

Bank of Gouverneur

Although the Bank of Gouverneur was incorporated as such in 1879, it really was born in 1860 when Charles H. Anthony together with James G. and William J. Averell of Ogdensburg organized Charles Anthony and Company. Thus 95 years ago the first bank was organized in Gouverneur.

At first the banking business was carried on in Mr. Anthony's office and for several weeks, Mr. Anthony did all of the work himself.

The Bank of Gouverneur was incorporated on July third, 1879, and began business on July 7th of that year. The original officers were Charles Anthony as president; William J. Averell as vice-president and Henry Sudds as cashier.

All of the original stock was owned by Mr. Anthony and the Averells, but in 1882 Mr. Sudds became a stockholder and was elected a director.

Newton Aldrich

In 1891, Newton Aldrich and his son, Herbert, acquired a substantial interest in the bank. On the death of Mr. Anthony in 1892, Newton Aldrich was elected president. He served until his death in 1909 when Henry Sudds was elected to succeed him.

Henry Sudds

To Mr. Sudds goes the credit for much of the early success of the bank. He was a man of great integrity, and he was well endowed with all of the qualities of leadership and business ability requisite to his position. Mr. Sudds had been a leading banker of St. Lawrence county for nearly a half a century and he left his mark on the institution on which he had devoted so much of his effort and ability. He resigned because of poor health in 1911 and was succeeded by Herbert G. Aldrich, the son of Newton Aldrich, a former president.

James O. Sheldon

James O. Sheldon succeeded Mr. Aldrich as president in 1926. To Mr. Sheldon goes much of the credit of the success of the Bank of Gouverneur in the twentieth century. He entered the services of the bank in 1883, and, with the exception of about a year and a half of other employment has been a dynamic part of its organization since that date. Serving from junior clerk to teller to assistant cashier to cashier to president and finally to chairman of the board of directors, Mr. Sheldon has given freely of his talents and experience to this institution. With 72 years of banking to his credit, Mr. Sheldon is the Dean of Bankers in this area and probably in the entire state.

Mere words cannot express the debt of gratitude that is due Mr. Sheldon not only from this bank but from the entire community. It was largely through his judgment and business acumen that the Bank of Gouverneur was able to open its doors immediately following the bank holiday declared in March, 1933.

The fact that this institution was able to continue business without restriction saved the people of this community many

thousands of dollars and insured continuation of normal banking facilities during a very difficult period.

In 1948 Mr. Sheldon resigned as president of the bank and was elected to the newly created office of chairman of the board of directors.

Joseph F. McAllaster

At the same time Joseph F. McAllaster was chosen to succeed Mr. Sheldon as president of the bank. Mr. McAllaster had been a director since 1939 and a vice-president since, 1940.

A native of Gouverneur, Mr. McAllaster became associated with the bank when he became a director in 1939 succeeding his father, who resigned after serving the bank for 28 years in that capacity. It is interesting to note that in the long span of 76 years there have been but six presidents. Perhaps it proves that banking is a healthy business.

It would be impossible to name all of the fine people in the past and present that have given so much of their loyalty and ability to the bank. However this his-



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tory would not be complete unless some of the outstanding ones were mentioned.

Leon B. Murray

Leon B. Murray served the bank in every capacity up to vice-president and had a tenure of service of over 50 years. His devotion to the bank was unswerving and he died in 1951 as he wanted to, in the harness.

George W. Evans

Special tribute is also due to George W. Evans, who for 45 years, until poor health forced him to resign in 1951, devoted his business life to this institution. He, too, served in every capacity in the bank up to and including executive vice-president.

Miss Pearl M. Orvis

A special tribute is also in order at this time to Miss Pearl M. Orvis who now holds the dual offices of cashier and trust officer. With a career of 43 years of banking, all of which have been with the Bank of Gouverneur, to her goes the credit for the modern streamlined operation which places this bank among the top in country banks today.

Present Officers

Present officers of the bank also include Edward Haile Case, vice-president and attorney; Jack Scott, assistant vice-president; Frances M. Collins, assistant cashier and J. Barnard Howland, assistant trust officer.

Personnel

Other personnel of the bank include Harvey L. Gleason with 32 years to his credit, Roy F. Randall with 28 years, Betty Porteous, Margaret Storie, Helen Hyde Love and Zelma Bancroft.

The Building

Since it's original beginning the Bank of Gouverneur building has undergone two major remodeling operations. In 1914 the front of the bank was changed from one of painted brick to Gouverneur marble. The keystone of the original block bearing the date 1871 was replaced over the large window on the western elevation of the building. The interior was completely modernized at this time with installation of a new vault, new counters, new tellers windows and the lobby was decorated with a beautiful grain of Italian marble.

After a serious fire to the adjacent block, which the bank owned, in March 1941, the directors of the bank authorized D. Kenneth Sargent, an architect, to draw plans incorporating the additional block into the Bank of Gouverneur proper. The firm of Rouse and Hallenbeck was commissioned to do the construction. As a result the bank now enjoys a modern commodius building that will serve it for many years to come.

Since that time constant improvements have been made so that all of the latest innovations might be utilized. New and modern lighting, improved wall and ceiling decoration, the best in bank machinery, in fact anything that would add to the efficiency of this institution has been speedily adopted. Starting in 1949 a program of modernization of bank operations was started. This program was finally completed in 1954 which incidentally was it's 75th anniversary.

A new automatic Recordak was purchased. This machine takes pictures of all checks both foreign and our own that are processed by us. It is so constructed that both the front and the back of the check are photographed with the machine automatically turning the check. A large proof machine was installed that carried 22 separate totals besides the master total. Every operation of the bank goes through this machine during banking hours and the bank is always in balance any moment during the day.

