

Last Week's Weather			
	Hi	Lo	Pep
Wed.	-3	-23	0
Thurs.	2	-20	0
Fri.	5	-9	0
Sat.	-4	-19	0
Sun.	5	-23	0
Mon.	19	-10	Tr. Sn
Tues.	23	15	0

Courier and Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Congratulations to Mike Jerome, Potsdam's "Fireman of the Year".

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20 CENTS

P-H Handicapped Committee Not Meeting Deadlines

BY NEIL THOMPSON
PARISHVILLE—The handicapped committee in the Parishville-Hopkinton Central School District has, in some cases, lagged behind in dealing with students, who have been referred to that committee.
 The delays have, in at least one instance, extended well beyond the time limits provided under the state's guidelines for the committee.
 Elementary and Assistant Principal Gene Staffiere, chairman of the committee, has confirmed reports of the delays.
 One parent has termed the situation "really frustrating."
 And a youth advocacy organizer for North Country Legal Services has attended school board meetings on behalf of some of the parents.
 Under ideal conditions there should be a total of about 90 days between the time a student is first referred to a committee of the handicapped until that student is placed within an appropriate program.
 Yet a document obtained through sources by the Courier and Freeman indicates that one case had not been acted on for seven months.
 A committee on the handicapped exists under state law to see to it that students who are suspected of having learning problems are diagnosed and

placed in proper programs. It is up to the committee to evaluate a child and it is up to the school board to arrange for the student's placement in a proper program.
 Questioned on the reasons for the delays, Staffiere said the handicapped committee has only limited access to a doctor and psychologist.
 The district is served by Dr. Max Thaler who had no comment regarding reasons for delays.
 A memo has been obtained from sources by the Courier and Freeman. It is dated Dec. 5, 1978. It was sent from Staffiere to Debbie Earl, Ann Halstead, Glenn Moore and Pam Kemp, all members of the handicapped committee. The memo was also sent to Carol Cooper, a title I reading teacher.
 The memo, with the identity of the family involved left out, says "(a parent) has asked us to give her (child) priority. Her daughter was referred to the Committee On The Handicapped last May and we have yet to meet regarding her child."
 Asked to comment on the memo, Staffiere said only, "Dealings with the handicapped are highly confidential, and there are certain things I don't wish to comment on."
 Some reports circulating in the

district say that the handicapped committee is failing to meet the 30-day legal deadline by which it must arrange to test and evaluate any child who has been referred to it.
 Staffiere said he was not sure if that deadline was being met.
 He did say, however, that delays, sometimes occur after testing has been arranged.
 School officials have been reluctant to discuss exactly how many cases have met with delays.
 One Parent's View
 Many parents in the Parishville district are likewise cautious about discussing the problem.
 But one who did agree to talk - we'll call her Mrs. M - confirmed reports of delays. Her case is not the same one referred to in the Dec. 5 memo.
 She said her child was first referred to the committee in early May of 1978. She said she contested the committee's placement decision in June, and that no decision on her protest was made until Dec. 20, 1978.
 Mrs. M said she will contest the committee's recent ruling this spring. "I just didn't find that they extended themselves as to letting me know what my rights were or what my child's rights were," she said.
 "There are a lot of hold-ups and delays," she said. "It's really frustrating because the child is waiting for placement," she said.
 She said she has talked with other parents about the situation. "I think as we get together we are finding we have common problems," she said.
 Some may argue that the committee's delays are justified because of decisions on the handicapped are difficult and are often an emotional, traumatic ordeal for those involved.
 She felt in her child's case, however, the delay was not justified.
 "It wasn't (justified) because, school personnel could not attend the hearings."

