

# The Spotlight

Controlled Circulation Publication

July 28, 1977  
Vol. XXIII, No. 28

20c

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

## A sad story of subdivision septics Page 7



**Summer In Delmar...frogs and flxits**

Page 13

# 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**, Winne 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.

**Bethlehem Town Board** meets second and fourth Wednesday each month, town hall, Delmar, 7:30 p.m., Planning Board every Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Board of Appeals first three Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

**Albany Chapter, Railroad Evangelistic Assn.**, meets third Saturday of each month, First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 7:15 p.m.

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

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

**Kiwanis Club of Delmar** Mondays at 6:15 at Center Inn, Glenmont.

**Give and Take Shop**. Used clothing. Basement of St. Thomas Rectory, Monday 9:30-11 a.m.; Tuesday 1-3 p.m.; Saturday 10-12 a.m.

**Beta Gamma Rho** sorority will do housecleaning, window washing.

**Auxiliary**, Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post 1040, Poplar Drive., Elsmere, third Tuesday, Sept.-June.

**Citizen Band Radio Club**, first Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Center Inn, Rt. 9W, Glenmont. Jim Munger 463-0275.

**World War I Veterans** luncheon, second Tuesday of each month, La Casa Restaurant, Selkirk, 12 noon. All WWI veterans welcome.

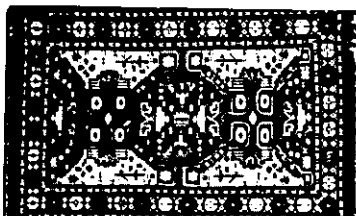
**Bethlehem Women's Republican Club**, third Monday, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

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

**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.

## AUCTION of Rare Valuable Stock PERSIAN RUGS and Other Oriental Rugs

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## The Spotlight

414 Kenwood Ave.  
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Editor and Publisher  
Nathaniel A. Boynton

Advertising Manager  
John C. Bennett

Office Manager  
Arline M. Holder

Contributing writers: Allison P. Bennett,  
Perry M. Galt.

Staff reporter-photographer: Cheryl  
Marks.

Sales representatives: Eleanor P.  
McIntyre, Gerald S. Gordon, Merilee  
Sterk.

Production: Robin Francolini-  
supervisor, Elva Dootz, Jinx Mercer,  
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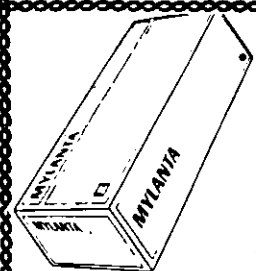
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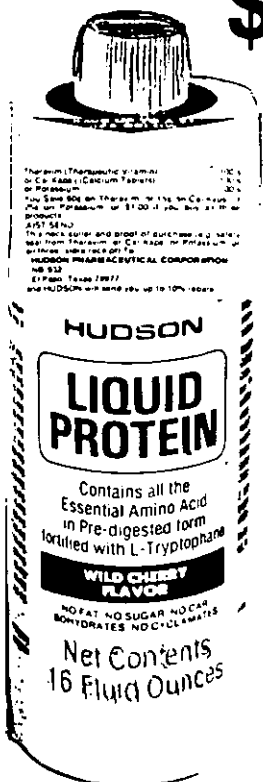
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**Bethlehem Recycling Program** (paper, cans, glass), Town Garage, 114 Adams St., Delmar, Mon. thru Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Papers should be tied, cans flattened, bottles cleaned w/metal and styrofoam removed.

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

**Five Rivers Environmental Education Center**, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, open daily during daylight hours. Exhibit room open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 28**

**Story hour** sponsored by Bethlehem Library, Elm Ave. Park, Delmar, 1:30-2 p.m.

**Bicentennial workshop** for grades 4-6, Bethlehem Library, 2-3:30 p.m.

**Film: "The Miracle Worker,"** sponsored by Bethlehem Library at Clarksville Community Reformed Church, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Micro-wave cooking demonstration** sponsored by Delaware Plaza Merchants Assn., Delaware Plaza mini-mall, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 29**

**Film: "The Miracle Worker,"** Bethlehem Library, 7:30-9 p.m.

**Micro-wave cooking demonstration** sponsored by Delaware Plaza Merchants Assn., Delaware Plaza mini-mall, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Punkintown Fair** sponsored by New Salem Volunteer Fire Dept., Rt. 85A next to fire hall.

**Annual picnic**, Bethlehem Tomboys, Picard's Grove, New Salem, 5 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 30**

**Punkintown Fair** sponsored by New Salem Volunteer Fire Dept., Rt. 85A next to fire hall.

**SUNDAY, JULY 31**

**"A Day on the Farm,"** exhibit of old implements, tools, photographs and documents from Bethlehem area farms, Bethlehem Historical Assn. Museum, Rt. 144 and Clapper Rd., Selkirk, 2-5 p.m. Other hours by appointment, 767-9919.

**Registration**, Bethlehem Pop Warner football, for boys 9-13 three levels of play, residents of Bethlehem, Voorheesville and

nearby communities. Registration at Hamagrael School, McGuffey Lane, Delmar, starting at 1:30 p.m. Bring birth certificaté.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3**

**Story hour** sponsored by Bethlehem Library, Slingerlands school from 2:30-3 p.m., Library from 1-1:45, Hamagrael school, 10-10:30 a.m.

**Film: "The Johnstown Monster,"** Bethlehem Library, 2-2:45 p.m.

**Magic Show** presented by James Gosch, Bethlehem Library's Evening on the Green, 7:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

**Public hearing**, Bethlehem board of appeals, on application of Joseph Tannatta Kinder Lane Nursery School for a variance under Article XV, Bethlehem town hall, 8 p.m.

**Public hearing**, Bethlehem board of appeals, on application of Marvin Kahn, Retreat House Rd., Glenmont for variance under Article V., Bethlehem town hall, 8:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4**

**Story hour** sponsored by Bethlehem Library, Elm Ave. Park, Delmar, 1:30-2 p.m.

**Summer Band concert**, Elm Ave. Park, 8 p.m. Bring lawn chair or blanket.

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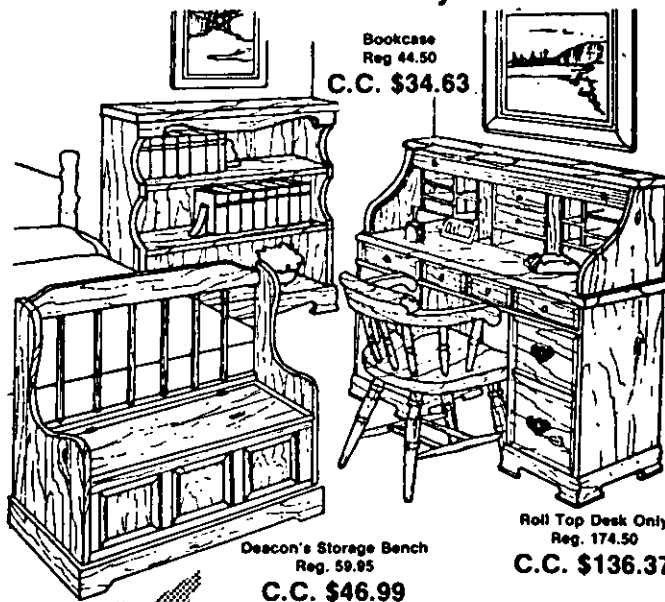
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**CAPTAINS • CENTERS**

**Blood Pressure and Eye Chart Exam** sponsored by Seventh Day Adventist Church in front of Woolworth's, Delaware Plaza, 1-5 p.m. Free.

