

RESPONSIBILITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT!

An Editorial

Where are the basic, grass roots of our Democratic form of government located? Isn't it a fact that the "tap root" or "grass roots" of Democracy begins with our Local Village Elections?

And, of course, the "Back-bone" of our Democratic Society is the so-called "Two-Party" system. However, within the structure of each party, as far as candidates are concerned, should be contained: ability, responsibility, basic knowledge of the fundamentals of political rules and regulations, and at least minimum qualifications for the position sought which should include experience in management and business as well as a knowledge of public relations and a firm belief in the American way of life which includes being a Patriotic American, interested in the welfare of the people — not just a selected minority.

We too, firmly believe in the "two-party" system — as long as the candidates of both parties come under most of the above listed requisites. And, normally, we stay clear of local politics as the candidates, their motives and policies are generally known to the voter.

However, when we feel that there may be doubts and misunderstandings as to reasons, motives, etc., where the best interests of our Community are at stake, then we feel it is our obligation to present our thoughts on the matter.

To begin with, the Andover News is the Official Publication for the Village of Andover, and duly published the legal notice of the Republican Caucus three successive weeks in the issues of Feb. 4th, 11th, and 18th, with the caucus being duly held on Feb. 20, 1971.

At this caucus, the two Village Trustees who have been in office the past term were nominated to succeed themselves, and James H. Kessler, retiring Supervising Principal of ACS was nominated for Mayor.

Why is it then, that the hastily organized Independent party didn't take any action about selecting a slate of candidates until the results of the Republican Caucus were made public? In fact, as late as Monday evening, the day before the dead-line for filing petitions, we know that their petitions hadn't even been constituted!

They were hastily drawn up, circulated, and filed between Monday evening and 5:00 p. m. Tuesday afternoon. Is this the indication of a well thought out and conceived plan? Could it be an excuse to take care of a personal grudge against the candidate for Mayor? Does this hastily conceived slate indicate responsibility? Did their petitions that were filed which were found not to be legally constituted show any regard for the due process of the Election Law?

Did they stick strictly to the truth when they stated in a published notice in last week's issue of the Andover News when they stated: "The petitions for independent candidates in Andover's upcoming Village election, after initial acceptance by the election inspectors, and the Village lawyer, have been rejected on a technicality by the Village Trustees"?

According to what we found out, and believe to be the truth, is that they were filed with the Village Clerk, which it was her duty to accept, and then turned over to the Village Board for inspection, and the results of the special Board Meeting were printed in last week's issue of the News.

As a result of these instances, we are openly endorsing James H. Kessler for Mayor and believe that he is fully qualified, will have the best interests of the majority at heart and will also have the time to devote to perform the duties of Mayor in an outstanding manner.

We have disagreed with Mr. Kessler on several issues in the past, but, after the "heat of battle" had passed, we both respected the other for his beliefs and continued to be friends. And, this is the way we believe it should be — and the mark of a "big man"!

So Please Get Out And Vote!

THE ANDOVER NEWS

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50 YEARS AGO

March 1, 1921
J. H. Backus, Publisher
Leon Wahl and family have moved from the Barrett farm on Pingrey Hill to the farm of his father, William Wahl in Elm Valley.

Francis and Patrick Casey of South Hill, are moving to the Harrison farm on Vainches Hill, where they will work the coming season, with their farm on South Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Crandall of Independence, are the parents of a son, William Brooks, both Thursday, February 24th.

Miss Katherine McAndrew of Wells, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McAndrew of Tip Top.

Miss Rose Greene of Tip Top spent from Thursday until Monday in North, guest of her cousin, Miss Marion Wilcox.

Mr. Baker has closed his store in Elm Valley and gone to his home in Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Howland have moved from Elm Valley to Andover and are located on Rochester Ave. Mr. Fabbanks has moved on the R. Howland farm.

There is a saw mill being placed on the Doran farm in Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Loe Trowbridge are spending a few days this week in Buffalo on a business trip.

