

Last Week's Weather

| Day | Hi | Lo | Pop |
|--------|----|----|-----|
| Wed. | 75 | 57 | .10 |
| Thurs. | 79 | 55 | 0 |
| Fri. | 81 | 48 | 0 |
| Sat. | 81 | 58 | 0 |
| Sun. | 86 | 61 | 0 |
| Mon. | 89 | 65 | 0 |

'Good News' Received On Audit Finding

The Potsdam Urban Renewal Agency received some good news Monday from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The agency learned that it owes HUD some \$37,514 less than it had originally been feared. That is because HUD had gone back over paperwork submitted by the agency and had reinstated a \$37,514 that had been disallowed in a 1975 HUD audit of the agency.

Reinstatement was made in Finding 10 of the HUD audit, which had disallowed real estate payments that were over HUD approved prices. According to the audit findings, disallowed payments totaled \$53,022.

Now, as an apparent result of further documentation provided by the agency, HUD officials report that they have reduced the amount of the disallowance payments in Finding 10 to \$15,508.

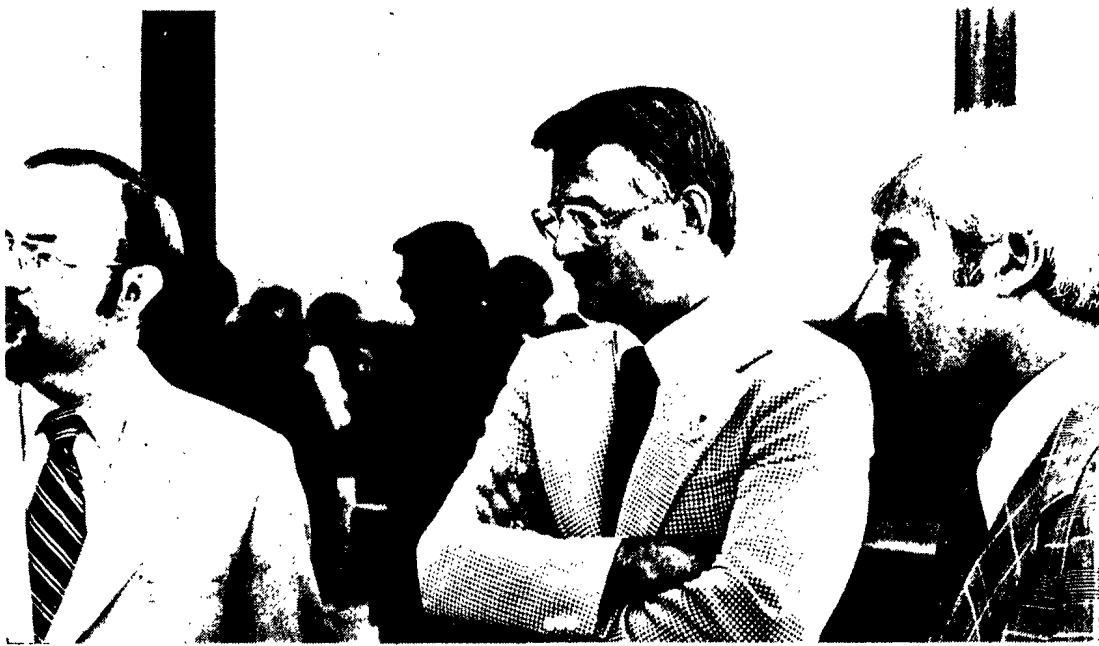
"This is good news," said Robert Juravich, the village's director of urban renewal and housing matters. "Audit Finding 10 is one of the three of the audit findings that Potsdam Urban Renewal officials were seeking to clarify since they were informed in May of this year that a total of \$228,000 in costs were disallowed by the audit."

Upon learning that, the agency asked for time to "investigate and further document" three of the disallowed audit findings. The three audit findings included Finding 10 and Finding 3 and Finding 13.