**Comics workshop** for grades 4-6, Bethlehem Library, 2-3 p.m.

**World of Make-Believe films** sponsored by Bethlehem Library, Clarksville Community Reformed Church, 7 p.m.

**Story hour** for preschoolers, Voorheesville Library, 10:30 a.m.

**Film:** "Tim Driscoll's Donkey," Voorheesville Library, 4-5 p.m.

**Dramatics Workshop** performance, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

**Punkintown Fair** sponsored by New Salem Volunteer Fire Dept., Rt. 85A next to fire hall.

**Dramatics Workshop** performance, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

**World of Make-Believe films**, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

**Fair and Auction**, Clarksville Community Church, Square dancing from 9 p.m. Tickets \$2 per person.

**Punkintown Fair** sponsored by New Salem Volunteer Fire Dept., Rt. 85A next to fire hall.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

**"A Day on the Farm,"** exhibit of old implements, tools, photographs and documents from Bethlehem area farms, Bethlehem Historical Assn. Museum, Rt. 144 and Clapper Rd., Selkirk, 2-5 p.m. Other hours by appointment, 767-9919.

**"Remember Who You Are,"** Rev. Frank Rhoad, guest preacher, Delmar Presbyterian Church, 9:30 a.m. Public invited.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 8

**Story hour** sponsored by Bethlehem Library, Clarksville school, 11-11:30 a.m., Elsmere school 1:30-2 p.m., Glenmont school 3-3:30 p.m.

**Film:** "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," Bethlehem Library, 7 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

**Story hours** sponsored by Bethlehem Library, 10-10:45 a.m. at Library, 11-11:30 at Delmar school.

**"The Nifty Fifties and the Sizzling Sixties,"** program at Bethlehem Library for grades 1-3, 2-3 p.m. Wear a Fifties costume.

**Portable Poppets Playhouse**, Elm Ave. Park, Delmar, "The Three Wishes," 7 p.m., "Rumpelstiltskin," 8 p.m. Free for Bethlehem residents. Lawn chair or blanket suggested. Rain date Aug. 10.

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## area arts

A capsule listing of cultural events easily accessible to Bethlehem-New Scotland residents, provided as a community service by the General Electric Co. plastics plant, Selkirk. Phone numbers are for information and tickets.

#### THEATER

**"Gigi,"** lavish musical, Mac-Haydn Theatre, Chatham Fairgrounds, Aug. 3-7, 8 p.m. (Saturday 8:30, Sunday 7 p.m.) Tickets, PO Box 204, Chatham 12037 or phone 392-9292, \$5.25, \$4.25, senior citizen discounts.

**"I Married an Angel,"** Rodgers and Hart 1938 musical featuring Phyllis Newman, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Stockbridge, Mass., Aug. 3-14. For curtain times and tickets call 1-413-298-5536. Group rates available.

**"The Shape We're In,"** children's play, Guilderland Players Summer Theatre, Guilderland High School, Aug. 9-11, 2 p.m. 75 cents. 372-7853.

**"Bad Habits,"** two one-act satires, State University Summer Theatre, July 28, 30, Aug. 3, 5, 8 p.m. Box Office 457-8606.

**"Hot L Baltimore,"** State University Summer Theatre, July 27, 29, 31, Aug. 4, 6, 8 p.m. Box office 457-8606.

#### ART

Albany in the Revolution, paintings, engravings, documents and artifacts, Albany Institute of History & Art, through summer.

Collected works of political cartoonist Hy Rosen, Center Gallery, 75 New Scotland Ave., Albany, through Aug. 27, weekdays 12-3, weekends 1-4. Free.

#### HISTORIC TOUR

Walking tour of Troy's Washington Park and Second St., led by historian Nancy Connell, Aug. 6, start 1 p.m. Rensselaer County Council for the Arts bldg., 189 Second St., Troy. Rain date Aug. 7.

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# The Spotlight

Controlled Circulation Publication

Graphic newsweekly serving the towns of Bethlehem, New Scotland, Albany County, N.Y. 439-4949

DELMAR

## Drainage dispute dogs development, detours detergents

For most of the past decade, homeowners in the Lauralana Heights residential development in Delmar have been trying to get help from officials and contractors to improve their sanitary situation. So far they haven't had much luck, and from some quarters, little sympathy.

Their complaints center on overloaded septic tanks that they claim frequently give off such a strong aroma they are unable to sit outdoors in their yards or terraces. Adding to their frustration is the fact that their location just off Feura Bush Rd. is too isolated to be included in the \$13-million sanitary sewer extension that was completed by the town of Bethlehem in 1975.

Meanwhile the Albany County Dept. of Health has issued a summons to at least one property owner, the contractor who built the subdivision insists further corrective measures are up to the residents themselves, and town hall indicates it will be "a while yet" before the town's collection system can be extended to the subdivision.

Residents of Bedford Ct. and Salem Rd. have heard these things many times, and have resigned themselves to living with their problems until some future year when the Bethlehem sewer system eventually comes to them—if ever. Their disposition is not sweetened by the fact that they now are paying higher taxes by way of an increased assessment to help pay for the new sewer system.

"That's because they're in the sewer district, even though they are not on the sewer line itself," explains Merwyn K. Atwood, superintendent of the sewer district. Town hall's current formula goes like this: all residents of the sewer district served by the sewer system pay \$9.62 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, all property owners in the new extensions pay an additional charge of \$1.87 per foot of frontage, and all residents of unsewered areas pay one-third of the base district charge, i.e., \$3.21 per \$1,000 valuation. Says Atwood: "This assessment is on the theory that they (unsewered homeowners) should pay part of the cost of the \$13-million system completed last year because the major facilities (treatment plant and trunk conduits) have been sized to take care of their areas in the future." The formula applies the town's other unsewered areas such as North Bethlehem, South Albany, South Bethlehem and Normansville as well as the Brightonwood-Lauralana section.

But on Bedford Ct. and Salem Rd. residents despair of getting relief in the foreseeable future. They divide their anger between town hall and the developer. Says Charles S. Burris, 4 Bedford Ct. "Use our shower about twice and it'll bubble in the yard." Burris says he has his septic tank pumped out frequently, "but it doesn't help much."

The subdivision's most persistent voice is that of Mrs. Florence Berkowitz, who has

lived at 11 Bedford Ct. for nine years. Her husband, Bernard Berkowitz, is a medical doctor and they have three children. Mrs. Berkowitz said they moved here in June, 1968, and had septic problems by that fall. Sewage backs up into the house, she contends, and often bubbles in the toilets. She and her husband had a leaching

field installed in the back yard 3-4 years ago "at great expense," extended the drain field along the side of the house and had a dry well dug to prevent the overflow from reaching the storm sewer on the street. "We've contacted the builder, the board of health in Albany and the town of Bethlehem," she says. "No



Spotlight photo

Lauralana Heights: Florence Berkowitz, right, shows visitor swamp plants growing in septic pool, right center, in her yard. Septic drain is only a few feet from storm sewer, foreground.

help, a big runaround. The stench on our circle is unbearable."

The Berkowitz house is near the cul-de-sac at the end of Bedford Ct. In May, Mrs. Berkowitz conducted a personal survey of the neighborhood and made a chart of the problems residents were having with their septic systems and/or surface water drainage, an unrelated problem that afflicts some houses. Among her findings: "Water-line backup in yard. Cannot use new porch-room because odor is so bad from neighbors' yards." (Arnulf H. Koeppen, 23 Salem Rd.) "Water backs into house through downstairs bathroom. Lake forms in back yard. Can't do laundry after rain. Have had tank cleaned repeatedly." (Michael W. Hampton, 12 Salem Rd.) "From March-July tank overflows. See water come up over tank and into yard. Cannot use yard and porch." (Richard T. Gorman, 16 Salem Rd.) But not all the residents have septic problems, particularly those on higher ground, Mrs. Berkowitz adds, pointing to the yard next door.

