

County legislature approves tax break

BY SCOTT ATKINSON

CANTON — The dispute over county taxes on three expansions at Alcoa's Massena operations ended Monday night when the St. Lawrence County legislature voted to amend a local law. Ironically, it appears that the tax breaks Alcoa has received are legal, regardless of the board's action.

Although none of the people who appeared at the public hearing on the

Concerned citizens group formed

BY JUDI BUTLER

"We know there must be a way for students, parents and teachers to work together in our communities," stated Beverly Steenburg of Winthrop, Jeanette Curtis of Brasher Falls and Elizabeth Ramsdell of Winthrop.

Student unrest, more than half a dozen drug arrests, violence and finally a school walk out at the end of the last school year, prompted these three parents to organize the concerned Citizens action group which is now gaining momentum in the St. Lawrence Central School District.

More than 150 persons attended the first open meeting held on June 2, shortly after the student walk-out. Anyone expecting a "witch hunt" was disappointed, as no persons or groups were singled out to "pin the blame on."

The general feeling at that time and at the July meeting, was that our way of life has become too slack and mistakes have been made in child rearing, both at home and at school.

"The biggest mistake we've all made," said Steenburg, "is not listening to our children, to our school authorities and to each other. With more communication, cooperation and involvement, we feel the school experience can be a more wholesome one for our children," she concluded.

A committee was formed to meet with a cross section group of students from the school. The committee reported the students were extremely willing to work with the group and try to change school life for the better.

A spokesperson for the committee commented, "These kids are fantastic. They know about right and wrong, and they've got some really good suggestions to improve communications and their educational environment. They are also crying out for discipline, they feel lost without it and they get into trouble because its open and free to them."

Other committees were formed to meet with school authorities, teachers, maintenance staff and bus drivers to ensure that all aspects of school life were examined for problems or improvements.

The next meeting of the Concerned Citizens will be August 25 at 7 p.m. in the St. Lawrence Elementary School Cafeteria.

Greater numbers of parents are urged to come and get involved with their youngsters education!

Clark appointed to GOP committee

Republican State Chairman Bernard M. Kilbourn has appointed William Clark, St. Lawrence County Republican chairman, as a member of the Executive Committee of the New York Republican State Committee.

The Republican State Executive Committee is the 99-member body whose members are in the Republican Party's top leadership level.

The committee advises the State Chairman and recommends all major Party programs and policies to the Party's governing Republican State Committee.

In his letter of appointment of William Clark Kilbourn said, "Your counsel and guidance on the continuing affairs of the Republican Party will be welcomed by

me as State Chairman and I am confident you will make an important contribution to the leadership of our Party in New York State."

"Our immediate objective is to broaden the base of support of the Republican Party and its candidates and to strengthen the Party as we enter this fall's campaigns and approach the important gubernatorial election of 1978. We have a winning program and I will be counting heavily on your support and assistance in carrying it out so we can elect more Republicans at every level and elect a Republican governor and our entire Statewide ticket next year," Kilbourn added.

The appointment is effective immediately, Kilbourn said.

Thompson seeks supervisor slot

Robert Edward Thompson announced his candidacy for the position of Waddington Town Supervisor in the November election at Wednesday evening's Democratic caucus held in the community room.

This is his first venture into politics. He graduated from M.W.C.S. in 1973 and earned a degree in Business Administration at Canton ATC.

Thompson is 21 years old and is presently employed as a management trainee with Kenney Drug Store in Canton.

He lives with his parents on LaCrasse Street and also helps with the family store.

His candidacy was backed by the caucus.

Thompson said he is confident of winning the position.

amendment spoke out against giving Alcoa the tax break, three legislators—Donald Livingston, Stanley Morrill, and Edward Johnson—opposed it when it came up for a vote. A move by Livingston to have the resolution tabled until more information could be obtained failed 15-7.

Many of the legislators seemed to be confused after the presentations and speeches by representatives of Alcoa, the Town of Massena, and county attorney David Nelson.

