

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

By Paul M. Kelsey

TIMBERLANDS HOST SPORTSMEN

Commercial timberlands in New York's Adirondacks are increasingly playing host to anglers, hunters, snowmobilers, and other recreationists, and the owners want it that way. In the midst of one of the largest free public hunting and fishing meccas in the world, the leasing of private land to sportsmen clubs is a growing business.

This became clear as we talked recently to "Woody" Olmsted, woodlands manager for Finch, Pruyn & Co., who stated that of the company's some 153,000 acres only one tract was available for sportsman lease, the rest already being under agreement. We were chatting on the shore of O'Neil Flow, near Indian Lake, N. Y., on the doorstep of some of the finest deer/brook trout country you could ever feast your eyes on. The topic was how commercial timberland management is compatible with outdoor recreation, and John Stock, manager of the Litchfield Park Corp., agreed that sportsman leases comprised an important part of their income. "We're leased up now, and have nothing available," Stock stated, speaking of the company's 28,000 acres.

It seems that the management practices of the foresters on large holdings in the Adirondacks are responsible for the sportsman use. "We've got roads on our property that let hunters and fishermen get into the back country," Olmsted explained. "Secondly, our light cutting operations produce a lot of food and cover for deer and bear — we've got more game. Why, 10 per cent of all the bears harvested in New York State last year were taken on Finch, Pruyn

& Co. land."

Both Stock and Olmsted agreed that game and fish management were becoming increasingly important in their operations. Brook trout are the main attraction in these parts of the Adirondacks, and both companies combine habitat improvement projects with stocking. The Litchfield plan is to stock trout when a club takes over a lease, and then if the club participates a continuing stocking program is established. Finch Pruyn & Co. constructs little dams and "digger" structures in streams to create pools, and couples fish stocking with constant evaluation of populations and lake water conditions. One of their lakes is becoming more acid, a possible result of "acid rain."

The results of leased hunting and fishing are convincing from the sportsman's point of view. For a modest club dues of from \$35 to \$200, members are offered a variety of recreation opportunities. The Finch, Pruyn & Co. figures for 1974 show that snowmobiling and "other than hunting and fishing" sports counted for more than half of their club's man days of recreation. Big game hunting clocked in with about 23 per cent of the recreation use, and fishing constituted a little over 17 per cent.

While our aim is to produce as much wood and fibre as possible the foresters said they were responding to society's demands for recreation and other services. A trip to a commercially managed woodland, seems to prove the point. And, more game in the bag and fish in the creel are another compelling argument.

ALBANY

open line

by Alex Rankin

Those who predicted the ripple effect of New York City's worsening money crisis on smaller governments across the state are beginning to be vindicated.

Now, for example, it appears the state government is in deep trouble.

The ripple has been felt in Buffalo and it will only be a matter of time before it is felt at the small town and special assessment district levels of government.

The inability of New York City to sell bonds is hurting everyone.

As already predicted in this column, Gov. Carey has called a special session, forcing State But-at-the-time the prediction was made, the purpose of the session was to bail out the giant state Housing Finance Agency, with projects all over the state.

But now the session will also have to deal with the fact that the state's highest court has blocked one of the major aims of the last special session: forcing State Comptroller Arthur Levitt to use state pension funds to buy the city's bonds.

With the pension funds, the city was out of trouble until January. Without them they are in trouble in November.

HFA must have \$69 million by October 15. And it must have \$100 million a month after that. It would have had it had investors not been scared off by the city's woes.

The city of Buffalo now faces default because of that same fear by investors. They offered \$24 million in notes for sale, but were able to sell only \$6.5 million. The city faces default by the middle of the month when the \$24 million in obligations comes due.

Most experts are now ready to write off the city. Only a miracle can save the city from default now.

A default by the city will sharply increase the interest rates village, town and special assessment districts (sewers, lighting, roads) pay for bonds to perform the work.

What this means to the average taxpayer is difficult to calculate. One thing isn't difficult to see, however. It is going to hurt him and her, badly. The only questions are when and how much.

An ugly mood of violence is spreading through the North Country in the territory controlled by the state's Adirondack Park Agency.

