

To The People of Volney

An Open Letter

by Tom Thorpe, member Volney Town Board

In response to the letter written by Robert G. Ferris which appeared in the Oswego Valley News, Jan. 8, 1975:

Bob, you have accused me of meeting after Town Board meetings at Mimi's and conducting town business. Is this a way of intimidating me for not agreeing to everything said by Larry Phillips?

It is a known fact that after just about every meeting I have coffee at Mimi's, and that I invite people to come down and have coffee with me.

Mrs. Thorpe has attended just about every regular Town Board meeting with me, and when we go to Mimi's after the meeting we might be in the same room but not necessarily at the same table with other board members. I am not saying that other members of the board have not sat with Mrs. Thorpe and myself because they sometimes have. But the other Town Board members don't always go to Mimi's after meetings, Mr. Ferris.

This is not to say that I have not sat and had coffee with Don, Elmer, and Jack (and even Larry), which I have—but this was after the meeting when my wife did not attend. As for conducting town business, this is an out and out lie. The one thing I have accomplished by having coffee with Don, Elmer, and Jack, is a line of communication—and as you say I am sitting there "for all to see."

Ladies and gentlemen, I was told I should not have coffee with Elmer Taylor—my answer to this was that I would have coffee with whom I like, and where I like.

The trouble with you, Bob, and a few others, is that the minute someone does not agree with you, they are either a liar, crooked, or not to be trusted. As I have said before and will say again for all to read, it looks like this has become a personal thing with some of you against Elmer Taylor and Fred Eames, and I will not bury anybody's personal hatchet.

As you stated, I ran on the same ticket as Larry Phillips, also John Wallace, Ross Warren, Ross and Rose Mary Bartlett, Jesse Warner and others in the primary. Some of us won, some did not. One of the group could have won but the people found out he had a personal axe to grind and they would not go for it. And this man did work very hard for the group. The good thing about our group was the fact that most of us had met for the first time, so the people knew we had not formed a clique.

One of the issues was to make changes with the people's knowledge and approval. Remember zoning, Bob? Over one year later, what has been done? The one time we have really worked together on the whole board was in Miller's case. And I would like to see this all the time.

We have found things out that should be changed and have made some changes—and there are many more to make.

But—I will not try to ruin a man's name on what I think or what someone else thinks—or go along with a kangaroo court as in Fred Eames' case. Fact and fact alone in black and white is what counts.

This is not to say that I agree with the way all things are being done in the Highway Department. I do not, but I do say, let's get together with Mr. Eames and the other board members, and discuss these things, which is our job. The other board members have told me they will get together and talk these and other things over at what I call a work session. (In other words, they have said "let's work together for the good of the town.")

Ladies and gentlemen, the Town of Volney is a six million dollar corporation, and if we do not get together in work sessions and hash things over, how can we intelligently present these issues at regular Town Board meetings to you the people?

Whether I personally like or would vote for other board members is beside the point. You the people have put them, Larry Phillips, and myself in office, and while there we should put aside personal feeling and work for the good of the people.

Now on to some other things that you the people might like to know:

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, I found out that there had been created a job called "evaluator and efficiency expert" for the Town of Volney by the Town Supervisor. I myself had no prior knowledge of this, nor did any of the other board members. This position was created by Larry Phillips through the CETA Program. The person to be hired for this position was from the Town of Scriba.

By the way, Bob, you knew about this position being created and who was to be hired even though we board members had no knowledge of this. Did you not? So who is conducting town business where? This did not set well with me, ladies and gentlemen, nor with the other members of the Town Board.

And when I called Larry on the phone Tuesday night to see if he would meet at the Town Hall with the board on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. to talk over some other matters that had come up, I also told Larry I did not care for the way he had handled this, nor did the other board members. Larry's answer was: "So...?"

This job has since been abolished, one of the reasons being that the board members did not know about it, making its legality questionable. The salary was to have been over \$800 per month for six months.

Larry did agree to meet on Wed., Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. but he never showed up at the Town Hall. So I told the board members about the matters that had come up and asked their opinions. We left the Town Hall at 9 p.m. Oh, and by the way—we all had coffee together at Mimi's, Bob, for all to see.

So, ladies and gentlemen, I will not be threatened, coerced, or intimidated into doing things that I do not think are right. I also wish to ask at this time that you, the people, be the judge of who is doing what. See who is accomplishing what. This is not to say that Larry has not done some good, he has, and what good he has done should be credited to him.

I leave off with this message: there probably will be other things in the paper as the word back to me is that one way or another I will be discredited. Well, folks, as I have said before, I have no strings attached to me on either side, and that's the way I intend to stay. So just watch and see who accomplishes what and judge for yourself.

From now on, I will read along with you the people, and get back to more important things. Let my record stand for itself on my votes and the things I am trying to do.

If you plan to write any more articles for the paper, Bob, base them on the facts in black and white, not what someone else thinks or says.

With a hope for the future, Tom Thorpe, Councilman, Town of Volney

Handwritten invoice from KEX PY PRODUCTS (Genesee Valley Paper Company) to Volney, dated 1/15/75. Includes a table of copier accessories and a list of items with prices.

