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Friendship blossoming into 50 cherry trees

By BARBARA PRASAD
Correspondent

MORAVIA — When Moravia's Citizen of the Year wants something, he goes after it — even if it means wearing down the foreign resistance.

In particular, Robert Scarry wanted more cherry trees for the town. So he pestered the Japanese Consulate for them.

But the Japanese were none too anxious to send 50 cherry trees to Moravia, especially since Scarry had asked them for 110 trees in 1977 to help commemorate this nation's bicentennial — by honoring the 13th U.S. president, Moravia-born Millard Fillmore.

It was Fillmore who sent Commodore Perry to Japan with a message for the Mikado, which actually opened the trade talks.

Scarry didn't give up on the cherry trees he hoped would arrive for the village's sesquicentennial.

Then came a letter from Japanese Consul General Hideuwuki Kobayashi, telling him the 50 trees were on their way to Moravia as a show of friendship and a bond of understanding between our countries.

The trees should be here any

day now," Scarry said.

The Moravia resident, a history teacher for 23 years, is writing a book about Fillmore in it, he explains the man did more than just "put the first bathtub with running water in the White House."

As Fillmore's friendship with the Japanese flowered, so will the cherry trees.

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Fish hatchery aide Jerry Clark releases brown trout.

Carpenter's Brook: Fish haven on display

By NANCY WARD

From a distance, the series of ponds look like uninviting concrete circles.

But if you're up close and peering into their depths, the perception changes.

Thousands of young trout, rainbows, browns, and brookies, form a black mass, compelling viewers to move close and stare into the swirling dark, fantasizing about the day when the strong pull on their fishing lines might come from one of these.

The scene is Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery, off Route 321 in Elbridge. Constructed during the Great Depression as a work project, Carpenter's Brook has operated since 1938, first as a joint venture between Onondaga County and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and since 1984 entirely by the Onondaga County Parks Commission.

A typical day at the hatchery starts at 7:30 for Richard Fey, a 24-year-old who dons his boots before beginning his rounds.

He loads his pickup truck with a 300-pound tankful of trout. On the road again for six weeks in the spring, for him, means a trip to one of the more than 30 brooks or lakes in Onondaga County on his list. The list, compiled by New York State, contains familiar names: Skaneateles Lake, Otisco Lake, Carpenters Brook, Butternut Creek, Cold Brook. Fey makes two to four trips every day depending on his destination.

"We try to replenish streams and lakes that are fished out so there are ample opportunities for fishermen," Fey said.

During March and April each year, between 75 and 90 thousand trout are stocked.

For the trout, the route from the hatchery to local water ways takes about 16 months, according to Fey, but the cycle begins much earlier.

In October and November, eggs begin arriving at the hatchery, some from New York, others from as far away as West Virginia.

Life after hatching can be precarious. "Usually, if we can end



Kevin Green/The Citizen

Richard Fey, Onondaga Parks and Recreation nets brown trout from hatchery.

up with 100,000 live fish out of 300,000 eggs, we're doing good," Fey said.

By March and April, the hatchery's trout are 8 to 10 inches long and ready to be stocked.

Fey, who's worked at

Carpenter's Brook for five years, has a degree in Natural Resource Conservation from Morrisville Agricultural and Technical College.

"It's a nice place to get away and have a picnic," Fey said of

the hatchery, which is open from 8 a.m. until dark all year.

The 10-acre facility includes an archery range, a picnic area, and a playground. Guided tours are available by contacting the hatchery at 680-9367.

'Just clear my name'

Contractor embroiled in tax snafu

By TAMARA L. ALDUS

Hillard Parks sat at his kitchen table, hands outstretched, trying to explain.

"I don't want to cause any problems for nobody. I just want to keep my name clear because I'm new here. The only thing I want to do is just get this tax thing straightened out."

This tax thing is \$2,000 the Internal Revenue Service says he owes for wages last year, only a fraction of which he says he owes. He said the city of Auburn made checks out to him instead of his boss, a city contractor with a record of welfare fraud, so his boss's welfare checks wouldn't be cut off.

City officials deny knowing anything about the two men's arrangement but admit knowing Parks' boss was a convicted welfare cheat. They say, though, they are not obliged to watch for welfare cheats and won't stop using his services just because he might be one.

"I'll continue to do what I can to save the taxpayers money," said Michael O'Neill, the city engineer. "If it came to hiring these gentlemen again, I would."

Two years ago, Parks, 32, moved here from Tampa, Fla., after selling his used furniture business, he said. He needed a job badly, he said.

