

The next several pages constitute Part 2 of the History of the Town of Gouverneur, starting with 1955.

1955

The biggest event of 1955 was the Sesqui-Centennial, The Town of Gouverneur Celebrated its 150th birthday.

Another important event of this year was the dedication of the five new elementary schools with the centralization of the Gouverneur School District, voted in 1950. The Gouverneur Central School District was formed when 50 small school districts merged into one. The five new elementary buildings were Brasie Corners, Fowler, East Side, West Side, and Richville.

Also in 1955:

The Bigelow Railroad Depot was closed.

Work was started on the new West Main Street Bridge, the sixth span since the early 1800's. This bridge will be used on the Peabody Road.

The Elmdale Bridge was completed.

Polio vaccine became available.

1956

Dutch Elm Disease became a major concern for area elm trees. 610 elm trees were sprayed to help save them. It didn't; eventually every elm tree had to be taken down. The stately elms that once graced the area and lined the streets and park are gone.

The Sesqui-Centennial Committee purchased a clock to commemorate the 150th birthday. The clock was located at the west end of the village park. The clock has not worked properly for several years and repairs have not proved futile. Fund raising efforts are underway to purchase a new clock that will be placed at the east end of the park.



ELM TREES

RAILROAD



Heavy traffic has led to the decision to install Gouverneur's first traffic light. The light was placed at the intersection of William, Clinton, and Main Streets. Today Gouverneur has five traffic signals at intersections along Main Street.

The use of coal for a heating fuel has diminished greatly in recent years. Fuel oil has become more affordable and very popular. Natural gas finally came to the area almost 20 years ago, via Canada. Most homes and businesses that converted to natural gas did so because it is a cleaner burning fuel and cheaper. Many homes still burn wood as either a primary or supplementary fuel, due to the high cost of oil. This year may see more people heating with wood stoves or furnaces because of the sharp and constant increases. The rapidly increasing cost of crude oil may cause more conversions to natural gas for heating.

Also in 1956:

Rushmore Paper Mill closes, 250 laid off.

New West Main Street Bridge is opened to Traffic.

Construction began on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Tri-State Farmers Guild (New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania) received no cooperation of the Pioneer Division of the Borden Company plant in Gouverneur. The plant continued to take in all area farmers' milk, regardless of the six pickets, at the Borden plant entrance. The Borden plant was a major employer for the Gouverneur area, and its location made it convenient for area dairy farmers. Local officials knew of no local farmers that were members of the Tri-State Farmers Guild. The Guild was trying to get higher prices for farmers in the tri-State area, but had little success in getting Gouverneur area farmers to join their ranks.

Gouverneur Iron Works, Inc. (today known as Cives) broke ground for a steel fabrication plant on Factory Street, conveniently located just off U.S. Route 11 and next to the New York Central railroad yards. Howard Lechler, president, said the new building will house all structural steel and ornamental fabrication processes. A crane runway and storage yard, serviced by the exterior bridge cranes, will allow ample space for storage and warehouse material sales. Gouverneur Iron was formed in 1952. The company offices will remain at 81 East Main Street where all engineering, drafting, and clerical work is performed. Today these offices are at 8 Church Street.

William Rotundo, who owned Gouverneur's first airport, just north of the village, was killed with Attorney Charles Reed of Lowville. The Piper Cub crashed shortly after taking off from the Gouverneur Airport. Rotundo was instructing Reed in taking off and landing when eyewitness, Bernard Hitchcock, said when the plane was about 50 feet off the ground it went over on its back, made a nearly 180 turn and crashed. Earlier in the day the two men had flown for about an hour. The airport was built by Joseph Rotundo, William's father, in 1931.

Also in 1957:

Elks to build new lodge on Richville Road.

Rod and Gun buys 250 acres on State Route 58 in the town of Fowler.

Dr. Robert Bloomer's plane engine failed and crashed on Factory Street.

Don Monterville, William Street, hears beep from Russian Sputnik on his ham radio.



FREDERICK DRURY



B.F. DRURY



FOSTER DRURY

1958

Fire causing major damage estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000 gutted the rear of 125 East Main Street. The building was owned by Attorney Max Levison. The prompt and efficient action of the Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department prevented the spread of the fire throughout the entire block. A firewall made of Gouverneur Marble slabs separating the Levison Building from Collins Hardware and VanOrnum Electric store made it possible to contain the blaze. Businesses in the building were: Prossers Restaurant, a beauty parlor operated by Mrs. Jack Burns, and the law offices. Several businesses and families in apartments moved their belongings from the premises in the event the fire spread.

Dr. Frederic Franklin Drury, who practiced medicine in Gouverneur from 1891 to 1952 died at the age of 89. He was known as the dean of St. Lawrence County physicians because of his long-time practice of 61 years. Dr. Drury was one of three physicians in his family; both his father Benjamin and his son Foster were doctors.

St. James Catholic Church purchased property on S. Gordon Street, across from the Church to build St. James School. The school will have K-8 grades. The Sisters of St. Joseph will teach at the school. Today there is only one Nun, Sr. Ronald Marie Hax, Principal, and lay teachers in the pre-school through sixth grade. Seventh and eight grades were eliminated several years ago due to low enrollments.

Ralston-Purina bought McAllaster Feed from Joseph McAllaster & Sons. The

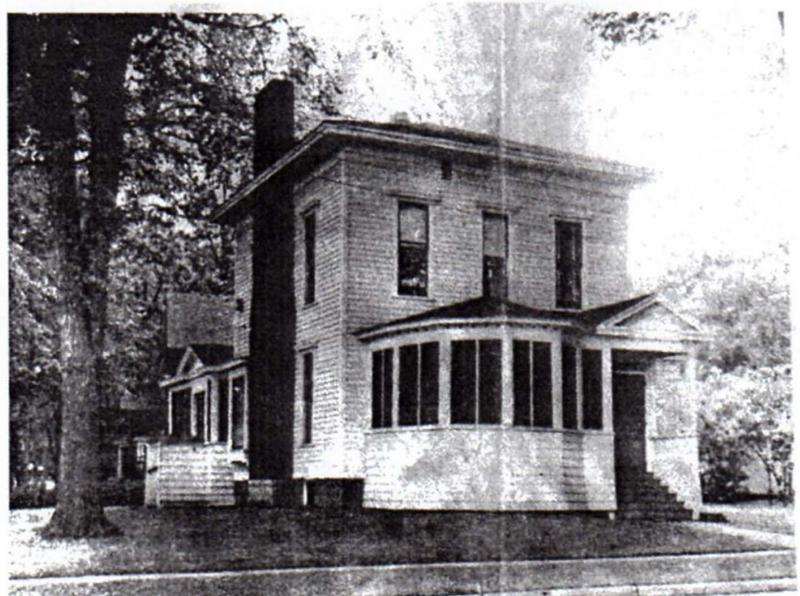
company had been owned by the McAllaster family for 71 years. McAllaster stated the reason for the sale, "Because of the bulk feed facilities now available in the area, and because we do not feel that we can make the capital outlay necessary to provide bulk feed, we are selling to a company that will provide this service to our customers." McAllaster Oil Company, Inc., did continue in business for several years after the sale of the feed portion.

Edward John Noble died December 12, 1958. Mr. Noble was born in Gouverneur in 1882. He graduated from Gouverneur and Yale. He secured employment with an advertising agency in New York City and was sent to Ohio for an advertising account. Clarence Crane who was making a small round peppermint candy with a hole in the center did not like Noble's idea of advertising it as a lifesaver. Crane offered to sell Noble his candy company for \$2900. Noble and a friend bought it and the lifesaver candy made Noble a very rich man. He became a multi-millionaire and was very philanthropic, donating large sums of money for hospitals, such as the Edward John Noble Hospital in Gouverneur. He also donated to area institutions and causes. He was also appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt to several Government Agencies. He owned ABC Radio, which later became ABC-TV. He will always be remembered in Gouverneur.

Also in 1958:

Village of Gouverneur votes to have Bingo.

Gouverneur Co-op erects bulk feed tank.



NOBLE HOME

1959

The New Elks Lodge was dedicated in April in two days of ceremonies. The new building is located north of the village on U. S. Route 11. B.P.O.E. dignitaries from near and far attended the two days of ceremonies. The Lodge has been a tremendous asset to the community, as several special dinners, weddings, dances, etc., are held here because of its size and the quality of food the Elk membership provides.

Portions of the dam under the Main Street Bridge went out and had to be temporarily replaced with thousands of sand bags. The dam is owned by the Village of Gouverneur and is necessary because it is used to generate electricity for the village lighting system. Repairs got underway by Northeast Construction Company of Gouverneur.

St. Joe Lead workers, about 300, went on strike for better wages, benefits, etc. The community was devastated as St. Joe was the biggest employer in the area. Luckily the strike lasted less than two weeks.

A franchise was granted to Community Antenna Systems, Inc., to operate cable TV in Gouverneur. Robert Caten, owner of the company, rented pole space from Niagara Mohawk. A helicopter service was hired to take signal strength readings over the antenna site. The antenna, located just north of the Village, and a small building to house the equipment, is all that is needed to bring a number of TV channels to Village residents. Cable TV today extends to Fowler, Richville, and into some Town of Gouverneur homes.

