



Craig R. Snyder presenting a cash award to Mary A. Burns at the Testimonial Dinner from friends as well as guests at the party, with Mayor Paul E. Kilbane obviously enjoying the award. (News Photo)

## Mary A. Burns Retires from Post Office

Mrs. Mary A. Burns, Postmaster, was honored at a retirement party last Saturday night in the Knights of Columbus Home in Hornell. About 200 persons attended the dinner party sponsored by her co-workers at the Andover Post Office.

A very tasty Roast Beef Dinner was enjoyed by everyone present. Mayor Paul E. Kilbane opened the ceremonies by introducing George Probasco, Postmaster at Whitesville. Mr. Probasco presented Mrs. Burns with a Retirement Certificate from the Postmaster General, citing her for 30 years continuous service to the Postal Department.

Craig Snyder who was sworn in last Saturday as Clerk in Charge, related on some of the operations of the local Post Office and also some of Mrs. Burns' experiences over the past years. He related one of the most important regulations Mary had always stressed was not only give the public good service but give it always with a smile.

In reading some of the letters of regret, Craig noted that a lot of the retired Postmasters were in Florida, one in the Caribbean and one taking a world cruise.

As far as work in the office, Mary would do more than her share and never leave until it was done. When complaints were turned in at the window to the Clerks, you never had any fear, because Mary was always there to back you up.

The sign by the stamp window, with the office hours on it were mentioned—(5:00 p. m. closing). But in fact, the windows were never closed at that time, because service was still asked and still given. Although most places lock the door on the dot, not here, through the courtesy of Mary. In fact sometimes when you wanted a Special Delivery Letter to go after Mail Closing Time, it has been arranged so same would still go, even though the pouch is hung on the mail crane waiting for the train. Or maybe your letters weren't sealed or the packages not tied with string; Mary would say okay we will take care of that, lots of string and tape. But when Mary started for the front window, you wanted to be out of her way, because she was coming fast. In fact most people were shocked when told that she had reached the mandatory retirement age.

Or sometimes the Star Route Truck had left a bag or pouch at one of the neighboring offices. You get on the phone and call Al-

mond, Alfred Station, Alfred and Wellsville until you located it. Then you jump in your own car and go after it, and the Patrons on the Rural Routes receive their newspapers on time or the local businesses receive their 1st Class mail with little delay.

These are but a few of the many favors and extras that have been promoted over the years by Mary's untiring efforts.

Craig also stated that he would compete Mary against any Postmaster in the County or even the entire State of New York. In closing he related that Mary had more ZIP than the entire ZIP Code put together.

Next, Toastmaster Paul Kilbane presented a very nice summary of some of the highlights of Mary's past. Mary attended Andover High School and graduated from the Alfred Teacher-Training Class of 1913. She taught in the Rural Schools until October 23rd, 1916, when she was united in marriage to John A. Burns who died in 1956. However, they were able to enjoy a 40th Wedding Anniversary Party given at their home during the summer of 1956.

Mary entered the postal service in June of 1934 and was given steady employment in July 1935. During that period the office was in 3rd Class and Mary was promoted to Ass't Postmaster. In July 1945 the office was raised to 2nd Class and Mary assumed the duties of Regular Clerk. In October 1946 Postmaster James Cheesma died and Mary was appointed Clerk in Charge. In March 1947 she was appointed as Acting Postmaster and on 25 March 1949 she was sworn in as Postmaster. She has served in that capacity very efficiently and well until her official retirement on Sunday, 31 January 1965.

The following former workers of Mary's were seated at a table directly in front:

Robert Church of Wellsville, Former Rural Carrier; Mrs. Ila Snyder of Andover, Former Regular Clerk; Claude Shellman of Andover, Former Substitute Rural Carrier.

Also present were: Mrs. Rita Burns, Clerk and daughter of Mary; John L. Cannon, Rural Carrier of RFD No. 2; Roland P. Kemp, Rural Carrier on RFD No. 1; Eileen Davis, Clerk; Mary M. Smith, Sub. Clerk; and Roberta Meyn, Present Substitute Rural Carrier.

Mary also has another daughter, Mrs. Robert McCormick who was

present along with the six grandchildren.

Mary is a Past President of the Andover Chamber of Commerce; She is a member of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States; a Past President and Vice-President and Past Secretary and Treasurer of the Allegany County Postmasters Association; a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Wellsville; a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church and its Altar Society and Ladies Sodality.

In closing Mary was presented a purse of money from all those present and from gifts sent in.

At the conclusion of all the festivities after the dinner, everyone adjourned downstairs for dancing and of course a lot of reminiscing.

And still the large crowd stayed on into the night, enjoying themselves and most of all expressing their heartfelt appreciation to a very fine lady.

