



HOUSING STARTS — Developer John Doyle sees the area west of Ogdensburg in the town of Oswegatchie as a major growth area for residential housing this year. Doyle expects to see construction begin this spring for new homes.

\$10 Million Savings Expected

MED Completing 5th Year

The Massena Electric Department will be completing its fifth year of operation to its customers on May 8, and MED Superintendent Clifford Engstrom has predicted the municipal electric department will have saved its customers \$10 million by that time.

Engstrom noted Niagara Mohawk's current residential rates are approximately 40 percent higher than the rates paid by Massena Electric customers. He said the spread between Niagara Mohawk and Massena Electric's commercial and industrial rates is slightly higher than the difference in residential rates.

The MED superintendent noted substantial progress continued to be made in upgrading the system to further improve service to its customers during the past year.

He said one mile of poles and wires were replaced or rebuilt along West Hatfield Street from Main Street to the Louisville town line. This work was necessitated by the widening of the road, Engstrom said, and the costs were reimbursable by the state. Eight miles of neutral wire was installed between Andrews and Browning substations as the first step for future 23 kv distribution.

Some of the other major accomplishments of 1985 were:

— Poles and wires on the Camp Road, Horton Road and South Racquette River Road were relocated.

— A new diesel bucket truck was delivered to replace a 1968 vehicle which was purchased used four years ago. The construction fleet has four bucket trucks and two digger trucks.

— The MED connected 346 new or upgraded services to residential and commercial buildings, including a 50-unit housing project on Laurel Terrace and a 36-unit project on Old Roosevelt Road. He said 255 services and 100 new meters were installed in 1984.

— The MED installed 167 new poles and over 30 miles of larger wire to make the distribution system stronger and provide better service to its customers. "Our construction was quite a bit ahead of 1984," Engstrom said.

— Preliminary work was started on a new substation to meet MED's increasing load. A new 40,000 kva transformer and substation regulator were ordered at a total cost of \$457,382. The transformers and voltage regulators are expected to arrive in June.

On the legal and financial side there were some major events, but several items were left pending, Engstrom said.

He noted the MED is still awaiting a ruling from the courts on the status of hydroelectric power allocations to the municipal systems in the state. The existing allocations continue in the interim.

Massena Electric paid off \$450,000 on their bonds leaving a balance of \$8.9 million. The total debt in May 1981 was \$10.9 million.

The permanent financing of MED was completed in 1985, with the sale of \$5.4 million in bonds at an interest rate of 8.76 percent.

The municipal electric system paid \$153,882 in taxes to the various communities and school districts in their service area. An additional \$178,711 was collected in sales tax and turned over to the state.

MED signed a three-year labor agreement with their white and blue collar employees in December, and a depreciation fund was established to defray the future costs of major system improvements.

Engstrom said MED set a new peak usage last year. "Our 1985 peak billing demand was 24,240 kw on Dec. 18. Total kilowatt hour purchases were 105,568,792. This was an increase of 4.9 percent over our previous peak in December 1983 of 23,106 kw and 1.1 percent kilowatt hours over 1984 purchases.

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HIP

Canton Chamber's Year Active

From the beginning of 1985, when the Canton Chamber of Commerce heard comments on Fort Drum from Major General William Carpenter, to the end of the year, when plans were starting to get into high gear for the 1986 New York State Trapper's Convention, the year 1985 will go down in the books as a huge success for the local chamber.

The year began with the annual meeting in which Gen. Carpenter spoke on the impact of the 10th Light Infantry at Fort Drum.

Activities in February and March focused on the year's membership drive and that proved quite successful as the local chamber received 24 new business memberships in 1985, for a total of 159. With another 59 associate memberships, total memberships in the Canton Chamber stands at 218, an all-time high.

During April, Canton's Calendar of Events for 1985 was published by the Chamber Office. The calendar listed activities and events for various groups, clubs and organizations in the area. Canton's activities were then included for publication in the County Chamber of Commerce's Joint Calendar of Events, sponsored by the Tourism Committee.

May proved to be a very busy month as once again the "Students and Visitors Tabloid" was published by the Canton Chamber, with nearly 50 business ads placed. The circulation and distribution of this tabloid reaches nearly 9,000 in a year.

The Chamber of Commerce also hosted a community display booth at the Canton Lions Club Trade Fair at the Recreation Pavilion.

The first step in the process of drawing the New York State Trappers Convention to Canton also took place in May, as the Canton community was chosen to represent St. Lawrence County in placing a bid at the state convention. The bid was made through the Chamber of Commerce, with Canton competing locally against Gouverneur, Massena and Louisville. Final award of the bid for the convention to come to Canton came in September.

On June 1, the Chamber again sponsored the Annual Dairy Princess Parade, awarding cash prizes to non-commercial float entries and the special Chamber of Commerce trophy for the float winner in the commercial category.

From June through October, the Chamber coordinated the Farmers Market, once again held in the Village Park through the courtesy of the Presbyterian Church.

Canton's Summer Festival, coordinated by the Chamber, was held July 5-7, with the Chamber sponsoring a number of events within the festival, including the third annual Big Wheels Race, a community softball tournament, adult and junior class bike races, the Merchants' Giant Lawn Sale and a concert at the Recreational Pavilion.