Miss Agnes Taylor of Hornell, spent Sunday at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Taylor.

Howard Hann of Milton, Pa., has been the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hann of East Ave., this week.

Ira Gray of Arkport, visited at the home of his brother, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gray from Sunday until Tuesday.

Mrs. Alfretha Crandall and Mrs. C. W. Rogers were guests of Mrs. Alice Palmer and Miss Myra Curbank of Almond from Thursday until Saturday.

Mrs. William Baldwin and son have returned to their home in Wellsville after spending a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Padden.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bess, who has been passing the winter in Florida, returned Tuesday to her home in Andover.

Miss Irene Woodworth of East Valley spent Tuesday and Wednesday at the T. G. Burdick home in Railroad Valley.

40 YEARS AGO

February 27, 1931
J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers
Mr. and Mrs. Burr Ruger entertained Saturday evening, February 21st at their home on Dyke Street in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Ruger. The occasion was the 38th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Ruger and was a surprise.

Ben Wallace has opened a new barber shop at his residence on Baker Street.

Winifred Jones has purchased of J. L. Williams the succeeded house on Barney Street occupied by Lee Millsburgh and family, and will move there from West Center Street as soon as the house is vacated. Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Northrup have rented the apartment vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Jones and will move from Dyke Street to it soon.

Miss Helen Clarke of Whitesville, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clarke of Independence.

Mrs. Nettie Mather of Independence, is spending two weeks with her son, Stanley and family at Franklinville.

The pupils of Davis Hill school gave their teacher Miss Clark a birthday surprise, Thursday. A very nice dinner was enjoyed and Miss Clark was presented a nice clock.

The members of the W. B. R. gave Mrs. Ida Brewster a surprise visit Thursday afternoon in honor of her birthday.

Miss Alice Nobles is spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Sidnev Kaple on Pingrey Hill.

Mrs. V. C. Coumers of Utica, who has been visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Ellen Walsh on Barney Street, returned home Sunday.



Mar. 8, 1971

Dear Editor,
Along with many others I hope the people of our town are not taken in by "The Fly-By-Night" party who seem to have no other party but to keep taking away from the people's money. I hope they have the sense to only take what they need to run the town. I hope they will not take away from the people's money. I hope they will not take away from the people's money. I hope they will not take away from the people's money.

THANK YOU
A RURAL VOTER
(Wish my vote was good here)

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis spent Tuesday and Wednesday with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Gibson at Elm.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sutherland spent from Wednesday until Sunday at Richburg visiting Darwin Sutherland.

Mrs. Roke Swain has returned home from a two week visit with friends at Elmira and Horseheads.

Miss Ruth Robinson is home for a few weeks vacation from her school duties at Orange, New Jersey.

A. A. Porter was a Buffalo visitor Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Mrs. Matilda Raufenbarth is visiting at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Longwell of Elmira. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Fuller motored to Elmira with her mother Monday.

Mrs. Mary Pardon of Albany, N. Y., is visiting at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Joyce and other friends and relatives in the vicinity.

Miss Mary O'Boyce was home from Jamestown to pass the week-end with her mother, Mrs. Mary O'Boyce of Greenwood Street.

Edson Langworthy, Jesse Hunt, Darwin Lehman and Carl Honneger enjoyed a fishing trip to Hemlock Lake over the week-end.

Mrs. William Perkins returned Thursday to her home in Hollyar after a few days visit at the home of her sister, Mrs. A. L. Bloss.

30 YEARS AGO

February 27, 1941
Claire C. Backus, Publisher
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd A. Richardson of Hornell, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary Tuesday, February 25th with an Open House at their home.

Edward Swain, 85, a life-long resident of Andover, died Monday, February 24th. Two sons and a brother survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

A dinner was held at the home of Mrs. Emora Mathews, Sunday, February 23rd, in honor of her 80th birthday.

