreign languages and to become bilingual, Joe said: "Usually the first two years in my classes, I've have 20 interested pupils, in French or Spanish, but the last two semesters, there may be only five students. Unfortunately, American students are close-minded when it comes to different languages and cultures. But they are not close-minded in general," he said.

When Joe was getting his start in volunteering, he was also active at St. Mary's Church, as a teacher, member of the choir, and member of Catholic Young Adults. He is still a member, as advisor, to the Youth Commission. A few years ago, during a disaster period in town, Joe served as a Red Cross volunteer.

Joined Lions in 1985

In the spring of 1985, Joe joined the Lions Club and at the same time, was on the Democratic Town Committee. He admits he had to drop some of his involvements since becoming chairman of the ambulance service.

Is it all work and no play for Joe? "No," he said. "I do find some time to read, listen to music, visit friends and play touch football or baseball. You see, I'm not into spectator sports," he said.

Joe usually goes north on vacation, to Montreal, where "they speak my language, French," he said. During his UConn college years, Joe traveled to France, Spain and Mexico with other students.

The Lions Volunteer Ambulance Service can rightfully be called Joe Barile's main assignment. During the past year, Joe listed two advancements. One was securing a second ambulance to serve the people of Windsor Locks.

The other was holding defibrillation courses wherein ambulance personnel were taught how to use the device which, applied to two areas of the chest, will electrically shock a patients' heart back to life once the patient has stopped breathing.

"The heart has stopped, the person is dead, and the defibrillator can bring that person back to life," he said.

Readers of the Windsor Locks Journal are now familiar with Joe's other talent, writing on the experiences and latest techniques of the ambulance service in his bi-weekly column called "Life Lines."

Joe remembers well his first day on ambulance duty. "My first night of work was Christmas Eve and also Christmas Day. You do tend to recall such beginnings," he said. Over the past few years, Joe's efforts have not gone unrewarded. He was honored by Ed Koprowski, then-president of the Lions Club for his help. In addition, Joe was chosen "Lion of the Year" in 1987-88.

What are some of the requirements for an ambulance service volunteer? A refresher course every two years is required, after the initial six-month beginner's course. And probably most important, Joe said, was time and dedication.

His future plans are to "just serve in whatever capacity I'm needed in the ambulance service," he said. Summing up his own involvement with the Lions, he said: "I'm proud to be the youngest chairman and I appreciate all the help from the other volunteers and just say that I'm an organizer."

What about his plans in the teaching profession? "Well, maybe a principal someday, but that's a long way off," he said diplomatically.

Epilogue

Joe Barile, what else can one say about this young adult who is so dedicated and active in his hometown. He's certainly earning those famed points that will put him right up there with other "thousand points of light."
Why the Laine Family Picked Windsor Locks

Bill and Janice Laine said they looked at more than 50 homes in several towns before selecting Windsor Locks to settle down in with their two sons.

This family chronicle came about after our interview last month, and their important decision, made by this young couple who were “high school sweethearts” at the regional school (RHAM), with students coming from Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

Bill, who his wife called “very organized,” has had a diversified employment career, from truck driver to sales to his present position as territorial representative for a large architectural hardware company.

William Edward Laine was originally from Marlborough, Janice Marques Laine a Hebron native. He is a 1976 graduate while Janice received her diploma two years later.

Bill “loved all sports” in high school, playing baseball, tennis, and was a member of the wrestling team. He also participated in competitive karate outside the school.

In addition, Bill was on the Student Council, terming that experience “my first taste of politics,” a part of life that he once considered a hobby, and hopefully to be in his future plans.

For the record, Janice played soccer and participated in gymnastics at RHAM.

Bill is the son of Roger and Loretta Laine of Marlborough. Mr. Laine, an electrical engineer, is from Manchester. Bill’s mother was born in East Hartford. Bill has a brother, Robert, and two sisters, Brenda and Bonnie.

On the other side of the family tree, Janice has a brother, James, and three sisters, Jane, Jeannie and Jennifer. The parents of the children with the names of “J” are Roy and Sigrid Marques of Hebron. Roy is the northeastern regional manager of Citgo Oil.

According to Bill and Janice, the Christmas holidays in 10 days will be well celebrated when the large families of Laine and Marques get together.

Career Path

But first, Bill’s career path: during his high school years, Bill had visions of becoming a gym teacher. That did not pan out in the 1970s due to what he said “was an abundance of teachers.” So, not one to stay put, he joined a different job market, driving a tractor trailer for P&G Motor Freight in South Windsor the next four years. There, he was a member of the Teamsters Union, Local 671.

Bill combined driving for a living, plus attended Hartford State Tech College for two years, in hopes of gaining a degree in architecture. His path changed a few degrees, when the freight company went into bankruptcy.

He turned to sales with the General Building Supply in South Windsor. He found a big difference in the sales force, but it got him “inside,” he said. He stayed three years, and after a few odd jobs, joined his present occupation, Yale Security Inc. with headquarters in Charlotte, N.C.

Today, Bill is territorial representative, in Connecticut and lower New York State, for the architectural hardware company. (We noticed, as we drove into their driveway, his license plate — BY-YALE — a nice touch).

