

The Spotlight

Dec. 11, 1980
Vol. XXVI, No. 47

25¢

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

Local merchants take on the chains

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BETHLEHEM

Sewer extension gets key approval

Page 14



How The Spotlight has grown

Page 20

GRAND OPENING

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Spotlight CALENDAR

Bethlehem Youth Employment Service, Mon.-Fri., 1-4:30 p.m. 439-2238.

Welcome Wagon, newcomers or mothers of infants call 785-9640 for a Welcome Wagon visit, Mon.-Sat., 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

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

Bethlehem Senior Citizens meet every Thursday at the Bethlehem town hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, at 12:30 p.m.

The Spotlight

(USPS 396 630)

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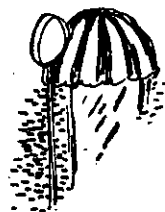
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting, Albany Motor Inn, noon.

Christmas Party, Ladies Auxiliary of the Delmar Fire Dept., Delmar firehouse, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Recovery, Inc., self-help for ex-mental patients and nervous persons, First United Methodist Church, Delmar, 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Emerging Styles in Contemporary Women's Writing, film featuring poet Anne Sexton and panel discussion, Bethlehem Library, 2 p.m.

Tawasentha Chapter, DAR, Patriotic Coffee, Bethlehem town hall, 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Annual Eggnog Party for members of Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post, American Legion, post rooms, Elsmere, 3 p.m.

Festival of Sacred Christmas Music, Slingerlands Community United Methodist Church, 1497 New Scotland Rd., 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Program of Early Music, sacred and secular music from the 13th through 18th centuries, Bethlehem Library, 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Delmar Community Orchestra, Bethlehem town hall, 7:30 p.m.

Assemblyman Larry Lane's district office, 1 Becker Terr., Delmar, open 10-3.

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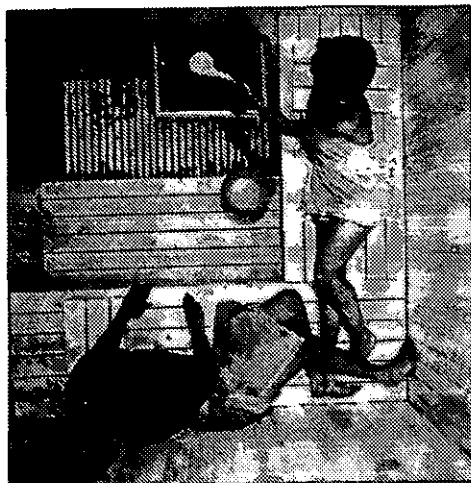
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days." Bethlehem Library, 7:30-9 p.m. Information, 439-6136.

Christmas Caroling by the Chamber Singers and music students of the College of Saint Rose, Southwood area, Slingerlands, 8 p.m.

Bloodmobile at the town hall, babysitting provided, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., appointments may be made by calling 439-4955.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Blood Pressure Clinic, Bethle-

hem town hall, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 7-8:30 p.m., no appointment necessary.

Planning Board, room 204, Bethlehem town hall, 7:30 p.m.

Delmar Camera Club, St. Stephen's Church parish hall, Elsmere Ave. and Poplar Dr., Delmar, 7:30 p.m.

Book Discussion Group, film on Stephen Crane's *The Blue Hotel*, Bethlehem Library, 7 p.m., public invited.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Christmas Supper. Opportunity Club of the Town of New Scotland, home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Long, 7 p.m.

La Leche League. "Nutrition and Weaning," home of Mrs. Berman, Delmar, 8:15 p.m. Information, 439-3419.

Bethlehem Board of Appeals, public hearing on application of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, Pa., for a special exception to permit additional fuel storage at premises, Rt. 144, Glenmont, Bethlehem town hall, 8 p.m.

Bethlehem Board of Appeals, public hearing on application of James E. and Rita Madrazo-Peterson, 55 Salisbury Rd., Del-

mar, for a variance to permit the enclosure of an existing patio at premises, Bethlehem town hall, 8:30 p.m.