The Berkowitz house is on a cul-de-sac. Next door, where the dwelling is on slightly



Merwyn K. Atwood

higher ground, there is no problem, she says. Last month, on complaint of a resident on a nearby street, the Albany County Dept. of Health notified the Berkowitzes by form letter in June that sewage had been found on the surface of the ground in the rear and front of their property. The notice, issued over the name of Richard W. Svenson, director of the department's division of environmental health services, stated that the situation constituted a "health hazard" and said that failure to correct the situation within 14 days "will be referred to the town of Bethlehem police court."

Svenson, a Delmar resident, told the Spotlight the violation subsequently was removed when Mrs. Berkowitz had fill material trucked in and the offending area covered. "Right now, she's O.K." he said. Svenson also said that his department would "monitor the situation out there" in the event of possible trouble later in the year, and that his department had requested the Bethlehem town board "to give this project (Lauralana public sewers) priorities on the list."

Meanwhile Mrs. Berkowitz insists "it's a community problem." Some of her neighbors, she says, have gone to the extreme of hooking their septic systems into the area's storm sewer in violation of town law. Burris confirmed her statement, adding, "You can get some beautiful aromas from the storm drain around here."

Alvah E. Worth, consultant for the town's engineering department, says the Lauralana situation "isn't much different than other areas where they have heavy soil and tile fields have popped up." The original plans submitted by Gerald Michaelson, Albany developer, were approved by the town's planning board following normal procedures and study, which included endorsement by other agencies.

Michaelson, whose firm currently is building additional houses in another section of the subdivision, contends that many of the residents with septic problems have abused their disposal systems by overuse of high detergent soaps and permitting grease and animal fats to flow into their kitchen drains. The area, he says, has "plenty of sand" in the soil, and insists that continual and frequent usage of high-suds soap products for dishes and laundry, along with liquid grease, has solidified in septic lines and prevented normal leaching. He described one septic distribution box he investigated as containing "a solid wall, looked like cement, as though it was ashes from the

fireplace. The system was ruined with soap."

Michaelson said his subdivision complied with all requirements, and that the septic systems were adequate "with good sand material" in the leaching areas. Houses under construction in the new section of the subdivision have a different type of sewage disposal, according to plans approved by town agencies.

There is no indication when Bethlehem's sewer system will be extended to Lauralana Heights. At the root of the delay is the subdivision's remoteness from other residential areas. "They need valuation density—more people—to help defray the tremendous cost of such a project," says Atwood. "When Extension 8 was completed in 1969-71, it wasn't feasible to try and service this area because the cost per capita would have been prohibitive." Since that time, he noted, development of the area has slowed.

Lauralana Heights, says Atwood, is about a mile and a half from the closest interceptor main, the line that runs down the Dowerskill to the new treatment plant. Alternate routes to the area are from the Dowerskill along Feura Bush Rd., or southwest using natural pitches to the pumping station at the Skycrest subdivision off Elm Ave., according to Atwood. Federal funding up to 75 percent of the cost of the project is available under certain conditions, town officials point out. Several unsewered areas are under study, the district says.

Meanwhile Lauralana households on lower ground just have to wait. "It's a community problem," says Florence Berkowitz. "When you fix your own, you inadvertently make it worse for someone else. The town gives us the runaround."

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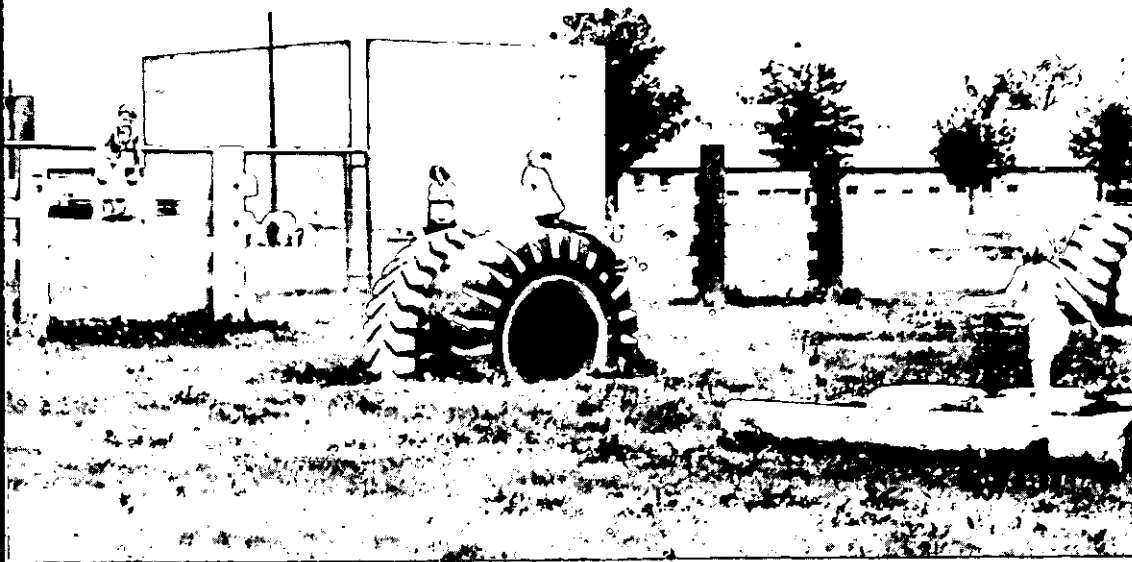


## Warner football signups Sunday

Bethlehem Pop Warner Inc. will hold its registration for all boys 9-13 in the towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland and the Voorheesville Central school district for the fall junior football program Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the Hamagrael elementary school on McGuffey Lane, Delmar.

The Bethlehem unit has added a third level of play for the coming season. In addition to the Junior Midget (ages 10-12) and Midget (11-13) teams, there will be a Pee Wee Division team for boys 9-11. Bob Verstandig of Delmar is head coach.

Boys signing up for any of the three teams must bring a birth certificate and must be accompanied by a parent. League rules require each player to have a physical examination or be certified for play by his family physician prior to the first game. Registration fee is \$20 per boy or \$30 per family.



Community playground: joint venture by parents, town and school.

### BECKERS CORNERS

## Playground a beehive for action

A rejuvenated playground at the Becker School on Rt. 9W, Selkirk, hums with youthful activity every morning and afternoon during the week as children from a wide area in the southern section of the town of Bethlehem congregate for summertime fun and recreation.

The children come in buses at 9 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. rain or shine. The town's Parks and Recreation Dept. sponsors the program and provides the transportation, but it was a parents' committee headed by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wagner and Mrs. Paul Lewis working with Al Keating, principal of the school, that got things moving on rejuvenating the playground. The parents rounded

up tires large and small, poles and tree trunks for an obstacle course, organized contributions of paint and materials by some two dozen merchants and businesses, and parents and teachers put in two Saturdays digging post holes, bolting the tires and painting.

For the children, the program offers a full array of arts, crafts, sports, games and playground fun weekdays from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 4. The buses begin the morning route at 8:25, starting at South Bethlehem school. They make the pickups along South Albany Rd., Jericho Rd., Long Lane and Rt. 9W, and cover Beaver Dam Rd., Rt. 144, Maple Ave. and Thatcher St. The program will continue through Aug. 19.

### In summer stock

Joseph Gilday of Delmar has a major supporting role in the cast of the University of Idaho Summer Repertory Theatre production of "The Tavern," a George M. Cohan comedy.

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**GLENMONT**

**Job Corps opens car repair shop**

With the completion of a three-bay addition and the opening of the refurbished existing garages at the New York Job Corps Center, the auto body repair and auto mechanics classes have started and major renovations to the Glenmont facility have ended.

Gerald Torrey of Athens has been hired as the auto body

repair instructor. Corpsmembers will learn about preparing the car's surface and painting. Kenneth Rundberg of New Baltimore is the auto mechanics instructor and will train corpsmembers to do engine overhauling and tune-ups, brake work, suspension systems, front end alignment and other skills that will prepare them to be a service station attendant or mechanic's helper depending on their length of stay and mechanical aptitude.



