

# Richfield Springs Mercury

## Palmer's Print Shop...A continuing tradition

"I guess I've been in the business since I was old enough to climb up on a bar stool and feed the 'Potter Junior'."

**RICHFIELD SPRINGS**—Well, a "Potter Junior" is a kind of printing press, and Tom Palmer, who runs—rather is—Palmer's Print Shop in Richfield Springs, has been tending to presses since his childhood.

The "Potter Junior" Tom speaks of was in Edmeston, where the *Edmeston Local* and *Morris Chronicle* were published. His dad bought the Edmeston operation in 1929, so indeed Tom has been around printing a long time.

His father, LeRoy Palmer, sold his Edmeston interests in 1946, and purchased the *Schoharie Review*, a weekly newspaper in Schoharie. There the Palmers stayed until July 1953, when they purchased the *Richfield Springs Mercury* from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ackery. Tom came aboard as manager of the mechanical and commercial printing operations, while his parents looked after the newspaper end of the business.

The *Richfield Springs Mercury* itself had a long history. Begun in 1867 by Henry L. Brown, the paper served the Spa area continuously until August 1972, when it was purchased by Lee Publications. While the *Mercury* passed from a view as a distinct paper, its masthead

appeared for a time in the *Freeman's Journal* over the news from Richfield Springs. It disappeared from the *Journal* for a time, but reappeared a couple of years ago.

In its original form, the *Mercury* had, over its 105 year history, some six owners.

In the heyday of Richfield Springs' popularity as a Spa—around the turn of the century to its decline as a resort area in the 19 teens—a special reporter was hired for the summer season; and a daily edition recorded the arrivals at local hotels, among them some of America's more prominent citizens.

Tom Palmer still sets some type by hand, although most is done on his linotype machine. In an era when the photo offset process dominated the printing industry (and has for three decades), the linotype is a rare bird nowadays. "There's only a few hot metal operations around," says Tom.

Tom is a rare find as well. He keeps the printing tradition alive in Richfield Springs doing programs, tickets, business forms, and letterheads for the people of the area.

But, as Tom reflects—with his usual good humor—"...the aisles are getting older."

Much the same can be said of a lot of things in life.



Article and photos by Milo Stewart

The linotype pictured above is one of very few remaining in New York State. Tom Palmer, who has been in the printing business since childhood, keeps the Richfield area in programs, tickets, business forms and letterheads.



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### Obituary

**Alfred Snyder** was a member of the old Richfield Springs Presbyterian Church. He is survived by one brother, Emory Snyder of Tucson, Ariz.; five sisters, Mrs. Ruth Owen, Mrs. Everett (Dorothy) Evans, Mrs. Donald (Ida) Berrie and Mrs. Leon (Edith) Suhecki, all of Richfield Springs, and Mrs. Ernest (Pearl) Waldroff of Newport; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Alvin Snyder, who died in 1938, and two sisters, Miss Hazel Snyder and Mrs. Marge Griffiths.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1990, in the J. Seaton McGrath Funeral Home, Richfield Springs, with the Rev. Dr. John Wild, pastor of the Church of Christ Uniting, Richfield Springs, officiating. Burial will follow in Crown Hill Memorial Park, Kirkland.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Fund or the Richfield Springs Rescue Squad.

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### Richfield church to host seminars

**UTICA**—The Christian Education Committee of Utica Presbytery recently announced that Phil and Jean Lersch from Brethren House, St. Petersburg, Fla., will give two seminars in the area in March.

Brethren House is an internationally known educational center and publishing house for non-denominational Christian materials. Seminars include hands-on learning plus lecture. Eight to 10 banquet tables of resources for examination are displayed during breaks in the presentations by team members. Following a total group introduction, participants can choose to attend either of two tracks.

First track is on "Inviting Learning Activities for Children." The second track is for "Inviting Youth and Adults to the Bible."

The church of Christ Uniting, 14 Church St., Richfield Springs, will host the first seminar on March 14 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. On March 15, the second seminar will be held at First United Presbyterian Church, Holland Patent. Dinner will be served each night.

The meetings are open to all. Registrations may be sent to Utica Presbytery, 1605 Genesee Street, Utica, N.Y. 13501 or call (315) 735-6311 by March 5.

### Schuyler Lake Native achieves 70 years in Masonry

James Ward Patrick was recently presented a 70 year membership Emblem and certificate at his home in Orlando, Florida.

Mr. Patrick was station and operator of the service station in Schuyler Lake for many years, retiring and moving south in the late forties. He maintained a summer home in the area until about five years ago.

He has the distinction of being the only member of Schuyler Lake Lodge 132 P & A.M. to attain this milestone in the history of the lodge which was instituted in 1808. He was made a master mason Jan. 21, 1920.

The presentation was made by James Threx a fellow member and past master of the lodge while vacationing in the south.

### Henderson by Mrs. M. Galman

**HENDERSON**—Owen D. Young Central School was closed Feb. 19 in observance of President's Day. The school was also closed on the 16th due to inclement weather.

Students make honor roll  
Eliza Huxtable and Tina Ingerham have been placed on the High School Honor Roll, with Andrew Staruck on the 7th grade Honor Roll, at O.D.M. School at mid term. Congratulations!

Nevis celebrates natal day  
Mr. and Mrs. Austin Nevis of Fort Plain were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Richard Juna. The occasion was to celebrate the 51st birthday of Mr. Nevis.

**Ad Deadline**  
Friday at 5 p.m.  
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