

Temperature

Mon., Dec. 16	10	6	06
Tues., Dec. 17	20	10	02
Wed., Dec. 18	28	10	0

Snow on ground 3 to 5 inches.

☆ HOME OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY — POWER DEVELOPMENT ☆

The Massena Observer

MASSENA'S OLDEST INDUSTRY

ESTABLISHED DEC. 2, 1891

TOWN DUMP HOURS.

7 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Monday to Friday
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Saturday Only
Closed Sundays

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Massena, N. Y., Thursday, December 19, 1968

SINGLE COPY 15¢



Ernest Benedict speaks to his people.

Indians Halt Bridge Traffic, 48 Arrested

Photos by Nick J. Podgurski.

Unarmed Canadian police hustled 48 Indian men and women, including some leaders, off to Cornwall City jail during a three hour blockade of the Cornwall-Massena International bridge crossing on Cornwall Island Wednesday morning.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Provincial Police joined Cornwall City Police and actually carried most of those arrested to police cars from the intersection just a few feet north of the Canadian Customs building.

The bridge route runs on both sides of the customs building and a road, east and west, crosses this route. It was at the intersection where St. Regis Mohawk Indians chose to park their cars beginning at 9 o'clock in the morning. The blockade came off an hour earlier than he announced 10 o'clock time.

A handful of Cornwall City police appeared on the scene first, conferred with a group of the Indians who had blocked the roadway. Police said that the Indians would have to move as they were obstructing traffic.

Police repeated they had orders to clear the road to permit bridge traffic and the Indians held fast. There was some crowding and the first person was hustled off to a police car, garbed in an Indian blanket and head band. The young woman struggled and resisted.

There was no violence of any nature. The only weapon seen was a knife in a sheath dropped from the white buckskin jacket worn by Kahn-Tineta Horne of Caughnawaga Reserve.

Efforts to have the crowd disperse began with Cpl. Joseph LaRose and his men making an effort; later Deputy Chief Hornidas Poirier and finally Chief Allen Clark plus Inspector R. K. Chalmers of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Sometime after 11 o'clock in the morning, Chief Clark told Ernest Benedict, "Now that you have made your point, please clear the area."

Benedict, one of the delegates of the group of Indians who went to see Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, listened attentively. He told the Police Chief that he would ask his people.

"We're not moving, we're not moving," the group of about 50 chanted after hearing Benedict explain the request of the police in both his native tongue and English.

Deputy Chief Poirier told Benedict at one point during the block if you do not move we will have to use force.

Among the 48 arrested included Tom Porter of Rochester and St. Regis, who is allegedly to be the first American Indian to defy the U. S. draft.

Consistently police in pairs walked off with one of the 48 flanking the arrested person. At times those who resisted were carried to the car, some lifted from the ground and carried.

Shouts from a few were heard. One woman kept reminding police officers that the entire matter was going to be seen on national television and pictures would be wirephotoed to newspapers across the country.

The real break in the blockade came when Chief Angus Mitchell drove his car from the southbound lane across the crossing. He stopped and spoke to several Indians who were in their vehicles.

They left their parked positions and then the crowd followed. A meeting was held in the Long House at Hogsburg all afternoon. More than 70 persons attended. The Council asked Benedict to give his views.

Benedict is a 1940 graduate of St. Lawrence University. Some fine cut paper was placed in a bundle at the intersection and fire set to it. Before the smoke could pass head high, police stomped out the fire and made another arrest. A second fire was started on the old bridge road. Shavings and scrap lumber used at the Lacrosse factory was used along with an old tire. No effort was made to put it out.

One of the prime issues which caused the bridge blockade was that the Canadian Government failed to pass into legislation sections of the Treaty of 1754. Article three of the Treaty reads: No duty or entry shall ever be levied by either party on peltries brought by land, or inland navigation into the said territories respectively, nor shall Indians passing or repassing with their own proper goods and effects of whatever nature for the same an import or duty whatever.

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While one person on the left resists, another is carried to a police car at the International bridge crossing.

Hospital Census Above Average Survey Shows

An increase in the number of persons ill with the flu and upper respiratory diseases has been noted, Dr. Maurice Elder, Massena health officer, said.

However, none has been definitely diagnosed as the Hong Kong flu. Dr. Elder said that specimens had to be sent to the state laboratory to determine which virus is involved, and this takes two or three weeks to get the result.

He said that there seems to be more pneumonia in children than usual at this time of year. Census at the hospital is running far above last year. For the week ending Dec. 14, this year, the patient days in the Massena Memorial Hospital was 697; for the same week last year, there were 571 patient days.