Electrical wiring classroom at Job Corps Center: Andre Arnell, left, Marlon Sands.  
*photos by Cheryl Marks*

**WANTED:**

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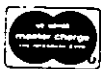
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Delon Dickens practices spray painting on an old file cabinet.

Other courses offered at the Job Corps include building maintenance, office skills, culinary arts, radio-television-electrical technician and academic classes.

On Tuesday the ninth group of corpsmembers were scheduled to arrive at the Center, bringing the corps population to two-thirds of the full enrollment of 275.

**BETHLEHEM**  
**Police probing local break-ins**

Bethlehem police are investigating a theft of approximately \$175 in cash from Pvt. Benny's bar-restaurant on Rt. 85 (New Scotland Rd.), Slingerlands last Thursday. Police said a restroom window was forced after an apparently vain effort to gain entry through the kitchen window. The money was taken from the cash register, juke box and cigarette machine sometime between 2 and 5 a.m., police said.

Also under investigation is a burglary at Handy Dandy Cleaners, discovered when a Bethlehem police cruiser on night patrol noticed a rear door open at the building at 240 Delaware Ave., Elmsere. Police notified the manager, Richard M. Renjilian of Albany, who reported approximately \$20 in small

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change missing from the register and the theft of a hidden envelope containing \$30. Police said there was no indication of forced entry.

Samuel J. Raimo of Albany reported the theft of a cassette tape deck and two speakers valued at \$160 from his car parked on Rose Ct. July 17.

### Hospital honors Delmar doctor

Dr. Samuel S. Ciccio, 92 has been released from Albany Medical Center hospital.

Administration Hospital, Albany, has been presented the VA Administrator's Award, a commendation for "superior performance" in patient care and staff leadership. The citation was presented by Paul E. Phillippi, hospital director.

Dr. Ciccio also serves as an associate professor of radiology and assistant dean at Albany Medical College and vice president of the Albany County American Cancer Society. He is area coordinator for the society's public education program, serves on the medical council for Explorer troops and the executive board of Governor Clinton Council of Boy Scouts, is local chairman of the Boy Scout Jamboree, and is chairman of the Village Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps.



David Rihm

### SPORTS

### Elsmere golfer in state final

For 21-year-old Dave Rihm, golf is a way of life. He was born into a golfing family—his father, Alexander Rihm, carries a 12 handicap—and he grew up "a drive and half a wedge" from the Normanside Country Club course in Elsmere. He played No. 1 on Bethlehem Central, qualified for the NCAA Division 3 championships three years in a row, and is co-captain of his college team at SUNY-Plattsburgh.

Last week Dave Rihm played in the New York State amateur championship tournament at Albany Country Club in nearby Guelderland (a



Dr. Samuel S. Ciccio, with Paul Phillippi and placque.

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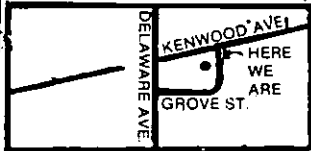
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tournament the Albany Knickerbocker News insists is in Voorheesville). He made the cut by one stroke despite an 81 in the second round after an opening 74. He shot a 75 on Thursday for 21st place among the 31 finalists, 12 strokes behind the leader, and tailed off with an 82 to finish 23rd.

"I was playing pretty good golf but I had trouble on the greens all week," he said, relaxing at his home on Euclid Ave. Friday night. He had qualified for the state championships by carding a 76 at Colonie Country Club before the decade's worst heat wave hit the area.

In his junior year at Bethlehem Central, Dave earned 12th place in the state scholastic championships at Binghamton. In his freshman year at Plattsburgh he was 8th in the Division 3 nationals in Clarksburg, Tenn. and won All-American honors. He played in the nationals last year at Springfield, Ohio, again this year at Gambier, Ohio, and last October won the Brook-Lea Invitational in Rochester that included 21 New York State colleges including several Division I giants.

Dave credits Normanside pro Ralph Montoya for much of his success on the fairways and greens. He worked for Ralph as a club cleaner in the pro shop for four years during his BCHS days. "Ralph loaned me his clubs and gave me pointers when I was having problems," he remarked. Last year he won the Normanside

club championship, and currently has a 3-handicap, which poses a heady problem for the rest of the membership when the club championship goes on the tees again this summer.

### GLENMONT

## Roofer Injured In freak mishap

A Schenectady man who suffered a freak injury when he fell from the roof of a Glenmont residence and was impaled by a trash cart handle has been released from Albany Medical Center hospital.

Robert S. Kessler was descending from the roof of the house at 69 Cambridge Dr., Colonial Acres, Thursday, when the ladder slipped away from beneath him. Kessler grabbed the edge of the roof and fell or jumped to the ground just as Lee Dunnells of BPW Rubbish Removal was passing with a hand truck. Kessler landed on the truck and was impaled on the metal handle, which entered his left armpit and hooked around a chest muscle, according to police reports.

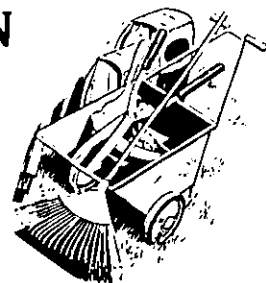
Lt. James Kerr and James Regan of the Delmar Rescue Squad used a hacksaw to remove the handle from the truck. They rushed Kessler to the emergency room, where a foot-long length of the handle was removed from Kessler's upper chest. Kessler was discharged Monday, hospital authorities said.

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Len Smith, Owner

**On the cover:**  
*On a warm, summer day in Delmar last week, Spotlight reporter-photographer Cheryl Marks caught Linda Acquilano, 4, with a green frog she immediately named Fred, and found hard-working youths repairing a bridge at Five Rivers Center on Game Farm Rd. (story below).*



## Youths upgrade a nature trail

Six local high school students are working at the Five Rivers Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, as members of the federally sponsored Youth Conservation Corps. Under the direction of Jim Suozzo of Slingerlands, Robert Ewart, Wayne Hoffman, Barry Junco, Maria Tilaro, Alan Warner and Steven Young are helping repair and revitalize the bridge on the Beaver Tree Trail, and doing other cleanup along the trail. They have helped with new exhibits and will be making a new trail for the Center.

"It is inspiring to see young adults devoting time and energy to conservation and environmental education

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projects," Jerry Passer, associate conservation educator, said. "Perhaps through this very beneficial program, some will be stimulated to pursue career fields in environmental disciplines. For others, the joy or working and learning in the out-of-doors will be of immeasurable value to them as they mature and develop their life styles. We look forward to a highly successful completion of these projects."

## High time in Gallupville

There will be a high old time in Gallupville Saturday, July 30, with a hot air balloon giving tethered rides, ox teams and horsedrawn wagons, parade and pet show at noon, barbecue at 2, exhibits, booths, demonstrations of hooking, quilting and spinning, ending with a round and square dance. Everything is free. Gallupville is at the intersection of Rts. 443 (Delaware Ave.) and 146.

## Cadet in training

John J. Wrynn, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Wrynn, 65 Berwick Rd., Delmar, N.Y., is currently participating in sea training aboard the Coast Guard cutter Eagle, homeported in New London, Conn. He is a cadet third class at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, and is scheduled to be commissioned a Coast Guard ensign in 1980. He is a 1976 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School.

