

Supervisor Sees Growth For Massena In 1980s

EDITOR'S NOTE—The following interview with Massena Town Supervisor Floyd Richey was prepared by Bill Kennedy of the Massena Observer news staff.

Where is the Town of Massena going in the 1980's?

The town of Massena is classed as a first class town because of the population in the town.

Being a first class town involves certain responsibilities that extend perhaps a little bit farther than your second class towns would have. We have a fifty-one million dollar tax base in Massena. It is a large tax base. We pay approximately twenty-six percent of the total county taxes out of the Town of Massena. I'm sure that many people are not aware of the load that Massena carries in the operation of the County of St. Lawrence. When you stop and look at the total slice of pie divided up in the county of St. Lawrence and realize the portion that Massena carries, you can appreciate that we are in a position to contribute some of the better ideas and better planning, for ourselves and the county; for example, the moves we've made in the operation of our own municipal system.

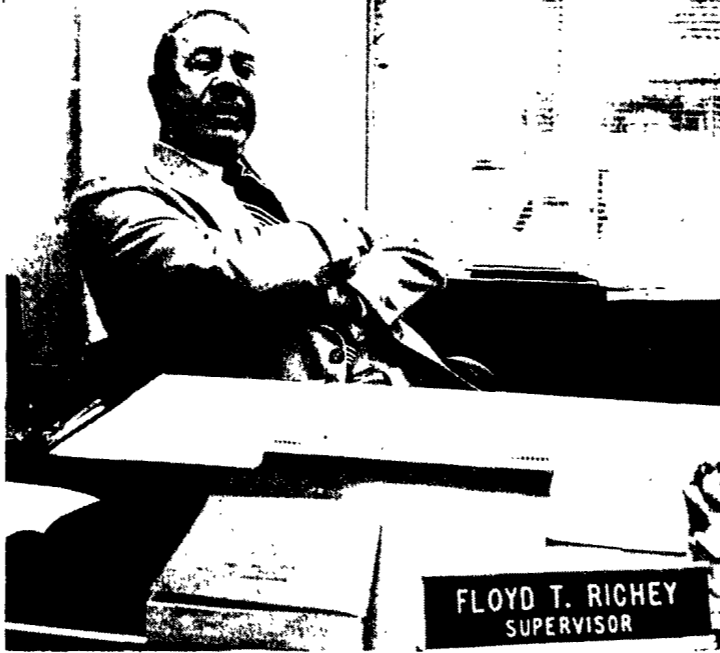
It's inconsistent with any good thinking that we should live in the immediate area of such a large generation of power and have done so for so many years without deriving the benefits of that power.

It's inconsistent that we should have had to fight for six years to be allowed what should have been allowed on a very short term basis by the laws of New York State.

Condemnation laws clearly state that for the betterment of the people you can condemn property, and that, in this case, you can operate your own municipal system if it is the desire of the people. We have been frustrated in this for six years. I do believe that we will be allowed to operate the municipal system.

I do believe that in the immediate future we will have a twenty-one percent reduction in the cost of electricity to the people of Massena.

I would like to be able to say that it is going to come next week or next month and I'd like to be able to give a forecast on it, but I can't.



FLOYD T. RICHEY
SUPERVISOR

SUPERVISOR FLOYD RICHEY

It goes without saying that I can understand Niagara Mohawk's position on not wanting to lose the facilities or the portion of their facilities that they have owned and operated for such a long period of time. By the same token, once the decision had been made by the people that this had to happen, I believe that they should have let it happen and that they should have cooperated with the Town of Massena in the start-up and operation of this system.

As far as municipal power is concerned, certainly it is an incentive for people to come to Massena. In the same way as it would be an incentive for you if you had a free choice as to where you wanted to live and you considered expenses. You might want to settle in Plattsburgh because it goes without saying that their electrical rates are considerably less than they are anywhere else in New York State.

Advantages are obvious. Advantages to light industrial operations, operations of small businesses and even some larger businesses are at an obvious advantage with this low cost power.

What About the Industrial Park?

Now discussing our industrial park... The industrial park that we are putting in is serving the Town in a dual function. We are getting a federal grant to enhance the area not only to the Town of Massena, but also the surrounding towns. As you well know, the employment that is offered in the Town of Massena at the three large plants benefits all of the towns around us extending even into Franklin County because so many of the people that work here are driving in and out. So even though we receive the direct base for our taxes as a result of this we also are offering work to people that live away from here, where the plants are, and in the construction of this industrial park that is being promoted with federal funds.

