

January 15, 1976  
Vol. XXI No. 3

# The **NEW Spotlight**

Controlled Circulation Publication

20¢

*Graphic newsweekly serving the towns of Bethlehem, New Scotland and nearby communities*



**Restoration in Slingerlands**

*See Page 14*

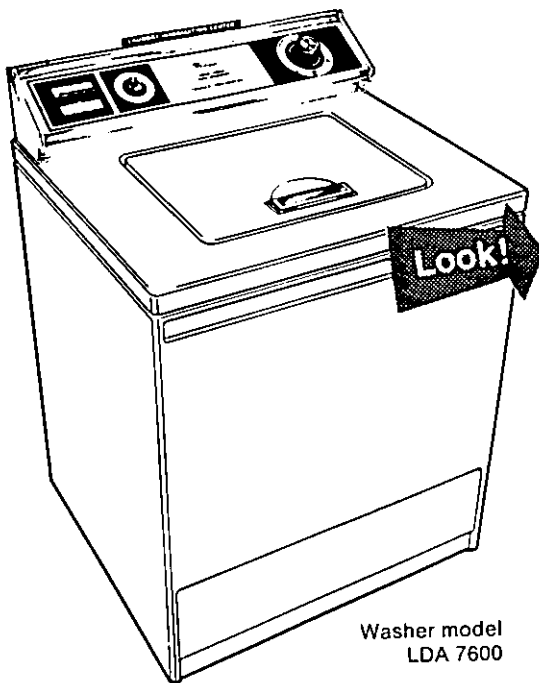
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**Tri-Village FISH** — Call 439-3578 for voluntary service — 24 hours a day the year 'round — offered by residents of Delmar, Elsmere and Slingerlands to their neighbors in need of help in any emergency.

**Bethlehem Jaycees** meet first and third Wednesdays of the month, 8 P.m., Center Inn, 9W, Glenmont.

**Welcome Wagon** — Newcomers and mothers of new babies call 785-9640, Mon. thru Sat., 8:30 A.M., 6:00 p.m. so you may have a Welcome Wagon call.

**Bethlehem Memorial Auxiliary** to Post #3185, Veterans of Foreign Wars, meets the third Monday of every month, at the Post Rooms, 404 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

**The Albany County Pistol Club**, Winnie Place and Maewin Drive, Delmar, welcomes guests at its indoor pistol range every Tuesday at 8 p.m. Information: Dave Herbach, 439-4372 or Tom Corrigan, 439-3301.

**Monarch Club** of Albany meets every Tuesday night at the Center Inn, Glenmont.

**Give and Take Shop**, staffed and stocked by residents of Delmar, clothing for all occasions, all ages, all sizes, available to everyone. Basement St. Thomas Apostle Church & Rectory, Mon. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Tues. 1-3 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

**Boy Scout Troop 159** for the handicapped meets Thursday 7 p.m., Delmar Reformed Church.

**Kiwanis Club** of Delmar meets every Monday night at 6:15 at The Center Inn, Route 9W, Glenmont.

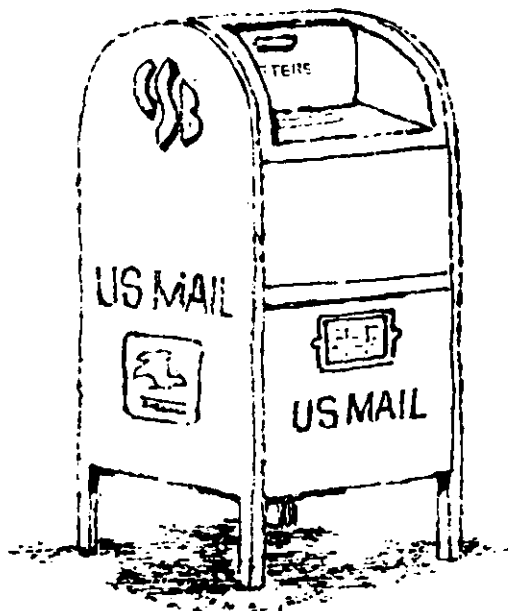
**Glenmont Lions Club** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Lacasa Restaurant, Selkirk, 6:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Info: Frank Muria, 767-2408.

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**Spotlight**

is published every Thursday by Newsgraphics, Inc., 154 Delaware Ave., Delmar, N.Y. 12054, N.A. Boynton, editor-publisher. Controlled circulation, postage paid at Delmar, N.Y. News and ad copy deadline 4 p.m. Friday for following week's issue.

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**Bethlehem Jaycees** meet 4th Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Center Inn. Contact Denise Linstruth 439-5312 or Nevanne Merrill at 439-6138.

**Bethlehem Junior Woman's Club** meets 2nd Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library.

**Bethlehem Recycling Program** (paper, cans, glass), Town Garage, 114 Adams St., Delmar. Mon. thru Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Papers should be tied, cans flattened, bottles clean w/metal removed.

**Rosary** — St. Thomas Church, Adams Place, Delmar, every Thursday at 11:45 a.m.

**Bethlehem Senior Citizens** meet every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Coffee House on Adams St., Delmar.

**Rotary Club** of Delmar meets every Tuesday night 6:15 at Schrafft's Motel.

**The Delmar Community Orchestra** rehearses every Monday evening from 7:30-9:30 at the First United Methodist Church of Delmar.

