

Last Week's Weather

	Hi.	Lo.	Pop
Wed.	42	20	0
Thurs.	31	wr	tr. sn.
Fri.	32	23	.03 sn. tr. rn.
Sat.	52	30	0
Sun.	48	27	.08 rn.
Mon.	51	35	.36 rn.
Tues.	38	34	.39 rn.

# Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Harlow Hughto: a sporting man from way back. See page 13 this week.

VOL. 126 NO. 48 COURIER & FREEMAN (USPS 135-460) POTSDAM, N.Y.—TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1979 24 PAGES 20 CENTS

## Fire Destroys Route 11 Home

Authorities are still searching for the cause of a fire that destroyed a home on the Potsdam-Winthrop Road Sunday night and left a family of six homeless.

Seven fire departments were involved in battling the blaze that completely destroyed the home of Wayne Monroe, located on Route 11. The home was owned by Mary Lenney.

There were no injuries reported, according to Potsdam Fire Department officials. No one was home at the time the fire broke out.

The call first came at 7:25 p.m., according to fire officials. William Davis, a neighbor of the Monroe's, said that he called the Potsdam Fire Department after a passing motorist alerted him to the situation.

The Monroe family was at an auction in Parishville when the fire began. Monroe said that they had left the house about 3 p.m.

Lost in the blaze were a pet cat and a pet guinea pig, Monroe said. Also lost were \$150 worth of meat and \$200 worth of canned goods that had just been purchased with food stamps, Monroe said.

He said that he "didn't have a cent" of insurance on the belongings.

The Potsdam Fire Department, the first to arrive on the scene, found the wooden structure engulfed in flames when they arrived, according to spokesmen.

They emptied all their water on the burning house. They ran out of water and there was a period of several minutes before other back-up units got their water going. In those moments, the fire flared up and engulfed the entire structure.

Other units at the scene were: Hannawa Falls, Norwood, Brasher-Winthrop, West Stockholm, West Potsdam, and Racquette River.

There were two explosions, believed to be propane fuel tanks located at the rear of the home.

Monroe said that there was no wood stove in the house. The furnace was operated by fuel oil, he said.

The neighbor, Davis, said that when he first saw the house there appeared to be "a lot of smoke." He also reported that flames seemed to be located in the area around the chimney.

The Potsdam Fire Department left the scene about 11 p.m. They were recalled to a flare-up at about 3:44 a.m. Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe lived in the house with four children. Monroe said that the family was burned out about ten years ago when they first moved to Potsdam. They were living in a house on the corner of Cherry and Francis streets in the village when it was destroyed by fire.

It was also the Monroe family that narrowly escaped tragedy early this year when their car stalled in front of their home on Route 11. The car was stopped across the road when a loaded fuel truck bore down on them. They escaped when the truck driver drove his rig into the ditch rather than hit them.

## Negotiations Continue On Police Contract

Negotiations between the Village of Potsdam and the Potsdam Police Department are "down to three items," according to Richard Wyssling, of the Buffalo-based firm of Value Management Consultants. Wyssling's firm is handling the negotiations for the village.

A meeting on the three items has been set for next week, Wyssling said.

One of those items reportedly involves retirement. The contract between the village and the police department expires on May 31 of this year.



ON WOOD SALES — Lloyd Barrigar and Don Western, both of Canton, listen intently as John Bartfal, director of the state Bureau of Weights and Measures, explains proposals that would change the regulations regarding the sale of firewood. (Hal Stokes photo)



OUT OF WATER — Two Potsdam firemen stand idle for a moment as flames engulf the home of Wayne Monroe on the Potsdam-Winthrop Road Sunday evening. At the time this picture was taken, the Potsdam department had used all its water and there was a brief lull before back-up units could be brought into play. The fire left the family of six homeless. (Hal Stokes photo)

## Crump Seeks Mayor's Post With 'Honest Concern'

BY BETSY BAKER  
Herbert G. Crump Jr., an independent mayoral candidate in the upcoming Potsdam village election, says he is seeking the mayor's post out of an "honest and real concern."

