

Cow sense

Gov. Mario Cuomo says milk containing a synthetic hormone should be labeled. Page 3B

LOCAL/EAST

Section B

DEATHS 2B 3B SUBURBS FOR THE RECORD 2B 6B CLOSE TO HOME

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1994

Democrat and Chronicle

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Five mull bidding for Brown's job

There are at least five Democrats giving serious thought to making a bid for the Monroe County party chairman's job to succeed Robert E. Brown.

Former Henrietta Democratic leader Bob Cook; Michael Tallon, Democratic leader in the County Legislature's 21st District; former Rochester Telephone Corp. lobbyist Andy Caverly; businesswoman Lessor Marvin Lazeroff, and former Greece Town Councilman Charles J. Zicari all said they are interested in the post.

Chairman Robert E. Brown announced last week that he was resigning no later than March 31.

Cook, a lawyer, most recently served as campaign manager for County Legislator Kevin B. Murray's unsuccessful mayoral campaign. Tallon is also a lawyer in the city. Lazeroff is vice president of operations for Village Green Bookstores Inc. and a former employee of the former Assembly speaker's office in Rochester. Caverly is chairman of the board of the Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority. Zicari ran for the job two years ago, losing to Brown.

No one was ready to declare and several said they had significant reservations about the job. Meanwhile, former state Sen. John D. Perry, a Brighton Democrat, mentioned by some as a possible candidate, was expected to be out of the country for the rest of the month and no one is sure where he stands.

A number of Democrats rejected the idea immediately including Democratic Elections Commissioner Marguerite "Betsy" Reelin, longtime Democrat Thomas A. Fink and former Monroe County Director of Operations Clayton H. Osborne.

It's not a terribly attractive post. Brown, for example, received no salary, even for his efforts to hold the party together after the Democrats lost control of the county executive's office.

While it's true that Democrats lost control of the County Legislature and the County Clerk's office while he was chairman, Brown points out with pride that President Clinton won Monroe County, U.S. Reps. Louise M. Slaughter, D-Fairport, and John J. LaFalce, D-Tonawanda, Erie County, were re-elected during his watch and Sen. Mary Ellen Jones, D-Irondequoit, defeated former Monroe County Republican Chairman John A. Stanwix in an upset.

While some questioned his political judgments, nobody questioned Brown's integrity. He will be missed.

An open mind

Former County Legislator William P. Polito isn't ruling out a bid for the Assembly if he fails to get the GOP designation to run against Slaughter at the party's March 3 convention.

Polito has been mentioned as a possible Assembly candidate for Assemblyman James Alesi's seat if Alesi, R-Perinton, wins the GOP nod to run against Jones.

Polito, who ran against Slaughter two years ago, said he prefers another run for Congress. A lot will depend on the depth of support among his core supporters for another race against Slaughter, and the results of the convention.

"I will not play the spoiler," Polito said when asked if he would consider a primary for the GOP congressional nomination.

A tight race

GOP Chairman Stephen J. Minarik III says he is expecting a very close race between Alesi and County Legislator Carol McManus, R-Pittsford, at that same convention.

The GOP will also be choosing two candidates for county court and former Democratic Sen. Ralph Quattrocchio is expected to get the GOP's nod to challenge Sen. Richard A. Dollinger, D-Brighton.

But the party will not consider Alesi's Assembly seat or candidates for any Assembly seat held by Democrats until later.

Call Blair Clafin with story ideas at 258-2660, or write him at 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14614

Man dies after police chase

Pursuit ended before crash

By Greg Livadas Staff writer

more than 80 mph, said Monroe County Undersheriff Patrick O'Flynn.

From there, the deputy pursued the car to Interstate 390 South to Jefferson Road, then northbound on East Henrietta Road.



Kenneth Brantley

The deputy stopped chasing the car at Crittenden Boulevard and Mt. Hope Avenue, O'Flynn said.

"Our supervisors monitored it on the scanner and advised the deputy to call it off," O'Flynn said. He said the deputy stopped at a red light near the Dunkin Donuts store, and

the car he was chasing "was considerably ahead of him."

He didn't know how long the pursuit lasted or how soon after it was called off that the crash occurred, the undersheriff said.

