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## Welfare Costs Top \$2 Million

The cost of administering the Lewis County Department of Social Services (welfare) in 1972 exceeded the \$2 million mark, according to an annual report by Commissioner Beryl W. Freeman, Lowville.

During 1972, the total cost of the welfare program in Lewis County was \$2,052,119.16, an increase of \$61,236.49 above the \$1,990,882.67 in 1971.

State welfare assistance amounted to \$559,000.55, a decline of \$14,865.55 from the \$573,916.55 of the previous year. Federal assistance, which pays the lion's share of the welfare program, amounted to \$915,245.04, an increase of \$87,373.02 above the \$827,872.02 of 1971.

The cost to the Lewis County taxpayer or, more appropriately, the amount raised by local taxation for welfare purposes showed an increase of \$24,380.53, with \$566,209.77 being spent in 1972, as compared to \$531,829.19 in 1971.

The total costs of the various programs of the Department of Social Services and the amount borne by local taxation for each program, in that order, are as follows:

Home relief - \$88,990.15 total and \$42,456.07 local cost; old age assistance - \$110,594.66 and \$26,977.74; aid to dependent children - \$299,003.27 and \$70,551.27; assistance to the blind - \$4,121.26 and \$1,133.45; aid to the disabled - \$79,193 and \$20,184.32; Medicaid - \$1,030,081.56 and \$264,627.86; children in foster homes - \$68,876.54 and \$20,992.71; children in private institutions - \$25,000.26 and \$25,000.26; payments to child training schools - \$17,336.55 and \$17,336.55; services for recipients - \$34,482.71 and \$1,857.33; burials - \$9,791.50 and \$1,736.30; county home - \$43,842.83 and \$18,034.18; general administration - \$228,273.82 and \$56,617.53; Food Stamp Program - \$12,581.05, all of which is federal.

During the year, 881 persons were approved as eligible for Medicaid, while during the same period, 1,307 were removed from the eligible list. There were 426 less persons open for Medicaid at the end of 1972 than at the close of the prior year.

It is also noted that in 1971, 69% of the total payments for Medicaid went for hospital care and nursing home care, while in 1972, 74% was spent for these two types of care.

In order to show a comparison in payments for the various types of care, costs in 1972 are compared with those made in 1971 as follows:

Services of physicians, \$119,051.63 in 1971 and \$109,498.48 in 1972; dental care, \$36,104.49 and \$32,458.11; hospital care, \$411,410.11 and \$454,779.97; nursing home care, \$226,832.46 and \$309,227.76; clinic services, \$2,632.97 and \$1,351.15; home nursing service, \$2,529.40 and \$1,242.90; prescriptions and drugs, \$103,691.82 and \$99,418.95; eyeglasses and prosthetic appliances, \$13,834.96 and \$12,337.56; health insurance premiums, \$2,564.15 and \$2,604.25; medical transportation, \$2,822.64 and \$1,822.70; laboratory services, \$1,925.85 and \$2,321.05; other practitioners, \$491 and \$302.40; medical for children in private institutions, \$2,407.87 and \$2,626.27; Total, \$925,999.32 and \$1,030,031.56.

On December 31, there were 193 non-welfare families open to purchase food stamps, and there were 167 public assistance families participating in the program. In total, this was 33 less families than were participating at the end of 1971.

Five banks in the county sell food stamps in six different locations. The banks selling stamps are Lewis County Trust Company in Lowville and Port Leyden; the National Bank of Northern New York in Lowville and Croghan; St. Lawrence National Bank in Harrisville; the Marine Midland-Northern in Copenhagen; Lyons Falls National Bank in Lyons Falls.

The amount paid the above banks for handling 4,065 transactions was \$2,946.90. Total amount spent by persons purchasing stamps was \$148,733.50. Total free (bonus) stamps received by clients was \$94,828.00.

Lewis County is reimbursed in full for administering the Food Stamp Program. The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) paid \$2,682.99 for the cost of administering the program for non-welfare families. USDA also provides supervision of the various stores who sell food under the Food Stamp Program.

The social services report also included a resume of welfare fraud cases as follows: Number of cases of fraud or alleged fraud discovered, 42; number investigated, 42; number cases closed as a result of investigation, 24; number referred to the district attorney, 13; number acted upon by the district attorney, 10.

