

Wedge

December  
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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER *The* OF THE SOUTH WEDGE  
**WEDGE**

### SWPC Annual Meeting

by David Burrows

The South Wedge Planning Committee's Annual Meeting & Pot Lunch Supper was held on Thursday, November 13th to a room full of friends, neighbors and past and present committee members. It was an evening of celebrating the past year's accomplishments and of recognizing the many contributions to the neighborhood by its inhabitants. The business of electing new members to the SWPC board, as well as the presentation of upcoming projects, were part of the evening's program.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to have neighbors get to know each other, to have neighbors learn the role of the Planning Committee, and to encourage awareness of, and participation in neighborhood activities. The meetings take place each Fall at Calvary St. Andrew's Church and the public is encouraged to attend.

After all had feasted on the vast assortment of home cooked dishes, the presentation began. *Wedge* Editor Jay Parsons, was presented, in absentia, with a gift in honor of his 5 years of service to the community. Jay's teaching duties have left him with too little time to remain on in more than an advisory capacity to the *Wedge*.

Associate Director, Anne Waasdorp, and *Wedge* renovator, Peter Monacelli, presented drawings and data explaining the proposed construction of new housing units to be built on Hanna Place. The



### A Time to Remember

by Art Jones, SWPC Chairperson

On Thursday, November 20, I had the honor of presiding over my first, and the South Wedge Planning Committee's (SWPC) eleventh meeting. The annual meeting provided us with the opportunity to meet with friends and neighbors, to talk about SWPC's accomplishments over the past year and to recognize the efforts of individuals important to the South Wedge and its success. It was good to remember the accomplishments of the past year:

—Greater Rochester Cablevision moved into its new corporate home on Mt. Hope Avenue.

—The Urban Workcamp had a new director, Ed Bronowicki, resulting in an excellent program of learning and experience.

—The Filling Station opened.

—There was another successful neighborhood celebration in Marie Daley Park.

—The development of the New Old Stone Warehouse.

—The beginning of the development of the *Wedge* House, which will house the Tool Library, the South Wedge Historic Office and *The Wedge* newspaper.

—A new facility to house the South Avenue branch of the city library opened.

—The City Assessor's public presentation explaining the process involved in the new property assessment took place.

It was equally important to remember some of the many people who contributed to the success of the *Wedge* over the past eleven years: Ben Kendrick, McKenzie, berg, Bill Coppard, Anne Waasdorp, Ron Deb Messmer, Marie Daley, Rev. Maier, Kim Parsons, Bob Shepard, Judy Lee Burrows. Without the contribution of these and many other volunteers the South Wedge might never have achieved the accomplishments that make it such a rich and varied neighborhood in which to live. One individual to whom the South Wedge owes great thanks is Rev. Judy Lee Hay. Throughout each of the past eleven years, Judy has continued to provide a unique supportive and motivational guidance to the entire community and its projects.

units will be built with a loan from the Martin Luther King Foundation and will sold to qualified first-time, low to moderate income buyers. (see story on page 3).

moderate income buyers. (see story on page 2).

moderate income buyers. (see story below).

SWPC Chairman Art Jones summarized the many accomplishments of the past year:

**Materials Grant**—Thirty area homeowners received assistance for home repairs during 1986; the City extended funding for the program through 1987.

**Tool Lending Library**—Librarian Eric Worl assumed duties, and reorganized, acquired new tools, and conducted workshops for the library; *Wedge* House made progress towards becoming the Tool Library's new home; search for an acceptable insurance carrier has suspended tool loans, but operations are expected to be resumed early in 1987.

**Urban Workcamp**—Eleven area youths, under the supervision of Ed Bronowicki, had the experience of repairing and painting three houses, including *Wedge* House.

**Landscaped Open Spaces**—The "pocket parks" on the corners of South and Comfort and South and Alexander were maintained through SWPC channels; SWPC is investigating conversion of the parks into land trusts.

**Marie Daley Park Celebration**—Over 175 people attended this year's picnic celebration, in the second full year of the completed park.

**Gregory Street Triangle**—The City has agreed to incorporate SWPC's plans for a landscaped pedestrian area at the corner of Gregory Street and South Avenue. Construction will occur as part of the South Avenue Street reconstruction program.

**Housing Committee programs**—SWPC's Housing Committee referred

area residents to the Housing Council of Rochester for assistance in landlord disputes and tenant rights.

The Housing Committee organized work projects between Habitat for Humanity workers and area residents who needed immediate home repairs. The committee also held a workshop for residents interested in learning legal rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords.

**Block Meetings**—SWPC reps regularly meet with residents in a specified area to discuss various concerns that the Planning Committee may be able to assist in.

**Wedge Newspaper**—The South Wedge Planning Committee continued to support, contribute to, and assist in the production and distribution of *The Wedge*, a bimonthly publication.

**Wedge House**—SWPC purchased 288 Sanford Street for eventual use as headquarters for the Tool Lending Library, South Wedge Historical Office, and *The Wedge* newspaper.

