

Sacred Heart Church Destroyed by Fire

On the Inside

Alsop	6	Editorial	4
Bridge	11	Markets	15
Cartoon	11	Pattern	11
Childs	6	Radio	13
Classified	14	Ripley	11
Crossword	11	Sports	12
Drummond	6	Weather	8

Local Paragraphs

The sacrament of holy communion will be observed at the 11 a.m. service of worship at Hope Presbyterian church Sunday.

A meeting of the January, 1950 class of Watertown High school will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at North Junior High school to prepare for the class reunion. All class members are welcome.

The seventh annual charity ball sponsored by Our Lady of the Sacred Heart church Holy Name society will be held Saturday in the school gymnasium from 9 to 1. Harry Spicer's orchestra will provide entertainment and a smorgasbord will be served.

The weekly group meeting sponsored by the Jefferson County Committee on Alcoholism, Inc. will meet Monday evening at 7:30 in the basement meeting room of the First United Methodist church, 236 Mullin street with Mrs. Wallace Flack as counselor. Anyone having a problem with alcohol is invited to attend.

Personals

Stephen E. Vandewater, son of Mrs. Frances Vandewater, 119 North Orchard street, and the late Emerson J. Vandewater, has been placed on the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology, where he is a junior studying photography. He is a 1962 graduate of Watertown High school.

City Home Damaged By Fire

Mrs. Phoebe R. Walts, wife of Guy M. Walts, 647 Mundy street, was listed in satisfactory condition at the House of the Good Samaritan this morning after she was admitted, following her collapse after a fire at her home.

She fainted at the home of a neighbor early this morning and was taken by Guilfoyle ambulance to the hospital. Hospital supervisors said she had been affected by smoke and anxiety. She had been administered oxygen.

An alarm was received by the fire department at 6:27 this morning of the fire on Mundy street, at the corner of St. Mary street. A unit of number one company was dispatched from the scene of the Sacred Heart church fire and firemen from Brownville volunteer fire department who were standing by for city firemen.

Jerry and Bonnie Thompson and their small child, occupying the second floor of the two-story frame house, escaped without injury or ill effects.

See HOUSE—Page 8

Power Authority Asked About Utility Workers at Plant

By ALAN EMORY
Times Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The New York State power authority was asked today how many Niagara Mohawk Power corporation employees would be needed for the new atomic power plant at Nine Mile Point and how much the state agency would have to pay for them.

Rep. Richard L. Ottinger raised the question of whether Niagara Mohawk would reap any profit by providing its employees and whether the operating personnel would be full-time or part-time company men.

The Westchester county Democrat seemed to be asking how Niagara Mohawk could permit workers needed at the company's existing atomic plant at Nine Mile Point to leave their posts to work at the new facility or whether the company was going to hire new staff just to rent them out to the power authority.

Ottinger has sent Authority Chairman James A. FitzPatrick a letter with a dozen questions about the proposed 848-megawatt atomic plant that the power authority pro-

\$2 Million To Replace Building; 100 Firemen Battle Blaze Amid Cold

By DOMINIC PEPP
Staff Writer of The Times

The 61-year-old Our Lady of Sacred Heart church, 322 West Lynde street, was destroyed overnight by fire which sprayed flying embers over five adjacent streets and threatened two nearby buildings — the Sacred Heart parochial school and North Side Improvement league—before being brought under control by an estimated 100 firefighters, hampered by numbing zero temperatures.

Smouldering ruins, ice-sheathed brick walls and the 100-foot high bell tower are all that remained today of the once stately church, owned by the diocese of Ogdensburg. Rev. Benoit C. Dostie, pastor since July, said the church was insured for \$567,000 but added that the replacement cost would be "around \$2,000,000."

Practically every piece of the city fire department's fighting apparatus was pressed into service to battle the stubborn blaze, one of the most destructive in Watertown in years. It was the second church fire in 27 years, the other one involving destruction of the First Methodist church, 180 Arsenal street, on Feb. 3, 1942.

Fire Discovered

The fire was discovered about 11:10 p.m. Thursday by Robert H. Austin, tenth ward supervisor, as he was leaving the North Side Improvement league after attending a past president's night dinner. Observing dense smoke pouring from the Sacred Heart church building, Mr. Austin alerted other league members and then ran to the street fire box at the Sacred Heart school to sound the alarm.

Within five minutes, pumps and other equipment from the city's four fire stations, augmented by the ladder company, were at the scene. So dense was the smoke emanating from the church, that it mushroomed over a one-half block sector in all directions. Smoke poured from under church doors, windows and two rear chimneys.