The most recent addition was the installation of two new Burroughs Sensi-matic bookkeeping machines that are so controlled that any error in posting will lock the machine and force correction before posting can be continued. Another Burroughs machine posts both the general ledger and liability ledger mechanically.

Much of the strength of any bank comes from it's board of directors. These are the men and women that set the policy that the bank is to follow. In addition to Mr. Sheldon, Miss Orvis and Mr. McAllaster, other directors are Charles H. Anthony, grandson of the founder; Andrew K. Laidlaw, secretary of the Gouverneur Savings and Loan association; Edward Haile Case, prominent local attorney and a

member of the New York State Power Authority and William H. Foster, superintendent of the Horton Ice Cream Company milk plant.

The Bank of Gouverneur is very proud of the major part it has always been able to play in the growth and welfare of this community. Its prime motive has always been and always will be service to Gouverneur. Through all of its 76 years the Bank of Gouverneur has never failed to meet its obligations. Its steady and continued growth has been reward enough for its efforts.

Capital

	Nov. 30 1944	Nov. 30 1949	Nov. 30 1954
Total Res.	\$4,009,979	\$4,941,920	\$5,777,727
Deposits	3,647,935	4,509,420	5,206,227
Loans and Disc	508,804	1,634,769	2,331,526
Accts.	259,010	365,145	449,215

In addition to our capital accouts we also have set up reserves on loans and investments amounting to \$53,216.33.

The bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. \$10,000.00 maximum insurance for each depositor. Member federal reserve system.

CONDENSED STATEMENT

of condition at the close of business
December 31, 1954

Assets	
Loans and Discounts	\$1,652,788.17
U. S. Obligations	
Direct and Guaranteed	1,146,779.83
Obligations or State and Political Subdivisions	122,648.74
Other bonds and Investments	859,447.57
F. H. A. Mortgages Insured through P. S. Government	296,024.06
Other Real Estate Mortgages	412,821.47
Federal Reserve Bank Stock	10,500.00
Real Estate Sold on Contract	210.00
Bank House and Lot	26,489.93
Furniture and Fixtures	18,863.00
Cash, Cash Items and due from Banks	995,899.15
Other Assets	2,508.44
Liabilities	
Capital	\$ 150,000.00
Surplus	200,000.00
Undivided Profits	86,879.33
Deposits	5,100,107.78
Other Liabilities	7,993.25
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	\$5,544,980.36
Reserve for Losses on Loans	\$53,000.00
Reserve for Losses on Bonds	6,258.22

The First National Bank In Gouverneur

The history of the First National bank discloses that similarly to most bank formations of the period after the Civil War, it began from a private bank, known as Godard & Co. Col Abel Godard of Richville and Hiram Herrings of Rodman started a private bank in May, 1874, in about the location of the Ernest R. McCullough grocery, 15 E. Main street. A new building at 55 E. Main street, two stories high of brick construction, was built in 1875 and the date is shown at the top of the building. George M. Gleason, who had come to Gouverneur from Pitcairn also became interested in the banking venture.

Col. Godard, son of Harlow Godard, a leading pioneer resident of Richville, born in 1835.

Hiram Herring, born in Denmark, N.Y., in 1817, came to this section with his father, William Herring, and settled on the Johnstown road. He left his mark in the way of the schoolhouse three miles out, known as the Herring district schoolhouse. Mr. Herring quit the Godard & Co. banking firm some time before that company became the First National Bank in 1881.

George M. Gleason, who came to Gouverneur in 1869, served five consecutive terms in the New York State Assembly, beginning in 1869. He had served as a second lieutenant through two years of the Civil War when he was incapacitated by illness. He studied law here in the office of Judge Garritt S. Conger and later had a law partnership with his son-in-law, Arthur T. Johnson. Mr. Gleason died here on September 29, 1901.

No records are available as to the general details of the Godard & Co. banking firm.

The report of the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States Treasury department in reference to the formation of the First National Bank of Gouverneur says, "The First National Bank of Gouverneur, was chartered No. 2510 on March 11, 1881 and its organization certificates was executed February 19, 1881." The first incorporators were George M. Gleason, Dolphus S. Lynde, Lawson M. Gardner, George M. Gleason, Albert L. Woodworth, and Newton

Aldrich, all of Gouverneur; Judge Leslie W. Russell, Canton Col. Abel Godard, Richville and Henry R. James of Ogdensburg. The local men were all farmers or industrialists, that being particularly true of Mr. Aldrich, of the firm of Weston, Dean & Aldrich, lumbermen operating a large sawmill at Natural Dam and Lawson M. Gardner a merchant also associated with talc mills and other promotions. Mr. James was proprietor of the Ogdensburg Daily Journal and Leslie W. Russell was showing an interest in local business activities. Mr. Herring, Col. Godard and Mr. Gleason have already been mentioned. The first officers were Mr. Gleason, president; Mr. Aldrich, vice-president and Mr. Woodworth, cashier.

In 1891, Frank M. Burdick, who had become a director, was chosen as vice-president. In 1901 Mr. Gleason became ill and Mr. Burdick succeeded him as president and Fred Haile was elected to the vice president position. Lorenzo Smith became a director at this time to serve for many years. On the death of Albert L. Woodworth, cashier, in 1908, Leslie W. Burdick, son of Frank M. Burdick, was elevated to the cashier position.

