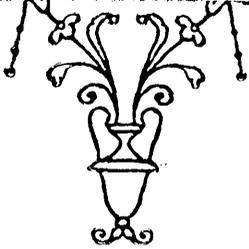


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**"Cabbages and Kings"**

With *Jack Redmond*

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

### Jack Redmond

#### Young Business Executive

John Fraher has always geared his life to helping people. Son of Jack and Millie Fraher, he had a fling living in a Georgia commune, was a cook at a local convalescent home, and now is the Director of Sales at the Howard Johnson's Conference Center and Red Coach Grill.

All of John's endeavors have taken the form of help. His position at the Windsor Locks complex off Center Street, is a mixture of banquet arranger, arbitrator, question and answer man, public relations man and just all around nice guy and always in attendance to hundreds of men and women who sometimes request seating for 100 conference members in a room where 65 would be more comfortable.

John, at his job for the past five months, is learning first hand the human behavior pattern on a daily basis. He spoke of the time when a few hundred men and women left the comfort of a large hall for the compact area of the indoor pool because the hall they were occupying was situated next to a hall with a large group of prom dancers, enjoying a rock band in action. John had to satisfy the older crowd and the pool was the only available space at the time. The main speaker, just to break up the tension, jumped into the pool and made his speech in quite a wet condition, to everyone's pleasure. John told of other strange happenings, probably commonplace to all hotel people.

Our young executive has lived in Windsor Locks all of his life and was educated at the local schools. For a year and a half he attended Manchester Community College. While in high school John was one of the first co-captains of the varsity golf team. He also played basketball under coach Dan Sullivan.

After his college days he decided to try something different. Different, it was. He traveled to Americus, Ga. to join a commune and see what made it tick. It ticked of hard work on the farm planting cotton, corn, beans and other products to be used and sold for the community benefit. He said the food served to all the workers was real bad, with vegetables the main dish. Unfortunately, there was a great deal of political undertone as part of the scheme in this, to many outsiders, unconventional way of life. John reported the local Ku Klux Klan watched every movement in the commune. They did not agree with the theory of the management, to say the least.

With some draft dodgers, blacks, and northern liberals making up part of the workers the Klan seized the opportunity for political propaganda and the wearing of the familiar white robes. One week spent in Georgia was enough for John. He returned to Connecticut and friendlier surroundings.

With his helping hand still extended, he went to work as a training cook at the Mountain View Convalescent Home in Windsor. His 27 months there found him elevated from cook to dietary supervisor with the duty of handling menus for the older patients living at the home. He said it was an education observing and helping the senior citizens whose needs had to be satisfied every day of the week.

Going from the extreme of c o m m u n e s to convalescent homes John then joined the sometimes glamorous profession of hotel and restaurant business. He says he now really enjoys his work. John has finally found his niche. He said, "Hotels are like people, there are good and bad points that bear watching. My job is to minimize the bad and accentuate the good points. Hotels have a personality and the workers are always trying to please the public by offering the best food and facilities at hand."

As for the future John feels his position at Howard Johnson's offers a challenge and someday, with more experience, his goal is to become the youngest general manager in the business. His scope of work runs from public relations to marketing procedures. He works a seven day week however, trips to Buffalo, New York and Toronto, Canada,

to view other establishments are a much needed change of pace.

John, as mentioned, is the son of Jack and Millie Fraher. His parents were childhood sweethearts in their hometown of Manchester. Jack was all-star performer in football and baseball at Manchester High. After graduation from school Jack played semi-pro baseball for the Moriarty Brothers. Today his favorite pastime is golf. For many years he hit the little white ball at the Copper Hill Course in East Granby. This year Jack can be found on the weekends playing at the Oak Ridge new course in Agawam. To Jack Fraher shooting a 42 is a disaster. He's not just a weekend duffer, this veteran of Hamilton Standard Division for many years.

Bob Fraher, the oldest son, will be remembered for his selection as an all-state basketball player for Windsor Locks during the 1960-1 season. Bob is married to Joan Enos of Rhode Island and they have two cute daughters for Jack and Millie to spoil every chance they get.

Brian, the brother in the middle, is married to a local girl, Debbie Barberi. Brian, also a good golfer like his brothers and father, was a pitcher for the local high school a few years back.

#### EPILOG

John Fraher, the youngest of the Frahers, knows what he wants out of life, and in helping people, directly or indirectly, he is fulfilling this desire: John did not say so, but I'm sure he believes that by giving, we really receive.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

### President of the Senior Class

Jay Caron is the president of the Windsor Locks High School senior class. He's also a football player, has ambitions to attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and voices his opinions on issues from politics to magazine subscriptions.

The young athlete has been enrolled in schools from Connecticut to California...played his favorite sport of football since he was big enough to hold and kick the little pigskin. The background exposure in travel and education has given this young man a wide range of beliefs, and lucky for him, he knows what he wants in life and where his future may be headed.

Jay was born in Springfield, Mass. in 1958. He's the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie E. Picketts of Center Street. His Connecticut schooling began in Hazardville and his senior year will be in Windsor Locks. He lived in Seaside, California where he found the beauty of the western sun and a place where sports are played all year round.

His football experience resembles the who's who of a young Larry Czonka; 1971 Midget Jets (State Champs); Pony League during his freshman year, 1972; sophomore year, 1973, on the Windsor Locks JV team; 1974, his junior year in California; and this year on the varsity first team, playing right guard on offense, look for Number 63.

Jay said there is real team spirit under coach Scelza, and the local football program is finally coming into its own. The team practices five nights a week after school sessions. Jay said on Friday nights, before any game, the players are required to be in bed by ten o'clock. As Jay points out, "Not being in shape only hurts the team effort the next day."

When our young leader of the seniors is not at school or on the field he relaxes with "rock" music and other melodious sounds from his stereo. He also plays the guitar on occasion, keeps in good physical shape during the off-season by lifting weights. After school he reads a great deal with history and science fiction his favorite material.

Jay's oldest sister Jacqueline recently graduated from Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Rounding out the family is a brother Thomas, 19, and a younger sister, Denise, 11, who is a sixth grader, and cheerleader for the Eagles of the Midget Football League.

This past summer Jay worked at the local Jack August restaurant as a dishwasher and even did some cooking. But with the advent of fall he had to concentrate on the books and practice of his favorite sport so working could not be a part of his busy schedule. Our industrious student, with good grades, aspires to be a member of the Naval Academy and major in engineering. So it doesn't take too long in talking to Jay for one to know he's looking ahead with goals not unobtainable due to his desire and hardworking abilities.

Every year the senior class journeys house to house in Windsor Locks selling magazine subscriptions and this year Jay, as president of the class, is in charge of this fund-raising project to make the necessary dollars for the many items to make the senior year a success.

I asked Jay some questions for an insight to the senior president's feelings regarding life in the United States, high school dress codes, who should be the next president of our country, etc. Jay voiced his opinions as follows....The dress code, "No real hard and fast restrictions on dress and hair style, but both must be clean." Capital punishment, "Is killing someone, jail is better." Abortion, "Up to the individual." Marijuana, "Bad for one's health, it hasn't been proven otherwise." He said the downtown redevelopment should be good for the town. However, he hoped all the money was worth it. He added that the next ten years will tell the story as to the energy crisis facing our country, and he feels it will all work out for the best. The situation of how to solve the problem is, in his words, where the separation of the boys from the men will tell the story. I'd said it was a rather profound statement.

Jay said our sixteenth president, Abe Lincoln, was a great man and an historical figure the common man could identify with. He believes President Ford and his family is what it's all about today. Admires all the front-runners in the Democratic party for president.

### Epilog

It was refreshing interviewing one of the young, outstanding boys in our town. Jay Caron, the high school senior who loves football, hard work, good music, and knows what he wants out of life, truly exemplifies the youth of today. The Jay Carons are the men of tomorrow, and our Bicentennial celebration plus twenty is in good hands.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

### Jack Redmond

Lou LaTorra

Catalyst in Sports

Louis J. LaTorra can never be described as a dabbler, far from it. The Hartford born athlete performed in all sports as a young man and now is leaving his mark as a coach and painter of football fields in his adopted town of Windsor Locks.

The LaTorra boys have followed in their dad's shoes...basketball, football and baseball. Lou participated in four sports as a student at Hartford High School back in the early 1950's. He remembers well, as a freshman, a member of the track team was a senior runner who became an Olympic star to all American followers of track and field, Lindy Remington, the present coach at Hartford High School.

