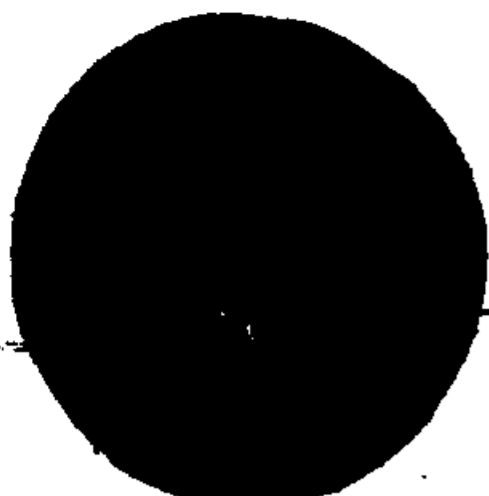


# THE FULTON PATRIOT

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**This is  
Fulton**

Who said Fulton is a great place to live; I said so and the reason I say so is because I got a Christmas card from my gasoline station. From Tom Crittenden who runs the Arco station down the way from us. The card received a specially designated position this year. Ahead of the cards from my children and relatives. Even ahead of the cards from my grandchildren.

I must say another thing about Tom. He still says thank you when you pull away from his station.

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I sent a Christmas card to a new friend, to Leslie Finch of Springfield, Vermont, who used to drive a Mobil truck for many years through New England, who moved to Florida to retire and moved back to Vermont to settle down and live.

Leslie was my roommate at the Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire and he is 76 years old. The reason why I say he is 76 is because he is proud of his age. When he came into the room the first day he asked the young nurse, as he was handing her his pants, how old she thought he was and she said sixty-four. He said guess again and she said sixty-five and he said would you believe seventy-six and she said she couldn't believe it as she put his trousers into the closet.

We spoke little to each other during the early days of our confinement, a glance, a wave of the hand was amply enough to carry us through the day; we both appreciated the lack of restless chatter and it wasn't until a week had gone by that Leslie asked where I was from. For my part up to then I knew little of him except that he was seventy-six.

Then one day Leslie asked if I would like to read his Boston Globe and afterwards at about eleven every morning he would offer it to me and on afternoons he would tell me about his trips in detail around the country by auto with Mrs. Finch during his retirement years. Tell me a motel and I'll give you the room rent.

Leslie was also considerate because many times he would ask me if I were too tired to listen and sometimes I would say yes and he would say okay but remind me when I start talking next time where I left off. He was a comfortable companion.

He was thoughtful. After supper, he would reach over with his little glass vial which held his wooden toothpicks and asked me to help myself. There were times I pulled out the toothpick simply as a symbol of our growing rapport for each other. What could a toothpick do for a supper of jello and soup?

And thus we became friends even if we didn't see much of each other. The reason for this was that we decided one day to keep the curtain drawn since everytime a nurse came in to attend us she would close the curtain and as she left the room she would ask how far we would like it opened. The girls, we figured, had more to do than adjust the curtain, and we decided to keep the curtain closed.

My family could not understand how we became friends and I once told them perhaps we never would have if we had to look at each other. One day he put on his pin-striped suit, white shirt and blue tie, took with him the plant my girls had brought him and he said goodbye and he said he was sorry he didn't talk too much the first few days because you were sick as hell. I shook hands with him and said come to see us by Lake Ontario and he said he would. He did look like sixty-six.

Some things change on some Christmases but I was thankful that I could go and buy again a Christmas tree from Dave Hunter like I do every year. I paid him for the tree and he gave me back two dollars for a subscription renewal for The Patriot which reminds me I should turn in the two dollars before the bookkeeper gets mad at me. I had trouble fitting the tree into the stand and when I got it standing finally it tilted, leaned and my wife and one of her assistants said it was too skinny. But when it's all dressed and done, like a bride, there is no ugly Christmas tree, and this one looked like the prettiest of them all.

Soon there were twenty for Christmas dinner as they came from all over. It was delightful pandemonium and everybody wanted to do something to help with the table. Only the turkey rested undisturbed at one end of the table and said nothing. A few days ago the last to leave in a cloud of dust and in a stationwagon with four little children was a daughter who rolled down the window and as she drove out of the driveway she shouted have a Happy New Year. You too. **Chat Boudemacki**



**NEWCOMERS AID LIBRARY.** The Fulton Welcome Wagon Newcomers annual auction brought a good turnout of the membership and proved to be a big success for the children's department of the Fulton Library.

Ellen Morin, librarian, second from right, accepts a check for \$112 from Mrs. Carol Hines, Newcomers President. Looking on at left, Mrs. Dorothy Kelleher, Ways & Means

Chairman and at right, Mrs. JoAnn Anderson, publicity. New books will be purchased for the children's library.

