

Voting Machine Sale To Be Signed Today

By MANLEY J. ANDERSON

An expansion of products and services offered the elections market was promised today by Thomas H. Huhn of Cheney's Point in announcing he will be president of a new corporation purchasing the Election System Division of AVM Corp. on Jones and Gifford Avenue in Jamestown.

Huhn said the purchase agreement will be signed today between the new group, known as Automatic Voting Machine Corp., and AVM. He noted it provides for acquisition of the plant and the equipment and inventory of the voting machine business by the new corporation, which is made up of managers and sales representatives of the present business.

Serving with Huhn as officers will be Afton V. Martin of Jamestown as vice president of manufacturing, Keith C. Spaulding, also of Jamestown, as vice president of sales, Mary D. Huhn of Cheney's Point as secretary-treasurer, Buck C. Beck of Jamestown as controller and Fred J. Cusimano, also of Jamestown, as vice president and general manager of the North East Automatic Voting Machine Division. This will be a sales agency operating in the seven states of New York and New England.

Serving as corporate attorney for the new organization is Sherwood S. Cadwell of the law firm of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber.

Huhn said financing for the corporation is being provided by local individuals, along with Marine Midland Bank, the state Job Development Authority, Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency through its AL Tech Fund, and AVM Corp.

The new corporation's president commented, "The Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency, the Jamestown Area Development Corp. and our bank were resourceful and cooperative in fashioning the financial package. The assistance being provided by AVM Corp. is vital to the success of the plan."

Huhn noted the voting machine business has been operated at the Jones and Gifford Avenue location since 1896, and 101 hourly and salaried employees presently work at the plant. The hourly employees, he said, are members of Lodge 1888, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace

Workers.

MAR 16 1979

The new organization's president commented, "It is anticipated that the expanded product and service lines will require an increase in total employment during 1979 and 1980. Automatic Voting Machines are in use in more than 6,000 local election jurisdictions throughout the U.S. Sales representatives and agents will represent the corporation in every state."

In concluding his prepared remarks, Huhn said, "The voting machine business has for decades been an important employer in Jamestown. We have an excellent team of manufacturing and sales people. We hope our new products and new services will open new opportunities for skilled Chautauqua County men and women. We are grateful for the contributions of both the public and private sources to preserve present and future job opportunities in the voting machine business."

State Sen. Jess J. Present, R-Jamestown, congratulated the new corporation on culminating "a long drawn out procedure" and said he is pleased a Jamestown tradition is being preserved. He said voting machines made locally are recognized internationally.

Assemblyman Rolland Kidder, D-Jamestown, said the new organization represents what about 85 percent of the state's industrial expansions involve — already established industries. He credited Frank T. Costanzo, Jamestown's development director, David G. Dawson, the county's industrial development director, and Joseph Cardinale of the county office for putting together the funding applications that helped make the purchase possible.

Kidder said the state Job Development Authority has a good record and it is expected the legislature this year will propose an amendment increasing its funding level from the present \$250 million to \$300 million.

Chautauqua County Executive Joseph Gerace expressed appreciation to the private sector for its involvement in making the acquisition possible. He said all levels of government — federal, state, county and city — also were involved in the total effort, along with labor. He also expressed appreciation to the public