Lou and Rosalie have been married for twenty years and have lived in town since 1960. They have three children, Bill who is 18 and who is the tight end on the varsity football team, and who also has played varsity basketball. I personally remember little Bill, (now he's bigger than Lou) as a member of the 1970-71 Senior League team representing Villa Rose. David, who is 16, favors soccer, baseball and court action. The youngest, James, who is 12, according to his father plays a mean game of tennis and this and basketball are his only interests these days.

For many years a local firm has sponsored a Pass, Punt and Kick contest for the local youth and as one would expect the LaTorra boys, Bill and David, have the trophies to prove their ability in the gridiron sport.

Many fine athletes, born in the twenties and thirties, were prevent, on a temporary basis, from performing on the fields and diamonds of our country due to WWII and the Korean War, and Lou was no exception. In 1952, he left Hartford and found there was a lot more to this world than the state capitol, the local high school and his favorite baseball team, the New York Yankees. At Uncle Sam's expense Lou traveled all over the United States and finally arrived in Seoul, Korea with the U.S. Army Combat Engineers. He served for one year in the far eastern side of the world.

Returning from the service, Lou faced the task of earning a living and the plumbing trade was his ultimate choice. For the past twenty years he has been employed by the M.A. Flerlerg Company of Hartford. Lou has labored on many plumbing contracts over the years and some of the projects are as follows: Weaver High School, Broadcast House, University of Hartford, the St. Francis and Mt. Sinai Hospitals, and recently the new Hartford Civic Center. He recalls all the pipes and connections whenever he has the time to visit these imposing edifices. However, whenever he visits one of the two hospitals he remembers with a certain amount of apprehension the pathology room, but not sentimentally.

When this busy guy is not coaching Little League, or at his plumbing vocation, he hits the drums with a local band called the "Spinning Wheels." For ten years he's been beating the old percussion instrument. He enjoys the change of pace. The band performs at weddings and dances and Lou takes on the appearance of his idol, the one and only Gene Krupa.

Lou LaTorra has been associated with the Little League program in Windsor Locks for the past decade. He feels the playing of organized baseball by the youth of the town, in his words, "helps all boys and should bring out their natural ability, and is a stepping stone for high school ball." He received his baptism with the farm teams. In 1973, with the major division, he was coach of the state title winners from our town with Russ Matteson as the manager. This past season, as the manager of the all-star squad, he led the youngsters to the semi-finals for the state title.

This friendly and likeable individual seems to be at home when the pressure is on his little boys to win championships.

In 1971 Lou said he experienced "one of my biggest thrills" when the local Jets won the Midget football state crown. As coach of these young examples of Jim Plunketts or O.J. Simpson he was given an extra added treat by winning the big game over a team from Hartford, the Hartford Firefighters.

Just to show his versatility he handled the sixth grade basketball team for two years in the annual home and home series with Rockville, Maryland. His sons, Bill and David, were members of the team. It is a unique situation, in that all the money raised for the exchange of games between the towns is by the players to meet the expenses for the trip down south.

To add another sport to Lou's repertoire, recently he gathered all his family in the car and traveled to New York City and the first stop was Madison Square Garden to witness one of his nephews play volleyball. The relative was Tim Hill, a student at Long Beach State in California. Tim is on the United States team making a tour of the country against the national team of Russia. The tour started in California and ended in New York. Volleyball is fast, and vastly underrated. When it's a sporting event in town or New York the LaTorra family will be close on hand.

Lou found a new occupation to keep him busy, painting "Raider" signs and a picture of a pirate for the first night game at Windsor Locks. The new fad was to give the football field a special look. Lou and his wife are real fans and even have a cowbell to prove it.

#### Epilog

Louis J. LaTorra keeps active in all sports, on the field and in the stands. He leads a very diversified life. He knows to rest is to rust, to be active is to achieve. Who can argue with his credentials?

## Spotlight



### Bill LaTorra

Every once in a while a kid comes along on one of the high school teams who is so well liked that it is hard to believe. Bill LaTorra is just that type of person. Presently he is a tight end on the football team and is having a "tremendous year," according to coach Pat Scelza, who also says that "Bill was so psyched for the East Catholic game that he played the best game of his career and it rubbed off on the whole team. He has played super all season long."

Besides football Bill is also a basketball player whom coach Dan Sullivan calls "aggressive, very coachable, and a real hustler." Sullivan also pointed out that he is counting very heavily on Bill's basketball ability for the upcoming season.

In his third year of varsity football Bill remembers back to when he played the goal and center forward on the Middle School soccer team. When he entered high school he chose football and it has proven to be a wise choice. His brother Dave is a soccer player and was the leading scorer on the JV team this past season. Everyone knows his popular father Lou who will be featured in a "Cabbages & Kings" in a week or two.

Bill's thoughts right now are on this week's Rockville game. He is hoping for wins in the two remaining games to make this the best year yet for a Raiders team.

College is definitely in his plans but he is uncertain about which one he will choose. Whichever one it is the school will be that much better because Bill LaTorra made it his choice.

# "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

## George Hall A Friend of Celebrities

George Hall's persistence paid off. The likable, low key individual coached eight years in the Little League Senior Division and finally was a winner in his last year. The Villa Rose team will always be remembered for its Hallmark way of playing the game during those years and in 1974 George and his bunch of boys won over the rest of the league. George now knows time and patience were on his side. As he sits in his cozy breezeway and follows the fortunes of his favorite team, the Boston Red Sox, there is a plaque, hanging on the wall, presented to him by this same bunch of boys for his leadership in the season when the championship finally came to their coach.

The Hartford born, former football player and coach at Hartford High, saw service in Germany in the early 1950's with the U.S. Army Military Police and later with the Counter Intelligence Division. When not tracking down black market profiteers George played some football and basketball for his division team. He spoke fondly of the beautiful countryside of Germany near the city of Munich and also the famous Bavarian Alps where he spent his furlough time.

George has a way of meeting and rubbing elbows with the famous and Germany was no exception. While there he watched two great baseball pitchers perform for the men in uniform, namely Curt Simmons of the Phillies and Art Houlteman of the Detroit Tigers. The basement rec room of the Hall home is adorned with memorabilia of baseball and football players and managers George has met, or has been associated with, one way or another. In some instances he was instrumental in securing speakers for banquets held at the St. John's Episcopal Church of Warehouse Point. Gene Conley, former baseball and basketball

star; Steve Blass, former Pittsburgh World Series hero; Dick McAuliffe, former Tiger and Red Sox player, were a few, I too remember, listening to in the town across the river. Other sport luminary figures in the Hall of fame; Red Schoendienst of the St. Louis Cardinals, Joe Dimaggio, Danny Murtaugh of Pittsburgh, Johnny Pesky and the current manager of the Red Sox, Darrell Johnson, to name only some of these great names to warm any sport minded man or boy's heart.

George's life has not always been connected with sports. He's been in the insurance business all of his adult life. He graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Insurance in 1956. The year before he married Jane YandeWeghe who takes an interest in all of George's sport activities.

Another member of the Hall family active in sports and the television end of it, is George's younger brother Joseph. Joe is employed by Channel 11 (WPIX) in New York City as a producer and director. He received his start at Channel 18, right here in nearby Hartford. Among his jobs in television have been the well known program called the Christopher Hour and numerous Easter Seal telethons. With Joe's closeness in the television field George has met two men with voices heard in many homes of the east, Bob Prince of the Pittsburgh station and Jim Woods of our own Red Sox station.

George's meeting the great and near great has probably proved beneficial in coaching the young men of Windsor Locks. He realizes organized sports is, in his own words, "one of the best ways to keep boys busy and out of trouble." He further pointed out how "Little League is good for the kids and the town has one of the best programs in the state." 1976 will find George coaching for the third year with the American Legion under Bob O'Connor.

Looking back at the Senior Division, George said he had many outstanding boys and if he had to name a few, Paul King, Tim Talbot and Greg Mitchell would come to mind. In the American Legion program the names of Steve Degan, John and Bobby Cressotti of Windsor Locks, and Al Griffin of Suffield would top the list of performers.



Nov 20 1975

Dear Jack.

Just a note of thanks for the nice write up. I thought it conveyed a note of warmth and friendship between the author and subject.

