

Grace Clary
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Twenty Cents



Reprieve

A for sale sign went up on the Geneva Theatre marquee several weeks ago, but it may come down soon with the announcement today that several local groups are negotiating to buy the theater. (Times photo)

Saved

Geneva Theatre to reopen next week

By HELEN CASEY

The doors of the Geneva Theatre, closed for the past six weeks, will reopen Jan. 19.

The dramatic change in the status of the theater has come about through the work of several different groups in the community and action taken last night at a special meeting of the Board of Directors of Geneva Concerts Inc.

An agreement was unanimously reached to allow Geneva Concerts to serve as the conduit for completing negotiations on a purchase option.

The board also agreed to attempt to raise \$10,000 from its membership and the community to help with operating expenses of the theater during the next six months.

The board voted to accept a gift of \$5,000 from the Finger Lakes Times to be applied to the theater project.

Also, a group of interested civic leaders and business persons, who wish to remain anonymous, have pledged an additional \$3,800, which, when combined with the Finger Lakes Times' gift and the normal theater rentals already budgeted by Geneva

Concerts, results in a total of \$10,000 available for the project.

The action taken last night by the Geneva Concerts Inc. Board of Directors authorized an option to purchase the theater. The option price is \$1,000 and the purchase price for the theater in the event the option is exercised is \$60,000. This amount includes the payment by the Holland firm that reputedly owns an interest in the structure, of all back taxes to the City of Geneva, currently amounting to something in excess of \$20,000, said Geneva attorney Willard C. Best, representing the local group.

The option will expire June 30, 1978.

The theater will reopen next Thursday with a performance of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Chamber Players and clarinet soloist Joseph Berta, chairman of the music department at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Samuel Williams, publisher of the Finger Lakes Times, in making the \$5,000 offer, said, "In my opinion, preserving the theater is essential not only to downtown Geneva, but to all area residents. The Times is happy to support this project and hopes that other area businesses and organizations will also. It can only help downtown Geneva."

Geneva Mayor Helen Maney, who has attended most of the meetings on efforts to save the nearly 80-year-old theater, commented this morning, "I think it's fine. The only way in which the building can be preserved and maintained is through a community organization. I'm very happy there is a 'holding period' that will make it possible for community interest and support to be organized."

Mrs. Sharon Best, president of Geneva Concerts Inc., and acting director of development at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, said this morning, "I'm really pleased that Geneva Concerts has agreed to this. If the enthusiasm shown at the meeting last night when the decision was made can be communicated to the citizens, the project will be a successful venture."

Mrs. Best said Mrs. Ada Hill and Mrs. Rita Reissig will head Geneva Concerts' fund raising effort, and that the drive will begin with the membership.

Involved in the project since the theater closed in late November have been a steering committee of interested citizens, Geneva Concerts Inc. and a group of business leaders in the community. Members of the steering committee have been working closely with attorneys for the Holland firm.

Included on this committee are: Joseph Berta, immediate past president of Geneva Concerts; Mrs. Best; attorney Best; Paul Brown, English and drama instructor at Geneva Junior High School; Stephen Hastings, former manager of the Geneva Theatre; Nancy Krauss, secretary of Geneva Concerts Inc.; R. E. (Pat) Krauss, a past president of Geneva Concerts Inc., and editor and head of publications at the Geneva Agricultural Experiment Station; Donald Rich, manager, radio station WGVA; and Williams.

During the interim period, the theater will be leased and operated at a reduced schedule. The remaining three performances by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra sponsored by Geneva Concerts and Hobart and William Smith Colleges will take place as scheduled. In addition, the steering committee has been looking at several other possible functions that might appear in the theater. This could include one or more performances by one of the big name bands such as Stan Kenton or the Dorsey Band or Duke Ellington. Re-released movies may be shown one or two days a week, plus there are a number of civic functions that may be scheduled. Also, the colleges may schedule one or more functions in the theater.