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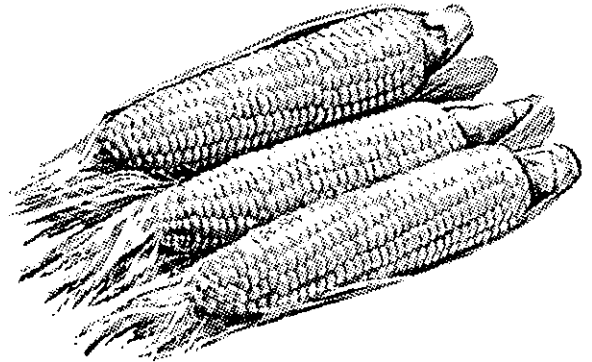
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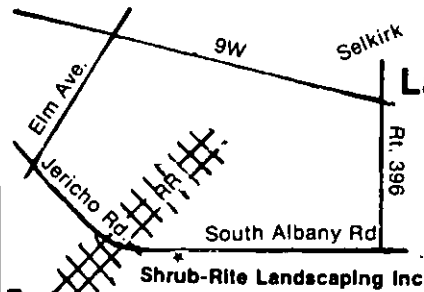
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## PROFILE

### A runner with no place to go

Bob Oates is 26, a trained physical education teacher, a capable long-distance runner and a versatile athlete. In three years on the Bethlehem Central faculty he has substantially upgraded the school's track and field forces, has motivated a local track group, has gained a sizeable personal following of admiring teenage athletes and their parents, and has lost his job.



Bob Oates

The latter tragedy is a direct result of the staff cutback reluctantly imposed by the board of education this spring in meeting demands for budget belt-tightening in the wake of declining enrollments. Oates and his SUNY-Cortland classmate, Bob Salamone, were personally recruited by Supt. of Schools Lawrence A. Zinn and Principal Joseph Schaefer direct from the campus as Cortland's two top proponents of the new approach to physical education. Two years later Oates was caught in the Delmar School shutdown, was reassigned to three days a week at the Middle School and one day at the High School.

In the latest cutback Oates

and Salamone have been offered four-tenths of a teaching position between them, which translates to having to divide a two-day-a-week job. Since the hours involved are fragmented through the week—a class here, a class there on different days—they are mousetrapped by administrative employment procedures on priority lists dictated by the teacher's union and State Education Dept. rules: both must accept the four-tenths position and let the choice between them lie with the district. Adding to the frustration is the fact that

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because of the fragmented teaching schedule, they can't take a fulltime job "on the outside" without surrendering their eligibility for the next teacher opening.

Meanwhile Bob Oates is having a busy summer as an unsalaried coach of the Capital Track Club team, many of whose members participate on his indoor track team at or the girls' track team at Bethlehem Central. He is also running his favorite distance events, the mile and two-mile, in area meets this summer while grooming his teenage charges for the Junior Olympic trials.

Oates' indoor track team, comprised of boys and girls, had a busy schedule, and has contributed to the steady improvement in BCHS track fortunes in the last few years. Bethlehem has not been a track power for some time, primarily because few local athletes—apart from distance runners—are willing to go out for a third season after a full fall and winter of competitive sports. But Oates' runners turn out voluntarily for 6 a.m. practice sessions two and three times a week, and the distance runners insist on two workouts a day.

Track has dominated Bob Oates' life since the sixth grade in Brooklyn and Long Island. In high school he decided to go for other sports to broaden his experience en route to a career as a phys ed teacher. He made the swimming team and the lacrosse team. As a sophomore he qualified for the state meet in the mile and two-mile, at Cortland he was seeded No. 1 after turning in the best indoor time in the state, 9 minutes 34

seconds for the two-mile. Later he spent a year on the crew of a Bethlehem Steel Co. ore carrier sailing the Great Lakes.

Last Spring about 30 students paraded with signs at 90 Adams Pl. before making a plea to the school board to keep the jobs open for Oates and Salamone. It was an impressive demonstration, peaceful and articulate, but the seniority rules are too strong. The board's hands are tied. The prospects for these fine young men are dim, the openings few. They are here because they are the best around in their specialty, but the jobs aren't.

#### ELSMERE

### Driver arrested on gun charge

When Michael J. Pauquette of Asprion Rd., Glenmont, and Ronald Catalano, 17 Orchard St., Delmar, were driving their cars south on Delaware Ave. near the Hess Station in Elsmere shortly after midnight one sultry night last week, they were startled to find the driver of a third car pointing a gun at them as they went by. Catalano slammed on his brakes to avoid being hit by gunfire, he reported, while Pauquette stepped on the gas and headed for a police car on patrol opposite the Delaware Plaza entrance.

"Stop that Toyota, the driver has a gun!" he reportedly shouted at Officer Leonard A. Ryan, Jr. Ryan threw the patrol car in gear, radioed for assistance and pulled the Toyota to the curb in front of the Stewart's shop at the Elsmere Ave. intersection. He

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ordered the driver out of the car at gunpoint as other police units arrived.

The weapon turned out to be a BB pistol that police said "looked like a real automatic handgun." Booked on charges of menacing and disorderly conduct was Gregory S. Mosley, 28, of 1 Brookman Ave., Elsmere.

**AMERICAN  
CANCER  
SOCIETY**

## Quilters put bee on art basics

Quilters are coming out of their sewing rooms to "put the pieces together" with fellow quilters. Quilting groups are forming throughout the area, one of the newest an offspring of the Progress Club's creative arts group. This group of 10 is interested in quilting both as an art form and for making functional blankets. The group has experimented with pillows, tea cozys, tote bags, miniature quilts, wall hangings and traditional quilts.

Quilts and Co., as the group



Dorothy Geyer, seated, Kay Spangler, left, and Alison Swanson show some of the products of Quilts and Co. Cheryl Marks

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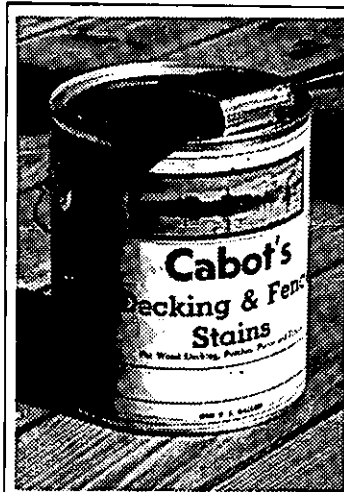
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is called, will be joining the Mohawk Valley Craftsmen Assn. craft sale in Congress St. Park, Saratoga Springs, on Aug. 11 (rain date Aug. 18), starting at 11 a.m.

## Plan college benefit

The Smith College Club of Albany is sponsoring "An Evening at Saratoga" on Thursday, Aug. 25 to benefit the club's scholarship fund. Tickets have been reserved for the performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra, with Robert Irving conducting. Soloists Suzanne Farrell and Peter Martins of the New York City Ballet will be featured in pas de deux from works by Gluck, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky.

The seats reserved are moderately priced, and orders must be placed by Aug. 12. Club members in charge of promotion and ticket sales include Mrs. Susanne Hudacs, chairman (439-7570), and Mrs. Helen Benoit (459-6634).



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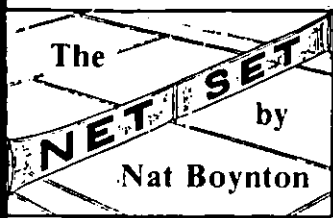
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### Forest Hills ahoy

Several times a year David Corbin assumes his TAA identity, and when that happens, there is sure to be action. TAA stands for Tennis Action Agency, that entrepreneurial enterprise Dave and his erstwhile legal partner Larry Anito launched some four years ago to conduct bus trips to major tennis events, arrange tennis vacations for groups and families, and so on.

One of the cornerstones of TAA is a charter bus trip to Forest Hills for the U.S. Open. Last week Dave announced an expanded bus schedule that looks more like a shuttle than a charter trip. He has expanded his offering this year to embrace six straight days, Sept. 7-12 inclusive, which means he will be running a charter round trip daily from the Friday of Labor Day weekend to the following Wednesday. The Corbin coach is due to depart at 8 a.m. from the Colonie

Tennis Club parking lot on Shaker Rd. non-stop direct to the stadium at Forest Hills and return home by 11 p.m., with a stop en route for dinner.