The elder Mr. Burdick resigned from the presidency in 1913 and was succeeded by Fred H. Haile. Mr. Haile, a Civil War veteran, served with distinction as Captain of the 18th N. Y. Cavalry and was prominent in pulp wood production at Fullerville and Emeryville. Frank M. Burdick died at his North Gordon street home on July 29, 1917.

Mr. Haile continued as president until February 5, 1918, when three weeks after the annual bank meetings, Leslie W. Burdick was made president of the First National bank. Mr. Haile, then aging, retired later as a director, as did G. Murray Holmes, another director. Mr. Burdick, in taking over the bank presidency, said that he desired to be relieved of the cashier position in order to devote more time to Aurora Condensed Milk Co. business at Canton, which his cashier duties did not permit. Burton W. Aldrich was made cashier to succeed Mr. Burdick. It will be recalled that 1918 was the decisive year of World War I.

On July 2, 1918, it was announced by the First National Bank that Mr. Burdick had resigned as president and that Nelson R. Cas-



INTERIOR OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK

well had been made president of the First National bank. Mr. Burdick stated that he wished to devote his entire time to the affairs of the Aurora Condensed Milk Co. The same news dispatches carried the information that the Aurora Co. was involved in bankruptcy proceedings. Later it was disclosed that there were irregularities in Mr. Burdick's banking methods and he was convicted on embezzlement charges.

Mr. Caswell, the new president was head of the Aldrich Paper Company of Natural Dam, a successor to the Weston, Dean and Aldrich Lumber Co. The Aldrich Paper Co. was succeeded by the Oswegatchie Paper Co., after fire destroyed the Aldrich Paper Co., plant in June, 1920. The present mill is that of the Rushmore Paper Mills.

The affairs of the First National bank ran quite smoothly for the succeeding decade and a half in which several new directors such as John J. Wallace, International Talc Co., and Oswegatchie Light & Power Co., head; William T. Clark, school supervisor, and George Leak and Roy Enos appeared. Judson H. Lalone, prominent business man of Canton and originally from Richville, was for several years a director, and Mr. Johnson continued as vice-president.

The closing of the banks by executive order of President Roosevelt in a Sunday night broadcast March 5, 1933, one day after his inauguration, was a sensational move and considered of doubtful value by many. However, the prestige of Mr. Roosevelt at that time and the general effects of the depression left nothing to do but co-operate. The First National Bank was not permitted to reopen on a restricted basis. The banking officers at the March 5, 1933, closing were Mr. Caswell, president; Mr. Johnson, vice-president and Wallace A. Streeter, cashier. Mr. Streeter succeeded Burton Aldrich on the death of the latter in 1924. The other directors were John J. Wallace, Harry C. Rogers, George Leak, William T. Clark and Roy Enos.

At an August, 1933, meeting of the bank, it was learned that the Federal banking authorities felt that a fresh capital of \$100,000

should be provided plus a \$50,000 surplus. A committee consisting of Albert E. Boughner, manager of the Pioneer Ice Cream Division of the Borden Co. together with Byron J. Carpenter, Edward J. Cahill, Henry R. Freeman, George E. Olds and George Lockie of Gouverneur and Byron U. Wight of the Town of Fowler, was named to raise the capital. Mr. Caswell, who had been operating the bank as conservator after it reopened, resigned on September 29th and Mr. Boughner, who had made a trip to Washington at that time on behalf of the First National Bank, was appointed to the office of conservator.

The bank was finally reopened on an unrestricted basis on January 2, 1934, the only change being that the name became the First National Bank in Gouverneur instead of the First National Bank of Gouverneur. The new bank was given charter number 13911.

The new bank officers were Charles M. Tait, president; John J. Wallace and Albert E. Boughner, vice-presidents; Guy F. Baker cashier. The other directors besides Mr. Tait, Mr. Wallace and Mr. Boughner were Earl E. Laidlaw, Harry C. Rogers, Edward H. Vaile, Robert L. Kinney and Charles R. Rodger all of Gouverneur, William T. Clark of Haillesboro and Edward J. Noble of New York. Mr. Tait, formerly of Gouverneur, had for ten years been St. Lawrence County Treasurer and resided in Canton. Mr. Baker, the new cashier, had been an examiner for New York State banking department after serving many years with City Bank Trust Co. of Syracuse.

Of these original new bank directors, Mr. Noble and Mr. Clark resigned in 1935. Mr. Rodger died in January, 1936, Mr. Kinney in May 1940 and Mr. Bodman died in 1941. This reduced the directors to six and Harry H. Hodgkin who for several years was superintendent of the Johnson Iron Co. and who had been operating the Gouverneur Limestone Co. in outer Parker street since 1915, was chosen the new director of the First National. In 1944 Mr. Vail died, and Guy F. Baker, cashier, became a director. The number of directors was reduced from 11 to seven.

Mr. Wallace, vice-president and director, died in April, 1947, which left the bank with only six directors until the January, 1950 meeting when James L. Pangle of the local law firm of Nelson, Pangle and Battersby was elected to the board.

On the death of Mr. Tait, president, in July, 1950, Mr. Boughner was elected by the directors to succeed Mr. Tait. Mr. Baker became vice-president and Glenn A. Cole, who had been employed in the old First National Bank, became cashier and was made a director. The Board of Directors at this time consisted of the following members, Albert E. Boughner, Guy F. Baker, Glenn A. Cole, Harry H. Hodgkin, Earl E. Laidlaw, James L. Pangle and Harry C. Rogers.

Near the end of 1952, the bank purchased the Close property located at the corner of Church and Grove streets. Plans were formulated for construction of a new and modern bank building. The building was designed by local general contractor, Northeast Constructors, in collaboration with President Boughner. Construction was started in April, 1953, and the new building was occupied September 28, 1953.