A reason for moving ahead with the theater project at this time, said spokesmen, is to keep it operational at a reduced level so that deterioration of the interior can be kept to a minimum. Even during this period of negotiating with attorneys for the Holland firm, said spokesmen, oil has been added to the storage tank so the furnace can be turned on a few hours a day to keep pipes from freezing. So far, they said, damage has been minimal. Certain repairs will be made to the boiler as soon as the option agreement is signed.

During the next six months, members of the steering committee, plus other individuals and organizations in the community will be asked to formulate plans for the long term future of the theatre and the role that it can play as a community center.

In the event the necessary legal details and repairs cannot be completed by Jan. 19, the scheduled concert will be held at Geneva High School as previously scheduled.

Wholesale prices rise sharply

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sharply rising food costs pushed the government's index of wholesale prices up 0.7 percent last month, nearly twice the November increase, the government reported today.

Food prices jumped 1.5 percent in December, marking the biggest rise in seven months and signaling higher prices in the coming months for grocery shoppers.

Changes in wholesale food prices usually show up in retail stores within a matter of a few weeks.

The 0.7 percent rise in wholesale prices last month compared with an increase of 0.4 percent in November and a rise of 0.8 percent in October. During the summer, these prices had

risen only moderately or not at all. In the December report, the Labor Department changed the way it measures wholesale prices to provide what the department said is a more reliable measure of inflation before it hits the consumer.

The new method focuses on prices of finished goods, such as automobiles, furniture, farm equipment and food ready for sale in supermarkets.

In the past, the government measured wholesale costs by using the prices of goods in the various stages of the production pipeline — a system that often resulted in a duplication of price changes as a particular product was transformed from raw material to finished product.

The old wholesale price measure, the all-commodities index, showed prices rose last month by 0.5 percent, compared with a 0.7 percent increase in November. The all commodities index will be phased out in the coming months as the government emphasizes the change in prices of finished goods.

Wholesale prices of finished goods rose 6.6 percent in 1977, the Labor Department said. Producer finished goods, which include commodities such as machine tools and farm equipment rose 7.2 percent over the year, while consumer food prices climbed 6.6 percent from December 1976 to December 1977.

Last month, the finished goods index stood at 185.5, meaning that it cost

wholesalers \$185.50 for the same goods purchased for \$100 in the 1967 base period.

The 1.5 percent rise in consumer food prices last month followed two months of smaller increases and, before that, four months of declines that helped hold down retail food prices.

Sharply higher prices for pork, processed poultry and vegetable oil products were largely responsible for the December increase. Prices also rose for fish and dairy products, processed fruits and vegetables and eggs. Declines were reported for fresh and dried vegetables, fresh fruit and roasted coffee.

Sinai withdrawal again discussed

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian and Israeli military negotiators met today for their second session to discuss Israel's concern for its security.

Israeli spokesman David Kolitz said the joint military committee headed by Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Abdel Ghany Gamassy would hear a report from the Israeli chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur, and then would hold a general discussion.

Weizman and Gamassy at their initial 90-minute session Wednesday reiterated their governments' conflicting demands concerning the 20 Jewish settlements in the Sinai Peninsula.

Egypt's spokesman, Gen. Hassan Kaleb, said Gamassy stressed the need for total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, implying that all Jewish settlers as well as Israel's soldiers must go.

Kolitz said Weizman reiterated the Israeli view that the settlements must continue in existence and handed a written statement to Gamassy because the Israeli delegation was under the impression the talks would begin with formal declarations.

The Egyptians, however, wanted informal remarks. An Israeli source said they demanded withdrawal of the

written statement, which said Israel and Egypt would "examine arrangements for continued maintenance of the Israeli settlements."

The newspaper Al Gomhouria reported that U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts met with President Anwar Sadat in Aswan Wednesday and delivered a message from President Carter containing "several ideas and suggestions" concerning the start of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim will not attend the Jerusalem meeting, a spokesman in New York said, but he refused to confirm an Israeli report that Israel had been informed Waldheim would not be represented at the foreign ministers' meeting. Gen. Ensis Sillasvuo of Finland, the chief of the U.N. peacekeeping organization in the Middle East, represented Waldheim at the preliminary Egyptian-Israeli talks in Cairo last month.