As in past years, reservations are necessary, inasmuch as the seats are limited and hard to come by. Dave was able to collar blocks of stadium seats for each of those six days, which in itself is an achievement inasmuch as the 13,000 seats reportedly are sold out for the last four days of the tournament and nearly exhausted on Sept. 7. That's the day the quarterfinals begin, and that's the day the promoters, never shy about putting the old kazoo to loyal tennis fans, jack the price of a ticket from \$8 to \$12.50—if you can get one. To accommodate this gouge, Dave has been forced to peg the price of his TAA package (reserved seat plus round trip) from \$21 per person Friday through Tuesday to \$25.50 on Wednesday the 7th. If you want to go, make your reservations at Courtside Tennis Club, Elsmere, on 439-6803, or call Dave or Lynne at home, 765-4604.

Because this is a tennis tournament, the scenario follows a familiar pattern: the

earlier in the 12-day span you go, the more players you can see in action, the later you go, the fewer big-name stars you see but the matches are more pressurized. I like to go on one of the early days and wander around watching parts of a dozen matches. I also enjoy the quarterfinals because you can see three or sometimes four tense duels. If you've never been to Forest Hills, here's perhaps your last chance—next year the U.S. Open moves to Flushing Meadows, leaving romance and nostalgia behind. That's like moving Wimbledon to Wembley.

A word of caution: chances are the singles quarterfinals on Sept. 7 will be all women, with the men's singles on the 8th, but

you'll have a shot at some of the men's round of 16 and plenty of doubles action featuring the big names.

**TENNIS SHORTS:** Capitaland Tennis Club is holding an intermediate "B" tournament Aug. 12-14, with entries open to the public. Contact Bob Lewis or Pat Esposito at 456-5050...Alison Cooper, emerging as one of Delmar's brightest tennis prospects, won last week's Greater Colonie Junior tournament in the girls' 14-and-under class against rugged competition.

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**FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY**

**A cemetery dates from the Patroon era**

By Allison P. Bennett  
First of 2 articles

"This holy ground beneath our feet, These gently sloping hills above, These silent glades and valleys sweet - Shall be the home of those we love."

These lines describe so well the last resting place of a great many of Bethlehem's former citizens and pertain to one of our historic cemeteries. Elmwood Cemetery on Route 9W at Selkirk was organized in 1860, but to properly tell the story of the origins of this cemetery, we have to go further back in time to the first church organization in Bethlehem.

The First Dutch Reformed Church of Bethlehem was organized as a congregation in 1763 by the sons and daughters of the earliest Dutch settlers in this area. Although early records are meagre, we know that a church building was erected by this congregation, possibly before the Revolution. Since all of this land was at that time incorporated in the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, we find that the Consistory, the church's governing body, made



application in 1795 to the Patroon, Stephen Van Rensselaer, for a parcel of land, inasmuch as a church had already been established here. Mr. Van Rensselaer was willing to promote the interests of this church, and agreed to give 105.84 acres "as long as the said congregation shall perform divine worship and for no other use".

The church grew and prospered, and a new sanctuary was erected in 1821. On July 1, 1835, the Consistory appropriated a lot for a "burying ground" just north of the church enclosure, for the use of the congregation. Prior to this, interments were made in the family cemeteries in the burial plots on the farms, of which some may still be seen today.

On April 21, 1860 a congregational meeting was convened for the purpose of considering the "propriety of laying out a cemetery." John R. Myers was chairman and Rev. John Simonsem clerk of the meeting. A committee consisting of Robert Selkirk, Peter Niver and Daniel P. Winne, was appointed to examine the Church Farm to ascertain if there was ground suitable for a cemetery. This committee reported in favor of "the lot on the northwest corner of the farm, northeast of the school house, adjoining the road and land of Mr. Lewis

Myers," and recommended that this land be appropriated for cemetery purposes. The report was adopted and Dr. John Babcock moved the group incorporate under the Legislative Act of 1847, authorizing the incorporation of rural cemetery associations. The first trustees were the members of the committee, plus Lewis Myers, Dr. John Babcock and Zachariah Riker.

As the land selected for the cemetery was deeded to the church by the Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer for church purposes only, it became necessary to obtain a release from the then Proprietor of the Manor, who readily gave a release "to encourage and aid them in carrying out this object."

The cemetery trustees then purchased from the Consistory nine and three-quarters acres of ground for \$571.50. A resolution was unanimously passed to name the ground "Elm Wood Cemetery of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York." This is recorded in the County Clerk's office under date of June 12, 1860, and appropriate dedication ceremonies were held on September 12, 1861. In 1868 the burial place near the church was closed to further interments and the Consistory ordered the bodies removed to Elm Wood Cemetery.

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This is a country cemetery and so the grave markers are not overly elaborate monumental style, but of the plain and simple sort as befits people who lived their lives as modest citizens of this town. One of the more impressive is the Irwin monument, a grey granite rectangle with a white marble statue atop it of a pensive lady dressed in flowing robes and holding a wreath of flowers. Another interesting monument recalls that occasionally some of these rustic people, as much as a century ago, did indeed venture far away from their farm fields to catch a glimpse of quite another, different place. We read of Gerrit H. Niver, killed in the Custer massacre on the Little Big Horn, Dakota, June 25, 1876, aged 30 years. In the older part of the cemetery the more imposing monuments are tall pillars of granite, their shafts pointing the eye Heavenward, towards the abodes of the Spirit. Some are plain pillars; others are topped with a draped urn.

Many of the stones are simple colonial style rectangles, some with carving on them, as that of Jane Kimmey, wife of John who died in 1844. Her stone has a lovely oval frame containing a weeping willow tree and one rose blossom, carved into the granite. Others have carved designs of a weeping willow and urn, a wreath of twining roses, a hand with raised finger pointing upward, and several stones have carvings of clasped hands, all sweetly reminiscent of the Victorian period.

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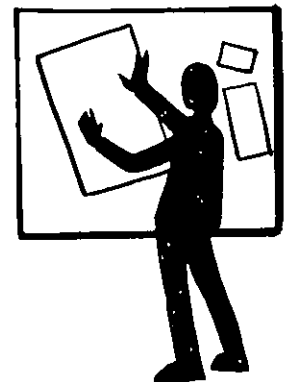


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**In medical posts**

Dr. Bernard Berkowitz of Delmar has been appointed vice-chairman of the Dept. of Psychiatry at Albany Medical College and deputy director, clinical, at the Capital District Psychiatric Center. He succeeds Dr. N. Michael Murphy, who recently resigned as deputy director of the center. Dr. Murphy will continue with the CDPC as a clinical psychiatrist and will head the postgraduate and continuing education program at AMC/CDPC.

In his new position Dr. Berkowitz, who is currently chief of psychiatric in-patient services for Albany Medical Center Hospital, will be responsible for all clinical psychiatric services at the Albany Medical Center and the CDPC. Dr. Berkowitz will continue as associate professor of psychiatry at Albany Medical College.

Dr. Berkowitz is a graduate of Union College and received his medical degree from State



**Dr. Bernard Berkowitz**

University of New York College of Medicine in Syracuse. Following his residency, Dr. Berkowitz was a physician in the U.S. Public Health Service from 1966-1968 and served as staff psychiatrist for the U.S. Penitentiary at Lewisburg, PA. Prior to joining the staffs of the CDPC and AMC in 1968, Dr. Berkowitz spent six months as chief of the drug abuse program at the Federal Correctional Institution at Danbury, Conn. He served as chief of psychiatric service at the Albany VA Hospital from 1971-1974 and was appointed medical director of the AMC outpatient psychiatrist clinic in 1974. Dr. Berkowitz and his wife, Florence, are parents of three children.

**Tire theft reported**

Gerald H. Pappalau, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, reported to Bethlehem police that five split-rim wheels and tires had been stripped from his pickup truck parked in the rear of his residence in the early morning of July 21. Police said Pappalau estimated the value of the missing items at \$900.



**Dr. William B. Scharfman  
Heads AMC division**

Dr. William B. Scharfman of Slingerlands has been appointed head of the division of hematology at Albany Medical College and Albany Medical Center Hospital. Dr. Scharfman, a member of the staff of the department of medicine since 1952, was appointed professor in 1970.

