



Talking about ecology while holding a current best seller is Daniel M. Rosser. —Journal-Bulletin Photo

And Now, It's Ecology...

By JOSEPH MYERSON

Daniel M. Rosser of Pawtucket has worked in steel mills, conducted pioneering studies of juvenile delinquency, served as an assistant to New York's crusading mayor Fiorello La Guardia and worked on America's first jet engines. Now, retired and 72, he has entered another field: ecology.

Since his retirement nine years ago, the tall, erudite engineer has donated his services as a public-relations consultant to various civic and environmental groups. Last year he was appointed executive director of the Blackstone River Watershed Association, a conservation group hoping to protect the stream with a string of riverbank parks.

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Mr. Rosser serves as news director for the Rhode Island State Grange, several local grange chapters and as a public relations consultant for the Barrington Teachers' Association, which his eldest daughter, Harriet, heads.

Born in Cleveland, Miss., just before the turn of the century, Mr. Rosser's father was the local postmaster, and his mother taught languages at Logan College in Russellville, Ky.

"My father drove 400 miles with a team of horses to marry my mother. He never saw her until their wedding day," he said calmly.

The elder Mr. Rosser courted his bride by mail. Their courtship began when he an-

Regional Unit to Press for

A Full-Time

By JOSEPH A. KELLY

The Regional Council of Governments of the Blackstone Valley is going to continue its efforts to obtain funds to pay a staff that would carry on its many activities on a full-time basis, Barry J. Farrands, Lincoln town administrator, said Friday.

The council includes the mayors' administrators and the council presidents of Pawtucket, Central Falls, Cumberland, Woonsocket, North Smithfield, Smithfield and Lincoln. It has been meeting monthly for the past year.

Mr. Farrands believes the regional council has already proved its worth, but he said the job of keeping it in operation is too much for city and town officials already busy running their own communities.

"If we had an executive director full-time to coordinate our efforts, we could accomplish a great many things for the whole area," he said.

The regional council is still hopeful of obtaining federal funds to employ a director and a secretary, despite the pessimistic report it received last week from Roy Mills, area representative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Mills told the local officials that Rhode Island is so small that it is considered one urban area from Newport to North Smithfield.

He said HUD is satisfied that the existing state Department of Community Affairs and the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program are adequate for area planning.

Mr. Farrands still believes a way can be found to finance the Blackstone Valley organization. He plans to confer with Frederick C. Williamson, director of the Department of Community Affairs, about including the necessary funds in the next state application for federal planning assistance.

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Since his retirement nine years ago, the tall, erudite engineer has donated his services as a public-relations consultant to various civic and environmental groups. Last year he was appointed executive director of the Blackstone River Watershed Association, a conservation group hoping to protect the stream with a string of riverbank parks.

"This revolution that's going on in the streets is important," he said vehemently, "but this business of ecology, of doing something about cleaning our rivers and our atmosphere, is the most important thing going on in our lifetime.

"I couldn't just stand by and do nothing about it," he added with a gesture.

"It would be like seeing a woman being attacked in the street and not doing anything. You might get your head knocked off, but you just can't stand by and not put in your two cents' worth."

When he gets excited, as he did when discussing pollution, Mr. Rosser displays his background as an engineer and statistician. His speech becomes a deluge of technical facts and figures.

"One acre of grass will add 10 tons of water a day to the atmosphere by transpiration. . . . A single white birch tree—which has, by the way, an average of 100,000 leaves per tree—releases 7½ tons of water a day."

He is every bit as precise when it comes to water pollution. He knows the number of gallons of water entering Rhode Island from Massachusetts every minute via the Blackstone River—200,000. "And 50 per cent of that is polluted," he said.

As director of the watershed group, Mr. Rosser spent several months photographing sewage outfalls and industrial pollution along most of the 30-mile river.

"Sometimes we show these pictures to an industry and they become more willing to cooperate with us," he said, smiling.

Besides working on the Blackstone River,

Mr. Rosser serves as news director for the Rhode Island State Grange, several local grange chapters and as a public relations consultant for the Barrington Teachers' Association, which his eldest daughter, Harriet, heads.

Born in Cleveland, Miss., just before the turn of the century, Mr. Rosser's father was the local postmaster, and his mother taught languages at Logan College in Russellville, Ky.

"My father drove 400 miles with a team of horses to marry my mother. He never saw her until their wedding day," he said calmly.

The elder Mr. Rosser courted his bride by mail. Their courtship began when he answered an advertisement in a Logan College newspaper saying that a "knock-kneed, toothed" girl was looking for a husband.

"The ad was just a prank some of the girls at the school played on their language teacher," he said. "Somehow a copy of the paper got mailed to Cleveland. Since there wasn't too much to read at the post office, my father read most of the newspapers that passed through."

As "just about the only educated woman in that area," Mr. Rosser said, his mother founded the first school in Cleveland.

"When I was about five years old," he said, "I started going to school under my mother. I sat next to men 50 years old who came to school just to learn to write their names."

