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JANUARY - No one could really believe it was January in Lowville and Lewis County last week, as temperatures plunged into the fifties and the landscape began to appear very much as if spring had made an early arrival.

In the top photo, taken from the steps of the Journal & Republican, the complete absence of snow can be noted, which gave some merchants an opportunity to clean-up their store-fronts.

In the lower photo, the nearly snow-free lawn of St. Peter's Church and the property of Dr. Henry A. Geffel along Shady Avenue is pictured.

The U.S.A.-sanctioned snowmobile races scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Lewis County Fairgrounds in Lowville were cancelled by the sponsoring Lowville Fish and Game Club, when the track was ruled unsafe for racing by Ron Bourgeois, Boonville, U.S.A. secretary.

Game Club officials said a later date would be sought or a county snowmobile event scheduled if possible.

Other events also had to be postponed, including an ice skating party planned for Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 8 p.m., by the Lewis Neighborhood Junior Girl Scouts at the Lowville Municipal Skating Rink.

Maple Producers Elect Officers

Over 40 maple producers attended the annual meeting of the Lewis County Maple Producers on January 6 at Croghan. The program began with the showing of the movie "Hoods of an Empire," which shows the many aspects of agriculture in New York State.

Les Lyndaker and Lowell Virkler were elected to three-year terms as directors of the association. The following officers

were elected by the Board of Directors: President, Lowell Virkler; vice-president, Charles O'Brien; secretary-treasurer, Leland Ryan; and representatives to the state association, David Lum and Les Lyndaker.

The association voted to send the Lewis County Maple Queen to the State Maple Queen Contest at Jefferson, in April. They also decided to award \$20 to the County Maple Queen, \$10 to the second place contestant and \$5 to the third place contestant.

The following prices were set by the association as a guideline for producers in Lewis County for the coming season: \$9.50 per gallon, \$4.74 per one-half gallon, \$3.00 per quart and \$1.75 per pint. The New York Farm Bureau Marketing Cooperative is offering these prices: Fancy or AA at 60 cents per pound, No. 1 or A at 55 cents per pound, No. 2 or B at 50 cents and No. 3 or C at 45 cents per pound. The prices are equal to last season's record prices.



DRUG COORDINATOR - Dr. Kenneth E. Ford, Lewis County BOCES executive officer and district superintendent of schools for the Lewis County Supervisory District, recently announced the appointment of John P. Cook as health and drug coordinator to serve Lewis County Schools and some schools in Jefferson County.

Mr. Cook received his B.S. from Niagara University, where he was football team captain and a dean's list student. His name appears in "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges." He was awarded an M.S. in health education from Syracuse University. Presently he is completing a second master's degree in Health and Drug Coordination at Cornell University.

Mr. Cook will assist area schools in the implementation of state-mandated programs in health and drug education. The position is funded through federal, county, state and BOCES resources.

Mr. Cook comes to the area from the West Genesee School District in Camillus, where he served as a health education instructor.

Mr. Cook is married. Mrs. Cook has served as a public health nurse in the Syracuse area.

Anyone interested in joining the Lewis County Maple Producers' Association may contact Leland Ryan, Harrisville. The Association asked to remind all maple producers that the annual maple school will be held on February 6 at the United Methodist Church in Lowville. The school is sponsored annually by Cooperative Extension.



HEADS TEMPLE - Robert C. Fuller, of Parish, executive vice-president of Parish Oil Co., Inc., was elected Potentate of Media Temple on Monday, January 8.

Mr. Fuller, center, was nominated by his father, H. C. Fuller, left, for the office of Potentate and was appointed a

representative to the Imperial Session in Atlanta, Georgia, by his son, H. C. Fuller, right. This is one of the first times in history when three generations of Shriners participated in the election of a Potentate.

The other representatives to

"In the works..."-Buckley USDA To Close ASCS Facilities

It has been confirmed that the United States Department of Agriculture will in all probability be closing the Lewis County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office in Lowville by June 30, unless one of several moves to block the measure succeeds.

It has been reported that the Department of Agriculture intends to close or consolidate some 800 local offices throughout the United States by June 30, with definite word on which of the offices will be closed to be announced in April.

The probability that the Lowville office would be one of those on the list and that the closing or consolidation of the 800 offices is "in the works" was confirmed last week through U.S. Senator James L. Buckley, Co.