**Gam-Anon**, for wives of compulsive gamblers, meets Wednesdays 8:15 p.m., St. Pius Church, Loudonville, 462-6916 or P.O. Box 23, Albany.

**Historical films**, Community Room, Bethlehem Library, 12 noon, bring lunch, free coffee.

**Paper Drive** by Youth Groups of Methodist and Reformed Churches, second Saturday of each month. Bring papers to Town Parking Lot next to Applebee Funeral Home, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Papers will be picked up from the elderly or infirm if you call either church office.

**Bethlehem Youth Employment Service**, 114 Adams St., Delmar. School year schedule, Monday-Friday, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Telephone 439-2238.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**

**Fish Volunteers**, informational and social meeting, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

**Free Diet Workshop** and open house, Bethlehem Lutheran Church 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**

**Young Adult Film Series**, the story of Evel Knievel, Bethlehem Library, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**  
**American Association of University Women**, Albany branch general meeting, Bethlehem Library, 1:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**  
**Family Program** on Colonial child-life, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.  
**Slingerlands Community Players**, auditions for mellerdrama, "Love Rides the Rails (or will the mail train run tonight?)" at playhouse, Unionville, 7:30 p.m. Information 355-4314.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20**  
**Bethlehem Women's Republican Club**, "Women in Government," Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments, public invited.

**Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post**, American Legion Auxiliary, post rooms, 8 p.m.  
**Free blood pressure clinic**, Adams St. coffee house, 9-11, 1-3, 7-9.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21**  
**Bethlehem Board of Appeals**, public hearing on application of Joseph A. Tannatta, 405-A Schoolhouse Rd., Albany, (N. Bethlehem) for a Variance from Art. V. of the zoning ordinance to establish a school for karate at above address, town hall, 8 p.m.  
**Delmar Progress Club**, antique study group, "Early Home of Bethlehem Area," Allison Bennett, Bethlehem Library, 10 a.m.  
**Bethlehem Board of Education**, public business meeting, 90 Adams Pl., 8 p.m.

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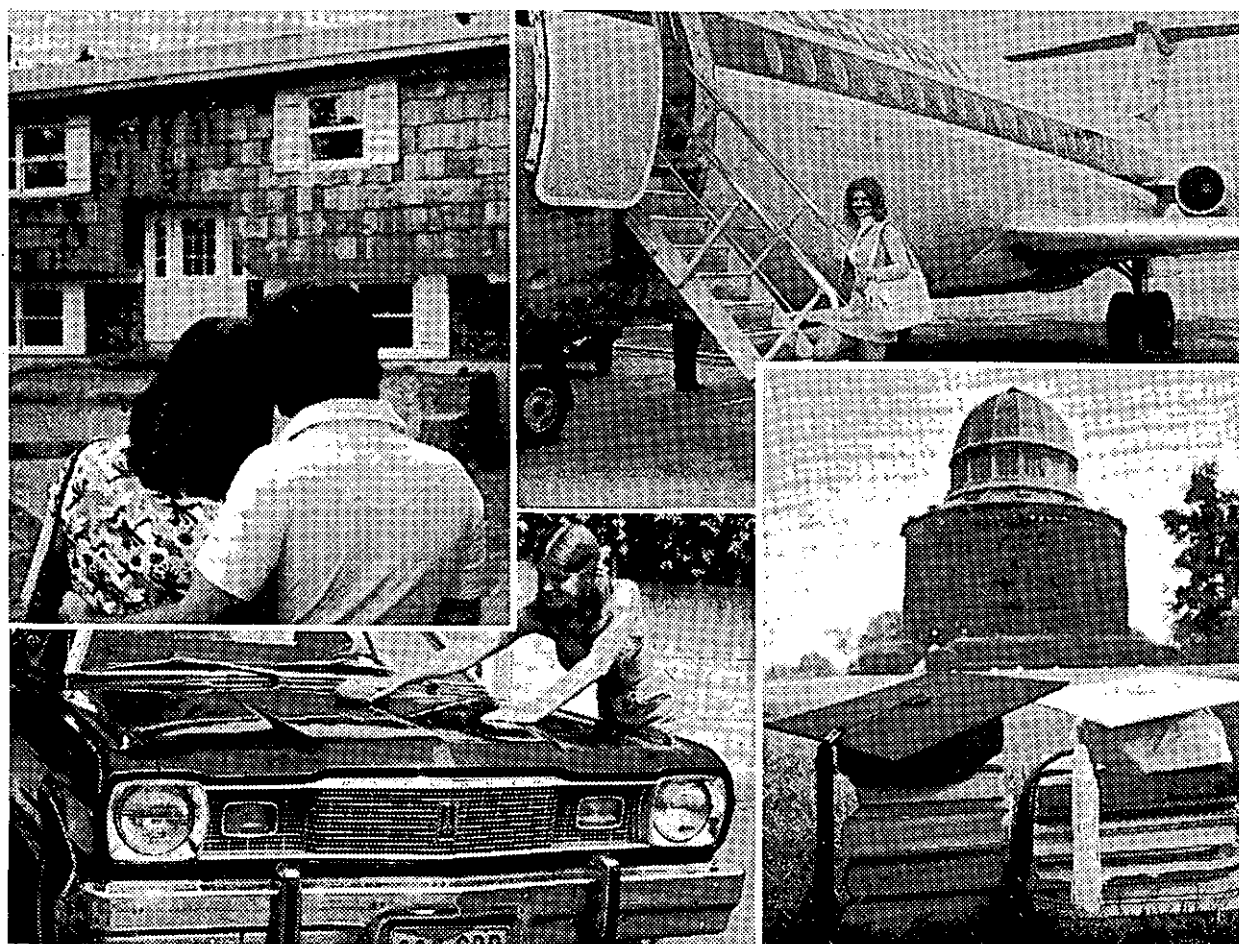
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## TOWN PLANNING

# A master plan and the 'open green field'

Bethlehem's beleaguered town planning board was back in the headlines this week, where it has often been, and the signs were that it would take a more aggressive role in 1976.