"It covered a fair amount of distance, but I don't think he ever got real, real close," O'Flynn said.

Police said Brantley was trying to pass a car on Mt. Hope Avenue when he clipped the taxi and lost control of his car.

O'Flynn said the officer followed all departmental policies.

"The supervisors got involved when they heard where he was traveling into a more populated area and decided to terminate," he said.

"Obviously, there's a certain level of discretion left up to the officer. They look at the conditions, the type of area in terms of population and risk factors. At any point, a

How chase, crash developed

1 Chase begins when deputy clocks car going 80 mph on I-590. Car heads south of I-390 before exiting expressway.

2 After turning onto East Henrietta Road from Jefferson, deputy pursues car into Rochester before stopping the chase.

3 Car continues northbound on Mt. Hope, clipping a taxi and crashing into a cement entrance pillar at Mt. Hope Cemetery.



Kevin M. Smith Staff artist

supervisor may terminate the chase. That's what occurred in this case."

The driver also allegedly ran several red lights, O'Flynn said. Sigurd Jedamski, the driver of

the Checker Cab clipped by Brantley, said he was "shaken up" but not injured.

"I was driving my car normally," CHASE on page 2B

Safe haven in tense times

Black families saw open arms in Henrietta

By Dolores Orman Staff writer

Thirty years have passed, but Ermine Byas still remembers the precise details of that night.

It was around midnight as she began climbing the stairs on her way to bed. Suddenly, she was startled by the sound of smashing glass.

A large rock had crashed through the bay window and landed on the couch.

"I thought, 'My Lord, I had just been sitting there,'" she said.

It was July 1964, and the Byases were one of just a handful of black families living in Irondequoit.

With that rock, the impact of the racial tension then raging in Rochester and across the nation had struck the Byas home.

The incident propelled Ermine Byas and her husband, Thomas, a dentist, to find a safer haven to raise their two children. They chose the town of Henrietta, where tract houses were quickly cropping up in former fields.

The Byases were pioneers in the black migration that has made Henrietta the most integrated suburb in Monroe County.

In 1960, the town had a mere 11 black residents, making up 0.1 percent of the population. By 1990, the black population had climbed to more than 2,200, or 6.2 percent of Henrietta residents.

That's the largest black population of Monroe County's 19 towns.

They settled in Henrietta for many reasons: safer streets, better schools, affordable housing, low property taxes, a rural setting. HISTORY on page 5B



LIVING HISTORY CELEBRATING BLACK CULTURE



In 1970s, Arthur and Evelena Lee's children play in Henrietta front yard.



Ermine Byas and husband, Thomas, stand in front of their Gatehouse Trail home in Henrietta. The couple moved from

Irondequoit to Henrietta in the mid-1960s — after a racial incident — to have a safer place to rear their two children.

THIS STORY CONTAINS AN ERROR CORRECTION PAGE FOLLOWS

King's reader grades run gamut

Half put him on top, but others flunk him

By Trif Alatzas Staff writer

Monroe County Executive Robert L. King received every grade — from A to F — from readers who responded to our request to evaluate his first two years in office.

In a story last week discussing the four areas that King championed when he ran for office, the Democrat and Chronicle and Times-Union invited readers to grade the county executive. The newspapers received 61 report cards from citizens.

Readers were asked to grade King, a Republican, on taxes and government spending;

welfare and social services; fighting crime and drug abuse; and jobs and economic development. They also were asked to give him an overall grade.

While the effort wasn't scientific, the responses were as follows: 30 people gave King A's or B's while 24 gave him D's or F's. Another seven people gave King C's or C-'s.

Those who gave King good grades cited his promises to hold property taxes down, his efforts to reform welfare and his strength in luring jobs to the community. They also praised him for doing his best to combat crime by supporting police agencies, fighting state mandates and dealing with the deficit he inherited from the previous administration.

GRADING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

KING'S FIRST TWO YEARS

some strong stands and he has obtained some strong results since taking office," said David Smith of Greece, who gave King an A- overall. "I've been more and more impressed with him as time has gone along."

Those who gave King low marks complained he hasn't cut spending enough and that he pushed to raise the local sales tax rate from 7 percent to 8 percent. Other low graders said King's efforts to reform welfare often are mean-spirited.

