

Legislator Lee Ryan Reports

In this article, I would like to report on the so-called County office building addition. In late 1971 the Department of Planning was asked by the Board of Legislators to undertake the study of building space needs. The study indicated space problems and the need for either new facilities or additional space in:

1. The sheriff's office and the jail
2. The court system
3. Public Health Nursing
4. Probation

The Sheriff's office was cramped and the jail was receiving unfavorable reports after each inspection. Adequate separation of prisoners was impossible. As I have stated in a previous article we have been compelled to enter into a contract with Steuben County primarily for the care of female prisoners. We have no facilities for rehabilitation and in general the structural condition of the jail is very bad (especially in the cell areas.)

In the court system there is inadequate room for clients & witnesses. Complaints were being received that attorneys had no place to confer privately with clients. The same problem existed in both public health nursing and probation. Clients with sensitive personal problems were forced to wait in public corridors and where employees shared offices, one would have to leave the room while the other handled a client.

The "Special Building Committee" was set up in January of 1972 to study solutions to the space problem. After interviewing four architects the firm of Faragher & Macomber was selected to study the County home in Angelica for additional office space. Their report indicated that the building could be put in good condition for a cost of \$756,082. (It would, however, only answer the need for the nursing service plus the offices which are already located there. The report also said that a new building of the same size could be built for \$1,213,640. Soon after, we moved the nursing service to Angelica and other offices were shuffled in the Court House to remedy some of the immediate problems. But still to be faced were the needs of the court and the worsening situation in the jail.

Before the committee could begin discussion of a new building, the Agnes flood created serious destruction in the county. The county was informed by the Economic Development Administrator that public works projects could be filed to boost employment in the flood-ravaged areas. The architect filed an application for a federal grant for a new building, but in August we were notified by EDA that they had to withdraw its grant offer because of our low priority in the Agnes affected area.

During this period we were pretty much in agreement that any construction should occur in the vicinity of the present court house both for the convenience of the public and for the economies that can result from close proximity of all departments.

After much deliberation and discussion, it was decided that preliminary planning for a new building should proceed. In February 1973 a surveyor was hired to prepare a topographic survey of the Belmont property to assist the architect. Beside meeting with department heads and a representative from the NYS Correction, the committee toured the new jail and office building at Cattaraugus County and the new jail at Monroe County.

By April a budget estimate of \$4,842,706 was prepared. Immediately the committee directed the architect to investigate ways of reducing this cost. The addition was redesigned and by cutting size and changing certain items, a revised estimate of \$2,650,000 was presented to the committee.

As of January, 1974, I have been a member of the "Special Building Committee" and as such have been very interested in this project which because of its cost means so very much to all of us. I have not touched on financing or other related topics in this report.

Shellman-Harrison

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Shellman of Andover, New York announce the marriage of their daughter Kathryn Anna to David Michael Harrison, of Atlanta, Georgia. The couple were united in marriage on May 1, 1974 at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta. Mr. Harrison is the son of Mr. and Mrs. V. O. Harrison of Hillsboro Beach, Florida.

Mrs. Harrison, a graduate of Andover Central School, attended Immaculate College, Washington, D. C. She is presently employed as a legal secretary with the firm of Katz, Paller and Land of Atlanta and attending the National Center for Legal Training in Paralegal work. Mr. Harrison served four years with the U. S. Navy, attended Florida State University and is presently Territorial District Manager with Maryland Corporation.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison reside at 3700 Buford Highway, Atlanta, Georgia.

but will do so in my next article I would like to state that if there are any interested groups or organizations that would like to be addressed by any of our committee on this subject, we would be glad to arrange for it.

Wear A Poppy

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row.
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below:
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye shall not sleep, though
Poppies grow
In Flanders field.

— Col. John McCrae

The approach of Poppy Days 1974 brings the question have we planned all we can to assure that everyone in our community is aware of the significance of the Poppy? Are we telling the story of the poppy from beginning to end in a way that others will hear and understand? Are we telling it in a way such that our communities want to listen?

On Memorial Day and other days in May the American Legion Auxiliary will again offer red paper poppies to the public to remind

our communities of not only the sacrifice of those who died, but the hope of those who lived.

These poppies are the hopes of those hospitalized veterans who make them. Their delicate petals so patiently assembled speak more eloquently than all the words at our command. We must be sure that the silent message of the poppy is transmitted to and received by all members of our community.

Wear a Poppy — and Wear it Proudly!

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