"I don't think it's healthy with just one candidate," Crump said. Crump outlined what he calls a "ten-point plan" for his candidacy. The ten points include suggestions for future local government policy. They are as follows: the two-party system; bring out all facts; keep politics out of public employment practices; limit executive sessions; administrative form of government; public voting for large expenditures; quick, positive action on the water system; curtail tax-funded trips; balanced budget and all supposed windfalls from state and federal sources belong to the people, and could be discontinued.

Crump declined to elaborate on the ten points, saying that he would explain further in a statement he plans to make next week.

He did comment briefly on the village water system. "The water system has gone too long. Every year it's been put

off the price has gone up and up and up—it's going to be out of reach," he stated. Crump also said he has "very strong" feelings about the Potsdam Depot, feelings which he says he will explain in his statement next week.

A registered Democrat, Crump is seeking office as an independent. "I'm going it alone, with a very few individuals helping me," he said. He was an unsuccessful Democrat trustee candidate in 1973.

As to the possibility of an endorsement from local Republicans Crump said, "They might endorse me, I haven't heard yet."

Crump is employed at Paul Smiths College, some 45 miles from Potsdam. Crump says he does not foresee any problems in carrying out the mayor's job, in spite of the distance he must travel daily to and from work.

"We never had a full-time mayor in this town, and I don't think it warrants it," Crump said.

"I think we need a strong administrative form of government," he continued, with the mayor and trustees acting as "guiding lights."

A lifelong village resident, Crump lives with his family at 78 May Road. His

wife Loretta is employed at Seaway Area Technology Center. The couple have two daughters, Karen and Valerie.



HERBERT G. CRUMP, JR.

## Firewood Sale Regulations Find Unfavorable Reaction

"If the consumer can't take responsibility for his own actions, then the government shouldn't do it for him." They cheered Larry Colbert, Norwood, when he said that.

"They,"—being over 100 persons who attended a public hearing on firewood sales in Potsdam on Friday—also cheered when Colbert said: "All you need to do is educate the consumer; forget about regulation."

Colbert made his remarks to John Bartfal, the director of the state Bureau of Weights and Measures, at a public hearing held in the Snell Hall auditorium on the Clarkson College campus.

Colbert's comments seemed to sum up the general feelings of those who spoke at the hearing. The majority said that there was no need for the new regulations in the North Country.

To that, Bartfal agreed. He said that there has not been a complaint about firewood sales in St. Lawrence County in the past 12 years.

But he indicated that there was a need for the rules for the state in general.

The regulations are primarily designed to protect the consumer, Bartfal contended. They will require that sellers of wood specify the size of a cord of wood. In other words, if they are selling a "face cord," instead of a full cord, they must state the length of the wood.

Assemblyman David Martin, who had set up the hearing for this section of the state, said that the proposed regulation was an example of the type of rules that have the effect of law. "If you really want this, put it in bill form and I'll introduce it (in the Assembly)," Martin said.

## Tax Abatement, Business Machine On Board Agenda

The Potsdam Central School Board of Education will meet in regular session at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, in the high school cafeteria.

On the agenda is expected to be discussion of tax abatement as it pertains to the school district. According to Superintendent of Schools Carlos Gutierrez the matter does not refer to a particular project, but to future projects which may involve the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency.

Also on the agenda is expected to be discussion of bids on a school business machine.

## Officials Wait For Word On Federal Hydro Grant

BY BETSY BAKER

Although local officials have not yet received formal notification, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has confirmed that Potsdam has been approved for a \$170,000 planning and design grant for a project involving the production of hydrogen at its hydro dam site.

A spokesman for the DOE told the Courier and Freeman on Monday that the design for the Potsdam project would include the cost of refurbishing the existing hydro dam on the Racquette River, as well as the cost of installing a hydrogen-producing facility at that location.

The DOE is seeking to "stimulate the production of hydrogen," the spokesman said, both to increase the use of hydrogen as a fuel and to cut down on the use of fossil fuels. The "most valuable" use of hydrogen at the present time is as a chemical, according to the spokesman.

Potsdam's proposed hydro project also is in line with another current DOE emphasis—the development of low head hydro resources in the U.S., the spokesman said.

The Potsdam project involves rehabilitating the hydro generating facility located in the water treatment plant on Raymond Street to produce approximately 700 kilowatts of electricity.

Preliminary studies done by Rist-Frost Associates of Glens Falls, N.Y., indicate that the electricity generated could power the water treatment plant, the sewage treatment plant, the police station and Pine Street Arena.