As he grew older, Mr. Rosser worked in the post office with his father. He continued his education by reading "just about anything," but showed a preference for books on machines and electricity.

"I wired our house 15 or 20 years before they had any electricity in town," he said.

When he left the Mississippi delta, several years before World War I, Mr. Rosser went to Chicago, where a well-connected uncle got him a job as an engineer's assistant in a steel mill.

In that position he did most of the leg-work and research for what became the first handbook on steel production published in America. Mr. Rosser said he had to work in

Continued on Next Page

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In the interim, James F. Daley, a member of the staff of the Pawtucket-Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, will continue to serve as secretary of the council on a volunteer basis.

His other duties at the chamber make it impossible for him to function as an ex-

Lincoln town

refused to close store that prompting Fr. herty, chief of department of La will call on s close the shop.

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In a surprise fore municipal Blackstone Val Mr. Farrands communities termed attempt Department of on Lincoln's h thorty.

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One case cite rands referred City, a new reta Lonsdale Ave. browsers on Su herty confirme asked Lincoln

Cooperation Ends Problem For 2 Towns

By JAMES V. BRUNO

In a refreshing display of municipal cooperation and a virtual sweeping away of bureaucratic red tape, Smithfield and Johnston solved a mutual problem last week which could serve as a blueprint for bickering communities.

The ingredients were a modicum of statesmanship on the part of officials of both towns, a willingness by both to talk less and spend a little money, the cooperation and sacrifice of a Johnston homeowner and a Smithfield landowner. All these gave the story a happy ending.

Thus, the flooding on Elm-grove Avenue on the Smithfield-Johnston town line, which has plagued half dozen families there for years, and which only five weeks ago appeared to be without immediate solution, is now a



Support Cards, No Teachers...

for the schools. These would be the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial High, Freeman High, Renaissance High and New Hope High School.

as their purpose of education the enlightening and the strengthening of our students' minds in the knowledge and wisdom of today's world."

attention in the Freeman High proposal, where their worth is questioned considerably.

Guidance counselors are

And Now . . . Ecology

Cont. From Preceding Page

55 separate departments to gather data for that study.

Naval service in World War I made him "a little smarter," so Mr. Rosser went back to school. He received his degree in mechanical engineering from Cornell in 1923.

The young engineer then went to California, where he cashed in on the booming economy by dealing in oil royalties. He laughingly glosses over the "Roaring 20s" years, saying only that he arrived in New York in the middle of the great stock market crash.

After an illness, a move to Staten Island and a stint as leader of a local veterans' group, Mr. Rosser took a position as research analyst for the department of educational sociology at New York University. There he did most of the legwork for several pioneering studies of juvenile delinquency.

The N.Y.U. studies eventually led to the creation of the "Wayward Minors" court—one of the first juvenile courts using psychologists and social workers as well as "corrective" measures. His research led him into the field of criminology, which was then in its rudimentary stages of development.

One of Mr. Rosser's papers, published in 1932, recommended assembling a "clearing house" for data on crime in the city. The organization was formed, and called the Crime Prevention Bureau.

Mr. Rosser's research brought him to the attention of the city administration, headed by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. As the mayor's Senior Administrative Supervisor, he conducted dozens of detailed statistical analyses of the city's overgrown government.

"I had to work blind, because nobody had ever tried to analyze the city before," he said.

He worked for the city for nine years. "I had an office right underneath the mayor's. He had a private stairway to my office, so I could give him statistics whenever he needed them," he said, listing exact num-

ber of policemen and number of streets in New York in 1934.

In 1939 Mr. Rosser left the city government for private industry. His proposal for a functional analysis of the entire city was rejected as "politically inexpedient," he said, "and I realized I'd reached the point of minimal returns."

In World War II he worked as a research engineer in several war-related companies and government combines. In 1944 he worked as an engineering "trouble shooter" on the project to create the first American turbojet engines.

"In those days," he said, "if a sane person heard us talking about planes getting to Europe in about three hours, he would have locked us up."

After the war he worked for the Army Signal Corps' contract settlement team, which disposed of government-requisitioned properties. He then served with the Corps of Engineers as a contract supervisor for the Philadelphia district.

In 1952 Mr. Rosser returned to private industry. He came to Pawtucket six years later, "because a partner and I had sunk a lot of money in the area."

"Now that I am out of business," he said, "I've settled down here for good."

His wife, Betty, said she is hard put to clean up after her husband's many activities. Sitting in her neat living room at 133 Kenyon Ave., she said she "just couldn't" let a reporter see Mr. Rosser's upstairs study.

"It's piled high with boxes of papers," she said.

The Rossers have two daughters besides Harriet, the president of the Barrington Teacher's Association. Another daughter, Mrs. Flora Jo Zajchowski is studying to be a medical missionary in South America. Nancy, the youngest girl, is a senior at Pawtucket's Tolman High School.

Their son, Daniel B. Rosser, like his father, is in industrial engineering. He works for General Electric Co. in Pennsylvania.

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