Urban Workcamp renovated the building's exterior, and Monacelli Construction provided labor for door and window replacement and entrance construction. Work on *Wedge* House will resume in Spring 1987.

After the recap of the year's events, there was a special surprise tribute to SWPC's Director of eleven years, Reverend Judy Lee Hay. Over ten friends, co-workers, and associates came forth with accounts of past experiences with Judy and the Planning Committee and Calvary-St. Andrews Church. Her perseverance, personal concern for the community, and long list of accomplishments were praised by all who have known and worked with her over the years.

By the end of the evening, the attendance had absorbed the spirit of the South Wedge Planning Committee, and left a renewed sense of liveliness in the neighborhood. The committee is continuing its development of the South Wedge neighborhood.

South Wedge Planning Committee  
68 Ashland Street  
Rochester, New York 14620

## Letters, Events, Services

### Adam Walsh Child Resource Center

Child molestation—a problem many human service agencies in Rochester encounter when working with families. A consortium of these agencies have launched a cooperative effort to make an impact on this issue. The result: the Rochester office of the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center which opened in October 1985 and is located at the Cooperative Extension at 249 Highland Avenue.

The Center is not a United Way agency, although it has been approved as a designated donee. Operating expenses are met by contributions from individuals, businesses, community groups and fundraising activities. The second annual Dinner/Auction held just last month provides for about one half the annual budget.

The Center's main focus is to provide preventive education programs on child sexual abuse to children, parents and professionals. Support and referral services are available for families dealing with molested or missing children. Legislative action is also sought, for little is accomplished if a child finally becomes brave enough to tell about being sexually abused but the legal system does not punish the perpetrator. Additionally, a resource center containing materials pertinent to children's personal safety (films, books, video cassettes) is open for use by parents and professional.

In its first year of operation, the Center has done preventive educational programs for over 2,300 children, parents and professionals and has also assisted twenty-one families in which a child is missing or molested. The Center has co-sponsored a Share Fair and Sexual Abuse Conference for professionals as well as surveyed service needs of over 250 agencies, schools and law enforcement groups.

As is the case with most non-profit agencies, the Adam Walsh Center actively seeks and uses volunteers. A training for speakers who will present child sexual abuse prevention programs will begin in January and continue for eight weeks. If you are interested in volunteering or borrowing materials from the Resource Center, call the Center at 461-1000 for more information. As the needs of our community develop, the Adam Walsh Center continues to strive to meet these needs and to safeguard the welfare of our children.



Two semi-detached units identical to these will be built through Affordable Housing funds

### New Highland Branch Library Opens

by Nan Curry

On November 10 the doors to the new Highland Branch Public Library opened to residents of the South Wedge, Swillburg, Elwanger Barry, South Ave.-Mt. Hope and Strong Neighborhoods. The ramped-for-the-handicapped library, built as an addition to the James P.B. Duffy School (#12), is architecturally compatible to the existing building and was borne of a need which arose primarily after the arson of the branch library at 715 South Avenue in 1978.

During a two year interim a bookmobile was the sole supplier of reading matter, which situation finally necessitated investigation into a less "primitive" method of satisfying the readers' needs, culminating in the rental, from the city, of the building on the corner of Gregory St. and South Avenue.

In 1984, the announcement of an inevitable rent hike from \$8,000 a month to \$22,000 determined the need for some creative planning from city officials and Board of Education members, resulting in the new addition to the city-owned property, on the north end of #12 school.

Jean Connell, head librarian, finds her new "home" comfortable and, until school children are dismissed, quieted by the blue carpeting, a welcomed change from dank draftiness of the building on 999 South Avenue. A new centralized computer system eases the job of the librarians, with the ability to make accessible communication between the branch library and departments of the main library.

At the present time, hours at Highland Branch Library are: Monday 1 p.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1 p.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m.-6 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1 p.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday 12 noon-5 p.m.

It is hoped that when full staffing of 2 full time librarians, 2 clerks, 4 pages, and one maintenance person is secured, the hours will be stretched to include the noon hour so that workers from Highland Hospital (across from the library), and businesses in the area may make their free hour a "literary retreat".



Highland Branch: Rochester's newest public library.

### Library Calendar

Library will be closed January 19—Martin Luther King Day.

Puppet Show—Saturday, January 24th at 2:00.

Toddler Story-time Registration (for children 2 years old, and a parent) begins on Monday, January 5th—Program will begin Tuesday, February 10th at 10: am. The program runs for 8 weeks.

Preschool Story-time Registration (for children 3, 4, and 5 years old) begins on Monday, January 5th—The program will begin on Tuesday, February 10th at 10:30 am.

Films for Children—February Recess Week:

Tuesday, Feb. 17th at 2:00 pm (45 min.)

Thursday, Feb. 19th at 2:00 pm (45 min.)

