

Last Week's Weather

	HI	Lo	Pcp
Tues.	94	64	0
Wed.	88	67	1.30
Thurs.	79	65	Tr
Fri.	77	59	0
Sat.	89	55	.57
Sun.	74	53	Tr
Mon.	75	47	0

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Pat Verschneider Discusses Views On Fire Coordinator Position

BY MARY EGGERT
CANTON—At first it seems as if Patrick Verschneider has a type of understated enthusiasm about him. But as he talks about his responsibilities as the county's fire and rescue coordinator and attack warning officer, it becomes apparent that the enthusiasm is but one characteristic of a deeper sense of service.

Up until a short time ago, he was a volunteer with the Potsdam Fire Department. In his present capacity, however, he'll be coordinating the efforts of each department in the county to provide better protection.

VerSchneider became a volunteer seven years ago, since he felt that "every person who lives in a community should make a contribution to the common good in some fashion or form, in addition to paying taxes and voting."

He doesn't agree with those who maintain that volunteer firemen are in it for the glamour. "After six months, it wears off," he notes. Especially for the firefighter who has to be at work the

next morning for a fulltime job, after responding to a fire at 3 the previous morning.

Most volunteers, he suspects, would "just as soon roll over and go back to sleep when the whistle blows at 3 a.m." "I think that really calls for a special type of dedication that should be enjoyed more by the county," he added.

More Fire Training

There are quite a few new programs that he hopes to bring to the county. VerSchneider feels that there should be a fire training site available for use by each department in the county. The county has donated some land by the old county home site, which could be used for that purpose. Fire chiefs have often cited the need for such training, he noted.

In general, he feels that county departments lack the funds to provide adequate training, and updating on new methods. While the county legislature has been cooperative, "in view of the money spent for other services, fire service by proportion involves many, many more people and serves many, many more people."

There are problems, for example, in that a few fire departments lack radios in their tankers, he said. And others have outdated radios requiring maintenance two or three times per month, as in the case of Morley.

network of fire radios in 1955. But all the radios distributed then are still in service, and need to be kept current.

Planning For Disasters

Adjustments should be made to the mutual aid program to allow for repairs of equipment without endangering fire protection. That is, mutual aid will know immediately which department will be able to help another department at a fire, with a listing of available equipment and personnel kept up to date.

The departments and VerSchneider will also be involved in planning for potential fires which could endanger a large segment of the population. There will be set plans and drills for combating "potential disasters" caused by a fire at, for example, Ogdensburg's fuel oil storage tanks.

What VerSchneider sees as needing more emphasis is the possibility of a fire on Routes 11, 37, and 3. He noted that in the past two years, there have been accidents involving tankers carrying flammable or hazardous materials. Local departments usually cannot afford to store the necessary quantity of special foams needed to fight such fires. In fact, VerSchneider said that the firemen also lack the experience in fighting such fires, since the substances cannot be used liberally for training purposes.



