



High-level job

This 130-foot pedestrian bridge spanning the Flint Creek on Rt. 96 in the Village of Phelps is due to be completed "sometime next week," according to Meaoff Construction Co. superintendent Ron Purdy. Once the foot bridge is completed, work on the two-lane bridge, which collapsed during an ice storm in March, 1976, will begin. The \$513,568 state-funded project has a targeted

completion date of July 31, 1978, Purdy said. Once the foot bridge is completed, eastbound traffic will be detoured to William and Ontario Sts. and westbound traffic will be directed to Exchange, Mill and Flint Sts. According to Mayor Grove Nagel, a 10-ton weight limit will be imposed on the bridge. (Times photo by Monte Lorell)

Most wineries to pay growers more — Supply down, grape prices up

By PAM HENDERSON

PENN YAN — Area grape farmers may get higher prices from local processors this year, but generally because of smaller crops the growers will not be much better off than they were a year ago.

It's the old game of supply and demand. The 1976 crop was large, wineries claimed they had surplus inventories and prices to vineyardists were low.

This year, severe winter temperatures, high winds, and spring freezes in April and May have cut some growers' normal grape crops in half.

Thomas Zabadal, Cooperative Extension grape specialist in Penn Yan, says, "Last year we were faced with a large grape crop in most eastern states, which resulted in unharvested grapes due to a lack of markets. This year it appears there's going to be a complete reversal."

Zabadal says a United States Dept. of Agriculture report projects a 92,000-ton crop for New York State compared

with a 164,000-ton crop marketed last year. An additional 10-15 per cent of the state's 1976 grape crop went unharvested.

Prices announced by the area's major wineries vary, but generally are above last year.

Gold Seal Winery, whose prices were among the highest paid in 1976 will remain unchanged this year. Prices to growers announced by the Hammondsport winery on Monday are: Concord — \$175 a ton, Delaware — \$315, Dutchess — \$335, Elvira — \$170, Niagara — \$200, and Sybols \$275-\$325.

Fred Schroeder, Taylor Wine Corp. vice president, says Taylor and Great Western "will take all tonnage from acreage contracted for this year." The wineries are also expected to take additional grapes from growers they did not have contracts with, the company representative said.

Prices being paid by Taylor and Great Western are: Concord, 1977 — \$200, 1976 — \$175; Catawbas, 1976-77 — \$270; Delaware, 1977 — \$350, 1976 — \$325; Niagara, 1976-77 — \$215;

Auroras, 1977 — \$300, 1976 — \$300; Baco Noir, 1977 — \$345, 1976 — \$295.

John Brahm, Widmer's Winery vice president, says the Naples winery will be fulfilling all of its grower contracts this year and is looking to a strengthening of its consumer market this fall.

The winery is planning a heavy advertising promotion and for the first time will advertise its products on television in the Northeast. A new label for Widmer's products is also expected.

Widmer's prices, all above those paid a year ago, are: Concord, 1977 — \$175, 1976 — \$115; Niagara, 1977 — \$215, 1976 — \$200; Auroras and Vincent (both), 1977 — \$300, 1976 — \$200; and Cayuga White, 1977 — \$370, 1976 — \$300.

Marvin Sands, president of Canandaigua Wine Co., said, "Last year there was a very large crop and surplus grapes so prices were lower although there were many places that paid prices much lower than ours."

This year supply and demand are in

a much better balance, Sands said, "and we're paying \$30-\$100 a ton more for varieties than we did a year ago."

Sands noted that Canandaigua did not have the surplus inventories that some wineries claimed to have last year and also did not turn any of its growers away. "We took every grape from all our growers and added some new growers to our list," he added.

Canandaigua Industries' prices for the last two years are: Concord, 1977 — \$175, 1976 — \$145; Catawbas, 1977 — \$185, 1976 — \$145; Delaware, 1977 — \$200, 1976 — \$145; Niagara, 1977 — \$170, 1976 — \$145; Auroras, 1977 — \$275, 1976 — \$175; and Elvira, 1977 — \$170, 1976 — \$145.

In Dundee, Seneca Foods Corp. manager, Gordon Mehlenbacher, says "all contracts will be filled." Mehlenbacher said he will take "whatever grapes he can get."

Seneca Foods paid \$100 a ton for Concord in 1976 and this year will pay growers \$175 a ton, Mehlenbacher said.

Promoters stop Waterloo racing

By MONTE LORELL

WATERLOO — Stock car racing at the Waterloo Speedway has been suspended by the races' promoters pending a decision from state Supreme Court on whether racing will be allowed to continue at all, according to promoter Dominick Tantalio.

Tantalio told the Times yesterday that the Waterloo Stock Car Corp., of which he is president, has not sanctioned any racing since July 23. The only racing taking place at the track on North Rd. in the Village of Waterloo was related to the county fair, he said.

The corporation and the Seneca County Agricultural Society, which leased the track, were brought to court by the state attorney general's office after village residents had filed a petition with the state alleging the racing was a public nuisance.

The trial, presided over by Judge John J. Conway, ended on June 24 after 38 witnesses testified. Conway told the Times earlier this week that a decision will probably be handed down this week.

More than 30 races were scheduled for the summer season extending through to the first week in October, Tantalio said. Saturday night races and mid-week races (which were cut after Conway ordered certain restrictions on the racing at the conclusion of the trial) comprised the entire schedule.

Tantalio said the probable "major reason" for halting the races at this time was because the track was losing money. He said the corporation has been "broke" for 10-12 weeks.

While maintaining his optimism over Conway's decision, Tantalio cautioned that the remaining races "might not run at all."