Children's program—Saturday February 21st at 2:00 pm

More information is available on any of the programs and activities held at Highland Branch Library by calling 271-3840

#### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	1—8
Tuesday	10—12 and 1—6
Wednesday	1—6
Thursday	10—12 and 1—8
Friday	1—6
Saturday	12—5

**THE WEDGE**

Editor (on leave)

Jay Parsons

Manager

David Burrows

Contributors

Nancy Curry, Becky DeWitt, Art Grimwood, Debra Hoffman, Art Jones, Anne Waasdorp

Photography

David Burrows

Typesetting

Rick Hall, Weldon Press

Printing

Webster Printing

Production

David Burrows, Art Jones, Laurel Tart, Gloria Turner

Advertising

Nan Curry, 35 Menlo Place, 473-9435

Distribution

Calvary-St. Andrews Volunteer Staff, Art Jones and the U.S. Mail

### Affordable Housing: New Homes in Neighborhood

by Anne Waasdorp

The New York State Affordable Housing Corporation approved the South Wedge Planning Committee's Proposal for \$60,000 to be used to reduce the purchase price of two semidetached singles and one double. The housing units will be built by Monacelli Construction Company on land currently held by Covenant Development Corporation near the corner of Mt. Hope and Gregory Street.

The two single semi-detached housing units will be sold for forty thousand dollars per unit. The double will be sold for eighty-five thousand dollars. The singles are targeted for families with incomes between \$22,500-\$24,500 and the double is targeted for a family with an income between \$28,500 and \$32,000.

If you are interested in receiving notification of an information meeting that will be held about these housing opportunities, please call the South Wedge Planning Committee office and ask to be placed on the Affordable Housing Information List. The office number is 325-4950.

WEDGE is a newspaper published bi-monthly in a cooperative effort by South Wedge Planning Committee and South Wedge residents. This organization, its members and the staff make every attempt to provide accurate coverage of neighborhood news as well as local, state and national news that affects the neighborhood. Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the view and/or opinions of the above mentioned organization, its staff or its members. Please send any story suggestions, news releases, etc to WEDGE, c/o The South Wedge Planning Committee, 68 Ashland Street, Rochester, NY 14620, before the 15th of each month preceding the issue in which you want the information announced.

Neighbor News

**Winter Photography Classes at Community Darkroom**

The winter session of photography classes at the Community Darkroom, 713 Monroe Avenue, starts January 17. Classes include basic camera techniques, basic and intermediate black & white photography, intermediate darkroom techniques, photographic composition, hand coloring/toning of black & white prints, a workshop in self-promotion and a cross-country skiing photo workshop. Classes are 3-8 weeks in length and cost \$20-\$65. Registrations are now being accepted Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm. Call 271-5920 for a free catalog and more information.

In addition to classes, the Community Darkroom also provides darkroom rental and black & white photographic services. Call 271-5920 for more information on these services.



Student Ed Dennis mounting his finished prints in an Intermediate class at Community Darkroom

**Materials Grants Award to SWPC**

Mayor Thomas P. Ryan, Jr. on Thursday, Dec. 4, in ceremonies at City Hall presented certificates to 12 agencies including neighborhood groups which have administered \$448,000 in Special Materials Grants for exterior home repairs to eligible residents over the past two years.

The grant program using federal Community Development funds provided through the City's Neighborhood Development Bureau only allocates one percent of each total contract amount for administrative costs, which are subsidized by the agencies through "donated staff time". The organizations currently administer 24 contracts and distribute grants of up to \$600 for qualified improvements on specific streets and leverage further investment activity.

More than \$1 million has been distributed through the Special Materials Grant program since it began in 1979. The administering agencies solicit eligible homeowners, make sure they qualify for the fix-up funds, provide pre and

post-inspection services and execute all necessary paperwork.

The funds have allowed property owners to repair chimneys, roofs, gutters, windows, garage doors, steps, driveways and porches and to paint and side residences. Most of the \$233,000 in grants distributed during 1986 were used for painting.

The Certificate of appreciation recipients included:

- Northwest Community Services
  - Michael Rotundo
  - Cindy Foss
  - Martha Hoag
  - Cheryl Garlock
- South Wedge
  - Ann Waasdorp
  - Chocolate City
  - Lee Southerland
- NEAD
  - Suzanne McSain
  - St. Peter & Paul
  - Sister Bernadette Hemingway
- Montgomery Neighborhood Center
  - David Huddleston
  - Shirley Edwards
  - Cheryl Garlock
- 19th Ward Community Association
  - Sue Segelman
  - Don Pryor
- Lewis Street
  - Leo Pendergast
  - Louis Sortino
- SEAC
  - Keith Belton
- Baden Street
  - Sherry Agnew
  - Pamela Porter
- Montgomery Neighborhood Center
  - David Huddleston
  - Shirley Edwards
  - Thomas Crews
- Group 14621
  - Carol Schwartz
- NEBCA
  - Laura Nobles
  - Glynis Ault

**Kwanzaa Activities**

As Rochester prepares for the holiday season, we at First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. will be observing our holiday that celebrates family unity, African heredity and Black survival.

We will be celebrating a traditional African holiday for the month of December. The month-long version will end on January 1, 1987 at 2:00 am. While the shorten adapted version developed by Dr. M. (Ron) Karenga and practiced by the middle-class Blacks begins December 26, the First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. will start December 1, 1986.

