

MOSTLY FAIR
TEMPERATURE
24 Hours to 9 a.m.
High 51 Low 29

Social News, Page 5; Ballston, Corinth, 14; Mechanicville-Stillwater, 11; Sports, 10; Schuylerville, 14.

Engineers Strike Halts Van Raalte Expansion

Spring St. Lot Up for Grabs

The Saratoga Springs Commission is going to sell the Spring Street parking lot to the highest bidder.

This was revealed today with publication of a legal notice calling for submission of sealed bids for the lot which is bounded by Putnam, Spring and Henry Streets. Bids will be opened May 15 at 2 p. m., standard time.

The Commission decided to proceed with the sale because the New York Telephone Company is interested in buying the lot for a new building.

If the city follows an informal majority opinion of the City Council, expressed last November, it too will submit a bid.

Rocky's Veto

The Spring Street lot was included in Commission-owned property which could have been sold to the city for a nominal sum for "park purposes" under a bill vetoed by Governor Rockefeller.

The Governor vetoed the bill because property which the city did not buy for "park purposes" could have been disposed of at private sale. This most likely would have included the parking lot.

Rather than wait a year for new legislation, the Commission decided to proceed under a law approved a year ago, letting them sell any of five parcels at public auction.

The interest of the telephone company in the Spring Street lot was first revealed when the City Council, at the behest of Mayor James Benton, waived its right to a six-months' notice of cancellation of its lease with the state. That was about a year ago.

Mayor Spoke

The Mayor said then that a substantial business wished to build on the lot. This was subsequently revealed to be the telephone company.

In November, the Mayor again brought the matter to the attention of the Council and a majority felt that the lot is needed by the city.

It was agreed informally that Mayor Benton write Harold G. Wilm, chairman of the Commission, asking that the city be notified when the lot was put up for sale so the city could submit a bid.

Other properties which can be disposed of under the old law are another parking lot on the west side of Putnam between Spring and Phila, the Broadway Drink Hall, the High Rock and Peerless Springs. The latter were the main objectives of the bill vetoed by the Governor since Wilm had agreed with Mayor Benton that the city should have an opportunity to buy them for a nominal sum.



TOUGH JOB IN HIGH WIND—Three employees of the Roadmaster Construction Company, Saratoga Springs, finds assembly of the plastic sections of a radar dome a bit difficult in yesterday's high wind. They are constructing a new sectional plastic dome over a new and bigger radar "tail" in one of the towers at the Saratoga Springs Air Force Station.

The half million dollar expansion program at the Van Raalte Company has been halted today due to the current strike of Operating Engineers.

Some labor work had been going on until yesterday, but with the arrival of pickets this morning, all work has ceased.

There have been no operating engineers employed on the Van Raalte project yet, however all trade unions are honoring the picket line which has been set up.

Kenneth Collyer, vice-president of Waggon and Collyer, told The Saratogian this morning that about 10 men are presently affected on this project, and that about 40 more on the Mt. McGregor project are out.

No Prediction

"We cannot make a prediction as to how long the projects will be shut down," Collyer said. "We were about three days ahead of schedule on the Van Raalte job when the strike hit," he said.

The Saratogian learned today that of the 16-different trade unions in the area, 12 of these have contracts which either expired on May 1 or will expire on June 1.

It was further learned that any masons, operating engineers, plumbers or sheet metal workers who are presently engaged in work are not covered by contract.

Collyer told The Saratogian that all footings at the Van Raalte job have been completed, and the company was preparing to fill with gravel and pour the concrete floor.

The Van Raalte Company is expanding its building facilities to include a new building which will house a completely new knitting plant equipped with the most modern high speed machines.

When it is completed, the local facility will be "one of the finest tricot fabric manufacturing units in the country," a Van Raalte spokesman said.

The building is to be 180 by 110-foot single-story structure of all concrete construction.

The Van Raalte project is the seventh major construction project to be halted by the current rash of strikes.

The other six include: the Saratoga and Corinth Hospitals, the Saratoga Battlefield, the Greenfield School, Mt. McGregor and the Central Markets construction projects.