If I were ever to do my autobiography you could ghost it for me, at the very least my obit.

Again, Jack thanks for the nice article, it will be framed and hung in the Hall of fame.

Best Regards  
George

His Hartford High School experience (George was on the second team of All-Staters for football in 1947) came in handy when the Pony League was organized and he coached the Windsor Locks Chiefs for five years. George remembers a young boy as a runner for the Chiefs who is making history for the Raiders, Dan K y c i a. George's career in coaching spans a ten year period and one he is mighty proud to speak of and the boys he has met.

### Epilog

George Hall is a dedicated man who has found Windsor Locks warm and friendly. George, the busy insurance man and coach, also finds the time to be a Junior Warden at his church across the river. I'm sure George realizes a certain amount of life is only window dressing, and the true person is always striving for goodness to all men, celebrity or the bat boy on the sand lots of America.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

### Jack Redmond

**White Meat or Football** between Hillhouse and New Haven. It was the year of Levi Jackson. Jackson went on to Yale and became their first black football captain. I had to catch a train earlier so my folks and I had dinner at the Hotel Garde, near the old railroad station. 1944 was a trifle different . . . I was waiting for my overseas assignment in Ft. Lewis, Washington. I had dinner in an Army mess hall, but no football.

1945, different locale, on the island of Guam...another meal in an Army mess hall. And still no football. 1946, a great year, discharge, marriage, honeymoon and turkey dinner in Denver, Colorado with my new bride and with a football game. The teams are not important now, but at least we watched a game on Thanksgiving Day.

The year of 1947 found the Redmonds with a little girl added to the family, spending the big day in San Francisco, and if memory serves me right, we had our turkey and were off to Kezar Stadium to watch the San Francisco Forty Niners in action. Finally in 1948 we came back to good old New England. Turkey Day found us at the Yale Bowl again.

But too many years have gone by the boards with turkeys and just football on TV. So to repeat the suggestion, let's all get behind the idea to have Windsor Locks play some worthy opponent on Thanksgiving Day.

Write to the Journal, Jules or the high school to encourage the locals to play the big game on the big day.

Forget the white meat and who's on Channel 3, until later in the day.

Just to give you a personal rundown on some of my turkey days . . . in 1943, I was wearing Uncle Sam's Army uniform and on leave from the hills of Tennessee and witnessed a game of football in Yale Bowl in New Haven for the annual contest

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

### 50 Years in Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America have a motto... "Be Prepared."

Howard J. White of 76 (naturally) West Street has been preparing all of his life for the role of Bicentennial Committee Chairman of his native town of Windsor Locks. (The truth is that Howard was born in nearby Windsor, but only lived there for two weeks.)

1976 will be a year of significance for all Americans. Most American cities and towns, with their Howard Whites, expect to celebrate a happy, happy birthday for Uncle Sam and the 220 million or so citizens and it appears success is guaranteed.

But first a few facts to find out what makes a man like Mr. White tick. After high school he attended the Baypath Institute, located at the time, in Springfield, Mass., where he studied business administration.

During the war, number two, Howard worked at Bradley Field as a civilian employee. He left Bradley and secured a position with the Dexter Company for six years.

In 1944 he joined the Pratt & Whitney Division in East Hartford and 24 years later (1973) he retired to enjoy the August of his years with his ceramics, stamps of the Vatican City and the American Boy Scout vintage.

Mr. White could be called the original Boy Scout of Windsor Locks. It was way back in 1926 he first put on the uniform of the scout and next year, he too has a birthday. 1976 will make fifty years in scouting and he has relished every year.

"Scouting teaches a certain amount of independence to the boys and makes responsibility a part of their life." So says this man who probably has seen more boys become scouts first, and then go into manhood, all in his lifetime. Of course, he could not remember them all, but a few names were given...Edward Lanati, William Leary, Ellsworth Case, James McKenna, William Connor, Tony Daniel and hundreds he could not recall during the interview. Listening to this gentle man you can feel the pleasure he gained just by knowing and working all these years with the Windsor Locks boys.



Today he is still meeting with the sons and grandsons of his boys on Monday evenings as their Scoutmaster at the VFW Hall on Fairview Street. The troop number is 262 and all boys 11 to 15 can join and earn a few merit badges. He tells of the trips to Canada, Maine and the time he and the boys met the then Congressman Tom Meskill for lunch and were given the flag that waved over the capitol. One point Mr. White wanted to emphasize was, "The hard work, training, effort in the field and all around fellowship shared prob-

ably doesn't register now, to the boys, but it will in later years."

### Bicentennial Year

Mr. White in talking about 1976 and all the work involved said, "Transportation has been chosen as the theme of the Windsor Locks Bicentennial due to its importance to the development of the town. May of 1976 has been designated as the period of the extensive town-wide events. Among the May events will be a Boy Scout Show, an art show put on by all the students in town, a parade and ball and other examples of pride for the town. A full schedule of events planned for the observance, Mr. White said, will be published soon.

Besides his many activities in scouting and the bicentennial the role of curator for the local historical society should prove beneficial next year. The history of Windsor Locks will be published including facts concerning the canal and who would be better suited than Mr. White, the curator? Recently special bicentennial mugs were made available and many local outlets are selling this "quality" product. Proceeds from the sale of the mugs, as well as other items to be offered later, will go directly to help finance the observance program. Mr. White said the reason May of 1976 was chosen for the big sendoff, the birthday of the country, was to coincide with the town's incorporation of 100 years back in May of 1954. It should be the biggest thing to hit Windsor Locks in many a year.

### Epilog

Howard J. White is the kind of man who makes boys realize scouting can be both fun and beneficial, especially in the later years. Fifty years is a long time, and Mr. White wears the years well. He has achieved success, and to illustrate, and I believe Mr. White will concur... "Do not equate money with success. There are many successful money-makers who are miserable failures as human beings. What counts most about success is how a man achieves it."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

**Ed Sabotka**  
**Mindful of Others**

Edward V. Sabotka has been compassionate and patient in his role as the Welfare Director of Windsor Locks.

For the past 22 years, Mr. Sabotka has worked for the State of Connecticut Welfare Department and has kept the improvement and conditions of many citizens always uppermost in his dealings when conditions warrant his action. He's that kind of a guy.

Times do change, and welfare for some is accepted as a way of life, for good or bad, depending on one's viewpoint, more than it was years ago, and this interview was not made to find all the answers or judge the way things are in this complex problem that has been with us for the past two decades.

Today's economic situation facing individuals has, more or less, forced the government to care for the more unfortunate members of our society.

Mr. Sabotka mentioned there are certainly major problems in the welfare area. However, he added that we must not forget the other important facets of the State Welfare Department and their facilities in helping the blind, the aid to delinquent children, aid to the disabled, old age assistance and the food stamp program.

He said proudly, "Windsor Locks has a work relief program where recipients who are able to work for the town on different projects can pay off their obligations. Our town is one of only three in Connecticut with this type of policy."

His welfare assistance in Windsor Locks is only a part-time venture. (He's been at it for 16 years). He works a full day for the state in Hartford.

He spoke highly of the yearly donations by local organizations and citizens of toys and food baskets during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Full baskets of food, cash, or toys can be left at the town hall by individuals or organizations, for his own personal distribution to the needy families and children.



Ed Sabotka was born in Westfield, Mass. but found his place in Windsor Locks. He graduated from the local high school and remembers back when the Raiders played the manly art of football with hand-me-down uniforms from one of the local semi-pro teams. Names like Glenn Flanders, Joe Fitzpatrick and Bobby Dowd came to mind when talking of the old days in the early 1940's.

The war came next for Ed. He served with the U.S. Air Force in Italy for 18 months. When the war was over and while waiting shipment stateside, he traveled over Europe, and even found time to attend the University of Florence in Italy where he studied philosophy.

In November, 1947 Ed married Jane Skowronek, a Hartford girl, and today with two sons, Gary and Jeffrey, two grandchildren, and two daughters-in-law, they

always manage to find the time for travel to all parts of the world. In their lovely home are memorabilia of their trips to Mexico, Canada, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Brazil, Venezuela, Bermuda and the islands of the Caribbean.

Before the traveling kick, Ed attended the University of Connecticut and graduated in 1952 with a degree in Business Administration.

