



Staff photo by Tim Farrell

Mehrzad, Yaghouti shovels snow on Tuckahoe Road

City mops up after snow

Yonkers municipal crews were out all night salting and sanding the roads and they were in generally good shape early today, Ernest Green, the city's commissioner of public works, said.

Green said that 20 two-man crews hit the streets at 7 a.m., Wednesday, soon after the surprise snowfall hit. At 7 p.m., the crews were replaced by 12 new ones and, at 7 a.m., this morning, 20 new ones took over.

The crews, Green said, will stay on through much of the day and he'll later determine how many should stay on after that.

Though the snowfall was a small one, Green said it was also a tough one because the snow began melting Wednesday afternoon and then froze over Wednesday night.

This morning, he said, the roads were in generally good shape but there were some areas, particularly in the northern part of the city that still had areas with ice or snow on the streets.

While driving conditions were poor, riding the Conrail commuter trains wasn't much better. The evening rush hour saw commuters on all three lines stranded for up to one hour because of faulty equipment. The snow contributed to the delays, when at least one railroad switch on the New Haven line failed because of the cold.

Driving conditions were expected to remain treacherous through the early morning hours today, with temperatures dipping into the low 20s and police departments warning motorists to slow down. But no snow was predicted for today.

"It's these people who think they can travel the speed limit no matter what the weather: rain, snow, whatever," said one state police officer as he reported as many as 20 minor accidents.

One Port Chester woman ended up with two broken legs after she stopped her disabled car on Route 287 near Exit 8 in White Plains and was struck by a second car on the icy road. Celestina Rivera, 31, of 38 Sand St., was taken to St. Agnes Hospital after the accident.

Also on Route 287, a particularly troublesome spot for motorists during most of the morning and early afternoon, two skidding tractor-trailer trucks collided near Exit 8, causing a traffic jam for miles. One driver complained of shoulder pain, but was apparently not seriously injured.

In Irvington, a Vanguard Tours school bus, with no children aboard, tipped on its side on Sunnyside Lane at about 12:30 p.m., slightly injuring the driver, Gwendora Hill of Ossining, police said.

And in a chain reaction accident, seven cars collided on the Saw Mill River Parkway at the Roaring Brook Road intersection in New Castle.

Heating fuel aid frozen in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional delay in writing a "windfall-profits" tax has wiped out any chance millions of American working people will get quick federal help in paying soaring fuel bills.

Congress already has enacted legislation providing energy assistance this winter for an estimated 18 million households that qualify for welfare. But nothing in that bill would help working families whose incomes, though squeezed by rising fuel prices, exceed welfare levels.

The Senate, in passing its version of the windfall tax, allowed an income-tax credit of \$20 to \$200 a year for families with incomes under \$22,000. The size of the credit — which would be subtracted directly from taxes owed — would be based on a family's outlays for home heating.

Senate and House conferees seeking a compromise between the two tax bills agreed Wednesday that even if the heating credit is kept in the final version, taxpayers will not be allowed to claim the credit when they file their 1979 tax returns starting next month.

That does not necessarily close the door on allowing a 1979 credit to be claimed — along with the credit for 1980 — when tax returns are filed early in 1981.

However, the fate of the credit, which would last three years and cost \$4.8 billion, is in doubt because it is opposed by Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., chairman of the House conferees.

The committee was told that since the Internal Revenue Service is preparing to mail packets of tax forms to 82 million homes a decision would have to be made quickly on the credit if it were to become effective this year.

The decision not to have it claimed on 1979 tax returns was one of only two reached as the conferees met for the first time.

The leisurely pace of that first meeting, which lasted less than two hours, indicated there is virtually no chance Congress can complete action on the tax bill this year.

Even so, there seems general agreement that whatever tax is enacted will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1980.

Parents' hopes for Yule visit dashed by captors

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's interior minister raised the possibility of Christmas visits by the American hostages' families but the students holding the embassy said they haven't decided yet.