Gouverneur's first radio station is in the works. Genkar Inc., has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commissions for permission to operate a radio station in Gouverneur.

Also in 1959:

VFW burns.

Harry Rogers, Town Clerk for 44 years died at age 90. He also ran the Western Union telegraph office for over 50 years.

St. James School opens.

The VanDuzee Hospital, in use from 1929 to 1950, is razed.

1960

The Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce board of directors voted to protest New York Central Railroad's latest move to abandon passenger service on its St. Lawrence division and promptly notified the Public Service Commission of its decision. The Chamber noted that possibilities of economic growth would be severely hampered if the only rail service to the area was eliminated. They pointed out that the only remaining public transportation would be a bus line that covered the area only twice a day. The railroad petitioned the Public Service Commission citing a \$250,000 deficit on its St. Lawrence division in 1959.

Steward Ritchie, Chief of Police, retired after serving in the police department for 31 years. Ritchie began his service in 1928 under Chief Eugene Murphy. The only other policeman at the time was Tom Monterville. The police force now totaled three. The Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce honored Chief Ritchie at a testimonial dinner at Canali's Hotel.

Tracy Storch was named administrator of North Country Hospitals, Inc. The three Edward J. Noble Hospitals are located in Alexandria Bay, Canton, and Gouverneur.

New Hailesboro Kart-Way opened two miles south of Gouverneur on State Route 58. Over 200 karts from around New York State and Canada participated on opening

day. There were featured races, including a Powder Puff Derby. Only members of a nationally recognized organization were allowed to participate in the races.

A dynamite explosion took three lives at International Talc's No. 3 mine in Talcville, Edwards. The three men were Clark Zanker, Howard Fuller and Douglas Skeldon. The three men were working 250 feet below ground when the dynamite exploded prematurely. They were found by mine foreman Albert Gayne when they failed to surface at the end of their shift.

The Tribune-Press is now being printed by an offset process. Its speed capacity is 1200 copies per hour. The offset process makes it easier and more pleasant for the reader. The Tribune-Press is partially moved into into new building on Clinton Street.

Also in 1960:

New high schools plans were completed.

Carbone's new shoe store was expanded.

E. J. Noble Hospital offers Van Duzee Hospital property to village for parking lot.

1961

The Collins Block on West Main Street was destroyed by fire. The building housed the Collins Hardware and Grocery Store, Seven States Gas Company, and two upstairs apartments. None of the three residents in the apartments were seriously injured despite that the building was engulfed in flames when firemen arrived at the scene in this early morning blaze. The firemen were able to keep the blaze from spreading to nearby buildings, the Roma Restaurant and Cappellino's Market.

A parking lot behind Main Street stores was under study. The parking lot would extend from the Tribune Press building on Clinton Street along Trinity Avenue to behind the Burr-Green Funeral Home. This and the razing of several buildings on Park Street became a reality when the Urban Renewal project was completed. The federal government paid for most costs, including relocation of residents and businesses.

Construction began on additional parking and a new medical wing to the E. J. Noble Hospital. The \$200,000, two-story medical wing will be at the west end of the hospital. Six doctor suites of three rooms each and flexible use areas will be a welcome addition to the hospital. Rouse Construction Corporation is the general contractor.



VAN DUZEE HOSPITAL

The community welcomed a new P & C Food Market on East Main Street. The 11,000 square foot market with parking for 100 cars, background music, and air conditioning employed almost 20 employees. In the 1990's this store became a drug store when P & C built a new and bigger store next door.

Groveton Paper Mill installed a de-inking machine. The mill in Natural Dam, located three miles northwest of Gouverneur, was originally a lumber mill built in the 1860's by Newton Aldrich and Orison Dean. When the lumber business faltered, the mill was turned into a paper production facility. The huge paper machine operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, turning out 40 tons of paper daily. The mill made facial tissue and toilet tissue, employing 200 persons.

Also in 1961:

Watertown Mattress Furniture Showcase re-opened in a new location on East Main Street after remodeling a nearby building. The building was once the St. Lawrence Inn, which had the first elevator in Gouverneur.

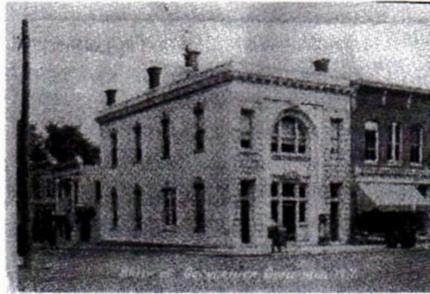
The new high school building opened.

The grammar school in the center of the village is closed after 121 years.

New telephone building was built on John Street.

1962

Gouverneur gets a new bowling alley. Ben Saidel, Gouverneur, George Collins, Canton, and Louis Cohen, Massena, formed a group that will build a new 12-lane bowling alley on State Route 11 west of the village, across from the Clearview Restaurant. The air conditioned building will have the latest bowling lane equipment. American Machine and



BANK OF GOUVERNEUR

Foundry Company (AMF) will be the supplier of the automatic pinsetters. The building will have a snack area, cocktail lounge, lockers, etc.

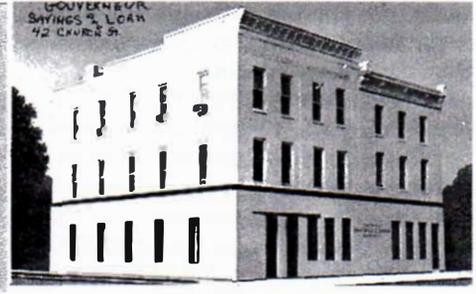
Louis Curcio was named Fireman of the Year at the Northern New York Fireman's Association Convention in Alexandria Bay. He was nominated by the Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department. His selection was based on the part he played in rescuing members of the Peter Cutrie family from their blazing home on Pooler Street in July 1961.

Lynn Sprague died July 24 at E. J. Noble Hospital at the age of 82, several days after suffering a heart attack. He was founder of the Sprague Funeral Home and was a funeral director in Gouverneur for 62 years. His sons Paul and Frank continued with the funeral home for many years before it was sold to the French Funeral Home. He was very active in many community organizations throughout his life.

Also in 1962:

Telephone switches to dial service and operators were laid off.

State Health Department orders filtration plant referendum.



GOUVERNEUR SAVINGS & LOAN

1963

Charles A. Jones, manager of Simons Fuel & Supply Co., and his wife Frances died as the result of severe injuries, after his car hit a tractor trailer that skidded into their path near Potsdam. Both were active civically and socially, and left three children.

Rouse Construction Corporation was low bidder on the new Gouverneur Village Water Filtration Plant, and was awarded the contract. Five other companies also submitted bids that were in excess of \$500,000. The Rouse bid was \$474,474. This filtration plant will be state-of-the-art.

The Bank of Gouverneur will build a new bank at the east end of the park on Grove Street. The bank has outgrown their East Main Street building after 92 years in the same location. The Bank of Gouverneur was the only bidder on the lot that once housed a grammar school.

The Gouverneur Savings and Loan purchased G & C Hardware, 36 Church Street, which is adjacent to their building. This will provide room for the bank's needed expansion. Charles Gass and Walter Christensen, proprietors of G & C Hardware, will move across the park into two stores at 11 & 15 East Main Street.

A piece of Gouverneur Talc will be on display at the Boy Scout Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair. The piece, taken from the depths of the Gouverneur mine at Balmat, was selected to represent St. Lawrence County. The Gouverneur area is the site of the world's most extensive talc mining operations.

Also in 1963:

Mercer's Dairy barn burns.

Four stores on Clinton Street burn (Brown's Barber Shop, Eckman's Liquor Store, Al's Hole in the Wall, and an adjacent wooden building housing furniture.

The old West Side School is demolished. Michael Maroun purchased it when the Gouverneur Central School District put it out to bid.



HIGH SCHOOL

1964

Passenger train service ends when the last Beeliner made its final run through Gouverneur to Massena. Since the 1950's, rail passenger service has been on a steady decline and railroad companies were losing money on many rural passenger train runs. People preferred traveling by auto, and passenger train riders became fewer and fewer. Freight trains continue to be a popular mode of transportation for all types of goods.

The B. O. Kinney Ice Cream plant was damaged by blasts. The 18-year old building was turned into shambles when two separate explosions wrecked a compressor and blew out the east wall of the building. No one was injured in the blast. Company officials decided not to repair or rebuild the structure.

Residents are very happy with the water coming from the newly completed water filtration plant in the village of Gouverneur. The plant has been described as one of the most modern facilities of its type in the country. The water plant began operating at 2 million gallons every 12 hours.

WIGS Radio Station went on the air after getting its final approval to broadcast. Owner/manager, Morris Genter, informed the community that the channel frequency would be 1230 on their radio dial. The 250-watt transmitter is located in a one-room building on Pooler Street. Broadcasts began emanating from 123 East Main Street. The station will be on the air from 5 a.m. to midnight, but has FCC approval to operate 24 hours a day if necessary.

Also in 1964:

Gouverneur Savings and Loan began expanding into G & C Hardware that was purchased in 1963. It will have a new face-lift and double its size.

Gouverneur Co-op marks 50 years of service.

