

The Spotlight

Bethlehem Public Library

January 12, 1978
Vol. XXIV, No. 2

20¢

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

Bethlehem board splits on teacher pay bonanza

Page 9

'IRRESPONSIBLE' — Weinberg
'FAIR' — Harvith

'SELLOUT' — Clyne
'JUSTIFIED' — Patton

Teachers' union man-of-the-hour

*BCTA chief negotiator
Gordon W. Molyneux*

- Wins \$1 million pay package
- Blistered by board member



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Spotlight CALENDAR

Town of Bethlehem--Town Board second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Planning Board every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Board of Appeals first three Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., town hall, 393 Delaware Ave. Town offices are open 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays.

Town of New Scotland--Town Board meets first Wednesday at 8 p.m., Planning Board second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Recreation Commission third Tuesday at 7 p.m., Board of Appeals meets when necessary, usually Fridays at 7 p.m, town hall, Rt. 85.

League of Women Voters, Thursdays, Bethlehem Library, 9:15 a.m. Babysitting available. Information 439-5786.

Bethlehem Jaycees, first and third Wednesdays, Center Inn, 9W, Glenmont, 8 p.m.

Bethlehem Memorial Auxilliary to Post 3185, VFW, third Monday, Post Rooms, 404 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Bethlehem Sportsman's Club, first Tuesday, 5 Rivers Environmental Center, Delmar, 7:30 p.m. Guests welcome.

Bethlehem Recycling, town garage, 114 Adams St., Papers should be tied, cans flattened, bottles cleaned with metal and styrofoam removed. Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

AARP, third Tuesday, Delmar First United Methodist Church, 12:30 p.m.

The Spotlight

Editor and Publisher
Nathaniel A. Boynton

Advertising Manager
John C. Bennett

Office Manager
Arline M. Holder

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

Contributing Photographers: James Carroll, J.W. Campbell, R.H. Davis.

Sales Representatives: Gerald S. Gordon, Janet Stutzman, Susan Moore.

Production: Jeanette Bolanos Winkler, Ann Brink, Elva Dootz, Nancy Bleezarde, S. Clayton, Patrick McGlynn.

Subscriptions: Laurie Holder

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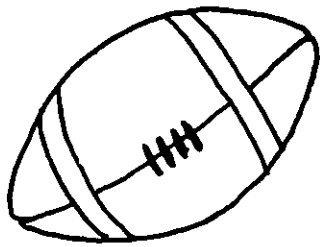
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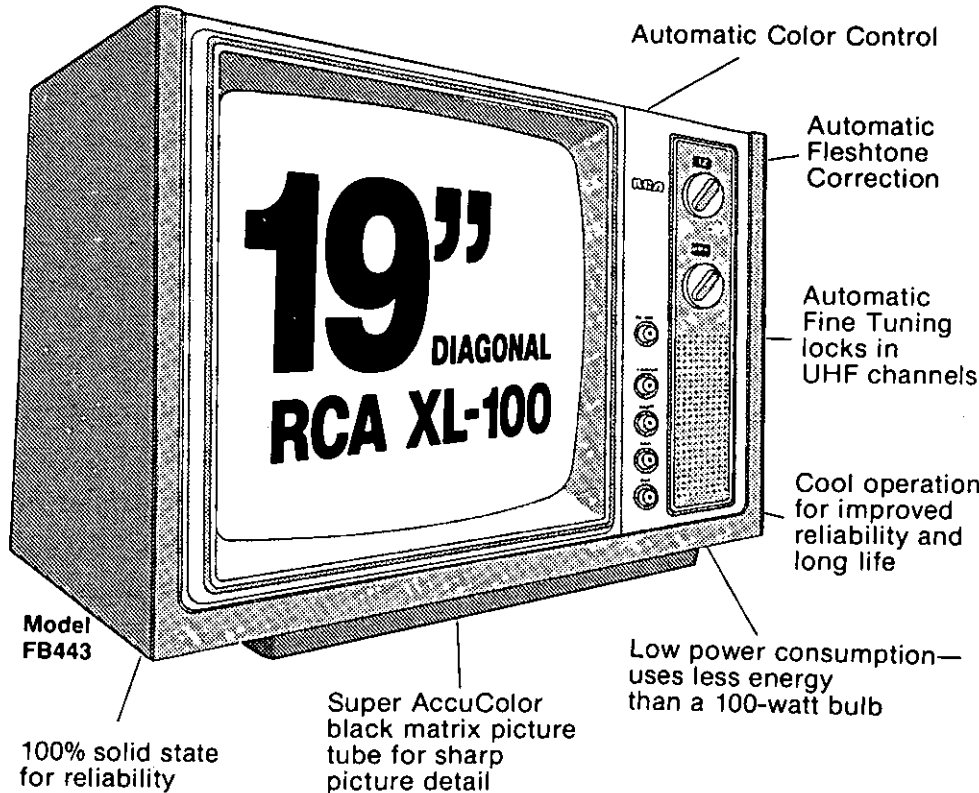
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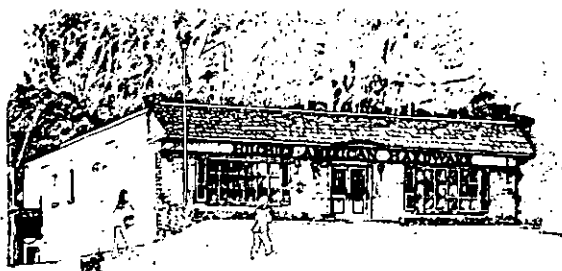
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

League of Women Voters, "National Program Planning," and discussion of Bethlehem unit, 9:15 a.m., Bethlehem Library. For transportation and/or information call Doris Davis, 439-5786.

Ladies Auxillary, Elsmere Fire Co., fire house, 8 p.m.

Diet Workshop open house, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., Delmar, 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

Story Hour, Voorheesville Library 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Films, Laurel and Hardy, Voorheesville Library, 4 - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Quilters United in Learning Together (QUILT), open meeting including film "Quilting Women" Bethlehem Library, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Recovery Inc. meeting, First United Methodist Church, Delmar, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., for persons with nervous or emotional problems.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Paper drive, sponsored by Unionville Reformed Church, Bethlehem Recycling Center, Delmar.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Paper drive, sponsored by Unionville Reformed Church, Bethlehem Recycling Center, Delmar, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Winter Carnival, Elm Ave., Park, Delmar, all day.