The way Janice tells it, “Bill and I met in school, June of 1975 and were married in June of 1979.” Janice has had jobs in a bank, learned the knack of computers at CPI in East Hartford, and worked at Windsor’s Terry Steam for two years, until their first son was born.

Traditional Christmas

How do the Laines celebrate Christmas?

LAINE FAMILY | page 8
The Wrinn Family: Active All Year Round

Jim and Mary Wrinn come from large families, and they have four active children of their own. Year round activity is a family trait, and in a few days, they will all celebrate Christmas.

Had the pleasure of meeting and acting like an inquiring Santa to Joe, Abby, Sandy and young Tom Wrinn. They are what makes this a special time of the year. Christmas should be a religious time, but also a time for the kids to think about Santa and the magic he brings on Christmas morning. I found the Wrinn children anxiously waiting for something special from Santa, and his helpers ... their five aunts, five uncles, grandparents and of course, their parents. A time, their mother called, "a family celebration."

Some background on James Edward Wrinn, his family, and Mary Messier Wrinn, from an equally large clan. Jim grew up in Wallingford, Conn., the son of Joseph and Patricia Wrinn, who still make their home in the town made famous by the International Silver Co., where retired Joe Wrinn worked for many years. Jim's mother is also taking life easy, after a career in insurance. Jim has two brothers, Michael and Gary, two sisters, Trish and Andrea.

Mary lived in Cranston, R.I., until she was 8, the family then moved to Manchester, Conn. She is the daughter of the late Betty Messier, and Will Messier, who now resides in his hometown of Manchester. Mary has three brothers: Ken, Jim and Tom, and three sisters: Sue, Kate and Claudia.

Jim and Mary Wrinn come from large families, and they have four active children of their own. Year round activity is a family trait, and in a few days, they will all celebrate Christmas.

When the Wrinn's Christmas is a "family celebration," with visits (switching each year) to different grandparents and other relatives. Mary said, "The children have their own Christmas stockings made (with loving care) by my mother."

Epilog

Keeping with the holiday season at the home (originally the Dexter home), The Wrinn's favorite vacation spot is Cape Cod. They did mention one extensive trip to Niagara Falls, Michigan and the Baseball Hall of Fame in New York State. Abby adding, "Don't forget Delaware."

Jim and Mary are "die-hard" UConn basketball fans. However, when it comes to baseball, Jim roots for those Yankees, while Mary follows the boys in Boston. When it comes to adult television they watch "LA Law" and "China Beach."

A traveling note ... Jim traveled extensively in Europe, during his college days, and currently, secretary of the Lions Club a year ago. On a personal physical note, Jim is into racquet ball, as member of the Colchester Racquet Club and Brownies (Troop 564). Jim is a Webelos leader in Cub Scouts, who has coached Little League, have been active in scouting and the Lions, I feel you have to give something back to people. As for admiration, Jim said, "It would be my parents, I wouldn't be the person I am today, if it wasn't for them, they shaped my life."

Mary had her own words to say, "This may sound corny, but Jim is my best friend. I admire what he did for me and other people."

The Wrinn's Christmas is a "family celebration," with visits switching each year) to different grandparents and other relatives. Mary said, "The children have their own Christmas stockings made (with loving care) by my mother."

Epilog

Keeping with the holiday season at the home of Jim and Mary Wrinn ... Yes, Joe, Abby, Sandy and Tom, there is a Santa Claus. In a few days, Santa and his helpers will again bring their magic to children, like yourselves, all over the world. The "hopes that Santa will soon be there" will surely be fulfilled when he says (as the story goes) "A Merry Christmas to All and To All a Good Night..."
Bright New Decade: Welcome to the '90s

"Here's to the bright new decade
And a fond farewell to the old
Here's to the things that are yet to come
And the memories that we hold"

So old friends in Windsor Locks, let's put our minds and hearts together and attempt to conjure up what a few of the natives may want in this new decade, which starts on Monday ... Remember, what another author said, "There are three things which are real: God, human folly and laughter. The first two are beyond our comprehension. So we must do what we can with the third ..."

Cliff and Harriet Randall: Much happiness in your retirement from politics, in Connecticut and Maine.

Gary Ruggiero: To keep the Ruggiero tradition alive and well at the Fire Department.

Raymond Grasso: To keep the open door policy at the high school.

Kay Wezowicz: To continue the enthusiasm of the Women's Auxiliary of the Fire Department.

Chuck Bonadies: To continue to make good decisions by the Board of Education for the kids in town, our biggest asset.

Russ Gabrielson: To continue your "Country Boy" attitude in this town, where you have given so much of your time.

Norm Messier: The man who epitomizes daily, the Lions motto, "We Serve."

Guy Cyr: May your talents come across as a member of the Board of Education.

Joe Barile: Continue the spirit of the Lions Volunteer Ambulance Services, as Roger Nelson and Bob Barberi before you.

Alice Marconi Clack: Must play the role of watchdog for the next two years.

Tom Unnold: The past decades (five) have been an inspiration for all Boy Scouts, young and old.

Mike Biedrzycki: Will show as much enthusiasm as a new constable, as he does in the world of transportation.

Leo Nadeau: Will probably spoil his grandkids, as the typical grandfather, and be proud at the same time.

Steve Wandrey: Twenty for the excellence...