

The Spotlight

Controlled Circulation Publication

February 26, 1976
Vol. XXII, No. 9

20¢

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

Bicentennial pageant spirit catches in Bethlehem

Page 12



Jim Tate

Carrie Strand, Marie Zator



Spotlight is moving

Page 8

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*A Bicentennial look at the money
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Spotlight CALENDAR

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, 6:00 P.M.

Onesquethaw O.E.S. meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at the Masonic Temple in Delmar.

Glenmont Homemakers meet third Wednesday of month; Glenmont Comm. Church, 8 p.m.

Sports Car Club of America, first Wed. of each month 8:00 p.m. at the Center Inn, Glenmont, Marie Corrin, 869-6948.

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

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

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.

Empire Motor Sports Club, every Thursday at 8 at the Center Inn, Rt. 9W, Glenmont. Lee Beauregard — 456-0019.

Citizen Band Radio Club, first Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Center Inn, Rt. 9W, Glenmont. Danny Oat-hout, 463-0804.

Albany Ski Club, first & third Thursdays at 8 p.m. at the Center Inn, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, Joe Quillian, 274-1873.

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Bethlehem B.P.O.E. 2233, first and third Wednesdays, 8 p.m. at the Lodge in Cedar Hill, Rt. 144. Ladies' Auxiliary second Wednesday.

Career Education Resource Center, Bethlehem Senior High School, every Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m.

League of Women Voters, Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., once or twice a month, at Bethlehem Public Library. Information, 767-2094.

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.

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

Bethlehem Lions Club meets first and third Wednesdays at LaCasa, Selkirk, 6:30. p.m.

AARP meets 12:30 p.m., third Tuesday of month, Delmar First United Methodist Church, Kenwood Avenue, Delmar.

Elsmere Fire Co., last Thursday of each month, 8 p.m.

Bethlehem Lodge meets on first and third Wednesday of every month, Ladies Auxiliary meets on second Wednesday of every month.

Citizen Band Radio Club first Thursday, Third Tuesday at the Center Inn, 8:00 p.m. Mrs. John Silvia, 463-7675.

Great Dane Club of Greater Albany meets second Friday of the month, 8:00 p.m., Center Inn, Glenmont. Guests are welcome. Info: call 785-7253.

Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post #1040, American Legion, meets first and third Monday of month (when holiday occurs, move to Tuesday) except July and August. 8:30 p.m.

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.

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

Ladies Auxillary, Delmar Fire Dept., second Thursday each month, 8 p.m., at the fire hall.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Public meeting on long-range effect of closing of Delmar School, school cafeteria, 8 p.m.

Blood bank, sponsored by Bethlehem Central Teachers' Assn., BCHS girls' gym, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Tri-Village Little League, final day for registration, St. Thomas School, 1-4 p.m. First-time players bring birth certificate.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Ski touring, "Leap Year Special," Partridge Run, Mohawk-Sierra Club, public welcome, meet at Grand Union parking lot, Voorheesville, 1 p.m. Information 785-6710.

Film, "Future Shock," Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Safe driving course for learner's permit holders (required), first of two sessions, Bethlehem Central High School, Room 19A, 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Film program, "Case of the Elevator Duck" and others, Bethlehem Library, 4 p.m.

Public hearing, Bethlehem Planning Board, on the application of Abco Builders, Inc., for a proposed subdivision of 151 building lots located between Beacon and Feura Bush Rds., and immediately west of and abutting Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont, town hall, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Bethlehem Central Board of Education, public business and informational meeting, 90 Adams Pl., Del-

mar, 8 p.m. Eugene Duffy, supervisor of English, will present a report on high school writing assignments. Public invited.

Bethlehem Business Women's Club, monthly meeting, speaker Mrs. May Blackmore on "Women in Modern Literature," Schrafft's Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

Bethlehem Art Assn., demonstration on "Throwing Pottery on Wheel" by Carl Benenati, Bethlehem Library, 8 p.m.

Safe driving course, Part 2, Bethlehem Central High School, Room 19A, 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Guilderland Community Theater, "The Drunkard or the Fallen Saved," former St. Mark's Church, Guilderland Center, 8:15 p.m. Performances March 4-6, 18-20. Information 456-0190.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Lecture-concert, "Jazz and the Classics," Jack Reilly, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast, Bethlehem Jr. Grange, Grange Hall, Becker's Corners.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

"Town Meeting" session with State Sen. Howard Nolan Jr., Bethlehem Central High School, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Keith Mano, author, speaks at Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

Public hearing, Bethlehem Town Board, to consider amending Article II of the Zoning Ordinance by adding thereto an additional District to be known as Residence AAA District, together with changes in other sections of said Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board, Bethlehem town hall, 8:20 p.m.