Core in Basement

Observing that the core of the fire was in the basement, Battalion Chief George W. Lachenauer assigned a dozen firefighters, equipped with smoke masks, to that location. Minutes later, he was joined in supervisor of the firefighting by Fire Chief George S. Bates and Deputy Fire Chief Selwyn E. Perrigo.

Faced with the need for more manpower, Fire Chief Bates radioed the Jefferson county sheriff's department with a call for the Glen Park, Brownville, Sackets Harbor, town of Watertown and Calcium volunteer fire departments. These reinforcements reached the scene between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Diverted to a standby basis at the No. 1 engine house were Glen Park's tanker truck and Brownville's fire engine.

Ten Hose Lines

With a 100-man firefighting force, Chief Bates placed a cordon of firemen around the burning church building. Water from ten lines and the 100-foot ladder tower was poured into the building, the output climaxing at an estimated 3,000 gallons of water per minute. Lines were hooked to hydrants at five

Bank Buying Odd Fellows Building

The Odd Fellows building at the corner of Stone and Arcade street will be sold by Watertown City lodge, No. 291, to the Marine Midland Trust company of Northern New York, it was learned this morning from the A. R. Johnson Realty, Inc.

Papers finalizing the sale of the three-story brick and stone building will be completed this evening, it was announced by Mr. Johnson, who is representing both the Odd Fellows lodge and the bank.

The purchase price for the large 70 by 70-foot building was not announced by either of the parties concerned. It was said by officials of the Odd Fellows that a petition has been sent to the grand lodge of the order asking the final approval of the sale, members having voted the approval at a meeting Thursday evening.

Local lodge members said it was not expected there would be any objections from the grand lodge on the sale with members of the local lodge having given their approval.

Attorney Lawrence Conboy of the firm of Conboy, McKay, Bachman and Kendall is handling the legal details in the sale for the Marine Midland Trust company. The Odd Fellows said their attorney would be named so he could attend the final transaction this evening.

It is understood the bank wants to take possession of the building.

See I.O.O.F.—Page 3

Church Was Built Between 1905-08

By HILTBURG OVERACKER
Staff Writer of The Times

The 61-year-old Our Lady of the Sacred Heart church, destroyed by fire during the night, was built from 1905 to 1908, to replace the wooden structure attached to the Sacred Heart monastery on Thompson street, which had served the parish since 1878.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Stephen Royet from 1900 to 1910, that construction plans were made under the direction of Rev. Father Lesperance, the superior of the Order of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The cornerstone was laid on June 11, 1905, by Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. S. Garand, then pastor at Clayton.

The construction plans were drawn by D.D. Kieff and the original cost of the church was \$80,000. The same church this year was valued at \$590,000.

SPECIAL BUY

For Your VALENTINE
1969 Olympic 370 20 h. p. SNOWMOBILE

With Added Large Sprocket Power and Speed Galore!
C. & M. Jiger Co.
Rear of New Parrot Stand
Route 11 South

Holiday Inn RESTAURANT

Sorry No Smorgasbord Tonight
DUE TO J. C. C.'s



RUINS OF SACRED HEART CHURCH—Only smouldering ruins and ice-coated walls remained today of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart church which was destroyed overnight by fire. The church, insured for \$567,000 will cost an estimated \$2,000,000 to replace. One hundred firemen from the city and county battled the blaze. Other pictures Page 9.

Bishop Offers Sympathy To Parish

OGDENSBURG — Rt. Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, Bishop of the Ogdensburg diocese, today regretted the destruction by fire of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart church, Watertown, with the following statement:

"I offer my sympathy to Father Dostie, the pastor, and to the priests and people of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart parish. I hope that they will work together to meet this emergency. I hope that they will be able to provide facilities for mass.

"While the insurance will help them in their difficulty, they have suffered the loss of a beautiful church which has fond memories for many in Watertown."

Personnel Director Setup Held Desirable by 3 Top Officials

Three top city and county officials agree that a personnel director setup under the New York state civil service law is desirable.

They are: City Manager Ronald G. Forbes and Mayor Theodore Rand, city, and F. Clark Hamlin, county budget officer and clerk of the board of supervisors.

Mr. Forbes has suggested unofficially to the Watertown city council that he would like to see the new system of personnel officer civil service direction established here.

Mr. Hamlin has been urging the board of supervisors to study, and approve, the new setup.

