

Hadley-Luzerne Central School News

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STUART M. TOWNSEND
AT THE FIT HOUR 'TIS SWEET TO UNBEND

This is the fourth and final issue of the HLCS News this school year.

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JUNIOR PROM 1973



LORI SIUDY AND JOHN GOLDEN CROWNED

Lori Siudy and John Golden were crowned queen and king of the 1973 junior prom May 19.

Amidst a setting of palm trees and coconut trees with a huge sunset illuminating the throne, couples danced to the music of the Preludes in the transformed cafeteria. A myriad of colorful flowers abounded on walls and overhead in the room. The theme of the prom was midnight sunset.

Last year's queen Jill White crowned Lori and last year's king Justin Hoffman presented the scepter to John.

Members of the court were Bonnie Allen, Donna Gogan, Pamela Rollman, Michele Trottier, Michael White, Leon Chase, George Doherty and D. J. White.

STUDENTS SHOW EXAMPLES OF RUBBINGS



Paula Allen, Diane McAlevey and Kathy Shaw

FIFTH GRADERS ENJOY LOCAL HISTORY

Some fifth graders recently enjoyed some outdoor education about the local history of Lake Luzerne.

Students of Mr. Dodge Watkins and Mr. Neil Sesselman visited the cemetery on Buttermilk Road, Lake Luzerne. While there they had three special projects to complete.

Math came into the experiment when the students had to add and subtract to find the age of 30 people interred there. Information was acquired as to birthdate and death from the stones.

Nine questions related to social studies were incorporated into their assignment. For instance they found that many men died at an early age due to the logging industry. They also discovered in terms of the life work of men in this area that the use of the Hudson for transportation of logs to the mills was important.

Art came into play in that gravestone rubbings were done. This is accomplished by placing newsprint over the gravestones and colored chalk or crayons are used to make the impressions on to the paper. Examples of the rubbings are on display in the Middle School.

STUART M. TOWNSEND

After 38 years of service to the district Stuart M. Townsend will retire effective the end of this month.

A graduate of Springfield College he came to Hadley-Luzerne Union Free District as physical education instructor and taught classes in mathematics and science. During his first year with the system, soccer was added to the interscholastic program. His interscholastic duties included coaching baseball, basketball and soccer.

The Central District was formed in 1937 and Townsend was appointed the assistant principal in addition to his teaching and coaching duties. Many new programs were planned at that time but lack of building space hampered their implementation.

In December 1942 Townsend joined the Navy and was commissioned lieutenant, junior grade. He served as training officer in the amphibious forces in Solomons Island, Maryland, Little Creek, Va., and Fort Pierce, Fla., and at Treasure Island, Cal. He remained in the naval reserve program after his active duty service and was associated with the Naval Reserve Center in Glens Falls for many years. He was commanding officer of division 3-68 the year the division was selected as the No. 1 division in the third Naval district. Townsend retired from the reserve in 1970 with the rank of commander USNR-retired.

Upon returning to Hadley-Luzerne Central School in 1945, after active duty, Townsend was appointed district principal. A short time later, a badly needed building program was undertaken. The elementary building was completed in 1950. The high school building was completed in 1954 and because of the increased enrollment an addition to both the elementary and high schools was completed in 1958.

Five years later, six additional rooms were added to the elementary section. Most recently the middle school was completed.

The leadership that resulted in this progressive building program also brought forth many new educational programs. The Hadley-Luzerne Board was one of the early members of the Coop Board which offers pupils many courses and services the local district is unable to provide.

I. P. FOUNDATION FUND

Townsend and staff were active in innovating experimental programs under the grants offered the district by the International Paper Company Foundation Fund. Many of the programs proved successful and are now a part of the regular program supported by the district.

LOCAL AND CIVIC PROGRAMS

Townsend has been active in local and civic programs. He is a charter member of the Lions Club and past president, was chairman of the Youth Recreation Committee for a number of years, is a member of the American Legion and Reserve Officers' Association as well as a number of professional organizations. He has been active with the Stone's mountain ski area project, a ski tow facility he has helped maintain for a number of years.