The latest newsmakers were:

- Two Slingerlands housewives representing a neighborhood group who assailed the appointment of Delmar realtor-builder William R. Weber as board chairman as political and in conflict of interest.
- Two Delmar housewives representing the League of Women Voters who called for adoption of a town "master plan."
- Weber himself, who pledged he would have the board explore the question of lot sizes, the crux of most of the recent residents' protests against developers.

### Stronger role

It was clear that Weber, less than two weeks and one meeting into his new job, would give the embattled panel vigorous leadership.

In his view, the seven-member board faces a stern challenge in the need to update zoning requirements established three decades ago and still protect both land owners and community interests.

"Some of the zoning requirements established in 1944 are still in effect," he observed. "They should be brought up to date in some instances — for one, lot areas in certain zones, and possibly lot frontage.

"It's very natural for a person who has been looking out his back windows at green fields to become very concerned when a

subdivision is planned for that field. We must take a realistic look at what's happening to that open green field."

### Sewer brings changes

With the advent of Bethlehem's \$13-million sewer extension in 1975, that open green field has become attractive to developers, with half a dozen major subdivisions in various stages of development in the town on the drawing boards as the calendar moves into 1976.

In Weber's view: "We are going to get requests from developers. We are going to get pressure from people wanting to preserve the status quo in their neighborhoods. We are responsive to these people, but we must be fair to the owners of that particular property.

"Our challenge as a board is: how to keep that field green and be fair to the person who

owns the land? We can control the use of his land, but we can't condemn that land under private ownership."

First of a two-part Spotlight interpretive analysis of town planning.

### Lot size at stake

One answer: require larger lot areas for building sites. Most of the vociferous protests of townspeople to subdivisions has centered on lot size, which translates into community density. Slingerlands residents still seethe at the Krahmer-Wheeler plans to erect a major community between Font Grove Rd. and Surrey Mall and the easy disregard by Residential Concepts Inc. of neighborhood

protests on plans for Southwood Extension No. 3.

"I will direct the attention of the board to the possibility of increasing the requirements for lot areas," Weber says. But he cautions this is a complex procedure that requires "a great deal of study." "There is," he says, "no pat answer."

### Master plan on shelf

Meanwhile the so-called master plan for Bethlehem planning remains on file in the town hall and public library. The plan was prepared in the late 1960's by "outside" professional land planners and funded by federal, state and municipal dollars.

The multi-volume opus covers such items as zoning, town ordinances, subdivision regulation, road systems and projected growth. Although no formal action has been taken by the town board on the plan, the volumes provide a valuable and frequent reference work for town officials and interested citizens.

"We have taken many things from this plan and incorporated them directly into ordinances and regulations," observed Weber.

The town was one of the few municipalities in the area to begin zoning as early as 1944, which may account for its status as an attractive and sought-after residential area. More recently, under the leadership of the late Howard P. Paddock, a local realtor, and Robert Collins, former town building inspector, the planning board extended zoning in anticipation of increasing



Chairman Weber: a harder look at planning Wm. Longabaugh

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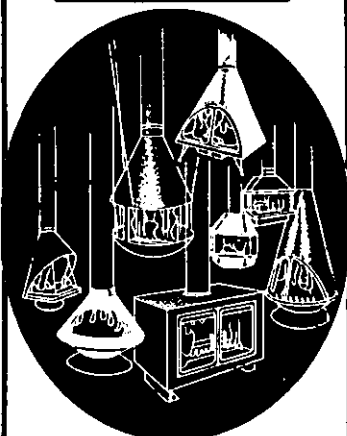
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commercial influence. Commercial zones were mapped along the river, along the Thruway and in the Selkirk industrial area to control land use.

### To study plan

Weber said he would set up an early appointment with Mrs. Hans Schapire and Mrs. Paul Marr, who headed a two-year study of town planning by the Bethlehem unit of the League of Women Voters. The report calls for adoption of a new master plan that will be "binding".

Mrs. Peterson-Hardt and Mrs. Ouderkirk also called for a master plan. In their letter assailing the Weber appointment they urged the town board to appoint a citizens' committee to study the master plan.

"We have, instead, been told that there will be no master plan, that trees cost too much and that a man has a right to do with his property as he wishes, so long as it is not in violation of the law," their letter said.

*Next week: Slingerlands: a showcase of citizen frustration in municipal planning.*

### New Fish officers

Ann Marie Dullea has been elected president of the Tri-Village Fish board for 1976. Other officers are: Rosanna Zinn, vice president; Theresa Dexter, secretary; Carolyn Parker, treasurer; Marjorie Eilertsen, recruiting; Ann Patchen, publicity.

Board members are: Shirlee Morrison, Alfred Meyer, J. Peter Walsh, Dorothy Sorenson, Maureen Nyilis and Pat Baltzel.