Teachers-Laymen See Experimentation Need

Non-professionals declare there is a need for experimentation in the Saratoga Springs Schools, and teachers in the system say they must be given a completely free hand for an effective program.

The people involved in these statements are lay and teacher members of the sub-committee appointed to study the primary grades by the Board of Education's citizens' advisory committee on experimentation practices.

The committee as a whole at its last regular meeting charged its sub-committees with studying the schools of Saratoga Springs, comparing experimentation they had just seen in other systems, and reporting back to the parent committee.

The goal of these reports was to glean short-term recommendations that could be adopted in the school system next year, "to get experimentation started, rather than let it bog down in words and die."

The committee was expanded and divided into sub-committees to study the system on four levels: primary (kindergarten through 3rd grade), intermediate (grades 4 to 6), junior high and high.

Although all the sub-committees prepared reports, and some even had them mimeographed, the whole committee didn't get past discussing the primary grades, at a meeting last night. Public members made one report and the teachers from the two elementary schools each made one.

The lay members saw the "lack of direction from above" as a handicap for the "less than imaginative" teacher who needs to be released from the indecision of what will be acceptable and what is desirable.

They also noted that an overall program is necessary to give some continuity and stabilization education for the child, as they saw a child going from an "imaginative and gifted" teacher to an average teacher facing a severe handicap.

They also made it quite clear from whence this direction should come—"the board of education and the superintendent of schools."

Freedom Needed

The teachers thought that only complete freedom for teacher initiative would produce effective results. The Division St. teachers' report said, "it is our hope that for exploration the teacher make his own choice in the area of greatest need or probable accomplishment—that no definite line of demarcation be set up."

The teachers did agree on the need for an expanded language program, featuring a lot of reading, in some instances to be taught by specialists.

The Division St. teachers also saw the need for a "readiness class" between kindergarten and first grade to bring along the child who develops a little slower but actually has nothing really wrong with him. After a year in this class the child could be placed in the second grade.

The Caroline St. teachers felt that the reading program should be expanded at the expense of the science program. They recommended spreading the required 10 science units now taught in a year and a half to two years.

Both schools agreed that manuscript writing, now taught a year and a half, should be taught through second grade and the switch made to "curative" writing made in the third grade.

Laymen Speak

The public members made a plea that the teachers be relieved of two of the handicaps that the "extras" impose. These suggestions were adopted by the whole committee and will be passed on to the board of education for action.

One of the parents' resolutions said the system forced teachers to "act as baby sitters" during the lunch hour when "teacher and pupils alike would benefit if they were free of each other for an hour or so in the middle of their day."

The other resolution noted that "a large number of children who must wait for buses to take them home, wait in the school gymnasiums, bundled in their street clothes, and seated on the floor."

All segments of the committee saw value in the SRA Reading Laboratory. This is a package of reading materials graded for difficulty along with tests for comprehension based on a specified reading time.

It is more than just a test series though, Dr. Byron Evans, superintendent of schools, stated it includes enough material to allow the child to expand his ability on each level.

Strikers Outline Demands

Local 288 Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, through its business agent, Paul Tomeck, this morning outlined its full contract requests with the employers.

The union has requested 25 cents per hour raise, two paid holidays and a three per cent vacation pay.

The Union voted to drop the request for additional fringe benefits in favor of the 25 cents per hour raise at its first meeting Monday, in an effort to effect a quick settlement of negotiations.

It was learned by The Saratogian that the recent death of John Spencer, one of the signers of the contract, could be one of the reasons for the delay in negotiations this past week.

Tomeck stated that presently plumbers do not receive vacations. They also supply their own cars without reimbursement to reach their jobs. In addition, the plumbers also supply their own tools to aid the contractors in keeping overheads to a minimum. This item is contrary to the agreement with the union shops.

The business agent pointed out that it takes five years for a plumber to learn his trade before he is eligible to draw a mechanic's wages.

It was further learned that the contractors had been notified on Jan. 1 that the plumbers wished to enter into negotiations for a new contract, and that they have contacted them from time to time since for the same reason.

Contract talks were not started until one week prior to last Sunday night's contract expiration date of May 1 because no offer to negotiate had been received from the employers the union said.

