

Capital District Planning Progress: Goals, Objectives Being Readied; Tangible Benefits Seen for County

By BOB SCOTT
BALLSTON SPA — A "701" application listing all the goals and objectives of the Capital District Planning Commission, over a 4 to 5 year period is being prepared by that commission, according to Louis Lex Jr., executive director of the commission.

Lex said the "701" application will be submitted to State Office of Planning Coordination in Albany and will include a request for matching funds for the operation of the commission. Lex said he was unable to say how long it would take to prepare the application which has to be presented in detail.

LEX SPEAKING enthusiastically of the commission told The Saratogian today he hopes the commission will become the spokesman for all four counties Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga, in each county, in all projects where state and federal aid is involved. He noted such authority would place the commission in a position to back up the requests of any one municipality with the combined authority of all four counties. Lex said with such authority, "we should be in a position to do our own talking either in New York or Washington."

The commission was established early this year to provide a region-wide planning and coordinating body for the capital area, and to seek federal funds for planning and other projects of the local governments.

DURING the period of formation a budget of \$32,800 was adopted by the group for the nine month period beginning April 1 and ending Dec. 31, 1967. Each of the counties participating have contributed on the basis of the 1960 census figures. Albany's share lists at 42 per cent; Schenectady's at 23 per cent; Rensselaer's at 22 per cent and Saratoga's at 13 per cent.

The \$32,800 figure represents the local share. When the commission is approved by the federal government, five-sixths of the over-all budget will be furnished by state and federal agencies.

LEX was appointed to the \$18,000 a year post Aug. 15 after which the appointment was approved and confirmed by the county board of supervisors of each of the participating counties. Lex said he had hired a secretary earlier this week and will retain the services of draftsmen and others as soon as the need develops.

Asked what had been accomplished by the commission, Lex said, he has personally contacted each of the county and city planning directors, talked with state, federal, banking officials and other agencies and other responsible persons who are interested in regional planning. He is currently preparing files of towns, cities and villages within the four counties which can be used as a source of data and information by other planners.

Lex said he has advised the commission of its review capacity for local applications for federal funds for sewer, water, open space, libraries and hospitals under the federal Model Cities Act of 1964.

LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, he said, will be able to receive a federal bonus of up to 10 per cent on projects certified by the regional planning agency, assuming federal funds are available.

Asked about the possibility of political pressures being exerted by one county or municipality over another for a specific program, Lex said he foresaw no political difficulties in working with the bi-partisan commission. "As long as I preserve my professional role and the commission does like wise, and I have every reason to believe they will, then we will have no problems, after all we are all in this to improve the social and economic condition of all four counties," he said.

SARATOGA COUNTY representatives on the commission are Edward A. Tracy of Ball-

ston Spa, county attorney. Eldon Sanford, Town of Moreau supervisor and Tom Ashton, a Saratoga Springs business man. Tracy asked about the accomplishments of the commission today and the usefulness of the commission said, "We have just completed the organizational phases and only recently adopted the by-laws. We did not have a planning director until August and it does take time to get these things organized. I am sure that in the final analysis the commission will not only be beneficial to all four counties, but to our own county in particular."

Sanford stated "I have attended every meeting of the commission and as a result of our conferences the Albany County Board of Supervisors has been requested to consider the formation of a county planning board. Benefits to us? We in Saratoga County have submitted many applications for grants to federal and state agencies and in the past most of them were turned down because we lacked such a regional planning commission, need I say more?"

Ashton was unavailable for comment in that he is out of the city until early next week. Lawrence Gordon, Saratoga County Planning Director said, it must be noted the regional commission is the reviewing agency for various federal programs. Included in the long list are: housing and urban development, open space programs, basic water and sewer facilities, outdoor recreation, water treatment facilities, and airport planning and construction. "We in this county could be interested in all or part of each of these programs," he said.

Gordon continued, "We are in a standard metropolitan statistical area according to the classification of the US Bureau of Census, therefore anything done in any one of the four counties will automatically benefit the others." "The commission provides a method for the exchange of ideas and also provides a legal channel beneficial to all four counties. Included in many instances we cannot obtain federal aid without some form of comprehensive planning, which the commission provides. In our own county, as soon as the results of the sewer and water study are known, we will find the regional office of great benefit if action is to be taken," Gordon continued.

Roohan said, "Upon investigation, we found in back may be 150 to 200 feet behind the house - a dump." Five pounds of rodent killer was placed in the area, and "rather than have to wait the delay of paper work, we hired a private contractor for \$25 to cover over the garbage area of the dump and to demolish and burn two rat-infested shacks."

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House Condemned at 4, Burns at 9 P.M.

A one-story unoccupied rural Grand Ave. concrete block house, which had been placarded several hours earlier by city officials, was gutted Thursday by flames which Saratoga Springs firemen said were caused by "undetermined origin."

The building, vacant for the past month, is located just west of West Ave. Firemen, notified of the blaze at 9:10 p.m., noted that two shacks at the rear of the building had been burned that afternoon on orders of the Public Safety Department. Ashes from these structures were still smoldering as firemen arrived at the scene with two pumper trucks and a grass truck.

The DPS ordered the building placarded with a condemned sign, posted by Patrolman Henry Ramsure before 4 p.m., Thursday.

Public Safety Commissioner, John T. Roohan reported that neighbors in the area of the house reportedly owned by Louis (Doc) Farone, complained to the city health officer Wednesday of "rats seen in the neighborhood." The complaint

was forwarded to Code Enforcing officer Frank G. Arnold and relayed to Roohan.