The minister, Hojatolislam Hashem Rafsanjani, told the newspaper Bamdad: "There is a possibility their families will be allowed to visit them and we would like such a thing to take place."

But a spokesman for the students who have been holding 50 American hostages in the embassy since Nov. 4 said Wednesday there has been "no decision. And such decisions are up to us."

The students again torpedoed another conciliatory expression by Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, who told The Washington Post that the hostages could be freed if the U.S. government held an official investigation of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's alleged crimes.

"The only thing that could free the hostages would be the return of the deposed shah," said a student spokesman.

The students have contradicted every intimation by Ghotbzadeh that the release of the hostages might be arranged even if the shah were not returned, and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the revolutionary regime, has repeatedly given them his full backing. However, he has never voiced any support for any of his foreign minister's suggestions for a compromise.

In addition to the embassy hostages, Khomeini's men are holding U.S. Charges d'Affaires L. Bruce Laingen and two aides at the Foreign Ministry. All the captives are threatened with spy trials.

On the basis of Laingen's correspondence, Khomeini's regime said it recalled its ambassador to the Scandi-

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navian countries from Stockholm last week and arrested him on charges of establishing ties with the CIA.

The embassy captors produced five documents they said Laingen wrote praising the envoy, Abbas Amir-Entezam, a former deputy prime minister and government spokesman.

"Amir-Entezam is indeed interested in and tries to establish good mutual relations between Iran and the United States," one document said, adding that Laingen was trying to cultivate the relationship with Amir-Entezam.

Another excerpt said Amir-Entezam told Laingen it would be easier to have contacts with American officials in Stockholm. The students said Iran's envoys to West Germany and France also were recalled but didn't say why.

When discussing Ravo, politics comes to mind

By TIM McQUAY
Staff Writer
Last of a series

One of the most prized words in the vocabulary of Yonkers City Manager Pat T. Ravo is "doer."

It crops up when he talks about his top administrators. He applies it to some of the developers interested in the city. He sees the movement and energy that the word denotes as what is needed in Yonkers.

Through two years at the city's helm, Ravo himself has been viewed as a doer, a point agreed upon by his supporters and critics alike. And there are critics of some of the things done.

His main aim, he has said, is the city's economic development. A long list of approved projects or ones being pursued is evidence of his work to attract and keep business and industry in Yonkers. Jobs and tax dollars are at stake. "We've done more in two years than any other two years," he said recently. "Sure we've spent a lot of federal money, the others just put it in the bank."

But there is a question arising from his active style — has he compromised

Yonkers in transition

himself by becoming a politicized city manager?

City services such as sidewalk repairs and tree removals have flourished in the wards of city council members close to Ravo. Others had seen help run dry. In the last 90 days of this fall's election, a year's worth of sidewalks were paved, with special attention again to favored areas.

City workers privately concede the influence of some councilmen into the daily workings of the city has increased under Ravo.

Taking up the attack this fall were Mayor-Elect Gerald Loehr and several council candidates who criticized much of this. Loehr particularly criticized the Community Development Agency and noted an ongo-

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Staff photo by Ed Ledes

Ravo on the job questions about his style

Congress' move seen boon for home mortgages

ALBANY (AP) — Congress' decision to suspend all state controls on mortgage interest rates could soon free up some money for home loans in New York, and break a deadlock that has kept the Legislature from acting on the virtual drying-up of mortgage money.

The Senate and House approved a compromise bill in Washington on Wednesday to suspend for the next three months any state "usury laws," such as New York's current 10 1/2 percent ceiling on the rate which can be charged for new home loans.

If President Carter signs the bill, banks will be able to charge whatever they want on new loans.

Almost all banks in the state have been refusing to make mortgage loans at the current rate, which is among the lowest in the nation.

Carter's approval of the bill would also, for the time being, make debate on New York's interest rate meaningless. And the debate over that has been the major stumbling block to agreement among Gov. Hugh Carey and the legislative leaders on a package of bills to deal with the shortage of mortgage money.