Firearms have been waived in the air at some agency meetings and last week an elderly woman took a swing at Richard F. Estes, APA's director of operations, who wound up with a black eye and broken glasses.

Residents of the park agency's territory are angry over a variety of matters.

The agency, the brainchild of former Gov. Rockefeller, was created to protect the over six million acres of wilderness in the 12-county area from unregulated development.

The crux of the problem — aside from distrust of the agency that is unlikely to be dispelled by anything anyone does — seems to be that while the agency was created to deal with the regulation of large scale development projects, to date over two-thirds of its work has been with one-family houses. People have been building

"dummies" have replaced the ones knocked down.

Miss Anna Gallagher entertained the Entre Nous Club Thursday evening.

Mrs. Ralph Temple and Mrs. T. K. Regan entertained at a bridge luncheon Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Temple.

Sealed bids were received by the Board of Education of Andover High School District No. 1.

(Continued on Page 4)

Ask

Senator

BUCKLEY

I heard that you are proposing a \$1,000 tax deduction for people who provide housing for the elderly. What's the purpose of the bill, and who qualifies?

C. N.—Oriskany

My bill would give any taxpayer a \$1,000 deduction, over and above current deductions, for each senior citizen for whom the taxpayer provides free housing in his own home. The senior citizen must be 65 or older but need not be related to the taxpayer. This bill would provide a significant financial incentive to taxpayers to keep their families, young and old, together in one household, as was once customary in America. Moreover, by emphasizing familial responsibility to the aged, it would turn our national attention to a neglected truth: that unless we care for one another as individuals, we lose our ability to care at all for our neighborhoods and communities, our people and our country.

Why did you vote against the education appropriations bill and then vote to override President Ford's veto of the bill?

N. P.—Ruffalo

I originally voted against the bill for budgetary reasons, hoping that the relevant committees would reexamine each of the programs and pare back those that could be reduced without disruption to existing programs. The danger of renewed double-digit inflation is simply too great for the Congress to fail to scrutinize every new demand on the Federal Treasury. However, when the veto override vote finally came in the new school year was already upon us, and I felt that school boards across the country were entitled to know the amount of funding they could expect to receive.

How do you feel about the proposed repeal of the Hatch Act?

R. S.—Clinton-on-Hudson

I think it would be a mistake. Under the Hatch Act, federal workers are allowed to engage in the political process in every way save one. They may vote, express political opinions, and make political contributions. Only active campaigning is forbidden. The Hatch Act was originally passed in 1936 to prevent the party in power from using civil servants as a preassembled campaign apparatus. Given the vast expansion of the federal payroll, a renewal of full-scale political activism today by civil servants would be a severe setback to the smooth and impartial operation of government.

houses, only to be told by the agency that they have to be torn down because they violate zoning ordinances.

Much of that problem comes from the fact that the agency has so far been unable to get local governments to adopt zoning laws. If the agency grants approval to zoning laws proposed by the Town of Hadley in Saratoga County, it will be the first since the agency was created several years ago.

Another thing is the fact that the agency has made it a practice of turning violations of agency regulations over to the State Attorney General's office for prosecution.

Still another problem is the fact that four of the eight slots for private citizens on the agency's board have been vacant, and Gov. Carey has yet to name a replacement for the chairman, Richard Lawrence, whose term expired in June.

Estes got the black eye when he went to a home in the Town of Fine and tried to explain why the house violated zoning regulations.

At a hearing a local businessman indicated the mood of the area. "I was proud to be a part of that so-called violence today (when Estes was socked in the eye). If they come snooping around my place, I'll show them what real violence is."

Gov. Carey's decision to suspend the entire lottery operation could signal the end for Jerry Bruno as head of the State Lottery Division.

The problem is that at a time when the state needs every penny it can get, its hands or, to balance the budget — there is already talk of tax hikes next year — public confidence in the lottery must be restored.

If people believe it's a sloppy, much less crooked operation, they

won't buy tickets.

That there was mismanagement in the lottery division was pointed out almost a month ago in a series of articles by the Syracuse Herald Journal, dealing with the lottery game that ended, with Carey's order, the "Colossus."