"I really feel like his policies are punitive to the poor," said Maria Scipione of Rochester, who gave King an overall F.

"I wasn't quite sure what he was going to do but he has taken



Jamie Germano Staff photographer

Monroe County Executive Robert L. King got grades from 61 readers.

Those who gave King C's said the executive had some strong points but that he still had work to do.

"I think he really is too impressed with himself," said Alex Martens of Fairport, who gave King a C-. □

CAMPAIGN '94

Three vie to oppose Slaughter in election

GOP to pick its candidate soon

By Blair Clafin Staff writer

If politics is at least partly marketing, the 600 to 1,000 Republican committee members expected to choose a candidate next week to face U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter have three distinct choices:

■ County Legislator Renee Forgens Davison, a lawyer and relative newcomer to elective office now in her first term in the Monroe County Legislature.

■ Xerox Corp. Manager John Clendenin, a conservative and lieutenant colonel in the Marine reserves who has never held office.

■ Former county lawmaker William Polito, a lawyer and former county legislator who believed so strongly in his bid to unseat four-term incumbent Slaughter two years ago that he spent \$125,000 of his own money.

But with the luxury of a choice comes the risk of a primary.

"If we have a primary, the odds of us winning would be nil," said Monroe County Republican Party Chairman Stephen J. Minarik III. He maintains a primary would drain away valuable resources less than two months before the general election.

So a lot will be at stake when GOP committee members, the grass-roots leaders of the party, gather at 6 p.m. March 3 at the Mapledale Party House, 1020 Maple St.

Nobody is threatening a primary. But anything less than a clear victory for Davison, Clendenin or Polito could persuade two or more to take their case directly to the GOP rank-and-file this fall.

The vote will be weighted by locality, mostly based on the results of the 1990 governor's race.

The candidates seem to have few ideological differences.

The most significant: Clendenin supports abortion rights while Polito and Davison are generally opposed, with some limited exceptions.

So it comes down to who would make the best contrast to Democrat Slaughter.

Minarik won't declare his favor. GOP on page 4B

Henrietta offered safe haven in tense times

HISTORY from page 1B

Getting in wasn't always easy. Many say they encountered racial prejudice from real estate agents, developers and neighbors.

While some tensions were rough, black families sank their roots in their new suburban communities and have helped shape their growth. Some even made history along the way.

Blazing a path

In the beginning, the migration of black people to Henrietta was fueled by its transformation from a farming community to a residential suburb.

Professor Ena Farley thinks the development of wide-open spaces made housing more accessible to black people.

"Then you weren't totally buying into a largely built-up area where people have managed to come together to keep you out," said Farley, chairwoman of the Department of African and Afro-American Studies at the State University College at Brockport.

The deterioration of the city also drove many black professionals and some working-class people to the suburbs.

Cedric and Dorothy Lambert searched for a suitable apartment in the city in the mid-1950s. But the ones they liked were owned by white landlords who wouldn't rent to the couple, the Lambert said. So they moved to the town of Rush and then to Hill Terrace in Henrietta around 1963.

Walter and Helen Cooper were living in a South Plymouth Avenue apartment with their 4-year-old son when they decided they needed good schools and a larger home for their growing family. In 1958, they found both on East Henrietta Road in Henrietta.

"I saw some things happening in the Rochester school district I didn't like," said Walter Cooper, a member of the New York state Board of Regents and a retired Eastman Kodak Co. research laboratory official.

Frank and Aline Hamilton wanted the right home at the just the right price. At the time, Aline Hamilton had a clerical job at Kodak and her husband was a foundry worker at Bausch & Lomb Inc.

They looked at homes in the Gates-Chili area, Brighton and the city's 19th Ward.

"The Henrietta area was more affordable," said Aline Hamilton.

James and Nellie Wells wanted more space and a rural setting when they left their rented Rochester apartment in 1965 for the home they had built on a wooded site along East River Road in Henrietta.

"We both grew up in the rural South," said James Wells, a retired Pfaunder Co. factory worker. "We never really got into city life. Coming to the suburbs, the country, was like going home again."

Gradually, the growing presence of black people in Henrietta became an attraction in itself. Professor Farley, one of four contributors to a regional New York state history published by the State University of New York, calls this the "beaten-path effect."