School budget hearing, 8 p.m., Clarksville Elementary School, sponsored by the Bethlehem Central Board of Education. All residents of the district are invited to attend this third and last hearing to offer opinions and advice on budget priorities for 1976-77.

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The Spotlight

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February 26, 1976
Vol. XXII, No. 9

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PTA pins hopes on Harvith, Stringham

Diehard parents of Delmar Elementary School pupils tonight are hosting a public meeting they hope will attract wider community support for their struggle to avert the closing of the school when the June term ends.

The move was another in a series of strategies to keep pressure on the Bethlehem board of education, which voted 4-3 on Feb. 4 to close the school as an economy measure for the district as a whole in the face of rising costs and declining pupil population. In the drawn-out controversy, now in a pseudo-appellate stage, there were these recent developments:

- Organization of a group calling itself "Save Our Schools (SOS)" was announced by Mrs.

Carole Rosenblum. It is this group that has called tonight's meeting at the school.

- PTA co-president Donald Lindell was quoted in the Albany Knickerbocker News as saying Mrs. Mary Ann Stringham, a board member who voted for the closing, "could change her mind," and thus swing the result of the Feb. 4 vote.

- A statement by Board President Bernard E. Harvith declared it was unlikely any move to influence the board by petition would succeed.

Seek wider support

Taking these one by one, the situation this week shapes up this way:

Tonight's meeting is a play by parents and supporters of

the Delmar school to enlist support from taxpayers in the school district beyond the boundaries of the area served by the Delmar school in an effort to demonstrate to the board that the decision to close the school is not in the best interests of the entire district.

Mrs. Rosenblum vehemently denies there is any connection between the SOS organization and the Delmar PTA, which has been waging the long fight to avert the closure. "This is a group of concerned taxpayers from all over the town," she said. "It includes families from other schools, senior citizens and people who do not have children in the school system." She indicated the group had no officers, "just about 50

people so far," and was not connected with the PTA.

She summarized the SOS raison d'être as: "We feel the enrollment (of the Delmar school and of the district as a whole) has not declined sufficiently to make this decision a comfortable one." She declared: "In light of the \$1.65 figure of savings per taxpayer (per \$1,000 valuation) and the yet-to-be-known effect on the total community, the steering committee of SOS feels that a re-evaluation of the matter is in order. It was the recommendation of both Dr. (Lawrence A.) Zinn, superintendent of schools, and Bernard Harvith, president of the school board, that the school be kept open."

'Target' unconcerned

Earlier Lindell, the parents' group's leading spokesman who is a member of the State Education Dept. staff, had been quoted as saying Mrs. Stringham "is very undecided." In a list of strategies considered by the PTA's executive committee, including letter-writing and telephone campaign, appeal to State Education Commissioner Ewald Nyquist, and other devices, Mrs. Stringham reportedly was named as the special target.

Mrs. Stringham declined to acknowledge the implication she was the board member considered most susceptible to persuasive tactics, and reiterated at last week's board meeting that she stood by her decision. She said it was reached after



Tom Morton of Boy Scout Troop 58, Elsmere, receives the Eagle Scout award pinned by his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Morton, as his father, Robert H. Morton, left, smiles his approval. With Tom are Scoutmaster Ken Bauer, second from right, and Jim Beck, chief scout executive of the Governor Clinton Council.

an exhaustive independent evaluation of the issue.

Harvith, an alumnus of the 50-year-old school itself and a declared proponent of keeping the school open, has accepted the board's decision as final despite the disappointment it has brought to him personally. At the same time, he said it was "very unlikely" the board would reconsider the issue. The board also would not be committed to respond to a petition drive, he added.

In other developments, Bertold E. Weinberg, a member of the board, denied a Spotlight report that two members had changed their votes in the week preceding the decisive balloting and that pressure from the Delmar school parents had been an influencing factor. (See Vox Pop, page 23.) Weinberg, one of two board members whose seats are up for reelection in June, voted against the motion to close the school. An earlier report indicated the board, in an informal

pulse-taking late in January, was leaning 6-1 for belt-tightening in the face of state aid cutbacks and rising operating costs, including a quarter million dollar raise in teachers' salaries.

Board asks input on school budget

The last of three public hearings on the upcoming Bethlehem school district budget is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, at the Clarksville School. Board Chairman Bernard E. Harvith has issued an appeal to district voters to attend the hearing and give suggestions and advice on the board's difficult task of preparing the 1976-77 budget.

The task is especially difficult this year with possible reductions in state aid for local education adding to the persistent burden of rising costs. Only a handful of people

Farewell . . .



turned out for the two previous hearings in January at 90 Adams Pl. and earlier this month at the Glenmont School.