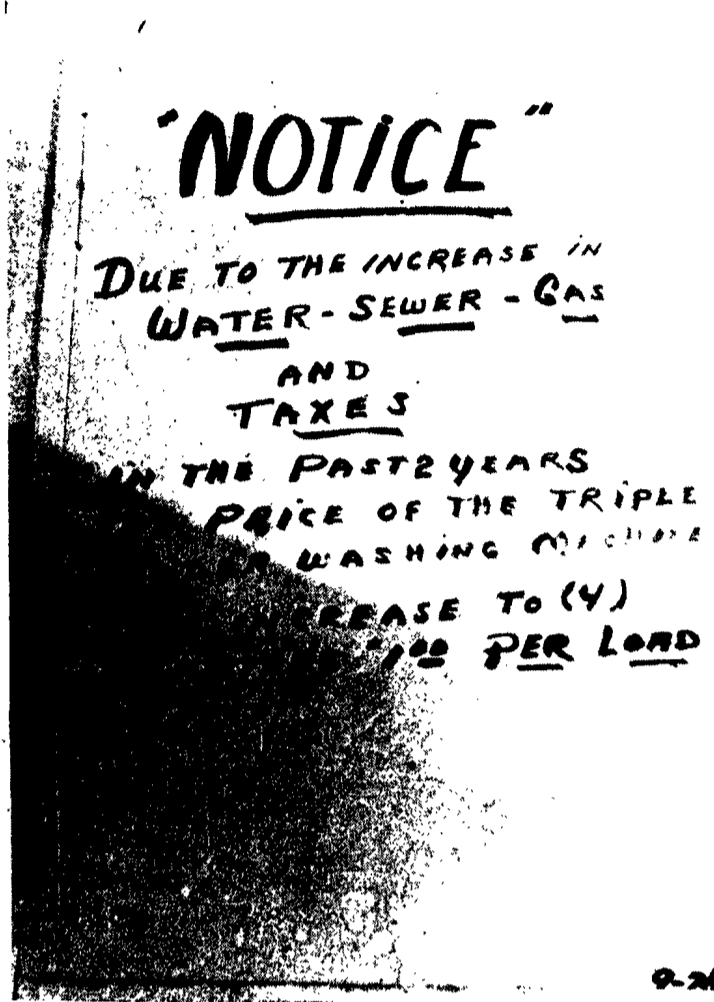
PATRICK VERSCHNEIDER

"That's a critical area," he noted, adding that a five-gallon can of the foam costs in the vicinity of \$55. He hopes to store a substantial quantity of the foam at a central location.

The fire coordinator will also keep track of the lending of county fire-fighting and medical equipment.

But the fire advisory board which recommended him for the job for also wanted administrative expertise and grantsmanship. He worked as a counselor at Canton A.T.C. for two years, and put together two federal grant programs. In light of limited financial resources, he'll be needed in that "I'm able to put my hands on things." Prior to the fire coordinator job, he was the director of placement services for the Potsdam Association for Retarded Children.

In this first regard, VerSchneider noted that the county first established a



SIGN OF THE TIMES—This sign, which pinpoints the woes of most Potsdam taxpayers, is located in a local laundromat. Most taxpayers, however, do not find it as easy as this proprietor to pass along the burden of their problems. (Hal Stokes photo)

Village To Rebid Pipe

The Potsdam Village Board decided Monday night to "take a gamble," in the words of one village trustee. They chose to once again seek bids on a contract for laying a new 16-inch water main across the Racquette River and Fall Island.

In doing so, they rejected a \$234,900 bid entered some weeks ago by the firm of Fiacco and Riley. That figure was reduced somewhat from an original bid on the work, but the board still felt that they could get the work done for less.

The "gamble" that Trustee John Chapple referred to was the chance the board will take that the next set of bids on the work will come in higher.

Trustees Paul Claffey and Gerald Mulherin voted in accord with Chapple to rebid the work. Mayor Ruth Garner voted against it, saying, "My feeling is if we reject this bid and go with advertising, it will not come in any lower."

The project is for laying the water line across the river. It has apparently been tough for the village to get someone to bid on the work. Only Fiacco and Riley and one other firm, Hugh Schickel of Malone, bid on the job the first time.

Since Fiacco and Riley was the low bidder, the village negotiated some items with them, principally to lower the cost. Primarily, the job was changed so that the pipe would not have to be buried as deeply as originally planned. Instead, the pipe will be buried about four or five feet deep and covered with insulation to protect it against the frost.

The pipe in question will be connected to the new village water tower now being built on Clarkson Hill. The village public works crew is doing pipe installation that will connect to either side of the pipe that is to go across the river.

Potsdam School Registration Approaches

Back-to-school time for students in the Potsdam Central Schools is just around the corner, and registration for new students is scarcely a week away.

Each of Potsdam's three central schools has established dates for registration of new students. The information for Lawrence Avenue Elementary School, A.A. Kingston Middle School, and Potsdam High School is as follows:

Lawrence Avenue Elementary

There will be a special registration period for students entering the Lawrence Avenue School for the first time. Any student who has not previously attended the Lawrence Avenue School is asked to register at the school office between 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug. 28-30.

Parents should bring their child's birth certificate and immunization record. Parents transferring students from another school system to Potsdam Central School should also bring records

from the school previously attended.

Lawrence Avenue Elementary School will open on Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. There will be a full-day session with students in grades 1-5 being dismissed at 3:15 p.m. There will be afternoon kindergarten classes.

Regular cafeteria service will begin on Sept. 5. Prices are as follows: 45 cents per day for lunch; 8 cents per container for white milk; 10 cents per container for chocolate milk. One week and two week lunch tickets may be purchased.