Another dead elm tree was cut down in the park. There are few left in the village. Red maples are being planted to replace the elms in the park.

The new Bank of Gouverneur opened.

1965

Expansion is underway at Riverside Iron Works. Construction is in its final stages of the steel fabrication shop. Clifford Tibbits, Jr., Vice-president, explained that the additional 2,000 square feet of floor space will be available for fabrication of structural steel, miscellaneous metals, and will increase production capacity by 47 percent. Also,

a new overhead traveling crane has been installed.

Gouverneur area married men without children will begin being drafted because of the Vietnam War. Up to now, only single men were drafted, but this conflict has gotten to the point where the military must be increased. The draft age for young men will remain the same, 18-26.

Also in 1965:

Fire hits Balducci's Crushed Stone Co., and also Cassaw's Market.

Dr. Harry Mills died.

1966

Telephones serving Gouverneur have increased almost 60 percent during the last decade. Today more than 4,400 customers are in the Gouverneur area. Ten years ago that figure was less than 2,800 phones. Some 200 phones have been added since dial service was introduced in 1962. The first telephone was brought to Gouverneur in 1884 by B. G. Parker, just eight years after its inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, introduced it to the world at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. Parker was publisher of the Gouverneur Free-Press.

Gouverneur Iron Works, Inc., will be providing steel for the U. S. Pavilion at Montreal's Expo, 1967. Gouverneur Iron will fabricate 750 tons of structural steel for the United States Pavilion. The U. S. Pavilion will cost about \$4,000,000. It is a 20-story high sphere with a steel frame covered by a special transparent plastic material, so it will be filled with natural light by day and will glow from internal lights at night.

Pete's Big M Market is being constructed on the site of the old West Side elementary School. Peter Hilts will be owner/manager of the new independent food market. The store will be 8,000 square feet, with three check-outs. The store will also be completely self-service.

Burt O. Kinney, founder of Kinney Drugs, Inc., drug chain, died at age 92. Mr. Kinney open his first store on East Main Street in 1903. The chain had 15 stores throughout northern New York in 1966. In 2005 the drug chain had over 70 stores in New York and Vermont. Born in Gouverneur in 1873, he was educated at the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary. He began work as a clerk before the turn of the century at Dewey and Perrin Drug Store in Gouverneur. He graduated from Albany College of Pharmacy in 1902. A year later he opened his first store.

Also in 1966:

The four funeral homes in the area

ended ambulance service, citing cost of equipment requirements due to medicare and state requirements.

The newly organized rescue squad is headed by Leo Knight.

Old Hose Co. #2, 105 West Main Street is demolished.

1967

Morris Davies, Gouverneur blacksmith, retires after 65 years in the trade. His shop at 47 Clinton Street, behind Jones Farm Supply, had been there for many years. Davies started as a blacksmith at age 15, learning the trade from Lewis Jones in Richville. In 1908 he moved to Gouverneur and became employed at the J. M. Webster shop at 47 Clinton Street. He began shoeing farm and work horses, repairing wagons, sleighs, steam boilers, and gas engines. Mr. Davies purchased the business upon Mr. Webster's death in 1925. When Davies retired, Wendell Jones, a cousin and employee for 29 years took over the business.

G. W. White and Sons of Watertown, the building supply company, has purchased W. S. Corbin and Sons at Gouverneur. Corbin's building and supply company began in 1892 as a coal business by W. Spencer Corbin. At age 22, Corbin started his coal business with \$600 to buy stock, a horse, wagon, scales, etc. Coal was beginning to replace wood as home/business heating fuel. Eventually Corbin branched out into building supplies.



B.O. KINNEY

Work began on the Clearview Motel on Route 11 beside the Clearview Restaurant. The contractor is Reddick & Sons of Gouverneur. Mr. & Mrs. Mario Pistolesi will operate the 12-unit motel, which will have a swimming pool, wall-to-wall carpeting, telephones, television, and electric heat. Additional units will be added in the future.

Also in 1967:

Sprague Funeral Home donates its ambulance to the Rescue Squad.

Volunteers begin construction on addition to rescue squad building.

New exhibition barn to be constructed at fair grounds by Ritchie Brothers, Gouverneur.

Fire burned out section of lace mill on Prospect Street. The building, now owned by Groveton Paper of Natural Dam, is used for storage.

1968

The W. T. Grant Department Store burns, it was built on East Main Street in 1952. The popular store, 50 by 165-foot building and its merchandise was extensively damaged, running into the several hundred thousand dollars. Fire walls on either side of the Grant store are credited with saving the adjacent buildings, the VanOrnum Furniture Store and the Acme Food Market.

Harold G. Beane, Jr., U. S. Army infantryman, has been the first Gouverneur Area casualty in Vietnam. He was killed in enemy action in the Vietnam War. The 20-year old from the Welch Road, Richville, was the son of Harold and Margaret Baker Beane. He entered the army soon after graduating from Gouverneur High.

Dorothy Phelps buys Jumbo's Dinette, 4 Clinton Street, from Robert Hilts. Mrs.

Phelps was a long-term employee of the Log Cabin Diner across the street. Jumbo's was enlarged to its present size in 1930. A lunch car was previously operated at this site.

Also in 1968:

Jay Corbin died. He was employed in the family owned W. S. Corbin and Sons lumber and coal business.

Canali's Hotel on West Main Street burns.

1969

Gouverneur Iron Works is expanding. The new facility on Factory Street has two overhead cranes weighing 13 ½ tons each and will allow the steel company to manufacture much larger pieces of structural steel. The new product storage and shipping area consists of the new cranes and a steel overhead runway. This new system, along with the old cranes, allow Gouverneur Iron Works to achieve greater productivity and provide better customer service.

Union Hall at the corner of William and Church Streets will be demolished. Charles Aurelio, owner of the Palms Restaurant next door on William Street, has purchased the building for additional parking for his restaurant. The first Union Hall, built in 1875 by Willet Bowne and Stephen VanDuzee, burned in 1877. It was immediately rebuilt and operated as theater, hardware store, and other businesses until 1922 when it burned again. Edwin Leahy, owner at that time, rebuilt it again. A hardware store, grocery store and theater were part of the building until it was permanently closed in the late 1950's.

Southwest Tech BOCES, Fowler, begins construction on a new vocational building. Vocational education has been

conducted in temporary buildings in Balmat since 1966. The new building, housing ten vocational programs, will be completed in 1970.

Also in 1969:

New A & P Supermarket opens on Clinton Street.

Youth center opens in the former California Fruit Market.

Gouverneur Masons move from East Main Street to Christian Science building on Trinity Avenue.

Construction begins on Dr. Harry Mills Memorial Park on Johnstown Street.

1970

MRS Printing, Inc., publisher of the Tribune Press, the weekly newspaper, has acquired a new printing press. In 1960 the corporation was printing an average of about 5,000 newspapers per week. This new press was necessary because the new owners, Richard T. Harding and Roland L. Watson, Jr., had increased weekly production to over 40,000 weekly publications. The company was printing newspapers for other area weeklies, and doing commercial printing for Kinney Drugs, Victory Markets, General Mills, Big M, P & C, and other companies, locally and throughout NY State.

Garns Supply, State Route 11 north of the village, opens a plumbing supply store. Garns is a branch of the Watertown store. Garns located here because of the number of construction companies located in and around the Gouverneur area.

Construction began on the new Harold and Mary Kinney Nursing Home attached to the E. J. Noble Hospital. The forty-bed nursing home was under consideration for some time, but the plans were expedited when the Kinneys made a very generous donation of 700 shares of Eastman Kodak stock.

Henry J. "Pete" Curtis, one of Gouverneur's most familiar personalities, retired from Northland Drugs. Mr. Curtis began his business career in 1913 at the Harvey & Smith Grocery Store. He later worked at the B. O. Kinney store. In 1917 he entered WWI and after returning to Gouverneur worked in the Perrin Drug store. He then formed a partnership with Willam VanSlyke, and they operated VanSlyke and Curtis Drug Store on East Main Street. The partnership was terminated in 1954 upon the death of Mr. VanSlyke. Mr. Curtis operated the drug store until it was purchased by the Kinney Corporation.

Cambay Housing, housing for senior citizens, began construction of West Main



W.T. GRANT CO.

Street along the Oswegatchie River. Subsidized affordable housing became available to seniors who found it difficult to continue owning and caring for the upkeep of their homes.

Also in 1970:

A month long-strike was held at Gouverneur Talc in Balmat.

Lee Hendricks opens air field on Scotch Settlement Road.

Dairy Queen opens at Main and Rock Island Streets.

New Grant store opens at Porter Plaza, just north of the village on U. S. Route 11.

1971

The newly completed vocational center, Southwest Tech, held its open house. The building was supposed to be completed for September of 1970, however contractors were not able to stick to their schedule. Doors opened to students the Monday following Thanksgiving vacation in 1970. Day and evening sessions are planned for area high school students and adults.

After 62 years as a family owned business, Matula Constantikes sells the Crystal Palace Restaurant. The Crystal Palace first opened its doors in 1906 as an ice cream parlor by then owners John Politis and George Anderson. In 1909 the Constantikes brothers purchased it. In 1942 it was changed from an ice cream parlor to a restaurant. It remained a family business for 62 years, with Matula being the last family member to own it.