Second handwritten invoice from KEX PY PRODUCTS to Volney, dated 1/15/75. Includes a table of copier accessories and a list of items with prices.

THE COPIER DEAL EXPLAINED— Councilman Thorpe has asked the Valley News to print the two invoices shown above in the interest of making clear his role in the purchase of an SCM 142 Copier from the Kex Co. of Syracuse.

The uppermost invoice shows the monthly rental agreement which went into effect on Sept. 6, 1974. The per month charge was \$40; toner and paper added another \$47 in expenses. Mr. Thorpe emphasizes that he made payments out of his own "contractual expenses" allotment provided for councilmen by the Town of Volney budget.

The first invoice also sets forth the main point of the later purchase arrangement, which was that if the machine were purchased on or before Jan. 1, 1975, 90% of rental charges up to that date would be applied toward the purchase price.

The second invoice shows the purchase price minus \$108, or 90% of the 3-month rental total. Included at no charge was a Nashua stand, and (not listed) 4 rolls of paper and a key-lock switch.

Personals

THINA BURTON, Vermillion, celebrated her birthday Jan. 8. MRS. JANICE BURTON, Tina and Starlene, Vermillion, and Burt Jacobson, Mexico, spent last Tuesday with her sister and family, Mrs. Sheila Bickford, Orwell. MR. AND MRS. OLIVER WARDHAUGH, Kimball Ave., on Saturday, Jan. 4, attended a dinner and reception in Oswego for Mr. and Mrs. Sam Greco. Mrs. Betty Greco is the State President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

MR. AND MRS. WILLARD PACHOUD of Vermillion and Mrs. Rose Gorton of East New Haven were recent callers of John Zaun in the Harwood Nursing Home and Thelma Mason in the Oswego Hospital. MR. AND MRS. JAMES GAGLIARDO and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Spencer and Timothy were Christmas Day guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Koliada, of Fulton. MRS. MADELINE SHEPARD and children of Granby Center called on Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Spencer and children on Monday evening.

Round CAMPUS The

A listing of events scheduled at the State University College at Oswego. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, Jan. 15 Second semester classes begin. Festival Chorus, college and community choral organization, resumes weekly rehearsals, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. room 41 Tyler Hall.

Sol Gordon, controversial director of the Institute for Family Research and Education at Syracuse University, discusses "The Nature of the Healthy Sexual Being, 8 p.m., Hewitt Union ballroom.

Thursday, Jan. 16 Varsity hockey vs. RIT, 7 p.m., Romney Fieldhouse, with tickets on sale at the gate.

Friday, Jan. 17 Port City Wrestling Festival begins at 6 p.m., Laker Hall, with tickets on sale at the door. Festival features amateur all-star wrestling card with continuous action on two mats. Oswego Mat Rats, elementary school boys, begin the action, followed by Oswego High vs. Liverpool High in both varsity and junior varsity bouts, capped by Oswego State vs. Buffalo, fifth-ranked in the East, in varsity and JV bouts.

Saturday, Jan. 18 Great Lakers varsity basketball vs. Buffalo State, 8 p.m. Laker Hall, with tickets on sale at the door.

Sunday, Jan. 19 Tyler Hall Art Gallery opens the college's second semester with two concurrent exhibits. "Oh, Boy! It's Ceramics!" displays the works of Mark Burns, Oswego faculty member and "Embellishments" is an exhibit by New York City illustrator Thomas Huffman. Show opens Jan. 19 and runs until Feb. 2. Gallery hours: weekdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Public skating at Romney Fieldhouse in three sessions: 1:30 - 3 p.m.; 3:30 - 5 p.m.; and adults only, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Fifty cents charge per session.

First of winter series of faculty recitals features Daniel Barach, viola, and Waller Freimanis, cello, 8:15 p.m., Waterman Theatre of Tyler Hall.

Tuesday, Jan. 21 Men's varsity swimmers meet Ithaca and King's College, in tri-meet, 7 p.m., Laker Hall.

Wednesday, Jan. 22 Varsity hockey vs. Ithaca College, 7 p.m., Romney Fieldhouse, with tickets on sale at the gate.



Fulton Post 569 was host for the January conference of the VFW Oswego County Council. President Vernice Bradford conducted the Ladies Auxiliary meeting.

Special guests were State President Betty Greco of Johnstown, State Chief of Staff Arlene Caiella of Constantia, and Fifth District President Vivian Wardhaugh from Fulton.

The winner of the County-wide Voice of Democracy contest, Chris Shepard, a student at Oswego Catholic High School, addressed the assembly repeating his prize-winning speech. A tape of his patriotically-inspiring words has been sent to Albany for entry in the State contest.

Members of Post 569 attending the meeting were Commander and Mrs. Victor Cughan, George and Gladys Hughes, Ollie and Vivian Wardhaugh, George and Betty Mace, Bob and Gloria Evans, Alice Vescio, Doris Mattern, Rose King, Iva Vickery, Peggy Thomas, Eleanor Judware, Louis Duciaume, Pete Vescio, Herb Tregaser, Spencer Cooper, Del Rhines, and Ray Furlong.

Betty Mace announces that there will be a meeting of the VFW entertainment committee on Monday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m.