Spotlight moving to Four Corners

After 12 years in the fore corner of the L.C. Smith bus garage at 154 Delaware Ave., the Spotlight is moving to Four Corners.

Police stalemate goes to arbitration

Final determination on a work contract between the town of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Police Benevolent Assn. will be up to an arbitration panel of three.

The procedure, dictated by the Taylor Law, the guideline legislation for public employee collective bargaining, calls for the town, the PBA and the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) to select one arbitrator each to unravel the knot that has hogtied contract negotiations since last summer.

The arbitration step is one level beyond the fact-finder phase, which saw the town rejecting the fact-finder's recommendation for a 7.3-percent pay raise for the town's 26-member police force and the fact-finder rejecting the BPBA's retirement proposal that would permit policemen to draw half-pay for lifetime after 20 or 25 years on the force.

The fact-finder, Prof. Peter A. Prosper Jr. of Union College, toned down the PBA's original proposal for a 15-percent salary boost.

By Monday your local graphic newsweekly will be open for business in a newly renovated suite of offices at 414 Kenwood Ave., which for more than half a century was the residence and office of Dr. Irving Van Woert. The three-story house, the last one-family dwelling on the first block of Kenwood west of Delaware, was purchased last month by John W. N. Ray of Niskayuna. Ray is converting the building into two second-floor apartments, an office and a shop on the first floor. The shop will be the Armchair Traveler Boutique operated by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley F. Blount of Delmar.

The Spotlight's new location is less than 50 yards from its first office. Robert G. King, former publisher, set up the paper's first office 17 years ago at 395 Kenwood in the space now occupied by the Delmar News and Card Shop. The paper's journalistic birthplace was in the residence of the late LeVere Fuller, Jr. on Delaware Turnpike in 1955, with Mrs. Charles E. Walsh, Jr., Pub-

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lisher and Mr. Fuller as Advertising Manager.

The Spotlight's return to the Four Corners area is dictated by the need for larger quarters to accommodate the publication's expanded news coverage and growing volume of advertising and subscriptions.

Originally an orchard

The property at 414 Kenwood was originally part of the sizeable tract of John R. Adams, the town patriarch who lived in the structure that now houses the Bethlehem town hall. The Van Woert family believes the property was once part of an apple orchard before it was subdivided into lots in 1908.

Dr. Van Woert, a descendent of Dutch settlers who came to the Hudson Valley in the 1600s, moved to Delmar with his wife, the former Harriet Holmes, after graduating from Albany Medical College in 1917. He rented the house next door at 412 Kenwood as a combination residence and office until he

purchased the house at 414 from Louis and Marion E. Burkhardt in 1920. He carried on his general practice of medicine at that location for 50 years until he retired in 1970. An addition was put on in 1932 to provide larger living quarters for the Van Woert family and a more efficient office.

Changing character

In earlier years Kenwood Ave. near Four Corners was a quiet residential neighborhood lined with towering elms and maples. Residents enjoyed long summer evenings on their front porches. The busiest time was late afternoon when the commuters arrived from Albany on the train and walked over Adams St. from the small Delmar station. When the Van Woert family moved out a year ago, the character of the area had changed, but the house, with its ample porch and conical cupola, remains as a reminder of residential Delmar two generations ago.

LEGISLATURE

Consumers getting legislative attention

This is the first in a series of periodic news roundups of bills in the Legislature affecting local householders.

Consumers may find it a little easier on the pocketbook if a bill making its way through the state Legislature reaches Gov. Hugh L. Carey's desk and is approved.

Introduced by Sen. Joseph R. Pisani, R-C of New Rochelle, the measure was approved by the senate last year but it died in the Assembly last July. It has since been amended.

The proposal would require stores, primarily food stores, selling for off-premises consumption to mark items subject to sales tax with a "T" or "TX". In addition, signs informing the public of the meaning of the symbols would have to be posted. A violation of the law would result in a fine of not

less than \$25 nor more than \$250. Each day a violation continued would be considered a separate violation.

Collect tax anyway

Surveys made in New York City have shown that food stores have collected the state sales tax on some items that are legally exempt from the tax. Many stores leave it up to the cashiers to determine which items are subject to the tax. The cashier often is rushed and harried, and determinations have often been erroneous to the detriment of the consumer.

Supporters of the proposal say the bill would minimize the problem by requiring stores to identify the items subject to the tax before the goods are to be checked out by the cashiers.

Gas price posting

Another bill getting the attention of the Legislature would help the motorist. It would require all gasoline sta-

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tions to post the price of gasoline on a sign at least one foot square, and thus would make it easier for the motorist to shop for the best buy.