It was reported that the shop scale for plumbers in the city of Saratoga Springs is approximately \$1 per hour lower than the scale in surrounding areas.

The plumbers struck at midnight Sunday and will enter the 5th day of the strike tomorrow.

Ballston Man Hospitalized Following Rt. 9N Accident

A 24-year-old Ballston Spa man was reported in "good" condition in Saratoga Hospital this morning after he was struck by a car about 9:07 last night on Route 9N.

Police reported that Edward J. Morrissey received multiple abrasions and a possible back injury after he was struck by a car operated by George Nobles, 51, 573 Sand Creek Road, Albany.

It was reported that Nobles was driving east on Route 9N near Percy's Pantry, when a west bound car failed to dim his lights. Nobles said he applied his brakes and pulled to the left, but could not avoid hitting Morrissey.

Morrissey was removed to the hospital by the Simone Ambulance.

No injuries were reported in a one-car accident on Union Ave. about 1:30 this morning.

Police report that Richard S. Weckerle, 20, West Milton, was driving east on Union Ave on Route 9N when he suddenly lost control of his car.

It veered to the left, jumped the dividing wall, struck a small tree, skidded 45 feet broadside, struck a power pole and caromed into the west bound lane.

Sgt. John Cummings of the Saratoga Springs Police Department investigated at the scene.

News Briefs

Manned Balloon Sets Record

ABOARD AIRCRAFT CARRIER ANTIETAM (AP)—A balloon launched from the deck of this aircraft carrier in the Gulf of Mexico today carried two men to the greatest altitude ever reached by a balloon. The huge bag carrying two Navy scientists soared past 104,500 feet 2 hours and 11 minutes after launching from the flight deck of the Antietam.

The balloon continued ascending toward its planned maximum altitude of 116,000 feet, almost 22 miles above the earth's surface.

Hemisphere Talks on Cuba Seen

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consultations with Latin-American nations are reported to have raised hopes among American officials for a meeting of the hemisphere's foreign ministers to plan what to do about Cuba. It may come in June.

President Kennedy announced April 24 that the consultations would be held but he did not say at that time precisely what procedure would be suggested.

Phouma's Peace-Talk Bid OK'd

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—The royal government today accepted ex-Premier Souvanna Phouma's invitation to peace talks Friday on the front north of Vientiane. It was the biggest breakthrough so far in getting major cease-fire and political talks started between the government and pro-Communist Pathet Lao rebels, who agreed Wednesday to stop fighting.

Premier Boun Oum said the government will send a military delegation to a point just north of the town of Hin Heup, 50 miles north of Vientiane on the main north-south highway.

JFK Asks Review of CIA Work

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy today ordered a sweeping review of the work of the Central Intelligence Agency and other government units that dig up information abroad. Kennedy established a new foreign intelligence advisory board, headed by Dr. James R. Killian Jr., of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The White House described the new group as a reactivation, "under broadened terms of reference" of the board of consultants on foreign intelligence activities set up by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956.

Nixon to Discuss '1st 100 Days'

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon said today he intends to discuss President Kennedy's first 100 days in office in forthcoming speeches and make some "constructive suggestions" on foreign policy. Nixon made the comment to newsmen after conferring with former President Herbert Hoover.

Waterford Voters Set School District Record

Waterford—A record-breaking 1,085 voters went to the polls yesterday to elect three candidates to the Waterford-Halfmoon District Board of Education.

It took an hour and 40 minutes after the polls closed at 8 p.m. to count the ballots.

Mrs. Helen Adams, incumbent, won over Humphrey Horn, 637 to 405. Frank Gergerite, another incumbent, also won with 865 votes. He was unopposed.

The third seat went to Dr. Paul E. Gratton, who collected 637 votes to 406 by Thomas Dyer.

Four persons received one write-in ballot apiece. They were William Van Alstine, Ida Mae Lejeunesse, Henry Dufresne and John Cassidy.

One voter commented, "It is a healthful thing to see so many residents interested in a board of education election."

Edward J. Richardson, board president, announced the board was notified that due to an operation engineer strike new school construction will be held up.