In January 1986, Willie Hames, a long-time family friend, offered Parks a job working for the city — on one condition, Parks said. He would be paid by large checks made out to him, he said, and would turn over most of the cash to Hames.

O'Neill hired the two men as independent contractors to chop wood for compost at the city's sewage treatment plant and to help remove debris at the Taurus Chemical building on North Division Street.

O'Neill and City Manager Bruce Clifford approved five checks totaling almost \$8,000 to Parks, city records show, with dates spanning Jan. 3, 1986, to Oct. 24, 1986.

Parks said he didn't understand what was going on at first but thought the checks came unreported to the IRS. The tax bill shocked him.

Social Services officials would not confirm Parks' allegations or whether Hames has ever been on welfare, citing confidentiality.

"I just went along with the program," Parks said. "Willie Hames was paying me. I wasn't the boss."

Parks said he earned about \$2,000 from the jobs. Hames took the rest of the \$8,000, Parks said. Parks said he would cash the checks, hand over the money to Hames, and wait for Hames to peel off his share.

Hames, 38, who now works at

Please see DOUBLE, Page 2.

Port Byron school superintendent resigning

By NANCY WARD

Henry "Hank" Grishman, Port Byron school superintendent, announced his resignation Friday, effective at the end of the school year.

Grishman has accepted the position of superintendent of schools at Mohonasen school district in Schenectady.

Grishman, 42, said his decision had nothing to do with the budget problems at Port Byron or the Lion Capital investments.

He has been superintendent of schools in Port Byron since 1981.

Before coming to Port Byron, he had taught in Rockland County at the elementary level for two years and secondary math for two years.

He had held the position of elementary principal in the Yonkers City school district, middle school principal in Pine Bush and had been superintendent of the Sharon Springs school district for three years.

"We're very sorry to see him leave," said Linda Marshall, board president. "I always liked his emphasis on the kids. He is very pro-kid and always looked out for their best interests."

She said he has always been honest and straightforward in dealing with the school and the board.

Grishman's wife, Jill, teaches eighth-grade English at Weedsport Junior-Senior High School. His two sons are Matt, 14, a freshman, and Daniel, 11, a sixth grade student.

Grishman has been active in Little League, the Cayuga County Arts Council, and is on the board of directors of Syracuse University's principal center.

"I'm excited about the many challenges facing me in the new position, but I shall sincerely miss

the many friends I've made in my six years at Port Byron," Grishman said.

"I feel strongly that the educational program we offer in Port Byron is an excellent one because of the outstanding commitment of the board and school staff."

"The school district is one that the community should be proud of," Grishman said the district "gets its strength from the students, the staff and the board."

He said the district needs to continue to improve programs, public relations, community involvement and community support

Congressional curtain to rise on arms scandal hearing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The curtain will rise Tuesday on the biggest show in Congress since Watergate when former Maj. Gen. Richard Secord slides into the witness chair in the historic Senate Caucus Room and begins unraveling the mysteries of the Iran-Contra affair.

By the time the last television camera is turned off in mid-summer, investigators hope to lay bare the details of the Reagan administration's arms-for-hostages swaps and trace to the fullest extent possible the secret diversion of cash to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

Beyond that, they hope to focus public attention on more profound questions.

"I think it will reaffirm our belief in the wisdom of public policy in a democratic society being made in public," says Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, one of 35 members of the special House and Senate committees established earlier this year to conduct a thorough investigation. "And when policy is made in secret by a handful of men without the benefit of public debate, the possibility of error is very high."

Adds Rep. Richard Cheney, R-Wyo., a member of the House committee, "These

aren't new problems: the president's authority in covert action, his obligations to report to the Congress on secret activities.

The hearings will be factual and relatively devoid of partisan politics, promises Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., vice chairman of the Senate committee.

"There is very little Republicans could do to make the facts better than they are. And, quite frankly, I don't think the Democrats could possibly make them worse than they are," says Rudman.

Investigators s

vidence, including portions of President Reagan's own handwritten diaries, to dispute his claim that he did not know of the diversion of arms sales profits from Iran to the Contras.

But questions were raised late last week about the president's meetings in the White House with donors to the Contra cause at a time when direct U.S. military assistance was banned. The White House says the president did no wrong, and he has said he believed the donations were for television commercials.

Investigators also say they have no evidence that Vice President Bush knew of the diversion.

"Thus far from what I've seen I think he's been unfairly treated," Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., said of Bush. "He's got some aides or some people in it, but I think when all the facts are out he's not a big player."

Investigators also say they have not spoken to key witnesses, including former national security adviser John M. Fuqua, and his former aide, Lt. Col. Oliver L. North.