Both as an ice cream parlor and restaurant, it was one of the most successful businesses on Main Street.

Gouverneur's second area golf course opens on Route 11 north of the Village. The 9-hole, Jim-Mar Golf Course is owned and operated by James and Margaret Rubar. In addition to the golf course, there is a driving range, clubhouse, pro shop, lounge and dining room.

St. Joe Minerals Corporation opened its newly completed \$30,000,000 facility. The new mine mill, craft shops, and surface facilities represent one of the most modern and automated mining facilities in the country. These improvements are expected to double the local division's production of zinc and lead concentrates.

Also in 1971:

One of the worst blizzards of the time, lasting three days and depositing over three feet of snow.

Anthony Pastizzo was elected mayor.

Henry Curtis died. He was a druggist for over 50 years.

Cambray Courts, senior housing, opens. Bank of Gouverneur and St. Lawrence

County National Bank merge.

1972

R. Joseph Weekes purchases the Foster Insurance Agency. The agency will be known as The Foster-Weekes Agency, Inc. The Foster Agency, through the acquisition of the former B. J. & M. J. Carpenter Agency, is the oldest continuous insurance organization in Gouverneur. In 1956 the Carpenter Agency was honored for 103 years of service with the Aetna Insurance company.

Bligh Dodds resigns as president-secretary of the Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair after serving 47 years with the fair. Gouverneur became the site of the county fair after Canton gave it up. Glenn Miller replaced Mr. Dodds.

Merton Van Sant retires as Superintendent of Gouverneur Central Schools. Before coming to Gouverneur in 1950 as director of elementary education, he held teaching and administrative positions in several St. Lawrence County schools. Joseph Netto was named to replace Mr. Van Sant.

St. Joe Minerals tests dog skills to sniff out ore. This was the first company in the continental U. S. to test abilities of a specially trained dog in this innovative search for minerals. The dog was brought in from Ontario, Canada. While the dog did locate previously placed minerals, the weather conditions were less than favorable and the tests were inconclusive. Another test run, when the weather is cooler and drier, is being considered. These dogs have met with success in Finland, Sweden, Russia and Canada.

In October, Fred Scozzafava died at the age of 82. In 1916 Fred founded Gouverneur Welding and Machine Works. He was a skilled tool and diemaker, and welder who provided these services for individuals, businesses and industries. In the 1950's, the business became "Gouverneur Auto Parts and Supply". The machine shop was phased out in 1980, but the parts store continues into 2005, operated by the second and third generation. Gouverneur Auto is the oldest family run business in Gouverneur 89 years later.

Also in 1972:

James Griffith named new police chief after serving 12 years in the Gouverneur Police Department.

Jack Scott retires from St. Lawrence National Bank.

Justice Paul D. Graves died after undergoing surgery.

Glenn Cole noted 50 years of banking.

1973

Charles I. Ruderman dies. He owned Ruderman Machinery Exchange, Carthage Compressed Steel, Inc., and Ryther and Pringle Co., Carthage. Born in Russia in 1901, he came to Gouverneur in 1904 at the age of three. He attended Gouverneur Schools and was a veteran of WWI. Mr. Ruderman owned a variety of industrial and real estate enterprises over a 40 year period.

William H. Foster, retired Borden plant manager died. Born in Pennsylvania, he graduated from Penn State University. He was an infantryman during WWI and began his career with the Nestle Co. in Cattaraugus, N.Y. In 1924 he moved to Richville and managed the Horton Ice Cream Co. Borden bought Horton's in 1928 and Mr. Foster was named superintendent.

Contents of the Cooperative Association feed mill were destroyed by fire. Three wooden elevators, three metal elevators and wooden bins containing approximately 400 tons of bulk feed were lost in the blaze. Volunteer firemen from several departments kept the fire from spreading to the one-story sheds and storage buildings attached to the mill.

Also in 1973:

Glenn Miller retires from village offices. He served the village in various capacities since 1935.

Bligh Dodds "Mr. Fair" dies.

Clayton Rush, Gouverneur publisher, dies. In 1929 he merged the Northern Tribune and the Gouverneur Free Press to form the Tribune Press.

1974

Robert Hay, very active in various racing associations, and the Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair, was elected president of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs at its 86th Annual Convention. As a farmer and harness racing driver, he was always



**BLIGH
DODDS**

interested in fairs. In various capacities he was associated with the Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair for 47 years. His wife Dorothy was also very active in the local fair, and for several years was appointed chaperone for the Fair Queen, and her court.

The Gouverneur Historical Association purchases the Presbyterian Manse to be turned into a local historical museum. The association felt that the brick building, located at 30 Church Street, with 11 rooms would make a perfect building for a museum. The manse was built in 1904.

John Rouse, founder of Rouse Construction, and a multi-million dollar construction empire, dies at age 72. Some of the many companies he founded and oversaw were: Cives, Augusta Iron works, Augusta, Maine, Gouverneur Iron Works, Northeast Constructors, etc. Rouse left his Syracuse area home at 15 with his few personal possessions and began seeking a life as a carpenter and builder. His first job in Tully, N.Y., gained him experience as a carpenter, and his ambition built him a construction empire.

Also in 1974:

Clara Pistolesi dies. She and her husband owned the Roma and Clearview Restuarants.

Earl Laidlaw, Gouverneur community leader, dies. He became a farmer at age 17 upon the death of his father, and was very active in NY State agricultural programs.

Johnstown Road landfill closes.

Virginia McAllister, first president of the hospital auxiliary, dies.

Town of Gouverneur purchases the Rite Equipment building for offices, truck garage, and maintenance space.

Camp Drum is renamed Fort Drum.

1975

Ground was broken for a new bandstand in the village park. The previous bandstand had shown its age and had to be replaced. The village park, which has been a focal point of the downtown area, was established in 1834. For most of its life the park has had a bandstand. Probably the most famous person to speak from its bandstands was Teddy Roosevelt in 1912. The new bandstand will be built mostly with volunteers and donated equipment.

The municipal building is being renovated. The first floor will house the fire and police departments. The second floor will have the village offices, justice office, court/meeting room, storage areas, and rest rooms. The basement will contain the jail and maintenance department.

Also in 1975:

Harold Dane, local sheep farmer, shot to death. Edward Schleppi was arrested.

Gordon McPherson, a vice president of Kinney's, dies.

Evert LaForty, who started LaForty Bus Lines, dies.

1976

The First American Baptist Church burns. The church was dedicated in 1895. The marble shell was all that remained after the fire was over. The estimated loss was in excess of \$400,000. The pipe organ, all the interior furnishings, and interior walls were lost in the blaze. The firemen kept the fire from the parsonage located only 20 feet away. Plans for rebuilding the church began days after the fire.

The W. T. Grant store goes out of business, and 70 employees lose their jobs. Grant's went into bankruptcy and 358 stores nation wide were also closed. Only 200 stores remain open in the retail chain.

The Gouverneur Morris Yorker and the Marble City Yorker Clubs purchased the Orsborneville one-room schoolhouse on Rock Island Road. The clubs will clean up and make the necessary repairs before turning the building over to the Gouverneur Museum. The school existed from 1876 to 1942. The Gouverneur Museum had a replica of the schoolhouse built for their float in the Bicentennial Parade, 2005. The replica is on permanent display on the back lawn of the museum.

765 kV powerline to be run through the north country generates a great deal of controversy. Many meetings were held, sometimes very heated, before the powerline was completed.

The bicentennial time capsule is buried at the Memorial Arch in the village park. The time capsule is a cement vault containing many items donated by the community. The time capsule will be opened July 4, 2005, the Town of Gouverneur Bicentennial.

Also in 1976:

Long-time high school coach Frank LaFalce retires after 24 years with the Gouverneur School District.

Ames Department Store opens in Grant's Store. Gouverneur has a department store back.

The United States Bicentennial is celebrated with activities throughout the year.

Gouverneur Museum is dedicated.

Lois Mitchell, librarian, retires after 34 years. Some of her family fought in the Civil War and items of Calvin Mitchell are in the Gouverneur Museum.

1977

The Gouverneur Tribune Press and the Pulaski Democrat merge. John and Ruth Gerdes, owners of the Pulaski newspaper, and Roland Watson and Richard Harding, owners of the Tribune Press, felt that they would better be able to withstand the pressures of rising costs, and be in a better position for future expansion if and when the time were to come. The merger should provide greater financial strength, without compromising either newspaper.

Some senior citizen residents at Cambray Courts had to be evacuated because of rising waters of the Oswegatchie River. The river rose more than five feet in less than a week. Several roads in the area were closed due to flooding. Village administrator Frank Noble reports that the Oswegatchie River is at its highest reported level.

Fire destroyed the Gouverneur Savings and Loan, WIGS radio station, the law offices of Nelson, Nelson, and O'Donnell, and Atkinson Real Estate. The building is beyond repair and will be razed.

The Jones & Laughlin Iron Plant in St. Lawrence County suspends operation due to the declining demand from the steel industry. The reduced requests for iron ore leaves approximately 300 without jobs, many from the Gouverneur area.

Also in 1977:

The blizzard of 1977 in February was one the worst in nearly a century.

Protests continue to focus on the 765 kV powerline.