Mayor Rand says he wants a city-county merger, with the council and board of supervisors agreeing to hire a single personnel officer to operate a combined civil service system.

Mr. Hamlin said today he

is convinced the new system would be "more beneficial" because, he asserted, "it would make for one full-time employe holding all the powers of a civil service commission, responsible for the proper application of the state's civil service laws."

The Watertown commission, headed by Glenn F. Palmer as president, Thursday decided to hold up its threatened non-certification of the city's semi-annual payroll because, the commission said, City Manager Forbes had failed to comply with the law in more than 40 employe cases.

Compiling Data
However, the commission took official note of the city manager's statement in writing that he is compiling the information for the commission and decided to extend

its non-certification dateline two weeks.

As a result of the commission's decision, the following letter, signed by Attorney Norman F. Ward, commission secretary, was hand-delivered to the city manager late Thursday afternoon at city hall.

"Pursuant to the terms of See PERSONNEL—Page 3

Record Players Repaired

All makes. Tape recorders. Antenna Shop, 163 Flower Av. E.—Adv.

SEAWAY NATIONAL BANK

4 1/2% new car loans for SNE customers. Arrange for loan, pay cash for the car.—Adv.

CARPET INSTALLATION

Rolls and Rolls in stock! Furniture Barn, under Arsenal street bridge.—Adv.

Harbor Rest

SACKETS HARBOR
TONITE
5 P.M. ON
Steak or Fish Dinner 95¢
Valentine Dance & Party STARTING AT 9:30 TONIGHT
Featuring Ray Sabre and "The Country Rhythm Men"

If you are in need of a home repair loan
FAST NEVER
then count on real services at low rates when you borrow at NATIONAL BANK OF NORTHERN NEW YORK

The Pirates Roost

Brings Summertime to Watertown...
GRAND OPENING "THE GAY GASLIGHT"
At the Seaway Shopping Center, Watertown, N. Y.
TONIGHT: "Tarnished Sounds" SATURDAY NITE: "FREE WILL"

Whirlpool

TOP OF FRONT OPENERS
Choose From 11 Models
Buy on Joe Powers 25c Meier Plan
PAY ONLY 2 weekly
Joe Powers SEAWAY PLAZA

Escudero Firm Has Low Bid

Edward Escudero Construction, 323 Butterfield avenue, was low bidder on the new Arsenal street sanitary sewer, listed in the bid specifications as the Arsenal-Court-Coffeen streets project.

Bids were opened by Purchasing Agent Lyle A. Chamberlain at city hall at 11 this morning. The Escudero tender was \$165,923.65.

There was only one other bid entered by the Robert F. Curtin Construction corporation, 1602 Holcomb street. It was \$204,921.55.

The bids are expected to be before the city council Monday night. The city will pay the whole project cost.

RED STAR DINER

COURT ST.
OPEN 24 HRS.
7 DAYS A WEEK
Under New Management

O & DANCE

Carthage American Legion
Music by the Intorcias Combo
SAT., FEB. 15th, 9 'til 1
Serving Steamed Clams and Shrimp Cocktails 6 P.M.
Members and Guests

J. C. C. GYM

ADMISSION \$3.50
PATSY'S NEW PARROT RESTAURANT
Outer Washington St.
WOULD YOU BELIEVE...
300 LBS.
The "Biggest" Show SANS T
You must see TREMENDOUS "MIDGE" PLUS The Sensational "CLAUDIA" and "SILKI"

ENJOY THE SNOW Day or Night
RUTLAND SNOW ACRES
WARM LODGE Sleigh Rides, Parties, SNOWMOBILE RENTALS
DURHAM'S
2 Mi. Out State St. Road

Church Was Built Between 1905-08

By HILTBURG OVERACKER
Staff Writer of The Times

000. Replacement costs will be much higher.

The church was formally dedicated at ceremonies, May 31, 1908. Although it is not known how large a parish the church served that year, records show that the parish counted 50 families and 300 persons in 1857. At the last official count made in 1968, the parish had 4,202 members.

Windows Bought
During the pastorate of Rev. Zephyrin Peloquin, from 1910 to 1922, stained glass

SORRY — NO GO-GO GIRLS — BUT WE HAVE... FREE POP CORN POPA... \$1 to \$2.50
Cody's Grill
Brownville, N. Y.
Claude & Ross Rims
We wish to thank our friends and customers for their patronage... WE WILL BE CLOSED FEB. 16, WILL REOPEN MARCH 13
Art & Johanna Shoro

Art's J...
670 Section 20—Studio Workshop Thursdays 7-10