Thoroughly approve of this because again we are going to increase the necessity for skilled labor.

We are going to increase the possibility of having more jobs available for our youngsters who are coming out of schools so they don't have to leave the area to find employment. We are working in the right direction now.

Looking at the chart on my wall of the industrial park... We now have one of those plots filled. The land is sold. The employment will be starting sometime in this year, 1980. There will be 35 to 40 people employed and eventually more. But when you look at all of those plots, as soon as time goes on, it gives a location that has sewer, water, and power to any manufacturer, light industrial manufacturer, plant, even going down to a large business that could locate in that particular area.

They have the sewer, the water, and the power, and certainly the good will and the thankfulness of the village and the town of Massena; but also if they take the advantage of opting for this location they will also have tax advantages which are offered. These can mean a lot to a company of any size because for the first nine years of operation in this particular case, they are going to have a certain incentive to be here rather than in some other location.

All in all the Town and Village of Massena is growing. I think we are heading in the right direction when we do these things.

How do you see commercial growth developing?

It depends upon the type of business you get into the industrial park. I like to see diversification. Aluminum is fine. We have done very well in the past fifty years with aluminum in the Town of Massena.

Diversification is also fine. I mean, you have a period of time when you might have a slow down in the aluminum industry or you might have layoffs because for example maybe cars aren't selling that well and the plants that are selling parts made of aluminum are slowing down.

Where you have diversification you have different industries located in an area. The fact that a slow down happens to one particular industry does not affect the whole area quite so seriously as it would when you have only one industry, or one component to an industry.

The city of Cornwall, for instance, has a lot of different industries and it is well diversified with all types of small plants, operating. They are much larger than we are, approaching fifty thousand people.

To me this is the proper direction to go. If we could have in our industrial park fifteen or sixteen different types of operations that would offer employment to our people and that could survive markets away from the immediate area, and then have the profits derived plowed back into this community, it will mean nothing but progress.

Why encourage people to reside in Massena?

Look at the joint recreation program

that we have here in Massena. It is probably one of the finest that you will find in the State of New York.

Ratio-wise we probably have more participation in the recreation programs in the town of Massena than you have anywhere else in the state. We spend approximately 130 to 140 thousand dollars a year out of tax monies to carry out this program and I believe they operate on a budget that exceeds three hundred thousand dollars.

I feel that we have a beautiful program now and I think that most of the people of Massena are well pleased. As a total there is a lot to do for the children of Massena and the youngsters that live here recreation-wise.

Any other reasons...?

The central school system here is an excellent system. I think that is well proven by the families that live here. They are completely satisfied with the results of the schools as far as the graduates are concerned. They are able to get into colleges and institutions of higher learning.

Massena has a good record in that respect. It's a good place for children to go to school. We have room in our classrooms. We are following state and federal mandates as far as keeping classes small. We have adequate teachers. The school board is a well functioning school board.

I think we are fortunate to have the people of those capabilities volunteering

to serve on these boards.

As a businessman what do you see?

We will have the tax abatement program working to attract and aid businesses locating in the industrial park, but that is all it is, an incentive. You see it takes tax dollars to run any form of government, regardless of where you start - village, town, or county - so many tax dollars are needed. The point at which you start thinking on this to any degree is when this tax dollar exceeds the amount you can afford to pay.

Again Massena is a good place to live because the tax base is very high. As I mentioned before, it is fifty one million dollars, a lot of that is due to the large plants located in our town. Having a large base like that gives you a flexibility in holding your tax rate to an amount where there are no excessive increases on a yearly basis.

Many townships do not enjoy that advantage. They need X number of dollars to operate. They have X number of properties that are taxable for the amount of money they receive. Should anything arise where they need more money for a particular year, the tax rate has to rise in order to do it.

We are more flexible in that, because of the advantages we have. A nice round picture of this is to have a tax base as we have here in Massena, with large industries and additional location and building of small industries in the future. I see nothing but growth for Massena.

Sewage Plant Opened In 1979

MASSENA — The Village of Massena opened its new secondary wastewater treatment plant Oct. 31, 1979. Mayor G. Laurence White presided at the ceremonies, which were attended by village, town and county officials.