Bethlehem Coffeehouse, Carolyn Odell, original, traditional and contemporary folk music, 125 Adams St., Delmar, 8:30 p.m., \$2.

Pot luck supper, Couples Club of the Slingerlands Community

United Methodist Church, in the church fellowship hall, 6:30 p.m. All couples are invited.

Creative Writing Club, Bethlehem Library, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Christmas tree recycling, Garden Shoppe, Rt. 32, Glenmont, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., bring container for mulch. Free coffee.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Movie, "Pride and Prejudice," Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

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

Story hour, Voorheesville Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Career Advise ment, Sister Catherine Daly, Bethlehem Library, 6 - 9 p.m.

Bethlehem Women's Republican Club, community room, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

Program, Men's Club of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, church lounge,

7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Free blood pressure screening clinic, Bethlehem Coffeehouse, Adams St., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 7 - 9 p.m.

Pre-school winter film series, Bethlehem Library, 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m.

Bethlehem chapter, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 12:30 p.m.; musical program by "Sweet Adelines," 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Warren Winterhoff presents the first of 12 sessions on the teachings of the Lutheran Church; lounge, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Joint meeting and annual luncheon, Garden and Creative Arts groups of Delmar Progress Club, Delmar Reformed Church, 11:30 a.m. Reservations necessary.

Story and slide presentation, "The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood," grades 3 - 6; Bethlehem Library, 4 p.m.

"Getting to Know Your Library." Community program sponsored by the Tri-Village Welcome Wagon; Bethlehem Library, 7:30 - 9 p.m.



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Glenmont Homemakers, Glenmont Community Reformed Church, 1 Chapel Lane, Glenmont, 8 p.m.

Career advisement. Sister Catherine Daly, Bethlehem Library, 7 - 9 p.m.

Bethlehem Board of Education business meeting; Educational Services Center, 90 Adams Pl., 8 p.m.

Assemblyman Lane will be at his Delmar office, 1 Becker Terr., to discuss matters with constituents, 3:30 - 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Eckankar discussion and film, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

Vegetarian diets, sponsored by the Home Economics branch of Albany County Cooperative Extension; Albany County Resources Development Center, Rt. 85A and Martin Rd., Voorheesville, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required; 765-2874.

Town of Bethlehem Historical Assn., Cedar Hill School House, 8 p.m.

Story hour, Voorheesville Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Films, "Magic Gifts," "Little Mariner," "Palle Alone in the

World," Voorheesville Library, 4 - 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Recovery Inc. meeting, First United Methodist Church, Delmar, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., for persons with nervous or emotional problems.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Films, "Arrow to the Sun," "People Soup," "Magician," Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

Cross-country skiing workshop, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center; pre-registration required, 457-6092, \$1 per person. Two sessions; 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4 p.m.

Creative Writing Club, Bethlehem Library, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Annual Cubic Kumquat nightclub, "Take Me to the Mardi Gras," featuring Sam Bozella's Dance Band, Ted Schulenberg's Ragtime Band; light buffet, dancing, Bethlehem High School, 8 - 11 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

Career advisement, Sister Catherine Daly, Bethlehem Library, 6 - 9 p.m.

Story hour, Voorheesville Library, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

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.

THEATRE

"A Moon for the Misbegotten," Eugene O'Neill, Cohoes Music Hall, through Jan. 22, 7 p.m. Ticket information and reservations, 237-7700 or Albany League of Arts Community Box Office.

"Women In (And Out Of) Love," one-woman show by Susan Scher, CDPC Auditorium, 75 New Scotland Ave., Albany, Jan. 13, 8 p.m.

MUSIC

Annual "Jazz Nite" benefit at the Arts Center, featuring jazz violinist Joe Venuti, Jan. 29. Reservations, 438-7885.

"A Night in Old Vienna," Albany Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert featuring soprano Anne Turner, Palace Theater, Albany, Jan. 21, 8:30 p.m. 465-4755.

Special Service of Choral Evensong, sung by Trinity Church Choir of Buffalo, at St. Peter's Church, State and Lodge Sts., Albany, Jan. 15, 3 p.m., followed by recital of music for two organs by Dr. and Mrs. John Hoffman of Buffalo. Wine and cheese reception will follow recital. Public invited, offering will be received.

ART

Monumental Brasses, rubbings by Townsend Rich, Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave., through mid-January. Library hours 9-9 weekdays, 9-5 Saturdays, 1-5 Sundays. Free parking at Elk St. entrance.

FILM

"The Awful Truth" and "His Girl Friday," 1930 comedies starring Cary Grant, Cohoes Music Hall Classic Film Series, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 237-7700.

Audubon Wildlife Film Series, Botswana and Costa Rica, Niskayuna High School, Jan. 19, 8 p.m. \$2, students 75 cents.

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The Spotlight

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Teachers' \$1-million pay bonanza splits board

BETHLEHEM SETTLEMENT

I hope the community will understand that the salary raises are justified by economic conditions and by the productivity improvement. Also, I hope that teachers will understand that this community expects to receive from each of them the fully professional level of performance it is paying for.

Ann Patton, president of the board

This is an absolute sellout. It is great for the...teachers, but there are 10,000 citizens out there and what do they get? zilch! We are talking about \$800,000 in increases for the taxpayers, for which we get nothing, absolutely nothing.

John H. Clyne, board member

The factfinder found that over the last several years the increases granted our teachers exceeded the increase in the cost of living. Yet this community not only includes many workers, State and private, who have had years without salary increases, but also many workers who have lost their jobs. There is a limit to what our community can support.

Bertold Weinberg, board member

This agreement is in accordance with our instructions to our negotiator, and seems reasonable. The amounts involved are less than the cost of living over three years. This is a fair arrangement.

Bernard Harvith, board member

In negotiations of this kind, there has to be a certain amount of give and take.