Nelson told the board that Alcoa would receive exemptions on its expansion projects anyway, since the local law enacted by the legislature in 1976 was probably not legal. The legislators voted to amend the law to delete a key phrase that extended tax breaks only to construction projects started "on or after" the date the law took effect, Sept. 23, 1976.

By removing the qualifier "on or after" the board in effect extended the tax break to a carbon baking furnace completed in 1972, and ingot and potline expansion projects that went into service this year.

History
Alcoa's troubles began when the Town of Massena and the Massena Central School District both passed laws under the state's job incentive program. In both taxing districts, Alcoa was granted a 100 per cent exemption on its expansions for five years, and a 50 per cent exemption for the next five years.

Since the county used the town's tax

rolls, the county didn't tax the expansions either. The projects did not appear on the town tax rolls at all.

However, at the time the county had no tax exemption statute of its own, and as such was apparently entitled to taxes on the projects. The matter didn't come to light until last year, in a series of newspaper articles.

Massena 'Acted in Good Faith'
For the town the matter was clear-cut. Alcoa employs 2,300 people at its Massena plant and, with the Reynolds Metals and Chevrolet plants, is the town's lifeblood.

At the time the town passed its tax break, Attorney Bennett Abrams was the town supervisor and sat on the old St. Lawrence County Board of Supervisors. The town feels that "as long as the town adopted it, (the exemption), that was all that was required," Town Attorney Eugene Nicantri told the board.

Nicantri said that the town believed a "county level commitment" to giving Alcoa the tax break had been made by virtue of the county adopting the town's tax roll.

County Board Passes Law
At about the same time that stories of Alcoa's tax problems were appearing in newspapers last year, the county board went ahead and passed its own tax break law. The board's resolution only applied to construction begun after the law went into effect however, and when it came time to prepare the tax rolls this year, the county had the expansions on the roll as taxable property.

After several weeks of research into the matter, Nelson told the board Monday night that both the state Department of Commerce and the state Board of Equalizations and Assessments agreed that the county could not make their local law apply only to construction started after the law was passed.

Since the legislators have spent the last few months debating the issue and pondering what course of action to take, Nelson's statements took a number of board members by surprise.

Dr. Donald Bixby, district 16 legislator, asked Nelson "did I understand you correctly that it makes no difference whether we pass this or not?" to which Nelson replied, "yes."

Bixby then said what was on the minds of many people in the board chamber: he asked, "then what's all the fuss about?"

Statements of Support Challenged
Although most legislators supported

the amendment, a number of them took strong exception to the arguments advanced in its favor.

Carl Caldwell, a manager at the Massena plant, told the board that "when we find a rash of anti-business legislation or wavering support for incentives, we look for another location." He also reminded the board that "your constituents make up our roster of skilled employees."

Richard L. Harrington, who was until recently the director of the Ogdensburg office of the state Department of Commerce added that the department plans to "focus our efforts and our resources on those areas where we feel we will get the most return. Simply stated, we will have definite priorities and I sincerely hope St. Lawrence County can be one of our priority areas."

That didn't sit too well with Canton Democrat John Ruitberg. Although Ruitberg supported the legislation, he termed Harrington's remarks "persuasion in poor taste" and said "I take exception to it."

Morristown Republican William Hess added, "I don't particularly care to be cast as the villain," and called Harrington's statement "virtual blackmail."

The opposite tact was taken by legislator Ernest LaBaff, who repeatedly stressed Alcoa's importance to the county. LaBaff said "we're at war with poverty and we're at war with unemployment...we have to show our confidence in our industries."

County economic developer William Cook added, "if the county legislature doesn't pass this amendment, there will be a cloud over the law."

Since the carbon baking furnace was deemed eligible for a tax break in 1972, five of the 10 years of its exemption have already expired. The other two projects, the ingot and potline expansions, didn't get exemption certificates until this year and as such have full 10-year exemptions ahead of them.