Senator Buckley relayed to the Journal and Republican through Leo Kesselring of his Albany office that he had been informed that the office closings were "in the works" within the Department of Agriculture in what appeared to be an "economy measure." Senator Buckley had contacted the Department of Agriculture after being asked by the Journal editor to check into the exact status of the Lewis County office. At that time, a complete report on the impact the office closing would have on Lewis County, along with the impact of the already discontinued Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) in the county, was presented to Senator Buckley by the Journal. Portions of the

report to the Senator can be read in the column, "A Closer Look," on page 2 of today's edition.

Senator Buckley advised that it was "imperative" that everyone concerned about the fate of the Lewis County ASCS office write to him and the Department of Agriculture immediately, outlining their opinions as to why the office should not be closed.

All mail to the Senator should be addressed: Hon. James L. Buckley, The United States Senate, Washington, D.C.

For the Department of Agriculture, mail should be addressed: Mr. Kenneth Frick, director, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

It is believed that if the Lewis County office in Lowville is closed, it will be consolidated along with the office in St. Lawrence County, with the Jefferson County office in Watertown. This, however, is not definite but appeared today to be the most likely prospect. This would mean that some Lewis County farmers would have to drive as far as 60 miles-plus, one way, in order to reach the ASCS office in Watertown.

It was pointed out to Senator Buckley by the Journal that this would create an extreme hardship for county dairy farmers during the winter months when driving long distances is difficult and sometimes impossible, as well as during the summer months when the farmers' heavy schedule allows them little time to travel from their farms.

Imperative!

"Imperative" was the term used by U.S. Senator James L. Buckley in describing the need for Lewis County dairymen to write to his office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture about the USDA plans to close the Lowville office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

The Senator was not exaggerating, and he was emphasizing the fact that the response from the public about the probable closing will have a great deal to do with the ultimate decisions to be made by the Administration and the Department of Agriculture.

Dairyman, in general, have always found it difficult to band together to protect their interests and promote their needs. Now is the time, if there is to be any chance of saving the Lowville office. Can it be saved? Perhaps, more appropriately, we might ask: Are the chances that it will be saved greater if we act—now? Senator Buckley said "imperative," he is in a position to know.



(Photo by Jay Russell)

EAGLE AWARD - Thomas Turk, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Turk, Sr., was awarded the coveted Eagle Scout Award at a Court of Honor held by Lowville Boy Scout Troop 162, sponsored by Lowville American Legion Post 162, on Thursday, Jan. 18, at Trinity Parish House, Lowville.

Shown in the photo, left to right, are: Lee Bassett, Jefferson-Lewis Boy Scout Council executive; Mrs. Turk; Mr. Turk; the new Eagle Scout, and Allen Raymond, scoutmaster.

A dinner opened the ceremonies at the Parish House. It was prepared by Jim Beatty of the dietician staff of Lewis County General Hospital and included covered dishes taken by parents of the troop's members. Both the scouts and their families attended the event.

Following the dinner, the Court of Honor was held, with the following adults participating: Mr. Bassett; Richard Raymond, district commissioner; Joseph Porreca, Sr., institutional repre-

sentative; William Raymond, assistant scoutmaster; Carl Kellogg, commander of American Legion Post 162, and Dr. John Bertman, council member.

Turk, the first member of Troop 162 to earn such an award, joins the elite few from Lewis County who have been thus cited. About one out of 100 Boy Scouts ever achieve the Eagle Scout status. Mr. Kellogg presented the youth with a certificate on behalf of the American Legion.

Others receiving awards included: Joseph Porreca, III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Porreca, Sr., and Mark Bero, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bero, who received Life Scout awards; John Turk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Turk, Star Badger; Robert Walligory, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Walligory, Donald Voyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Voyer, and Mark Hitchcock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Hitchcock, First Class Badger.

Larry Wood, newest member of the troop, received his emblem.

AFS Officers Elected At SL

At a recent South Lewis Central American Field Service Chapter meeting, the following officers were chosen for 1973-74:

President, Mrs. John Hughes, treasurer, Mrs. James Kincaid; secretary, Mrs. Duane Parrish.

A ten-month "experience" in international relations without leaving town is what A. F. S. International Scholarships is offering South Lewis School district families.

A. F. S. South Lewis Chapter president, Mrs. Hughes, is searching for a family that will host an overseas student for the coming school year. The youngster will live with the family and attend classes at South Lewis High School.