He was employed by the Underwood Company and Colts Firearms and finally in 1953, Ed Sabotka joined the State Welfare Department and is currently a Program Supervisor.

The following year he took up membership with the American Legion, Gens-Viola Post 36. He is now one of the many past commanders; was named in 1964 Outstanding Legionnaire for the State of Connecticut, and has the honor of being a Life Member of the local veteran organization. He is still active in Legion affairs as the chairman of the Americanism for the post executive committee. For three years he was chairman of the Legion board of trustees when the new building on Spring Street was being built. He's a Legionnaire for all seasons.

He went into the Boy Scout movement in an active way when his son decided to learn the ropes. Ropes of the Boy Scouts, that is. His wife was involved as a den mother for pack 201. They made it a family affair.

His civic activities read something like this — Windsor Locks Housing Authority as the commissioner; chairman of the Juvenile Review Board for the local police department; co-chairman with Guido Montemerlo for the Holiday Observance Committee for the parades in town and a member of the Board of Trustees for the Memorial Hall on Main Street.

In 1961, Ed was awarded the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award. No wonder. His den is full with plaques, properly displayed and as he said, "It's better than putting them in a drawer."

### Epilog

Edward V. Sabotka's list of worthy deeds fill many spaces. He works at his job, loves to travel with his wife Jane, and somehow I feel this best sums up this gentleman... "You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
Jack Redmond



Years ago a famous radio twosome by the name of Tex and Jinx was all the rage. Right here in Windsor Locks we have a Tex and Dotty Gill, and with more enthusiasm than the radio pair could ever muster on any coast-to-coast hookup.

Whoever said the twain should not meet?

Dotty was born in a little town in upper New York state by the name of Saranac Lake (in her words, in the town, "not in the lake") and good old Tex, Talton at birth, (are you ready?) was born in George West, Texas. The town was probably named after a cattle rustler.

The "big" war changed everything. It even brought the twain together. Dotty and Tex met one day at the Orly Field Airport, outside Paris, France. They had sailed for Europe on different ships, on V-E Day! I guess no one knew the war was over when they set sail. Well, back to the story. She was a woman Air Force veteran and luckily Tex was in the same branch of service. Their meeting, at the most unlikely place, was the fuselage of one of General DeGaulle's newest fighters. Fifteen days later the two service people were married.

Now married they were, in fact three times in the same day, and once when they reunited in the states. In the good old USA, it was for the church. But in France it seems everyone wanted to be in on the get-together of this most compatible couple. First, the civil authorities requested a ceremony, then the French military, and finally the American government. Who of us can say they were married four times to the same person? Well, the Gills can and it has been mostly merriment for thirty years.

The honeymoon, a tour of France for one solid month in a jeep. (When they returned to base they found out the captain had given them a stolen vehicle.) They didn't sleep in the jeep, friendly peasants provided lodging for the happy couple. One sunny day the newlyweds had a picnic lunch in a large, friendly French field. They found out later it was a mine field, put there (I guess) by some unfriendly German miners.

When it was time to leave for the states the sergeant, Dotty, had enough points (the Army's way of releasing service people for stateside and discharge) and was sent home at Christmas time in 1945, and her corporal husband, Tex, had to wait a few more months. It wasn't until April Fool's day of 1946 when the twain would meet again. (Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction.)

Nineteen forty-six was the year for recouping of millions of returning veterans to earn a living and live a normal life, and the Gills were off and running. Tex picked up the phone and since then has been employed by the Southern New England Telephone Company as a cableman. Next year will be his 29th with the "hello" company.

Two children were born to Dotty and Tex. Their eldest child, Patricia, is now married to Stevan Chase and they have a

son, Stevan, for the Gills to brag over. Their son, Robert, is earning a living in the "Big Apple" (New York City, folks) after receiving his masters at Harvard University. Before his Ivy school education he graduated from the Babson Institute in Boston. I remember Robert as an outstanding member of a Junior Achievement company I had the privilege of being one of the advisors for several years ago. Dotty remarked how Junior Achievement had a great influence on young Bob.

Dotty Gill, sometimes referred to as the "Maude of Windsor Locks is the General Manager of the Windsor Locks Journal and has been with the local paper for three years. In speaking of the press she fully agrees with the familiar "Freedom of the Press," but added, "the press also has a responsibility." On the question of women's liberation, Dotty said, "I already have it, my home and husband come first, lib after that." Dotty has done her share in local activities. She was on the St. Robert's Parish Council for five years, and she and Tex were the co-chairmen of one of the Strawberry Festivals. Another nickname she has gained for her 25 years in the Girl Scout

movement has been given with affection, "the Jolly Green Giant."

Mrs. Gill has always been a busy woman. She's been on the Democratic Town Committee since 1959, was one of the organizers of the Southwest School PTA, and was named Club Woman of the Year, back in the fifties.

Now we musn't forget the man of the family. Tex has his own ideas of life and is always available. He's the kind of a guy, with a flash of wit. Tex said, "I came north to straighten out the Yankees and in thirty years I still haven't accomplished the feat."

When someone asked him why they call him Tex, he shot back, "I'm really from Louisiana, but who wants to be called Louise?"

The man is really from Texas, of course, and raised horses in the Lone Star State. Here in Windsor Locks, Tex has been connected with the local Lions for 15 years. Three years before that he joined the Boy Scout group and is now the Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 257 and proudly said he and the boys have made 50, 55, and even 65 mile hikes. (I guess all that Air Force training paid off, Tex.)

Our jolly twosome have traveled to many parts of Europe, Mexico, Canada, crossed the country a few times, and visited and revisited the beautiful islands off Florida. Dotty said, "We now take mini-vacations once a month." She advises all who can to enjoy the short vacations, even if it's to Warehouse Point.

### Epilog

Tex and Dotty Gill are both active in town and happy to be able to participate. Dotty said, "Where you have been is not as important as where you are going." It's been a ball Dotty and Tex, and let me sum up this pair. "Resolve to be cheerful and helpful. People will repay you in kind."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

Jack Redmond

### YES, PATTY AND MIKE THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

Whoever said there wasn't a Santa Claus for the young at heart? I never did. You are both young, and I love you dearly, but don't let anyone ever tell you Santa Claus is not with us on these cold and wintry days of Christmas week, this year or any year to come. Grandpa Jack has always believed in Santa Claus. Who can honestly tell me he doesn't come down the chimneys all over America to make the young and also old kids happy?

In 1975 a great many people are trying to change things, and not always for the better, and one is the myth that there isn't a Santa Claus. People will talk about the toys and clothes you get for Christmas, and where they come from, after you find these wonderful gifts under the tree, but honest to goodness kids, they were put there with loving hands by Santa with your parents' help.

For Santa Claus is a feeling. Santa Claus is all that is good in the world. You may call your Mother and Dad "Santa," as

some kids do, and to a point that's true, but remember it's the feeling they give you at this time that makes them like Santa Claus. It's their way of loving you that makes them like the man in red and white with the cherry nose and all those reindeers. He's been with all young boys and girls for many years, especially in their hearts. I know you two kids love your parents, teachers and playmates, but you'll have to admit that all you can think of these days is what Santa will have in his sack for you on Christmas morning.

If anyone tells you about Santa a not being real, Patty and Mike, you speak right up and say, "My grandfather believes in Santa and our grandfather does not fib."