The banking house is a rigid steel frame structure 48 by 64 by 20 ft. high, faced brick masonry exterior, natural honed colocrete block exterior, all glass block windows. The facilities include a 24-hour depository located in the vestibule, drive-in tellers window and a customer's paved parking space. The same board of directors continued until January 15, 1954, when Mr. Hodgkin resigned because of ill health. John W. Rouse, president of the John W. Rouse Construction Co., was elected by the directors to fill the vacancy.

At this time, May, 1955, the 150th anniversary of Gouverneur, the officers and directors of the First National Bank in Gouverneur are Albert E. Boughner, president; Guy F. Baker, vice-president; Glenn A. Cole, cashier and Robert D. Hayden, assistant cashier.

Directors are Guy F. Baker, Albert E. Boughner, Glenn A. Cole, Earl E. Laidlaw, James L. Pangle, Harry C. Rogers and John W. Rouse.

The Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association

Although a State of New York legislative Act of April 10, 1850 permitted the establishment of Savings & Loan Associations, it was not until January 14, 1892 that the Gouverneur Association was instituted.

History tells us that a large number of Savings & Loan Associations were organized in New York State in 1888, and the benefits of having a Thrift and Home Financing institution in each community was being generally discussed. As a result of this thinking, a group of public spirited citizens met January 6, 1892 in the insurance office of Benjamin F. Brown. Previously Mr. Brown had circulated a paper securing names of persons who were in favor of organizing a local association. At this first meeting Mr. Brown was elected secretary and a committee was appointed to draft a permanent organization.

The Gouverneur Savings & Loan Association received its Charter on January 14, 1892, from the State of New York. Offices were opened in the second floor of what is now the Collins Hardware building, and the following officers were elected to serve for one year: President, B. G. Parker; vice-president, M. R. Sackett; secretary, B. F. Brown; treasurer, Frank Starbuck; attorney, A. W. Orvis, and trustees, S. W. Payne, A. L. Woodworth, Henry Sudds, W. W. Hall and J. F. Hodgkin.

Of the original shareholders only one, Harry C. Rogers, is now living. Mr. Rogers now serves the association as a director and vice-president, and continues to operate his real estate business on Main street at the same stand where he has been for 40 years.

The charter members included Mr. Brown, Mr. Parker, Mr. Sackett, Mr. Orvis, William West, Mr. Hodgkin, Mr. Starbuck, Gerritt S. Conger, Spencer W. Harris, Fred Lavack, William T. Mann, Mr. Rogers, Allie Drury and S. W. Payne.

In 1898 the offices of the association were moved to the ground floor of the present three-story brick building which Mr. Parker had recently erected. In 1920 the association purchased the building of Mr. Parker, and completely remodeled its quarters in 1938, to occupy the entire ground floor.

At the time of the opening of

the local association, 96 original shareholders subscribed 393 shares at \$250 each. The general plan was for such subscribers to pay or deposit with the association 25 cents a week for each share until the sum of such payments plus dividends earned and credited to each account was equal to \$250.

A few years after organizing, two other methods of savings were introduced whereby large amounts could be deposited at any time. All three methods of savings are still offered with some variations, and are known as installment shares, income shares and savings shares.

Every depositor is a shareholder in the Savings & Loan and dividends are apportioned directly to all shareholders from the profits of the business.

Until 1953 the profits of Savings & Loans were not taxable by the Federal and State governments, and all profits after the payments of dividends were credited to surplus and undivided profits. Now these profits are taxed at the same rate as other incorporated institutions.

In the State of New York there are 236 Savings & Loan associations with total resources for the entire state of more than one and a half billion dollars. It is a story of the thrift and home-financing services, which management of the local association always strives to give to its shareholders. Its purpose is to continue to play a vital role in the building of this and adjoining communities. The loy-

alty and cooperation of more than four thousand shareholders has made the success possible.

The assets of the Association have continued to grow steadily, from \$7,314.77 at the close of the first year of operation, to total resources of \$4,904,366.43 at the close of business, December 31, 1954. On that date, combined surplus, reserves and undivided profits totaled \$573,722.95.

Mr. Parker, the first president served until February 11, 1927, when he died suddenly in New York city. He was succeeded by Mr. Brown, who died April 26, 1938. At that time Clayton F. Rush, a director since 1931, was made president. When Mr. Brown, who had been secretary since the Savings & Loan was started in 1892, became president, Andrew K. Laidlaw was chosen as executive secretary, and continues to serve in that capacity.

The present officers of the association are Clayton F. Rush, president; Harry C. Rogers, vice-president; Andrew K. Laidlaw, executive secretary and William C. Foster, treasurer.

Directors are Edward H. Case, Burt O. Kinney, Earl Laidlaw, Andrew K. Laidlaw, Harry C. Rogers, Clayton F. Rush and James O. Sheldon.

William C. Foster, who joined the staff in January 1950 as Mr. Laidlaw's assistant, was elected treasurer of the association in 1954. Other members of the office staff are Mrs. Essie W. Melrose and Miss Joyce Lee.



GOUVERNEUR SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The John W. Rouse Construction Company

By **JOSEPH LACKS**

The John W. Rouse Construction Corporation has been on Main street for 18 years. To the casual observer the name of this firm appears only twice and that is in golden letters on the firm's windows at 8 Church street. But a check into the Company's history shows that from the town limits on the west to the town limits on the east, the Rouse Construction has added landmarks to the Gouverneur scene throughout the 18 years during which this, one of our town's leading industries, has made its home on Main street.