Kinney Drugs expands into Carbone's Shoe store.

The Gouverneur Library hosts Nonnie Caswell's art work. Nonnie is well known for her Gouverneur Village scenes.

1978

The number three talc mine in Talcville is closing. The six miners employed there will be absorbed into Gouverneur Talc, and will not lose their jobs. The reason cited by George Erdman, General Manager at the local Vanderbilt division, is a government ruling forcing the talc company to label the product as "asbestos". "Asbestos" labeling has forced customers from buying the talc because they cannot afford the safety regulations that go with it. Also, additional mandated safety regulations by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) have been a factor.

Fort Drum expansion considerations are underway. Considerations involve additional housing, schooling, wetlands

on the base, wildlife inhabitants, civilian health care services, etc. Many studies will be made over the next few years.

Also in 1978:

The new Gouverneur Savings and Loan opens at its burned out location at the corner of Church and John Streets.

Richard and Mary Jones buy D & K Farm Store on Somerville Road (U. S. Route 11).

The Lavack Farms receive trophy for the highest production farm in Northeast for farms with over 100 cows.

St. Joe goes on strike.

1979

Harold Kinney, only son of Burt O. Kinney of Kinney Drugs, dies at age 82. Kinney was a retired president and past chairman of the board of Kinney Drugs, Inc. He had been associated since 1919 with the drug firm founded by his father in 1903. Harold and his wife Mary donated a sizable amount to money for the nursing home that bears their names. Kinney Drugs has been a major employer in the area as the corporate offices of the drug chain have always been in Gouverneur.

A milking parlor and adjoining bulk tank are added at the Gouverneur Fair grounds. The new six-stall milking parlor and milk room have been installed in the St. Lawrence County and 4-H Building in the cattle judging area. Fairgoers will be able to observe the amount of milk collected from each purebred cow as it is collected in release jars. Previously cows were milked by their owners in the cattle barns.

Also in 1979:

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War voted to disband due to declining membership. The Gouverneur unit organized in 1921. The first national unit started in Ohio in 1885.

Fort Drum to expand by 850 troops.

St. Joe strike ends after 14 months.

New Dairy Queen has grand opening. It moved from the corner of Main and Rock Island Streets to the corner of Main and N. Gordon Streets.

1980

John U. Green was the recipient of the "Fireman of the Year Award" presented by the St. Lawrence County Fire Chiefs Association. This is his 36th year of service in fire fighting. He has been a volunteer fireman, chief in both Hermon and Richville, and deputy fire coordinator in St. Lawrence County. He has owned funeral homes in the area, and a furniture store.

St. Joe Minerals Corporation located a

large deposit of zinc (a new 2.5 million ton zinc ore deposit) at their Pierrpeont, N. Y. drilling site. This find will help St. Joe remain strong in the market. The ore will be transported to its Balmat mill for processing and refining before being sold and shipped to other companies for smelting.

Gale Ferguson has assumed ownership and management of Ferguson Printing Company, established 20 years ago by his father, Charles Ferguson. His father had worked in the printing business for years before starting his own printing business on Sterling Street and then moving it to Rock Island Road. Gale worked for his father full time after leaving college in 1969. Doretha, his mother, has also been associated with the business since it started.

The National Bank of Northern New York on Church Street will merge with Key Banks, Inc. The new name will be the National Bank of Northern New York, N. A. It is one of several merges involving the banking industry in recent years.

Dr. Nyles Crouner retires after 45 years as an osteopathic physician. He practiced medicine for 11 years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before coming to Gouverneur. His office has been on the corner of Main and Rock Island Streets all these years.

Also in 1980:

Village Administrator, Frank Noble resigns.

Glenn B. Johnson, retired police officer, dies.

Roy T. Allen, long time race secretary of the Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair, dies.

Many from the Gouverneur area attend the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid.

1981

Paul Sprague, funeral director, dies at age 72. He graduated from embalming school in 1936 and began working with his father in the Sprague Funeral Home. After his father, Lynn Sprague, died he continued to operate the funeral home in partnership with his brother Frank, until 1977 when he retired.

Dr. Arthur Head dies. He was a physician in Gouverneur for over 40 years. He aided in the establishment of the first heart diagnostic clinic in this area in 1955.

The Fuller Sugarhouse, owned and operated by Wilbur and Norma Fuller, has been producing maple syrup since the Civil War. Maple syrup has been made here yearly for over 120 years. Visitors from not only our area visit the facility, but also

from Japan, Africa, India, etc.

Also in 1981:

Ernest Griebisch retires after 32 years from the New York State Police.

Barbara Gale is appointed first female village trustee by new Mayor, Carl Denecia.

New village sewage facility will be located on Route 58 between Gouverneur and Natural Dam.

Charles Cooke, District Legislator, retired state trooper, community leader, and friend to many, dies.

Gladys O'Neil is still bowling at 89.

1982

State and village police arrest 14. This "round up" is one of biggest in the area since drugs have become a problem. The arrests culminated several months of intense investigation by authorities. This undercover operation and others to follow will hopefully reduce the sale and use of illegal drugs.

Charles Ferguson dies. He was owner of Ferguson Printing Company which he ran with his wife, Doretha, and son, Gale. He was editor of the "Sports News", which was very popular with local sports fans. He worked for several years in various capacities of the printing business, before opening his own printing business.

Mater Dei College, Ogdensburg, will begin holding classes in the Supreme Court Building on Main Street. Local students will no longer have to travel from Gouverneur to secure a two-year associates degree.

Also in 1982:

Warren Miller turns 90. He worked in local printing businesses for over 50 years.

Harvey Gleason, long-time banker, dies at age 83. His great-grandfather, Levi, was one of the early settlers in Pitcarin. Gleason Street is named after his ancestors.

Glenn Miller, village engineer and administrator for over 35 years, dies.

The dam by the powerhouse is being repaired. This dam generates electricity for the village.

1983

Mason R. Smith, former Gouverneur Tribune Press owner dies at age 73. Mr. Smith embarked on a life long career in journalism. He wrote for daily and weekly newspapers in throughout New York and New England. He was owner, editor and publisher of the weekly Gouverneur Tribune Press from 1937 to 1966, when he sold it. Throughout his newspaper career he was involved in several press and journalism organizations.

Gouverneur Motor Sales was demolished after the property was sold for the new Carl's Drugs and new P & C Market on the site. Dominic Colloca sold the auto dealership site to make way for the new P & C. Carl's Drug's will move into the old P & C. Widener Truck Stop was previously on this site.

John Deere Industrial Equipment comes to Gouverneur. Norris Dolly of Schroon Lake Tractors, Inc. has purchased Sweeney Equipment Co. New equipment, parts, and service will be available to customers. Dozers, crawler loaders, fork-lifts, log skidders, log loaders, and other forestry equipment will be available for sale and service.

Jeffrey Sibley achieved the almost impossible. He had perfect attendance for his 13 years of schooling. From kindergarten to graduation, Jeff never missed a day of school. Jeffrey had the longest perfect attendance record in the history of the school district.

Groveton Paper has been sold to James River Corp. Groveton was only one of five paper plants owned by Diamond International Corp. that was sold as part of a \$175 million deal. James River will keep the plant open and 70 laid off workers will be called back.

Also in 1983:

Calvin and Suzanne Richardson open Mid-Town-Market.

J. J. Newberry celebrates 60 years in Gouverneur. It was the 50th J. J. Newberry store when it opened in 1923.

The Log Cabin Restaurant on Clinton Street was razed by fire as the building had become uninhabitable.

1984

Greg's Restaurant opens at corner of Rock Island and Main Streets. Greg and Carolyn Petitto, owners, will have Italian and American food available for eating in or take-outs. Greg's family has been in the restaurant business for years, being part owner of the Roma Restaurant on West Main Street.

Quarry Lane Apartments were dedicated on July 9. Affordable housing was made possible because of local people, and state and federal funding. Low and moderate income residents would be able to afford new convenient housing off Hailesboro Street. Quarry Lanes closed in 2004 because of financial woes and deteriorating conditions

Dr. Foster Drury, third generation doctor, died. Dr. Benjamin Drury, his grandfather, was the first Dr. Drury. Dr. Frederick Drury, his father was the second

Dr. Drury. The three Dr. Drurys served the people of the Gouverneur area for over 100 years. Dr. Benjamin Drury started his practice in 1876 and Dr. Foster Drury retired in March 1984.

Also in 1984:

New sewage treatment plant started.

Ruth Easton, a teacher for 43 years, died at the age of 92.

McDonald's Restaurant opens in Gouverneur.

New and larger P & C Market opens.

1985

The last elm tree in the village park died and was cut down. The elms were originally planted by Peter VanBuren in the early 1860s. VanBuren had a hotel on Main Street across from the park. Young boys would assist Mr. VanBuren in hauling water in barrels from the Oswegatchie River to provide moisture for the young trees.

Donald D. Peck, Town of Gouverneur Supervisor, dies. His many years as Supervisor saved taxpayers money. He carefully watched over every dollar that was spent, as is it were his own. Peck was Town Supervisor 1950-1963 and 1976-1985, for a total of 22 years.

