

In a copyrighted story, the Niagara Gazette exposed a federal report, which suggested the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site in Lewiston be developed into a regional depository for radioactive wastes. Since the report was publicized, the federal Department of Energy, which operates the site, has withdrawn its plans.

Margeret Ann Thomas is convicted in the December 1981 deaths of her two children. She received a 30-years-to-life sentence.

San Francisco developer Murray Lehr won approval to develop 16½ acres of land near the convention center. A theme park and two hotels were proposed for the site. The project is slated to cost about \$80 million.

A jury in Lockport convicted Robie John Drake in last December's shooting deaths of his classmates, Amy Smith and Stephen Rosenthal. Drake was sentenced to two consecutive 20-years-to-life terms.

A chlorine gas leak from the DuPont Co. on Buffalo Avenue sent 78 players and spectators at a Niagara University football game at Sal Maglie Stadium to area hospitals. DuPont later was fined \$5,000 by the state.

Nov. 1 brought a new era of publication to the Niagara Gazette. After publishing an afternoon newspaper for 128 years, the company switched to morning publication.

A study released by two State University at Buffalo professors showed cancer rates in the Lewiston and Porter area are normal, contrary to speculation that the former LOOW site has caused high cancer rates.

Fantasy Island was bought by Charles R. Wood, formerly of Lockport, and a summer reopening was scheduled.

More than 18,000 residents attended opening ceremonies at the second annual Festival of Lights.

An employment report showed more than 3,000 residents lost their jobs in 1982.

Niagara County led the state with a 14.8 percent unemployment rate.

The Greenpeace climbers returned to City Court in December and were fined \$250 each for their exploits on the Niagara River gorge wall.

After more than a year of planning and waiting for Federal Aviation Administration approval, Air Niagara, headed by Niagara Falls businessman John Prozeralik, took to the sky for its inaugural flight from Niagara Falls International Airport to Newark (N.J.) International.

The federal Department of Energy paid a \$7,500 "service charge" to the state Department of Environmental Conservation for dumping 700,000 gallons of wastewater into Lake Ontario from LOOW storage basins without state approval.

Bethlehem Steel Corp. officials at their Pennsylvania headquarters announced a major consolidation plan that will end steel making operations at their Lackawanna plant, forcing the loss of 7,300 jobs by the end of 1983.

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(Year-end review of 1982 local news)