"If a few begin to find Henrietta

sufficiently hospitable to receive one or two families, then more families move in," she said.

Though many chose Henrietta, others say they really had no other choice. Real estate agents and developers wouldn't show black families homes in most other towns, black residents say.

"What sold me on Henrietta was the fact I had no other place to go," said Walter Cooper, whose family lived in Henrietta nine years before moving to Penfield.

Barriers of bias

Henrietta had its share of racial barriers, black residents say.

"The developers didn't want to sell it to us," said Ermine Byas of the lot her family eventually bought in Henrietta.

After she and her husband made a second appointment to view the model house in the development, a representative of the builder told them that someone else had already put in a bid for the lot and that the whole tract was sold out.

The Byases filed a discrimination complaint with the Human Rights Commission and won the right to buy their place on Gatehouse Trail in Henrietta. And the developer was cited.

The Coopers ran into racial roadblocks as well.

"The real estate salesman would see you coming in the front door and he'd leave out the back door," said Walter Cooper.

Even a Cooper's white colleagues at Kodak tried to help out by approaching developers on his behalf.

"We kept trying different ways of finding a place and we were running into blank walls all the way," said Helen Cooper, a retired supervisor with Kodak industrial labs.

The Coopers were directed to Henrietta by a real estate agent.

"When I moved in, I was welcomed with open arms by one neighbor," he recalled. "The other neighbor put up a for sale sign and left."

Neighbor to neighbor

But many other black residents say they felt welcome in their new surroundings, even though nearly all neighborhoods in Henrietta were — and remain today — predominately white.

Evelena Lee remembers when her family moved from Rochester into their newly built home on Clooney Drive in Henrietta in 1965.

"We were all faced with the same concerns and problems, getting our shrubs in, our lawns in, our patios in. The men all talked to one another. It brought us together kind of. All of us were starting from scratch."

But as families moved away and others moved in, the garden, the patio, the shrubs were already there. The familiar gatherings on the lawn became fewer and fewer.

She views the 1991 ice storm as "a blessing in disguise. It brought neighbor to neighbor again." Evelena and Arthur Lee, who have a fireplace, housed two white neighbors whose homes lacked heat.

The economic and ethnic mix of the residents in Henrietta appealed to Ernest and Dorothy Turner, who



Jeffrey S. Otto Staff photographer

James and Nellie Wells were looking for more space and a rural setting when they left their rented Rochester apartment in 1965 for

their home on East River Road in Henrietta where they still live. The two said they grew up in rural South so the area appealed to them.

moved from Rochester in 1960.

"That's one thing I liked about it," said Dorothy Blount. "There was diversity, a good mixture of different kinds of people."

James and Carolyn Blount, who moved from Endicott, Broome County, to Farnsworth Road in 1970, like the stability of their neighborhood. Black and white families have lived there peacefully for more than two decades.

"We've gotten older and the neighborhood and the residents have gotten older," said Carolyn Blount. She is editor and her husband, James, publisher, of *about... time*, a monthly magazine containing national and local news, features and issues about minorities.

In 1984, several black residents gathered in a Henrietta home and began to form the town's only black church, Christian Friendship Baptist Church, now on Beckwith Road.

"There was a group of us kind of sitting around one day, and we started talking," said Wendell Morgan, one of the church's founding members. "We go to church but we were all driving into the city to different churches." He said they thought "Maybe we should have our own church out where we live."

Black residents have played historic roles in the political life of the community.

In 1970, the late Elmer Gordon became Henrietta's first black elected official when he was elected to