Finding 3 is an internal audit of PURA performed by Potsdam accountant Morris Pinto in 1974. HUD auditors later disallowed the \$5,000 that Pinto received for that audit.

Finding 13 refers to possible over-payments for engineering services to Newman and Doll, Engineers. A total of \$80,172.96 was questioned by HUD but \$37,638.32 was since allowed.

Meanwhile, agency officials are conferring with HUD representatives on the matter. At the agency's meeting Monday night, approval was given for Juravich and Urban Renewal Consultant Richard Walrath to travel to HUD offices in Buffalo to further discuss urban renewal matters.



TEAM APPROACH-A team approach of the leadership at State University College at Potsdam was stressed at a news conference Tuesday morning. From left are, Dr. Thomas Hegarty, vice-president for Academic Affairs; Dr. John Marshall, vice-president for student affairs; and Dr. James Young, president of the college. (Hal Stokes photo).

In Family Care Homes, Regulations Are The Rule, Not The Exception

Editor's Note: For some 160 of the residents of the Sunmount Development Center, the atmosphere of family care homes provides the least restrictive environment possible, according to experts. The center is constantly on the lookout for more families who would take in and care for the developmentally retarded.

But these families must also live in homes that can meet any number of state regulations, and some of the potential family care homes cannot pass regular inspections.

One such family care provider living in the Potsdam area has complained that the regulations are at times not sensible, and that they cause such

hassles that the effort of providing family care seems hardly worthwhile. He invited a Courier and Freeman reporter to his home last week while an inspection was held. Reporter Betsy Baker's account follows:

BY BETSY BAKER
"It's the system," Ed Gordon says. "It just doesn't take the individual into account." Gordon and his wife Bobbie are family care providers; they have a foster child, an 11-year-old Down's syndrome (mongoloid) boy named Tommy, who lives in the Gordon home along with their four children.

Tommy, who has an I.Q. of about 25, has been with the Gordons for five years; he moved with them when they

came to the Potsdam area. They love him, and they say they have "no intention" of giving him up. But they also say the bureaucracy is making it difficult for them to keep him.

"The rules change constantly," Gordon said. "Last year I was told to get a certain kind of fire extinguisher, this year I'm told it may not be the right kind. The inspectors said I had to put a railing on the stairs to the cellar," Gordon continued, "even though I told them that Tommy can't walk downstairs and never goes to the cellar."

"Now I'm told that Tommy has to have a door on his room, for privacy," Gordon said. "Tommy can't do anything for himself. Why does he need privacy?"

The rules Gordon referred to are only part of the New York State Department of Mental Retardation regulations governing the care of retarded persons such as Tommy in family care homes. Every six months the Gordon home is inspected by a team of inspectors from Sunmount Developmental Center in Tupper Lake. Sunmount is legally responsible for Tommy.

The inspection covers such things as the home's wiring, heating arrangements, bathroom facilities and the size of the family care resident's bedroom. If the home passes inspection, the providers, in this case, the Gordons, are certified by the State Department of Mental Retardation to care for a retarded resident, in this case, Tommy.

Last week, two inspectors from Sunmount, as well as Tommy's caseworker, Cynthia Wilkins, were at the Gordon home for an inspection. A Courier and Freeman reporter was also present, at Ed Gordon's invitation.

Although most items on the inspectors' several-page checklist complied with the regulations, the Gordons still have two deficiencies: Tommy's room has no door, and the stair treads on the stairs to the second floor are too narrow, being seven inches wide instead of the regulation nine inches wide.

John Miller, institutional safety officer at Sunmount, who headed the inspection team, told Ed Gordon that the required bedroom door is primarily for fire safety. If the door broke out near the bedroom, Miller said, the door could be closed to prevent the spread of fire to the rest of the house.

Gordon pointed out, however, that Tommy would first have to be helped from the room in case of fire, since he walks unsteadily. Also, since the doorway is extra wide, a door would have to be custom made.

On the matter of the stairs, Gordon pointed out that Tommy is unable to walk up or down stairs, and doesn't go upstairs unless he is carried.