At midnight on Dec. 2, the census stood at 114 patients. This may have been a record. The census at midnight Monday was 95, which included five mothers and five babies, 24 children in pediatrics, and the rest on the medical and surgical floors.

Usually, the number of children in the pediatrics ward is in the teens, or even less. The American Red Cross calls the nationwide influenza epidemic a "disaster situation," and the health commissioner in the hardest-hit city—New York—predicts it will be even worse there by New Year's Day.

Health Commissioner Edward O'Rourke estimated Tuesday that 500,000 New Yorkers—one in every 16—had recovered from the flu in the past two weeks.

O'Rourke said 300,000 persons were currently in the most critical stage of the disease. And he predicted that the city's epidemic would peak during the first week in January, probably around the start of the new year.

More Outbreaks
Meanwhile, reports of outbreaks of respiratory illnesses including Hong Kong flu continued to come from all sections of the country.

The Red Cross asked its chapters to provide workers and supplies to hospitals, schools and nursing homes. Hospitals throughout the country restricting visits in order to avoid exposing patients to the flu virus. Many public schools and colleges were closing early because of high incidences of respiratory disease.

A Health Department official in Allegheny County Pa., where Pittsburgh is located, said the Hong Kong flu had reached "epidemic proportions" in the county. School absentees in some districts were as high as 30 per cent, the official said.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey was still suffering from the flu Tuesday in Phoenix, Ariz., and was expected to remain there another day. Schools and businesses in Phoenix reported absenteeism running 20 per cent above normal. More than 8,000 students were absent in the 28,000-student Phoenix Union high school district.

Reported flu cases in New York City have been more than 4,400 during the past week compared with 1,800 the week before.

One influenza death was reported in Milwaukee, Wis. The health commissioner there also said there had been 17 pneumonia deaths in the first half of December, compared with seven in the same period last year.

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Groceries Purchased in Massena by Indian Woman.



This sign speaks for itself — Notice.



This was the scene Wednesday morning as St. Regis Indians blocked the south bound road from Canada



AND A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS TOO! This band of young Thespians will entertain the young of Massena area for their annual Christmas stage show to be held Saturday. They have presented their productions to capacity houses in the past. Kneeling: L. Bronchetti, E. Falla, P. Ober, J. Reynolds, J. Spadafore, B. Woodward, S. Hall. Standing: M. Sullivan, M. Woodward, N. Cornell, B. LaClair, S. Dillabough, B. Evans, S. Spadafore, B. Davey. Third row: G. Levine, J. Seguin, P. Weiller, S. DeVoe, P. Poore, C. Cochran, R. LeGoy.

It's Christmas Fun Time Saturday

With the approach of Christmas, the Thespians of Massena Central High School anxiously wait for Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

Thespians will present their annual Christmas gift to the grade school children of the Massena area. This gift is in the form of a play "The Emperor's New Clothes" which will be line on stage at the Massena Central High School auditorium.

There is absolutely no charge for admission. This stage story takes place in China. The minister of the Emperor's robes has been

cheating the weavers. Two wanderers come to town and take sides with the weavers. These two rogues pretend to be weaving new robes for the Emperor.

Listen to this kids — they have no cloth. The "cloth" is supposed to be such that those who are dishonest are not able to see it. And you'll really laugh — because of this no one says anything when the Emperor parades about the town wearing only his underclothes.

But — after the Emperor returns to the palace a child tells the weavers that the Emperor had no clothes on. Then it happens! The rogues give all the

gold and jewels that they were paid for their work to the weavers. And they leave town.

Student members of the cast DeVoe, Nancy Cornell, Bethany Woodward, Jeff Spadafore and Jay Reynolds, Paul Ober, Eric Falla, Bernie LaClair, Sue Hall, Brian Davy, Jamie Sequin, Sue Spadafore, Paul Wil- lar and Patty Schofield.

Each year the Thespians make a point of doing a play of this type for the children because most of the children of the area have never had the opportunity to see an actual live stage production; especially one for their age level.

Some years ago William Cornell, Thespians advisor and director of this play, recognized such a need and decided to do something about it.

Since that day the Thespians Society has produced such as "The Red Shoes", "Jack and the Giant" and "The Clown Who Ran Away".

A stage production of this type involves the children in the story as no other media can.

For this reason the Thespians are certain that each child who sees "The Emperor's New Clothes" will carry a magical memory throughout the Christmas season.