Robert Zick, board member

The first two years of this contract calls for some additional money over the proposal of last October or November. And a fat third year has been added. But I believe this to be a pyrrhic victory, which will redound to the teachers' disadvantage. As I stated before, I am afraid that this contract will force the board to abolish teaching positions, thus impairing the quality of our educational program. The teachers who will lose their jobs will be losers. The remaining teachers who will have to pick up the increased workload will be losers. Our students will be losers. And by antagonizing the community against the school system by their tactics since last fall, both the community and all elements of the school system (students, teachers, administration) are losers. How many more "victories" like this can the teachers afford to win?

Bertold Weinberg

The Bethlehem School Board and the Bethlehem Central Teachers' Association have reached agreement on a contract which grants the teachers an 11 percent salary increase over a three-year-period.

News release from the board

The Bethlehem Board of Education Wednesday ratified a three-year contract with the Bethlehem Teachers Assn. (sic), calling for an 11 percent salary increase over the agreement period.

Albany Times Union, Jan. 5.

Ratification highlights:

• Bethlehem teachers' union wins 17.4 percent pay boost in new three-year contract, worth approximately \$1,044,000.

• Two dissenting board members call agreement "sellout" and "excessive" after secret negotiations.

• Board member's attack on union's chief negotiator is censored by two board members.

When the end of Bethlehem's dragged-out contract negotiations with the teachers' union came at the school board's regular business meeting last Wednesday, there were more people at the board table than in the audience. Witnesses were two visitors, three newspaper reporters and two district staff employees. Other than a Spotlight article on Dec. 29 reporting that "an agreement may be reached informally within the next week," the public had no advance notice that the two factions had agreed on terms.

Four hours before the meeting, board members had been notified that the Bethlehem Central Teachers Assn. (BCTA) had ratified terms of a contract calling for step increments and pay raises averaging 17.4 percent over a three-year period and requiring teachers to spend an average of five to 10 minutes more per day — or 25 to 50 minutes per week — with pupils during the next two years. The board of education ratified the contract by a 5-2 vote, John H. Clyne and Bertold E. Weinberg dissenting. The agreement is retroactive to July 1, 1977.

At the close of the meeting the board issued a news release stating the agreement calls for an 11-percent pay raise over the

three-year period. Both Albany dailies carried the 11-percent figure in Thursday's editions. A school district official later explained that the 11-percent figure was calculated on the basis of straight arithmetic rather than compound arithmetic that included the cumulative totals for the period.

On the basis of the current pay scales, Bethlehem's 260 teachers will get an additional \$118,600 in salaries this year, \$336,000 next year and \$588,000 in the 1979-80 school year, for a total of \$1,043,800 barring changes in staff or state formula. The agreement automatically boosts the district's tab for teachers' pensions by \$24,000 this year, \$69,000 next year and \$120,000 the following year. Prior to the settlement, Bethlehem district taxpayers were carrying a teachers' payroll of \$4.3 million, plus \$877,000 in pension contributions. When the new contract expires on June 30, 1980, teachers' salaries will total approximately \$4.9 million and pension payments just under \$1 million.

In the new contract the pay formula calls for teachers to receive their regular annual increments or a flat \$300 raise for those above Step 15 for the current year, an additional 5

percent plus increments the second year and an additional 5.4 percent plus increments the third year. A district spokesman said increments average 3.1 percent of salary.

Under the complex pay formula, New York State public school teachers move to the next higher step each year until Step 15, then receive "experience" increments at specified periods in their careers. The district said 102 teachers above Step 15 would receive the \$300 adder.

In exchange for the pay package, the BCTA agreed to spend an average of 25 additional minutes per week with pupils for the second year of the contract and 50 additional minutes per week in the third year. The board had

sought an additional 20 minutes per day. A district spokesman explained that the extra time does not lengthen the teachers' contractual 7½-hour day, but will come out of their "planning time" and other free time during the day. In the 1975 negotiations, the BCTA won a half-hour planning period each school day in addition to pay raises averaging 5 percent and other concessions.

Weinberg, who denounced the new contract settlement as "not in the best interests of either the teachers or the community," said the productivity concession by the union "is progress." The teachers, he said, had "fought tooth and nail against this for years, and even the factfinder rejected that

proposal by the board."

Weinberg, serving his sixth year on the board, said the contract "exceeds the budgeted amount excessively," and commented, "there is a limit to what our community can support." In a four-page statement read at the meeting, he said he "vigorously" objected to a three-year contract. "With a newly-elected governor and Legislature (in 1979), with nobody having to face the voters that fall, I fear there is a great possibility that significant changes in state school aid will be made," he said. "As we are, relatively speaking, considered a 'rich' school district, there is a good chance that we will be hurt badly . . . I think it is irresponsible for us to commit ourselves to a 7.4-percent salary increase for the third year without knowing what the

fiscal impact on the district will be."

John H. Clyne, the board's senior member who joined with Weinberg in opposing ratification, termed the agreement "an absolute sellout by the board." Ann Patton, board president, Bernard Harvith, Robert Ruckterstuhl and Robert Zick spoke briefly in defense of the board's action.

The settlement ends nearly four months of job-action pressure by some 60 of the BCTA's militant unionists, who invoked work-to-rule procedures in September and staged a series of picket marches and other demonstrations. The negotiations, as in 1975, ran the full spectrum of Taylor Law steps, starting with a state-appointed factfinder and concluding with a series of mediation sessions with a state-appointed "superconciliator."

Anatomy of 17.4% teachers' raises

Here are the changes for a Bethlehem Central teacher at Step 13 with a BA degree, a pay level slightly below the average for the system's 240 teachers. Because of the complex formula governing public school teacher salaries, some teachers will have greater increases and others not as much.

while base salaries at all steps are raised an additional 5.4 percent. The formula has a "gap" between Steps 15-21, hence this teacher receives no increment in the third year, but base salary advances to \$19,518.

Summary

In this example, considered by the district to be close to the median for the system, the teacher at Step 13 when the old contract expired June 30, 1977 has received over the period of the contract automatic increases totalling \$2,899, or 17.4 percent.