"My stairs haven't changed in three years," Gordon said. "No one ever told me before that they should be wider." Miller, while noting that the stair treads did not comply with regulations, said that "we can write in our report that the resident doesn't use the stairs."

One problem, Miller said, is that the homes are not certified for a particular individual, but simply for a resident. The regulations are the same for all family care homes, he said, no matter what the particular requirements of the individual who lives in that home.

Miller also noted that the Gordon home is "one of the best I've seen." "We're not threatening with loss of certification," he continued, "but we do have to meet certain standards."

Those standards have gotten tougher in recent years, Miller said, at least in part in response to such tragedies as the fire last winter in Dexter, in which a number of retarded family care residents were killed.

Miller noted that the tougher regulations also mean more concern for patients' rights. "Twenty years ago people used to holler about salaries for the attendants," he said. "You used to see 2,600 retarded in one facility, 70 to 80 to a ward. This way has to be better," he concluded.

As far as the deficiencies in the Gordon home, Miller said that in the case of a minor non-compliance, a Sunmount committee could recommend

SUCP President: 'Team Approach'

The new leadership at the State University College at Potsdam is going to take an active role to see that the college serves the needs of the North Country.

That message became clear during a press conference Tuesday morning at the college.

One way of serving the community's needs will be to offer more courses for adults. "Continuing education at Potsdam is in its infancy; we intend to see it through to adulthood," said Dr. Thomas Hegarty, vice-president for Academic Affairs.

The gathering in Raymond Hall Tuesday morning was the first opportunity for most of the North Country press to formally meet the new college president, Dr. James Young, and the new vice-president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Hegarty. It was also a chance to renew an acquaintance with Dr. John Marshall, vice-president for Student Affairs.

For it will be these three men who will guide the college through the present and into the future. And, the point was made Tuesday that the three would all work together.

"I'm glad to be coming on board with two such capable vice-presidents, and

I'm looking forward to working with them," said Dr. Young, referring to the "team approach" that is expected to be his style at the top level administration.

In the way of serving the community, it will mean more things like the "Opportunity College" that has been instituted to give adults, even those without a high school diploma, a chance to try college to see if it suits them, Hegarty said.

It will also mean working alongside the area's three other colleges through the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley. "I'm looking forward to working energetically with the other presidents" Dr. Young said, noting that the Associated Colleges offers "tremendous potential."

Dr. Young begins the task of taking over the college presidency from Dr. Thomas Barrington, who retired this year after serving the college for 31 years. Dr. Barrington was president since 1970.

Dr. Young praised Dr. Barrington. "The Barringtons left a heritage of academic excellence," he said.

Dr. Young comes to Potsdam from the State University College at Buffalo. An article on the Young family appears on page 15 of the Courier and Freeman.

Travel Agency's Troubles May Hurt Lake Placid Move

BY HAL STOKES
The latest troubles surrounding the Potsdam travel agency Briere and Gosling may have damaged travel agent James Briere's chances for opening a travel agency in Lake Placid's prestigious Lake Placid Club.

"I haven't had a chance to talk with him (Briere), but obviously there is no need for an office if you don't have an agency," said Paul Burns, vice-president and general manager of the Lake Placid Club Resort, in a telephone interview Monday.

What Burns referred to was the possibility that Briere plans to operate a travel office out of the Lake Placid Club might be scrapped, in the wake of a decision rendered by the Travel Agent Commissioner for the Air Traffic Conference of America (ATC).

The commissioner, Robert L. Park, revoked the Air Traffic Conference appointment of Briere and Gosling Travel effective Sept. 7. Basically, the decision withdraws the agency's ability to sell domestic airline tickets. The decision does not affect international ticket sales or tour arrangements.

Asked whether or not the decision will affect his plans to move to Lake Placid, Briere told the Courier & Freeman Tuesday, "We don't know." For his part, Lake Placid Club Vice-President Burns said that he would be in touch with Briere "in the next couple of days" to discuss the move.