STUART B. AND WILLIAM B. TOWNSEND

Townsend has two sons, Stuart B., a graduate of the University of Bozeman, Montana, where he is presently employed as research assistant and instructor; and William B., a graduate of New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire, and now working in the Seattle, Washington area.

THE PAST

In reflecting upon the past, Townsend recalls it was his high school coach who most strongly influenced him to attend college which eventually led to the educational career.

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ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS RETIRE



Mrs. Helen Seaman



Mrs. Doris Mix



Mrs. Mildred White

Two elementary and one middle school teachers are retiring effective the end of the month. Mrs. Helen Seaman, Mrs. Mildred White and Mrs. Doris Mix close out a combined total of 114 years of teaching experience.

MRS. HELEN SEAMAN

Mrs. Seaman, who plans to remain in Hadley during her retirement, "with occasional trips here and there," has spent 40 of her 42 years of teaching at HLCS. Although the "dean" of our third grade teachers she has also taught grades 4, 5, 6, and 7. To round out the variety Mrs. Seaman notes in "rural school" she taught grades one through six.

Teaching runs in the family with her daughter Sharon currently teaching fourth grade in Corinth. Son Jimmy works at Lake Side Ceramics in Marion, Indiana.

Among many highlights of her career Mrs. Seaman notes "It was my pleasure to have children of the parents of previous years." Fond memories of grade plays and field trips to several locations are also warm spots in her career.

Her chief reaction to education today as opposed to when she began her career revolves around discipline. "It was easier then. The teachers's word was law and gospel."

When asked if she had any advice to parents or students Mrs. Seaman said "Students should memorize more, and not just depend on knowing how to reason things out." She urged parents to cooperate with your teachers. "Any differences can most always be smoothed out by a friendly chat at school or at home."

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Looking into the past Mrs. Seaman recalls "Before tenure came we would wonder who the trustees or Board of Education would be and if they would hire you from year to year or give the job to their friend or relative."

In recalling amusing incidents of the past Mrs. Seaman says "We had hot lunches cooked on top of chunk stoves. Each family took their turn bringing food. One day we had just saurkraut and it didn't go too well. So I just started out the door to dispose of the remains when whom should I meet but the parent head-on at the door!"

Helen's philosophy in teaching is "to get each individual child to advance at his own rate according to his ability." She says I'll miss the classroom, teachers and surroundings very much. I have always enjoyed working at HLCS, and will have many memories to cherish as I enjoy my retirement.

She plans to be a pastor's partner until her husband Ralph retires. Then she hopes to be able to travel from time to time.

MRS. MILDRED WHITE

Of her 39 years of teaching experience Mrs. Mildred White spent 28 1/2 years at Knowlhurst rural school in Stony Creek. A half year was spent at a rural school at Benson, Hamilton county.

When asked about unforgettable students, Mrs. White said "it would be difficult for me to name special students or classes which were outstanding. I have enjoyed my teaching and association with all pupils and teachers."

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MIDDLE SCHOOL DEDICATED

The new Middle School was dedicated in honor of Stuart M. Townsend May 20. Townsend is retiring as supervising principal after serving 38 years in education in the district.

F. Donald Myers, district superintendent of schools for Saratoga and Warren counties announced the naming of the building "Stuart M. Townsend Middle School." A Plaque was on display in the entranceway citing the new title.

In ceremonies held in the gymnasium of the middle school hundreds of spectators heard Townsend thank the community for "making it possible." As the first speaker in the program, he mentioned delight with the fact that the school was able to open ahead of schedule. "Cooperation among all concerned" was cited as the reason.

Mrs. Clara Hall, speaking on behalf of the William J. Varney American Legion Post 862 Auxiliary, presented the school with the colors. The flag was raised over the rostrum in the gym.

Board of Education President Norman Powers told the audience the cost of education is very reasonable in this district compared to the costs in the other districts. As to pleasant learning he said "This school puts joy into the learning process". He presented the keys of the school to the middle school principal Roscoe Baker.