A graduate of Columbia University, Dr. Scharfman received his medical degree from Albany Medical College in 1946. He served three years in the U.S. Navy, 16 months as medical officer for a destroyed division, leaving in 1949 to begin a residency in pathology at Queens General Hospital in New York City. He served an additional residency in medicine at Queens General serving as chief resident during his second year. He is the father of three daughters.

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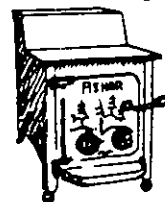
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Laura DeFlumer

**Laura DeFlumer to wed**

The engagement of Laura DeFlumer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. DeFlumer, 101 Orchard St., Delmar, to Gary Edward Palmer of Syracuse has been announced by her parents.

The prospective bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and has an associate degree in criminal justice from Schenectady County Community College. Her fiancé, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon A. Palmer of Kentselaer, is a graduate of Columbia High School and Hudson Valley Community College. He is employed by the U.S. General Services Administration in the Federal Building, Syracuse. The couple plan a Sept. 17 wedding.



Rev. Frank T. Rhoad

**In Delmar pulpit**

Rev. Frank T. Rhoad, a Delmar resident who retired from the ministry after serving 36 years in the pulpit of the Second Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam, will be guest minister at the Delmar Presbyterian Church the first two Sundays in August. He will preach at an informal family service at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 7 and Aug. 14. Dr. Rhoad will celebrate his 90th birthday on Sept. 18 by speaking at the Amsterdam church on "Reflections and Prospects at 90."

**Flagpole is stolen**

A 20-foot aluminum flagpole was stolen from the entrance of the Colonial Acres residential subdivision on Feura Bush Rd., Glenmont, the night of July 16-17, according to Bethlehem police.

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BA	9	3	0
of C.	8	4	0
FW	7	5	0
ue Cross/ Blue Shield	6	6	0
ational Savings	5	6	1
n. Electric	4	8	0
ain Care	2	9	1

**BETHLEHEM TOMBOYS**  
Standings July 22

	W.	L.	T.
MAJORS			
th. Elks	13	1	
YC	8	6	
lantic Cement	4	10	
etro. Bus. Mach.	3	11	

**INTERMEDIATE**

	W.	L.	T.
th. P.B.A.	11	1	0
dio Shack	7	5	0
ccardo Studios	6	7	0
rm Family	6	7	0
E. Plastics	5	7	1
hn Germann	2	10	1

**MINORS**

	W.	L.	T.
P. Wood Plumb.	8	1	0
lmar Kiwanis	7	1	0
ion National	5	3	1
tter's Mill	4	4	0
nby's	3	5	1
ller's Mobil	3	5	1
asonic Lodge	3	6	0
stiani Contr.	0	8	1

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ox 9, Bethany 4  
th. Comm. 8, St. Thomas 7  
uster 18, Voorheesville 0



**MAJOR**

	W.	L.	T.
AMERICAN			
Kiwanis	10	7	0
CYC	8	8	1
Price Greenleaf	8	10	0
Farm Family	7	8	1
McCarrolls	7	9	0
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Meyers Funeral	11	6	0
Main Care	10	7	0
Spotlight	8	6	1
Mullens	6	10	1

### INTERMEDIATE

AMERICAN CYC	W.	L.	T.
	11	5	0

Gen. Electric	8	8
Farm Family	5	11
Price Greenleaf	4	10
Pat & Bobs	0	17

NATIONAL	W.	L.
Meyers Bikes	13	4
Spotlight	10	6
Main Care	10	6
Mullens	9	6
Roberts	9	6

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AMERICAN	W.	L.
Braves	15	2
Indians	9	7
Tigers	6	10
Orioles	4	12
Cardinals	2	9
Yankees	2	11

NATIONAL	W.	L.
Cubs	13	2
Prates	14	4
Mets	7	9
Giants	5	7
Dodgers	6	8

### Legislator fined

A New York City assemblyman caught in a radar speed trap on the Thruway last month has been found guilty of speeding after a trial in Bethlehem justice court. Assemblyman George Friedman of the Bronx pleaded his own case before Justice Robert Rice last week and cross-examined two New York State troopers who had testified that he was stopped on Interstate 8 in Glenmont and charged with driving 70 miles an hour. He was fined \$15.

### GOP roast co-ed

For the first time since the event was instituted 18 years ago, Bethlehem Republicans will have a "co-ed" steak roast this year. The annual occasion, always one of the most popular gatherings of the year, will be held Aug. 17 at Murray-Jenny Sunset Park, Unionville.

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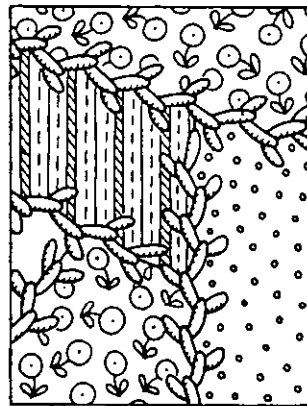
## QUILTING TODAY

Quilting is deeply rooted in American history, a rich and colorful part of our cultural heritage. In early colonial days when every scrap of cloth was precious, the crazy quilt was the perfect way to use up oddly shaped morsels of fabric. Tiny stitches anchored the bits of sprigged cottons and calicos and the occasional silk and velvet snips. Feather stitching was often used to outline the patches.

In mosaic patchwork, identically shaped pieces were fitted together with the precision of a jigsaw puzzle. Securely fastened, these were quilted or simply tied at the points of each piece.

Later, as quilting developed into an art, patterns became more varied and intricate. Stars, lozenges, triangles and hexagons were stitched into designs that ranged from pineapples to compass roses.

Today these antique quilts are eagerly sought by museums and private collectors and cherished for their historical associations as well as their beauty.



Contemporary quilting has roamed far from the bedstead. Nowadays small quilted pictures make pillow tops, quilted floral borders circle hems of long skirts. animated animals are appliqued and quilted on accessories for children. Quilted applique combined with embroidery makes nostalgic versions of primitive art, records the busy counterpoint

of nature and man on the farm and even brings to life the fantastic monsters that people fairy tales.

**NEW! An illustrated leaflet featuring FILLING STITCHES. For your FREE copy write to Elsa Williams, Box 3788, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.**

In these new picture-quiltings, the background is often left unadorned with the appliqued motifs embroidered and quilted. Quilting techniques are combined with applique for large distinctive initials on bags, or may be done in miniature for pin cushions. Portraits of a family home or a favorite garden are simplified in design so that they can be "patched" and stitched.

Next week I'll tell you about the current revival of padded stitchery.

\*\*\*

Dear Elsa,

*I've found some borders of vines and leaves in silhouette which would be lovely embroidered on natural linen curtains. The vines won't take too long to embroider, but if I do the silhouetted leaves in either Long and Short or Satin stitch, it will be years before I can enjoy the finished curtains. What can I do that will take less time?*

I.L.J.

Dear I.L.J.,

There are so many ways you can treat those leaves. You can simply embroider outline and veins in Chain stitch or double lines of Stem stitch. This would look striking as Black Work. Any book on the subject will show you many filling stitches that don't take long to do.

If you outline the leaves in Buttonhole stitch, you can decorate them with a deeper shade of the same color used as whipping or lacing. Try one leaf in any of these techniques. This may suggest additional ideas.

E.W.



**Mrs. Gregory Mark Winn  
Wed by candlelight**

Ellen Lacy Childs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Childs of Voorheesville, and Gregory Mark Winn, son of Dr. and Mrs. L. Gerald Winn of Delmar, were married in a candlelight ceremony July 7 at the Bethlehem Community Church.