Benefits

The example does not include the benefit package, which is unchanged by the new contract. The pension benefits, however, are based on a percentage of salary, currently 20.4 percent, paid by the district. The pension payments for the teacher in this example thus increase from \$3,323 to \$3,904 per year, approximately 17.4 percent.

1976-1977

Step 13 — base salary \$16,619.

1977-1978

Under new contract receives increment, that is, moves to Step 14, retroactive to July 1, 1977. Step 14 base salary \$17,111.

1978-1979

In second year of contract, teachers receive increment while base salaries at all steps are raised by 5 percent. Teacher in this example moves to Step 15, formerly \$17,704, now \$18,589.

1979-1980

In third year of contract, teachers receive increment



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**Board member blasts union leader,
says power play stalled contract**

A verbal broadside by Bertold E. Weinberg, a member of Bethlehem's board of education, accusing the chief negotiator of the Bethlehem teachers' union of deliberate ploys "to enhance his power and enlarge his ego" moved two board members to "disassociate" themselves from the statements. The exchange enlivened the board's first 1978 business session, which enacted the climax to more than 10 months of secret negotiations for a new union contract and which was witnessed by only two visitors other than staff and news reporters.

Shortly after Weinberg had read a statement charging that Gordon W. Molyneux, a social studies teacher, "deliberately withheld" information that terms of a new contract could have been settled before the close of the school year in June,

and thus "dragged on the negotiating process and kept the school system in turmoil for almost six more months." Bernard Harvith and Mrs. Ann Patton declared they wished to disassociate themselves from Weinberg's statements. Weinberg later emphasized that "I take full personal responsibility for my statements." Reading from a prepared text, Weinberg did not mention Molyneux by name.

Weinberg, an engineer-project manager for the State Dormitory Authority, was reelected to the school board last June over three challengers for his seat. His wife is a substitute teacher. Mrs. Patton is president of the board and Harvith, a teacher at Albany Law School, is a past president Molyneux, contacted by the Spotlight through an

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intermediary, declined to comment. Molyneux declared last June that he would not accept a call from this newspaper because of his displeasure with previous Spotlight articles. William Cleveland, also a social studies teacher and president of the Bethlehem Central Teachers Assn. (BCTA) agreed to relay the message of Molyneux for comment. By the end of the week Molyneux had not replied.

Weinberg said that "in spite of the insistence of the teachers' negotiating team that they would like to have a contract settled before school closes in late June . . . and I am sure that this represents the teachers' feelings . . . their actions belie their public statements. Each time we are in

negotiations, the association's chief negotiator (Molyneux) disappears to his northern Canada camp for the months of July and August, and negotiations grind to a halt for these two months."

Weinberg said Molyneux "deliberately keeps his members in ignorance of the true status of negotiations and the offers which the board has made, in order to enhance his power and enlarge his ego." He continued: "The latest BCTA bulletin . . . in December . . . would have done the editor of Pravda credit, in my opinion, for what I think are gross misstatements and omissions of facts. When will our teachers realize that by their docility and by placing all control in the hands of basically one person, they are in my opinion permitting themselves to be manipulated to his advantage and their own long-term hurt? Our teachers are a fine group of people, second to none. I only wish their representative would recognize this fact, also."

The BCTA, which claims 275 members, is affiliated with the New York-Educators Assn., a statewide teachers' union.

Study in London

Kim C. Tornquist, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Charles Tornquist, 49 Darrach Rd., Delmar, is one of 26 St. Lawrence University students spending January in London, England, as part of the university's interterm program.

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Findings

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Break in main interrupts water

Parts of New Scotland Rd. and several other Slingerlands streets were without water for two hours Jan. 1 when the town of Bethlehem repaired a valve that ruptured during repairs to a fire hydrant.

According to Paul Wagner, director of operations for the water district, a car "knocked off" the fire hydrant on the corner of Slingerlands St. and New Scotland Rd. sometime New Year's Eve. When town workmen tried to shut off water to the hydrant in order to fix it, the valve broke, causing some leakage and forcing them to shut off the main.

Streets without water from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Jan. 1 were Carstead Dr., Thorndale Rd., Southwood Dr., Font Grove Rd. and North Helderberg Pkwy.

New town hall hours

Supervisor Thomas V. Corrigan has announced that Bethlehem Town Hall will be open late one night a week to allow greater public access to town offices. The town hall will be open each Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during January and February for the convenience of residents. The Parks and Recreation Dept. offices at Elm Ave. Park will be open late on Wednesdays also. At the close of the two-month trial period, the town board will assess public response to the additional service.

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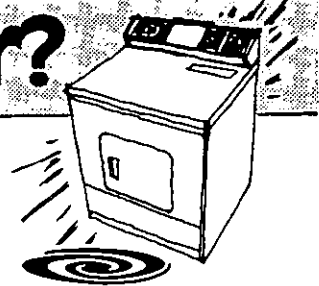
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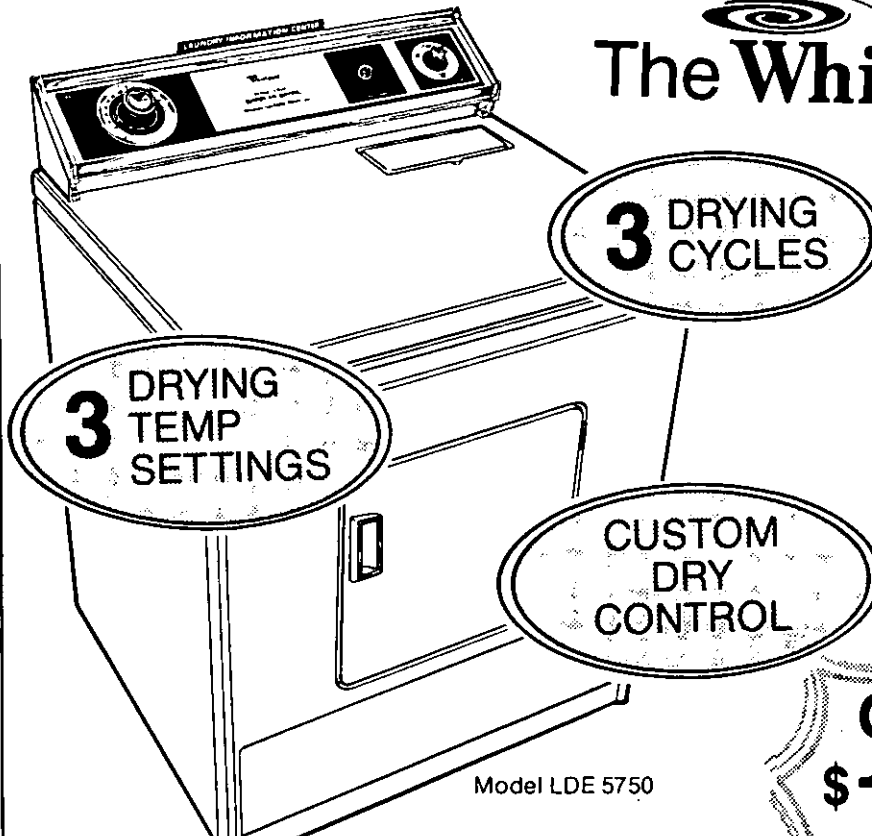
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Blood pressure clinic