For the month of December, families will take the time for reassessment. Families are asked to gather for dinner each evening, to pray, to tell stories and to reflect on what contributions, we as people, have made to our community during the past year. A *Kwanzaa Workshop* will be held on December 1, 1986 and December 6, 1986 (7:30 pm at First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. 219-221 Hamilton St.). Detailed information will be given about the nonth-long version and the short version. Also, each Sunday in December, Minister Lawrence Lee Evans will give lectures about Kwanzaa and its relationship to Black people.

Three of the major events are: African Mother's Day, Africans Mother's Day Tea and the Kwanzaa Feast. Africans Mother's Day will be held at Wheatley Community Library (7:30 pm) 13 Bronson Avenue. The Tea will take place at 227 Edinburgh (9:00 pm). The Kwanzaa Feast begins at (9:00 pm on December 31, 1986 and will end January 1, 1987 at 2:00 am. The Kwanzaa Feast will be held at First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc.—219 Hamilton Street.

The Kwanzaa Celebration will consist of cuising represented by the diversity within the African people. The menu will reflect the diversification and the commonality of African people.

Each activity will explain the uniqueness of our Tutorial Program and Cultural Programs. Registration will be possible at the end of each activity.

For more information, contact Gwendolyn Evans (Akilah Ife) at (716) 461-0379 or write Kwanzaa c/o First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. 219-221 Hamilton St., Rochester, NY 14620.

Donations are requested for all events except the one at Wheatley Community Library.

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## Family

### Peter Noce's Seeds Sprout

by Vince Corsall

PETER NOCE with his family, wife Maria (nee, Quatrochi) and seven children, settled in the Southwedge from New Orleans in the early 1920's.

He had come from Italy in 1883 and became a sharecropper. Later he raised cotton and sugar on a farm of his own. When the Mississippi levee broke, it destroyed all of his crops and hope.

His brother, Salvator (whose family was featured in *The Wedge* recently) had a business on Mt. Hope Avenue opposite Gregory Street where he brought up his own family of seven children and wife. He sent for his brother and his family.

They moved into a home at 9 Walton Street. There, with his five sons, he went into the coal heaving business, working from the Lehigh Valley coal tressle on Mt. Hope Avenue opposite Hamilton Street.

His children, upon marrying, settled in the Southwedge first, then moved throughout the city. Their names and deeds are well known.

#### THE SILVIOS

Lena, the oldest daughter (w. Carl Silvio) had seven children. Living at 13 Walton St., Carl, a man with a most congenial personality, labored at various jobs, many in the Southwedge including a store on South Ave. near Comfort St.

Their daughter, Antoinette (w. Michael Cararelli) had daughters Constance (w. Carmen Presto, ch. Marianne and Joan) and Nicci (w. Eugene DiNero, ch. Michele, Michael and Diane). Their son, Lawrence (w. Rita Marfugi, ch. Debbie, Denise, Larry and Mark).

Another daughter, Mary (w. James Tubiolo) had son Peter (w. Inga, ch. Kristen and Petra) and daughter, Eleanor (w. Joseph Fricano).

Son, Carl (w. Anne Petrone) has son Carl (w. Delores Mancuso, ch. Carl) and Kenneth (w. Sharon Peck, ch. Jon, Sara).

Daughter, Frances (w. Frank Giorgio) has daughters Nicolene and Joanne (w. Richard Mabalas, ch. David, Brian and Nicolene W. John Gregory, ch. Peter). Son, Peter (w. Marianne Cardarelli)



with children Larry, Carol, Carl and Beatrice (w. Joseph Forneri, ch. Joseph, Kathie, and Peter).

Theresa, the youngest, (w. Donald Podlish) has son, Donald (w. Maryjo McGray) and daughters Judy and Mary (w. Roger Smith, a Southsider, ch. Lindsay Beth and Kristen).

#### THE SAM NOCES

Sam (w. Ida Mantuine) ran a sheetmetal business with his brother at Gregory St. and South Ave., presently Trant's. They have children: Mary (w. Jack Allen, ch. Linda) and Lillian (w. Floyd Clawson, ch. Lisa Michael and Ricky).

#### FRANK NOCES

Frank (w. Josephine Sapienza, who lived on South Ave. off Hickory St.) had one child, Mary (w. Charles Kingston, ch. Ricky, Mark, Robert and Charles).

#### THE LIPARYS

Mary (w. Dominic Lipary) continued to live on Walton St. at the homestead until the early death of Dominic. Their children are: Angelo (w. Jean Cirquone, ch. Donald, MaryAnne and Michael), Carmen (w. Alfred Guzetta, ch. Judy, Alfred and Gary) and Mary (w. Steven Smalski, ch. Elaine and Debra).

#### THE HENRY NOCES

Henry (w. Antonette Speranza) had one daughter, Mark (w. Frank Cantatore, ch. Marie, Andrew, and Anette). They, too, lived on Walton St.