Pupils who will be in grades 1-5 will report at 9 a.m. to the classrooms assigned to them. Students will receive a post card notifying them of classroom assignments.

New students not yet registered in grades K-5 will report to the main office for registration and assignment to classes.

Morning kindergarten pupils already registered will report to the rooms assigned them at 9 a.m. on Tuesday.

Morning kindergarten pupils will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. Afternoon kindergarten pupils will report to the kindergarten rooms assigned them at 12:45 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. They will be dismissed from school at 3:15 p.m.

Parents of kindergarten pupils are asked to pin a slip of paper on their child's outer garment, listing the child's name, parent's name, address (including road name), telephone number, as well as the teacher's name and room number. Please do this each day for the first week of school.

Middle School

Registration for all new students who will be entering the A.A. Kingston Middle School for the first time this fall and who have already registered, will be on Aug. 28 at 9 a.m.

New entrants will need to bring birth certificates, immunization records, and report cards or transfer papers from their former school.

Any student who is unable to register on this date and plans to attend the middle school this fall should call the middle school office.

Students who have been enrolled or have registered previously will be receiving a copy of the middle school newsletter shortly. Information on the opening of school and homerooms will be in the newsletter.

Any student who does not receive a copy of the newsletter by registration day should also call the Middle School office.

High School

Registration for new students planning to enroll at Potsdam High School, grades 9-12, has been set for Aug. 23, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Troop Transfer To Drum Possible

OGDENSBURG — While still expressing confidence that the U.S. Army's Second Infantry Division will relocate at Fort Drum near Watertown, Congressman Robert C. McEwen Monday revealed a new alternative to that plan, one he said he would not be unhappy with.

Fielding questions from the Ogdensburg Kiwanis Club during a campaign swing through northern New York, McEwen reiterated that no decision has as yet been made on where

the Second Division may be assigned. But he indicated with confidence, that should the approximately 14,000 troops be sent to Ft. Bliss, Texas, which along with Drum and Ft. Benning, Ga. are the most likely sites for the relocation, that the Third Armored Cavalry Division now assigned to Bliss would be moved to Drum.

The new option is in addition to the possibility of the entire division being assigned to one of the three forts, or split among Forts Drum, Dix, New Jersey or

Devens, Mass. what McEwen referred to Monday as the 3-D option.

Asked when a decision would be made, McEwen responded, "I wish the commander-in-chief were here, I'd like to know myself." The Congressman said that the first troops should be coming from Korea, the Second Division's present assignment, this fall. "I should think that there will be a decision on this quite soon," he stated.

Through process of elimination, McEwen said the division would most likely go to Ft. Drum or Ft. Bliss. "I rather rule out Ft. Benning," he stated, since that area, the President's home state, is due for extensive military construction and a location of the division in that state at the same time might be "embarrassing" to President Carter. As to the 3-D plan, "I have misgivings," since the Army might not find a three-way split among the troops as logistically beneficial.

That leaves Drum and Bliss, and McEwen opined that "where the first troops go, the others will most likely follow. I believe that Fort Drum will receive a division, or a portion of a division, or it will receive something displaced by locating the division elsewhere."

"If the Second Division goes to Fort Bliss, then the Third Armored Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss would come to Drum," McEwen said that the entire New York State Congressional delegation is pushing for the division to come to Drum. "Our drive is for the Second. But if we get the Third (Armored Cavalry Division) I won't be unhappy," he said.

McEwen On Campaign Trail

OGDENSBURG — "I've got a peculiar job," Ogdensburg's Congressman Robert C. McEwen told members of the local Kiwanis Club Monday.

"I don't know of another job where the employee talks so much with the bosses. You're the bosses, and my contract comes up for renewal in December."

Running for his eighth term in the House of Representatives, McEwen spent part of Monday afternoon answering questions from Ogdensburg Kiwanians during a campaign swing through his Congressional District. Today, he plans stops at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake, followed by Plattsburgh and Watertown.

Usually a low-key campaigner, McEwen never mentioned opponent Norma Bartle's name, but of President Carter, he compared him to the late Sen. Everett Dirksen who reportedly once said that he was "A man of principles. My first is to be flexible."