The town of Bethlehem will sponsor a free blood pressure clinic for residents of the town from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 to

9 p.m. Tuesday at the Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar. The clinics, which are held the third Tuesday of each month, are

under the direction of Councilman Ruth O. Bickel. All staffing is done by volunteers.

Go to church Sunday

City & County renews 'Corner'

One of the Spotlight's most popular features is the Community Corner, which has appeared on the inside back cover of this newsweekly for many years. The Community Corner, along with the front cover, is the most sought-after spot in the paper from the standpoint of publicity chairmen of local organizations, and is seen by almost everyone who reads the Spotlight.

For the past four years the Community Corner has been sponsored by the City and County Savings Bank, which has as office on Delaware Ave., Elsmere. Last week the bank renewed its contract for the Community Corner space for the coming year.

Christian program

Christian educator John Gardiner will present a program on "how great artists and composers have interpreted Advent, Nativity and Post Nativity." Jan. 16 in the lounge of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave. The program sponsored by the Men's Club of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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Retired Delmar architects Julius Tauss, left, and Clifton C. Flather at town board session last week. *Spotlight Photo*

Plans discussed for new center

Bethlehem's new town board is off to an early start on a major project -- revitalizing the former Delmar Elementary School building as a community facility. Supervisor Thomas V. Corrigan called an informal session of the board last Wednesday, a week before the first regular business session of the new term, to review preliminary evaluations and tentative space requirements with two retired Delmar architects who have volun-

teered their professional services.

Clifton C. Flather and Julius Tauss went through blueprints of the original building with board members and Bernard Kaplowitz, newly appointed town attorney. The town took title to the property Jan. 1. The board is considering converting the building to town offices, community rooms and recreational facilities.



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Bethlehem's fairest: one of these seven finalists will be crowned Snow Queen. Miller, Terri Bassett, Stacey Hines, Therese Hoenig, Jane Rathje

BETHLEHEM Snow carnival set Saturday

Coronation of Bethlehem's 1978 Snow Queen at 11 a.m. Saturday will officially launch the town's third annual Winter Carnival at Elm Ave. Park, Delmar. The queen and her court, to be selected from seven finalists, will be crowned by

Supervisor Thomas V. Corrigan, who will also present savings bonds to winners of the carnival's poster contest.

The Snow Queen contest is sponsored by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, the poster contest by the Bethlehem Lions Club and a snow sculpture contest by the Bethlehem Jaycees. Judging in the sculpture event will take place at 3 p.m. with prizes awarded at 3:30.

Skating races for all ages, sponsored by Blanchard Post, American Legion, will start at 1:45 following enactment of scenes from well known fairy tales by the Swinburne Park Skating Club. There will be free cross-country skiing demonstrations, snowmobile rides, a

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Queen at the Bethlehem Winter Carnival. From left, Elaine Susan McGarrahan, Laura Ann Fish.

Winter camping demonstration by a local Explorer Boy Scout troop, and a moonlight skating party from 6:30 to 9:30 sponsored by the Bethlehem Elks lodge.

In the event of unfavorable weather, the Carnival will be postponed one week.

Street specifications

The town of Bethlehem is expected to approve this week a requirement that land developers apply a finished blacktop surface on new streets before turning the streets over to the town. Current specifications require only a surface of fine stone and oil mix. Developers of residential subdivisions are required to build streets and meet other specifications before deeding the streets to the town.

Slug fired at car

Bethlehem police are investigating a complaint by

Joseph DiMura of Albany that a BB gun was fired at him while he was driving his '73 Jeep on Russell Rd. at Monroe St., North Bethlehem, near the town line. Police said the slug struck the window on the driver's side shortly after 2 p.m. on Jan. 2. There were no injuries.

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Suzy O'Brien, left, and Heather Dering, both of Delmar, Bethlehem Middle School seventh-graders, are two of many Girl Scouts working on the annual cookie drive in the Bethlehem area.

Cookie drive opens

Mrs. Marge O'Brien of Delmar is neighborhood chairman for the Hudson Valley Girl Scout Council's annual cookie drive. The scouts will be taking orders for mint cookies, peanut butter cookies, Samoas, assorted cremes and other combinations through Jan. 29. The scouts will deliver the cookies in March.

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VIEWPOINT

End discrimination on pension 'fraud'

By Sam Tuttle
 Scotia Journal
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Now that a temporary surplus has been discovered in the state of New York, there seems to be a mad rush to see which politicians and which political party can come up with the most tax cuts in the fastest possible time.

The Governor, with a career of public service that fairly flows with mediocrity, and with a teammate whose recent claim to fame centers about leading various liberation parades and tripling the spending in the Lieutenant Governor's office, is vulnerable enough within his own party, and will certainly try to seize the headlines in any tax cutting dramas.

Perry Duryea of the Assembly and Warren Anderson of the Senate, now trying in the early race for the GOP gubernatorial nomination, will each be trying to upstage the other and the governor, and hoping that most everybody will forget that good old Nelson played a

major part in getting us into trouble in the first place.