Winners apparently weren't getting the amount of money they were supposed to get, and officials were allowing unsold lottery tickets into the winners pool, thus upping the already astronomical odds against winning.

The result was that the division wound up with \$1.5 million surplus that should have gone to winners as long as a year ago.

Bruno attempted to get rid of the money by holding a special drawing. Now it appears that through more bungling tickets were printed that had the same number.

Bruno claimed the whole affair was an attempt by "disgruntled" lottery employees to "get me."

Disgruntled or not, Bruno appears on the verge of "being gotten."

There is talk that the lottery may be shifted from the State Racing and Wagering Board back to the State Department of Taxation and Finance, where it was originally and where the only scandal was some employees who attempted to cash in with proxy tickets and were swiftly caught.

Carey says the lottery won't resume until a "fall-back" system is devised, noting that "The odds of the game are substantial enough, and the public should not be subject to mathematical, astronomical, incredible lengthening of those odds due to mathematical and human deficiencies."

A good bet is that someone other than Bruno is going to be credited with coming up with a new lottery to satisfy the governor, and that person will be given Bruno's job.



50 YEARS AGO

November 20, 1925

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Twenty-seven of the thirty farm boys brought potatoes to the Potato Day in Andover Monday morning when the Potato Special Train backed on the siding in Andover Station and parked there all day. The Andover Chamber of Commerce went in partnership with 30 boys this spring. The boys parents furnished the ground and a bushel of ordinary potatoes, the Chamber of Commerce purchased a bushel of certified seed potatoes for each boy and the boy did the work. At noon a dinner was prepared by the Ladies Aid of the M. E. Church for the experts on the Potato Special and the boys who raised the potatoes and their fathers and the members of the Chamber of Commerce participating in the movement. After the dinner A. D. Fuller, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, told those present of the efforts that the local organization was making to co-operate with the farmers in Andover. He introduced H. B. Rogers of the Erie Railroad, representative in charge of the Erie Potato Special, who explained why the Erie was interested in the production of better potatoes. Prof. H. L. Smith of New York State School of Agriculture at Alfred, announced the prizes as follows: 1st Prize, Lawrence Perkins, \$5; 2nd Prize, Carlton Greene, \$2; and 3rd Prize, as there were several exhibits that were so close that the judges could not make a selection as to which was entitled to the prize, so each was awarded

\$1.00. They were: Martin Lynch, Charles Halsey, Vincent Mitchell, Howard Pease, Clifford Green, Joseph Joyce and Francis Vickers. The prize money was contributed jointly by the Andover State Bank and Burrows National Bank. Besides the prizes there was given to each of the 27 boys present a fine watch fob in the shape of a Potato by the Erie Railroad Company and achievement pens from the New York State Bankers Association. The boys winning the prizes also have a chance on the Sweep Stake Potato Show in connection with Alfred University School of Agriculture.

Sheriff Archie White, Allegany County's New Democratic Sheriff has started the ball rolling with a fine bunch of Deputy Sheriffs to assist him in enforcing the law in the County. Among the list of appointments, Andover, Officer Edward Kilbane has been honored by being named the regular deputy from this district.

Hornell sent a quintet of bowlers down last Friday evening to try out Atherton's New Alley. They found the alleys and the local bowlers both just a little bit too smooth for them. Andover boys winning the tournament by a small margin of 45 pins on the total score. Andover bowlers were Trowbridge, L. Snyder, Bloss, McGill and Scott.

The Armistice Day Program was held at Andover High School. Those taking part were Fanny Lehman, Grace Burdick, Virginia Millsbaugh, Alice Rogers, Angeline Dodge, Fern Greene, Gertrude Jackson and Leta Greene.

On Monday, Carl Green, Augustus Padden and Raymond O'Boyle of the High School, visited the Potato Train.

The evening division of the Kings Daughters of the Presbyterian Church will meet with Mrs. Claire Backus Tuesday evening, Nov. 24.

An Andover Silent Policeman was killed and another one seriously injured when hit by automobiles this past week. New

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