The new plant, adjacent to the primary plant on East Orvis Street, was designed by Lozier Architects - Engineers, Rochester, to use natural processes and recycle the sludge that is a by-product of waste treatment.

According to Project Engineer Joseph Lu, microorganisms efficiently break down incoming waste into simpler, more

stable substances without the production of objectionable odor. They make up a mixture known as "activated sludge," which is aerated and mixed with incoming waste water to provide an environment for the organisms to thrive and repropagate themselves indefinitely.

As the organism-rich sludge settles to the bottom of the final clarifying tanks, it is either recycled back into the system or removed from the treatment sequence and converted into a compost-like soil conditioner. Sludge gas from this process is collected and burned as

fuel to heat the control building.

Clarified water from the plant is disinfected with chlorine and discharged into the Grasse River. "The Plant," explains Lu, "easily achieves the treatment objectives required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In addition to removing pollutants from the village wastewater, the amount of chlorine discharged as a result of disinfection is kept to a minimum by automatic monitoring equipment and the temperature of the treated discharge is low enough so that it does not interfere with the ecological balance or recreational use of the river."

The new plant, which will be put into operation in 1980, has been designed with enough potential capacity to accommodate village growth as well as wastewater from upstream areas in the drainage basins of the Grass and Raquette Rivers.

"The village," explains Mayor White, "first applied for financing for this project in 1966. Construction did not begin until the end of 1977. Eleven years were spent dealing with the various governmental funding agencies. But it was worth it. Local taxpayers only had to pay \$21,630 of the \$4,749,857 costs. The rest was financed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Economic Development Administration and New York State." White notes that the Massena project is one of the few in the country to receive grants from both the EPA and the EDA.

Cabinet And Bath Shop 'Interior Design Center'

MASSENA — The Cabinet & Bath Shop, Inc. was officially opened for business on Saturday, Sept. 1, 1979, by George M. Bourdon, President and owner. The business occupies the former site of Reflections and more recently Creative Kitchens and Baths, on outer S. Main St., Massena.

The Cabinet and Bath Shop, Inc. is a multi department interior design center. Each department is comprised of high quality products designed for lasting service. George Bourdon has strived to put together the most complete and modern interior design and decorating center in Northern New York. The central theme in the product mix is to allow their patrons to do all their interior design and decorating under one roof.

The Cabinet & Bath Shop, Inc. is a wholesale - Retail distributor for both QuakerMaid and Serway fine custom kitchen cabinetry, offering complete professional planning and design services. Eljer and Kohler plumbing fixtures help round out the most complete bath showroom in Northern New York. Also featured in the bath showroom is the unique and beautiful QuakerMaid Bath Concept, a rich collection of special vanity and storage cabinets for any bathroom regardless of size.

As wholesale retail distributor for the Thomas lighting line, the Cabinet & Bath Shop, Inc. features over 300 fixtures on display in its spacious showroom at very affordable prices.

The floor covering department is highlighted by such quality names as Mohawk, Armstrong, Royal Manor and Everest in carpet and Armstrong and GAF in top line no wax resilient flooring. Expert installation with satisfaction guaranteed is a promise from George Bourdon.

The Cabinet & Bath Shop, Inc. carries a complete line of major appliances. It is the only authorized franchised Kitchen Aid dealer in the Massena area, stocking KitchenAid dishwashers, compactors, garbage disposers, and hot water dispensers. Dacor indoor charcoal and cooking systems, the first and last word in indoor charcoal cooking, featuring free-standing, drop-in and countertop module units along with Tappan, Panasonic, Chambers and Hardwick round out the appliance line.

A complete wallpaper department can be seen at the Cabinet & Bath Shop, Inc., featuring Schumacher, Imperial, Borden-Waltex, Birge, Nairn and many other papers including coordinated fabrics.

Just opening, to help complete the theme of "your complete interior design center" is a full line custom drapery department. Fabrics by Schumacher, Waverly, Leedes and others. Woven Woods, Flexalum Decor Blinds and drapery hardware by Kirsch are among

the quality offerings in this department. Expert measuring, professional seamstresses and full installation will be trademarks of this department. The year 1980 will find the Cabinet & Bath Shop, Inc. catering to new homes and also the remodeling market. George Bourdon realizes the difficulty of buying a new home, and also knows that making an investment in your existing home is the best hedge against inflation for the home owner. He is therefore committed to offering only those high quality items that assure your investment will bring big dividends to you.

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