#### THE JOSEPH NOCES

Joseph, who sponsored me in Catholic Confirmation (w. Jeanne Rolo) was in the Gregory St. business also. He had boys: Peter and Joseph, Jr. and one daughter, Marie (w. Robert Smith from the Southwedge, ch. Julie and Robert).

#### THE ANTHONY NOCES

Anthony (w. Lillian Petralia) also started out in the Southwedge. Their daughter is Lillian (w. Joseph Catalano) had children Theresa (w. Dallas Morehouse, ch. Scott and Lorrie) Antoinet (w. Ray Woener, Keith and twins, Karen and Sharon) Vincent and Joseph, Jr.

It is with pride that I present these, my cousins, who have given a strong character and work ethic to the marketplace, their community, and to their homes. Peter can rest peacefully.

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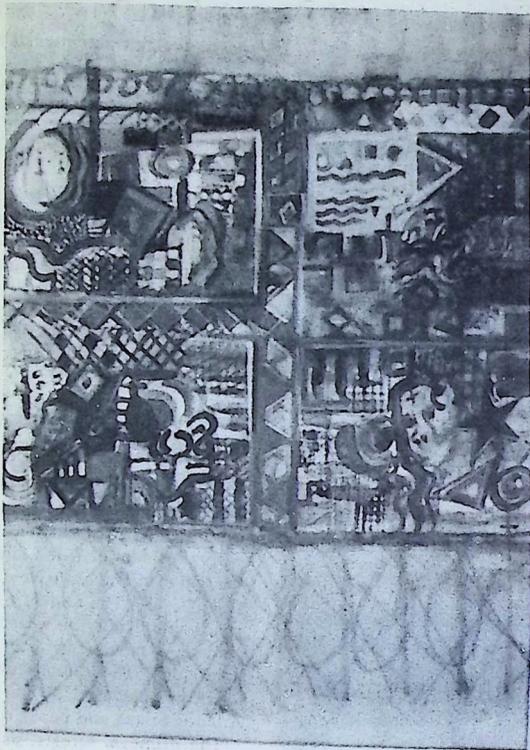
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Expressions

Community Issues



**"Expressions of Thought"  
at Wedge Gallery**

On Friday, November 7, 1986, the Wedge Gallery held an opening reception for an exhibition entitled: "Expressions of Thought" paintings by Linda Bigness.

The imagery evolves out of subconscious thoughts that surface during the creative process. Ms. Bigness works in acrylic and occasionally combines collage; allowing her to manipulate the materials as the pictures develop.

Ms. Bigness is a graduate of Syracuse University, College of Visual & Performing Arts.

"Expressions of Thought" runs from November 7-December 23. Gallery hours are: 9:30-5:30 Monday-Friday, and 10-3 Saturday. For further information, contact: Phil Caldwell, Gallery owner, at 473-6400.

**"Developing Responsible Citizenship"  
at School 12**

"We have been grading your children on citizenship, but we have not been teaching citizenship." This statement was made by School 12's principal Barbara Wager who in two assemblies addressed over a thousand people gathered for the Open House on September 22nd. In a more private setting Wager shares that citizenship isn't taught consistently in school, and it isn't taught in most homes either. Wager says, "People have stopped talking about a structured system of values. No one wants to preach to children, but everyone thinks someone else is doing it. Therein lies the greatest false assumption of modern society, and the lack of a system of values is fully evident in our schools and in our streets."

- Teenagers are committing suicide in record numbers.
- Half of all high school seniors drink daily, 17 percent have used cocaine, and an estimated 189,000 smoke marijuana every day
- Half of all persons arrested for serious crimes are under the age of twenty.
- The United States has the worst record in the developed world for childbirth, abortion, and pregnancy among teenagers.

Wager indicates that society needs to teach children processes for identifying positive values and for living in harmony with others. She says that, "While teachers and administrators are managing to hold the lid on in school buildings, they are spending more physical and mental energy on behavior management than on creative instruction."

In June of 1986 the school won a grant of \$500 from the Center for Educational Development for a project to build citizenship. That, along with \$165 from the school budget, made it possible to purchase the character education curriculum, "Developing Responsible Citizenship." The Parent-Teacher Group will finance a trip in October for Vicki Gouveia, administrative intern and project manager, to receive training in program implementation at The American Institute for Character Education in San Antonio, Texas.

At School 12 the project has a special twist that is a surprise even to The American Institute which was its author.

The school is seeking to involve parents and community people in teaching the curriculum. Gouveia says, "The job of creating a responsible citizenry is a joint task of home, school, and community. We need to work together." Gouveia will train interested adults to present the material and lead classroom discussions. "Children need to see parents and neighbors standing beside and behind teachers as expectations for responsible behavior are set," Gouveia adds.

School 12's interest in a program to boost citizenship training grew out of a committee established last year to find ways to reduce school suspensions. The committee was inspired and organized by the Urban League Initiative which sought to involve the community in school improvement. One goal of the School 12 Action Committee was to find a way to generally improve student behavior and provide children with decision-making tools needed to make good choices in crises situations. Principal Wager read about the program "Developing Responsible Citizenship" in an educators' journal.