Sen. Norman J. Levy, R-C Merrick, is pushing for an amendment of the general business law to exempt religious, charitable or educational organizations from the so-called "Blue Laws" affecting Sunday sales. Levy noted that the organizations have held Sunday sales without the threat of Blue Law prosecution. However, recent controversies have resulted in some law enforcement officials prosecuting or threatening to prosecute these religious, charitable and educational organizations.

Levy said that the fund raising efforts of the charitable organizations are geared to Sunday because that is the day when voluntary workers can more easily donate time which otherwise would be used for business during the rest of the week.

Hearings on tap

Public hearing calendar for the Legislature:

Assembly Standing Committee on Education: program sub-committee on education for the handicapped, Room 306, Capitol, 10 a.m. March 4.

Information on where bills stand can be obtained through the "legislative hotline." The toll free number is 342-9860.

You must know the bill number and the house of origin — Senate or Assembly.

And from the February Monthly Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York — "housebuilders can look forward to a somewhat better year" since mortgage market conditions have improved recently.

On Guilderland stage

Guilderland Community Theater will present the melodrama, "The Drunkard or the Fallen Saved," at their newly acquired theater, the former St. Mark's Church, Guilderland Center, on March 4-6 and 18-20. The original 1844 version of the play is being directed by Carol King.

For reservations write Guilderland Community Theater, Box 181, Guilderland 12084, or call 456-0190.

Dog notices mailed for New Scotland

Notices of overdue dog licenses are being mailed this week to "about half" of the 1,563 dog owners in the town of New Scotland, according to Town Clerk Corinne Cossac.

License renewals as well as licenses for new dogs are due on Jan. 1 of each year. This year's deadline for delinquency was Feb. 10.

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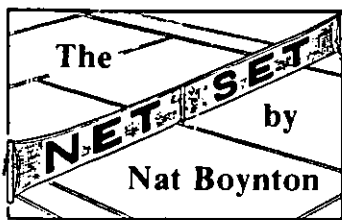
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Final Week Sale

Look for the Grand Opening of the 2nd Lena's Children's Store very soon, located at 253 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Tel.: 439-6886.

Of course you may use Master Charge or Layaway.



In its global orbit the closest world-level tennis gets to our neighborhood is the Aetna World Cup competition in Hartford. The dates this year are March 4-7, and local tennis watchers will not only be glad but also thankful that Dave Corbin and Larry Anito are running their chartered buses to the show.

This time there will be at least two and possibly three busloads going, which is testimony to the fun last year's busload had. Dave and Larry are the wide-grin proprietors of Tennis Action Agency, the innovative enterprise that sets up tennis trips and vacations for groups and individuals. "This will be our biggest trip so far," confided Dave this

week, "and the first overnight trip."

The overnight bit is new this year. In previous tennis excursions to Hartford and Forest Hills, the boys have run strictly one-day trips. This year the advance guard will leave Southwood Tennis Club at Thruway Exit 23 at 4 p.m. Friday, March 5, which will give them the Friday night matches as well as the network-televised Saturday shindig. The "regular" bus will leave Southwood at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, and if a second coach is needed, it will probably depart from Colonie Tennis Club. Everybody, including the overnights will be back by 11 p.m. Saturday.

The World Cup format differs from the usual top-pro tournament in that this is a shootout between the U.S. and Australia. There are seven matches — five singles and two doubles, with the Aussies gunning for their third straight this year. Arthur Ashe and Jimmy Connors, who refused to play in 1974 and 1975, will lead the Americans against the likes of John Newcombe, Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall.

Friday night spectators will see the second and third singles matches in the magnificent 12,500-seat Civic Center. Saturday's crowd will witness the fourth singles match and the first doubles.

Don't bother trying to buy any tickets for any of these matches — all four dates have sold out since November. That's why we can be thankful to Dave Corbin. He has seats for all his bus riders. For information call 372-5558 days 765-4604 evenings.

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Pageant report:

Bethlehem's bicentennial pageant swings into full gear on all fronts this week. There are 246 in the cast and chorus alone, supported by set construction and costume crews and a dozen active committees.

Two well-known singers will play the lead roles, Betsy Normile and Gary Aldrich. They have appeared together and separately in area productions, including "Oklahoma" and "Kiss Me Kate."

Over 300 costumes have been designed by Nancy Ristau with Marie Zater in charge of production. All costumes will be made between March 1 and March 20. In addition to an active high school committee and various adult volunteers, the Glenmont Homemakers and the service group of the Delmar Reformed Church have volunteered to assist in the costume making. Agreeing that many hands make light work and that this is a unique opportunity to be involved in a community effort, Mrs. Zator, (439-2155) would welcome any others who would like to help.