Henrietta today

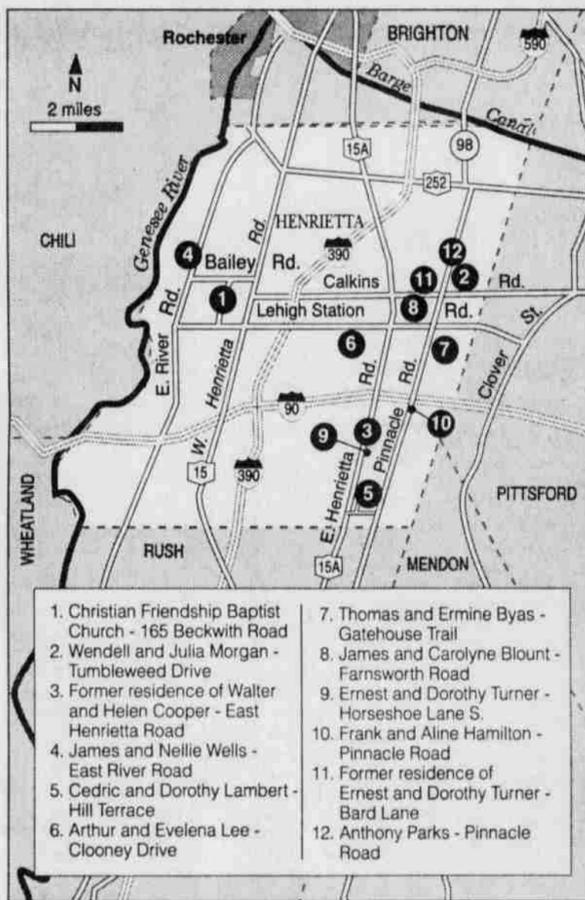
- Total population: 36,376.
- White: 32,373.
- Black: 2,268.
- Hispanic: 717.
- Median household income: \$40,404.
- Number of people living below the poverty line: 2,813 or 8.5 percent.
- Cost of the average home: \$94,641.
- Percent of residents with bachelor's degree or higher: 26 percent.

the Rush-Henrietta School Board. That election also made him Monroe County's first black suburban school board member. He was in his 10th year on the board and had served as president part of that time when he died in 1979.

Anthony Parks, who moved from Buffalo to Henrietta in 1979, became Monroe County's first black town justice when elected in 1983. He served two four-year terms.

While no blacks now hold elective office in Henrietta, both Wendell Morgan and James Blount also served on the school board.

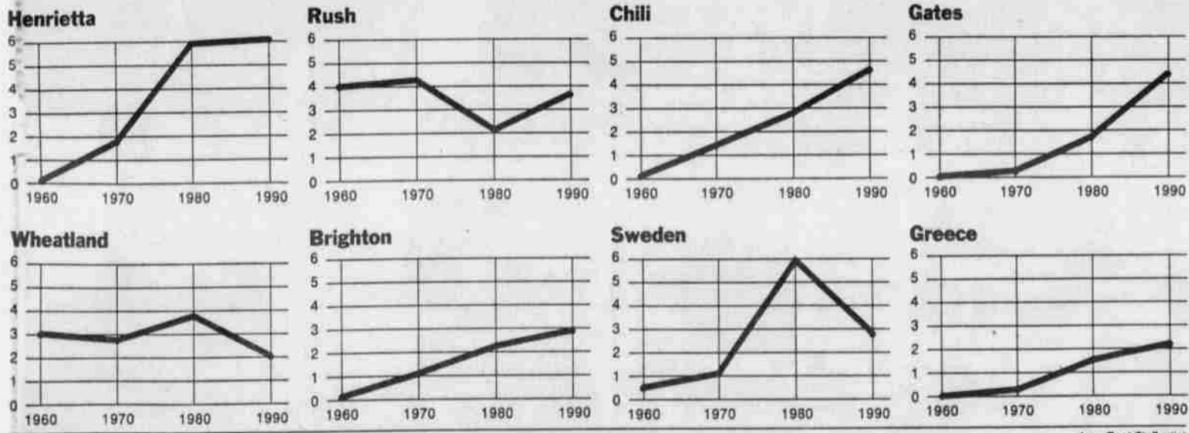
And both recently indicated that some black residents are considering organizing to back candidates for upcoming Henrietta elections, starting with the school board races this spring. □



Bryan Wittman Staff artist

Black populations in Monroe County towns

Over the past 30 years, these towns have had the largest percentages of black residents. Numbers represent these percentages.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Joan Best Staff artist

