

| Last Week's Weather | | |
|---------------------|----|----------|
| Hi | Lo | Pcp |
| Wed. 40 | 12 | .09 rain |
| Thurs. 37 | 26 | tr. sn. |
| Fri. 46 | 23 | .17 rn. |
| Sat. 43 | 28 | .02 rn. |
| Sun. 23 | 16 | 0 |
| Mon. 23 | 18 | 1.9 sn |
| Tues. 23 | 17 | .06 sn. |

Courier and Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Incredible Mohawks champs again. See page 13.

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Music Theater For Potsdam Unveiled

A high quality, professional music theater that could well rival other renowned summer theater experiences has been started in Potsdam.

A blueprint for the professional musical repertory company, known as Music Theater North, was unveiled Saturday at a press conference held in the Civic Center.

The first season, which will run from July 6 through Aug. 25 this year, boasts five musical performances. Shows to be put on this year are "Fiddler on the Roof," "A Little Night Music," "The Fantasticks," "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," and "The Pirates of Penzance."

Aside from bringing theatrical quality to the area, the company is expected to bring tourist dollars into St. Lawrence County, according to John Ryan, who stressed the economic development potential of the project.

Ryan is president of the board of Directors of the St. Lawrence Foundation for Youth Inc., the not-for-profit corporation that is sponsoring Music Theater North. Ryan said that this season will be the culmination of three years' work on the proposal.

"We are convinced that this will have significant impact on St. Lawrence County," Ryan said.

On the economic side of things, Ryan said that the company is expected to employ perhaps as many as 180 persons and at least 60. He did not say, however, that all of those people would be paid. There will be a need of a core company of about 40 people for actors and perhaps 35 musicians, Ryan said.

Auditions will be held locally, through talent will also be solicited from outside the area.

On the artistic side, the professional company of directors, designers, musicians, and technicians, is to be headed by T.K. Thompson, formerly associated with the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Mass. Thompson

is currently director of Music Theater at the Crane School of Music.

The theater hopes to involve talented area residents as members of the company.

The organizers promise an artistically and commercially successful summer industry, and hope that St. Lawrence County will take its place along with Saratoga, Lake Placid, and Lake George as mecca for summer visitors.

Money Needed
Ryan said that the budget for the seven-week season will be no more than \$150,000. Something in the nature of \$60,000 would have to be raised in this area through donations, he remarked.

There will be a fund-raising campaign in the next several weeks, with memberships available to donors. Those seeking to donate may pledge in the following categories: \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1,000.

In addition, the group will seek government funding to help the cause, he said.

The theater would be operated this summer at stage facilities on the Potsdam State College campus, Ryan said. Ryan stressed that the group will rely heavily on local and area support. He is interested in spreading the word about the plans, and he asked that anyone interested in the proposal contact him at P.O. Box 525, Potsdam, or 265-5666.

Besides Ryan, the board of directors of the foundation includes: Arlene Correll, vice-president; John Rolfe, treasurer; Pat Mislin, secretary; Norma Thayer, Eleanor Smith, Roger Spugnardi; Rev. Michael Toth; and

Harold Hughes.

Tryouts for spots in the company will be held as follows:

Singers and instrumentalists are invited to audition for the professional repertory company on Saturday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Crane School of Music, Bishop Hall, Room C123.

Vocalists should be prepared to present at least two selections of music from the musical comedy or operetta repertoire. The selections should contrast in style and character. A short monologue or dialogue reading will be required, also.

Orchestra applicants should be ready to present a selection from legitimate repertory for the instrument to show agility and musicality.