Set designers busy

There are approximately 15 scenery changes involved in the pageant. A committee of adults and students under the direction of Henric Post is working on scenery designs. Mr. Post has designed the sets which are in the process of being constructed under the chairmanship of Charles Underwood of the Bethlehem Jaycees and Sid Kaplan of the American Legion. Members of the Ameri-

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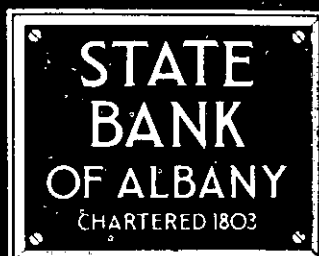


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Jobs for all ages: Mark Hasen, left, and Sid Kaplan.

can Legion and Jaycees plus other men from the community compose the committee. The sets, each unit designed to provide nine scenery changes, will become a permanent part of the equipment for the Bethlehem Central High School Auditorium.

General ticket sales begin March 1. The tickets will be available at The Bank, 343 Delaware Ave., Delmar. All seats are reserved. Adult tickets are \$2.50, Senior Citizens and students are \$1.50.

The pageant will run March 31-April 11.

On the cover

Jim Tate, Carrie Strand and Marie Zator are part of an impressive community-wide effort making sets and costumes to support Bethlehem's bicentennial pageant.

Photos by Andrew L. Jones

VOORHEESVILLE Bicentennial spoof on VCHS stage

In this Bicentennial year, it is only fitting that the class of '76 produce a play about America's 200th anniversary. The senior class of Voorheesville High School plans to do just that — to put on "1776 And All That," a comedy by Leonard Wibberly.

The events take place on July 4, 1976, and involve prominent people of the Revolutionary War, who return to earth in 1976 to observe the bicentennial celebrations. The scenes change from present day earth to a misty heaven inhabited by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, George III of England and other figures. On earth, the audience can see the bicentennial celebrations and the amusing actions of the Americans. In heaven, the "an-

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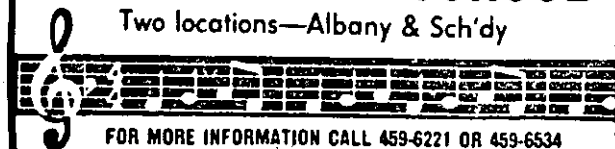
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James W. Hausmann, kneeling, Exalted Ruler of the Bethlehem Lodge of Elks 2233, helps two veterans from the VA Hospital find a bowling ball that fits before their monthly bowling at the Del Lanes in Elsmere. The bowling is sponsored by the Elks and Del Lanes and has about 30 veterans participating each month. Looking on is Walter Lobdell, veterans service chairman for Bethlehem Elks.

gels" comment on their observations of earth and debate about the controversial subjects of 1776.

On borrowed funds

Producing a play is not an easy thing to do, as the Voorheesville seniors know. They borrowed money from the Drama Club treasurer to be paid back from the play's profits.

Money was not the only problem the seniors had. The play has over 30 characters and 13 scene changes, all of which need many volunteers. Costumes provide another problems because many of the

characters need styles from 1776 including hoop skirts and powdered wigs.

The cast includes Karen Collings, Donna Mazzara, Tove Tetrault, Roberta Lawrence, Sharon Zimmerman, Anne Cossac, Cindy Livingston, Chris Miller, Liska Reitz, Karen O'Donnell, Darlene Gifford, Cindy Godin, Paula Murphy, Sue Hensel, Doreen Griffith, Deanne Putnam, Lynn Passarelli, Jackie Vunk, Celeste

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Gifford, Cindy Schweik, Deb-
bie Wilkenson, Dean Whalen,
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ren, Darlene Gifford, Laurie
Thomas, Paula Minozzi, Steve
Beals, Brian Kight, Paula Mur-
phy, Denise Lowery, Tricia
Carson, Rod Wilson, Sharon
Zimmerman, Anne Cossac and
June Delehanty. Karen Kodra
is the student director; Bob
Andrews and Mrs. Toni Lyden
are the teacher advisors.

"1776 And All That" will be
performed Friday and Satur-
day, March 5-6, in the Voor-
heesville High School Audi-
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DELMAR Public invited to BC congress

More than 75 high school students will debate public issues this weekend at the annual BC Model Congress, which for the first time will be open to the public. The three-day session is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The purpose of the Model Congress is to allow students to experience what the U.S. Congress is and how it functions. Student delegates write their own bills and debate them in parliamentary form. Model Congress delegates will debate many issues currently under consideration by the U.S. Congress, such as abortion, the energy crisis, inflation and gun control. The Model Congress has a committee system similar to the U.S. Congress, and a bill must pass its committee before it can be considered by the Congress.