About 200 kilowatts of electricity could be used to produce hydrogen, which the

village would sell commercially, with the revenues to go to the village. Hydrogen can be added to natural gas to increase its heating power; it has industrial uses as well.

The electricity generated would also allow the installation of an ozone generator in the water treatment plant. Use of the ozone generator could substantially reduce the amounts of chemicals necessary for water treatment, local officials have said.

Any excess power produced by the hydro-generating system could be sold to Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. The use of the generating system was discontinued by the village in 1971.

The DOE's Brookhaven National Laboratory is to supervise and manage the design phase of the project, which is also sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Potsdam's proposal, submitted last summer, was one of several in New York State to be considered by the DOE and Brookhaven for funding.

Once the design phase of the project is completed, the project will be "re-evaluated" before further funding is awarded, the spokesman said. However, the project would "probably" be funded, according to the spokesman.

Total cost of the project has been estimated at \$2.7 million. Costs for the entire project are expected to be shared between DOE, NYSERDA and the Village of Potsdam.

The planning and design phase is expected to take six to eight months. If construction of the hydrogen-producing facility and the hydro renovations is approved, the project could be completed by 1982.

## Railway Crossings Authorized By Trustees

Improvements to four railroad crossings in the village were authorized by the Potsdam Village Board of Trustees at their meeting Monday night.

The improvements, to crossings at Cherry Street, Larnard Street, Washington Street and Walnut Street, will be undertaken by the State Department of Transportation (DOT) as part of a federally aided rail-highway crossing project.

Funding for the project comes from the federal government and from New York State.

Also approved was a resolution which provides for the Village of Potsdam to maintain, repair and energize a highway lighting system for the portion of the Potsdam Relief Route which lies within the village.

The DOT will install the system as part of Phases I and II of the Relief Route. The village will maintain the system at its own expense.

Costs to the village for the lighting system have not yet been determined, officials said. The highway lighting system will be added to the village's street lighting contract with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, according to Mayor Ruth Garner.

William Harris, of 21 Cedar St., asked the trustees for "better enforcement" of the village's existing dog ordinance.

"I don't blame the animals because they're out loose," Harris said, "the owners are responsible."

Harris said his trash cans are frequently knocked over by dogs running loose.

Trustee Norma Thayer suggested stiffer fines for violators of the dog ordinance, including a \$50 fine for three-time offenders.

The trustees voted to accept the resignation of Quentin Reutershan from the Potsdam Village Planning Board and to send Reutershan a letter of appreciation for his ten years' service on that board.

Hearing Date  
March 19 has been set as the date for a public hearing on the proposed use of some \$136,000 in federal Revenue Sharing funds for 1979-1980. That hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the Civic Center board room.

Bids for construction of a municipal parking lot between Main, Elm, Market and Union Streets will be opened at 7 p.m. April 2. That parking lot, presently known as the Prosh lot, and located on Urban Renewal parcel 7, will be constructed by the village as part of its share of the urban renewal project.

Two properties in the village's designated housing rehabilitation area may be acquired for use as public parks following action by the trustees Monday night.

The two pieces of land, located at 33 Clough St., adjacent to Hazzard Park and at 4 Riverside Drive will be appraised and may be acquired with Community Development funds as part of neighborhood improvements in the rehab area.

The Clough Street property would be added to Hazzard Park, while the

Riverside Drive property would also likely be used as a neighborhood park.

The trustees authorized St. Lawrence Gas Co. to install a four-inch gas line and a three-inch feed line at the water pollution control plant, at a cost of \$3,500. The move was called an "emergency project" since ice had caused the line inside the digester tank to separate, making proper heating of the sludge impossible.

In other action the trustees: —approved a resolution approving the re-appointment of Alfred W. Rothermel, 20 Castle Drive to a five-year term on the Potsdam Village Planning Board; —approved the mayor's proclamation of March 11-17 as Girl Scout Week in the village;

—approved the applications of Alexander G. Grant, 19 Pine St. and David P. Cook, Route 1, Potsdam for a taxicab operator's license.



WORLD CUP — Saturday's World Cup downhill ski race in Lake Placid brought victory for some, tragedy for others. See sports pages this week. (Hal Stokes photo)