

Skokie issues Nazi march permit

By Phillip J. O'Connor

Nazi leader Frank Collin has been issued a permit to march in suburban Skokie on Sunday, June 25, it was disclosed at a Skokie village board meeting Tuesday night. A permit also has been issued to a Jewish umbrella group for a counter-demonstration the same day.

Both permits were issued by Village Manager John Matzer Jr.

Village officials said they will continue to seek orders from both the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals here to halt the march.

Matzer issued the permit to Collin's National Socialist Party of America last Friday without fanfare.

About 100 members of the Jewish umbrella group, led by former Nazi concentration-camp prisoner Sol Goldstein, attended the village board meeting and pledged to hold a peaceful counter-demonstration.

COLLIN'S PERMIT calls for the Nazi demonstration to be held in front of the village hall at 3 p.m. on June 25.

Village officials indicated they felt they had little choice but to issue Collin a permit or face possible contempt of court citations in federal court. However, they emphasized that legal moves to try to block the march will continue.

Goldstein told the village board Tuesday night that he expects 50,000 persons to take part in the counter-demonstration. Thirty-eight major Jewish organizations from the Chicago area plan to take part, he said.

Leaders of the counter-demonstration said they plan to first hold a rally at either Niles East or Niles West High School, both in Skokie, and then march to the village hall.

PLANS CALL for about 100 leaders of the counter-demonstration to stand just across the street from the Nazi demonstrators. The 100 leaders will be separated from the Nazis by a line of police officers.

Collin earlier said that the planned Skokie march will give members of the National Socialist Party of America an opportunity to declare themselves "either heroes or cowards."

Collin said that he is mailing a directive to party leaders across the nation ordering them to participate in the Skokie demonstration, donate \$100 to help replenish the party treasury or resign.

Skokie is appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court last week's ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago declaring unconstitutional three ordinances that barred the Nazi march.

In other action, the village board deferred consideration until next Monday of a controversial condominium-control measure that would permit tenants of a building to block condominium conversion.

Trustees were given copies of a report from a Chicago Bar Assn. committee that was critical of some provisions of the proposed ordinance.