And talking about taxes, McEwen said that "it's been estimated by my party that if we don't make a change by 1985, the federal government will be taking 25 percent of the gross national product in taxes. I submit that's too high for a healthy economy."

McEwen told the Kiwanians, many of whom are businessmen, that the

government "is possibly counter-productive in the area of small business. And that persons in the \$15,000 and up bracket need not expect any tax relief under the tax rebate bill. He said that increases in Social Security taxes will offset tax cuts and people in that income range will experience a tax hike, rather than relief."

"We talk about inflation as a cruel burden," he said. "But it has one beneficiary, the U.S. Treasury. This troubles me because with inflation, as you move to higher brackets, tax revenues go up."

McEwen pointed out that California's proposition 13 is being felt in Washington. He referred to a television appearance earlier Monday by Howard Jarvis, an author of the California amendment. Jarvis Monday announced a nationwide drive to force the federal government to cut taxes by \$50 billion over four years, and to cut spending by \$100 billion. Jarvis said he plans to campaign for candidates who support the plan in the Nov. 7 elections and to campaign against those who oppose it.

P-H Students Return Sept. 5

PARISHVILLE—The opening of Parishville-Hopkinton Central School will be Sept. 5 this year.

Assistant Principal Gene Staffiere said that students are expected to arrive at school no later than 9 a.m. Buses will begin to pick up students at 8:30 a.m. The staff will arrive at 7 a.m.

All students K-12 are asked to report directly to their homerooms.

New students in grades 7-12 should report to the guidance office. New students K-6 should report to the elementary office.

Other school openings in area include:

Norwood-Norfolk

Sept. 5 is the first full day. Lunch prices are up from 45 to 50 cents at the high school; also at the high school, reduced price lunches are up to 25 cents, and adult lunches up to 90 cents. At the grade school, lunches are up to 45 cents, reduced price lunches up to 25 cents, and adult lunches 90 cents.

No changes in bus routes are expected.

Newcomers to the high school may register anytime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. the week of Aug. 28. At the elementary school the hours are from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m. this Thursday and Aug. 28.

The district begins this year with a new administrator. Norman Kosiosky is high school principal. Other administrators remain the same.

St. Lawrence Central (Brasher)

Classes begin in full Sept. 5. Lunch prices are up to 50 cents at the high school, from 50 cents to 60 cents; elementary, 45 to 55; and adults, \$1 including tax.

Bus routes are expected to remain the same.

Registration for newcomers is today, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students with schedule problems may also come during those hours on those days.

Colton-Pierrepont

Employee orientation Sept. 5, classes

begin in full Sept. 6.

No lunch price changes are anticipated and only "very minor" bus route changes are expected. Families affected will be notified.

Newcomers may register any time.

Madri-Waddington

First full day is Sept. 5.

District officials said any information regarding lunch price changes, bus route changes, or registration, must follow the school board meeting Tuesday night.

Registration for new students planning to enroll at Potsdam High School, grades 9-12, has been set for Aug. 23, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



NEW CENTER—Renovations are being done to this house, the former Baptist parsonage on Elm Street, to prepare for the move of the Potsdam Day Care Center. (Hal Stokes photo).

Day Care Center Moves

The Potsdam Day Care Center has moved to a new site. On Saturday, August twelfth, aided by the Rotary Club of Potsdam and members of the Day Care Planning Board, the facility moved from the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to a house at 32 Elm Street. This house is rented by the Day Care from the Village of Potsdam. The Village purchased this house through a HUD Community Development Block Grant.

The Day Care Center's new director is Ms. Betsy Bale, formerly of Rochester. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate and is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She received her Bachelors in Philosophy from William Smith College in 1968, a master of arts in elementary teaching from the University of Rochester in 1974 and is currently working towards a master of science in education at the State University College at Potsdam.



CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGER—Norma Bartle, opposing Rep. Robert McEwen for Congress, was at the St. Lawrence County Fair recently. (Betsy Baker photo).

Champney Reception Planned

PARISHVILLE—An open house reception in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Harold and Isabel Champney will be held Sunday, Sept. 3, at the Parishville Senior Citizens Hall in the Parishville Town Hall building from 2-4 p.m.

The family of Isabel and Harold Champney cordially invites all relatives and friends to join the celebration.