Wm. Longabaugh

Planning board in session at a December hearing

## Flap over Weber: 'good copy'

When Delmar realtor-builder William R. Weber picked up last Thursday's Albany Times-Union and read an eight-column top-of-page headline assailing his appointment as new chairman of the Bethlehem planning board, his first impulse was to shrug it off as just another newspaper story. Then his blood pressure mounted and the reaction set in.

"I can't think this blast is directed at me personally, he said. "The only thing that disturbs me is that I am condemned before I've performed any function at all, that I'm really not getting a chance to prove myself in this important job."

But the blast was real, and the press played it to the hilt. The volley came from the co-chairpersons of the Association of Slingerlands Neighbors, a citizens group long critical of the planning board in context with its handling of the recent Lyndhurst subdivision and other applications by land developers.

"We're going to go after them this time," Mrs. Sandra Peterson-Hardt was quoted as telling an Albany reporter. "They've gone too far."

Mrs. Peterson-Hardt, wife of State University professor Robert H. Hardt, and Mrs. Jacqueline Ouderkirk, wife of a member of the State Teachers Retirement Board staff, signed a 900-word letter to the town board sharply critical of Weber's appointment and charging that land developers who support "the party in power . . . are guaranteed that their plans go through with little trouble."

### The press first

The letter was quoted in the Albany Times-Union several days before it was delivered to town hall. Supervisor Harry H. Sheaffer called the implications "ridiculous" and other officials observed that Mrs. Peterson-Hardt "is always good newspaper copy."

Planning board member Alvin Greenwood, a retired claims adjuster, said Weber "is a man of the highest integrity and with his experience can make a real contribution to good town planning."

The late Howard P. Paddock was chairman of the planning board some years ago, and other realtors have served on the panel without arousing criticism for conflict of interest. Latest was Harold C. Geurtze of Glenmont, Weber's predecessor.

"It does seem apparent that there are strong connections between realtors, developers and the party in power," Mrs. Peterson-Hardt and Mrs. Ouderkirk said in their letter. "How can the citizens of the town of Bethlehem be assured that decisions regarding development of the community will

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be in the best interest of the total community and not these special interest groups when we not only hear these rumors but we can see there are connections, and now these connections are confirmed by the appointment of Mr. William Weber, who has both construction and real estate interests . . ."

Weber himself viewed the appointment as a challenge to "perform a real service" to the community. He served a seven-year term on the board during its growth years, and since 1968 has been a consultant to the board.

"Whenever a matter has come before the board in which I am involved, I have taken myself out of the discussion and out of the voting," he said. "I intend to do the same as chairman."

## Planners adopt 'open' format

Those every-other-week "executive sessions" of the Bethlehem planning board have gone by the board.

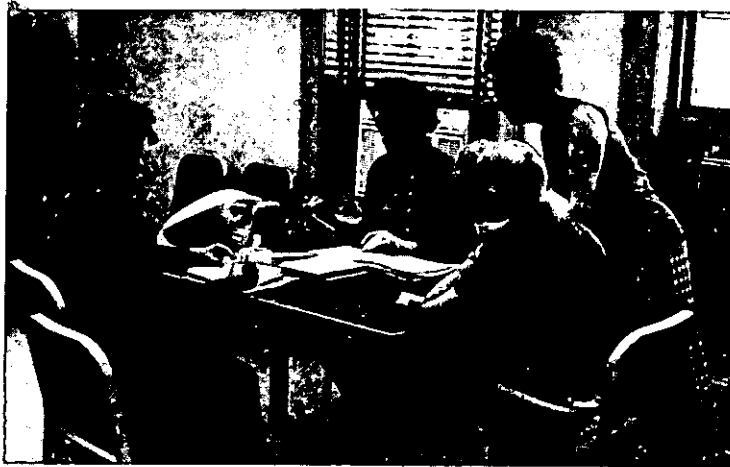
In its first session of the new year and first under its new chairman, William R. Weber, the board acted to declare all of its weekly meetings open to the public. In the past the board has held open meetings on alternate Tuesdays with executive sessions on the intervening Tuesdays.

In announcing the decision, reached at an executive session last Tuesday, Weber said the board will retain the option to hold an occasional executive session under discretionary circumstances.

### Board unanimous

Weber further noted that in its executive sessions, the board is not allowed to vote on matters before it. The decision to discontinue regularly scheduled executive sessions was therefore described as a "wish" that was unanimous among board members.

Discussions at the executive sessions are a matter of public record and that minutes of the meetings are available for public inspection following



Extra help at tax time at Bethlehem town hall: from left, Ruth Burns of Delmar, Jeanette Mortensen of Selkirk, Marge Warner of Glenmont and Bernice Henderson of Delmar, part of a contingent of part-time workers who put in long hours to get the annual tax statements in the mail on time. Photo by Life-Art Studio.

approval by the planning board. Traditionally, that approval has come at the regularly scheduled planning board meeting following each executive session.

In the past, the board has used its executive sessions primarily to consider proposed zoning for unzoned areas in the

town, to prepare recommendations relative to petitions received by the town board for zoning changes and to consider information and plans submitted by owners of land or developers during preliminary stages of planning for proposed subdivisions or planned development districts.

## Dog tags overdue

A dog's life isn't all that easy in Bethlehem, and according to Town Clerk Marion Camp there are still quite a few canines in town operating without a license.