The proceeds of the auction are donated each year to a different worthwhile cause or charity. The Newcomers have many social functions in addition to their community involvement.

## Krakau slated for board chairman re-election

With the county legislature convening Monday, January 3 for its organizational meeting, there were solid indications that Legislator Alvin Krakau of Sandy Creek, will be reelected the board's chairman for another term.

There has been no formalized announcement to that effect in the Republican-dominated legislature, but there have been indications during the last few sessions that Krakau is anxious to guide some of the programs of the legislature to a fruition during the coming session.

As an example, during the start of last week's meeting, Legislator John Sullivan delivered a long dissertation regarding a procedural change of the meetings: Krakau acknowledged Sullivan's comments saying that this specifically was part of the program to be developed in the coming months of the new legislative year.

The structure of the 1974 legislature will see a substantial Republican majority of 28 legislators, seven Democrats and one Independent.

New legislators at the organizational meeting will be James Best of Granby, Norma Bartle of Minetto, John Wallace of Volney, Robert Miller of West Monroe, Nunzio Spiridigliozzi of the sixth ward in Oswego, Edward Frawley of the fourth ward in Fulton, John T. Donovan of the third ward in Oswego was named to fill the post vacated by the death of Angelo DeMiero late in 1973. He was elected in the November race in that city.

In the meantime County Attorney and Budget Director Charles Sauer, who has formally announced his retirement effective last day of 1974, is likely to stay on for one or two meetings during the new year until a new county attorney is named. There were no indications who that would be although several names are under consideration. The appointment will be for the County Attorney only and special action by the board on Thursday is likely to clear the way for a Budget Director post.

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## The 621---No reduction as Social Security takes over

There will be no reduction in the amounts of their monthly checks for the 621 aged, blind, and disabled public assistance recipients in Oswego county as the federal government takes over the administration this month of these welfare programs. Social Services Commissioner Rupert Collins said this week.

This assurance is based on the recently announced schedule of State and county supplements which will be added to the Federal payments. Commissioner Collins explained.

	Federal Payment	State-Local Supplement	Total SSI Check
Individual living alone	\$130	\$76.85	\$206.85
Individual living with others	130	24.18	154.18
Couple living alone	195	99.93	294.93
Couple living with others	195	50.93	245.93

Special schedules have been established for aged, blind, and disabled persons living in family care or in residential facilities for the aged, blind, and mentally retarded. The Social Service schedule of payments now in effect calls for \$84 a month for a single person and \$134 for a couple, plus the cost of rent and fuel for heating. The Federal Government now pays half the cost of this program; the other half is divided between the State and the local social services districts.

Commissioner Collins emphasized that there is no need for aged, blind, or disabled public assistance recipients to take any action to make sure they will continue to receive their monthly checks next year. The State and county social services departments have been collaborating with the Social Security Administration to assure there will be no interruption in the monthly payments to eligible persons.

Those who have been receiving Social Security benefits in addition to public assistance grants will continue to receive those benefits in separate checks. The value of the food stamps for which public assistance recipients are eligible was taken into consideration in determining the size of the State-local supplement. SSI recipients will therefore not be eligible for food stamps after January 1. The County department of social

change from local administration of cash assistance for the aged, blind, and disabled to Federal administration was mandated by 1972 amendments to the Social Security Act. The new program is called Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The following table shows the size of the SSI checks to be issued, starting in January, and the sources of the funds. The State-local supplement shown in the second column is divided equally between the State and the county.

## Eighth annual meeting at YMCA

The eighth annual meeting of the Y.M.C.A. will be held Saturday, January 12 at Lakeview Lanes starting with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7:30 p.m. Instead of a speaker, the Y.M.C.A. will put on a special program lasting about a half an hour that will include a variety of demonstrations.

Executive Secretary Charles Patterson says: "We hope that the folks attending our annual meeting will have an opportunity to see what the 'Y' is doing and what it can offer for people of all ages." A board of directors meeting will take place sometime during the evening and guests attending the meeting will be given the fiscal and year-end "Y" Report. Dancing will follow the program.

## Looking for help:

# The lost, helpless army of school dropouts

Before the new year ends the chances are that a faceless army of more than 300 youths will have dropped out of high school.

And they will be for the most part rudderless, drifting aimlessly without a job and even worse without prospects for a job.

Official statistics will say the figure will be 400 but that doesn't include suspensions and expulsions which are not counted as dropouts in most school systems of Oswego County. Numerically it doesn't seem like a lot of young people. Percentage-wise, in 1968 the county had one of the three highest dropout rates in the state. More recent figures released show a better performance percentage-wise compared with other counties in the state.