"Developing Responsible Citizenship" is a kindergarten to junior high program used to:

- Raise self esteem
- Promote self discipline
- Improve decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Instill positive attitudes/values

Lessons provide opportunities for students to identify individual abilities, strengths, and talents; determine the role of self-discipline in setting and achieving goals; recognize the advantages of working together cooperatively; identify the role of peer pressure and how to meet it; and recognize the need to establish rules and make laws, and the importance of obeying them.

Lessons are usually comprised of a story followed by discussion or role play. The length of each lesson is about 15 minutes for primary grades (K-3), and 30 minutes for intermediate grades (4-6).

Adults who are interested in participating should contact Vicki Gouveia at School 12 (325-4560).

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## History

### The Wilderness of Western New York

by Becky DeWitt

*This is the first in a series on the early history of the area now known as the South Wedge. Sources are available upon request.*

A winter trek across Mount Hope, through the Park and Cemetery, is truly an unforgettable experience. Glimpses of a long forgotten past are evident in the rare glacial beauty of the landscape. We know little of the natural forces that shaped the hill and surrounding area thousands of years ago. Yet it is here that a consideration of neighborhood history must begin, since the contours of the land and its lush vegetation were essential to the birth of Rochester, as well as the area now known as the South Wedge.

The Pleistocene Age seems only yesterday in geologic time. It was during this epoch, some 14,000 years ago, that a great continental glacier covered New York State and New England. Snow and ice accumulated over many centuries and produced an icefield that geologists have determined was about a mile deep at certain points. The icesheet crept southward with many pauses, retreats and readvances, caused by variations in climate. As the glacier moved, it picked up loose sand and gravel, called "rock-rubbish." This transported drift was eventually dropped during a warmer period when the glacier was receding, and a long stretch of hills was thus created across western New York. This range is known as the Albion-Rochester Moraine. The Pinnacle Range, which consists of Mount Hope, Pinnacle Hill and Cobbs Hill, are part of this long chain.

Herman LeRoy Fairchild, a local geologist who wrote extensively on the Genesee region during the early twentieth century, observed that these hills, which rise abruptly from the fairly smooth plain on which the city stands, are the bold, upstanding topographic features of the Rochester district. He goes on to say that they also constitute the most striking record of the Glacial Period found in this region. The mound-and-basin topography of the area is highly irregular and consists of a series of ridges and drumlins and kettles.

The north of the range, as Fairchild noted, are the plains on which the city of Rochester was later to develop. During a warmer period the glacier retreated and



Glacier-formed drumlin land formations characterize Highland Park

paused and some melting occurred on the site of the neighborhood and most of the city. A glacier lake formed between the Pinnacle Range and the southern edge of the icefield, which geologists now refer to as Lake Dawson. The wave action flattened the area and the sedimentation left behind accounts for the remarkably fertile soil which the Genesee region has long been known for.

The Genesee River is an ancient river, since it existed long before the Glacial Period. Yet it flowed along quite a different course before the icesheet dropped its morainal rubbish. The Pinnacle Range became a barrier to the waterflow and, as the river forged a new path to the north, cataracts were carved out of the rock strata. The Upper and Lower Falls are thus the result of these

recent geologic activities. This sequence of natural events ultimately had critical impact on human settlement in the region.

*"The soil is excellent, and yields abundantly the various produce of climate. I never saw fruit trees more luxuriant... These lands are not infrequently considered as the best in the Atlantic States and perhaps the world."*

—Timothy Dwight

#### EDEN OF THE GENESSEE

18th century travelers hailed the lush Genesee Valley as truly a Garden of Eden. Timothy Dwight, a minister and an early president of Yale College, spoke of the region in *Travels in New England and New York*: "The soil is excellent, and yields abundantly the various produce of climate. I never saw fruit trees more luxuriant... These lands are not infrequently considered as the best in the Atlantic States and perhaps the world."

The primeval forests, as the settlers first knew them, were dense in some areas and sparse in others, with open groves of oaks and patches of treeless, fertile soil. Sugar maples, beech and elm varieties were also common. The dominant type of timber varied with soil composition, as did the plant life. Such shrubs as sassafras, wild hops, fox grapes and ginseng were written of. Early settlers also spoke of "agues" (fevers), which may have been malaria or typhus, and were particularly prevalent around marshes and stagnating waters.

Wildlife was abundant. Marauding bears, wolves and panthers roamed the hilly areas, for which liberal rewards were offered by pioneers. Rattlesnakes were found concentrated in these same areas. Deer and elk, as well as partridge, quail and owls were numerous. The cattle, oxen, sheep and hogs brought in by the earliest settlers all thrived. Enos Stone, an early settler of the river's east side, wrote that: "The hogs we brought here in 1790 strayed off and their progeny became wild. We had either to shoot or hunt them with dogs. The boars and old sows have been seen often, victors in a conflict with bears."