The chief issue at the Jerusalem talks will be the Arab demand for a Palestinian state made up of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip, which Israel has occupied since the 1967 war.



Discussion on Mideast

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (right) meets with the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, Hermann Eilts (left) in Aswan, Egypt Wednesday. The ambassador delivered the official text of a statement made by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to the Knesset on Monday. Also attending the meeting is Egyptian Vice President Husni Moubarek. (UPI)

'Big Six' Henderson: bigger than life

By JULES LOH

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — In Kentucky's moonshine hollows, one name still strikes awe: Big Six Henderson.

Big Six Henderson busted up more stills in his time than anybody in history. If that is not so, at least it is the legend. When moonshiners talk about Big Six Henderson, the line between truth and legend blurs.

"I don't know what the record is," Big Six Henderson allowed, thinking back on his days of prowling around in alien corn, as it were.

"I know I raided more than 5,000 stills and sent more than 5,600 moonshiners to prison. You could figure it up. I've kept a copy of my daily reports for every day I was a revenue agent."

That was for a span of 28 years until he retired a few years ago, and it figures up to roughly a still every other day. The saga of Big Six Henderson, though, is hardly told in dry statistics.

The moonshiners Big Six Henderson tracked down imparted heroic dimensions to him and respected him as much as they feared him.

"Mr. Big Six," one woman said when he came to haul her husband off to jail for a third time, "we're proud to have folks know we know you." More than a few moonshiners named their children for Big Six Henderson.

One even named his mash barrel for him, painted "Big Six" on it and talked to it fondly.

"Good morning, Bix Six," he said to the barrel one day. "Why don't we just run ourselves off a

little batch, you and I. What do you say to that, Big Six?"

"That you're caught, Thurlow," Big Six Henderson said, stepping out of the mist.

At 75, Big Six Henderson is still impressive to behold.

He is a great bear of a man, six foot four, with a thick bush of white hair and eyes the color of wet turquoise. His mother named him William; Big Six was the name he picked up when he was going to law school and throwing a baseball after the fashion of Christy "Big Six" Mathewson.

He became a federal treasury agent, a "revenooer" as they are known in the hills, and went about it with a singlemindedness that became the stuff of myth.

It was no myth, though, that he could creep through the woods as quiet as smoke in his green

raiding suit and could run like a deer for miles. Usually he didn't have to run after his quarry.

"Homer, halt!" he shouted at one fleeing moonshiner. The man froze in his tracks.

"I'm halted, Big Six, I'm halted."

He was a legend in his time, all right, and not just because of his uncanny skill and his zealotry. He also had a reputation for fair play and decent treatment of the moonshiners he caught.

"I never regarded them as doing something evil, just illegal," Big Six Henderson said, "and I never abused them." The big man thumbed through a sheaf of his faded daily reports, looking wistfully at the names.

"Killed a few, but never abused them."

Weather Outlook

Snow

Increasing clouds tonight with a chance of snow late tonight. Low 15 to 20. Snow Friday. High in the mid 20s. Southwest winds 15 to 30 mph becoming south to southeast 10 to 15 tonight. The chance of snow is 30 percent today, 40 percent tonight and 80 percent tomorrow. Periods of snow likely Saturday. Scattered flurries and squalls Sunday and Monday. Temperatures mainly in the 20s Saturday, colder Sunday and Monday. Lows near 10 and highs 15 to 20.

Geneva temperatures today: at 8 a.m., 20 (-7c); noon, 24 (-5c). High during last 24 hours, 24 (-5); low, 15 (-9); precipitation, trace of snow; this month, .94; this year, .94. Sunrise tomorrow at 7:38 a.m.; sunset, 4:56 p.m. Lake levels: Seneca, 445.8; Keuka, 714.8; Cayuga, 382.1.

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