

## OLYMPICS: Tickets Still On Sale

LAKE PLACID — Sales of tickets to the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, N. Y., took a brisk upswing with the return of seasonable weather that chilled the air and cheered the hearts of Olympic-bound sports fans.

"The phones are ringing off the wall," said Kevin McHale, Admissions Director for the Lake Placid Olympic Committee (LPOOC). "With new snowfall and predictions of more on the way, people who've been putting off buying tickets are doing it now."

"And, of course, we've made it easier for them by making tickets available for a lot of events that previously had been allocated elsewhere."

The current estimate of tickets still available is 70,000 — a figure that includes tickets to some of the most popular events, McHale explained. The new availability of some previously announced "sold out" events was based on a reallocation of tickets destined for overseas buyers.

Although figure skating, closing ceremonies and ski jumping events are sold out at the LPOOC ticket office, and others are going fast, some tickets to these "glamorous" events may still be obtained in rough tour packages. To locate a tour operator serving this area, phone the LPOOC "Olympic Ticket Hotline": (518) 653-4261. Local travel agents can also be of assistance.

The tour operators offer a wide range of programs from as little as \$74. The budget-price package includes daily round-trip bus or rail transportation and two event tickets allowing access to both an indoor and outdoor Olympics competition and daily awards ceremonies. Other packages provide air travel, local accommodations, a variety of events

and other amenities designed to make this once-in-a-lifetime excursion and even more memorable experience.

"In many ways," McHale pointed out, "those who attend the Olympics by tour bus will have the best of it. Their tour operators will bring them right into the village of Lake Placid and directly to the various events. Accommodations are close by and those on the tour programs won't have to be concerned about anything more than enjoying the world's most spectacular sporting event. The tour operators know what they're doing and can take all travel worries off your shoulders."

Some tour operators which were temporarily sold out have re-ordered tickets and are again making them available to the public.

Meanwhile, single event tickets purchased through the LPOOC Admissions Office are in the mail to all those who placed orders.

A total of \$14 million is expected to be raised from ticket sales, according to McHale.

Over 1,400 athletes from 38 nations will be taking part in the XIII Olympic Winter Games come sun or come snow.

"There will never be anything like it again," McHale said of the Olympic Winter Games. "This is a unique opportunity — for some Americans, the only chance in a lifetime — to participate in the excitement of the Winter Games right here in our own country. To miss being a part of it, will mean missing out on a big chunk of sports history."

In this area Olympic tour operators are Dew Travel Bureau, Canton, 386-8106 or 265-5729; and the Malone Chamber of Commerce, 518-483-3760.



IN THE BEGINNING — The fire on Jan. 24 swept through the Heath and Ives buildings on Market Street which left them destroyed down to the first floor level around 1882. (courtesy

There have been brighter days for that building. One of them was when Almon D. Heath opened his clothing store there. This picture shows that day, sometime around 1882. (courtesy Potsdam Museum).

## AGRI-BUSINESS:

### Local Cattlemen To Vote

St. Lawrence County cattlemen will have an opportunity to vote Feb. 19-22 on a proposed nationwide Beef Research and Information program, according to Anne Prouty, county Beferendum coordinator.

Beferendum is a cattle industry effort to win approval of a uniform collection plan for beef research, consumer information, promotion and foreign market development. The Beef Research and Information program will be established if a majority of cattlemen vote "yes" in the Feb. 19-22 referendum.

Mrs. Prouty said the four-day voting period in February will follow a registration period of Jan. 28-Feb. 6. Both the registration and voting will take place at the St. Lawrence County ASCS Office. Absentee registration and voting will be permitted; cattlemen interested in the absentee procedures should contact the ASCS Office.

The referendum rules provide for one vote for each separate cattle business entity—be it an individual, a family business, a partnership or a corporation.

For the referendum to be valid, 50 percent of those registering must vote. And for the referendum to pass, a simple majority of those voting must be in favor of the program.