We had to recess for an entire summer because they were not available," she said, adding that some of the school officials had been on vacation at the time.
 Could Hurt
 Kim Fulmer, youth advocacy organizer for North Country Legal Services, works with some parents of handicapped students in the Parishville district, and has attended school board meetings on behalf of those parents.
 Asked if delays hurt children, she said, "Oh, definitely, the child misses out on his years for education, and it's hard to replace."
 She said the problem is even harder to deal with when it involves older children, because "They haven't had a positive experience. The longer you go through with a negative experience, the harder it is to have any self-esteem in school."
 While there may be other school districts with similar problems, Parishville's problems are not shared by the Potsdam Central School's handicapped committee.
 "We are within the time frame specified by the law," said the Rev. Robert F. Langwig, chairman of Potsdam's handicapped committee.
 He estimates there are around 60 handicapped students in the district.
 Langwig said that in 90 percent of the cases, it is fairly clear how to classify

and deal with students.
 He had good words for the work of his handicapped committee. "It's a good working committee. There are a lot of strong people on it, people who are very much interested in the families and children themselves."
 Langwig said the committee deals with a minimum of about six students a month to a maximum of about 15 a month.
 A Course Of Action
 Is there any help if you are the parent of a child you think needs help but is not getting it because of inaction by a handicapped committee?
 The answer is yes. There are several ways to combat the problem.
 Parents, Miss Fulmer said, can either contact the handicapped committee, seek legal help, call the regional state education department or get information from legal services.
 She said proper procedures for the handicapped committee are as follows:
 - The committee has 30 days to meet and evaluate a child from the time a parent or teacher refers a child to the committee.
 - The school board has 30 days to arrange for placement once a student is classified by the committee.
 Next, an individualized educational program must be designed within 30 days. The program is set up by using data from the testing process, and in

consultation with a teacher, parent, and the child, if appropriate.
 "The committee may classify the student as mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, physically or multiply handicapped or not handicapped."
 After the individualized education program is designed, she said, it should be implemented. "If parents find that their child's individualized educational program is not being followed, they have a right to request that it be implemented," she said.
 In a related matter in Parishville, the school board at its last meeting by passed a motion in executive session to accept the recommendations of the handicapped committee for two students.
 According to the New York State School Boards Association handbook, executive session is "only available for the purpose of discussion, and formal action must be taken in open session."

Life Threatened Sheriff Subdues Gunman

BY TED COMO
GOVERNOUR—St. Lawrence County's freshman sheriff, Keith M. Knowlton, reportedly subdued a 29-year-old gunman early this morning after the man allegedly pointed a loaded .357 magnum revolver at the sheriff's head, cocked the hammer and allegedly told Knowlton, "You're going to die now."
 Charged with two counts of reckless endangerment, first degree, kidnapping first and second degree and first degree robbery was Jerry Streeter, 29, of the Rock Island Road, Gouverneur.

Arrested This Morning
 Streeter was arraigned in Gouverneur Village Court later this morning. He pled not guilty to all charges, and was ordered held in St. Lawrence County Jail with bail set at \$25,000, to await action of the Grand Jury.
 The one and one-half hour ordeal started shortly after midnight, when Village police received a report that a man was carrying a rifle along Barney Street in the village. Sgt. Norman Dalton and Ptm. Clifford E. Beers responded to the call.
 According to Sgt. Dalton, the two spotted the man along Barney Street, stopped the patrol car and exited, approaching the man from the rear. "I recognized who he was," Sgt. Dalton said.

Pointed Rifle At Officers
 The officers twice ordered Streeter to place the weapon on the ground. At that point, Sgt. Dalton said, Streeter pointed the 30.3 caliber rifle at the two officers. As Sgt. Dalton backed away, Streeter approached Ptm. Beers and ordered him to enter the squad car. Streeter entered the car on the passenger side and ordered the patrolman at gunpoint, to drive him out of the village.
 The car left Gouverneur along the Rock Island Road, whereupon Streeter made contact with the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department via the squad car's radio. Sgt. Jack Logan stated that he was on the desk at the time, and that Streeter asked to be placed in contact with Sheriff Knowlton.
 Logan contacted the sheriff by phone, and Sheriff Knowlton was able to make contact with Streeter via his car radio. Streeter requested that the sheriff meet him along the Rock Island Road, Logan said. At that point, state police, other sheriff's deputies and Gouverneur village police were alerted to proceed to that location.
 According to reports, Sheriff Knowlton told Streeter by radio to give the weapon to the patrolman. Streeter's reported response was to the effect that he "would give it to him, right in the head."