Dog licenses for 1976, which had a Jan. 1 deadline, are available at the town clerk's office at 393 Delaware Ave. between 8:30 and 4:30 on weekdays. Owners who apply by mail should include a stamped self-addressed envelope and a check made out to the town clerk.

License fees are \$2.35 for each male or spayed female dog, \$5.35 for each unspayed female dog. A veterinary certificate or an affidavit is required for spayed female dogs, unless the appropriate certification is already on file with the town clerk.

### 'Leash' law

The town ordinance, in effect since 1967, prohibits dogs running at large unless on a leash or accompanied by a

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"responsible person." It also prohibits "habitual howling or barking, destruction of or damage to, property, and chasing or otherwise harassing any person or habitually chasing motor vehicles."

Bethlehem residents who wish to report violations of the law should call dog warden Arthur Taylor, 463-3695, Town Clerk Marion Camp 439-4955, or the Bethlehem Police Department, 439-9973.

Licensed dogs in violation of the law are impounded by the dog warden and can be reclaimed by the owner on payment of a \$2 fee. Unlicensed dogs apprehended for failure to have a license can be reclaimed by the owner for a \$5 fee, with purchase of a valid license. The dog warden notifies owners of their pet's impoundment. According to the ordinance, impounded dogs are held for 12 days from the date of impounding.

#### Delmar poet to read

Robert S. Mullens of Delmar, who has been writing poetry seriously since 1972, is a co-founder of Omega magazine, a poetry journal whose first issue appeared in October. Mullens, who studied philosophy at Northeastern University, Boston, and fellow-poet and co-publisher J. Geoffrey Jones, will read their own poems and other poems at the Rensselaer County Council for the Arts, 189 Second St., Troy, Saturday at 8 p.m. The program will also feature Michael Currant playing the dulcimer. A reception will follow. The program is open to the public without charge.

#### NEW SCOTLAND

#### Houghtaling quits NS zoning panel

New Scotland town board will fill vacancies on two panels at its next meeting Feb. 4. The vacancies were created when Charles Houghtaling stepped down from the town zoning board of appeals and the grievance review board of assessments upon taking his seat as a newly elected member of the town council.

The zoning board of appeals has five members and the review board three.

Houghtaling announced his resignations last week at the town board's first regular business session of the new term.

#### Deputy confirmed

The board confirmed the appointment of Dorothy Udell of Clarksville as deputy town clerk. Mrs. Udell has been deputy for the past three and a half years to the late Elizabeth Feldman. She was reappointed by Corrine Cossac, who has been named by the town board to fill Mrs. Feldman's post until a special election is held next November.

Robert Parmenter was reappointed town historian, a non-salaried position.

#### Art classes begin

Art classes for the winter season will start at the Albany Institute of History and Art on Jan. 17. Two instructors will teach the children's art classes, and four instructors the adult classes, scheduled to begin on Jan. 20. Call the Institute office for information on registration and fees, 463-4478.

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Cissy at home with Stephen and David

Life-Art Studio

## New town post goes to 'Cissy'

The decor at Bethlehem town hall has a bright new look now that Cissy Stasiuk has come on the payroll.

Helenna Posselt "Cissy" Stasiuk is the town's new "community relations person." The part-time position authorized by the town board is designed to handle press inquiries, public information and other liaison duties involving town officials, various boards and the public.

Cissy is 33, blonde, personable and articulate. She was born in Albany, moved to Delmar at age 12, graduated from Bethlehem Central and got a B.A. degree from Syracuse University of Journalism. She edited an insurance trade jour-

nal for a while, did press room liaison at conventions, was an assistant in the State Tax Dept. public relations office, put in a brief stint in PR and radio advertising with Macy's in Colonie, and edited "Attack," the 200,000-circulation organ of the state's Narcotic Addiction Control Commission.

She is married to William N. Stasiuk Jr., who has degrees in civil and sanitary engineering from Manhattan and a doctorate in environmental engineering from RPI. He is staff assistant to Commissioner Theodore Hullar of the state Department of Environmental Conservation. They have Tania Jane, who will be 7 next month, Stephen Frederick, 4½ and David Alexander, 2½.

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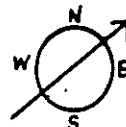


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Cissy is leader of Brownie Troop 260 at Hamagrael School, knits, sews and plays tennis and bridge.

### **Delmar school verdict delayed**

Bethlehem's board of education has put off its decision on whether to close the Delmar Elementary School as an economy move in the face of declining enrollments and a severe cut in state funds. Board president Bernard E. Harvith says the decision will come "sometime in February."

Meanwhile a well-organized campaign by the school's PTA has kept the issue alive. In a surprise move, the Delmar School PTA presented a statement to the board last week in which it urged a two-year delay in closing the school, but with this adder: if the school must be closed, the statement said, the board should consider closing the Clarksville Elementary School instead.

The PTA's position, as presented by Mrs. William F.

Frye, is that the Delmar school's projected capacity next year will be 76 percent compared to 53 percent for the Clarksville school.

### **Budget hearings slated**

The issue, which flared to a high emotional pitch at two public sessions some weeks ago at which more than 200 people roasted the board's announced intention to consider closing the district's oldest building, is expected to draw more flak in the next few weeks. The board has announced it will hold budget hearings in February in Glenmont and in March at Clarksville. So far no opposition to the Delmar PTA stand has been voiced from the rank and file of district taxpayers, but the Glenmont and Clarksville hearings may bring out the delayed reaction from economy-minded residents.