When John W. Rouse completed the Gouverneur Savings and Loan remodeling job in 1938, the company payroll consisted of approximately five full time employees, some of whom are still with the firm. The volume of work handled in these early years did not attract any particular notice in the construction industry throughout the state, but the Main street projects, including the Sunshine Store and the A&P store, and residences about town have contributed to the success and stature that Rouse Construction now enjoys throughout the Northeastern United States.

Local Construction

In checking the recent histories of many of the local industries it is found that John W. Rouse Construction Corp. has engaged in construction related to every phase of our community's being.

In 1940 it was by improvement of facilities for the Oswegatchie Light and Power Co. In 1943, it was an addition to the International Talc Co. and repair of fire damage, and in later years an office building for this same firm. New construction and maintenance construction has been carried on for the Pioneer Division of the Borden Company for the past several years. The Rouse company's Industrial Construction Department helped plan and expand facilities for the Rushmore Paper Co., Gouverneur Talc and Reynolds Talc. They built the new modern local hospital, modern banking facilities for the First National Bank and made extensive improvements in the facilities of the Presbyterian church.

Offices

One hundred seven East Main

street was the first location at which the firm had offices. The next move was over the B. O. Kinney store, and in 1951, as the volume of work increased, it became necessary to find larger headquarters and the firm moved across the park to the present location at 8 Church street where the offices occupy the entire second floor.

Those who have known John Rouse from the early days of his ventures in the North Country, comment that the evolution from the modest early office to the modern spacious offices the business now occupied is not surprising. It was apparent after the very early work for the St. Regis Company in Deferiet was completed that Rouse Construction was to play a major part in the North Country's economic growth.

Recognizing the need for quality housing in Gouverneur, Mr. Rouse has planned to develop a 24 acre tract located on the Rock Island road, just outside of the village. Plans call for 50 lots, some 100 feet by 150 feet and others as large as 175 feet. Applications will be made to the town and village boards to have the location annexed to the village of Gouverneur. On the suggestion of Julius R. Bartlett, one street will be named Cambray street, in memory of the village and town of Cambray. Mr. Rouse will also have a Bartlett Ave., in honor of Julius R. Bartlett.

Employment Record

In 1954 over 400 people were employed at the peak of the construction season not counting the employees on work in the Canadian Provinces for which separate records are kept.

With the increase in the number and size of contracts obtained, it was necessary not only to acquire a bigger physical plant but also to employ a greater number of trained personnel to handle the technicalities of engineering, supervision and organization that came with this expansion.

Under the direction of Henry W. Rouse, vice-president; a complete classification of functions and duties was outlined, and members of the Rouse Organization experienced in construction field work appointed heads of the various

departments necessary under the new breakdown of duties.

Department Heads

Joseph J. Tokos heads the Estimating Department. This department gathers, analyzes and evaluates the steady stream of information concerning new construction throughout the Northeastern United States and part of Canada. When the company elects to bid or negotiate a project, two or more of the four estimators prepare the bids.

In the event that the contract is obtained through successful bidding or negotiation, the facts and figures are handed to the Purchasing and Expediting Department headed by Joseph J. Lacks for preparation of contracts and coordination of supply of materials for the job.

Francis "Curly" Evans, head of Timekeeping and Cost Records, has a network of field offices located on all major projects where his Timekeepers and Cost Engineers gather the information necessary for the preparation of payrolls and up-to-the-minute costs.

Because of the far-flung operations, it is necessary that the company maintain transportation for personnel and materials. A fleet of trucks and automobiles under the charge of Bob Fullington are ready at a minute's notice to be dispatched to a job to transport material or to move equipment. A modern aircraft equipped for all-weather flight, speeds executive personnel from home office to projects.

Francis "Buster" Kennedy, Superintendent of the Warehouse facilities is responsible for providing all jobs with adequate supplies of tools, hardware and equipment, and Charles Perry is the Service Department Head for the maintenance and repair of equipment ranging from 30-ton mobile cranes to hand pumps.

The routine of an office, in which over 25 people are employed, is of course, a busy one. Frank Van Iderstyne is Office Manager with Mrs. Adah Howe handling special details of contract billing, etc.

Sedrick Howe and Fred Whitaker, in the Industrial Construction Department, are constantly busy organizing and completing work for industry in Northern New York.

International Talc Company is Now Over Sixty Years Old

For over 60 years the growth of the International Talc company, Inc., paralleled the expansion of industry throughout the United States. The company has evolved through mergers, expansion and engineering and mining development until its number 6 and 6N mill is now considered the largest talc producing mill in the world. The corporation has passed through periods of depression, misfortune and labor difficulties, and in December, 1953 officially added to its possessions the holdings of the W. H. Loomis Talc Corporation.

First Talc Co.

The first talc company in the United States was built on property now owned by International near the present Wight mine near Balmat in 1876. But it was not until 1893 that four of the struggling independent talc companies were consolidated to form the International Pulp company. These included the Agalite Fibre company, the Adirondack Pulp company, the Natural Dam Pulp company and the St. Lawrence Pulp company. The word pulp appears prominently because the output of the first mines was used almost entirely in the manufacture of paper, and the talc was referred to as mineral pulp.

These, then, were the four independent companies that on March 8, 1893, merged and incorporated under the title International Pulp company.