Oswego County in the latest figure has a 4.3 dropout rate which makes it the 12th highest in the state, exclusive of the metropolitan New York area. There were 57 counties in the listing.

That isn't as redeeming as it sounds. The number of dropouts seems to run over 400 consistently and the latest figure was based on a census report which showed a county-wide population increase which account for a lower dropout percentage, from 6.3 to 4.5.

This information on the tragically high dropout rate in the area, was secured by The Patriot in a study of various census figures and available county Federal State Aid Office studies and as well as with a series of discussions with individuals close to the critical situation in county schools.

What makes it all worse, aside from the federal Neighborhood Youth program there is no formalized help for the dropouts or concentrated effort to stem the high ratio of dropouts in county school systems.

On the other hand, only a small segment of dropouts are reached by the federally funded Neighborhood program, only about 60 young people over a year's time. And these are on the poverty level.

Dropouts from middle and high income families are not eligible for Neighborhood Youth programming and consequently there is no programming for them.

Federal State Aid Office said this week there is a possibility that "in school" programs, consisting of part school, part work may be reinstated by the federal government.

An observer close to the dropout scene told The Patriot that the responsibility for reduction of the number of dropouts eventually ends on the doorstep of the school districts in the county, some of which do not realize the high ratio in Oswego County.

It becomes obvious that a child who drops out in the county is highly disadvantaged because he's in a county with a high unemployment rate. Latest unemployment figures for the county are expected to be in the high 7 percent.

One of the most revealing statistics to come to light on the county's educational program, according to a study of 1970 census, is that more than 50 percent of males and females over 25 are not high school graduates. The highest percentage of dropouts is in

the first year of high school, supposedly when they reach 16.

Statistically, in the census report only a tenth of one percent separates Oswego County from being the sixth highest dropout rate in the state. The three counties with the lowest dropout rate are Nassau, 1.8; Tioga, 2.4; Delaware, 2.2; according to 1970 Census reports.

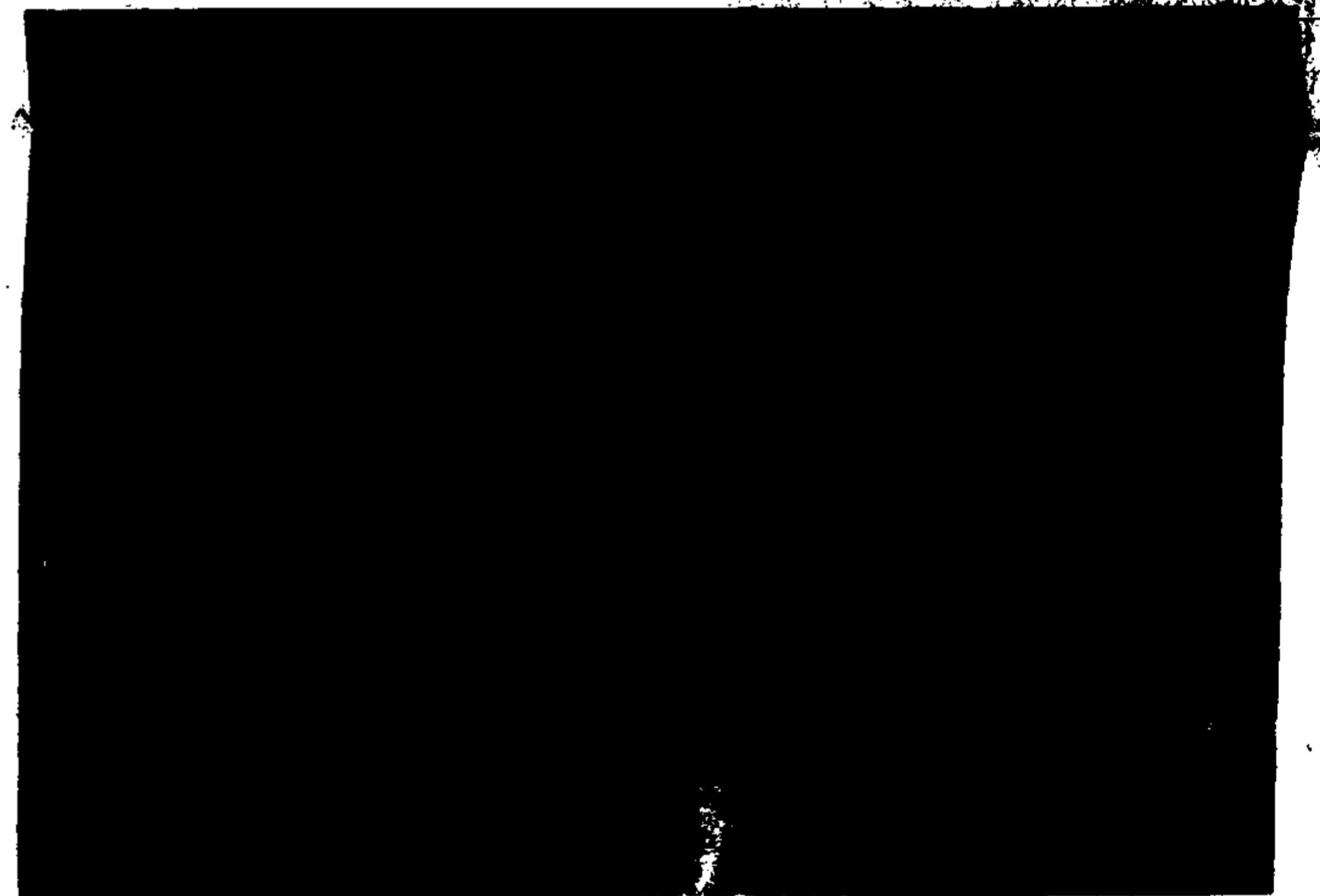
In a study made several years ago seeking additional aid for manpower programs for the area, Carolyn Rush of the county Federal State Aid Office contacted many of the county guidance counselors regarding the county's high dropout rate. In her report she said in part:

"Many of the guidance counselors in various schools suggested that our dropout rate is declining somewhat due to the advent and improvement of guidance services in schools. With lower student caseloads, counselors have an opportunity to work with more potential dropouts."

"As the caseload per counsellor lowers, possibly our dropout rate will fall," she continued.

"As a follow through to the 1970-71 dropout survey, I contacted the schools again in June of this year for dropout figures. . . . a total of 395 students dropped out of school; this results in a 5.1 percent dropout rate. This is a slight increase over last year's 4.6."

Other than a lowering of guidance counsellor caseloads there's no programmed effort to reduce one of the state's highest dropout rates in Oswego County schools.



**PHILLIPS STREET SCHOOL** sixth graders, under the direction of their teachers- Linda Matcke and Jamie Collins- spent several days recently

putting together a Roman Festival. Here are some of the youngsters bringing the culture of the old city of Rome alive in an old jewelry shop.

First row: Jeff Porter, Mike Hammond; second row: Ted Martin, Heidi Steinitz, Annette Allen; seated, Sandy Collier.

## State of City message

# Good news and trying times

Mayor Percy Patrick, Jr. and the six aldermen, all returned to their posts in the November elections, were sworn to office in a public inaugural Tuesday at the Municipal Building.

Delivering his State of the City message at the start of his fifth term, Mayor Patrick emphasized that the city continues "moving ahead."

Looking to the two years ahead, he said: "Of prime importance right now is the beginning of construction after more than three years of planning of Towpath Towers, our 11-story high-rise for our older citizens in downtown Fulton.

"We can look forward to additional construction downtown in the Security Building and Loan Association on the site of the old Perkins building, a new Shapiro's, four parking lots."

He said that work would begin this year on construction of the Cayuga Mall, "giving citizens of Fulton a real hometown atmosphere plus the advantage of convenient mall shopping which should bring more people into the downtown area."

The mayor congratulated Robert Burleigh, president of the Common Council for his effort on the Community Center and Skating Rink which should be completed in Recreation park "this spring." Under Burleigh's direction "we look forward to continuing expansion of North Bay, the city's camping area," he added that the number of campsites would be increased.

In reference to the Oneida Street Bridge he said:

"Of prime interest to me is a continuing effort to see construction of a new Oneida Street Bridge, and I shall keep that on Page One on my calendar of hopes for the coming year."

The city may face some trying times in the field of economics," the Mayor told the holiday gathering because of the "energy crisis, loss of federal funding for local projects."

and I am thinking especially of Father Champlin, the strike might have brought down a vital asset in Fulton's economy."

Urban renewal progress was reviewed favorably by the mayor with new downtown development continuing through 1975. He also pointed out two side effects of urban renewal in downtown Fulton, namely "a new underground utility system, new water system, new fire and police communications system and new tree planting."

Responsibilities and efforts by the aldermen came for special citation by Mayor Patrick saying that "not too many people realize how much work goes into representing the city's six wards."

He said aldermen attended 30 council meetings plus 34 executive meetings and 18 urban renewal meetings during a year's time. In addition to "responsibility for the city budget, fire and police protection, water, sewage roads plowing and recreation" program.

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