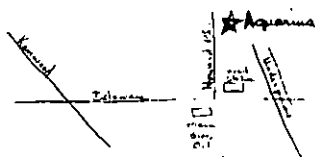
In an unrelated matter, the school board has been warned by the State Education Dept. that allotments of natural gas may be restricted to 60 percent of the 1970-71 usage, with provision for a \$10 per 1,000



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*Life-Art Studio*

Bethlehem's Bicentennial booklet, a keepsake for future generations, goes on sale this week at many Delmar stores. In the photo Jeanne Galloway and Barbara Beck sell the first copies to Luke Mullen, center; Jeffrey Sowers of Delmar Appliance, and Thomas Shaffer of the National Savings Bank. The booklet was prepared by and is being distributed by the Tri-Village Welcome Wagon.

cubic foot surcharge on consumption above that level. Such a situation, a spokesman indicated, would cause "serious difficulties" for the district.

#### Class mixes crafts

Among programs the Albany YWCA will be offering this winter is a new class called Craft Mix. Nancy Sheridan, a Voorheesville resident, will be traveling to the YWCA on Wednesday nights to teach a 6:30-8 p.m. class. She will also be teaching the class in the Community Corner of the 76 Mall on Broadway in Menands from 8:30-10 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The classes begin on Wednesday, Jan. 21, and run for 10 weeks. Mrs. Sheridan will teach quilting, bread dough, jewelry, ceramics, crewel work, chair caning and more.

The YWCA's winter program also includes classes in yoga, belly dancing, car mechanics, assertiveness training, photography, karate and slimnastics. Call the YWCA, 449-7184, for a free program booklet and information.

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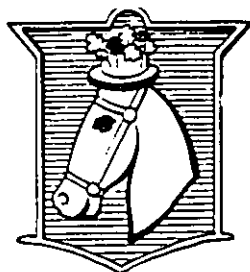
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"The Store" in Slingerlands—circa 1928.

### Shop owner restores a landmark building

Cover photo by  
William Longabaugh

Within a few short months a newcomer to Slingerlands has established an attractive and unique shop, restored an old building on a historic site, and uncovered a fraternal poster that is at least half a century old.

Thomas Pulleo has attracted favorable attention with his new "Golden Acorn," featuring one of the largest displays of basketry in upstate New York along with a growing collection of Mexican tinware. The shop is in the building just east of the D&H underpass on New Scotland Rd. known to several generations of Slingerlanders as "the store."

### Lodge room above

Its vintage and origin are unknown, but longtime residents remember it has always had a store of some kind, mostly general or grocery, on the first floor, was formerly the postoffice and the Odd Fellows lodge occupied the second floor.

### Iron coffee wheel

Rev. Mason Tolman, a lifelong resident, remembers the store of his boyhood had the traditional cast-iron "coffee wheel" for on-the-spot grinding.

"Everything was behind the counter," he recalled. "A man in a white coat filled your order as you gave it to him."

The Bethlehem lodge of the I.O.O.F. is no more, but one of their posters survives as a Pulleo trophy. It was found embedded in a boarded window on the second floor —

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**Pulleo and poster**

where the Odd Fellows brethren used to gather — separated from the old lodge room by four layers of wall covering. When extricated it had only a small water stain, and displayed a spiritual eye, a bow and arrow and the three lengths of chain that symbolized the ancient fraternal order.

#### Original flavor

"The building has lots of charm," says its new owner, who has gone about the restoration with care. "My intent is not to modernize. I believe in the original flavor."

It's a sturdy old building that could be nearly 200 years old. "But it still shakes when a train goes by," says Pulleo. That's only three or four times a day now on the single-track freight line linking the Port of Albany with the D&H main line from Whitehall and Schenectady to Oneonta and Binghamton.

Meanwhile the basketry catches many an eye — baskets of all shapes and sizes, of chestnut, bamboo, willow, olive wood and even palm leaves, handwoven in Mexico, Taiwan, Italy, China and more than 20 other lands.

#### More items coming

As the Golden Acorn grows there will be more gift items from the Orient, more glassware and wall hangings, with emphasis on hand-woven grass rugs from Taiwan.

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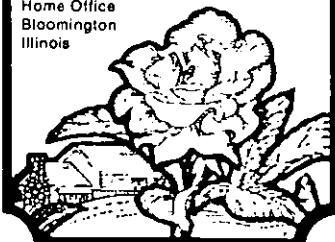
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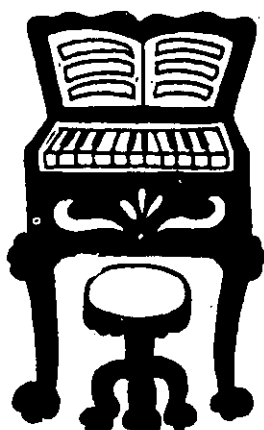
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traffic' from a burgeoning community flows into and out of the sunken underpass, where the original toll gate on the early plank road stood, and in the rear passing freights on the D&H shake the old structure as they rumble by three times a day.

### University women meet

American Association of University Women, Albany branch, will hold its general meeting on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in the Bethlehem Public Library. A panel of three speakers on "World Pluralism — The Human Encounter" will be introduced by co-chairmen Mrs. George Chesbro and Mrs. Hideo Kusama. The panel: Miss Maria Valdivieso, Ecuador, a laboratory technician, St. Peter's Hospital, Mrs. Tajitu Molla, Ethiopia, SUNY graduate student and Mrs. Natsuko Yatsue, Japan, housewife active in the International Center, who returned in November from a trip to Japan.