Something new came to Gouverneur this year, male strippers. The Palms Restaurant on William Street brought not only this new entertainment, but it was accompanied with several angry protesters. The all-male dance review entertained a large crowd, but the novelty of these entertainers faded over time and eventually disappeared from the scene.

Also in 1985:

Richard Harding, president of MRS Printing, retires and Roland Watson becomes president.

Dr. Ernest Adler, physician for over 45 years, died. He was born in Germany in 1907 and began his practice in Gouverneur in 1939.

The new lagoon type sewage treatment plant began operation.

1986

Kurt Maier, long time teacher and coach at Gouverneur High School, died. He came to Gouverneur in 1936 as a physical education teacher and coach. He introduced wrestling at GHS and for many years coached varsity sports.

John Burgess becomes sixth president of Kinney Drugs, Inc. He succeeded Norton Taylor who retired as president, but will serve as Chairman of the Board.

The village board approves a new water tank to replace the three decaying water tanks. The new concrete tank will hold

1 ½ million gallons of water, and will involve the construction of a new transmission main.

A freak storm strikes the western part of Gouverneur. Trees and power lines were down between Gouverneur and Wegatchie with several buildings damaged or destroyed. Downed power lines resulted in the death of several horses and Dale Denesha who tried to help the horses. Witnesses saw several funnel clouds, indicating that at least some of the damage may be due to tornadoes.

Also in 1986:

Wendell Jones, considered Gouverneur's last blacksmith, dies.

The king-size Pep-o-mint Lifesaver roll arrived to be erected on Main Street. Edward J. Noble, credited with discovering the lifesaver candy, was a Gouverneur native.

Robert Hay, well known race horse driver and fair enthusiast (racing secretary and vice-president), dies.

1987

Trackside Plaza opens on Factory Street with three new stores. The plaza has been built and owned by Ronald Blair. Two more locations are available for rent. A coin operated car wash is under construction.

Joseph F. McAllaster dies at age 86. The McAllaster Family had various businesses in Gouverneur since 1887. Five generations of McAllasters have owned and operated the family businesses. The first business was a gristmill and the last being the J. E. McAllaster Oil Co., Inc., which was sold to the Augsbury Corp. in 1977.

Also in 1987:

St. Joe Resources is sold to Horsehead Industries, Inc., and will be known as Zinc Corporation of America, better known as ZCA.

Laura Slate becomes Gouverneur's first female mayor. Mrs. Slate, a democrat, defeated republican Eldon Conklin.

Gertrude Goodnough graduates from Mater Dei College at age 77, proving you are never too old to continue your education.

The new swimming pool opens at Gouverneur High School.

1988

The Gouverneur Morris Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is disbanded after 88 years. The local DAR's decision to disband was because membership and active

participation have declined in the past few years. The original charter of 1899 had 19 members. In 1915 there were 66 members, almost the highest participation in its 88-year history. Eligibility for membership requires lineal descent from a soldier or patriot of the American Revolution. Existing members will transfer to other chapters or become members-at-large.

Edward H. Case dies. He practiced law for over 50 years, most of them in Gouverneur (since 1936). He was a descendent of Joseph Haile, the first settler in the town of Fowler. Hailesboro was named after him.

The eagle on the Memorial Arch is vandalized. Three teens pried the 82-year old eagle loose, and then it fell to the ground causing considerable damage to it. The eagle was placed on the arch in 1906, a year after the arch was built, through the generosity of the Dean Family. A fund drive to repair the eagle has begun, as it will cost several thousand dollars. The teens were arrested and are in the county jail.

Also in 1988:

David Whitton is appointed permanent Police Chief.

Richard French buys Sprague Funeral Home. The Sprague family owned the funeral home since 1900.

Harold Storie, former village historian and radio enthusiast, dies at age 90.

The solid waste transfer site construction has begun.

The Gralyn Theater Marquee had to be torn down because its deteriorating condition made it a safety hazard.

Lynde's Dairy Bar is converted to a floral center.

1989

The "Fix the Eagle" fund has surpassed its goal. The cost to restore the eagle with a gold leaf finish is \$17,500. The total collected was over \$17,600.

OffTrack Betting (OTB) opens in the old Bank of Gouverneur Building at the corner of Main and Park Streets. Four to six people will begin initial employment, and possibly more if needed.

Gouverneur has been selected as the site of a new 750-bed medium security correctional facility. The facility will be built on Scotch Settlement Road, just outside the village limits. The job employment opportunities is the biggest thing to hit Gouverneur and the surrounding area in many years. Village and town officials were elated that Gouverneur was selected. Gouverneur and St. Lawrence County will benefit from the hundreds of people the correctional facility will employ.

Also in 1989:

The sewage plant will expand to meet prison needs.

Matula Constantikes, 85, dies. She worked and operated the Crystal Palace Restaurant from 1934-1971.

The Gralyn Theater closes.

1990

Eugenia Huntress, 90, dies. She was a retired Junior High English teacher and Gouverneur Town Historian. She was also the first president of the Gouverneur Historical Society as well as one of its founders. Mrs. Huntress was very instrumental in the development of the Gouverneur Museum.

George Burgess, who was associated with Kinney Drugs for over 54 years, dies at age 85. He served as a store manager,

vice-president, director, president, and chairman of the board for seven years. He retired in 1983.

Also in 1990:

The Gouverneur museum expands with a new building build by the Southwest Tech building trades class. Antique farm equipment, an old-fashioned kitchen, and other memorabilia will be housed there.

The restored eagle was rededicated on the Memorial Arch on Memorial Day. The restoration took 21 months.

The Gouverneur Rescue Squad breaks ground for its new building on Route 11 South.

D. J. Walters buys Seaker-Graves auto dealership.

Blevins Brothers buys North Country Ford dealership, formerly Dodds Motor Company.

1991

Ice storm leaves over 6500 without power for two days. This was one of the worst ice storms that can be recalled in the tri-county area. Downed tress and power lines made for a very uncomfortable few days, however north country residents took the inconvenience in stride.

For the first time in history, eleven Gouverneur High students and four chaperones visited Russia. The Leningrad visit not only opened their eyes as to how some foreigners lived, but also gave them a renewed appreciation of their own country.

Also in 1991:

Carl Girard retires after 44 years as an engineer with the railroad.

Rescue Squad dedicates their new building.

Ernest Deuval, 77, aide to Congressman Robert McEwen, dies.

Virginia Cummings challenges her sister Laura Slates's re-election as village mayor.

1992

The Gouverneur Morris Mansion is being restored by the Resner Family of Peekskill, N. Y. Gouverneur Morris, after whom Gouverneur is named, had the home built in 1809 as a summer home or hunting retreat. They purchased the property because real estate downstate was so expensive. They did not realize that while the buying cost was low, the amount of time, money and effort needed to go into making it a comfortable home would take several years.

A miner's memorial is placed at the Gouverneur Museum. The local miners union felt that "recognition should be given to honor workers we have lost". The



MUSEUM

Gouverneur Historical Association and union agreed that the Gouverneur Museum would be an ideal site for the memorial since it is geographically central to Lewis, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence Counties. All three counties have had a rich history of mining.

The rescue squad pays tribute to Henry "Hank" Stone, 24-year member. Hank has the longest tenure in the rescue squad. Over the years he had saved and helped countless individuals, who will be forever in his debt.

Also in 1992:

500 inmates arrive at the correctional facility.

Kinney Warehouse expansion brings more jobs to the area.

Philip Nelson, a lawyer for 63 years, most of them in Gouverneur, dies at age 92.

1993

Lacey Jones, 22-year wrestling coach at Gouverneur High School is inducted into the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame. Mr. Jones came to Gouverneur in 1957, where he taught and coached until his retirement in 1992. Wrestling was his major coaching sport, with an impressive 253-41-5 record over 22 years. His longest stretch of winning consecutive matches was 42.

The co-generation plant at Natural Dam, adjacent to James River Paper Company, was dedicated. The co-gen plant was constructed to provide low cost electricity to the paper company.

Rev. Stanley Brown, long-time minister of the First Methodist Church in Gouverneur and the North Gouverneur Church, dies. He was pastor in the Gouverneur area from 1959-1980, serving one of the longest tenures of any area pastors. Following his retirement from First Methodist Church of Massena, he returned to Gouverneur to live, and became part-time minister at the United Church of Richville.

Also in 1993:

Dr. Edward Koch, a dentist for 41 years in Gouverneur, dies.

Benjamin Barker compiles a history of aviation and aviators, "A Heritage of Aviation", from the Gouverneur area.

The Foster-Weekes Insurance Agency purchases the Ward L. Howard Agency.

1994

Several teachers from the Gouverneur Teachers Association picket the school board over not having a contract for almost two years. This was only one of very few incidents over the years when

the school district and teachers were far apart on negotiating items.

Jumbo Belmore, founder of Jumbo's Diner in 1950, dies. Jumbo's has been an institution in Gouverneur since 1950, and continues to serve its patrons today, 55 years later. There have been several owners of Jumbo's since Mr. Belmore's retirement, but the name has remained the same.

The co-generation plant is shut down until 2001, under a deal with Niagara Mohawk. Steam will be provided to the paper mill, but not electricity. Niagara Mohawk claims there is too much electricity out there to buy from independent power producers.