Carey has been trying for weeks to get agreement on a special legislative session to boost the state's mortgage rate and to inject some \$550 million in state-borrowed cash into the home loan business.

However, any deal has been blocked over a dispute about how high the interest rate should jump, weary and the legislative leaders of both parties initially agreed to an increase of about two percentage points. But once the bankers began insisting on much more, Republican backed out of that deal.

With the interest-rate issue temporarily settled by Washington, the Legislature should be able to reach quick agreement on the plan to raise \$550 million or so through the State of New York Mortgage Agency and make it available for home loans.

But the congressional bill will not settle the interest-rate dispute for good. Under its terms, state usury laws will go back into effect three months after the bill is signed. So unless Congress decides different between now and then or unless nationwide interest rates decline steeply, New York could still find itself with a mortgage rate below what banks are willing to lend at.

Some legislative aides had said in advance of the congressional action, however, that a federal suspension could "clear the air" of some of the emotions surrounding the issue, and allow the Legislature to negotiate a compromise on a higher interest-rate ceiling.

Inside

Education For persons who want to spend several hours a week helping children learn — and learn something themselves in the process — the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services has an answer. See Education.

World/Nation The Senate and House are racing to find compromise terms for giving Chrysler Corp. \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees so the auto maker can escape imminent bankruptcy and Congress can start its holiday recess Friday.

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New 'Sam' link to Carr probed

By MAURY TERRY
and JAMES MITTEAGER

The late John Carr, now under investigation as a possible accomplice of David Berkowitz in the re-opened probe of the "Son of Sam" murders, wrote phrases that were later found in a "Son of Sam" note in Berkowitz' possession at the time of his arrest, a friend of Carr's has told police.

The friend, whose name is being withheld by authorities, told investigators that she saw Carr write the words in North Dakota in late 1974 or early 1977, more than six months before Berkowitz was apprehended outside his Yonkers apartment on August 10, 1977.

The newly uncovered information provides yet another link between Berkowitz and Carr and buttresses investigators' theories that Berkowitz did not act alone in the murder spree that left six dead and seven wounded in 1974-1977.

Queens District Attorney John Santucci re-opened the "Son of Sam" investigation in October following a number of articles in the Gannett Westchester Newspapers which demonstrated the probability that

Berkowitz was not solely responsible for the murders as he has claimed.

The hand-lettered note, which was found in Berkowitz' apartment, read, "Because Craig is Craig, so must the streets be filled with Craig (Death). And huge drops of lead poured down upon her head until she was dead. Yet, the cats still come out at night to mate and the sparrows still sing in the morning."

At the bottom of the note was the "Son of Sam" graphic symbol.

Authorities initially had assumed that the "Craig" in the letter was a reference to Craig Glassman, a Yonkers neighbor whom Berkowitz berated with hate mail.

However, the informant has told police that John Carr originally wrote the words. "Because Craig is Craig, so must the streets be filled with Craig" as a sign of admiration for a North Dakota friend also named Craig, who Carr "looked up to and had a great deal of respect for," according to Terry Gardner, a lieutenant with the Ward County, N.D., Sheriff's Dept.

"It appears that the original words Carr wrote served as the basis for what later became a death-type note from the 44-Caliber Killer," Gardner said.

According to the police informant Carr was involved in a love triangle in North Dakota with a married woman in late 1975. The woman's husband was a good friend of Carr's. "The husband, rather than being angry at Carr and the wife, wished them happiness together and remained friends with both of them," Gardner said.

This so impressed John Carr that he wrote that the streets should be filled with Craigs — good people like him," Gardner added.

According to the informant, the note apparently was passed from Carr to Berkowitz altered and later made part of the "Son of Sam" letter, with the new message appearing to be aimed at the other Craig — Glassman.

The police informant was recently interviewed by investigators from the Queens District Attorney's Office, as well as North Dakota investigators.

Thomas McCarthy, a spokesman for Queens D.A. Santucci, declined comment stating, "It is not our policy to comment on information received during the course of an ongoing investigation."

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