The following out-of-town guests attended Mary A. Burns Retirement Dinner on Saturday: Act. P. M. and Mrs. L. Howard Jacob, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lewis, Alfred; P. M. Leighton Austin, Alfred Station; P. M. Richard Braack, Ar. and Mrs. Paul Almeter, Almond; P. M. and Mrs. Edgar Karns, Arkport; Asst. and Mrs. Ernest Padden, Miss Bernice Hartigan, Friendship; P. M. and Mr. Gerry Burd, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Chaffee and son, Gary, Mrs. Freeman Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Neil McCormick, Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. McCormick, Greenwood; Act. P. M. and Mrs. John Ingells, Asst. P. M. and Mrs. Paul Bayley, Mrs. Dorothy Alexin, Mrs. Sally Dean, Mrs. Anieta O'Connor, Mr. and Mrs. James O'Connor, Hornell; P. M. Leola Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rogers, Mrs. Leeta Rogers and Ret. P. M. Anna Haley, Silver Springs; P. M. and Mrs. George Probasco, Whitesville; P. M. and Mrs. Martin Kimmell, Wayland; Supt. of Mails and Mrs. D. W. Daley, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Church, Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Colburn, Miss Judy Schawlb, Mr. and Mrs. Glade Weimer, Mrs. Wm. D. Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meason and son, James, Wellsville; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dougherty, Elmira; Mrs. Ethel Gath, Liverpool; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Joyce, East Aurora; Mr. and Mrs. Charles

## News That's Print To Fit

FLASH! — Groundhog sees its shadow!

We don't know when, where, or how, the Groundhog came to be such an official prognosticator of the weather, or as far as that goes—why would any self-respecting hibernating animal even stick his nose out in weather like this?

At any rate, IF the critter should have appeared on the scene—he would have seen his shadow—so that means How many more weeks of winter?

We know that the "Business Climate" in this neck of the woods is almost at the ZERO mark—or below, but that doesn't mean that the thermometer has to join the same band-wagon.

Yep folks, the mercury has only been above zero 1 night in the past week with it plunging way down to -21 Saturday night and rising way up to a high of 19 Monday.

According to the boys down at the Pump Station, the recorded high and low for each day of the past week are: Fri. the 29th: Low -4, High 5; 30th: Low -21, High 11; 31st: Low -6, High 12; Feb. 1st: Low -1, High 19; 2nd Low 10 Above, High 17; 3rd Low -8, High 6; and this morning's Low was -7, with the present temperature at 1 above.

While still on the subject of the weather reminds us that we sure appreciate the Town Crew sanding Rochambeau Avenue Monday A. M. Yep, this isn't hear-say—we saw them as they went by!

From the corner of Grove St., all the way down to the Village line its been a vertible skating rink for the past week which creates a very dangerous situation down along by the Silk Mill. This is especially true since a lot of traffic is using this back route into town in order to avoid the dangerous over-head.

Thus with the Village truck being jaid up, we are glad that the Town Boys are amenable to a request for a little sand in the interest of safety.

How many of you readers noticed a truly indictive fact of the trend of our present times which was in the "In Our State" cartoon about Waterfowl in last week's paper?

We looked it over before putting it in the paper but didn't notice the comparison until "Howdy" pointed it out to us. What was it? Get out last week's issue of the paper, and you will see that there are around 11,000 homes listed in this small City—with the local banks holding around 8,000 mortgages! Anon!

Or, R. O. Hester; Mr. and Mrs. Edward O'Connor, Alburt; Miss Mary O'Leary, Elizabeth, N. J.; Miss Marian Marsden and Thomas F. Hennessey of Oswego.

## "Scout Week" Plans Made By Troop 42

Andover Boy Scout Troop 42 made its plans for the observance of National Boy Scout Week at the Greenbar meeting last Monday evening.

The local Troop is planning on having a window display in one of the Main Street stores and will attend their respective Churches in a group on February 7, "Scout Sunday."

The Scout Unit also sends out a special invitation to all lads between the ages of 11 to 18, to come to their meetings and see what goes on.

Plans were made for a camp-out on the week-end of February 20th and 21st.



Mrs. Fred McMann was discharged from the Jones Memorial Hospital following several weeks treatment for a fractured hip.

Mrs. Thelma Hombs, a surgical patient in the St. James Mercy Hospital, returned to her home Wednesday.

## OES Notice

The regular meeting of Anna W. McArthur Chapter No. 242, OES, will be held Monday, February 8th at 8 p. m., at the Masonic Temple. Refreshments will be served following the meeting by Althea Phelps, Gretta Gram and Rosemary Wightman.

## Firemen's Auxiliary Notice

The regular monthly meeting of the Firemen's Auxiliary will be held Wednesday, February 10th at 8 p. m., at the home of Mrs. Clayton Barnes on Grove St. Refreshments will be served by Mrs. Clayton Barnes and Mrs. Ronald Taylor following the meeting.

ing to these figures around 73 of the homes there are mortgaged—how about that?

We were very pleased to see that some of the "Younger Generation" is taking an active interest in the current controversial "Medicare Issue" as evidenced by one of the "Letters to the Editor" in this week's issue of the Andover News. It is comments like these that make people stop to think a little bit—and if they take off their "rose colored" glasses, they may find that when they get down to the actual facts—the picture isn't as "Rosy" as it is painted to be!



George Probasco, Whitesville Postmaster and President of Allegany County Postmasters Assn., presenting a 30 Year Retirement Certificate to Mary A. Burns. (News Photo)