It is certainly possible that all of us individual taxpayers will win from this battle of "Can You Top This?" Conceivably, even the business climate could improve, but this could be just another hunk of wishful thinking if the huge welfare and education lobbies prevail, come budget time.

In any case, the strange thing is that, in all the clamor for tax cuts in many areas, so little has been said about the biggest ongoing tax fraud of all. This is the 40-year-old racket that discriminates against three out of four senior citizens by requiring them to pay state taxes on pensions that have been earned in private industry, while pensioners coming from public employment pay no taxes on their pensions whatsoever.

This shoddy piece of nonsense started out innocent-

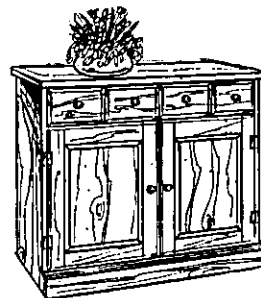
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ly enough, because salaries, pensions and Social Security for teachers and civil servants were measly indeed back in 1938. But today your public servant will not only retire with a pension that averages more than twice as high as the average fella from private industry, but to make matters especially unjust, he won't even have to pay state taxes on one cent of those pension dollars.

There are two ways to correct this situation: by elimination of the Constitutional section which authorized this special bounty, or by the simpler process of granting pensioners from private industry the same exclusion, by legislative action.

I really don't care which road they take, so long as they end the discrimination.

And how does the governor feel about this? He speaketh not, but his recently promoted Deputy Director of the Budget cited several excuses for inaction. Totally ignoring the fact of the inequity, Mr. Howard Miller advised me that "it would be a most difficult policy to change."

After some prodding, Mary Anne did reply, cited her former interest in pension reform but noted that most changes since 1973 have been based on recommendations of the so-called Permanent Commission on Public Employee Pension Retirement System. She also added that "I hope the commission would study in depth this issue, with appropriate recommendations to the Governor and Legislature."

So I perhaps foolishly wrote the Commission with the nice long name. Mr. Joseph Metz managed to write me, even though the name of his outfit used up a lot of the available stationery space. In substance, Mr. Metz suggests that his Commission isn't about to do anything about the matter, any

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more than the Governor, nor Mr. Miller, nor Ms. Krupsak. In contrast, both Clark Wemple and Hugh Farley, at the last session of the Legislature, did support bills aimed at equalizing, in part, the pension taxes for all of us in the state. Their bills were quietly quashed, and an effective end to the discrimination may come only when more workers and retired folks from private industry have been heard from.

Workshop for skiers

A cross-country skiing workshop will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Five Rivers Environmental Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar. Designed for newcomers to cross-country, the workshop will include information on equipment, waxing, skiing technique and good places to ski. Morning and afternoon sessions will be offered, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Registration is \$1. Participants must pre-register for one of the sessions by calling 457-6092 during business hours.

Calling RN volunteers

The Northeastern New York Red Cross Blood Center needs volunteer registered nurses to give three hours per month on Saturdays to do hemoglobins and medical histories of blood donors. This service is needed at the Blood Center, Hackett Blvd., Albany. Call 462-7461 for information.

Media Rare

An occasional Spotlight commentary on the world of radio, TV and newspapers

By Perry Galt

Recognition from the top

With a new regime in the Town of Bethlehem, will the local ice cream social weakly (sic) out that way continue to be the hand maiden and unofficial voice of the town....

Robert G. Fichenberg, executive editor, on editorial page of the Albany Knickerbocker News Jan. 6.

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Wednesday..... 8:00 p.m.

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Indoor tennis signups start

Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Dept. is sponsoring an indoor tennis program as part of its winter program. Signups for court time will be held beginning at 9 a.m. Friday at the Parks and Recreation administration building, Elm Ave. Park, Delmar.

The program is open to residents of the town of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Central School District. Tennis time is available in one-hour segments between 8 and 11 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Players must sign up in groups of four and only one session is allowed per group. Fee for the program is \$9 per player.

The town is also sponsoring a tennis instruction program.

Registration details are available from the Parks and Recreation Dept., 439-4131 Monday through Friday.

Variance deferred

The Bethlehem board of appeals has deferred action on the application of Robert Behan for a variance to convert an apartment building he owns on Rt. 9W near Bender Lane, Glenmont, from three to four units. No one appeared in opposition at a public hearing on the request last Wednesday.

Key Club event

Voorheesville Key Club will hold their second annual Gong Show Monday at 7 p.m. at Voorheesville Central High School auditorium. Admission is \$1.



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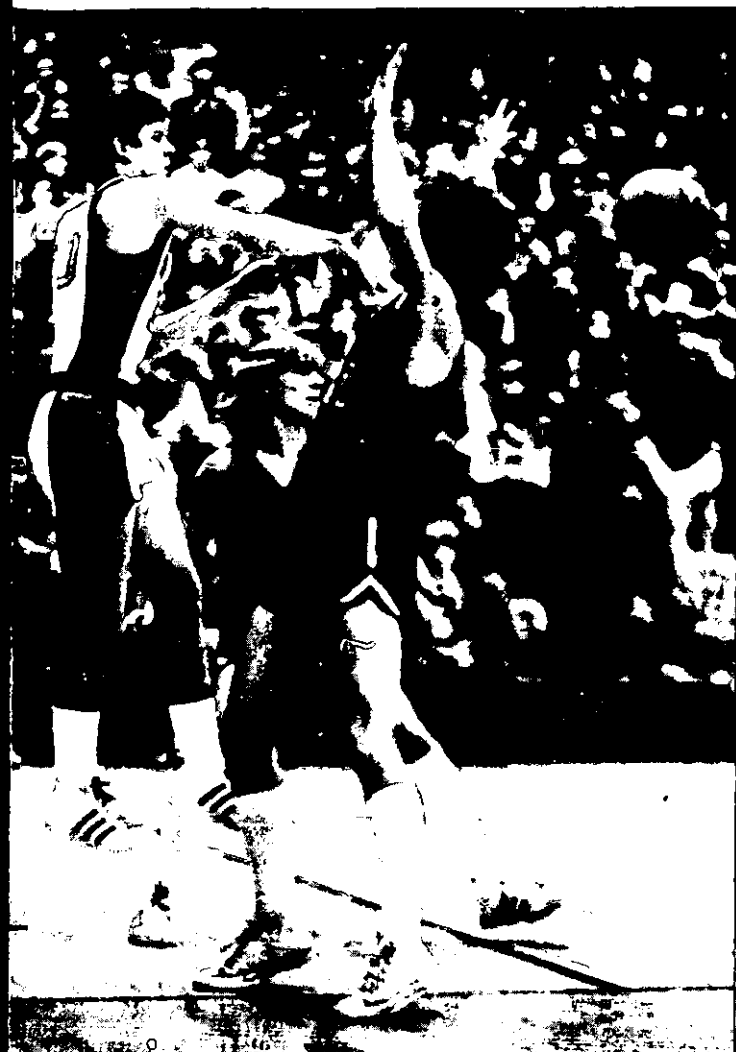
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BC's Tom Fiato fires ball away from backline for another try against Mohonasen. *R.H. Davis*