"The main requirement for an A. F. S. host family is the parents' concern for and interest in young people," Mrs. Hughes said.

A. F. S. International Headquarters in New York City carefully screens candidates who apply for a year's stay in the United States. Students come here from more than 60 countries. There are 2,522 students from abroad currently living and studying in America this year.

"The A. F. S. program can be not only beneficial to the student, but also extremely rewarding to the host family," Mrs. Hughes added. It helps to acquire new perspectives about another culture, experience the

fun of a new and continuing friendship, and help a student discover the life of a community and a nation.

Aside from food costs and possibly some small incidental expenses, the host family incurs no debt in hosting a student. The

(Continued on Page 1-B)

Persons Trustee

Rodney E. Persons, 7581 Church St., Lowville, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Louis F. Media as village trustee Jan. 16 by the village board.

The term expires in March, and it is expected Mr. Persons' name will be presented at caucus. Mr. Persons, a 1927 graduate of Boonville Central School, has been employed by the Lewis County Trust Company since February, 1964. He was promoted to treasurer in 1972 to assume responsibility of personnel purchaser and assistant in operations.

Kenneth Mayhew, Richard Bush and John Van Zandt, representing the Lowville volunteer firemen, asked the board to consider the purchase of a new pumper with 1,000 gallons per minute capacity and to consider

(Continued on Page 1-B)



UF ELECTS - At the annual membership meeting of the Lewis County United Fund, the following officers and directors were elected:

President, William Hunt; vice president, Richard Riani; secretary, Helena Kuhl; treasurer, Rodney Persons; executive secretary, James O'Connor; Directors, term expiring 1974 - Joseph Dolsey, Mrs. Martha Smith, Paul Forte, Amos Dyke-

man and Francis Cox. Directors, term expiring 1975 - Douglas Brodie, Robert McCabe, Richard Riani and Mrs. Helena Kuhl. Directors, term expiring 1976 - William Hunt, Rodney Persons, James Judd, Frank Phelps and James Burt.

In the picture, left to right, are: Hunt, Mrs. Carnie, Mrs. Kuhl, Cox, Riani, Forte, O'Connor, Burt, Persons, Phelps and Judd.

James Burt, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the state.

In other business, the resignation of Jim Shea was accepted with much regret. General campaign co-chairmen, Dick Riani and Bill Hunt, reported. Details of this report will be published in next week's Journal and Republican. President Doug Brodie, in his last official meeting, (Continued on Page 1-B)

Area Man Caught In Hijacking Net

Fred Anderson, Croghan, district deputy of the 92nd District, Knights of Columbus, a member of K. of C. Council 2175, Croghan, who was enroute to New York City to attend a mid-year district deputy meeting to be held at the Sheraton LaGuardia Hotel in New York, was one of three out of seven passengers who triggered an anti-hijacking metal detector device just prior to boarding a New York-bound flight at Watertown International Airport on January 5.

A head-to-toe search for evidence of weapons was performed by Allegheny customer service

agent, Francis Pechey, who used a hand-sized metal detector device which uncovered a coat hanger, wrist watch and a crucifix attached to a rosary, encased in a metal box.

The first passenger scanned head-to-foot with the hand-sized device by Mr. Pechey carried a green sack. As Mr. Pechey brought the device close to the sack, a high-pitched beep sounded, leading to the discovery of a metal coat hanger. As the second man was scanned, his wrist watch caused the device to sound its alarm again. Finally,

the device warned of metal material a third time, leading Mr. Pechey to the raincoat pocket of Mr. Anderson, which revealed the crucifix attached to a rosary in the metal box.

After all passengers were securely on board, FAA agents conferred with Mr. Pechey on matters of security.

"In a setup like this," said one of the agents, "we want to see that the carry-on luggage is searched just prior to boarding. If this is done at the ticket counter there's a chance to pick-up a weapon before boarding."



VISIT COUNTY - Herman Harrington, New York Department commander of the American Legion, and Mrs. Raymond Wellington, New York State Department president of the American Legion Auxiliary, made their official visits to Lewis County on Jan. 7. They were honored at

a dinner at Lowville Memorial Post 162.

Shown from left to right in the photo are Mrs. Kenneth Harter, Lewis County American Legion Auxiliary president, Mrs. Wellington, Mr. Harrington and Merritt Reed, Jr., Lewis County American Legion commander.