While all of the details of the program have not been determined and will not until the referendum passes and the Beef Board (made up of cattlemen) is appointed, Mrs. Prouty did say that every cattleman under the production chain will automatically invest two-tenths of 1 percent (20 cents per \$100) of the value he adds to the animal. At the end of the chain, the packer will collect and remit the combined assessments to the Beef Board. A producer may get a refund upon request.

## STATE BUDGET:

### Teachers Union Doesn't Like It

The New York Educators Association has denounced Gov. Carey's 1980 State Education Aid Proposal, claiming his plan to cut save-harmless aid by \$47.76 million would "wreak fiscal havoc" on some 250 school districts.

NYEA President Edwin J. Robisch said the Governor's education spending package — a \$3.6 billion plan representing a five percent increase over last year — would trigger hefty local tax increases if enacted. The union leader said the plan is "politically absurd and devoid of sincere educational tax reform."

Robisch noted that immediate property increases would result if Carey's plan to reduce save-harmless and flat grant aid by some \$47.76 million this spring was carried out.

The Governor proposed further save harmless reductions of \$62.58 million for 1981.

"First, a five percent increase is simply not adequate. When you consider a 13 percent inflation rate, Carey's five percent hike becomes an eight percent slash. Second, if you take away nearly \$50 million of expected money from 250 school districts in the current budget year, you don't have reform; you have chaos. And who would fill in the gap? The local taxpayer would be pressed for higher taxes if this plan ever became reality," Robisch said.

The union leader complained that "the last three years of this budget charade with the Governor has revealed that he much prefers letting the legislature and courts tackle real education reform."

The budget charade to which Robisch refers is Gov. Carey's practice of

proposing budget packages which he knows in advance are "politically unpalatable to the legislators who must face school districts and taxpayers in their home districts," he said.

Last year Carey's "Robin Hood" approach to education funding — taking from property rich districts and giving to poor districts — was condemned by many as politically unacceptable. This year his save harmless proposal immediately fell under similar criticism.

"It is absurd to consider save-harmless reductions in an election year but it is really carrying the budget myth too far to propose a save-harmless reduction that would effect current school budgets. Obviously, the Governor is working hard — not for education tax reform — but the illusion of reform," Robisch said.

The union president noted that, "as in past years, New Yorkers will have to depend on the leadership of Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink and Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson who are responsible for improved education spending packages."

Meanwhile Robisch was critical of another provision of the state education aid package that would penalize school districts which spent more than \$4,000 per pupil by reducing their operating aid.

Robisch said that "if Carey's idea of moving toward equalization is uniform mediocrity in the schools, we are in great trouble. We are hardpressed to see how the state can justify forcing local districts to refrain from digging into their own pockets to improve the education of their own children. This plan is a disincentive for excellence."

## PIERREPONT HISTORY:

### Dance Halls And Rollercoasters

Editor's Note: The following is tenth in a serialized version of the history of Pierrepont being published in the Courier and Freeman. The history was researched and written by Town of Pierrepont Historian Betty B. Newton.

Through the years the Town of Pierrepont has had within its borders a number of hotels, inns, boarding houses, taverns and dance halls. Most of them have disappeared so completely that only a sentence here and there can be found and once in a while some vague memory is sparked.

Ebenezer Tupper arrived in 1813. He settled on the east side of the Turnpike where it crosses the Raquette River and soon established an inn and tavern nearby for the comfort of the weary traveler. Quite likely it was most popular for the soldiers to rest on their trip from Plattsburgh to Russell. I can just barely remember a large house on a knoll just beyond the intersection. A Jenner may have followed as a resident here, and more recently a Hancock. As I have been searching for more information these are the only names I can come up with for this area and no one remembers another building that might have served in this capacity.

At about the same time Cyrus Grannis, land agent for Hezekiah Pierrepont, opened an inn and tavern in Pierrepont Center where Lawrence Tupper now lives. In 1865 A. Leonard was credited as also having a store with a varied inventory there. At one time

Marcus Crossman also ran this establishment. The post office was also located here in the early days of the town.