At the end of the year, three cases were pending at the district attorney's office. This department also has nine cases pending. (Continued on Page 6-B)



**AGENCY BILL** - Legislation proposing to establish a Lewis County Development Agency was simultaneously introduced in the New York State Senate and Assembly by Senator James H. Donovan, R., 46th District, left, and Assemblyman Donald L. Taylor, R., Watertown, right.

Senator Donovan and Assemblyman Taylor said their legislation would enable the County of Lewis Industrial Development Agency to issue industrial revenue bonds and thereby provide an important tool for the county to attract new industry and create many new job opportunities.

Both legislators were optimistic regarding the successful passage of their bills. Just last year, these same two legislators authored a bill establishing a Town of West Turin Industrial Development Agency, which is now Chapter 93 of the Laws of New York State, 1972.

In 1969, the Legislature passed comprehensive legislation which set up the vehicle and procedure whereby specific acts, such as the legislation presently introduced by Senator Donovan and Assemblyman Taylor, would establish local industrial development agencies.

## Officials Seek Missing Checks

Gerald F. Steiner, Beaver Falls, brought to the surface today in an "open letter" to the people of the Town of Croghan a controversy which has been brewing in the township for several months now over the matter of a large number of state and county aid checks to the town, through its supervisor, Everett V. Lallier, which are unaccounted for and cannot be located.

In this letter, Mr. Steiner posed the question to the taxpayers of the town: "When are you going to wake up and see where your money is being spent, or is it being spent?"

Mr. Steiner continued: "I made a public statement in June 1972 that the taxpayers of the town of Croghan had a lot of dirty linen to get rid of and get some new. In my opinion, we had better get more than was anticipated."

The state auditor made a public report last fall about now many thousands of dollars were in outstanding checks. Apparently, everyone thought the town had enough money, so why worry about it? Our supervisor didn't care either, as he mislaid or lost the checks. The state auditor came back in November and they were still unaccounted for.

"After a few interested citizens heard about this, we attended a board meeting on Dec. 11, 1972. Melvin Martin, Gene Demo, Gerald Chartrand, Gerald Steiner and Pauline Steiner. The meeting progressed very well until the supervisor, Mr. Lallier, was asked by Ralph Farney, a board member, if he had found the checks and had tried to cash any. His answer was yes, he found some of them, but the board had not seen any yet. There were outstanding checks for the amount of \$37,212.22 for the year of 1970. These are missing or lost. Also for the year 1971, there were checks in the amount of \$12,354.66. This makes a total of \$49,571.88 unaccounted for. Do bank (State) checks after ninety days?"

"Ralph Farney, a new member of the board, asked Mr. Lallier why he deposited the petty cash and not the checks. He stated 'That's the way I do business.' Mr. Farney asked Mr. Lallier to resign by Jan. 1, 1973, as he saw no need to have the books in the same shape for the coming year. Mr. Farney was fighting a losing battle as the rest of the board would not support him. After considerable discussion it was decided to give Mr. Lallier until Jan. 20 to get the books in shape for the state auditor."

"If you remember back in the late 60's when Mr. Lallier defeated Clarence Kelley, he made many promises, especially to the people of Toytown area in Beaver Falls. He said money would be appropriated for a black top road

if he was elected. It has had oil put on it in recent years.

"The town board agreed to have disability insurance for its employees to take effect June 1968. This was in effect until March 1969 when it was cancelled by the insurance agent for the lack of payment. How long this went on before it was brought to anyone's attention I do not know, but at this meeting on Dec. 12, 1972, it was put into effect again. Again, Mr. Farney was looking out for the town employees. The rest of the board agreed to this. In that period of no insurance I know of one employee who certainly needed it and will need it for an undetermined period, but it is to late to receive it now."

"In my opinion the town board along with the rest of us are just as much at fault as Mr. Lallier for letting the books get in the shape they are in. The state auditor stated he could not straighten them out in one month or three months.

"Each and everyone of you should stop and think how much interest money could have been drawn in a savings account, if for a month. This money has been lying idle since 1970. The question is why the state or county has not asked for their outstanding checks.

"On January 8, 1973, Pauline Steiner, Wilfred Proulx, Jr., and myself attended the board meeting expecting to find everything in order. Much to our surprise, the only thing that had been done was the books were put in the town's attorney's hands. I asked Mr. Lallier if he ever recorded the checks for 1970 and 1971. He said yes. I also asked him if he lost or mislaid them. He also said yes. For a man to take care of your money and getting \$3,000 a year to do the job, use your own opinion on the job he has done. "Everything that I have written is true and can be verified by your town board who you and myself elected. The members of the town board are: Supervisor Everett Lallier Justice, Roger Brangan, Justice Gerald Edwards, Councilman Clint Bachman and Councilman Ralph Farney. All figures were reported in the state audit report last fall. I believe that the town clerk has a copy of that audit and it can be viewed at her office.