Mrs. Esther Laraway, Mrs. Alice Haight, Dr. Myrtle Shaw, Miss Eloise Paddock, chairman, are in charge of the social hour.

### Speaks at AARP

Bertram, S. Law, associate director of learning resources for the media at Hudson Valley Community College, will present "Future Shock" in film and tape at the AARP meeting at 12:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at the First Methodist Church, Delmar.



**Connie Dallos**

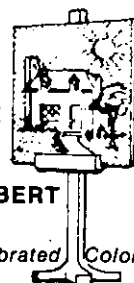
### Colonial childlife program

Bethlehem Library will present a family program, "Colonial Childlife," Sunday, at 2 p.m. Two speakers in colonial costume, Barbara Will and Connie Dallos of the Library staff, will contrast lifestyles in the city and on the farm, including the child's daily schedule and his school, and a slide-tape presentation on chores, duties and games will follow. A movie "Had you lived then," filmed in Cooperstown, will be shown. Colonial refreshments will wind up the 45-minute program.

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William Schutt, center, president of the Union National Bank, accepts congratulations on his election as president of the Governor Clinton Council, Boy Scouts of America, from outgoing President C. S. Burriss and Scout Executive James Beck. Schutt has been a member of the Council executive board for four years and was chairman of the Council Finance Committee. Burriss, vice president of Atlantic Cement, will become chairman of the Albany County district. The Governor Clinton Council has a membership of 10,000 scouts and 3,000 scout leaders in Albany, Rensselaer and Columbia counties.

#### Colleen Shane engagement

Mrs. William J. Shane, 500 Delaware Ave., Delmar, announces the engagement of her daughter, Colleen Ann, to Dr. Howard McVay Austin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jason McVay Austin, Westfield, N.J. Miss Shane is also the daughter of the late Rev. William J. Shane.

The future bride graduated from Vassar College and is a third-year medical student at Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse.

Dr. Austin, a resident in diagnostic radiology at Upstate Medical Center, graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of

Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

A March wedding is planned.

#### Jennifer Easton to wed

Mr. and Mrs., John Goldsborough Easton Jr. of Glenmont have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Betts Easton, to Kevin James McNeil, son of Dr. and Mrs. James McNeil of Melrose, Mass.

Miss Easton is a senior at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, where she will receive a B.A. in June. She is planning a career in advertising.

Mr. McNeil is a 1974 graduate of Colby College and will



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receive his masters degree in chemistry from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., in June. He presently plans to attend the school of denistry at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

The couple plans a wedding on Aug. 7.

**Colleen Brown to wed**

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Brown of Slingerlands Ave., Clarksville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Colleen Louise, to Daniel Rinker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rinker of Niagara Falls.

The prospective bride is employed by Wafer Inc. of Niagara Falls in a management position, and her fiance is on the staff of Moore Business Forms of Niagara Falls. A May 14 wedding is planned.

**Susan Lemieux engaged**

Mr. and Mrs. Dorian J. Lemieux Jr., 127 Marlboro Rd., Delmar, announce the engagement of their daughter,



**Colleen Brown-Daniel Rinker**

Susan Marie, to Martin Alexander Richter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher T. Richter of Center Moriches, L.I.

Miss Lemieux attended Bethlehem schools and graduated from Shenendehowa High School, Clifton Park. She is a senior at the State University College at Cortland. Mr. Richter, a graduate of Center Moriches High School, also will graduate in May from the State University College at Cortland, N.Y.

No date has been set for the wedding.



**Susan Lemieux**

**Susan Kross to wed**

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kross of Selkirk announce the engagement of their daughter, Susan, to Richard Bartholomew, son of Mrs. Edith Bartholomew and the late Frank Bartholomew of Long Beach, N.Y.

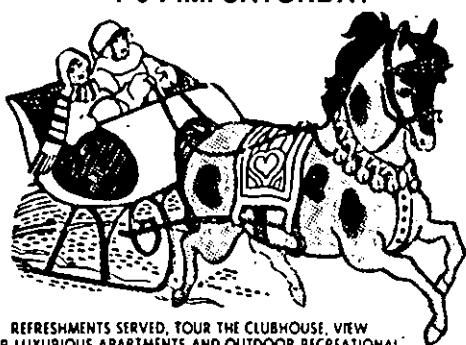
The future bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and is a senior at Concordia College, Bronxville. Mr. Bartholomew is a graduate of Concordia College and is attending Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

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**Patricia Delahanty  
Delahanty-Tuzzolo**

The wedding of Patricia Delahanty, 10-22 Farnsworth Dr., Slingerlands, and Richard Tuzzolo, 27 Harding Ave., Delmar, has been set for Jan. 4.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Delahanty, 29 Homestead St., Albany. She is a graduate of the college of St. Rose and is a conservation educator for the New York State Dept. of

Environmental Conservation. The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Tuzzolo of Delmar. He was graduated from St. Lawrence University, and is employed at Albany International Corp.

#### **Kathy Spaulding bride**

Kathy Spaulding, formerly of Slingerlands, and S. Wayne Tougher, formerly of Glenmont, were married Dec. 27 at the Glenmont Community Church (Reformed). The candlelight ceremony was performed by Rev. Jack Cooper.