Cynthia Stempel of Voorheesville was maid of honor and bridesmaids were Susan Childs of Voorheesville, and Virginia Winn and Mrs. Raymond Patterson of Delmar. The best man was Gregory Turner of Clarksville. Ushers were Bruce Winn and John Bub of Delmar and Matthew Childs of Voorheesville.

The bride is a student at West Suburban School of Nursing, Oak Park, Ill. The groom is in the pre-med program at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.

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The engaged couple are graduates of Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central High School. The future bride is employed by Crawford and Co., her fiancé by Owensorning Fiberglas, Delmar. They have set Oct. 29 as their wedding date.



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**Admirable effort**

Editor, The Spotlight:

Parents generally are constantly watching with bated breath for youngsters to set proper examples in the hope their own children will follow. Many parents, very often, are not that fortunate.

Two years ago, a group of young men and women formed a "theatrical enterprise" in Albany. The thrust and main purpose was and is to raise funds for a reputable, worthwhile charity; 1976 and 1977 found the "group" involved with the presentation of several stage plays from which the Leukemia Society of America gained approximately \$1,000.

Average ages of those participating on stage, selling program ads, building sets and handling all detail, range from 17 to 22. Most are graduates of the Albany Academy and the Albany Academy for Girls. Most are now in college. They return each summer, meet each evening, decide on plays to produce, plan their work and

work their plan. They rehearse every night during the summer vacation period.

This summer, the charitable goal of the group will be on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Center of Albany.

It certainly is an admirable effort on the part of 18 young graduates who have decided that "doing their thing" is to help those less fortunate and in particular those afflicted with Leukemia and/or Cerebral Palsy.

Thus we must conclude that these young people, intentionally or otherwise, are setting a constructive pattern for others to follow. For the past two years they have proven their worth. We all should give support and encourage the Academy Players of Albany.

Albany *Al Kellert*

**Quick to blame**

Editor, The Spotlight:

It seems to me that anyone who has lived in the town of Bethlehem, especially the Delmar area, for the last five-years, including Mrs. Tomaro, would be familiar with the manner in which the traffic light at the corner of Delaware Ave. and Elsmere Ave. works.

It is unfortunate that someone lost their life in this accident, but that is no reason to blame the operator of the vehicle for the death. The witnesses who were interviewed by the Bethlehem Police Dept.

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and the facts regarding this accident clearly removed the blame from the operator of the vehicle. Unfortunately, the operator of the vehicle is a police officer. How quick the public is to blame a police officer when he is involved in anything that the public dislikes. Chief Pratt of Altamont will remember this accident for many years. Isn't that penalty enough?

I only wish the public would take the time to collect the facts before they spout off and put the blame where it does not belong.

Delmar *Conrad C. Martin*  
*Police Officer*  
Bethlehem Police Dep.

### 'Death trap' light

Editor, The Spotlight:

I am sure that our town fathers do not encounter the "death trap" that exists at the corner of the Delmar By-Pass and Elsmere Avenue at the peak hour of 5 p.m. and also at the the noon hour. There has

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en publicity to the effect that ere would be a traffic light stalled there around the first of this year. Why this has been neglected is hard to believe. What will it take to get this light stalled? Another death? There have been several in the st. Then it would be like closing the barn door after the horse escapes."

At night around 5 o'clock there are cars coming from all directions and nobody knows who's supposed to go where. It's like playing Russian roulette every time I go there. Please, I beg you people to do something about that dangerous corner! Ironic as it may be, "the life you save may be your own or someone in your family." Please install a traffic light now before it is too late.

Marilyn Picarazzi

Wkirk

A year ago the State Dept. of Transportation notified the town of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce that a three-color light would be installed at

that intersection about January, 1977. A spokesman for the DOT told the Spotlight this week that a contract for the signal is scheduled to be let in August. There was no indication what the time span would be between placing the contract and installation. Ed.

### Assessment reform

Editor, The Spotlight:

I am writing with respect to your leading comment in the Spotlight of July 21 on "Grievance Day Complaints Rise." I am shocked by the assessment review policy of Bethlehem. It neither considers the interests of fixed low-income pensioners (or welfare recipients) nor the large increases for the middle-income people. Yet the city of Albany (and many other places in the country) give a 50-percent tax reduction to older, low-income people.

I wrote to (Assemblyman) Larry Lane. Essentially, he said that statewide reform was required, but otherwise nothing could be done. Senator

Nolan did not reply.

It is difficult to understand why a minority of recent home purchasers should bear a disproportionate tax burden for the town, and why a complete assessment, with regulations for extenuating circumstances, cannot be immediately implemented.

Delmar Donald F. Parsons

### More on civic center

Editor, The Spotlight:

About three issues ago, there appeared in Vox Pop a letter from Mr. J. Constantino concerning the growth of this area and the need for a civic center. I agree with Mr. Constantino, and thought you would be deluged with similar replies. Seems like everyone is like me and waits for "George" to do it.

I saw a picture in the Albany papers a week or so past showing the civic center in Watervliet, formerly the High School. It seems that we have an ideal building right here in Delmar, the former Delmar grade school. This would be an

excellent location, and the possibilities and uses are many. There is an almost new addition of a cafeteria, which could handle large dinners, etc., a gym for use as an auditorium or gym use for the children, an office setup for management, plenty of rooms for different groups to use for meetings. There is ample parking space right near the new library. The children could also use the building as a youth center.

As I drive past this empty, unused building, I see children up on the roof and wonder how long it will be before we have our own "Union Station" here through neglect and vandalism. I think Mr. Constantino has an excellent idea, and would like to see some other opinions.

Elsmere

A. J. Balluff

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# Community Corner

## Pre-Schoolers Program

The Delmar Elementary School will be the scene of a pre-schooler's program this week and next. The playground program will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each weekday through Aug. 5. For information, call 439-3301.

And don't forget the summer band concert at Elm Ave. Park next Thursday at 8 p.m. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy good listening in comfort.

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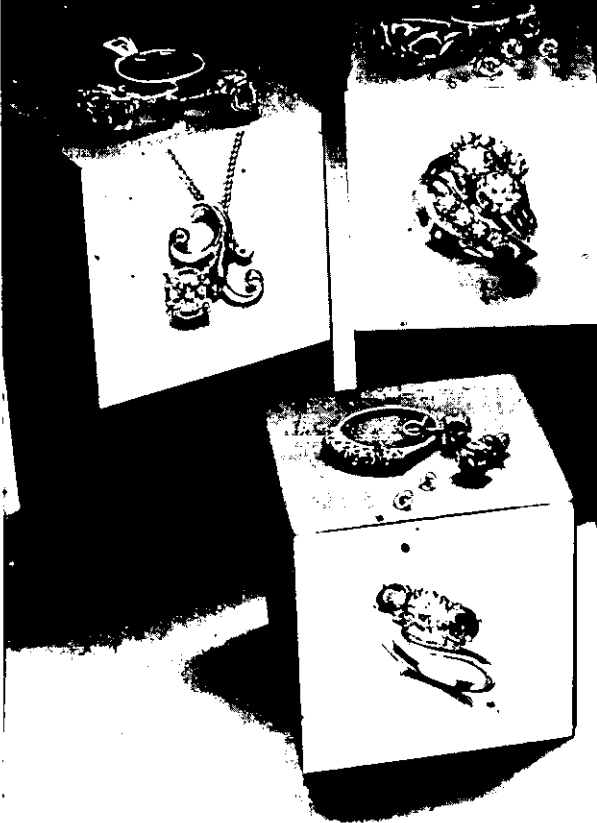
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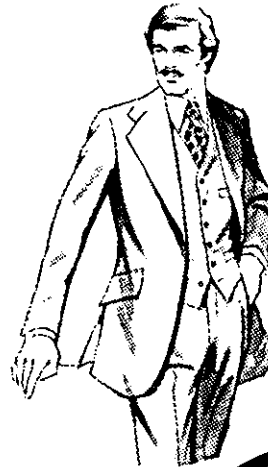
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