"This report was written solely by myself to try to explain how your tax money, which you receive back is being handled by your elected officials. I suggest each and every taxpayer try to help get this mess straightened out or we will be losing our state revenue and more. I think our officials have been long enough, it is time to do the job. I have lived in Beaver Falls all my life, excluding Army time and never believed that this could happen to our town. It did and I'm going to be one of the tax payers to help get it straightened out regardless of whose toes we step on."

## Feed Grain Program Set

Amos Dykeman, county executive director for the Lewis County ASC Office, has announced that the 1973 feed grain sign-up time is here. The opening date for enrolling is February 5 and the last day to enroll is March 16. All farmers with feed grain bases are eligible to enroll. There are two options available to the farmers.

No set-aside acreage is required for producers who choose the first option to limit the 1973 total feed grain acreage to the 1972 certified acreage. These producers will earn payments on one half of their feed grain base at 15¢ per bushel for corn, 14¢ per bushel for grain sorghum and 12¢ per bushel for barley, multiplied by the farm established yield.

Set-aside acreage required under the second option is 25% of the feed grain base. Payment rates under this plan are 32¢ per bushel for corn, 30¢ per bushel for grain sorghum and 25¢ per bushel for barley multiplied by the program yield. (Continued on Page 6-B)

## United Fund Tops Record

At the annual membership meeting of the Lewis County United Fund, General Campaign Co-Chairmen Richard C. Runt and William Hunt gave their report. The total pledges and contributions to date stand at \$36,089.46, eight percent above last year, and three percent over the goal of \$35,000.

The breakdown of the various divisions as compared to 1971 is as follows: Industrial - increase of 20%; Corporate - increase of 20%; Individual - increase of 14%; Professional - increase of 39%; Merchants and Business - decrease of 15%; Schools - decrease of 17%; Residential - Lowville - decrease of 21%; county - decrease of 16%. Total, increase of 8%.

As noted in the co-chairman's report, the Industrial Division continues to be the big supporter of the Fund. The winners in the per capita giving in their divisions were, A.M.F. for the fifth straight year in a row, Latex, Fiber, and Niagara Mohawk. The Early-Bird award went to the Lewis County Trust Company. The co-chairmen of the Industrial Division were Jim Shea and Paul Forte.

Out-going President Doug Brodie commented that this year's campaign was the smoothest operating and by the results, the most successful in many years of the United Fund.

## Banks Close

Lewis County Trust Company, Lowville, and its branch offices at Port Leyden, and Carthage, National Bank of Northern New York at Lowville and Croghan, Lewis Falls National Bank and the Jeff-Lewis Savings and Loan Association, Lowville, will be closed Monday, Feb. 12, and Monday, Feb. 19, in observance of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

## Red Cross Prepares For U.S. POW's

For more than a year, the military services have made every comprehensive plan for the return of prisoners from Southeast Asia. The American Red Cross is prepared to assist in whatever way is needed at such time as U.S. prisoners, both military and civilian, are released. As is true of the United States Government, the primary concern of the Red Cross is to be of all possible assistance to both the men themselves and to their families.

Military hospitals overseas, designated receive prisoners as they are released, are staffed with Red Cross personnel. Comfort kits have been stockpiled by the Red Cross at key locations on military installations in foreign countries to be made available to the men should the opportunity arise to distribute them.

It is expected that, upon release, the former prisoners will enter the normal military medical evacuation system and be returned to designated hospitals in this country as rapidly as is consistent with their medical needs.

The military's plan to bring the POW's home once they are released is similar in all branches of the service. It is known as "OPERATION RECAP" (now apparently called "OPERATION HOMECOMING"). Although there has been extensive planning, many things depend on the moment of release and how and where the prisoners are released. The planning begins at the time the POW's are received and direct control of American Personnel.

At this point, there is an immediate report back to the U.S. through the Casualty Branch in Washington, D.C. Each branch of the military has a Family Survivors Assistance Officer stationed in the area of the next of kin. He is in frequent contact with the next of kin and often gets to be a close friend. The officer keeps abreast of changes as they occur and informs the family.