Final plans have been made for the 1977 Bishop's Fund Appeal according to Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Bishop Brzana's office today announced that he will officially open the 1977 Bishop's Fund Appeal at St. Anthony's Parish Center, Inlet, on Thursday, August 18, at 8 p.m.

Father Leonard Unger, the Pastor of St. Anthony's parish in Inlet and the Deanery Director for that area of the diocese, said that he expects just over 100 people in attendance from the eight parishes that will be represented.

The Bishop's Fund Appeal will begin on the weekends of September 11 and 18, and parishes throughout the North Country are planning and preparing for the house-to-house visitations. The Bishop's Fund Appeal is an annual activity whereby all members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are given the opportunity to support the many works of the Catholic Church in the diocese.

Such works include the education of priests and seminarians, the Department of Religious Education, the Tuition Assistance Program, the Newman programs through the diocese, the Bishop's personal Charity Fund, the Vocation Department, Department of Radio and TV, activities of the Youth Department, Family Life Bureau, Department of Worship, and the Religious Studies Program at Mater Dei

College.

The overall Bishop's Fund goal for 1977 is \$400,000.

Laetrile bill vetoed

Governor Hugh Carey has vetoed as "both premature and unwise" three bills which would have permitted a physician to administer amygdalin (laetrile), under specified conditions, to patients terminally ill of cancer.

"These bills," the Governor said, "would authorize the use of a drug which has not been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration because the F.D.A. has not found it to be either safe or effective."

"In addition," he pointed out, "the overwhelming weight of scientific and medical evidence presently available indicates that laetrile is simply not effective as a cancer treatment."

"Therefore, pending further testing and study of laetrile by the appropriate agency at the appropriate level of government, namely, the Food and Drug Administration, legislation of this kind is clearly both premature and unwise. This same principle should be adhered to for all drugs and substances subject to F.D.A. jurisdiction, and it is especially important in the case of laetrile where the physical and emotional consequences of its use can be so significant."

The rejected legislation would have authorized the use of laetrile if the patient had a proven malignancy, the physician certified that all medically accepted treatments had been exhausted or would be of no benefit, the patient requested laetrile in writing after having been informed that it has not been approved by the F.D.A. and the physician had obtained approval from a reviewing institution designated by the Commissioner of Health.

Elizabeth Hume honored at bank

Elizabeth I Hume celebrated her fourth anniversary with the First National Bank of Norfolk, on August 4.

A special get-together was held at the bank with several previous co-workers, current employees and the Board of Directors attending. Among the special guests were Anita Fraser, Barbara Warner, Norma Burns, Bryan Brooks, Laura Lavigne, Mrs. Frank Smith and Ruth Strait.

The Board of Directors presented to her a pendant engraved with her initials and "40 YEARS". In addition, she received a corsage, bouquet of roses and a special poem was written in her honor.

On August 11, the bank employees concluded the celebration by taking her to dinner at a local restaurant.

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We did run into a person recently who had rescued a dog during the winter. The dog had become caught in an illegally placed trap and had somehow been able to bite through one of the holding wires and drag itself to this man's door. The man called the State Police who aided him in removing the trap from the animal's foot. The dog was treated by a vet, but did not progress well and had to have the leg amputated.

A lovely senior citizen stopped by the shelter looking for a small, male, toy poodle-type dog. Things were going well until during a chat, she mentioned her 8 year old unspayed cat who had regularly produced 2-3 litters per year and her unspayed little mini-dog who apparently she wanted to mate with the little male pup from the shelter. She did NOT get the pup, but she did get a

friendly lecture about the harmful effects of overpopulation and also received the phone number for a our lower cost neuter-spay program. She confined that less than a week previously she had brought five of her kittens to the shelter and left a \$2.00 donation. At \$2.00 per litter over the last eight years, she could have paid for several cat spays, while for the shelter, the \$2.00 does not go very far to cover food costs or even humane euthanasia costs.

