

10,000 Maniacs Donate Their Gold Record To Jamestown

OCT 19 1988

By TIA SWANSON

The residents of Jamestown are a little richer this morning, but Mayor Steven Carlson may have gotten himself a political opponent in the process.

The wealth comes in the form of a gold record given to the city by members of the 10,000 Maniacs, the Jamestown rock band that is enjoying nationwide success.

The gold record is a symbol that the band has sold 500,000 copies of its second major-label album, *In My Tribe*.

"It's great," keyboardist Dennis Drew said after the ceremony, where jokes and camera flashes popped. "I never did anything like this. I feel good that we can say thank you."

"We had to present one gold record to the city of Jamestown," Drew said at the ceremony, "because we didn't have enough gold records to present to everyone who helped us."

Asked how she felt about the whole thing, singer Natalie Merchant replied simply, "absolutely exhilarated."

She provided the competition for Carlson.

In the moments before the presentation, when Carlson had left his office, Ms. Merchant took the chair behind his desk and announced that she would be the Italian-American candidate for mayor.

"This Swedish Empire is ended," she said. "We come to this country. What do we get? A Swedish mayor."

Carlson arrived, putting an end to the coup with his acceptance of the record.

"I want to thank you very much for presenting this to me, representing all the people of this community," he said.

"We're thrilled with the publicity you've given Jamestown."

Carlson told how, at a conference, he had been approached from a downstate mayor who gleefully exhibited a head-

line from that city's newspaper. Carlson said the headline read "10,000 Maniacs Leave Jamestown."

Carlson said that the mayor wanted to know how the city had gotten rid of that many maniacs in one shot.

"We're really very, very proud of the success you've achieved and I know it comes with a lot of hard work," he said.

Carlson reminisced about the band's early days when it played for functions on the Tracy Plaza, and Ms. Merchant danced with abandon.

"A lot of us are beginning to wonder ... if our reputation is changing," he said.

Noting that the area has long been known as the home of Lucille Ball and as the birthplace of Roger Tory Peterson, Carlson said a third reputation might be added, "the home of the 10,000 Maniacs."

See 10,000, Page 3