

Alvin Krakau Leaves Legislature After 11 Years in County Service

The first member of the Oswego County Legislature to succeed himself as Chairman, and only the second man to lead that body since its beginning in 1972, has ended a three-year tenure as Chairman of the county's pre-eminent legislative body. Alvin L. Krakau, Legislator and Supervisor from the Town of Sandy Creek, at the end of 1975 brought



Alvin Krakau

to a close a career in county government stretching back 11 years.

First elected as Supervisor in 1963, Krakau took office the following January, and served on the Board of Supervisors until its last session in 1971. He has held both the post of Supervisor and County Legislator since 1972.

A respected politician and businessman, Krakau's chairmanship has been a time of gradual, progressive change in county governmental operations. Although his presence has been eclipsed during the past year by illness, he has returned to the Legislature fully aware of events that had transpired during his absence and capable of re-assuming the helm of government. Krakau's low key, behind the scenes persuasiveness has smoothed many a ruffled feather; but, conversely, his sometimes exploding, dominating presence has turned many a vote with his simplistic businessman's logic.

Abiding by his philosophy that government should be run like a business, and that each factor in life is proportionate to some other factor, Krakau has attempted to lead county government down the road to modernity and responsiveness to the people.

During the three years since he took the oath as Chairman on Jan. 8, 1973, Oswego County has undergone vast changes. Major industrial development — Niagara Mohawk, Miller Brewery, the Miller can plant, Owens-Illinois — has expanded the county's tax base enabling the county to offer similarly expanding services. The county itself has undertaken and completed major capital building projects, the Michaud Nursing Home, Social Services Building, Mental Health Clinic, and the Sheriff's Offices, and variously expanding services or streamlined services as a result of this construction.

Within the tenure of Krakau's chairmanship, substantial changes, improvements and the initiation of services have been begun to aid the residents of Oswego County. A Solid Waste Disposal District has been established in the county, eliminating the often unsightly local dumps around the county; the county airport, with the aid of State and Federal funding has been greatly improved and enlarged; the county has changed to a Personnel Department and added Data Processing to its functioning departments; tax mapping of the county has been nearly completed; and general government reforms have been instituted.

Krakau as chairman has taken part in application procedures

that have resulted in funding of CETA programs, employing nearly 1,000 persons, Youth Bureau programs, and has witnessed during his three years in office the expansion of revenue sharing funding for the county. Within the last year, Oswego County entered the bonding market, but in Krakau's thinking, although permissible in some circumstances, such bonding should only be done when those who benefit from the services have full use of those services to the termination of the debt.

It was during Krakau's term that an Office of the Chairman was established as a service to the people of the county, allowing government to become more responsive. Policy changes have likewise been made in a number of departments that have made county government more open and aware of the public need. Similarly, the financial structure of county government has undergone major revisions. New financial systems have been established to afford better accountability, and more speedily provide current financial status reports.

To say that Chairman Krakau had a part in every reform that has been undertaken by Oswego County government during the last three years is to fictionalize to a certain degree, but as Chairman of the County Legislature during that time, he has been aware of the changes first-hand, and has been instrumental in many of the burgeoning plans that have resulted in major governmental reforms. As Chairman of the County Legislature he has had to keep himself informed of the functioning government, keep restraints on it when necessary, and to successfully guide government through a difficult period of recession and inflation, rising costs and the demands for more services from the people of the county.

Krakau, in reflecting on the past two years while he was serving as Chairman of the County Legislature, said: "I don't like the word 'I' — the word is 'WE.' So many have contributed to the many accomplishments and the successes varying in due proportion to the efforts of everyone involved. The most important thing that I strived for in Oswego County government has been developing closer communications between legislators, department heads, and county personnel that are involved with the services rendered to the people of Oswego County. Developing this means of communications has helped in opening the doors of county government to keep our people well informed. I have always believed that the more people know about government, the more government will improve.

"Simplified government would be easier if policy makers always knew the desires of our constituents. Therefore it is our responsibility to keep our constituents informed at all time. Legislators should reflect their peoples' desires enacting legislation to benefit people always at an affordable price.

"I am proud of the progress made, yet no progress could have been made without the generous support from all people in and out of government. I am greatly enthused by the voluntary response of the people of this county, by their suggestions, their participation and their efforts on everyone's behalf.

"Special gratitude must be expressed to the tireless work of the members of the Legislature individually and also to Mr. Lozito, who exerted knowledge, energy, willingness and who worked very closely at my shoulder. He responded to the goals placed before him and made all efforts to accomplish these goals.

"Oswego County has the ingredients (good water, roads, recreation, etc.) for tremendous growth, and the county is going to make great strides in the years ahead. There are unlimited possibilities in this county if we are careful, and expand

cautiously.

"Finally, I want to thank Art Ospelt for his efforts during my illness in assuming the helm of government. During this period he very ably conducted county government and carried out the executive goals that had been established."



With the summer season comes the need to do more yard work, and this includes cutting the grass frequently. If you are among the 40 million users of power mowers, please take time to read a few words of caution.

There are three danger areas that require particularly special care: steep slopes, gravel drives and low hanging trees.

On slopes, when walking behind your mower, mow across the slope, not up and down the hill. On a rider-mower, do just the opposite to avoid the possibility of spills. If a slope is extremely steep, you should consider an alternative ground cover.