So kids, always remember to say our prayers, love your parents, finish your meals, dress warm, and every day you'll know in your hearts there is a Santa Claus, Patty and Mike, and yes, I mustn't forget Virginia.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

Grandpa Jack

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With

### Jack Redmond

#### WHAT THEY MIGHT WANT IN 1976

C'mon, you Windsor Lockers it's time for those New Year's resolutions we make and then, being human, break....when you think of it, we crave something just a little extra out of life, so here goes:

**Ed Savino** — A weekend shopping spree in downtown Hartford.

**Rep. Con O'Leary** — Higher office in the political scene of Connecticut.

**Charlie Rader** — New fields to conquer in the political world.

**Chief Bill Reilly** — Open house for the new fire and police complex.

**Chief Jim Whitten** — Unlimited extension as chief of police.

**Coach Dan Sullivan** — Sit-down turkey dinner with the Board of Education.

**Coach Pat Scelza** — Windsor High as the Turkey Day opponent in 1976.

**Joe Quinn** — More votes next time.

**Russ Matteson** — Another Little League Championship in 1976.

**Gov. Ella Grasso** — The vice-presidential nomination at the Democratic convention.

**Fran Aniello** — A sports complex at Southwest school grounds.

**Bob O'Connor** — A sports complex at Southwest school grounds.

**Bob Losty** — More dollars in the town budget for sports. (In Windsor Locks?)

**Joe Urso** — Forget the bicycle paths, we want a path for jogging.

**Joe Fiore** — "Jack, don't forget your zip code."

**Gleason and Hope** — Your starting time is ready for the 1976 SDJR Greater Hartford Open.

**Harold Heintz** — When can I use the people mover at Bradley?

**Bob Taravella** — Tax collectors are nice guys, right?

**Joe Becker** — No zoning problems in 1976.

**Dotty and Tex Gill** — A second honeymoon at the French airport in Paris.

**Father Ted Raczyński** — Full house on Sundays, and full baskets in Suffield.

**Enid Shea** — Gallons of blood to spare in 1976.

**Bob Rumbold** — Become the new sidekick of Howard Cosell on Monday night football.

**Len Kadel** — More big brothers for the new year.

**Nick and Grace Ruggiero** — Pictures are better than ever.

**Doc Lingua** — My Miami Dolphins on the top again in the NFL.

**Lou LaTorra** — Like Russ, another Little League Championship in 1976. (VFW Award - couldn't happen to a nicer guy - my comment on Lou).

**Jack Redmond:** A press Pass for '76 from the Windsor Locks Journal.

Some of the above resolutions are on the serious side and therefore some should be on the funny side of life...so as one of my all-time favorites, Mr. Don Rickles, would say, let's learn to laugh at ourselves, it doesn't really hurt too much.

A Happy New Year to all the Cabbages & Kings and a great New Year for the town of Windsor Locks.

**Principal John O'Brien** — Only a few snow days in 1976.

**Senior Citizen Evelyn Williams** — No rocker chair salesman at my house in 1976.

**Bob and Ruth McKenna** — Bookings for the first trip to the moon.

**Tom Cooney** — Playing golf, with his old buddy Jack Fraher, every day of the year.

**Jack Fraher** — Same wish.

**Jim Rumbold** — His Boston Red Sox winning the World Championship over the Reds in 1976.

**Judge Bill Leary** — A New England Whaler championship.

**Route 75** — Another hamburger eatery, gas station, and car wash.

**Bradley Field** — Real international status.

**Town of Windsor Locks** — A finished downtown.

**Moe Goldfarb** — More items to auction off at the annual Lions affair.

**Paul McCarthy** — To be more involved in town affairs.

**Howard White** — Good weather and complete success for the Windsor Locks Bicentennial plans.

**Joe Marinone** — Another political fling.

**Tom Lillendahl** — More transportation themes for the Bicentennial.

**Dan Kycia** — After college, the pros will be looking for you, Dan.

**Paul King** — Baseball, basketball or football, you name it.

**Jack Redmond** — More Cabbages and Kings to interview.

**Erma Olivi Pane** — More inquisitive people for the coming year at the town hall.

**Cliff Randall** — A trip for Harriet and I to Casablanca, just for old times.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

**Doc Lingua -**

**Trip Down Memory Lane**

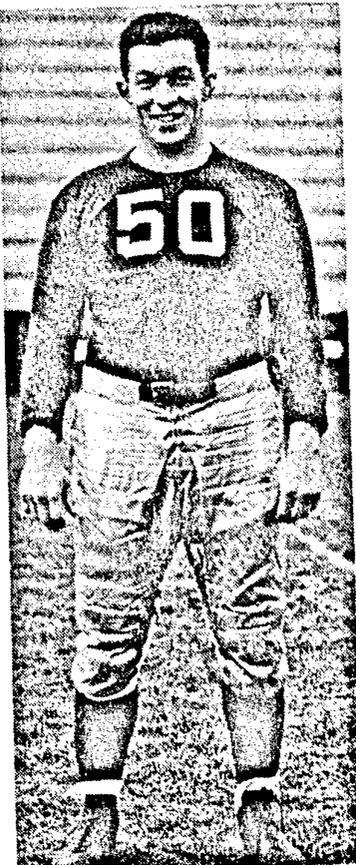
"For the College All-Stars," the announcer could hardly be heard over the noise of the crowd, "and playing right tackle, from Holy Cross, Peter Lingua."

The scene was the 1936 college annual contest against the pros at the Polo Grounds in New York City, atop Coogan's Bluff. The opposition was the New York Giants and the famous park was jammed. The 50,000 fans cheered for the stars and the pros. Young Pete Lingua, the Windsor Locks native, remembered this game and other games equally well in our trip down memory lane.

Three years before, another more than 50,000 fans were waiting patiently to watch two other teams square off, the Crusaders of Holy Cross and the Ivy League big one, the boys of Harvard. The way Doc tells it, "I was nervous," and for a boy from Grove and Main Streets, facing all those people his legs were unsteady but once the game started it was just another game for Pete and the Cross team. The score at the end was 10-7 with the Crusaders the victors. It went down as one of the finest games of any year in these parts.

Dr. Peter Lingua remembers well. The games, the players... Tuffy Leemans, Wayne Millner, Paul Massey, Jay Berwanger, the winner of the first Heisman Trophy and also the coaches. Dr. Eddie Anderson of Holy Cross and the other coach in his life, Billy Wise. He spoke of the games, players and coaches of yesterday and even the ones of today...all pro great Nick Buoniconti of Miami, who was from nearby Springfield. Nick is a former captain of Notre Dame at South Bend and is one of the doctor's old time favorites. He witnessed Nick grow from an untested high school player to one of the best of the pro circuit.

Our Springfield Animal Hospital veterinarian said his greatest thrill, outside of playing the game, from the spectator vantage point, was the three Super Bowl games he viewed in New Orleans, Los Angeles and Houston when his favorite team, the Miami Dolphins, were winning two and losing one of the super games. While in the company of the Dolphin's coach, Don Shula, he had the pleasure of meeting and talking to Mrs. Vincent Lombardi and reminiscing on her husband's contributions to the sport.



Dr. Lingua, who still resembles the 60-minute man he was in the middle thirties, looks like he could play tackle on defense and run fullback on offense as he did for the Crusaders. The former athlete was a very receptive interviewee. We discussed the past, and the names mentioned would fill many football record books, college yearbooks, provide many old newspaper clippings, and I for one, was elected to meet a genuine Saturday afternoon hero.

The Peter Lingua story had its kickoff in Windsor Locks. He went to the local high school, also attended the Cathedral High School in Springfield, where he met the first of two coaches who influenced his pigskin career. He spoke in glowing terms of his old coach Billy Wise. His fatherly

instincts guided young Pete to Holy Cross and the beginning of his football glory under the famed mentor Dr. Eddie Anderson.

Doc Lingua had all the intentions of becoming a coach and teacher, but the path of life works in strange ways. After his illustrious career of football and track at Holy Cross he gave it all up for the life of a doctor of medicine dealing with animals. He graduated from the University of Toronto Veterinarian School. He had many offers from the New York Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers (football) but had made his decision.

His first love, football, was always in his mind whenever he had the opportunity to break away from the treatment of animals after office hours. He was really a player at heart and it probably explains the close relationship he had for Nick Buoniconti and watching him practice with the Cathedral team.

Another love appeared, his pretty wife Anna Marie Galler turned his head from his first love so she could marry her Saturday hero.

The union was blessed with three sons and a daughter. The sons are all well known in Windsor Locks. David, the All-State basketball record holder for the Raiders, and also great golfer and Fairfield University grad. Peter, also went to Fairfield, and likewise is a great golfer. John, the disc jockey, known as "Big John Little" and daughter Terry, married to William Kelly, and they have a girl, Stephana.

The All American from Holy Cross is not all football. He's been a Boston Red Sox fan since 1932 and still thinks old Ted Williams is the greatest. Speaking of baseball, Doc felt the Windsor Locks Little League program was indeed "excellent" for all the boys. When he's not viewing sports at Fenway or Miami he's playing bridge on these cold nights. In the summer he plays against Dave and Peter, Jr., but the boys are too good for him. He admits being a better football player than golfer. I guess Dave and young Peter had to have something on their Dad.

Anna and Pete traveled to

Europe in 1974 for six weeks and visited all the countries and historical areas.