Also in 1994:

Gouverneur is very familiar with severe winter weather, but in January the area was hit with a huge snowstorm where at times snow was falling at 5 inches per hour.

Paul Cappellino, 88, dies. He owned and operated Cappellino Abattoir for 40 years.

Margaret Herring Gleason dies. She was a long time Social Studies teacher at Gouverneur High.

1995

P & C Foods leases the vacant Great American Food Store at Ames Plaza to the Village for \$1. The site will be used by the village for a recreation center. P & C also donated \$10,000 to be used for equipment and to develop programs for the youth and the community.

Gouverneur area residents heard of a new term in July, "microburst". The severe storm toppled trees and smashed several buildings in its path. The storm started in Michigan and traveled to the western part of Massachusetts. The fierce storm traveling at over 80 miles per hour split trees apart, a sight many had never seen before, uprooted trees crashed into homes, garages, on to power lines, etc.

The J. J. Newberry Store closes. Newberry's is the second oldest business in Gouverneur, Kinney Drugs is the oldest, founded in 1903. Newberry's opened its doors in December, 1923. The Newberry Store expanded twice since its 1923 opening. The first expansion was in 1929 into the Harry Smith Grocery Store, and the second was in 1952 into the Rodger's Department Store.

Also in 1995:

Ward L. Howard, insurance broker, dies.

Samuel Kaplan, owner of Kaplan's Clothing Store, dies.

Dodd's Ford Dealership building is razed. Rite Aide Drugs will build a store at the corner of West Main and Clinton.

The Co-op feed mill is closed. The store will remain open.

Roy Harrington, Gouverneur's Ab Lincoln, dies. Mr. Harrington's look resembled Lincoln's, and he visited area schools portraying Lincoln and handing out Lincoln pennies.

1996

Frank LaFalce, long-time teacher and coach, is killed in an automobile accident.

His wife Mary Ellen was seriously



injured. Coach LaFalce was one of the most respected teachers and coaches at Gouverneur High. He came to Gouverneur in 1952 and retired in 1976. He had 26 champion teams in basketball, baseball, and football in his 24 years at Gouverneur.

Joseph Rositano, owner of the Casablanca Restaurant for 30 years, dies. He was born in Italy and came to the United States in 1936. After serving in the Army, he worked in Massena until he bought the restaurant. He and his wife, "Rosie" ran the restaurant until they retired in 1976.

Also in 1996:

The Gouverneur fire call boxes, no longer in use, are sold.

Merton VanSant, local educator, and Superintendent of Gouverneur Schools for several years, dies.

Tracey Storch, long-time administrator of E. J. Noble Hospital and Kinney Nursing Homes, dies.

Natural Gas line comes to the Village of Gouverneur.

1997

The very popular Roma Restaurant closes after almost 50 years in business. The restaurant opened in 1948 by Paul and Nora DeCastro. It has been a family restaurant with various members owning it and working there over the years. The last owner, Judy DeCastro, sold the building to William Farley who has no plans to use it as a restaurant.

Buffalo roam at the Shawn and Jenny Storie farm on the Cream on the Valley Road. They have been at the farm for about seven years. The original herd of three has grown to nine. Stories say they are hardy animals, easy to care for, and they are happiest during the north country winters.

Gouverneur Museum gets a copy of a photograph of young Abe Lincoln taken about 1840 without his famous beard. Albert Kaplan, son of Sol Kaplan, owner of Kaplan's Store in Gouverneur, purchased the daguerreotype in New York City because he thought it was Lincoln. He was right, as it has been authenticated by several prominent experts in the United States.

The legislative race for district 5 in the Town of Gouverneur ended in a dead heat between County Legislator William Lacy and Veterinarian Timothy Monroe. They each received 795 votes, in a first time in history for a county race. Before a decision was reached as to who would be the winner, the ice storm in January of 1998 put everyone's life on hold. By the time things got back to normal in February not much was said about the election, and Bill Lacy stayed on as legislator.

Also in 1997:

Town of Fowler spends over \$16,000 on beaver control. In the past several years, beavers have become major nuisances to the Gouverneur area, flooding farm lands, etc.

Betsy Deval, grand niece of American Artist Frederick Remington, dies. Mrs. Deval was very active in civic organizations.

1998

January 1998 started out with the worst ice storm in Northern New York and Eastern Ontario, Canada, history. Freezing rain accumulated on everything from a thickness of ½ - 1 inch. It brought down trees, power and telephone lines, utility poles, etc. Over hundreds of thousands of people were without power, heat, and telephone service from just a few days to several weeks. Tens of thousands of utility poles and miles and miles of power lines had to be brought in to replace those damaged or destroyed by the weight of the ice. Utility crews were brought in from around the country and worked night and day to restore the area

to pre-ice days. Shelters were set up in almost every community. Generators flew off the shelves by those who were fortunate enough to be able to afford them. People drove hundreds of miles to purchase generators and tractor trailers brought in hundreds to sell to Northern New York customers. People who had wood stoves and/or generators took in friends, neighbors, and/or relatives. Military personnel from Fort Drum went from home to home to check on people's needs. Amazingly, only a couple of people died due to the ice storm.

The Civil War Flag at the Gouverneur Library was taken to the Textile Conservation Workshop, South Salem, NY for restoration. The American Flag was one that Gouverneur Civil War Soldiers brought back home. The majority of the several thousand's of dollars to restore the flag was from Gouverneur Middle School students who produced a Post-Card Pictorial History of Gouverneur. The flag hangs in the library once again in a new air-tight wood and glass case.

Also in 1998:

Flooding of bridges and roads throughout the area due to the ice storm.

Farmers worked together to get cows milked and to keep their operations going.

Robert Hayden, banker for 40 years and civil leader, dies.

John Garner, long-time school administrator and Boy Scout leader, dies.

Dierdre Scozzafava wins NYS Assembly race. Her opponent was Frank Pastizzo, also a Gouverneur native.

1999

The Route 11 bridge that spans the Oswegatchie River in downtown Gouverneur is replaced by the NYS Department of Transportation. A temporary two-lane bridge was installed beside the existing bridge, so that work on demolishing it and building a new structure would not necessitate causing traffic delays. The new bridge is the seventh bridge across the Oswegatchie over the past 194 years. It is designed and

being built to last at least 50 years.

The Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department inducts Joanne Julien, its first female fire fighter in its 104-year history. During her training and probationary period she will be able to assist at fires as needed, but not as a full-fledged fire fighter. Her husband Shane and the firemen have been very supportive. She appreciates the time the firemen take to help and explain things to her as she trains and learns this new occupation.

Also in 1999:

Ashton "Ted" Liscum turns 100. He has lived in Gouverneur his entire life. He was mayor, fire chief, fair board member, and was involved in many civic organizations over the years.

Foster-Weekes Agency celebrates 150 years of continuous operation.

Margaret Nulty, WWII veteran and long time social studies teacher, dies at age 90.

The old water tank, a landmark on Dodge Place which once supplied the village and old milk plant with water, is dismantled.

Glenn Cole, Gouverneur banker for 53 years, dies. He was 94.

2000

The Gralyn Theater is demolished. The Gralyn Theater was the last movie theater in Gouverneur. Since the late 1800's Gouverneur had one or more movie theaters. Union Hall was the second most popular after the Gralyn. For various reasons, all had gone by the wayside with the exception of the Gralyn. Finally it was time for the Gralyn to bite the dust literally, as its walls fell to the ground. The Gralyn was closed in 1989 due to poor attendance, as local movie fans went to multi-plex cinemas in Watertown or elsewhere.

Clarence Evans, probably Gouverneur's best know roaming photographer, dies at age 79. He shot millions of frames of films in his 48 years of picture taking. He shot pictures for the Tribune Press from 1952 until his death. His photos of Gouverneur High sporting events, etc. made him friends amongst staff and students. He learned photography at R. I. T. where he studied for two years. During World War II, he got his pilot's license, and was an Air Force pilot. His Air Force uniform is on display at the Gouverneur Museum.

Paula Towne's mural of "What's so great about Gouverneur" is unveiled at Arts in the Park. The mural is on display in the Municipal Building. Over 100 area children and adults stopped by as she



worked on the mural and assisted with their talents and suggestions.

Also in 2000:

Ashton Liscum dies at age 100.

Frederick Kuehl, former general manager at International Talc, dies.

2001

Pine Grove Apartments, a complex for seniors begins construction on W. Barney Street. One-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments will be available for seniors meeting certain NYS guidelines. The secure facility is handicapped accessible and has limited apartments for handicapped individuals. A local doctor will have an office there making it very convenient for the residents. The community room will be available for in-house activities and outside use.

The First United Methodist Church is having the parish house razed to make room for an addition to the church. The addition will house a small chapel, offices, children's rooms and several meeting rooms. It will be completely handicapped accessible. The Methodist Church has always been generous with its space to the community, and this addition will enhance its generosity.

Also in 2001:

The new Main Street Bridge is dedicated.

Gouverneur Masons lodge celebrates 150 years.

Brian Leonard set a NYS record in football for career touchdowns. He will have a scholarship to Rutgers University.

The Route 58 bridge in the Town of Fowler collapses when hit by a truck.