Directors

The first operations began on April 17, 1893 with Augustus L. Paine, president. Serving on the board of directors were Chauncey M. Depew, H. Walter Webb, Touro Robertson, T. W. Bayaud, Louis Fuller, George H. Daniels, Alfred Rindskopf, Thomas L. James, Augustus L. Paine and Edgar VanEtten, all of New York; William J. Arkell of Canajoharie; John Manning of Saratoga Springs and John R. Welch of Hartford, Conn. Mr. Depew was better known later as a United States senator and Mr. Webb was a prominent New York Central railroad man.

The 1893 director makeup of the International company included men prominent in New York finance. Milo M. Belding, sr. who has been previously mentioned was not on the first directorate but was a director very soon after and was also a treasurer soon after its formation and held that position until his death in 1917. His son, Milo Belding, jr., continued as treasurer until his death in 1931. The company was then rated as a five million dollar corporation.

Naming the Plants

The Natural Dam mill was assigned No. 1 on the International list and the St. Lawrence Pulp company mill just north of Hailesboro was named No. 3. The former Agalite mill was given No. 4 and the Natural Dam Pulp mill east of Hailesboro was No. 6. The former Adirondack mill one mile

east of Hailesboro was listed as No. 7.

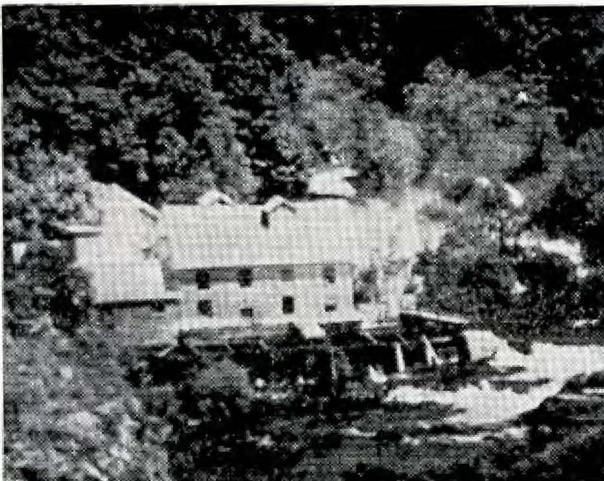
In less than two years, the two mills of the Asbestos Pulp company, a promotion of "Gus" McCrea, were acquired by International; one in Hailesboro which was numbered five and the Talcville mill, originally built by Lawson M. Gardner of Edwards, which was numbered eight.

The Van Duzee mill, below Hailesboro, was never operated or given a number. It could not be connected with the Gouverneur and Oswegatchie railroad built in 1892-93 to Edwards. The Natural Dam mill was closed soon after the merger as that also had no railroad connection.

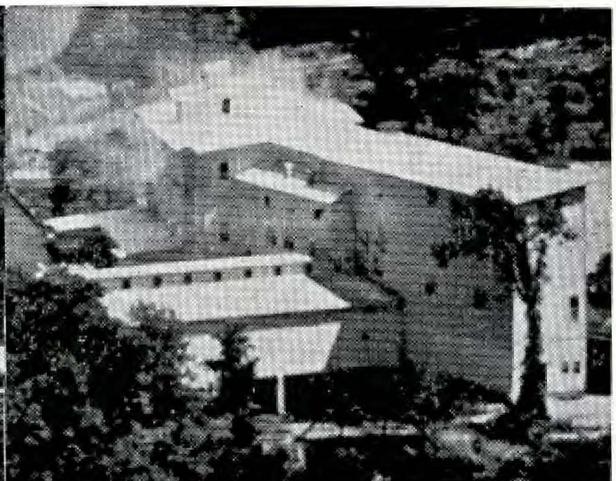
Number 7 mill burned three months after the company was formed and the following year, International installed a 150 kilowatt generator at this site, built a power house and operated an electric business for Gouverneur village lighting, pumping water and street lighting, calling its subsidiary, the Oswegatchie Light and Power company.

The United States Talc company mill, one mile above Emeryville on the Oswegatchie river; the Ontario Talc company of Fullerville and the Union Talc company furnished competition in the immediate years after 1893.

On Nov. 26, 1905, No. 4 mill burned and on July 3, 1906, No. 6 mill was also destroyed by fire. This was a crisis for the company as it had only No. 3 and No. 5



5 MILL—Built 1825, woolen mill 1893, talc mill, special grade, 1895 International Co. property. Machinery moved to 6 mill 1947, razed 1950.



3 MILL—Built 1883, St. Lawrence Pulp Co. talc mill, 1893 joined three other talc mills to form International Talc Co. Burned May 14, 1948.

mills, which could produce at best no more than 40 tons per day.

The United States mill was purchased in August, 1906, at a reported price of \$105,000 which did not include mineral rights anywhere but did include lease provisions for ore supplies. The Union Talc company formed a merger with International.

Number 6 mill was rebuilt with concrete and fire resistant material in 1907 and operated early in 1908 with a rated capacity of 80 tons per day.

Michael Doyle

Michael Doyle of Rochester succeeded Mr. Paine as president in 1903 and became well known in Gouverneur during his 40 years in office. Stephen J. McCrimlisk of Brooklyn, is still living and has the distinction of being the oldest living person ever connected with the talc industry.

Mr. Doyle was president continuously until his death in November, 1943. The meeting in June, 1903, at which Mr. Doyle succeeded Col. A. G. Paine was one of the colorful events in the history of talc mining.

John J. Wallace

John J. Wallace, a native of Nova Scotia, who was superintendent of the St. Lawrence Pulp

company when International was formed and who had been superintendent of the Union Talc company for years, succeeded A. J. McDonald as superintendent on Oct. 1, 1912.