Representing the student body, Lisa Milmore, president of the student association, made some brief remarks of gratitude.

Leonard Gereau, high school principal, gave a review of the planning of the middle school. He mentioned the defeat of a reorganization plan for the district in 1968. Then in December 1970 he pointed out the voters passed a bond issue by five to one in favor of constructing the one million 985 thousand dollar building. He said in preparation of the opening of the middle school faculty had attended numerous seminars and visited many middle schools throughout the state.

Baker told the throng "The middle school is much more than a building. It is a concept." He said the facilities are specially geared for the needs of the child aged between 10 and 14. He said it is fitting that those present at the dedication should be the first large group to visit the school since it is the community that so strongly supports it.

Lynn F. Perkins, former district superintendent of schools called the audience "true friends of education." He said the opening of the middle school is "the dream of a lifetime being realized." Perkins noted the middle school "as near an educational paradise as one can get." He said it is certainly a "child-center school."

Clayton Brown, another former district superintendent and the man who hired Townsend as a junior high teacher 38 years ago gave a history of the people and education in the area. He talked about the paper mill, huge hotels and tannery which once spanned the area. Discussing education in the district since the 1790's he noted 17 principals have worked here. He noted none have done as much for unification of the district and its growth as Stuart Townsend.

Music during the program was presented by the middle school band under the direction of Robert Davis and the middle school chorus under the direction of Carol Parillo.

John Castle, director of Guidance, was master of ceremonies.

Reverend Ronald Van Schenkof, pastor of Rockwell Falls Presbyterian Church presented the invocation and benediction.

The school was open to the public between 1 and 5 p.m. with all visitors signing a guest book as they entered. Students acted as guides taking the guests to the numerous rooms. A tape-slide presentation in the media center gave a brief resume of the school and showed pictures of students in numerous activities in the facilities.

STUART M. TOWNSEND

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"My college roommate, Fran Stanton, was from Luzerne. In subsequent years I visited here a couple of times with him." With a chuckle Stuart recalls it was so long ago they had to come over the Bow Bridge, there was no route 9N bridge. Getting out of college in 1934 he took a part-time job in Oyster Bay doing some coaching and teaching.

Reflecting on his 38 year career "I took each day as it came, one at a time. Really my career started when I came back from the service and I was married and started a family. Since then my life's been the school, Luzerne and my family and it's been very, very, rewarding."

Fondly Stuart recalls how he met his wife Jo. "I used to kid her and tell her the only reason I met her was because I ran out of gas coupons." Nelson Ridinger, a navy friend and Stuart often would go from Fort Pierce to Palm Beach. Because of shortage of gas coupons they started dating locally and that's how he met Jo.

SCHOOL YEARS

Townsend's tenure in office has seen the teaching staff grow from 13 teachers to almost 80. "Being in the school business and each successful vote on a bond issue has been very rewarding." He feels this shows great faith that the town's people have in their board. "We had no close votes on any budget, all the way from the elementary building soon after I came back from the service." He notes almost every 8 years since then the district has had to build again through the middle school.

In disappointments as far as years of service go, Stuart feels the lack of reorganization of the district ranks high. "It was a complete answer for a good high school program, at a cost the tax payers could readily absorb due to so much state aid. In fact if the vote had been yes instead of no

the five million dollar high school building would have been up and paid for by now."

He adds that the tax payers of the area were true to their word -- "They said we want the proper education. We will build the building and have our own. And they did."

In assessing a philosophy he has toward education Townsend notes "I don't have any hard fast rules. I believe if you give the kids all the facts, all the necessary tools, they can work out their programs. My philosophy has been to have a school with plenty of room for individual differences, individualized instruction with problem solving. I hire teachers who can do a good job of teaching. They are made aware of the problems, given materials to help solve them, and I let them work in their best way."