Other participants sponsoring events during the festival were the Lions Club, Rotary, Grasse River Players and the Canton Pee Wees.

Also during July, the Chamber Board addressed the bad checks issue involving a number of Canton merchants and local college students. College designees at each school were named to assist the Chamber's effort to provide better harmony between merchants and students.

The Board also wrote support letters to state officials urging passage of the Bad Check penalty bill, which was eventually signed into effect by Gov. Mario Cuomo in December.

The end of the summer brought the official designation by the Trappers of the selection of Canton for the convention, an event which will be held during the Labor Day weekend in 1986 at the Recreational Pavilion.

As a result, in October the Joint Steering Committee for the convention was formed and began monthly meetings to coordinate the event.

The month of October also saw Canton's first-ever "Merchants Old Fashioned Sale Days," weekend, with approximately 30 businesses participating as well as North Country craft and antique dealers.

During November and December, the Chamber's Christmas Canton Currency Pro-

motion was another success, with 48 businesses participating in the Chamber \$1,000 shopping giveaway.

Many Chamber members also participated in the Third Annual Holiday of Lights promotion by displaying unified evergreen wreaths and by having an International Tree at their business location. The Chamber awarded citation certificates to students for their participation in making Currency posters and for decorating the International trees.

The Canton Chamber was also recognized as an official Resource Center to the United States Small Business Administration and is listed in Johnson's "Worldwide Chamber of Commerce Directory."

The Chamber continues to give one-year free memberships to new businesses. Citation Awards to local citizens supporting the business community and a periodic newsletter from the office. It is also participating in the County Chamber's "Matching Funds" program for advertising and Executive Secretary Char Frysinger serves on the County Tourism Committee.

Also during 1985, Incentive Stipends were awarded by the Chamber for the John Philip Sousa

Award and Canton's Garden Club. Distribution of the Canton Welcome Brochure and Kiosk postings continued.

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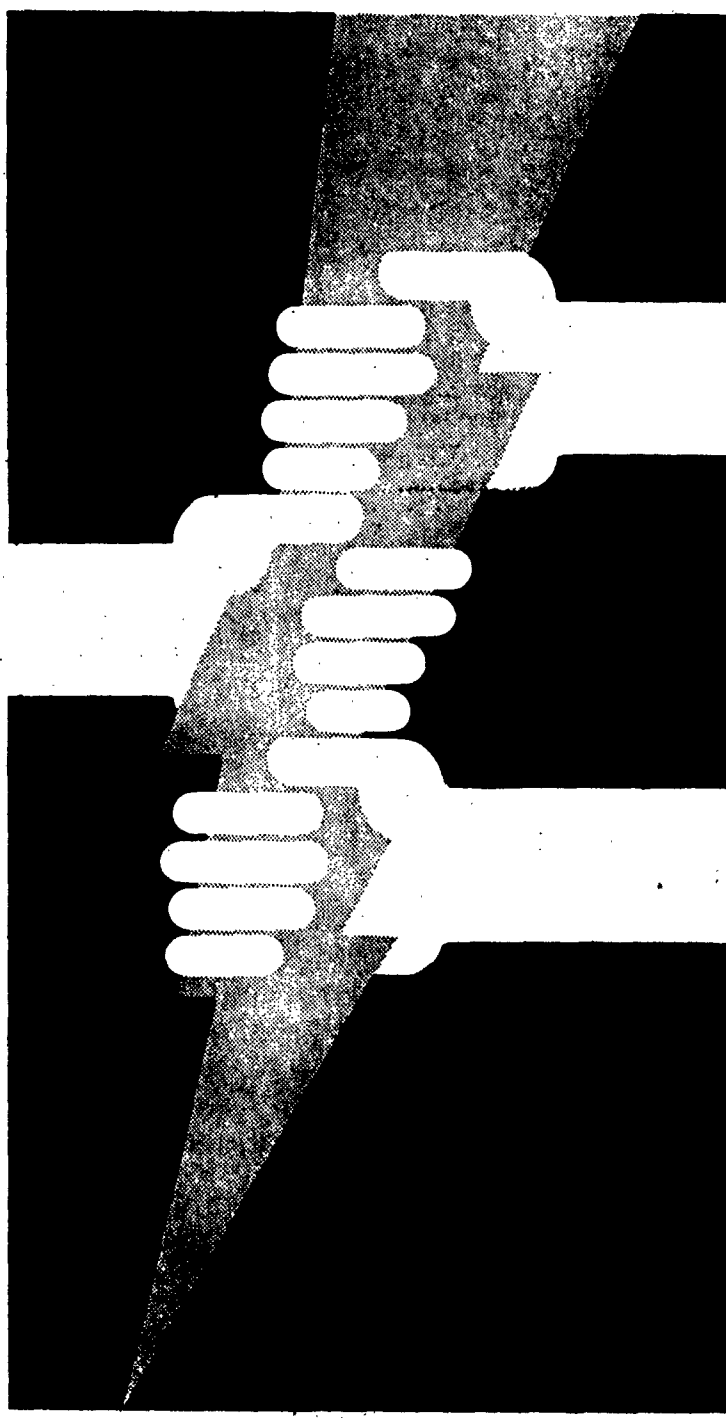
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