Stanley Tuttle

Mr. Wallace resigned as superintendent in July, 1941, after 29 years in that office and 57 years in the talc industry. Fred Whitaker, Hailesboro, was made head of the mills here until November, 1942, when Stanley Tuttle of New York became the local manager of both the talc and lighting companies. Mr. Tuttle left Gouverneur in February, 1944, to take charge of the New York International office and the name was changed to International Talc company that year.

Present Management

Alvin Cummings, a former U. S. Bureau of Mines employe was named superintendent then and was succeeded in February, 1946, by Frederick G. Kuehl of New York, who at an earlier date had been employed by the St. Joseph Lead company at Balmat. He is now general manager of the company mills and mines.

Again The Largest

Number 5 mill where an ex-

pensive grade of fibrous talc was made, was abandoned in 1947 and whatever machinery that could be used was removed and a new unit set up in No. 6 mill. A new 100 ton capacity unit was added to that mill, also. Number 3 mill burned on May 14, 1948, and now the entire milling operation of the company has a possible daily production of more than 300 tons. Six mills is again the largest talc producing unit in the world and the International company can probably claim to be the largest talc producer as far as capacity is concerned.

The company offices here with the exception of three years, were always in the Union Hall building in Gouverneur. A 1922 fire burned the original building and between that date and early 1926 the offices were on Park street. In 1952, the offices were moved from the Union Hall building to No. 6 mill at Hailesboro in a modern office building.

On March 7, 1955, fire completely demolished the crushing shed at Number 6 mill and leveled a sheet metal shed housing portable compressors. Although the damage was extensive, reconstruction got underway immediately and within a few weeks crushing operations had resumed.

The W. H. Loomis Talc Corporation

For many years the development and expansion of the W. H. Loomis Talc corporation was the outgrowth of the dreams and the ideals of one man, Willis H. Loomis, draftsman, surveyor and civil engineer. From January 1919 when he began operations in the Gouverneur area until his death in February, 1944, the company was a monument to his inherent ability.

Mr. Loomis, who for several years had been a contractor and miner of coal in the Pennsylvania coal belt, in January, 1919, took over properties in Fowler formerly operated by the International Pulp company with the primary idea of developing them for zinc. At that time Mr. Loomis stated that his holdings included three veins of exceptionally good talc which would be placed on the market. On April 19, 1919 the W.

H. Loomis company incorporated with a capitalization of \$85,000 under the laws of the state of New York naming W. H. Loomis, C. W. Loomis and J. A. Baumert as directors. W. H. Loomis, organizer and president, retained half of the stock, and the remainder was divided equally between the other two directors.

In February, 1919, the company began operations at the Arnold mine located on the Cornelius Campbell farm near Fowler. This property consisted of 139 acres on which were some of the finest talc deposits in the United States. It was leased from the International Pulp company and had not been in operation for over five years.

The mine had first been opened by the St. Lawrence Mineral Lands company and had been operated successfully under the

management of the Michigan syndicate Keller Brothers, Columbian Talc company and the International company.

The beginning operations of the W. H. Loomis Talc company included the erection of the Number One mill at Emeryville in 1919. In this plant they installed their first air separator which would produce a product of 200 mesh which was standard mesh at that time. In a second unit a new separator producing 325 mesh was built by the manufacturers to meet specifications and requirements of the Loomis company. The product from this machine was 18 times finer than former standards.

Pebbles used in the Loomis mills were brought from France, being taken from the ocean shores. The lining of the grinders came from Belgium. The machines had

a capacity of seven tons of pebbles.

A second mill was built in 1922 near Little York in the Town of Fowler, the main building of which was 100x160 feet and 50 feet in height with floor space making it the largest talc mill in the world. An addition 60x150 ft. started in 1927 provided additional storage space for the finished product.

By January, 1928, the W. H. Loomis company was occupying the new office building located at the head of Depot street on East Main street. Previously the company had had offices in the wing of the Loomis home on Main street.

The cornices, window sills and copings were all constructed of talc, and the walls of the basement were covered with a mixture of talc and water.

In 1941 directors of the corporation, were Mrs. Loomis, A. Prescott Loomis, Fred S. Wemyss, Dr. Stanley W. Sayer, all of Gouver-

neur; J. A. Baumert, Antwerp; Charles M. Tait, Canton; C. K. Walton, Lansford, Pa.; and T. J. Dorrian, Philadelphia, Pa.

In February, 1944, W. H. Loomis died at the Christian Science Benevolent association, Brookline near Boston. He had served as president of the company since its beginning, as director of the Green Hill Mining company and vice-president of the Watertown Milling company. Mr. Loomis had conceived the idea of a much finer product to reduce production costs for manufacturers and the idea of double air floatation for greater fineness and uniformity. During his presidency the company became the owner of four mines, the Arnold, the Wood cock, the Ontario and Johnson and 12 farms on the properties.

Following his death, A. Prescott Loomis was elected president of the company. R. Frank Atkinson was named vice-president and Mr. Baumert, secretary. Directors were Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Baumert, A. P. Loomis, Mrs. W. H. Loomis, Thomas Dorrian, Dr. Sayer,

Charles Tait, Charles Walton and Fred S. Wemyss.

In July, 1946, Roy L. Patrick, Burlington, Vt.; Joseph T. Smith, Burlington and Eugene W. Magnus of Waterbury, Vt., purchased the stock held by the estate of E. E. Loomis, brother of W. H. Loomis, and former president of the Lehigh Valley railroad. Mr. Smith and Mr. Magnus were president and vice-president of the Eastern Magnesia company, respectively. Upon Mr. Smith's death, Mr. Magnus became president. Following the transaction, Mr. Magnus became president of the Loomis company.