THE FUTURE

Looking ahead to educational problems in the district Townsend says, "We're getting into regionalism in the State Department which means more bigness. BOCES areas will be combined to create a large region. "I think we're going to see a need for more accountability in schools. The cost of education is getting so high. The governor is appointing an inspector general." Townsend sees a press towards "bigness" and then it will swing back but it does create situations where you can have a more efficient operation."

Townsend predicts more student participation in day to day operation of the schools. "The students rightly feel they should have some input into the schools..I think we'll be listening to them a lot more."

In recalling people who have had an extra influence on his career Townsend recalls Coach McElroy got him started. Ralph Stanley, "a fine guy and all-around man" did a great deal to help him prepare for administrative work. "One other person who helped me a great deal was Myrtle Stone." Stuart recalls many long

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MRS. MILDRED WHITE
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Quickly she did recall her most difficult time in education, "my first six months of teaching." The building was dark, cold and there were no conveniences. I had never even been in a rural school before. I am sure the few children I had progressed but very little."

Mrs. White's assessment of education today is quite positive. "Progress in education has been outstanding in every way. Teaching methods are different, buildings and equipment have been updated to meet the needs of the children and teachers."

She cautions "There must be a close relationship between parents and members of the school staff. Children are eager to learn but a good learning situation must be created for them."

Since her husband Ernest has not yet retired her long range plans are not definite. "I am sure I will find something to do and we will at least get in some short trips."

MRS. DORIS MIX

Teacher, assistant principal, baseball coach, custodian and nurse! Mrs. Doris Mix can lay claim to all those "jobs" in her 33 years of teaching at Hadley-Luzerne. Basically for 17 years Mrs. Mix has manned the sixth grade. Fifteen years she taught physical education K-12. One year was "miscellaneous."

It was during the war years that Mrs. Mix acted as assistant principal, coached boys' baseball and took over work in the nurse's office. Occasionally she drove a bus or did custodial jobs. This of course was in addition to teaching boys and girls physical education, junior high English and chemistry.

In looking over education today Mrs. Mix says "I believe education has gotten out of hand. There are too many frills and not enough basics." She adds "Educators are beginning a return route to the little red school house idea."

Her advice to parents is "stay home and give your children a sense of security more precious than dollars." To teachers she cautions "Stop to assess where you are going." For students she says "have patience."

In recalling the most difficult time she has had in education Mrs. Mix says "trying to give a child from a broken or unsettled home some security and a sound sense of values." On the lighter side she recalls teaching four sections of sixth grade in the gym for one whole semester of 1969-70.

Mrs. Mix's philosophy is "think young. She believes "the school is going to have to assume many of the responsibilities which the home is neglecting. Children simply are not receiving the home training they deserve."

She sees her long range plans regarding retirement as "an opportunity to relax and catch up on the many things that have been neglected for many years --- beautiful!"

Mrs. Mix plans to live in Lake Luzerne and Shohola, Pennsylvania. Her son Joe is a student at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Activities during retirement for Mrs. Mix include travel, antique hunting and homemaking.

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visits after school just talking. "She never answered any questions but she solved a lot of problems. She was a great help to me."

Townsend's plans include remaining in Lake Luzerne. It's a resort area so why go anywhere else to rest and recuperate?" However, in a few months he plans to do some traveling. He also may do some building on land adjacent to his home.

IN SUMMATION

"Of course I married the right girl and had the right direction there and this made for a very nice home life," says Stuart.

Townsend feels that he has been a very lucky fellow. He says, "I have had some personal misfortunes and so many people have been very fine to me. I've been very much satisfied. I have had enough professional problems to make it exciting, but everything has worked out well. I've been pleased with the challenges and the rewards the position has offered me."

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STUDENTS VISIT CAPITAL BUILDINGS

Seventh graders recently visited the Capital buildings in Albany as part of their social studies curriculum. To become better acquainted with the New York State system of government, the students visited the Assembly and Senate chambers as well as a general tour of the Capital.

The new mall facilities were opened to visiting classes for the first day and Senator Ronald Stafford personally guided the students in that region.