Committees will meet on Friday from 3:30 p.m. until 10:30 with a break for dinner. Saturday, from 9 until noon, committees will continue meetings and then the entire Congress will assemble. The Congress moves to the Bethlehem Public Library on Sunday and will meet from 9 to 12.

All of these sessions are open to the public. According to Model Congress President Josh Adams, "We urge the public to attend. Not only will they be able to increase their understanding of our government, but they will be able to see how young people view the country's problems and what solutions young people can offer."

Neal Shapiro

Methodist women install

Officers of United Methodist Women were installed at the 9:15 a.m. service on Feb. 15, at the First Methodist Church, Delmar, by Rev. Thomas Peterson. They are:

President, Mrs. Raymond Vanderlinde; vice-president, Mrs. Robert Thomas; secre-

tary, Mrs. Maurice Maercklin; treasurer, Mrs. Asa Clague, and assistant treasurer, Mrs. Robert McNitt.

Mission co-ordinators are Mrs. Vincent Gazzetta, Mrs. Lorne Hall, Mrs. Marion Wing, Miss Marion Hemstreet and Mrs. Thomas Peterson.

Miss Hemstreet, outgoing president, was presented with a UMW service pin.

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Jack Reilly

Jazz pianist coming

Jack Reilly, American jazz composer and pianist, will present a program at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 7 at the Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar. The program, partially funded by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and "Meet the Composer," is free and is open to the public. It will be a lecture and concert on the relationships between jazz and the classics and will include Chopin, Gershwin and his own compositions.

Quake offering taken

Delmar's First United Methodist Church has responded to the Guatamala earthquake disaster by receiving a special offering at services last Sunday, and by mail at the church office.

Town swimming starts

The age limit for the annual spring American Red Cross swimming program being offered by the town of Bethlehem Recreation Department has been lowered to include boys and girls now enrolled in the second grade.

The program, which will be supervised by Donald Guertze

of Glenmont, water safety instructor for the American Red Cross, will open at the Middle School swimming pool on Thursday, March 4.

Boys and girls are invited to enroll in either the 7 p.m. or the 8 p.m. class. Enrollment will be completed on the opening night and no registrations will be allowed after that session. Pupils should bring their own swimming suits and towels. Students whose hair may be a hindrance in the teaching program must control it by wearing caps or tie-backs.

Tork will seek to retain seat

Dominick Tork of Voorheesville has announced he will be a candidate for reelection to the district board of education.

Tork's five-year term on the board expires this year. Voting will be on June 9 from 3 to 11 p.m., the day following the board's annual meeting.

The district board, which meets on the second Monday of each month, is headed by J. August Berger of Voorheesville. Other members are Walter Baker of New Salem, Mrs. Ann Balk of New Scotland and Peter Ten Eyck II, clerk of the board, Voorheesville.

Lawsuit surprise to school drivers

When a U.S. Department of Labor field representative was making a routine check of work records of the Bethlehem Central School District last month, he discovered that school bus drivers have an unpaid half hour period designated as free time between the morning and afternoon bus runs. His report moved the federal government to make a determination that the drivers should be paid for this time. Last week the department filed a civil action against the school district charging the district with violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The complaint cites that the drivers should be paid, and also cites

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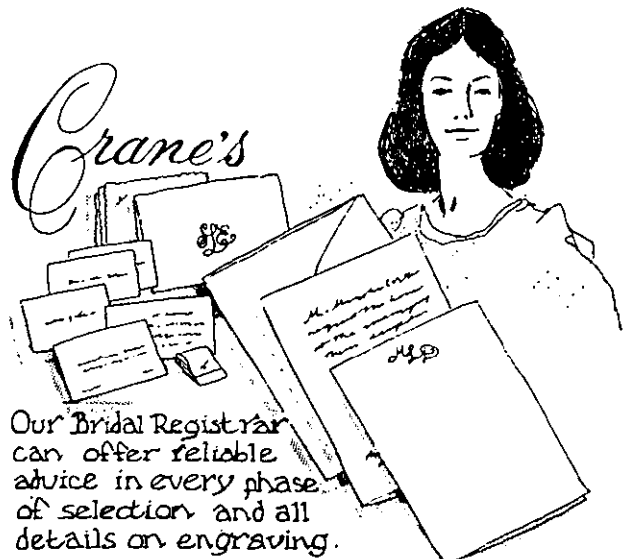
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the district with failure to keep proper records.

Lawrence Prater, office manager at the high school and president of the Bethlehem Central United Employees Assn., said he had no information on the matter, nor did Rex Ruthman, attorney for the union. The union represents some 200 non-instructional employees of the district.