The nearest listed hotel was on Packard Flats. It was located on the near side to Pierrepont of the Howardville and Russell Turnpike Intersection. This endured for many years. There were 48 doors in the building. In a moment of irritation, Mr. Packard went through and slammed every single door! If one is willing to tramp through the brush a few stones from the foundation can still be found of this historic site where dances lasted for two days and nights and apparently where many folks went to relax from the rigors of their everyday life.

The old Ellsworth Hotel in Hamawa also came into being between 1858 and 1865. In 1865 the proprietor was A. Waller. He dealt in groceries, drugs, medicines, Yankee notions, etc. Though no one can remember this as a hotel and in fact its very existence was questioned, eventually some of the senior citizens recalled a large bleached red to almost barnwood colored building containing a barber shop and pool hall on the ground floor, living quarters overhead and a thriving bootleg business in the cellar. It was destroyed by fire about 1925.

Katie Lucas ran a boarding house in what is now known as Martin's Apartments. She catered to the working men who had come to work in the quarries and had left their families at home. She

also had an ice cream stand in the late '20s and early '30s. This was located in the corner of her front lawn nearest the river and is now a portion of the Wallace Collin's house. About 1900 when they were building the powerhouse at Brown's Bridge, she cooked for a group of men in "the old Brown House nearest the bridge."

While dancing was a feature in the hotels and inns, apparently there were places where dancing was the main pastime. Coney Island, built by Henry Cox, was very famous as an entertainment spot. It boasted a large pavilion with a polished hardwood floor and a bandstand in the center. Many is the night I have listened to the music float across the river as the bands played on. It also had a nicely developed beach—probably one of the first—with a roller-coaster that ended in the water. For years, each Fourth of July they featured a large fireworks display. Dad always tried to get the haying done on the east side of the road so that cars could park in his meadow and enjoy the display. I remember one year it was so cold that it snowed then hailed huge hailstones. We got so cold that Mom took us in and made hot cocoa.

Just a few miles up the road Jim Cartwright also ran a dance hall at the foot of Sand Hill on the Russell Turnpike. The crowd seemed to go from Coney up there. As Coney's fame as a recreation spot faded, Pomp Post bought the place. He turned it into a roller skating rink. In time this too

became an obsolete and unpopular pastime. The rollercoaster became unsafe and was demolished. Soon the pavilion was also torn down.

Up near Fred Selleck's, Herb and Stella (Stark) York ran a store and dance hall. Later it was run by Myron Robinson. There is no evidence of this place now.

Just beyond Millard France's is a ramshackle old place. It was once known as the Cramer House and was famous for its ice cream. It was last run by Viv Hogle.

Still further along that road was another establishment run by Clarence Hogle.

In more modern times, there was the now gone Shanty at Pierrepont Center, the still flourishing Birches at one end of the hamlet of Hamawa and Green's Restaurant at the south end.

Betty Fountain's Restaurant over in the Cook's Corners area used to be a favorite spot for hunters and snowmobilers to stop. At one time the snowmobile club held their meetings there. They have built a new club house over on Cold Brook Drive out of South Colton.

Snyder's Coffee Shop and the Country Kitchen Restaurant were both short-lived ventures.

The FourWays at Sand Hill Corner is the only true restaurant in the town. There are no places of any nature to accommodate tourists, so if they plan to visit the town they had better have friends, or search in other towns for accommodations.

## ENVIRONMENT:

### PCB Tests In Massena

BY NEIL THOMPSON  
John Wilson, regional director of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in Watertown said last week further sampling is planned for Massena's Grasse River to determine the extent and levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the river.

Wilson said the sampling will take place this coming spring. "The survey will follow up the initial sampling and analysis work done this past summer. The objective of the follow up sampling is to determine, if possible, the source of the PCBs as well as to identify and locate any 'hot spots' that may exist," Wilson said.

Wilson, in a prepared statement, said the levels of PCBs found so far in the Grasse River and its sediment do not constitute a threat to health, and do not restrict people's use of the water.