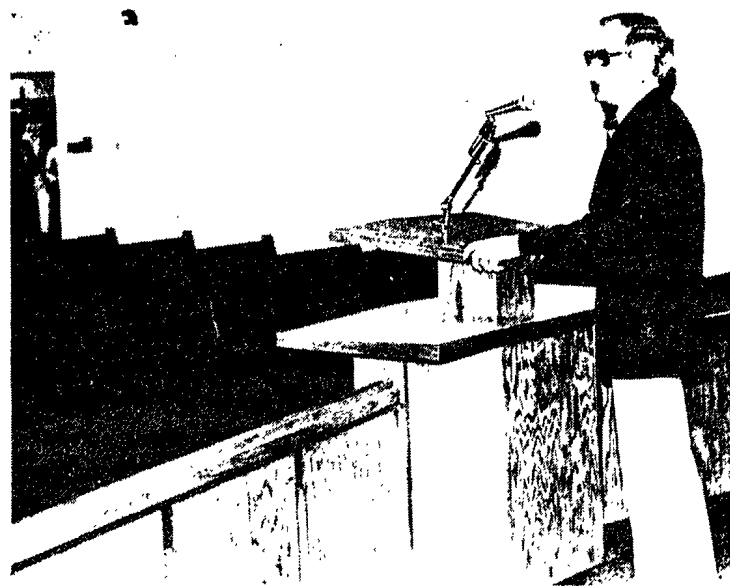
Piano accompanists will be provided, or applicants may bring an accompanist of their own choice.

A \$10 registration fee is required at the audition. The fee will be non-refundable and will help defray costs of auditions and support of the program.

T.K. Thompson, artistic director, requests that applicants call 268-2971 as soon as possible to declare audition intentions.



TOMMY THOMPSON



NEW CHAPEL-Bishop Donald Herzog of Potsdam surveys the new Mormon chapel from the speaker's podium at an open house held last weekend. Built on a site at the end of Castle Drive in the village, the chapel will serve the more than 200 Mormons in the Potsdam area. A special worship service to open the chapel was held last Sunday under Herzog's direction. (Betsy Baker photo)

Potsdam School Looks For Computer

BY NEIL THOMPSON

When the new year was ushered in, the service warranty covering the bookkeeping machine at Potsdam Central school was ushered out when it

reached its expiration date.

That left the school district in a precarious position should the machine, already over ten years old, break down. After spending several months weighing the problem, school officials have hit upon what they hope is the answer.

The district is advertising for bids for an electronic data processing system. Bid proposals will be received until 1 p.m. March 12.

If things work out the way officials hope, the computer will be installed in the school business office of Potsdam Central School by July 1.

Carlos Gutierrez, superintendent of schools, stresses the computer is a necessity, not a fringe item that the school could do without.

"When you consider all the options, this is the only way for us to go that I can see," he said.

He cited three main reasons for getting a computer. First, he said, the present machine is not reliable. "Bookkeeping and payroll operations revolve around the machine. You've got to have it," he said.

Also, he said, the amount of paperwork the business staff must do has increased drastically.

"By a conservative estimate, the amount of work has easily tripled in the last ten years," Gutierrez said.

He said part of the increase is caused by new programs that carry with them special budget and purchasing procedures.

Also, he said, reports that used to be due annually are now due quarterly. Gutierrez said another reason for installing the computer is to have accurate financial information more readily available to school officials.

"The board's Finance Committee and I are in need of better information to make better decisions," he said.

He had no cost estimate for the computer. Gutierrez said that the district would consider either leasing or buying a computer, and said the school would request price estimates for an outright purchase, buying over a period of time or leasing.

It's generally cheaper to buy, he said, but the danger with buying is that the school could be stuck with an obsolete computer in a few years.

He had no estimate of how long the payback period would be after the computer is installed.

Questioned on the possibility of laying off current business staff, he said the district expects to get through the 1979-80 school year with the present business staff.

Before deciding to seek bids for a computer system, officials explored other options, Gutierrez said.

For a time, officials considered contracting business machine services from a professional management group, but that was ruled out because there is no such group nearby, Gutierrez said.

A second possibility would have been to use the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) computer system.

While that alternative has not been ruled out for long-term consideration, it has been dropped for short-term consideration, he said. The problem with using the BOCES computer, he said, is that the school's paperwork would still have to be transported to BOCES facilities in Madison County.

Finally, school officials agreed the best plan is getting a computer to handle bookkeeping and payroll matters.