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"The hogs we brought here in 1790 strayed off and their progeny became wild. We had either to shoot them or hunt them with dogs. The boars and old sows have been seen often, victors in a conflict with bears."

—Enos Stone

EARLY LAND DEVELOPMENT

Permanent settlement of Genesee Country proceeded slowly. At the close of the Revolution, the boundaries of New York State were still undefined and most of the western portions remained unsettled. Jurisdictional disputes arose with Massachusetts and Connecticut over these western lands. And fear of difficulties with the Seneca Indians, who hunted regularly throughout the Genesee region, prevented many settlers from venturing west.

These difficulties aside, the bounties of western New York had not escaped the notice of certain land speculators. After several abortive attempts by various developers, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham acquired legal title for lands west of Seneca Lake from the Massachusetts Legislature in 1788. Ultimately, two-thirds of the pact known as the Phelps and Gorham Purchase would fail, yet a third of the acquisition, which included the land on both sides of the Genesee, was surveyed and sold off to individual developers. These lands were mapped into a series of ranges and townships, measuring six miles square. Township 13, Range 7, which included the South Wedge area, became the Town of Brighton and was sold to a group of investors. At least one of these men, John Gilbert, is known to have settled in the neighborhood and built Rochester's first commercial building, now known as the Old Stone Warehouse.



PIONEER LIFE

It's difficult to imagine today just what a solitary life the earliest pioneers led. Settlers brought few worldly goods into the wilderness and were totally self-sufficient. Early homesteads were miles apart and the settlers faced extreme hardships alone.

There was no easy access into Genesee Country as late as 1790. The roads of western New York were little more than Indian trails. Charles Williamson, land agent for the Pultney Estate, wrote: "The road, as far as Whitestown, had been made passable from wagons; but from that to the Genesee River, it was little better than an Indian path just sufficiently opened to allow a sled to pass, and the most impassable streams bridged." In 1795 the Great Genesee Highway opened and was to become the first western turnpike in the state, a portion of which is now known as Routes 5 & 20. By 1799 a new road from Utica to the Genesee River had opened and stage coaches were then able to pass; and by 1815 a stage ran between Rochester and Canandaigua twice a week. Other roads through the forests and swamps were rugged at best. Early development proceeded slowly for many years.

A new era dawned for the infant village, however, with the opening of the Erie Canal in the 1820's. New settlers flooded the region and a period of tremendous growth occurred, due primarily to the flour mill industry, lumbering, and the new corridor to markets of the Atlantic and the Great Lakes region. Within a few short years, the forests and wildlife would vanish and the wilderness permanently transformed into a bustling new urban order.

NEXT ISSUE: CLINTON'S DITCH



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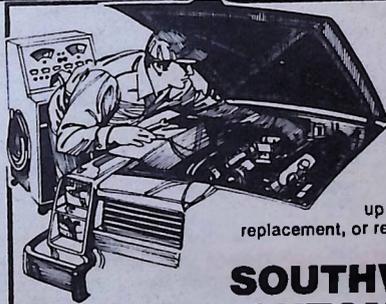
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## Expressions

### The Man With Worn-Out Shoes

by Art Grimwood

An individual graduated from high school and sat around for months contemplating what college to attend, which was silly because he could afford none of them. Then he was drafted into the army and, for unknown reasons, sent to fight in a war, the experience of which was too horrid and disgusting to describe. Having survived, the man returned to civilization and wore out his shoes while seeking employment; the skills he had acquired in military service were not in demand.

Knowing that government jobs are, if nothing else, relatively secure, the man applied for an advertised position of Assistant Clerk, Level II, in the offices of the municipality in which he lived. After some months he received a notice of Civil Service Examinations; these were to ensure the unbiased selection of suitable applicants. Since the man was average in intelligence, cleverness, height, weight, docility, in every respect, in fact he was so average as to be nondescript, he was the very man for whom such tests were designed, and the results were favorable. Being a veteran, 10 extra points were awarded to his score.

Having been found qualified, he was invited to an interview with a Municipal Employment Officer who added 10 more points because the candidate was a white male. "Why have you applied for the position of Assistant Clerk, Level II?"

The man with worn out shoes replied, "I am broke and need a stable income in order to sustain myself in the necessities of life, and to someday purchase a shiny automobile, and other things as may be required to attract a wife, and thus to perpetuate humanity."

"Although selfish, that sounds reasonable, that is why I myself have applied for various jobs, eventually becoming a Senior Employment Officer. There is a process by which we screen candidates to protect their own interests as well as those of the public, which is us after all, and the first step is the written application. After completing the form don't forget to sign the affidavit at the bottom."

The man filled out the form as completely as he could, his memory being imprecise regarding his grandparents places of birth and what year he had contracted measles, but the important questions were easy as he had never been arrested or convicted for any crime. The affidavit read: "I do solemnly swear that the above information is true, and that to the best of my ability I will serve the Constitution of my country and all for which it stands, as interpreted by the President, Congress, the Supreme Court, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the F.B.I., the Mayor, and other such authorities deemed by any of the above to be beyond question in their patriotism; and I furthermore agree and consent to other such conditions of employment as may be found necessary to the public good; and I swear all this before, and in the name of, God."