Berton Mead, of the DEC office in Watertown, said that "I am not expecting to find a major problem, but we want to be sure." He said sediments in the river will be sampled.

"Testing done last summer, he said, did not define the problem or the source, and he said the additional sampling is meant to explore the extent of the problem, 'if there is a problem.'"

"We felt people should know this is in the works. We are not dropping it," Mead said.

Mead confirmed that the Alcoa Plant in Massena has still not been ruled out as being a suspected source of at least some of the PCB pollution.

Gary Biviano, public relations manager at Alcoa, could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, Hans Paller, district director for the state health department, said the state health department has analyzed samples taken from the St. Lawrence River. The results, which were received locally on Jan. 4, said no PCBs were detected, either in raw water or finished, treated water. Samples had been taken at raw water intakes at Reynolds, Alcoa and Central Foundry, the only places downstream of the "problem area" in the Grasse River cited by the International Joint Commission (IJC) where the public consumes water.

Paller said that in addition to raw water, water which had been treated was also tested. The treated water is consumed by employees in the three plants.

"No PCBs were detected, either in the raw water or finished water which is being consumed by the public in those plants," Paller said.

As far as the safety of drinking water in plants downstream from the Grasse River is concerned, there is "no public health significance," he said. "No further testing is planned, he said.

## REACTION:

### McEwen To Carter

Rep. Robert C. McEwen says recent actions by President Carter show that "above all else, he is a very astute politician."

Rep. McEwen made the comment reacting to President Carter's State of the Union message which he characterized as "stern and forceful."

Rep. McEwen said: "This week, the President demonstrated above all else that he is a very astute politician. In Iowa, he took the first step in doing

exactly what he said he was going to do to Senator Kennedy.

"In his State of the Union message, he demonstrated that he has a feel for the mood of the American people. He was stern and forceful. I am hopeful that his strong words mean that he is ready to carry a big stick. I think this is what the American people want."

"It remains to be seen whether the President is ready and able to carry it out," the Congressman said.



SHERIFF IN ALBANY — St. Lawrence County Sheriff Keith Knowlton, left, and State Senator Ronald Stafford met recently at the Annual Convention of the New York State Sheriff's Association, held at the American Inn in Albany. Sheriffs from all across New York State attended the meeting to discuss proposed legislation relating to the operation of their departments. Senator Stafford is chairman of the Senate Codes Committee, which has jurisdiction over bills pertaining to criminal law and other areas of concerns to law enforcement officials.

## 765 kv LINE:

### Research Health Effects

NEW YORK — Trustees of the New York State Power Authority have approved a settlement with the Public Service Commission to fund a research program to determine whether or not there are human health effects from operation of extra high voltage transmission lines.

Under terms of the agreement, the Power Authority will advance \$50,000 to establish the scope of the research program and will later pay up to \$600,000 more toward the program cost. An additional amount up to \$1,350,000 will be contributed by Consolidated Edison Co. toward the program.

Further contributions of up to \$3,000,000 are expected to be paid on a voluntary basis by other members of the New York Power Pool, an organization of the state's seven major private utilities and the Authority.

The agreement provides that the chairman of the Power Authority, the chairman of the Public Service Commission and the commissioner of the New York State Department of Health will form a board to make all decisions

on the scope and administration of the research program.

The agreement is designed to resolve disagreements between the Power Authority and the Public Service Commission and end a pending lawsuit involving the two agencies. The dispute occurred over conditions attached to the Public Service Commission order approving the Power Authority's 765,000-volt transmission line from Massena to Marcy, with a connection to Quebec.

The commission had sought to block the authority from operating the line, but was unsuccessful after the authority sought and received a court order allowing continued operation.

The authority successfully appealed certain aspects of the conditions to the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court. The Public Service Commission asked the New York Court of Appeals to reverse that decision in a suit unresolved at the time the agreement was reached.

The basic points of argument involved the cost and scope of the research program and noise abatement procedures.