He said installation of such a computer system would not be a big job because modern computers are often quite small. What will be a tougher task will be training the present business staff to work the new machine.

Two office workers, he said, will spend two weeks at a training center, and whichever company gets the bid for the job will also have personnel at the school to assist the Potsdam staff until the new system is working smoothly.

Two other area schools—Ogdensburg and Massena—are already using systems similar to what Potsdam has in mind.

In a related matter, the Potsdam school district is still looking for a finance officer to replace Assistant Superintendent for Business John McMann, who will be retiring.

Built into the future finance officer's job description, Gutierrez said, is that the finance officer must be familiar with modern bookkeeping systems.

March 1 is the cutoff date for accepting applications, he said, adding that about 25 applications have been filed so far.

Potsdam's Garbage Disposal Might Be Model Project

BY HAL STOKES

Potsdam's garbage could come day become one of this town's claims to fame.

That is, at least the method of getting rid of the garbage has that potential, according to planners who are interested in drawing up a solid-waste management plan for the town.

"We would like to do a first-class demonstration here in Potsdam," said Jon Montan Jr., assistant planner for the Black River-St. Lawrence Regional Planning Board.

He made that comment to the Potsdam Town Board at their February meeting as he outlined the scope of such a project. The Town of Potsdam runs the local sanitary landfill which is located

off the Norwood Road.

A key portion of the waste management proposal would be resource reclamation—the separation of different waste materials such as paper, aluminum, and glass so that they could be recycled.

At this point, the proposal is still tentative, Montan said. To help firm up any plans, he and the town officials agreed to hold a "brainstorming session" at 7:30 p.m. March 14 in the town offices, at which time interested members of the community, particularly those who might have a stake in local recycling efforts, are urged to attend.

Montan, who is working on the proposal in conjunction with County

Planner Richard Grover, said that he would be designing the plan.

Help In Funding
There is quite a lot of government money available to help with the costs of such a program, Montan told the town board. Through the State Environmental Quality Bond Act, some \$1 million is available statewide for such projects. To date, however, only about \$30,000 of that amount has been spoken for.

Still, the state funding will only pay for 50 percent of the costs of such a program, Montan pointed out. That would leave local funding to pay the remainder. But, he indicated, perhaps St. Lawrence County would help to foot the local share of the bill.

The planner did not indicate just what a project of this nature might cost, but he did outline some of the goals that have been discussed.

An important factor in the resource reclamation aspect would be separation of materials in the home. If individuals divide their trash into various categories, it saves tremendous expense that would be needed to do the task at the landfill site, he explained. One way of encouraging the so-called "source separation" would be an educational program. Such a program might, for instance, involve colored tags for various types of waste and would be the type of thing that children could do in the home, he said.

Still to be taken into account are transportation of the waste material, containerization and storage, potential local markets for some of the waste (such as is done currently with glass recycling at Potter's Industries), Montan said.

Another thing to be looked at is the funding and staff for such a project. Montan said that volunteer help would be welcome in the program, but he also said that for it to be successful some staff should be employed on a paid basis.

Ease Landfill Strain
"We're looking to reduce the major impact on the landfill," Montan told the board.

The Town board appeared interested in learning more about the plan. Town Supervisor Joel Merriman has often expressed an interest in recycling projects associated with the landfill.

And lately, as the burden has increased on towns operating their own landfills, there has been some discussion of St. Lawrence County implementing regional, centralized landfill sites.

It remains to be seen just how much the town is willing to pay to make such a project work. More information will be available at the March 14 meeting, which will be attended by two experts from the State Department of Environmental Conservation, Robert Henderson and Thomas Michon.

But, as Montan told the board, "We want it to be responsive to the town. We want it to work the way the town wants it."

Still Some Freeze-Ups, Conditions 'Improved'

While some water lines are still freezing up, Potsdam Village Administrator Sanford Dewey told the Courier and Freeman late Monday that "conditions are much improved since last week."

At that time, Mayor Ruth Garner had called the situation an "emergency," and had stated that crews from the village Department of Public Works would be working "around the clock" to thaw water lines from village streets to homes and businesses.