Dr. Lingua has served the town of Windsor Locks in many ways. Eighteen years on the Board of Education, same number of years on the Republican Town Committee. He's a member of the local Knights of Columbus, American Legion, and several years ago the VFW selected the doctor as their first "Sportsman of the Year."

### EPILOG

Doctor Peter Lingua has been fortunate in his life. His own adoring father sending him off to Holy Cross knowing his boy could make it in the outside world. Coach Wise having the faith in the boy's athletic capabilities, and finally the third man in the father role, Dr. Eddie Anderson of Holy Cross, who put him into action. All three played a role. The combination of their fatherly love and knowledge and his natural ability were all part of our walk down memory lane.

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**



### All-American Couple

Mike and Kathy Heneghan, newlyweds, live at 67½ Spring Street.

It's the only half in their newly acquired active life style. Spring Street is in the heart of Windsor Locks, at least the block from Center to Main. The Heneghans have adapted to the older part of town, but with their young ideas coming to the surface.

Mike is from Columbus, Ohio. He saw the light of day in 1947. (That was the year of the big baby boom, after the boys came home from the big one.) Kathy, (of the Heintz variety) came on the scene in Hartford five years later. The Ohioan and Nutmeg couple met at the Park Department, to use their words.

We all remember Kathy as the hard working cheerleader, a few years back, before someone discovered girls could play basketball, softball and other manly sports. Kathy made it quite plain she really wished all the girl participation started when she was a high school student. However, when she went to the University of Connecticut, she jumped right into what was available and ended up as the captain of the girls' swim team. She even gave field hockey a try at Storrs.

Nearly every night of the week Kathy can be found at the high school pool, using her talents as a lifeguard, or coaching the town team of nearly 100 boys and girls, ages 6-17. She handles the St. Roberts CYO girls' swimming mermaids, has supervised 12 teams, from April to August, playing softball at the high school.

Mike, the other part of this all athletic twosome, is employed by New York Life Insurance Company. His free time these days is with the Merchants Basketball teams. He has coached the St. Mary's CYO court teams even to the state tournament. Mike has as much drive as his pretty wife when it comes to being on the active side. When it's not time for sports Mike is involved with the St. Mary's Parish Council; he's on the Democratic Town Committee, and Justice of the Peace. He said the main reason he ran in the recent primary for the Board of Education was he "wanted to be more involved in town matters."

Who among us can say the young Heneghans are not involved? Just for the record, Mike was vice president of the Windsor Locks Little League for two years. He recently became the treasurer of the organization. He said, "I enjoy helping the kids and the lessons they learn on sportsmanship and competition." He's a former manager of the VFW team of the minor league.

Before Mike and Kathy settled (sic) down to married life they both secured college educations.

Kathy, as mentioned, journeyed up to UConn. Mike went to Central in New Britain, after semesters at Southern Connecticut and Northwest Community College. While Kathy was swimming at UConn, Mike was on the cross-country track team.

After the smoke settled (my cigar) and my pencil broke, and the two wholesome individuals were finished describing their past and present fun jobs, I said, "Let's get serious. No two persons could be this busy at your age, right?" Mike said he had forgotten to tell me he was also active in troop 155 of the Boy Scouts.

And then his young wife said she had neglected to say her husband was chosen as one of the "Outstanding Young Men of Windsor Locks in 1975." (Seems only right).

Like many of their contemporaries, Kathy and Mike have no heroes. The older citizens all admire the Kennedys, Trumans, Roosevelts, and the like; but the Heneghans as honest in their talk and as active as they are in real life said quite frankly they have not made up their mind as to a choice in 1976. They really have no man or woman of prominence they can relate to in this helter-skelter world.

They were married last June and traveled to beautiful Bermuda for their honeymoon. I'm sure they used the bikes on the island paradise.

### EPILOG

Kathy and Mike percolate their living to a degree that would

make other people look like they were standing still. Frank Sinatra made a song famous years ago called, "Young At Heart." This young couple at 67½ are certainly young at heart. Let me quote another youngest, Amy Alcott, the golfer, "When I get up in the morning I know there are things out there for me to do., When I go to bed at night I know I've accomplished something. That's what life is all about."



Ray Crone  
A Real Major Leaguer

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
Jack Redmond

### Ray Crone

#### A Real Major Leaguer

Raymond Hayes Crone was a big league pitcher. He's also a big league person.

Ray, a native of Memphis, Tenn., now makes his home in Windsor, with his lovely wife, the former Joan Carroll of West Hartford, and their five children.

I recently had the good fortune to spend an evening with Ray reminiscing over the "good old days" when he was a major league pitcher for the Milwaukee Braves, the Giants of New York and San Francisco, and I was a baseball fan "par excellence," of our national pastime.

The meeting of Ray Crone, and eventual interview, was made possible through the efforts of George Hall, a baseball fan and coach in his own right. George was running the annual Fathers and Sons Communion Breakfast at St. John's Episcopal Church in Warehouse Point, and invited Bob Creech Jr., the son-in-law, and myself to break bread and meet the big guy, who was the main speaker for the morning, for a future interview. The rest is this article concerning a boy who started playing baseball in Memphis at the high school level, then American Legion ball, and getting the big break by being signed by the then Boston Braves in June, 1949.

The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball lists the players and their records since 1901. Ray Crone is on page 349, with service in Milwaukee, 1954, 1957; the New York Giants, 1957, and the San Francisco team in 1958. His record of 30 wins and 30 setbacks. The book is jammed with the cold facts for the baseball fans and the real bugs of the game to mull over all year long.

Behind the statistics of a 30-30 record is a big (6 ft. 2 in.) man from the south with an easy going manner and quiet disposition. Before he hit the big show Ray paid his dues in the minors.

For a few seasons he traveled on the buses from city to town, eating and sleeping in small hotels and always feeling during the order, he hoped, at the end was the rainbow of the major leagues. He received his indoctrination in pro ball with the Owensboro, Kentucky team of the Kiddy League, Class D. His second stop was the Three-Eye circuit with Evansville, Indiana, Class B.

In 1951 he came north to Hartford, Conn. to play under Tommy Holmes for the local Chiefs. Big Gene Conley was one of his teammates in Hartford, and later with the Milwaukee team they shared the same bull pen. The following spring found Ray with the Atlantic Crackers, Class AA, Southern Association, under the wing of the famed Brooklyn outfielder, Dixie Walker. Ray remembers one of the players, Dusty Rhodes, with the Crackers. Dusty was the "Cinderella" player later with the New York Giants.

The early fifties was the turning point for Ray. In 1953 he was with Hartford again, then back with the Crackers under the managership of Gene Mauch. He didn't stay long with the Crackers, however. He was shipped to Jacksonville in the Sally League where they won a championship. After the season was over, he said, "I gained my pitching confidence" by playing winter ball in Puerto Rico under Mickey Owen. Owen was the catcher for the Dodgers who, in the World Series, a few years before, missed a third strike to Tommy Henrick of the New York Yankees resulting in another life for the Bronx bombers. Ray's teammates on the island were Vic Power, Jim Rivera, and a youngster named Aaron.

The winter playing paid off. Ray was signed with the Milwaukee Braves. His career in the majors had many highlights and probably best remembered are the managers and players he came in contact with, namely Charley Grimm, the ex-Chicago Cub great first baseman and old Fred Haney. Some of the Braves stars Ray won and lost with were the likes of Andy Pafko, Joe Adcock, Hank Aaron, Bobby Thomson, Eddie Matthews, Del Crandall, Warren Spahn and a Connecticut boy by the name of Joey Jay from Middletown, the first Little Leaguer to reach the big time.

Early in 1957 Ray's stay at Milwaukee ended. He was traded to the New York Giants and the Polo Grounds along with Danny

O'Connell and Thomson for Red Schoendienst, the current manager of the St. Louis Cardinals. The Braves went on to win the National League flag that year and Ray missed out on the World Series.

Ray, as he looked back, believed the old Polo Grounds was the real major league park. If I may digress for an instant...my own personal remembrance of the fabled grounds was always a magical place whenever my Dad and I journeyed up the island in the thirties to watch the Giants of Bill Terry and Mel Ott do battle with the hated Dodgers. The feeling I had, as a youngster, just to enter the park was like penetrating the holy place of sports. Ray's feelings, I believe, were identical as a player to mine, as a stargazing kid.