Pivotal week for BC quint

By light's out on Friday, Bethlehem Central's basketball team will know just how much of a factor they will be in the scramble for the Suburban Council championship. The Eagles, upset at home last week, faced two contenders this week, Shenendehowa at home and Shaker away, both 5-1.

At 4-2, Bethlehem faces an uphill struggle but the season is young and there are ample opportunities ahead to haul down the frontrunners. The team was dealt a setback when it turned in a ragged performance against Mohonasen and lost, 61-58, missing a chance to pick up ground while Niskayuna was handing Shaker its first defeat.

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- Jan. 13 - Basketball, Shaker, away, 8
- Jan. 13 - Frosh Basketball, Columbia, home, 3:45
- Jan. 13 - Wrestling, Shaker, home 7
- Jan. 14 - Indoor Track at Union College 9 A.M.
- Jan. 17 - Basketball, Niskayuna, home 8
- Jan. 17 - Frosh Basketball, Burnt Hills away 3:45
- Jan. 17 - Bowling, Niskayuna, away 3:45
- Jan. 18 - Wrestling, Niskayuna, away 6
- Jan. 18 - Indoor Track at Washington Ave. Armory, 4
- Jan. 18 - Swimming, Troy, home 4:15
- Jan. 19 - Bowling, Scotia, home 3:45

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Blackbirds look for new streak

Voorheesville Central has its big chance to solidify a bid for the Central Hudson Valley basketball crown this week when Coach Howie Smith's charges play a road game against a rebuilding team and a home game against a strong contender.

The Blackbirds, 6-1 after suffering their first loss Friday at Maple Hill, travel to Catskill Friday and then have home games against Waterford Tuesday and Coxsackie next Friday.

At Castleton last week, junior Craig Gleason led the scoring with 14 as the host Wildcats took over sole possession of first place. Commented Smith: "We were a

little tight at the outset, I was happy with our second-half effort, but it came a little too late."

Couples club revived

Couples of the Slingerlands Community United Methodist Church will have a pot luck supper beginning at 6:30 on Saturday in the church fellowship hall followed by military whist. The Couples Club had been inactive for some time. However, there was an interest expressed for such a fellowship group, according to Rev. Luther A. Patton. Plans were formulated by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ballou, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clark, Donald Roberts, Jean Skubel and Rev. and Mrs. Patton. Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Horn will be in charge of the game period. All interested couples are invited.

Self-defense course

The town of Bethlehem is offering a self-defense course for women 15 and older. Sessions will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, beginning Jan. 17. All classes will be held at the Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar.

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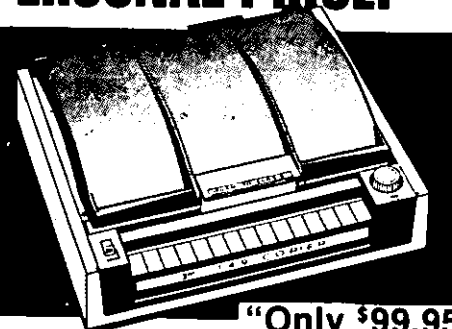
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Poster contest has 4 winners

One of the first duties of the town of Bethlehem's 1978 Snow Queen will be the presentation of \$25 savings bonds to four school-age winners in the Bethlehem Lions Club poster contest for the Winter Carnival.

Winners are Tim Hansen, 70 Kenwood Ave., first grade in the K-2 category; Seth Brandon, 84 Parkwyn Dr., fifth grade in the 3-5 category; Karyn Smith, 58 Parkwyn Dr., sixth grade in the 6-8 category; and Laura Ann Fish, 415 Delaware Ave., 11th grade, in Grades 9-12. All are from Delmar.

The Winter Carnival is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14, and the poster bond presentation will be at 11:30 a.m. at Elm Ave. Park. In the event of postponement, the events will be held on Jan. 21.

Quilters meet

This Friday's meeting of Quilters United in Learning Together (QUILT) at the Bethlehem Library at 10 a.m. in Delmar will feature a film on quilting and a demonstration by Margaret Tubbs of the "King's X" quilt block. QUILT, a loosely organized club focusing on the various aspects of quilting and related fabric arts, began last spring.

Delmar man cited

Harry L. Hamilton of Delmar, chairman of the department of Atmospheric

Science at SUNYA and president of the Albany chapter, NAACP, will be the subject of a WMHT Profile, airing Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Hamilton and host Paula Brody visit the Map Room to see the "tools of his trade" and learn how information about the weather is gathered and used. They also discuss Hamilton's strong feelings about community service, his work with the NAACP, and the changes he and others have tried to bring about in the community.