Dewey said Monday that the "peak day" for freeze-ups was Feb. 20, when some 30 calls were received from village

residents with frozen water lines. The number of calls dropped to an average of five to ten per day after that, with only two calls on Monday. A total of 154 freeze-ups were reported since Feb. 10.

Dewey said the DPW crews had "worked long hours, and worked conscientiously."

"They returned to work early in the morning after short nights, and in some cases they worked through the night," he noted.

According to DPW head Richard Cambridge, the freeze-ups were due to the "deeper penetration of frost" which followed the sustained cold of recent

weeks. Cambridge said. He estimated that there are still between six and eight lines to be thawed as of Tuesday morning.

"My men did a tremendous job," Cambridge said.

The DPW had its own problems during the freeze-ups—the DPW headquarters on Cherry Street also had frozen water lines, Cambridge said.

Some businesses were also affected, such as Kinney Drugs downtown store and the Crafts Barn. St. Mary's Church temporarily solved its freeze-up problems with a large tank and a shallow well pump, which allowed the operation of its steam boiler to heat the church. Many residents were affected as well.

Costs to the village for the freeze-ups can only be estimated at this point, according to Village Treasurer Mary Welch.

Welch said that the most recent village payroll shows an increase of \$500, most of which is for overtime paid the DPW crews. Also, some \$200 has been spent for lunches for the crews working through the night and in the early morning hours.

The payroll figures only represent the first week of the freeze-up period, Welch said, and additional costs will not show up until the payroll is computed again.

Cambridge said he could not estimate the total number of overtime hours at this time.

Village residents whose pipes have been thawed are urged to leave water running, according to Cambridge. He also suggested that others leave water running as precaution. "It could be two weeks or more before the situation is cleared up completely," he noted.

Those residents whose pipes have been thawed, and who do leave water running will be billed for water use on the basis of last year's water bill for the same time period, according to Welch.

Dr. Vinicor's Show Among Top In U.S.

At a banquet in Chicago, Ill., attended by 850 people from all over the United States, on Feb. 16, Dr. Henry Vinicor of Norwood, a member of the Medical Society of the County of St. Lawrence, was presented with a check and a plaque for sharing first prize as the best radio medical talk show in the United States. The check will be given to the Medical Society of the County of St. Lawrence. First prize was \$1,000, second prize was \$500, third prize was \$250.

The judges were Ms. Susan Anderson, executive producer, Channel 2, Chicago, Ill.; John De Reaus, representing a Chicago radio station; John Barkley, Ph.D., professor of radio and television, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Dr. Vinicor has a radio medical talk show weekly on WMSA, Massena. He answers questions on all medical matters; his interrogator is Sam Frazier, station manager.

Cannery Group Seeks Members

The Potsdam Community Food Preservation Co-operative is seeking more board members. The board was initiated six months ago to establish a center for canning and drying of garden produce. The center will be open to use by the community at large.

Funding for the center has been received through various grants. The board is presently engaged in applying for further grant money, which it is hoped will help the center become operational by fall.

Sites for the center are being carefully investigated. The cannery will require a good deal of plumbing for high pressure steam. The steam boiler will be adapted to take either wood or oil fuel.

A supervisor-coordinator will soon be studying for certification at a training course offered near Geneva, N.Y. It is anticipated that upwards of six people will be employed by the cannery eventually if a commercial product is produced. These would include trained cannery supervisors, a bookkeeper-accountant, and a cannery operator.

Community-run canneries are now operating in the Hudson, N.Y. area, in Vermont, in Massachusetts, and in many parts of the south. Some of them have existed since the 1920s.

Candidates Night March 14

Candidates Night for the Potsdam Village elections will be conducted Wednesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the large group instruction room of the A.A. Kingston Middle School. All five of

Takeover Order Signed

CANTON — County Judge Michael Duskas, in an order signed Monday and released this morning, has granted the Town of Massena, the right to take temporary possession of Niagara Mohawk properties in the township.