When a POW is received at the release point he immediately comes under the control of that country's Commanding Officer. He is given a welcome, medical attention, food, drink, clothing, a briefing and his photograph is taken. At this time he may make a long distance call to his next of kin.

Next he is air-evacuated to the Central Processing Center in the Philippines, Okinawa, or Guam. Officers at these locations will give the POW's information on their families to prepare them to rejoin family life. These officers have been in constant touch with the POW's families and can readily give information on births, deaths and other important changes in the family, even providing pictures of said family. Unfortunately, at this stage it is possible to encounter many difficulties. Such difficulties might include the remarriage of a wife, the death of parent or child, changes in appearance (if several years have elapsed), occasionally a family may not accept the POW because they have learned to live without him. The Red Cross may be able to assist in this area by "smoothing out" problems.

POW's will have a thorough examination at the Central Processing Center. The initial examination having been much less thorough. They will remain at the Processing Center for between one and five days and get a partial pay of \$250 while there. Personal needs are provided for, religious counseling is available, and special foods that might have been dreamed of while confined are available. In addition to a phone call to the next of kin, a POW will have access to television. (Continued on Page 6-B)



**ENJOY MYSTERIES** - The fourth grade class in Mrs. Snyder's room at Lowville Academy has been enjoying mystery stories. When they discovered that Miss Irene Bowen was an author of mystery stories, they were eager to talk with her. Miss Bowen accepted an invitation to visit the class and gave an interesting explanation of how books are printed. The class asked Miss Bowen about her books and was thrilled to have talked to a "real, live" author who lives right here in Lowville.

## Heart Appeal Underway

A goal of \$5,500 has been set for the 1973 fund drive of the Lewis County Heart Association to reduce deaths from heart and blood vessel diseases. According to Homer Myers, Heart Fund campaign chairman, these diseases kill more people than all other causes combined.

Citing the epidemic scale of the problem, the chairman said, "Heart and blood vessel diseases afflict one out of every eight Americans and will claim more than a million lives this year, 53 per cent of all deaths in the U.S."

The Heart Fund drive will be conducted during February which has been designated Heart Month by an Act of Congress. Theme of the 1973 campaign will be, "Beat the Big One - Heart Attack." The nation's number-one killer, heart attack, will claim an estimated 675,000 lives this year.

During Heart Month more than 400 volunteers in Lewis County will join an army of more than two million throughout the nation. Their job will be to distribute heart-saving information among friends and neighbors and collect funds for education programs to

Left to right in the photo are Mr. Boshart, Mrs. Boshart, Mike Boshart and Kivans President Jim Hurl.

Boshart, a senior at Lowville Academy and Central School, has been active in Student Government in his ninth, eleventh and twelfth years. He is currently

## Senior Class President

Senior Class president, was a Constitutional Convention delegate, played football in his first, third and fourth years of high school, received a letter of commendation for merit scholarship, received a New York Regents Scholarship, and has been on the honor roll most of his academic career. He is also president of the Young Peoples at the Methodist Church in Glenfield, and serving in an administrative roll in the district of the Methodist Church. He has applied at Colgate University and plans to major in psychology.



**BIGGEST TAX PAYER** - Lewis County's largest taxpayer has delivered a check for \$413,151.94 to Lewis County Treasurer Urban Karcher in payment of his 1973 local real estate taxes.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, represented by Paul V. Forte, right, manager of the Carthage-Lowville District for the utility, delivered the big check to Mr. Karcher, left.

According to Forte, the string of hydro stations on the Beaver River and the Adirondack-Porter 230,000-volt transmission line, which transmits the electricity from north to south, are special installations which account for a great percentage of the utility's high real estate taxes in the County.

Mr. Karcher estimates that the Niagara Mohawk payment for 1973 represents 14.8 per cent of the town and county's total annual tax revenues, estimated at \$2,792,785.10 for the current year.

Forte said that throughout the Central District, the company will pay real estate taxes of about \$27 million this year, up from \$22.5 million in 1972. System-wide, the utility anticipates total real estate tax payments of \$65 million in 1973.



**STUDY LIBYA** - Recently Mrs. Bernadine Schwartztrober, primary class at Lowville Academy did a unit on deserts. Mrs. Schwartztrober is shown wearing an outfit worn by the women of a Saharan town in Libya. Some Libyan artifacts are shown on the table. These were obtained from her sister who served in the Peace Corps in Libya. The class prepared a program to Miss Catherine Harvey's class and enjoyed a (lib) on life in the Sahara.