Bernard E. Harvith, president of the board of education, confirmed the action, but added that neither the union nor the bus drivers had made any demand for compensation for the time period.



Duncan Patton

Teaches investments

Walter Marvin of Delmar, a vice president of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., will conduct a four-week Adult Education class on investments at Linton High School, Schenectady, next Monday at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Marvin also is financial analyst for WRGB, WGY and WHRL-FM stations, has conducted the course for 16 years.

Church music concert

Three Delmar residents are among the featured musicians and vocal soloists at a concert of American church music Sunday at 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, State and Willett Sts., Albany. The program includes Helen Schoenthal, mezzo soprano, Margaret Stokes, pianist, and Rachel Worth, accompanist for the Monday Musical Club chorus, and is sponsored by the Monday Musical Club of Albany.

Cited by symphony

Duncan Patton, 57 Tamarack Dr., Delmar, a senior at Bethlehem Central High School, is one of six musicians from five counties announced as winners in the 1976 Albany League of Arts-Albany Symphony Orchestra solo competition held earlier this month at the Arts Center, Albany.

Patton, a member of the BCHS Wind Ensemble, studies the marimba with Richard Albagli. The six winners will appear as soloists in a special concert with the Albany Symphony Theater Orchestra at the SUNYA Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 7.

Corps medal winners

The Village Volunteers fyfe and drum corps sent a contingent of its members to a multi-state competition in Yalesville, Conn. Feb. 15.

Those who entered various competitions were: Barbara

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Allgaier, Jenay Benenati, Ranee Benenati, Cindy Brown, Lauren Johnson, Buz Olsen, Kathi Quinlan, Ellen Stewart, Phyllis Willey and Vicki Williams. The fifers and drummers participated in individual, duet and quartet competitions. Medals were won by Phyllis Willey for her solo and by Jenay Benenati and Vicki Williams for their duet.



Scouts for spaghetti

Boy Scout Troop 260, sponsored by the Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., will hold its annual spaghetti dinner on March 6, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the church. The spaghetti is prepared and served by the scouts and is an event for the whole family.

In the photo are Senior Patrol Leader Jeff Wendth and Bob McCormack displaying a poster they will place in the community.

Alumni ski night

Hudson Valley Alumni Assn. plans a ski night at Maple Ridge Ski Area Friday from 7-10 p.m., followed by a wine and cheese party. The group is also planning a weekend at Lake Placid March 20-21. For information call the alumni office.

Errata

In the Feb. 19 Spotlight, it was Nancy Ellery, not Lois Bodian, at Miss America's left in the photo on page 9. On page 22 the bride is Mrs. Stephen Wieland, not Mrs. Donald Wiggand.

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A small map showing the intersection of Thatcher St. and Selkirk St. A square marks the location of La Casa at the corner. Other streets shown include N. BARRY TOWNSHIP ST. and N. W. 1ST ST.

Hotline for ice

A "hot line" that will give Bethlehem residents the latest word on ice and snow conditions at the Elm Ave. Park is now in service. The town's Parks and Recreation Dept., which is headquartered at the park, is maintaining the community service. Residents may call the Parks and Recreation phone, 439-4131.

A slide history of New Scotland

A collection of historical photographs of the town of New Scotland has been assembled in slide form for showings by local organizations.

Mrs. Jane Rezza, chairman of the New Scotland Bicentennial Committee, said the slide program depicts town scenes from 1865 to 1960. The presentation was prepared for the bicentennial by the Town of New Scotland Historical Assn., and will be narrated by Robert Parmenter, town historian. Interested organizations may call him at 765-4652 between 6 and 9 p.m. for scheduling and information.

Mrs. Rezza also announced that Sal Mazzara of Koons Rd. and Mrs. David Briscoe of Clarksville have been added to the bicentennial committee.

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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.

Orchid for police

Editor, The Spotlight:

I would like to thank the Bethlehem Police Department publicly for the help they gave me during the "blizzard" on Feb. 2.

My apartment building was without power from about 6 a.m., and I could not reach the Niagara Mohawk company. I called the Police Department to ask them to help me reach Niagara Mohawk and spoke with Officer Sleurs.

He tried to reach Niagara Mohawk for me. Then he called later in the day to see how we were doing and he offered to help us get to the Middle School, where it was warm, at least.

Even later, he called again to make sure that we were all right and that we had our power back on. I think that is service above and beyond the call of duty and he deserves a big thank you.

Delmar *Mary McCarthy*

Likes Fabric Care

Editor, The Spotlight:

I am writing in regard to the newly opened laundromat at the Delaware Shopping Plaza. It is about time that Bethlehem has gotten such modern and up-to-date washers and dryers. I think this is the only place in Delmar that actually has hot water!