Threatened Sheriff
 When Sheriff Knowlton arrived, Streeter entered the sheriff's auto and ordered Knowlton to proceed along the Rock Island Road. After a short distance, Streeter is alleged to have pointed the officer's sidearm at Knowlton's head, telling the sheriff that he was "going to die now."
 Knowlton hit the brakes of the auto, throwing Streeter into the dash, and physically subdued the man, taking the gun away from him without shots being fired. Other police units then converged on the scene and Streeter was taken into custody without further incident.
 He was charged by Gouverneur Village Police with first degree reckless endangerment, first degree kidnapping and first degree robbery. The robbery count related to Streeter's taking of Ptm. Beers' sidearm. The Sheriff's Department charged Streeter with second degree kidnapping and first degree reckless endangerment.
 Being kidnapped at gunpoint was nothing new to Beers, an eight-year veteran of the Gouverneur police department. In July of 1975, he was kidnapped by a 21-year-old Gouverneur man armed with a rifle.

Independent May Seek Mayor's Post

An independent candidate may seek to challenge incumbent Democrat Ruth F. Garner for the mayor's post in the March 20 Potsdam village election.
 Herbert G. Crump, Jr., 78 May Rd., confirmed following Monday night's meeting of the village board of trustees that he is planning to circulate an independent petition to allow his name to be placed on the ballot.
 "If I do get on the ballot, I'll be fair to all of you," Crump told the Courier and Freeman. "I'll call a press conference. But right now I have no comment."
 Crump, who is employed at Paul Smith's College reportedly was a trustee candidate some years ago.
 According to Crump, he picked up the independent petition from Village Administrator Sanford Dewey.
 Dewey said that two other independent petitions had also been picked up. One went to Republican trustee candidate Eleanor Senf. The other went to an unidentified woman who gave the name "Janet Dickerson" as a person who could be contacted about the petition.
 Dickerson, who lives in Hannawa Falls, told the Courier and Freeman she knew nothing about the petition and had "no intention" of circulating a petition for any candidate.
 Feb. 20 is the first day that independent petitions may be filed with the St. Lawrence County Board of Elections in Canton. Feb. 27 is the last day for filing such petitions. At least 100 signatures are required on an independent petition in villages such as Potsdam where the population is over 5,000.

Water Line Freeze-Ups Create 'Emergency'

Recent frigid temperatures and the "prolonged severe cold" have created a "critical state" in the Village of Potsdam with regard to the freezing of water lines from streets to homes and businesses, and that situation may last for weeks.
 That word came in a statement issued Monday night by Mayor Ruth Garner at the regular meeting of the board of trustees.
 Calling the present situation an "emergency," Garner's statement noted that village Department of Public Works crews have been working around the clock in an effort to thaw the frozen water lines. Crews will continue to work 24 hours a day in shifts until the emergency is over, according to Garner's statement.
 The village water plant will also

operate at full capacity around the clock to meet the demand for water, according to the statement.
 According to Village Administrator Sanford Dewey, the village presently has 53 calls "backed up" from property owners and businesses who have frozen water lines.
 "We gained four during the day," Dewey said, "but we picked up four new ones after 5 p.m."
 Dewey also stated that there have been two or three reports of frozen sewer pipes throughout the village.
 Most of the village's water lines are four to six feet beneath the ground, according to Dewey. He said it is "very unusual" for frost to extend to that depth.
 DPW crews have found that some lines can be thawed in 20 minutes,

Dewey said, while other lines have required up to 21 hours.
 Buildings such as the Potsdam-Hospital have not been affected by the freeze-ups, Dewey said, but other buildings, such as St. Mary's Church and the medical building located on Riverview Drive have been affected, he said. Most of the calls received by the village have come from residents and businesses.
 A new thawing machine was ordered Monday, at a cost of \$2,200, and delivery is expected later this week. Dewey said that after the present emergency is over the new machine will be used along with the village's 1939 model unit now in use. The village has also borrowed a thawing machine from St. Lawrence County and a smaller unit from Clarkson College.
 The text of Garner's statement, in part follows:
 "Due to the emergency situation, no charges have been made to residents to thaw lines. Since we have a long waiting list and our equipment is overtaxed, we urge those residents, where possible, to contact private contractors.
 "Residents whose lines are not frozen should consider leaving their water running in one faucet, less than half open. Please use prudence as we must maintain a back-up supply of water for fire protection and the increased flow will be reflected in your next water bill.
 "We recommend you fill your bath tub and use a pail of water to flush the toilet and also keep a supply for drinking water.
 "The water plant will now operate at full capacity on an around the clock basis to keep up with the demand. This procedure will remain in effect as long as necessary. This is a very costly operation for the village and we urge all residents to cooperate.
 "This emergency may last a matter of weeks due to the record breaking cold and today's (Monday's) moderation of temperature will not solve our problems," Garner concluded.