"Excuse me sir, but having not thought deeply or often about religious matters, I am not certain I know the proper name of God, and before signing...."

"Never mind. As you should know, we have a separation of church and state, and are a tolerant and pluralistic society, so it can be any god of your choice, provided it's one alone."

"I suspect that the creator, and that which is created or destroyed, and the act of creation, are one and the same, and those three could reasonably be called God, but I could be wrong, having never seen such as assertion in old books. I doubt what I think or don't is of much consequence to anyone, and it's a good thing I'm to be a clerk and not a scientist. I hope you're not offended...."

"Naivety is to be expected from the young, as is nitpicking. Three part gods are quite conventional, and the signature is only a formality. The part about other such conditions etc. has to do with public health and is also not usually a point of controversy."

The man signed the form and was told he was as good as hired, only three tests remained. First was a health examination; he thought this most reasonable and in his own interest since he could be sick without knowing it, and no employer can be expected to hire the unproductive or contagious. He was a bit nervous about the blood test, having seen too much blood for a short lifetime, but was told it was necessary to determine the prevalence of a mysterious plague thought to be spread by immoral behavior: "You contend never having indulged in immoral behavior, but isn't that relative? Can you be certain? Do you never sleep? We have 3000 employees and can't just take everyones word. Anyway, we only test once."

The man with worn out shoes then found he had agreed to a polygraph examination designed to expose lies and deception. Wires, electrodes, plastic bands, and other instruments were affixed to various parts of his body and every question he had answered on the application was repeated, along with plenty of new ones. "The test is required to confirm the honesty and loyalties of the public workforce, and is in your interest; would you want to work alongside criminals and spies? It is conducted by a consultant we have retained because of his expert knowledge and sensitive equipment, and to remove any doubt of impartiality. Since it primarily measures anxiety and nervousness, and is unreliable, this test will be repeated during your first week of work. We find people become more honest as they get used to it."

Next, the man discovered he had consented to a drug test, required because politicians had become hysterical and as usual saw everything backwards. He protested, "I have taken no drugs, even if I wanted to, I could not afford it! And I very nearly gave up my life for this country!"

"It is the poor who most often indulge in drugs, or at least that's who the police usually catch. This is for your own good; suppose you did have a problem, would you volunteer to tell us? This way you could receive proper treatment somewhere. Our employees operate heavy and expensive machinery, and important computers, it would not be in the public interest to allow mistakes or accidents caused by drug addiction. If you think we have overstepped the right of personal privacy, consider that you applied voluntarily and we hire the same way. Besides, it only takes a minute and is much more unpleasant for women than for a man like yourself."

The man with worn out shoes had to pee into a bottle while a bunch of people and a video camera watched. Since he came from a repressive family that believed people are fundamentally dissimilar to other creatures, he was embarrassed, and some of the witnesses made insulting remarks. When the bottle was sufficiently full it was taken from the room, the camera closely following. Such formality was required to make certain that samples were real and didn't become switched with others. "We have hired a consultant whose expertise and state of the art laboratory are producing fantastic results, you would never guess how many drug addicts there are! Like the polygraph, this test is reliable only about thirty percent of the time, so during your first week you will be inconvenienced two or three times more. In the dark ages when tests were those of fire or water, the equivalents of dice, things were simple. Today in the age of reason and enlightenment we have established prudent scientific inquiry as the guardian of justice, liberty, and the public good."

The man with worn out shoes passed the preliminary tests and was hired. He received instruction in filing papers, pushing buttons, and other such duties pertinent to the functions of an Assistant Clerk, Level II. Next to his cubicle was a closed circuit monitor that could be on at any time. A peephole in the ceiling, the relic of an earlier age, was rumored to be in use. There were monitors in the

cafeteria and in the rest rooms, along with smoke detectors attuned to tobacco. During his first week two more polygraph tests and three drug tests were administered, plus another blood test, the original having been mislaid. On the fourth day he discovered a hole had been bored in his bedroom wall. That night he heard a noise and looked out his window; two policemen were carefully inspecting his trash and taking notes. "Ah well, it's all for my own good." On the fifth day he received his first paycheck. On the way home he purchased a new pair of shoes and, for the first time in his life, a quart of whiskey.

After a few months the man who formerly had worn out shoes was laid off, meaning fired, due to budget cuts. Threatened with eviction he lost all hope and degenerated into a buyer of lottery tickets, then won a million dollars and began attracting women whose sincerity made him suspicious. He also attracted every non profit organization that existed and some which didn't, and was besieged with trivial lawsuits concerning persons who had fallen down in front of his new house, and he experienced more vexations brought about by lawyers, tax collectors, and an accountant whom he had neglected to test for honesty. One day the man with new shoes decided to take a long walk.

Next: Further adventures of the man who had begun wearing different hats, and how he cured himself of sexism, if of nothing else.

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