In the past I dreaded the thought of going to the laundromat, and with an 11-month-old baby I have to go quite often.

I can now say it is a pleasure to do my wash, I do not have to worry about having enough change, machine breakdown,

cart to put my clothes in, counter space on which to fold clothes, etc.

My sincere thanks to the management for this convenience.

Mrs. Mary Ann Gamelin
Elsmere

Credit for centralization

Editor, The Spotlight:

In the Feb. 12 issue of The Spotlight, in your interview with Mr. John Clyne, member of Bethlehem Central's board of education, Mr. Clyne is quoted as saying: "He (Hamilton Bookout, former supervising principal of the district) centralized the rural districts, attracted superior teachers, and built a model system..."

Unquestionably, Mr. Bookout was a most competent and accomplished school administrator, but the person who initiated the centralization project and engineered the fusion of the five original participating local districts, was W. Jack Weaver. Mr. Weaver was a member of the new district's first board of education and was the board's first president. Mr. Heth Coons was appointed as the first supervising principal.

This all took place in the early 30s, several years before Mr. Bookout became the chief administrator.

It is to Jack Weaver that credit is due for the creation of the Bethlehem Central School District.

Delmar *Edwin B. Piper*

Denies 'pressure'

Editor, The Spotlight:

As a reader and school board member I greatly wel-

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come the new Spotlight and your increased coverage of school affairs. However, while reading your Feb. 12 lead story on the board of education's vote to close the Delmar School I regretted that you did not include a brief summary of each board member's views. On no other issue during my years on the board have all board members expressed their views as fully and as well reasoned, no matter how they voted. I sincerely believe your readers would have welcomed such a summary. Interested residents can call the Superintendent's office for copies of the Feb. 4 board meeting minutes, to which the member's views are attached.

Personally, I stated that I opposed the Delmar closing at this time because of the intrinsic value of the school to the community it serves, and also because of the negative impact on the education of the Delmar, Elsmere, Hama-grael and Slingerlands children of the crowding which will result from the Delmar closing. However, I reserved my right to change my vote in April or May if during the budget making process the unknown expenditure and income sides of the budget require program cuts. In that case, I said, we would have to set priorities and possibly reevaluate the Delmar situation. With so many budget unknowns I felt Feb. 4 was too early for a final decision. I also recommended that the staff begin to prepare contingency plans now for an orderly closing of Delmar, in case this became necessary later.

I was also surprised by your statement that "... according to reputable sources two board members reportedly buckled to sentiment and the emotional pressure of the PTA group at the eleventh hour ..." While not speaking for them, I have personally known both other board members who voted against the Delmar closing too well for many years to believe that

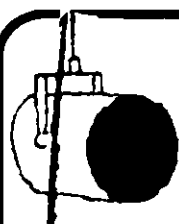
either of them would "buckle" to any pressures whatever. Personally, I received no pressure from the Delmar PTA, or other sources, whatsoever. The only communications I received from them were those which they presented at many Board meetings, all open to the public, and a letter a few days before the vote, which was sent to all board members and the press, including the Spotlight.

Speculating on the motives of public officials is your right. However, casting aspersions on the motives of two unnamed board members (out of a possible three), on the basis of information from an unnamed source, makes me wonder whether it is responsible journalism. Every public official is accountable for his or her actions, and a proper object of criticism, especially by the press. But I think that the public is better served by, and fairness and objectivity require, specificity in identifying the action, the official and the source.

I know of no action this board has taken to which every member devoted as much time, study and thought, a direct result of the importance of the issue.

Delmar *Bertold E. Weinberg*
Member, Bethlehem Central
Board of Education

The Spotlight stands on its report that two members changed their vote on the Delmar school closure in the week before Feb. 4. The Spotlight did not attempt to print the individual summaries of board members for two reasons: they would have required far more space in these columns than was available (multiply this letter by a factor of seven), and the printing cycle of the Spotlight is such that the summaries could not appear until several days after the Albany papers, working on an overnight printing schedule, had effectively summarized the members' views.



SPOTLIGHT on community corner

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Ticket sales begin Monday for the Bethlehem bicentennial pageant. They can be purchased at the National Commercial Bank and Trust Co., Delmar office. All seats are reserved for performances at BCHS auditorium March 31-April 11.

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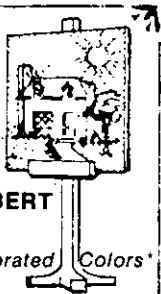
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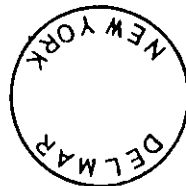
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