Mrs. Tougher is the daughter of Mrs. V. Rae Smith of Slingerlands and James Smith of Voorheesville. She was given in marriage by her father. She is employed by F. Weber Div., Visual Art Industries, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Tougher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Tougher of Glenmont. He is employed by Link Belt Drive Div., FMC Corp.

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**Randy a dandy  
despite BC's 0-7**

Bethlehem Central High School's 0-7 basketball team continues to flounder in the Suburban Council basement, but if 6-2 senior forward Randy Miller continues to improve as he has in the last three games, then it may not be long before BCHS starts to ruin the hopes of the league's contenders.

Miller feels the turnaround is more psychological than physical. His early season difficulties came mostly as the result of a badly sprained ankle he suffered in a pre-season scrimmage with Cardinal McCloskey.

"My ankle was bothering me

more mentally than physically," he said. "I picked up some bad habits when my ankle was hurting. I was afraid to go to the hoop and mix it up inside under the boards for fear of re-injuring the ankle.

"One day after practice, Coach (Dale) Walts took me aside. He asked me what was bothering me, and when I told him it was my ankle, he told me not to worry about it. He told me I had to be thinking more while I was on the court, and that he thought I could be a consistent 15 points-per-game scorer, which really helped my confidence. But the main thing he wanted me to concentrate on was rebounding."

Randy's rebounding has been excellent in the last three games — he has averaged nine boards per game during that span. And mostly as a result of his thinking more on the court, his scoring has increased gradually, too. His shot selection has been much better, and he has moved well without the ball. Overall, he looks like a different player from the Randy Miller who was struggling so much earlier in the season.

There is little question that Miller can establish himself as one of the best forwards in the Suburban Council. If he continues to work hard and improve, it is very possible that he will gain that recognition.

*Bob Tate*

**Teachers to meet**

The Capital District Chapter of the New York State Association of Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at Carondelet Educational Center, Rt. 155, Latham.

Sister Lucian Hayes, a leader in the field of mentally handicapped and learning disabilities who is currently on the faculty of the College of St. Rose, will be the guest speaker.

**Fish volunteers meet**

An informational and social meeting for Fish volunteers will be held at 7:30 tonight (Jan. 15) in the Community room of the Bethlehem Library. The topic will be "New Ideas and Procedures." Refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in becoming a Fish volunteer is cordially invited.

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# Vox Pop

*Vox Pop is open to all readers for letters in good taste on matters of public interest. Letters over 300 words are subject to abridging by the editor. All letters must be signed but names will be withheld on request.*

## Rent a private school

Editor, The Spotlight:

In regard to the question of closing the Delmar School, perhaps the reason why the silent majority is so silent is because we have some faith in the good sense of the Board of Education. However, it could be that our faith is misplaced.

In these times it is good sense to save money where possible. In nearby Guilderland they closed the Fort Hunter School, a more modern school than the Delmar School, and it has happened in Albany, Schenectady and elsewhere. What is so sacred about the Delmar School?

If the Board of Education would like to gauge the feelings of the taxpayers in the district, why not conduct a poll and send a mailing explaining the issues to every 10 or 25th taxpayer and enclose a return card on which the taxpayer would vote pro or con? I am sure a majority of the taxpayers would vote to close the Delmar School and save money.

In these days of declining school populations it is only sensible to close surplus schools. When the school pop-

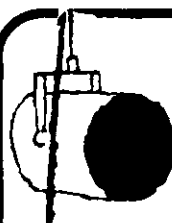
ulation increased, it made sense to build new schools. Now, that the reverse is true, it makes sense to close surplus schools. Do we only have a one-way street in this respect? Do we only build new schools and not close unneeded schools? I doubt if the average taxpayer would buy a one-way deal like this especially since we have the highest per-pupil cost in this area.

I don't think anyone blames the parents of the children attending the Delmar School for trying to keep the school open at the expense of all the taxpayers. In these days of rule by vociferous minorities, they might get away with it. However, I hope not. If they should, perhaps we should have a Senior High School in Slingerlands, Clarksville, Elsmere and Bethlehem Center. What is wrong about having a grade school in Normanskill and other places? In the immortal words of Harry Hopkins, do we just "spend and spend, elect and elect"?

As a suggestion to the Delmar School parents, why not rent the Delmar School and run it as a private school? In this way they would have complete control and would not have to coerce the majority of the taxpayers to conform to their ideas. I am sure the other taxpayers would wish them well in their new venture.

*Werner P. Liebich*  
Slingerlands

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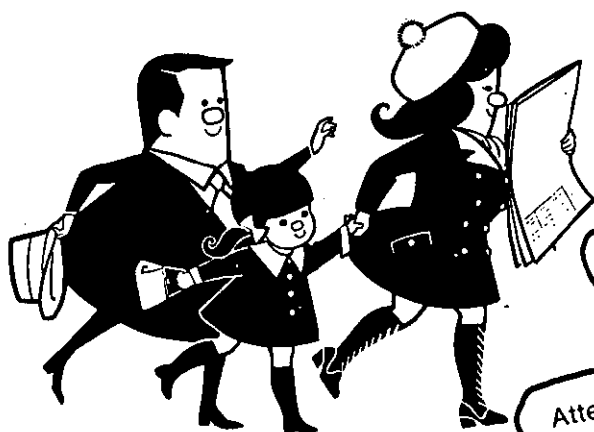


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