As for the Potsdam office, Briere said that it will stay open. "There is no question of going out of business," he said. Briere said that the firm would file an appeal with the commissioner, a move that must be made within 30 days of receipt of the decision.

Park's decision was issued on July 28, following a hearing on the matter on July 17.

The Aug. 10 issue of the trade magazine "Travel Weekly" reported on the decision. The magazine said, "(Commissioner) Park said the agency had a dismal record of remitting violations including seven dishonored sales report checks for over \$50,000 in the past 15 months due to 'an inordinately high level of accounts receivable' and lack of working

Village Eyes Plan To Produce Water Power, Hydrogen At Local Dam

Generation of local hydroelectric power, and the accompanying production of hydrogen, could become a municipal task if the Village of Potsdam gets the grant that it is looking for.

A \$3.1 million grant proposal for the construction of local hydro-electric facilities and a hydrogen producing operation was approved by Potsdam village officials at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees held last Friday afternoon.

The proposal is for a demonstration project to determine the reliability of the hydrogen production at small hydro power sites, such as the village's dam and power site located in the water treatment plant on Raymond Street. The village has been seeking ways to resume production of electricity at its generating site for more than a year.

Under the plan, the Village of Potsdam would be expected to contribute 30 percent of the total cost of the project, an approximate total of \$938,600. Another 30 percent of the cost would be funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSEDA), which has offered to co-sponsor the proposal with the village.

The final 40 percent of the project costs would be funded through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Brookhaven Laboratory, now part of the DOE, is currently seeking proposals on hydrogen production at small hydro sites.

On hand at Friday's meeting to explain the proposal was Fil Fina, partner and consulting engineer with Rist-Frost Associates of Glens Falls, consultants to the village for the hydro project.

Fina told village officials that if the grant application is successful, the village generating plant would be producing hydrogen as well as electricity. The hydrogen, which would belong to the Village of Potsdam, could then be sold to industries such as St. Lawrence Gas and others.

Hydrogen, Fina said, can be added to natural gas to increase its heating power; it has industrial uses as well. Fina also noted that any electricity generated beyond the village's needs could be turned into hydrogen production if that proved more profitable than selling the extra electricity.

Also, while complete figures are not yet available, Fina said that Rist-Frost has estimated that the project's pay-

back period for the village could be as short as two to three years, with a 25 year mortgage. After that time, according to Fina, the village would presumably be making a profit.

The production of hydrogen is safe and clean, Fina said, and could be accomplished in the existing generating site at the water treatment plant building. In fact the entire project would require no major building changes at the site other than the extension of the generating room out over the head of the dam, Fina said. Equipment from General Electric Co. and the Chem-Tron firm would be used in the hydrogen production.

Storage of the hydrogen, particularly in large quantities, would be at a location outside the village, Fina said. The hydrogen would be piped to a storage tank, he noted.

Potsdam's proposal is one of at least four in the state that are being submitted to Brookhaven, according to Fina, but there are several factors in Potsdam's favor, he said.

"The characteristics of this site fit the project application better than we had dreamed," Fina said, noting that a

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WORK PROGRESSING—Work on the village's new water tower, shown here in an aerial photo, is about 10 percent complete, according to Village Administrator Sanford Dewey. The \$1,011,000 project is being primarily by the federal Economic Development Administration. The 1½-million gallon tank, located on land donated by Clarkson College, is expected to improve water pressure throughout the entire village. It is scheduled to be completed in June 1979.

The village board granted a six-month extension on the contract because of the severe winter in Indianapolis, Ind., where the tank's builder, Universal Tank and Iron Co., is located. Design work is being done by Rist-Frost Associates, Glens Falls. In this photo, the concrete base of the tower located on Clarkson Hill, is being worked on. (Hal Stokes photo).



WAITING FOR TRUCKS—For these three, the curb along Market Street was a great place to watch for the Potsdam fire trucks during Saturday's annual Firemen's Review and Run to the River. (Hal Stokes photo).