Dale Coats of Independence, who enlisted in the Army, has been sent to California.

Jason HAWES of Independence was accepted into the draft and was sent to Fort Niagara, Saturday. He was transferred later this week to Georgia.

Raymond Stewart of Slate Creek, attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns held at Albany several days last week.

Mrs. Alma Benjamin was called to the home of her mother, Mrs. Alice Livermore, Thursday by the serious illness of Mrs. Livermore. There was no mail delivery at West Greenwood Friday and Saturday due to the drifted roads.

Robert A. Dean, Walter Gath, Ralph Schwartzbach, Kenneth Alford and William S. McGee attend the Globe Trotters-Seagrams basketball game held in Rochester Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Vincent and children spent from Saturday until Tuesday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Spicer of Independence.

Mrs. Orla Shibley of Harrison Valley, Pa., is visiting her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Honneger for a few days this week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Norton and family of Angelica spent Sunday at the home of his sister, Mr. and

WEEKLY WORD

From Albany

By Joe Fanelli

While there are many more earth-shaking matters before the Legislature at this time, the changing of the 1971 Primary Election date, approved by the Assembly last week, provides some comment.

The measure, sponsored by Assemblyman Fred B. West (D-Albany) and Senator John M. O'Connell (D-Albany) fixes the date of the primary election this year at Tuesday, Sept. 11. It is contained in a somewhat lengthy bill which amends the Election Law. I intend to vote for members of the House and to help in the election of a political center for 1971 and for special elections in 1972.

In the words of Attorney General Robert J. L. Taylor, who recommended the legislation, the purpose of the bill is to provide for a greater voter turnout than was realized. "The voting in the June primary was not appreciably higher than voting in previous September primaries," he said.

Advocates of the September primary as opposed to the June primary point to the extra costs incurred during the longer campaign.

More important, there is another reason for the change this year. It is the matter of re-districting. Most of the counties legislative bodies stand for election in November. The representation is supposed to conform to the 1970 census figures, figures which are not expected to be ready until June.

So, for 1971 at least, the public will be spared the ordeal of listening to candidates make their pitch for nine months or so. Seven weeks sounds like a more reasonable period of time.

Governor Rockefeller's proposed budget is being examined minutely not only by staff members of the Senate Finance and the Assembly Ways and Means committees but by the committee members as well.

A short while back, Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea, Jr., announced the creation of special Ways and Means review groups, each group headed by a member of Ways and Means. Speaker Duryea wants a complete review of the Governor's tax program, is seeking out alternatives. He wants specific comments from the members on expenditure items, on the major local assistance items such as welfare and education.

The thought behind the formation of these groups is in the words of Ways and Means Chairman Willis H. Stephens, to "encourage the members to indicate specific aspects of the budget in which they may have first-hand information of a fiscal nature in their area, not otherwise available to the members and staff of Ways and Means."

It appears that the "long hard look" promised by the legislative leaders has come to pass. Among the items getting the extra scrutiny are those which are considered "mandatory." The Legislature has the power to alter any of the laws mandating expenditure increases.

The mail from the home districts these days is mostly concerned with the budget and the proposed tax increases. The legislators are aware of the need to make cuts, huge cuts. Hopefully, the Ways and Means groups can find the ways and means to do it.

Mrs. Clifford Burdick and family of Railroad Valley.

Mrs. DeWitt Boatwick of Coaling is spending some time at the home of her son, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Boatwick.

Clayton Rogers of Indianapolis, Indiana, spent Saturday and Sunday with his father, William Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tracy and Mrs. M. H. Greene left Monday for Indiana, where they attended the funeral of a relative of Mrs. Tracy.

Mr. and Mrs. Leeman Davis attended the Golden Wedding Anniversary of his aunt and uncle Mr. and Mrs. Ed Briggs of Hiram, Saturday.

Robert Scott of Fort Slocum returned Saturday after spending four days furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scott.