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The shelter is constantly in need of all kinds of help. If you can think of a way you would like to help, please call us. (If you can't think of a way to help, we have lots of ideas for you!)

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the weather at the Jamboree was hot and sunny through Thursday. Rain started on Friday and continued through Monday. After Saturday the name of the park was changed to "fore-rain State Park and the Merit Badge Mudway" to the "Merit Badge Mudway". The spirits of the St. Lawrence Council Scouts were not dampened, however, even though

they were wet and mud coated.

Wednesday rolled around finally and the troop had to get packed up and head for home. All troop and patrol equipment was put on the bus, except for the four dining flies, which all 40 scouts and leaders slept underneath Wednesday night. Thursday morning a noncooking breakfast was eaten, the dining flies and personal gear packed onto the bus and at about 9:00 a.m. the contingent headed back towards the North Country.

Some highlights for the scouts of troop 254 at the jamboree were: the "Muskie" patrol flag placing in the top ten in the subcamp 3 patrol flag competition. Thomas B. Mousaw and Randal E. Smith demonstrating the art of canning at the "Colonial Village," the winning of a typewriter by Eric J. Ouderkerk for being the best news correspondent in subcamp 3, the pleasure of having a patrol of Scottish scouts within our 40 person troop, and the thrill of meeting scouts from all over the country and from several foreign countries.

Scouts that attended from St. Lawrence council (Northern New York) were: Mark Robertson, Chris Robertson, Darr LaPoint, Richard DeVito, Timothy Clarke, Eric Oelschlager, and Carroll Miller, all of Russell, Mark Doerst, of Potsdam, Shawn Bock, of Norwood, Randal Smith, of Norfolk, Eric Ouderkerk, Chris Durham, and Robert Aldous, all of Canton, George Smithers, Gil Adams, Blaine Rumble and David McCarthy, all of Ogdensburg.

Department needs ambulance funds

The Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department is conducting a fund raising drive to raise money for a new ambulance to replace their 1970 International.

In addition to distributing coin cards in the Norfolk and Raymondville and Norwood areas on August 20 and 21, the department has planned several other events:

August 27 - Chicken Bar-B-Que at Fireman's Field during St. Lawrence County Firemen's Convention. Lowell Newtown is Chairman with the help of Mary Markum taking charge of the food. All donations of salad ingredients (macaroni & potato) would be deeply appreciated.

September 1 - Ice Cream Social at Norfolk Fire Station parking lot. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Music donated by the Norwood Brass Firemen. Ted Collier and John Newtown are the Chairmen. Cakes and cupcakes will be needed for this and the each fireman's wife will be contacted.

October 1 and 2 - Coin cards will be picked up in the Norfolk and Raymondville area. The department will pick up each and every card that was distributed. Meet at the Norfolk Fire Station at 10 a.m. each day.

1977 scout jamboree wrapped up

BY ERIC OUDERKERK

The 1977 National Scout Jamboree officially opened with a gigantic arena show on August 3 at Moraine State Park, Pennsylvania. The show was attended by approximately 28,500 Boy Scouts and depicted the history of the United States in colorful one act plays.

For the days to follow the scouts participated in such activities as the "Country Fair," "Colonial Village," "Arts and Science Fair," and the "Merit Badge Midway." There were also various periods of the day where scouts could enjoy rowing, canoeing, sailing, orienteering, and archery. Patch trading was also a popular pastime. All meals were cooked by the boys in the individual patrols.

The Scouts from St. Lawrence County enjoyed themselves doing everything there was to do at the jamboree. The group left Russell, at 6:00 a.m. August 1. From Russell they headed to Syracuse picking up a Syracuse scout patrol and four Scottish scouts. By Monday afternoon they reached Niagara Falls where they went sight seeing and had dinner. The night was spent at a scout camp outside Buffalo. Tuesday morning they headed on to their Jamboree campsite, arriving at Moraine about 10:30 a.m. Camp was immediately set up.

Democrats caucus in Waddington

BY LEE REED

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