Be extremely careful of gravel and other small objects which can be picked up by the mower's blades and thrown out at terrific speed. Disengage a riding mower's blades and shut off a conventional mower's motor before crossing a gravel area. It is also a good idea to periodically check your lawn for small rocks and debris that might be picked up by the mower.

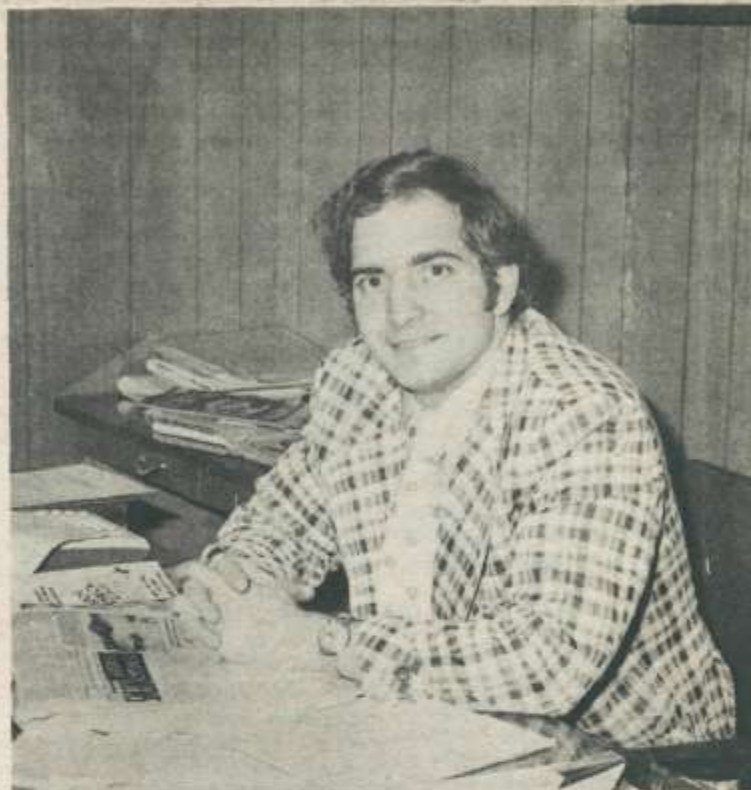
Saturday gardeners often become so immersed in their work that they fail to watch where they are going. Low hanging trees can hit you in the face by surprise, causing you to lose control of your mower and creating danger for you and your family.

As with any power tool, exercise caution, and you can reap its benefits safely.

Readers' questions are welcome and should be sent to P.O. Box 2210, Newport Beach, CA 92663.

Real success in life comes from a combination of circumstances.

The crying need of humanity today is a repair shop for their broken promises.



WARDS NEW MANAGER—Lawrence DiPrima, a native of Highland, N.Y., has assumed the managership of the Fulton Montgomery Ward store, succeeding Gale Tieder, who has been transferred to Lockport, N.Y. The 31-year old DiPrima was promoted to store manager following outstanding performances in other assignments in several New York State locations over the past 10 years. He has served as assistant manager, operating manager and merchandise manager. DiPrima's wife Linda and their son Todd and daughter Jull will join him soon in Fulton.

Open House to Showcase Program Changes at HFL

The "Upstairs" at the Hannibal Free Library was closed Jan. 7-14 for a rearranging of space and a restructuring of programs.

Since 1970, the library has offered K-12 recreational craft activities in a self-disciplined, non-programmed atmosphere where ideas, materials and help were available at little or no cost.

In an effort to upgrade the quality and competency of the children's work, the program has been changed somewhat. It will remain a self-disciplined, non-school atmosphere, but will become a studio—where children who wish to will be able to seriously work and learn in specific areas of the crafts. Workshops will be planned in advance and children who wish to attend, free of charge, may, although space will be provided for those who are pursuing non-related projects. There will be a minimal charge for materials used.

An open house has been planned for Saturday, Jan. 17 at the library from 1-4 p.m. Parents are invited to bring interested

youngsters to watch local high school students demonstrate in areas of prospective workshops: paper mache, simple printing, weaving, sculpture and wood carving. Areas not being demonstrated that will be explored through the year include: pottery, sewing, silk and photo screening, tie-dyeing and batik.

The days and hours have been changed to Mon., Tues., and Wed. 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays 3-5 will be for high school and adults only.

Story Hours will be continued for pre-schoolers age 3-5 on Mondays from 10-11 a.m. beginning Jan. 19.

Adult Handicraft workshops will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7-10 p.m., resuming Jan. 21 at the library studio with basic quilting.

Due to the rising cost of materials, there is now a charge of 25c a week or \$2. for 10 weeks per family for Story Hour and a charge of \$1 a session plus minimal cost of materials used for Adult Handicrafts.

HOLIDAY BLUES

This is the time of the year when some individuals will get a sudden shock when they find all their accounts are overcharged.



SPECIAL COFFEE BREAK—When Harold [Chic] Townsley showed up for the usual coffee break Saturday morning at Minit Chef Restaurant in Pyramid Mall he didn't realize he would be guest of honor at a small retirement party hosted by his "coffee break" buddies. Taking time out from cake and coffee to pose for the Valley News are, from left, seated, Pat Casey, Harry Williams, James Ingison, Chic Townsley and Donald Townsley; standing, Robert LaRock and George Woods. Not pictured, but part of the coffee break gang: Robert Townsley and Donald Stoughtenger. Mr. Townsley retired Jan. 9 from Sealright Co. after 26 years service. The surprise party Saturday was arranged by Ingison.