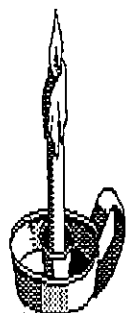


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## Just the Facts

Thursday, Jan. 6, 1994

Lourdine Osborne, Editor

Susan Comstock, Ad Manager

### Former HIC president fights zoning change

A former long-term president of the Hoopeston Industrial Corporation is taking that group to task for selling out.

In a letter to approximately 80 HIC shareholders, Ora J. Baer said allowing part of the HIC's 63-acre tract to be sold for commercial use would "start killing of the Hoopeston Industrial Corporation."

The city planning commission will vote Monday on whether to approve rezoning allowing Casey's Inc. to build on one acre on the south side of Market Street. The property is currently zoned for heavy industrial.

In an interview yesterday, Baer said the store, which would sell gasoline, pizza and doughnuts, violates what the HIC is supposed to do with the property. "It's wrong," he said. "It's wrong for the industrial corporation to sell of a little piece of (the property). I just can't understand their thinking."

Baer said industry would locate on the site if enough effort were put into locating one. "They have to work at it," he said. "They're not working at it. If you want a town to grow, you have to have industry. You have to want it and you have to go after it."

The letter cited a company, Boston Baked Ham & Beans, which almost bought the property a few years ago. Baer said the company backed out at the last minute because of high water rates.

Baer praised the location of the property, calling it a "top notch industrial site," with a concrete entrance pad, nearby railroad, access to utilities and enough land to provide a buffer between an

industry and Hoopeston Area High School.

According to an HIC official, however, the location has proven to be a problem.

The location of the school next to the property presents "a serious problem," said Roger Ball, HIC vice-president, adding many heavy industrial companies will not build close to a school for environmental reasons.

Ball also denied Baer's claims that the HIC has done little to promote the property. "The board's not sitting on their hands," he said, adding the HIC has spent "a substantial amount of money" for an industrial broker from the Kankakee area who listed the property in several trade journals.

The HIC has also worked with the Danville Area Economic Development Corporation, which "contrary to popular belief, did try to send us some good prospects."

Ball said the decision to sell part of the land was made after much consideration. "I'm of the opinion that this decision was not made haphazardly," he said. "Based on the information and the history of the property, it was the consensus of the board that we do this."

Baer compared selling the property to amputation. "Why cut your foot off before you have to," he asked. "There's no reason for this."

But Ball said the HIC has had the property long enough for industry to locate there - if one were going to. "How long do you wait," he asked. "How much money do you spend trying to get people to buy property where they don't want to

See "Zoning" on other side

More *Just the Facts* on the other side

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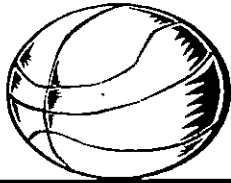
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**Zoning continued from other side  
be?"**

Ball said the HIC considered many options before deciding to sell part of their property. It has considered waiting, selling the property and pur-

chasing another piece, or trading properties.

The planning commission will hear the issue Monday and make a recommendation to the city council, which is expected to rule at its Jan. 18 meeting.

**Briefly...**

**Local man faces cocaine charges**

A Hoopeston man will appear in court later this month on charges that he delivered cocaine in late 1992 and early 1993.

Severo Torres, 33, of 602 E. Thompson, appeared in Danville court after he was formally charged with delivery of between one and 15 grams of cocaine. The charges stem from three separate incidents, on Nov. 3 and Nov. 24, 1992 and Jan. 21, 1993.

Torres posted \$500 on a \$5,000 bond after

preliminary charges were filed Dec. 10. He will remain free on bond.

Torres will appear at a Jan. 13 hearing to find out if the state's attorney has enough evidence to proceed with the case.

**Abuse charges filed**

A Rossville man will appear in court later this month after being charged Jan. 3 with two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

Arthur R. Baxter, 28, of 19305 E. 3750 North Road was charged after he allegedly fondled a female family member younger than 13, beginning in January 1991 and ending with his arrest Jan. 2.

A hearing has been set for Jan. 20. Baxter was being held in jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond, 10 percent to apply.

**Police News**

Bryon C. Brown, 17, of 720 Scott Dr., Hoopeston, was arrested at 7:12 p.m. Tuesday. Brown was charged with discharging a firearm in the city limits and was released on a notice to appear.

Police are investigating an accident which occurred sometime Tuesday.

Ty R. Longfellow, 520 W. Lincoln, reported that while his car was parked at 1016 W. Orange, an unknown vehicle struck his vehicle, then drove off.

The Hoopeston fire department was called at 8:39 p.m. Tuesday to a shed on fire in Cheneyville.

**In the hospital**

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital  
Jan. 4, 1994

Admitted: Sandy Collins and Juana Lopez, both of Hoopeston.

Discharged: Hazel Timmons and James Terrell, both of Hoopeston.

**Obituaries**

**KUNTZ**, Ida Mae, 99, of Rankin, died at 4:10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1994 at the Illinois Knights Templar Home in Paxton. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. today at the United Methodist Church of Rankin. Burial will be in the Rankin Cemetery. There will be visitation one hour before services at the church. Knapp Funeral Home in Rankin was in charge of arrangements.

**Weather**

Snow or freezing rain today. Possible accumulation of 4 inches. High near 30 then falling into the upper 20s. Tonight and tomorrow, snow showers continue. Temperatures in the low to mid 20s.



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