

A Helping Hand



Dale Worden, E.E. Austin carpenter, looks over plans for a \$600,000 renovation of the Robert H. Jackson Center with Rolland E. Kidder, Jackson Center executive director, state Sen. Cathy Young, and Brian Venn, E.E. Austin project supervisor.

Sen. Young Visits Jackson Center After Raising State Aid

By *The Post-Journal* Staff

The Robert H. Jackson Center is getting a facelift thanks to some state money secured by state Sen. Catharine Young, R-Olean.

Mrs. Young visited the center Friday to view improvements being made in the construction of a new archive and exhibitory room as well as construction of a new ventilation system for the center's auditorium.

The Jackson Center auditorium was originally a carriage house built by the Alonzo Kent family in 1859. It was converted into an auditorium by the Scottish Rite Consistory of Free Masonry when the buildings were purchased by the Masons in the 1920s. The auditorium was utilized for many years as a predecessor to what is now the Lucille Ball Little Theater of Jamestown and was also home for several years of the Shoestring Players of Jamestown.

"We are appreciative to Senator Young for her support in these efforts," said Rolland Kidder, Jackson Center executive director. "Since founding the Jackson Center in 2001, we have been making improvements in our building which will make it more useable and available to the community. One of our prob-

lems has been the inability to use our auditorium during the summer months because of the lack of ventilation and air-conditioning equipment. Thanks to Senator Young we have been able to address that issue. Starting with the summer of 2006, events can be held in our auditorium during all seasons of the year. We thank her for her vision in helping us make the center more available for community use and to make it a more valuable asset for all who live in the area."

The Jackson Center is now involved in a contract with E.E. Austin & Company to convert some of its space into a new archive and exhibitory room. Habiterra Associates of Jamestown is acting as the project architect.

"The Robert H. Jackson Center is becoming, more and more, a place that people coming to our area will want to visit," Kidder said. "These new improvements in our facility will benefit the community as a whole. We commend Senator Young for her support in making these needed additions to our facility which will benefit not only our programming but will help make the center another reason for people to visit Chautauqua County and the Jamestown area."