Aluminum Firm Could Begin Expansion Soon

A Canadian manufacturing firm could begin its expansion to Potsdam as early as next week, according to the firm's president, Robert Labelle.
 Labelle told the Courier and Freeman Tuesday morning that his firm, Dynamic Closures, of Cornwall, Ont. expects to receive its license to operate in New York State within a week or so. After the license is received the firm can begin the process of expanding its business to Potsdam, to a site located in the Potsdam Industrial Center, formerly the Seaway Shopping Center, Labelle said.
 Dynamic Closures manufactures security folding closures, using aluminum, glass and grill-work, Labelle said. The closures are used for security and crowd control in shopping centers and other commercial establishments and at airports, he said.
 The firm expects to use some 5,610 square feet of space in the Potsdam Industrial Center as an assembly plant for its products. While the Potsdam operation eventually expects to employ about 30 people, Labelle said his firm will "start small", with about 10-12 employees.
 Those employees are to be recruited from this area, according to Labelle. "No Canadian staff are going into the Potsdam operation," he said. In addition, the firm expects to provide on-the-job training for key personnel.
 The operation will include a "very small" office, Labelle said, "primarily a place to keep track of the records." Engineering, (drawings and layouts) comes out of Cornwall, and out of the firm's New York City offices. The Potsdam plant will use space for assembly and shipping, Labelle said.
 Actual operation of the assembly plant is expected to begin "sometime in April," Labelle said.
 The firm moved to Cornwall from Montreal last June and employs 35 persons in Cornwall. Labelle said Dynamic Closures has been exporting to the U.S. for about two years, and has about 145 sales representatives in this country at the present time.
 The market for the firm's products is expanding, he said. "I don't think we're hitting even one percent of the U.S. sales potential," Labelle noted.
 While the firm would have liked to expand to Massena "simply because it's closer," Labelle said, "We are happy to be coming to Potsdam."
 "We feel that Potsdam has tremendous potential because of the kind of town it is - it's a college town," he continued. "We are very impressed with the mayor, and the people we've met have been very nice."
 Labelle said that the firm expects to employ 10-12 college students during the summer months.
 Labelle also confirmed that Dynamic Closures is "working with" the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) on the expansion.
 On the matter of a possible tax abatement for his firm Labelle said that

"We would try to make use of any program beneficial to our company."
 County developer William Cook could not be reached at presstime for comment on the progress of the IDA-Dynamic Closures negotiations or the possibility of tax abatement.
 Last Wednesday the Potsdam Village Zoning Board of Appeals granted a special permit to allow the Canadian firm to move into the former shopping center. According to village building inspector Robert Fonda the firm will occupy a total of 5,610 square feet in the portion of the building that once housed Kinney Drugs.
 Plans call for a 10 by 15 foot office, with the rest of the space to be used for work space and assembly. Two overhead doors in the rear of the building will allow for deliveries and shipping.



COLD DIVE—Two divers poke their heads through a hole cut in the ice during practice dives that were held in a flooded quarry near Norfolk Sunday. The divers were practicing emergency techniques in a program that is being taught by Dave Jackman of Massena. The air temperature was zero as the divers practiced. (Dawn Vick photo)



TELLING SIGN—This sign took the place of children that were to have ridden on the float for the Brasher-Helena Democratic Club in the Tri-Town Winter Carnival Parade. The parade was held in cold temperatures. Theme for the weekend carnival was "Through the Eyes of a Child." More photos on page 6. (Hal Stokes photo)