The Loomis Talc Co., became the property of the International Talc Co., in December, 1953. As the International had built a new office building in 1952, they had no use for the former Loomis office building and it was sold in December, 1954 to St. Lawrence County Board of Supervisors to be used as the Supreme Court Chambers of Justice Paul D. Graves.

The Gouverneur Talc Company

As the R. T. Vanderbilt company, the parent company of Gouverneur Talc Co., had been interested in the mining and grinding of non-metallics since its formation in 1916, it was only natural that the talc properties of New York State should be investigated. For this purpose Robert S. McClellan came to Gouverneur in December of 1946.

Various proposals and properties were examined and a contract was signed with the McLearn companies whereby the R. T. Vanderbilt company secured the right to mine the talc in the so-called Balmat and Dominion properties on a 99 year lease and royalty arrangement. The Gouverneur Talc company was then set up as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the R. T. Vanderbilt company.

Since the St. Joseph Lead company owned all zinc rights in these same Balmat and Dominion properties, it was necessary to work closely with that company in planning the talc mining operations. The St. Joseph Lead company made available to the Vanderbilt interests such valuable information with regard to the talc

ore bodies which St. Joe had accumulated during the years in its opening up of the zinc deposits.

Construction Started

Following the working out of an agreement with that company in August, 1947, construction work was started on a grinding plant and shaft sinking operations were begun in the fall of 1947. These were continued through the winter of '47-'48. In the meantime, offices were obtained in Gouverneur and a staff was formed to plan the facilities and operations of the company. The first person engaged was Miss F. E. Lamb, followed shortly thereafter by J. L. Bulger, L. I. Smith and J. A. Gustin. Operations were conducted in the name of the Vanderbilt company until September 1, 1948 when the Gouverneur Talc company was organized.

Actual mining and milling operations got underway in the late summer and fall of 1948 and have been conducted continuously since that time. Additional plant facilities have been erected at intervals since the company started operations, with the result that present output greatly exceeds

that for which the plant was originally designed.

The basic idea of the Vanderbilt company in entering the talc field was to produce and sell an extremely fine ground grade which could be used by the paint industry without further grinding, and it was along these lines that the plant was designed in the first place and has been expanded since then.

Fluid Energy Mills

The company pioneered in the large scale use of so-called fluid energy mills which use heated compressed air as a grinding medium, instead of the conventional ball and pebble grinding mills and, so far as is known, the company has the largest installation in the world of this kind of grinding device. The fluid energy mills used initially have proven very satisfactory and are still in use. A still newer type of fluid energy grinding device was installed at the company's plant, however, in late 1954, in which high pressure steam is used as the grinding medium, and this new apparatus is now in regular operation.

Pioneer Ice Cream Plant Dates From 1905

By **JULIUS R. BARTLETT**

The late summer of 1905 found men from Bainbridge and Cooperstown, N. Y., in this area looking up the question of obtaining milk from St. Lawrence Co. as demand in their districts for various types of milk products such as ice cream, condensed milk and fluid milk, had increased beyond the supply available. In this visitation were Charles A. Hovey, Will W. Hovey of Cooperstown, Judge Julien Scott of Bainbridge. The local dairy history was similar to all of New York State, in that cheese and butter until after the Civil War, were made up in individual homes. Then followed the institution known as the Yankee cheese factory, the first one being that of Abner Gillette in 1869, and this factory was in operation in 1905 when the downstate men appeared here. But little time was required to get local people interested in their project, which would bring a large milk plant here and take care of milk all the year around. The present Pioneer Ice Cream Division plant of the Borden Co. here is the outgrowth of their successful start.

Accounts in newspapers at the

time report that a corporation known as the St. Lawrence Farms was being formed and on September 18, 1905, J. Frank Cole, a contractor had been given the contract of removing around 40 trees from the original wooded grove area of Judge Edwin Dodge, situated between South Gordon and Grove streets and extending from the present home of James McCormick almost to the New York Central railroad tracks and known as Dodge grove. The corporation was made up of Anson A. Potter, James A. Mills and Benjamin F. Brown, three Gouverneur men; Charles Hovey and Fred Boyce of Cooperstown; A. J. Parson of Binghamton and Judge Scott of Bainbridge. The new plant had as a main objective that of making ice cream, which newspapers stated, guaranteed all the latest scientific methods of sanitation and guarantee of a pure product. The Gouverneur cheese factory was closed in November, 1905, and James Parker, its owner, was taken into the employment of St. Lawrence Farms.

The new plant for the St. Lawrence Farms was rushed to completion and on January 7, 1906, a

Sunday morning, S. M. Greer, a resident of the farm of the late William VanBuren on what is known as the back road to Hailesboro and the nearest patron, arrived at 8:15. James Parker, the former cheese factory operator, weighed the first delivery. He served through the various ownerships and retired in 1948. Milk was received here at the opening from as far as the Yost cheese factory district, ten miles away.

The St. Lawrence Farms with only three months of operation, joined with four other milk manufacturers to make up the International Milk Products Co. The other firms were The Stoddard Mfg. Co. of Rutland, Vt.; the H. K. Walmpole Co. of Philadelphia, Pa., and the International Cheese Co. of Cooperstown. The New York state incorporation records show that the directors of this concern were Herbert G. Aldrich and Benjamin F. Brown of Gouverneur; Ralph Stoddard of Rutland; W. J. Sutherland of Albany; James Sturtevant of Binghamton; Albert J. Koch of Philadelphia; Oscar P. Sharpless of Swarthmore, Pa.; William W. Hovey of Cooperstown and Julien Scott of