Highlights of black history in Henrietta

- 1970: Elmer Gordon elected to the Rush-Henrietta school board, becoming Henrietta's first black elected official and the first black person to serve on a suburban school board in Monroe County. He was in his 10th year on the board and was president of the Monroe County School Boards Association when he died in 1979.
- 1981: James Blount becomes the second black person to serve on the Rush-Henrietta school board. He served six years.
- 1982: Wendell Morgan becomes the third black resident to serve on the Rush-Henrietta school board. He served 10 years, part of that period as president.
- 1983: Anthony Parks elected Henrietta town justice becoming also Monroe County's first black town justice. He served two four-year terms.
- 1984: Christian Friendship Baptist Church, Henrietta's only black church, founded by a group of seven to eight black families who had been attending various churches in Rochester. Church now has a membership of 30 to 35 families.
- 1992: Morris Mallory named Rush-Henrietta Senior High School's first black principal.

OBITUARIES

H. Harding; ran restaurant

Harold V. Harding, a former Greece restaurateur, died Feb. 2 of lung failure at Strong Memorial Hospital.

He was 80. From 1960 to 1979, Mr. Harding and co-partner Stanley Malak owned the Edgewater Restaurant in Greece.

He was a mailman for nine years before going into business.

Born in Rochester, Mr. Harding attended Franklin High School. He was a lifeguard in his youth and in the summer of 1932 was awarded a certificate for a water rescue by the Rochester Safety Council.

During World War II, Mr. Harding was a staff sergeant in the Army Air Corps.

His employment after the war included 18 years at Hickock Manufacturing Co. before it moved from Rochester to Texas.

An avid golfer, Mr. Harding also spent some of his retirement working part time as a bartender at the Red Men's Club in Rochester.

Mr. Harding was married about 17 years to Helen Groh Harding, who died in 1957. He was also predeceased by his son, Stephen.

A memorial Mass for Mr. Harding was held Feb. 11.

Mr. Harding is survived by his wife of 35 years, Millie Ann Harding of Greece; two daughters, Susan Green of Rochester and Kathleen Brown of Greece; and six grandchildren. □

R.J. Moore; had owned inn

Raymond J. Moore of Farmington, a lifelong restaurant owner, died at a nursing home in Geneva Feb. 7.

He was 72. A memorial service was held Feb. 12 at Harloff Funeral Home, 803 S. Washington St., East Rochester.

Mr. Moore was born in Fairport and attended schools there. He owned two restaurants in the area before moving to Florida in 1975.

He owned the Quonset Inn in Fairport, which is now a garden store, said his wife, Ollie Moore. His other restaurant, the La-Fayette Inn in Geneva, burned down in 1975, she said.

When they moved to Florida, Mr. Moore and his wife opened

restaurants in Marco Island, Fort Lauderdale and Naples.

Raymond's in Naples is still open, she said, but the couple sold it before moving back to Farmington in 1988, which is the year he first suffered a stroke.

The couple first met in high school in Fairport and had been married for 40 years.

Survivors besides his wife are a daughter, Nancy Witter of Joplin, Mo.; two sons, David of Phoenix, and Gary of Rochester; and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Victor-Farmington Ambulance Corps, 1321 E. Victor Road, Victor 14564. □

—Annette Jimenez

Frank Ciaccio; retired tailor

Whether it was working as a tailor for the Hickey-Freeman Co. or watching over his race horses, Frank Ciaccio knew how to have fun.

"He had more fun in 90 days than anyone I can imagine," said his son Richard Ciaccio, a lawyer who lives in Penfield. "He was always ready to have fun and to have a laugh."

Mr. Ciaccio, of Rochester, died Feb. 15 at St. Mary's Hospital's hospice program.

He was born in Brazil, where his parents had emigrated from Italy. He settled with them and two older brothers in Rochester in 1910.

They were a family of tailors. Mr. Ciaccio worked more than 45 years at Hickey-Freeman and was a life-

long member of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

Mr. Ciaccio was also an avid sportsman. He owned horses at the Batavia and Finger Lakes race tracks and was one of Rochester's top bowlers in the 1930s and 1940s.

Besides his son Richard, Mr. Ciaccio is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sylvia; another son, Dr. Robert Ciaccio of Webster; two daughters, Dolores DiFrancesco of Henrietta and Gail Scaccia of Rochester; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda.

His nephew is Surrogate Court Judge Arnold F. Ciaccio.

The funeral was Saturday. □

—Blair Claffin