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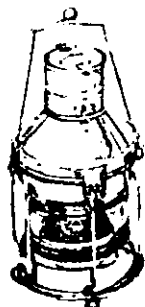
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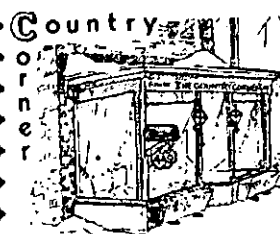
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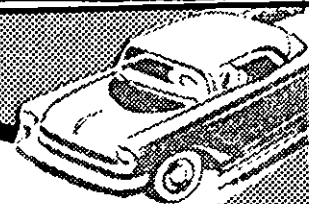
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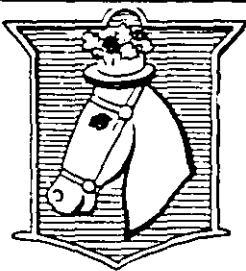
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**BETHLEHEM
Town seeking
new landfill**

Bethlehem town board members are considering a new site and new procedures for the town landfill.

Supervisor Thomas V. Corrigan said a survey of the landfill last summer indicated that additional capacity will be needed. "We are exploring possible sites for a new landfill, possibly as a replacement," he told the Spotlight last week.

Corrigan also said the town was considering tighter controls on use of the landfill, such as issuing car stickers for residents only and setting up a fee system for commercial users. At present there are no restrictions on use of the facility, located on Rupert Rd.

in the southwest corner of the town.

Welcome Wagon

The Tri-Village Welcome Wagon will hold a community program, "Getting to Know Your Library," on Wednesday, Jan. 18, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Bethlehem Library. Cassie Brooks, special collections librarian, will coordinate this free, multi-media presentation. A slide show will focus upon the library and all its services including the media center, job information center and children's services. A new library card, usable in the numerous other libraries of the UHLF, will be highlighted. The community is invited and refreshments will be served. Mrs. Eileen Brooks is in charge of the program:

Heads national group

Earle L. Forthman, president of the Guilderland Mutual Reinsurance Co., Delmar, has been named chairman of the board of directors of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. He was elected at the annual meeting of the insurance trade association in St. Louis. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, chairman of the trustees of the pension trust committee of the New York Cooperative Insurance Assn. and has served as elder of the Delmar Presbyterian Church.

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Reservoir acreage

The Bethlehem town board as expected this week to authorize an appraisal for the proposed purchase of approximately 13½ acres of land on the west side of the town's water storage reservoir at the foot of the Helderberg escarpment in New Salem. Purchase of the tract, which is near one edge of the reservoir, would give the facility added protection.

Police cars sold

The town of Bethlehem last week sold four used police cars for a net of \$2,500 to a Clifton Park dealer. The town last year purchased six new patrol cars. A spokesman said one used car remains of the five the supervisor was authorized to sell.

Town wage survey

Bethlehem town board is looking into the feasibility of updating a 1971 survey of salary scales of town employees, probably with the help of neighboring towns. For the survey seven years ago, conducted by the Jacobs Co., a Chicago consulting firm in public administration, Bethlehem joined with the towns of Guilderland and Colonie to spread the cost. Supervisor Thomas V. Corrigan said last week he planned to contact Supervisor Carl Walters of Guilderland and Fred Field of Colonie to invite them to join in a new survey.

Skaters beware

Bethlehem police are looking for persons who used a hacksaw to break padlocks on the front and rear gates of the old Bethlehem Sewer District pumping station on Rockefeller Rd. on two occasions last week. Police said the padlocks were sawed Wednesday or Wednesday night, probably by skaters wishing to use the frozen surface of the large open tanks at the station. The locks were replaced the following day, and that night sawed open a second time. Police said the tanks average 14 feet in depth, and thus pose a danger to unwary trespassers.

Window shattered

A chunk of ice was hurled through a window of a Fernbank Ave. residence in Delmar on New Year's Eve, shattering both the inside window and the storm window, according to a Bethlehem police report.



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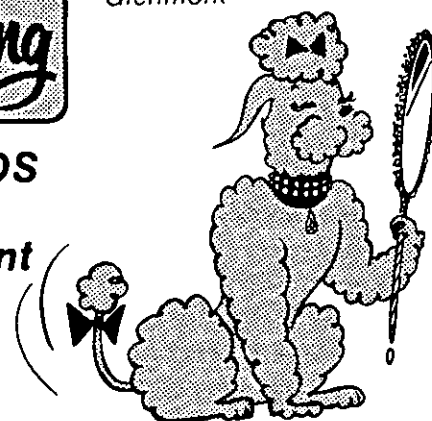
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- Picotte Realty Inc. 439-4943
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Huntersfield Road — A brand new Klersy Built contemporary two-store 4 bedroom (2 master size), 2½ baths, fireplace in the family room. Bedroom level laundry area for your convenience. Still time to do your own decorating.

Spotlight

in retrospect

Jan. 9, 1958

Robert H. Rice, president of the Tri-Village Little League, has announced an area-wide bottle collection campaign by others and players on the league's 18 teams. All kinds of deposit bottles will be solicited by a door-to-door canvass. Funds will go toward improvements at Magee Park. The Bethlehem Community Assn. has urged the town board to take the necessary steps for reorganization of the Bethlehem Water District No. 1 supply system.

Jan. 10, 1963

Winners of the \$25 first prize in the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce Christmas lighting contest were: residential, Robert S. Kuhn, 43 Douglas Rd., Delmar; religious, Alfred Myron, 82 Marlboro Rd.,

Delmar, and commercial (best three displays), Clayton B. LeGallez, Slingerlands; Delmar Pharmacy and Mullen's Pharmacy.

The Elsmere A&P is advertising lamb legs, whole or regular trim, for 49 cents a pound and sliced bacon at 45 and 49 cents a pound.

Harold L. Williams of Selkirk has been appointed to the Bethlehem town board to fill the unexpired term of Edgar L. Potter, who has been appointed chairman of the board of assessors. Williams has served seven years on the town planning board. Potter succeeds Harry Swartout, who has retired.

Jan. 11, 1968

Robert Cohn and Robert Yaguda have opened a second realty office in the Wilson Affiliates building at 205 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

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Picotte Gallery of Homes

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REAL ESTATE

Community Corner

Robin Hood Story Hour

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 4 p.m. the Bethlehem Library Children's Room will present a multi-media program based on legends about Robin Hood. Children in grades 3-6 are invited to come hear stories about how Robin Hood became an outlaw and how he met Little John, and to view slides that will tell about some of their adventures. Refreshments will be served.

Community Corner, a public service column of important community events, is sponsored by



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