

## News From Albany

By Assemblyman  
JAMES L. EMERY

Last week's Local Government Conference here in Albany was a success from all indications of the 100 persons who attend from all parts of the 136th Assembly District. Although we accomplished a great deal and I certainly hope the participants were able to return to their areas with some valuable information from our various State agencies the Conference did have its lighter moments.

Most of those attending the 2-day affair at the beautiful new Ramada Inn in Albany came in on two chartered buses. And considering the weather which greeted them they left for the return trip, the "leave the driving to us" concept was most welcome in the unexpected Spring snow. With a number of town highway superintendents in attendance, Monday night found many of them making frequent trips to the window (where the snow could be seen falling harder and harder as the evening wore on).

Many of them made phone calls back to their areas to find out about the progress of the snow and the plowing and sanding operations. One highway superintendent was concerned. He remarked that he had already overhauled and painted his plows and graders twice and now they would be used again. "It's a tough, unpredictable business," he said.

If the conference seemed a bit more lively this year, it was probably the addition of 27 bright and witty high school students from every high school in the 136th district. These students attended the conference through the courtesy of several banks in the area, and their response was gratifying indeed. They listened attentively to the many sessions which those attending the conference had with various agency and department heads and on many occasions asked some very intelligent questions.

They also had fun. The Ramada Inn which just opened in the past several months had a beautiful new indoor swimming pool for them to enjoy, and after Monday night's dinner some of them were interested in watching a scuba diving class being taught in the pool while others (mostly the boys, of course) sat by the new color television sets in each room and watched Hank Aaron hit his historic home run to break Babe Ruth's record. Of course, it wasn't just the kids who watched that.

It was two days filled with work and information and we were pleased to have such knowledgeable government officials as Dr. T. Norman Hurd, secretary to the Governor; Health Commissioner Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham and Deputy Health Commissioner Dr. Andrew Fleck; Social Services Commissioner Abe Levine; State Commerce Commissioner Neal Moylan; Assistant Transportation Commissioner Bill Hennessy (a native of Wellsville); Frank Walkley, Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets (formerly of Castile) and many others attending and speaking to the participants.

Also joining us were my colleagues, Senator Jess Present of Jamestown, Assemblyman James Hurley of Lyons who shares Ontario County with me and Assembly Whip Glenn H. Harris of Canada Lake.

Tuesday, 10 inches of snow and all, the participants met in small groups with various State officials, toured the Capitol and the Assembly and topped off the two days with a luncheon and a brief hello by Governor Malcolm Wilson, who, in his usual style, managed to know a number of the participants by name.

Now we begin planning for the 1975 Local Government Conference.

### Appreciation

I wish to express my appreciation to all my friends, neighbors and relatives for their visitations, gifts, flowers, cards and other acts of kindness while I was in the hospital and since my return home. Also for all the kindnesses extended to my family.

Mrs. Nellie O'Dell

Use the Classified Ad Section.

## Spring Turkey Season Announced

Indicative of the steady increase in the spread of our wild turkey population is the fact that this year, for the first time, the area open to spring hunting of bearded turkeys spreads uninterrupted from the western edge of the State in Cattaraugus County to the Hudson River bordering Ulster County on the east. There still remains a dip in the northern profile of the open territory where turkey populations in Chenango and Otsego Counties are not yet quite ready to safely support hunting pressure. As turkey populations in this area and around the north and east fringe of the Catskill Mountains become securely established, New York's primary turkey range will be reestablished.

Test releases are already underway and, in fact, have established populations around the fringe of the Adirondacks. There is plenty of forestland country there, but it may present too rugged conditions to support turkey hunting.

Spring turkey hunting presents a real challenge and opportunity to the sportsman who has nothing else but woodchucks to hunt during spring and summer. During the fall a hunter may be torn be-

tween desires to hunt several other species, but in the spring the turkey gobbler is IT. With more hunters in the autumn woods, and with a large number of the turkeys available being young of the year that have not yet fully learned all the tricks of being elusive that the older toms have acquired, success in the fall does not represent the accomplishment of success in the spring.

Dumb luck will account for a few turkeys every year. Most successful turkey hunters, however, have spent many hours practicing on their turkey calls, and reconnoitering the area in which they intend to hunt, so that it isn't just luck which places them in a spot where a gobbler comes into view.