2002

The medical clinic at Pine Grove Apartments will open with Dr. Maria Jereva in residence. The medical space in the senior housing complex will be Dr. Jereva's new office. The family practitioner will continue to see her existing patients, as well as any new seniors residing at Pine Grove.

Also in 2002:

Americo "Red" Marchione dies. Red will be remembered for the wonderful shoe repairs that came from his shoe repair shop and his involvement in the community.

Nelson Winters, "Mr. Gouverneur" notes 50 years of service to the village in various capacities.

Ames Department Store announces its closing.

Eleanor Jackson, civic leader and 46 year employee at Kinney Drugs, dies at age 80.

2003

The Gouverneur Village budget has been very tight for several years and after much controversy, the village board of trustees voted to eliminate the police dispatchers as a cost savings to the village. The special meeting filled the room and the hall just outside the meeting room. Most in attendance felt the dispatchers were needed, but the board felt that since the county 911 emergency service system was in place that it was a duplication.

John Angus "Gus" McPherson dies. He was an avid "rock hound" and was a member of several mineral clubs. He discovered a new specimen that the Albany Museum named Angusite in his honor. Many of his finds were donated to museums and colleges in the U.S.

Also in 2003:

Emily Seaker dies. She was a civic leader and Gouverneur promoter. She was also very active in the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution).

David Friedrich is the first local soldier killed in the Iraq War.

Ontario Zinc buys ZCA (Zinc Corporation of America).

Wise Buys opens in the old Ames store.

2004

The Gouverneur area doesn't often have tornadoes, however one touched down here with limited damage. Most damage to the area was the uprooting of and damage to trees. While there was some damage to structures, the most serious was a huge section of rubber roof lifted from the front

of the Smithers Tire Service building and deposited nearby. The weather service said that these winds were about 70 miles per hour, the weakest winds to be classified as a tornado. The tornado luckily only covered an area of about 100 by 300 yards.

The Community Bank notes 125 years. It started as the Bank of Gouverneur in 1879. Prior to moving to its present location at the corner of Grove and E. Main Streets, the bank was at the corner of Park and E. Main Streets, directly across the street.

Nelson Winters "Mr. Gouverneur" dies at age 93. He had lived in Gouverneur, except for a short time after college, his entire life. He was very active in village and civic affairs throughout his life. In 2002 he was recognized with serving the village for 50 years in some elected or appointed capacity. His most recent position was Village Historian, which he had to relinquish because of health problems. No one knew more about the Gouverneur area than did Mr. Winters. He could answer any question about the area's history right up until the time of his death. He was also a boyhood friend of Norman Rockwell, famous artist/illustrator. A Rockwell sketch of Nelson as a child hangs in the Gouverneur Museum. It is on long-term loan from his family.

Tent caterpillars invade the Gouverneur area. They were everywhere: trees, sides of buildings, etc. They were a real nuisance, especially when hanging down from trees and you would walk into them. Throughout the summer area residents battled the caterpillars. Some even called in professional exterminators to eliminate them. Some battles were won and others lost. By late fall the millions of caterpillars were gone, back into their cocoons.

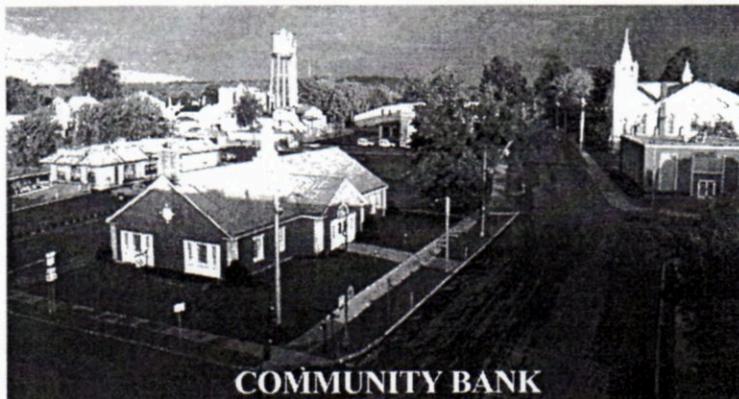
Also in 2004:

Richville, our neighbor to the north, celebrates its bicentennial.

Save-A-Lot grocery store opens in former Pete's Big M.

Nice N Easy convenience store/gas station opens on W. Main Street.

Several well know and respected area residents died in 2004: Frederick Hopper, Henry "Hank" Stone, Cecile Byrns, James Griffith, Ronald Cochrane, Roger Farr, Robert Johnson, and Emerson "Doc" Orford.



COMMUNITY BANK

HANK
STONE



2005

2005 is the Bicentennial year for the Town of Gouverneur. The Bicentennial Committee, which was organized in the summer of 2004, met for over a year to plan the events for the year. The committee members were: Donald Peck, Donna Sawyer, Lauri Andrews, Irma Ashley, Lawrence Graves, Eldon Conklin, Annette Farrell, Charles Titus, Colin Graves, James Bowhall, Wayne Hogle, and Joseph Laurenza. Hundreds of people helped in various capacities to pull off this year long celebration. There were several activities throughout the year to commemorate this 200th birthday.

It started out with an essay contest open to all students in Gouverneur Schools. While the participation was not as great as expected, the quality of the entries was very good. The Gouverneur Kiwanis Club donated \$450 to be given to the nine winners.

The Gouverneur Museum hosted a kick-off event at the Museum in May. This was a combination social function and fund-raiser with the proceeds going for Bicentennial events. This was well attended and almost \$2000 was raised.

The Gouverneur Museum and a subcommittee of the Bicentennial Committee published a coloring book for young children, filled with pages of Gouverneur sketches depicting its history, to be colored in. For the older children and adults, an activities book was printed. This book contained all sorts of word puzzles, jumbles, fill-ins, etc., again all relating to the history of the area. Donations for both books were solicited from friends of the museum so that the books would be free. One thousand copies of each book were printed. The books were very popular with both the children and adults, and the coloring book has had a second printing.

On July 4th the Time Capsule buried in 1976 at the 200th anniversary of the United States was dug up at the Memorial Arch. The cement vault (time capsule) leaked and the items had to be dried out. They were on display at the Gouverneur Museum all summer. The new time capsule, to be opened in 2055, is in the Gouverneur Museum.

Retha Brown, one of Gouverneur's most prominent citizens, was selected to be grand marshal of the parade. Mrs. Brown has been very active in the Gouverneur Community ever since her arrival here. Her husband Stanley Brown was long time-pastor of the First United Methodist Church, and when he retired from the ministry, they returned to Gouverneur to live.

The Bicentennial Weekend was

September 9-11. There was a dinner dance on Friday evening at the Elks. Many attendees wore period costumes from throughout the 200 years. On Saturday at 1 p.m. Gouverneur saw the biggest parade the community had ever seen. The parade route ran from Mills Park on Johnstown Street, to Main Street, to Rock Island Street and onto the fair grounds. Thousands of people from the north country started lining the streets at 10 a.m. Several floats, from area organizations and businesses, dominated the parade.

The fair grounds had activities for young and old, and displays Saturday and Sunday. The most popular for the children was the bounce around. All activities at the fair grounds were free, and the children sure got the committee's monies worth on these big-blow up units. On Saturday evening there was a laser show, the first time one had come to the Gouverneur area. The cost was shared by the Kinney Drug's, Inc. and the Town of Gouverneur. The money raised for the Bicentennial came through donations from both businesses and individuals, and sales of souvenirs. Sunday the fair grounds were once again lively, and the majorevents that day was a soft ball game and the hot air balloon. While it was too windy for balloon rides, it was blown up and people were able to get inside and learned much about this magnificent beast. The weekend culminated at 6 p.m. with church bells in the community ringing, commemorating 9/11 in the 2001 attack on the World Trade Centers in New York City.

In November the official end of the Bicentennial came at the Gouverneur Museum with the locking of the time capsule. Items from the 1976 time capsule plus hundreds of items from area children and adults filled the time capsule to capacity.

Roger LaPierre is named Riverwalk Chairman. Gouverneur received a state grant to build a walk along the Oswegatchie River from downtown Gouverneur to Mills and Riverside Parks, with a foot bridge connecting the two recreation areas. There has been much controversy because the walk must cross private land, but officials continue to proceed with walk and bridge. Money from the State, and money and in-kind services from the municipalities will eventually make this a reality.

A new clock was installed in the village park. The Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce has spearheaded the fund drive for the clock. The clock, at the northeast end of the park replaces the 50 year old clock at the other end of the park.

The high cost to repair the sesqui-centennial clock was the reason to purchase a new one.

The E. J. Noble Hospital Auxiliary celebrates 55 years of serving the hospital and nursing home. This organization has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past 55 years to purchase equipment, etc., that went above and beyond what the regular hospital/nursing home budget could afford.

Also in 2005:

Doreen Love retires from the Gouverneur Police Department. Her uniform hangs in the museum, as she was Gouverneur Police Department's first female employee. She was with the department since 1971.

The Oswegatchie Coffee Company, Gouverneur's first "coffee house", opens on E. Main Street. Matt and Valerie Jolley are the proprietors.

Work has begun on the new fire station on Route 11, south of the village.

St. Lawrence Zinc begins hiring to reopen the Balmat mines.

Greyhound Bus service to end February 2006 but Trailways Bus Co. will replace it.