Judge Duskas ordered that 10 days prior to the date of initial operation, the town must deposit the amount of \$1.8 million with the chief financial officer of the town of Massena. The funds will remain on deposit pending further order from the court.

In granting Massena the right to temporary takeover, Judge Duskas deleted from the town's proposed plan for takeover the Transitional Committee. The committee would reportedly have resolved disputes that arise during the transitional period.

Now that Massena has the right to take over the power company facilities, it must work out the winding

arrangements for power between Niagara Mohawk and the Power Authority of the State of New York. In his order Judge Duskas makes no mention of whose responsibility it is to wind the power. PASNY reportedly has a contract with Niagara Mohawk that covers the winding of the power to the Massena municipal system.

April 1 is still the town's goal for starting up the new system.

Wenzl To Seek CSEA Presidency

The former president of the state's giant public employee union said today that he'll seek the presidency again this spring.

Theodore Wenzl, who was narrowly defeated two years ago by William McGowan, must collect 4,400 signatures on petitions to get on the Civil Service Employees Association ballot.

McGowan and Kenneth Cadioux have already been nominated for the union's top post. The CSEA has 230,000 members.

Wenzl has about five weeks to collect the required signatures. Ballots will be mailed to union members on May 14. They must be returned by June 21.

NEW DEADLINES starting with our March 3rd issue. All classifieds (reading and display plus legal) no later than NOON on Mondays. Exceptions will be when there is a holiday at which time they will be listed on the front page of our paper.

Deadline for ROP ads is 11 a.m. Monday.

Planning Board To See Site Plans

Site plan review for three firms is expected to be under discussion at the regular meeting of the Potsdam Village Planning Board Tuesday night.

Discussion is expected on a site plan review and special permit request from Carrolls Development Corp. of Syracuse to enlarge the former Carrolls Restaurant on outer Market Street to be operated by Burger King; site plan review for Periodical Publishers for a site in the Potsdam Industrial Center, tabled at the board's last meeting; site plan review for Electrolux for a retail outlet at 51 Market St.

The planning board meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the Civic Center board room.

Crump Files Petition

Herbert G. Crump, Jr., 78 May Road, Potsdam, has filed an independent petition that would allow his name to be placed on the ballot as a mayoral candidate in the March 20 village election.

Village Administrator Sanford Dewey said that Crump's petition was delivered to his office on Feb. 26. The last date for filing independent petitions is Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Dewey must now certify the petition to make sure that the signatures it contains are valid. He said he will check the petition against the list of registered voters supplied by the St. Lawrence County Board of Elections to make sure

each signer is a registered voter.

The petition contains approximately 130 signatures, according to Dewey. An independent petition must have at least 100 signatures. The petitions were circulated by Janet Wightman, Harold Conant and Herbert Crump.

Crump said last week that if he does get his name on the ballot he would "call a press conference," but he had declined comment at that time.

Crump, who is employed at Paul Smiths College was unavailable for comment on his candidacy at press time. If he seeks the mayor's post as an independent he will oppose incumbent Democrat Ruth Garner.

Local Man Would Eliminate Present Form Of Government

Come the March 20 local elections, there is a chance that there will be a proposition on the ballot that would allow voters to do away with the present form of local government.

In its place would be what one local man calls "participatory democracy."

The man, A. Steven Giannelli de Jannelli, 6 Hillcrest Dr., says that he has a petition that could be circulated to attempt to get his proposition on the ballot.

Giannelli, who has written a number of letters to the Courier and Freeman, has expressed his belief in a form of government that would recognize "sovereign individuals." He has consistently written against so-called

"bosses," whether they be on the political or labor front.

He told the Courier and Freeman that his letters have created for him a following in the community, and that he had been asked to run for mayor.

However, he said that he could not envision seeking elective office, since that would simply be a perpetuation of the present political system.

Instead, he would like to see his form of government in place in Potsdam. It would theoretically call for all decisions to be made by all the people, while the everyday operation of the village would be handled by an administrator he calls a "clerk."

Continued on page 8