Those wishing to take advantage of the spring turkey hunt must first obtain a special free permit. Applications for these permits are available from all licensing agents and from Department offices. They should be filed by April 25 at the Department headquarters in Albany. This will give adequate time for the permit to be returned to you by opening day — May 6.

There are no limits on the number of permits to control the number of hunters. Because all permits, must be returned, whether the hunter is successful or not it makes it possible for wildlife biologists who must analyze the season and make recommendations

for future seasons, to have better information upon which to base their conclusions and recommendations. It is important for them to know not only how many birds were taken but how heavy the hunting pressure was in various areas, and which days were the important hunting days.

On the return is a question about the number and location of turkeys seen. This does not produce a figure good enough for an inventory, but it is a good indicator that turkeys are at least in the area. Field checks during following months can follow up leads of this type, if more information is needed.

One of the most important things that the successful hunter must return with his permit is the leg — just the boney part, not the drumstick. From this it is possible to determine the age of most toms taken. It has been discovered that by sectioning the bones of the turkey, staining them and studying them under a microscope it is possible to count the years of growth on the bone in much the same manner as one counts the years of growth on tree stumps. So far this has worked accurately on turkeys with a known age of five years. As older tagged turkeys are recovered and checked, it is hoped that it will prove to be accurate beyond that age.

Why are we interested in the age of turkeys and other forms of

wildlife as they are taken by hunters? This makes it possible to reconstruct the age curve of the animal population, which in turn shows whether animals are being harvested too heavily or if the past hunting seasons have permitted adequate survival of potential breeders.

For details on the season, consult the current Hunting-Trapping-Fishing Guide.

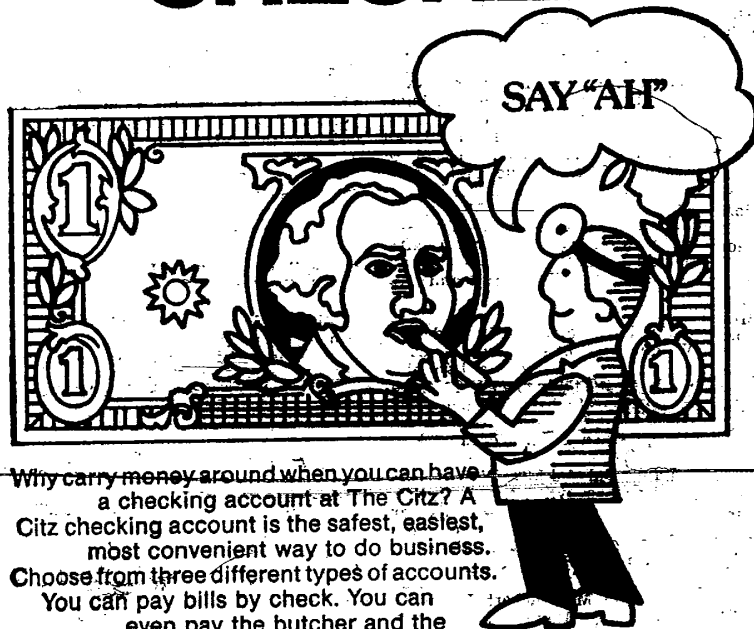
### NOTICE

Allegany County Public Nursing Service in cooperation with Alfred-Almond Central School is sponsoring an immunization clinic at Alfred-Almond Central School on May 2, 1974 at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Robert Eisenhardt will be in charge assisted by Mrs. Terry Ayers, Agency Nurse and Mrs. Paula Stull, School Nurse-Teacher.

State Law requires that all children enrolled in school must be immunized against Poliomyelitis, Measles (Regular and German) and Diphtheria. The Diphtheria is given in combination with Tetanus and Whooping Cough. Parents of pre-school children wishing immunizations should attend pre-school clinics held throughout the county. For further information call the Allegany County Public Health Nursing Service at (716) 468-7694.

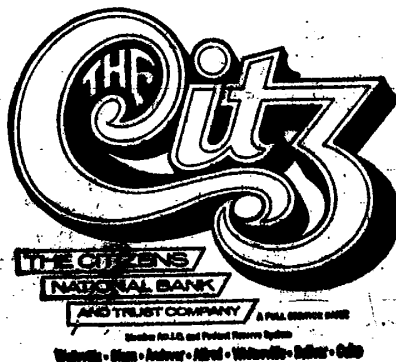
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