He said restrictions ordered by Conway after the trial in Monroe County's Hall of Justice are being adhered to, but that they were not the

cause of halting the races.

In a temporary order, Conway permitted racing only on Saturday nights. Races had to end by 10:30 p.m. He also ordered safety features added to the track, which Tantalio yesterday said were already in place.

Tantalio also said he expects Conway to permit further racing, but under restrictions. "I don't think (Conway) will change his position," the promoter said.

However, Tantalio refused to elaborate on other reasons why the racing was stopped more than a month shy of the scheduled end. "There are a lot of variables I can't get into," he said.

A source close to the case has said the pivotal issue on whether racing will continue is the safety factor afforded to spectators and nearby residents. A number of village residents testified at the week-long trial of hazardous incidents during the races.

The state attempted to prove that the racing constituted a public nuisance to nearby residents because of excessive noise, dust and fumes and a lack of adequate safety precautions.

The defendants — Tantalio, the corporation's secretary-treasurer Anthony Vitti and Richard Compo of the agricultural society — maintained that the track was not a public nuisance because it brought additional business to the village during the weekend races were run.

Legal observers said Conway has three alternatives in making his decision. He may prohibit all races or permit them with restrictions as he did at the conclusion of the trial. Or, he may permit races under no restrictions.

Village officials, who found themselves in the middle of the highly-charged controversy, have said they will follow Conway's decision.

No bids on monitors: it's 'illegal'—trustee

By BILL ALDEN

SENECA FALLS — The village faces a possible lawsuit because of an attempt by Fire Chief Albert Bennett to purchase radio monitors without competitive bidding.

Last March, Bennett sent two orders to a Vestal firm for 13 monitors, totaling \$2,225.82 and \$2,175.82, orders which were "patently illegal," according to one village trustee, since any purchase over \$1,500 must by law be put up for competitive bidding among several firms.

The issue came to light on Monday when Bennett presented bills for the monitors to village clerk Patrick Cammuso. On Tuesday, after the regular meeting of the village board, the trustees' fire committee and village attorney Stuart Miller met with Bennett. Miller said according to Ronald Focht, chairman of the fire committee, "We can not sign that voucher."

Focht added, the item "has to be bid, and by error it wasn't." The Vestal firm, Tone Alerting Services, "could come back and try to sue us," Focht said, since the village

will not pay for the monitoring equipment. Cammuso has been told to write the company to see if they might possible buy back the monitors which are now in place in firemen's homes.

Bennett said yesterday that he did not know the law on competitive bidding ("I have no books on that") and that the matter is out of his hands now. Other village officials told the Times that Bennett apparently thought the state minimum was \$2,500, not \$1,500, but even so, putting the \$4,401 order on two requisitions, each less than \$2,500, is not an acceptable way to circumvent the competitive bidding rule, outlined in Section 103 of the General Municipal Law.

Both Cammuso and Mayor Michael Gladis said the matter is being investigated and that the bills "haven't been audited for payment."

One trustee who asked not to be quoted by name, said this incident could be used as a leverage to remove Bennett from office. "I'd like to see it happen," he said, adding that the fire chief "has pulled this kind of thing before... but this is just a little too big."

Romulus GOP picks Barber for supervisor

By SONNI SAMPSON

ROMULUS — Declaring that the third time is the best, Nelson Barber accepted the Republican nod as candidate for town supervisor at last night's party caucus.

Barber challenged incumbent Democratic Supervisor Ray Zajac in the last two Town of Romulus elections and was narrowly defeated in his last bid.

Stressing that "this is the year for a change," Republicans pointed out that the town board is held by Democrats except for one Republican, Village Justice Douglas Hinman, who is not up for re-election.

In the only contest for a position, John Licak was chosen as a councilman candidate over John Oberbeck.

Other candidates selected were: Pat Christensen, town justice; Donald Warne, Councilman; and Carolyn Martin, tax collector.

Endorsed by the Republicans were incumbent Democrat Seward Ritchie as highway superintendent and incumbent Democrat Joseph Luppino as town clerk.

The vacancy committee, delegated the responsibility of selecting a



Nelson Barber
...hopeful

replacement for any candidate that drops out of the race, includes: Walter Weck, district 1; Bernie Gouchie, district 2; and Donald Warne, district 3.



On board

The "Miss Waterloo", carrying a group of enthusiastic kids from Camp Onseyawa, is about to leave a dock at Sampson St. Park. The youngsters spent the day fishing on Seneca Lake. (Times photos by Lorraine Ventura)

Formula for fun: pole and bait

By LORRAINE VENTURA

Yesterday's fishing tale didn't concern fish as much as fishermen.

About 140 handicapped youngsters spent Wednesday fishing on Seneca Lake in several boats while 75 Onseyawa camp counselors and staff administrators supervised the enthusiastic group.

Onseyawa is an annual two-week camp for handicapped children held at the Babcock-Hovey Camp (rented from the Finger Lakes Boy Scout

Council). The children are nine to sixteen-year-olds from Seneca, Ontario, Wayne and Yates Counties.

Gib Arnold heads the fishing day, one of various activities held during the two-week camp and sponsored by Sports-O-Rama and The Social CB Club. Arnold rounds up the volunteers who come equipped not only with boats but poles too. Sports-O-Rama footed a \$165 "bait" bill plus \$64 for 10 poles.

Arnold, who's been organizing fishing day for ten years, said the children really look forward to the various camp activities. Counselors joined the youths on board.

"I have just as much fun as the kids do," said Tony Caruso of Waterloo, who's been a counselor at Onseyawa for eight years.

"This is my vacation," added Jim Blankenberg, assistant program director, who's been working at the camp for 11 years. "It's a lot of fun."



This youngster hopes to hook the big one.