Secondary Facilities Lag, Superintendent Tells Rotary

Saratoga Springs lags behind every school district in this part of the State in secondary facilities, Dr. Byron Evans, superintendent of schools, told the Rotary Club yesterday.

The only way a new junior or senior high school, which he termed the "greatest single need," can be provided is through consolidation with adjoining rural districts, the superintendent said.

Need Immediate

The need for a new secondary school is "becoming immediate," the Rotarians were told. Dr. Evans said high school enrollment will pass 1,000 in the next couple of years, 50 per cent more than the present building was designed to handle. Present language and science facilities, he added, are "decidedly substandard."

Provision of a new building would also enable the system to offer an effective junior high program, Dr. Evans told the club.

Schools 2 and 4, "never were and never will be adequate junior highs," he said, although they can serve as neighborhood elementary schools to relieve overcrowding at Caroline and Division Street.

Efficient Grouping

Bringing all junior high students together is the only way to provide efficient grouping and would also serve to break down, as early as possible, the east side versus west side problem.

Lack of facilities at Schools 2 and 4 necessitates transportation of students to the high school or to recreation fields, which is expensive in loss of teaching time, the superintendent went on.

Dr. Evans said that the junior high program lags in language, modern mathematics and science.

The elementary curriculum is relatively strong in reading and mathematics fundamentals, but "we need to dig a little deeper behind the basics," he commented. The major goal of the elementary schools, however, should be "to keep alive the natural curiosity and inquisitiveness of the child."

There is no solution to the extreme range of abilities found in a class, Dr. Evans said, adding that the problem is aggravated by large classes.

At the high school level, the superintendent said that more students than the average take Regents courses but fewer attend college. He saw increasing hope for the able in new scholarship programs, declaring there has been "too little evidence that scholarship really pays."

In answer to question, he felt that the high school was "not doing a very good job" of carrying out the dual function of providing for those whose education will end there and those who will go on to college.

The present program does better by the college group, he said, but "the county is badly behind in vocational schools." He suggested that vocational education should be developed on a cooperative basis by the county's school districts.

Dr. Evans also declared that the city should develop a summer school program. This education is the most economic and effective, he said, for both acceleration and remedial work.

Dr. Evans said he found most local teachers "serious, dedicated and loyal." Their prestige is relatively high in the community, he said, and the rate of turnover low.

He added that he was "pleased to work with strong parochial schools," and praised the Public Library and Recreation Field programs.

The superintendent has found citizens advisory committees helpful in the fields of transportation, reporting practices and exploration of new programs.

Critics and defenders of the system find they have much the same objectives when they work together on such a committee, he said and teachers have an opportunity to win understanding working with the citizens groups.

Planners Deny Civil Service OK

Three City Planning Board members declared today they have "no recollection" of endorsing the proposal of three city deputy commissioners that they receive Civil Service status.

But one of the deputies says the matter was discussed informally by the Board before two of three men were members.

The statement, issued by Dr. Leo W. Roohan Jr., present Planning Board chairman, says that neither he, Robert L. Quinn or Percy W. Dake, past chairman, "have any recollection of ever discussing or endorsing" the deputies proposal, as claimed in a statement yesterday.

James Bendon, deputy commissioner of public works, who has served on the Planning Board since 1948, says the matter was discussed "informally a long time ago and I believe the consensus was in favor of it."

No Mention

At that time neither Dr. Roohan nor Quinn were on the Board, Bendon said. He agreed that there is no mention of it in the minutes.

Dr. Roohan's statement also said that "the opinions of Dr. Everett Stonquist, consultant are his own and not the opinions of the Planning Board."

It is understood that Dr. Stonquist, sociology professor at Skidmore, has submitted a letter supporting the deputies' proposal.

A public hearing will be held by the City Service Commission in City Hall at 8 tonight on the deputies' appeal to transfer them from the class of political appointees to Civil Service protection.

Squad Logs 53 Runs

Corinth—The Corinth Emergency Squad reports a total of 23 runs totaling 1,139 miles and 166 man hours for March; and 30 runs totaling 1,120 miles and 170 man hours for April.

The members also gave a demonstration at the Corinth Masonic Temple. They urge any organization wishing a demonstration to contact the captain, Ronald Straight, Corinth 654-2785.