Ray's manager was Bill Rigney, favorite of Leo Durocher. The Giants were on their last leg in the big city. The Dodgers went west, so the owners of the New York team just followed suit. Some of the players Ray was with on the Giants may ring a bell to the oldtimers...Hank Sauer, Whitey Lockman, Wes Westrum, Darrell Spencer, Davey Williams, Johnny Antonelli, Ruben Gomez and one of the greatest... Willie Mays. Ray can always say... "I pitched in the last game for the Giants in the great park."

Leaving New York City for the streets of San Francisco at the beginning of the 1958 season was like going to another world, according to Ray. The Giants played in old Seals Stadium as the current park, Candlestick, was not built at the time. When the Giants went south to Los Angeles they played at the Coliseum. Ray said the football field was a farce to play the great game of baseball on.

It was the last year for Ray Crone in the big leagues. For the next two seasons he bounced around from Toronto to Birmingham, Charleston to Portland, and then back to the Canadian city. He felt a certain amount of "injustice" was given him in all the deals made for his talents by the minor league teams. He was still a young man and knew he had a few good seasons left in his arm but frustration, because of the circumstances, made him decide to leave baseball. He was given his outright release in 1961.

Looking back at some of the top stars he shared games with and against he rated Stan Musial, Mays, Duke Snider and big Ted Kluszewski as some of the best hitters he faced at the plate. Robin Roberts of the Phillies was one of his picks as the best hurlers he played against. Hank Aaron, he said, "was always a steady and dependable player, but lacked the magic of a Mantle or Maris."

The years go by swiftly and Ray is now settled with his family in Windsor with his wife Joan, daughters Carol Ann 19, Mary Ellen 18, and Kelly 16. Robbie is the youngest son at age 9, and Ray, Jr. at 11, plays hockey in a very serious way. He recently represented the town of Windsor at the Hartford Civic Center on a one and one contest on the ice. I guess Ray, Jr. will forsake the diamond for the rink.

Ray has been a baseball scout for Montreal for the past four years. He said scouting is now done on a centralized basis and all teams share in the new talent. A few seasons back Ray was involved in Windsor American Legion ball with John Miggins. John has since left this area. He played baseball in the International League and his brother, Larry, was with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1948 and 1952.

It was a terrific trip down memory lane with Ray Crone. I can only write down the memories; Ray lived it.

#### EPILOG

Raymond Crone said the real great players perform for the love of the game, not the money. Of course the big money comes with their greatness. Ray was a part of our national pastime. I'm glad I could meet him and focus in on his memory bank of the "good old days."

## "Cabbages and Kings" With Jack Redmond



**GEORGE F. WALLACE**  
**Printer's Ink In His Veins**

George F. Wallace, the man with the ready smile for everyone, is a real native son of Windsor-Locks.

How does one interview a man with over 35 years of knowledge of the newspaper business? It's like "Carrying coals to Newcastle," telling Joe Namath how to throw the pigskin on Sundays, or suggesting to Hank Aaron the best way to hold a bat.

The best way, and I'm sure George would agree, is to secure the facts and relate to the readers in a newspaper way. This man, Mr. Wallace, has more going for him than the Boston Red Sox have fans in Connecticut.

As mentioned, George was born in Windsor Locks, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George M. Wallace. George attended and graduated from St. Mary's parochial school and from the local high school. He's always been an active member of St. Mary's Church.

Newspaper work was not his first forte. Following graduation from the high school in 1919 he entered the business of optical work under the tutorship of Dr. L.D. Cutler, the local optometrist, optician, and jeweler of his day. George decided to work on repairing watches and other optician related duties. He achieved the rank of a Connecticut Registered Optician in 1933.

the Hartford Times from 1937 to 1945.

When the old timers talk of members from the Knights of Columbus, with long service, George's name has to be near the top...would you believe George has been a Knight for 55 years. He has the distinction of being a Life Honorary Member of the Riverside Council. He was the club's financial secretary for 32 years. When he resigned from the secretary role in 1969 he was tendered a testimonial dinner and presented with a color television set. He's also a life member of the Fourth Degree of the order.

George was a volunteer fireman for 38 years and served as the president of the local firefighters for 15 years. He retired from the fire department in 1962 and was given a gold wrist watch. He probably went home and cleaned it! Covering all protection of the town...George served on the local Police Commission for ten years, six as the secretary and four as the chairman.

The local Planning & Zoning Commission had his expertise for ten years and, naturally, he was the secretary for eight of those years. He was the secretary of the Windsor Locks Chamber of Commerce for, you guessed it, ten years. And to show he could be impartial, he served on many occasions as the moderator at the local town meetings.

It was not until 1937 when George received his baptism in the newspaper field and his first printer's ink indoctrination. He actually came into his new endeavor following the death of his father. The senior Mr. Wallace entered the operation of the Journal in 1889. He became editor and manager in 1922. Young George was hired to assist his brother, J. Finton Wallace, who had been in the business since 1908. When the late Finton Wallace retired from active work in 1969 George was named editor and manager. George remained in this position until his so-called retirement in 1972 when the paper was sold to the present editor and publisher, Mrs. Evelyn K. Lee of New Canaan. George's cheery appearance and pleasant greeting can still be found at the Journal several days a week. At the request of Mrs. Lee, George assists in the general operation of the local paper. As George said, "Coming from a family of newspaper folks, it's hard to step down." Mr. Wallace also served as the Windsor Locks correspondent for the Springfield Union and the Springfield Republican from 1937 to 1958, and

Before his busy life of joining and the many secretary involvements he married the former Eva Moran of North Main Street. The date was June 15, 1927 and George and Eva have been together for 48 years. Their son, George F. Wallace Jr., of Hartford, has three daughters and two sons. I'd say their grandfather carries his role as a grandad well. George looks like a grandfather should.

### EPILOG

I believe George F. Wallace would enjoy the following. It was written by William Allen White, famed writer and renowned newspaper editor: "I have never been bored an hour in my life. I get up every morning wondering what new, strange, glamorous thing is going to happen, and it happens at fairly regular intervals. Lady Luck has been good to me. I fancy she has been good to many. Only some people are dour, and when she gives them the come-hither with her eyes, they look down or turn away. But me...I give her the wink, and away we go."

## "Cabbages and Kings"

With  
**Jack Redmond**

Robert C. Oliva best exemplifies a member of the play... "Our Town." Our town being Windsor Locks.

A native son who found school teaching in nearby communities fulfilling and a lifetime of employment, finally made it back to his home town as a teacher.

Bob is all Locktown. Related to the Grasso and Carniglia families he settled in Windsor Locks with his teacher-wife Alice McCarthy of West Hartford and their five children.

He is content with a busy existence. A synopsis of Bob's everyday routine may make other mortals head spin by comparison. Bob is the eighth grade teacher at the Middle School for the normal discourse of his enlightenment to the young students and after the pencils and books he is off to the Joe Fiore Post Office for a two hour tour of duty. The work of the postal system continues on Saturday. He's been working for Uncle Sam's delivery service for the past seven years. Tuesdays after supper he was the adult swimming teacher at the high school pool these past seven years but finally gave up the extra off-duty job. In fact his first Tuesday evening off was spent being interviewed by you know who.

Bob graduated from the Central Connecticut College and later received his master's degree at the University of Hartford. As he tells it, Alice was at the Central school at the same time and they both had mutual friends but their paths never crossed until they became teachers at Bloomfield. It was a "schoolteacher romance" in the All American City for the young educators. Bob said his four years at Bloomfield was an "experience" every teacher could appreciate.

Alice gave up teaching when

the twins, Robert and Lisa, were born eleven years ago. After the double happiness Kelly 10, Kevin 8, and then little Maria 4, came by to complete the happy family of Olivas.

After the Bloomfield experience Bob came home...taught in Southwest School for four years and now hangs his briefcase at the Middle School and calls it "the turning point of his teaching career." He explained the difficult time most middle school students have being on the fringe area of grammar school and the big high school. He believes the proper instruction of this most active student is important as to their future growth in higher education. His wife Alice has now returned to her teaching career as a reading counselor at the high school.

When the school sessions end in June Bob continues to labor, but it probably could be described as some fun when he's at the town pool keeping order for all the kids in their swimming togs. Bob started with the Park Department when he was only 12-years-old and during his 24 seasons has had every job someone could think of during the hot months. The Oliva family manages to get away for a few weeks in the summer and Cape Cod is their usual hideaway.