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Maj. Paul J. Campion



Capt. Kenneth D. Haire

Captain Haire Succeeds Campion as Commander

Capt. Kenneth D. Haire assumed command of the 656th Radar Squadron, Saratoga Air Force Station, today from Major Paul J. Campion.

Major Campion, commander since October, 1964, has been reassigned to Bangkok, Thailand.

Captain Haire, 30, is a native of Colquitt, Ga. His permanent address is Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Captain Haire received his bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Valdosta State College, Valdosta, Ga., and was commissioned a second lieutenant through Officer's Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Tex., in December, 1960. He trained as a ground electronics officer for one year at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and then went to an Air Defense Command radar site near Lewistown, Mont., where he served for two years as the communications-electronics maintenance officer.

In 1964, Captain Haire was selected for training as a guidance electronics officer on a Titan 1 missile crew. When the Titan 1 project was phased out in 1965, Captain Haire went to the Squadron Officers School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He was then assigned to Wakkanai Air Station, Japan, with the U.S. Air Force Security Service.

In November, 1966, Captain Haire entered the communications electronics staff officer course at Keesler AFB and completed training in August, 1967.

Major Campion, a native of

Albert Lee, Minn. lives at 319 Nelscon Ave. with his wife, Inez. They have four children: Mrs. Carol Johnson of New Haven, Conn.; Mrs. Kathryn Longley of Utica; James M. Campion, a student at St. Bonaventure University, Olean, and Timothy Campion.

The Major began his career in the U.S. Army in 1941 and was commissioned in the Air Corp in November, 1944. He flew B-29s during a combat tour in the Pacific Theatre, and returned to civilian life in 1946.

Campion ran a dairy farm in Minnesota until he was recalled in May, 1951. Then he flew B-26s on a combat tour in Korea.

He was a navigation instructor at Ellington Air Force Base, Texas, from 1952 to 1958 and was stationed at Rhein Main Air Force Base, Germany, from 1958 to 1962.

He was assigned as electronic officer at the Saratoga Air Force Station at Kitchens Corners in Oct. 1963, and assumed command of the base on Oct. 8, 1965.

Campion, a member of the Knights of Columbus, has been director of the Red Cross, director of the Rotary Club, and a manager of a local Little League baseball team, all in Saratoga Springs. His family is to accompany him to his new post.

Captain Haire was to assume command from Major Campion at formal ceremonies at 3 p.m. at the radar site. Officers and non-commissioned officers were to stand for farewell at the ceremony.

1,337 Voters Register in City Tuesday; Signup Continues

Deputy Accounts Commissioner Richard A. Clark reports that 1,337 persons registered Tuesday under the Permanent Personal program.

The registration will continue tomorrow through next Saturday, except for Sunday. The polls will be open both Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the weekdays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Previous PPR registration was 2,315, making the total city residents qualified to vote in next month's election 3,652.

A total of 6,310 persons registered in last year's gubernatorial election campaign. Clark reported that the state voting law requires every citizen who wishes to vote in November, must register in per-

son. Any registration or voting records prior to this year's PPR system are void.

Once a person has registered under PPR, he will have a permanent voting record, and will not be required to register again, provided he exercises his right to vote every two years.

Registration is conducted in each of the 15 election districts.

Eligibility requirements for voting and registering have been changed this year.

The state residence laws formerly required that a person live one year in the state, four months in the city and 30 days in the district before voting. This has now been changed to three months in the state and county and no residence for the district at all.

News in Brief Around the Nation

DEAN'S HOME BOMBED—A bomb today damaged the home of the executive dean of predominantly Negro Tougaloo College at Tougaloo, Miss. No one was injured. Dr. William Bush, who is white, and his wife were asleep in the small brick house. The blast shattered windows, blew out the double rear door and knocked away the eaves. Authorities said the bombing apparently was a "high order explosive," similar to dynamite. College officials declined to comment immediately.

MEMPHIS ELECTION—A. W. Willis, Tennessee's first Negro state legislator in more than half a century, couldn't put together a winning coalition Thursday and failed in a bid to become the first Negro mayor of a major Old South city. Two men with experience in the job—incumbent Mayor William Ingram and former Mayor Henry Loeb—made it into the Nov. 2 runoff as Willis trailed fourth in his race against six white candidates.

The final vote in the fairly heavy balloting—attributed to Willis' presence in the race—gave Loeb 47,784 votes to 36,074 for Ingram and 30,979 for Shelby County Sheriff William Morris. Willis had 15,575.

TRUCKER STRIKE VIOLENCE EASES—Violence has tapered off in the steel truckers' strike, but an economic vice gripped steel producers and users in seven states. Gov. George Romney of Michigan said, "We are prepared to put all the manpower necessary on the road to put an end to lawless and violent acts." Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond P. Shafer ordered State Police Commissioner Frank McKetta to take a personal hand in directing reinforced patrols in western Pennsylvania, a hotbed of violence.

But the steel industry, which ships more than 50 per cent of its products by truck, was still feeling the economic pinch and other industries—from highway builders to grocery stores—were beginning to feel the effects as the strike closed off supply and delivery lines.

Around the State

SCHOOL-LUNCH DISPUTE—Three pupils were reinstated in high school Thursday, pending court settlement of a dispute over whether they should be permitted to leave the school grounds for lunch. The St. Johnsville Board of Education had ruled this year that pupils in the high school could not go home for lunch. The pupils are allowed to bring lunches or eat in the school cafeterias. The mothers of two of the pupils challenged the board's action.