In town affairs, Bob keeps up with all the new and old voters as the Democratic Registrar of Voters. He has held the position for the past four years. He's a member of the Knights of Columbus (3rd and 4th degree) and is the scholarship chairman for the Fourth Degree.

In church activities Bob has served on the St. Robert's parish council and for the past four years has been a lecturer on Sunday mornings. He believes the new concept of the Catholic Church as to the changes are "beautiful." Bob mentioned the



**BOB OLIVA - TRULY A  
NATIVE SON**

late Pope John as a "great Pope." He said, "Pope John made the mass more personal to the layman." On Wednesday afternoons Bob can be found instructing the seventh graders on Catholicism.

When asked, "How about a favorite team in sports?" "That's easy, the New York Yankees and you can tell all the local Red Sox fans the Yankees are on the way back." Favorite player, "Joe DiMaggio, naturally." Favorite people in the political arena, "Harry Truman and Ella." Both individuals were and are referred to as standing for their convictions."

As for his home town, his kind of town, he believes Bradley Field should be international in scope and is good for the town. The new downtown area, he said, was badly needed. The housing for the elderly was just great for our senior citizens.

### EPILOG

Bob Oliva, a real hometown boy who is satisfied with his place of birth. There's only one problem, his wife Alice desires a trip to the eternal city, Rome. Bob will just have to take some time off from his busy schedule and show the Irish lass his ancestral beginning. I believe Bob will make the trip because as a famous playwright once said, "Some people are spectators and some people are performers." Bob Oliva is not on the spectator side of life.



# Happy Valentine's Day

## Jack Redmond



When I was asked to do this Valentine for Jack Redmond, originator of "Cabbages & Kings," my first reaction was, "Oh, Wow! Everybody knows Jack! So much of his interest, concern, and compassion for others has seeped into his columns that there isn't much left to write about him!"

But, in these days of economic stress, one doesn't ignore a directive tendered by one's editor. Besides, I was curious about the man!

Were I to choose a song for the mood violins to play in the background as I hunt and peck away, it would probably be "Getting To Know You" because while Jack has been constructing (newspaper) columns, he's also been building a high tower of friendships.

Getting to know Jack isn't difficult. His attributes include three prerequisites for opening all doors; a quick Irish wit, an exuberant personality, and a sincere interest in whomever answers his ring. Getting to know him well requires a little more digging!

Jack was born in the Newhallville area of New Haven. He grew up in a neighborhood which boasts of such famous personages as Albie Booth, Yale football great; Richard Lee, New Haven's "permanent mayor"; Foster Furculo, former governor of Massachusetts; Rev. Robert Keating, chaplain of the Sport's Writer's banquets; and Ernest Borgnine, the actor.

Jack graduated from what is now known as Wilbur Cross High and then spent three years in the Army's Signal Corps. In 1946, fresh from a hitch in Guam and Saipan, he began a 30 year hitch to his childhood sweetheart Rita Bethke. They had met when Rita was 12 and Jack 16, and, although Jack doesn't strike one as being a procrastinator, it wasn't until he was mustered out of the service that he mustered up enough courage to tie the knot.

Somewhere between pabulum and puberty, Jack developed a deep interest and talent for writing. So, while stationed at Tyson, Tennessee, he launched his writing career by penning a column for the "Army Gas Bag" appropriately named by the Barrage Balloon unit stationed there.

Although the writing bug chewed away at him, Jack decided that he, in his own words, "had to be more practical," so he swapped his typewriter for a calculator and enrolled in New Haven College to study accounting.

Following graduation in 1955, Jack was employed by Miles Laboratories and the Redmonds moved to San Francisco for two years. That dormant writing bug reactivated and our "frustrated journalist," as he terms himself, took a course in journalism at City College.

The Redmonds returned East and for the next five years made their home in New Haven and then Ivoryton where Jack worked as an accountant by day and kept the natives of Killingworth up-to-date on local news through a column he wrote for The New Era in Deep River.

Jack was then transferred to Elkhart, Indiana and he and Rita packed up their belongings, which now included two little daughters, and headed west again.

It was while in Indiana that they became avid Notre Dame fans. When Jack took his K. of C. Third Degree, it was with a group of "Fighting Irish" who ran interference for him.

Jack has always had a deep affection for sports. He was the youngest player in the 1942 State Softball Tournament and fondly (?) recalls rising at 5 a.m. to practice hockey in the old New Haven arena.

"I've always loved all sports," Jack will tell you. One of the highlights of his budding journalistic career was winning two tickets to a Red Sox game for a column he wrote for "Tell It To The Times". Although the name of his game today is "just golf" he's the world's greatest fan, and when he isn't sitting at his typewriter writing about sports, you can usually find him in the stands rooting for his favorite team.

"I used to be a Democrat and a Yankee fan," Jack told me. "Today I'm a conservatist and a Red Sox fan." Although the Redmond name is prominent in the political field, Jack will tell you, "I would never run for any office." He loves politics, reads everything he can get his hands on, but doesn't feel that one has to run for public office to be involved.

Jack is also a history buff and proud of being "an All-American nut". In his high school yearbook they wrote of him, "My country....right or wrong", and, while he admits to having to defend his ideals more with each passing year, he's still firm in his youthful convictions.

On the Redmond's 30th anniversary they flew to England and then to Jack's beloved Ireland. They visited Wexford, situated about 25 miles south of Dublin, where the Redmond clan

originated. They walked up Redmond Place and down Redmond Way and anyone who listens to Jack's accounting of his Wexford visit doesn't have to have a Blarney Stone fall on them to know it made the adrenal pump.

"The Kennedys and the Fitzgeralds came from there," Jack told me proudly, hastily adding, "That and five cents won't get me a cup of coffee," but beggora, when you're as deep into history as he is, sure and it would.

The Redmonds have been residents of Windsor Locks for 11 years now. About to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary, they are active and involved. One of their big passions is Broadway shows and they see as many as time and pocketbook allows, going backstage whenever the opportunity present itself. Jack recalls with a chuckle the night they caught Angela Lansbury in her "body suit" when they went backstage to visit the company of "Mame."

The two Redmond girls live close by. Daughter Patricia Creech and her husband Bob, of Windsor Locks Little League fame, live in East Granby. Daughter Nancy Deshaies, her husband Frank, and their two children, "Pat and Mike" live up the road a piece in Marshfield, Mass. "Pat" is Patricia Lynn, and "Mike" is Michael Redmond Deshaies, and both are in the process of proving to Jack and Rita that grandchildren are the reward for growing old, when they aren't keeping their grandparents young swimming at H.J.'s pool, eating at McDonald's or dreaming up fun things to do.

Jack has been an accountant with Combustion Engineering for the past 11 years but has always found time for writing, Junior Achievement, Senior Little League and the Knights of Columbus.

A devout man, Jack makes an annual retreat at the Holy Family Monastery in Farmington. He and his fellow retreaters, Jack Foster, Joe Fiore, John Scanlon, John and Lester O'Leary, and Cliff O'Connor have been making this retreat for years, and knowing all of them, I'm sure the monastery must jump!



Jack has even found time to write his autobiography "for the children and grandchildren" although I'm sure that if he decides to have it published, he'll have enough time to write 40 sequels.... "The Return of Jack Redmond".... "Jack Redmond Writes Again".... "The House That Jack Built".... and so on, into eternity.

How can I sum up Jack Redmond, hiding there in the wings, pen poised, yellow legal pad on his lap, one ear glued to this week's interviewee, the other glued to a hockey game?

Perhaps by quoting something written by Franz Joseph Haydn.... "I write according to the thoughts I feel. When I think upon my God, my heart is so full of joy that the words dance and leap from my pen; and since God has given me a cheerful heart, it will be pardoned me that I serve Him with a cheerful spirit."

Happy Valentine's Day, Jack!  
DOTTY GILL



We're running another picture of Jack Redmond this week to make up for the one that turjped him into a "ghost writer" last week. Jack's tongue-in-cheek reaction to his Valentine was... "Loved the picture, hated the story." Our response is... "Sticks and Blarney Stones..." We're also running a picture of Jack with his grandchildren "Pat & Mike" to whom he dedicated his Christmas letter.