Assemblyman Larry Lane's district office, 1 Becker Terr., Delmar, open 10-3.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Food Stamp Outreach Program, applications for food stamps accepted by Albany County Dept. of Social Services, Bethlehem town hall, 9 a.m.-noon. Application forms and additional information on the food stamp program available at the town hall on weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Christmas Puppet Show by the Poppy Doodle Puppet Shows, Voorheesville Library, 3:30 p.m.

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Monday, 8 p.m.
- **The Holly and the Ivy**
Monday, 9:30 p.m.
- **The Time Machine: a history of photography**
Wednesday, 8 p.m.

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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.

THEATRE

"Reynard the Fox" (children's theatre), Performing Arts Loft, 286 Central Ave., Albany, Dec. 12-14 and 19-21, evening performances Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Box office 465-5503.

"Gertrude Stein Gertrude Stein Gertrude Stein" (Pat Carroll in one-woman play), The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, Dec. 15-17, 8 p.m. Reservations 473-7878.

"Same Time Next Year" (romantic comedy), Schenectady Civic Players, 12 South Church St., Schenectady, Dec. 10-14, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Community Box Office or 462-4534 for reservations.

"Cinderella" (Rogers and Hammerstein musical), Empire State Youth Theatre Institute, The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.; Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 15-17, 10 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 12 and 19, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 13, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Box Office 473-3750.

"Chile Today, Guacamole" (Princeton Triangle's 89th annual show), The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, Dec. 18, 8:30 p.m. Reservations Community Box Office or 465-7581.

MUSIC

Albany Symphony Orchestra (Beethoven's "The Emperor", Stravinsky's "Petrouchka"), Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Dec. 12, 8:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, Albany, Dec. 13, 8:30 p.m.

University Corale Te Deum Festival, Trinity Methodist Church, Lark and Lancaster Streets, Albany, Dec. 12, 8:30 p.m.

"The Nutcracker", Berkshire Ballet Company, Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady, Dec. 13, 3 and 8 p.m.

"Klezmer Music in Two Worlds" (traditional instrumental music of Jews in Eastern Europe), Albany Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Rd., Albany, Dec. 13, 8 p.m.

"Nowell Sing We Clear" (midwinter carols), St. Mark's Community Center, Guilderland Center, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.

ART

"Hamilton Commemorative Exhibit" (paintings of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler), Schuyler Mansion, 27 Clinton St., Albany, through February, open Wednesdays through Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

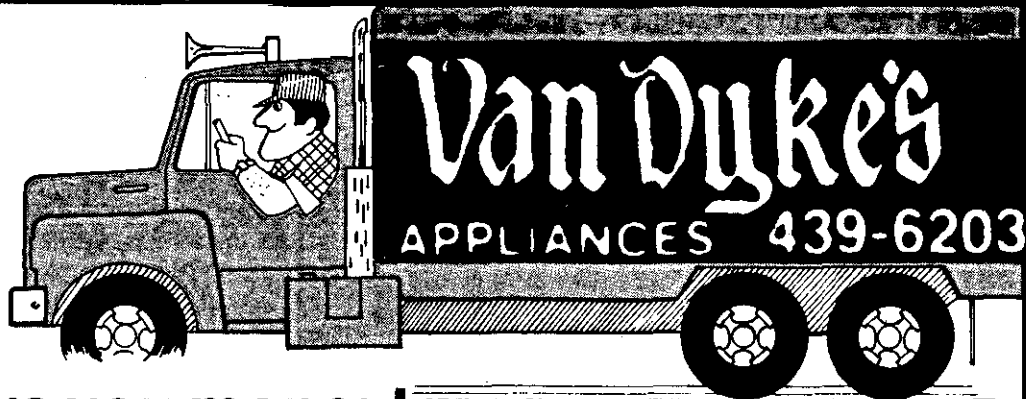
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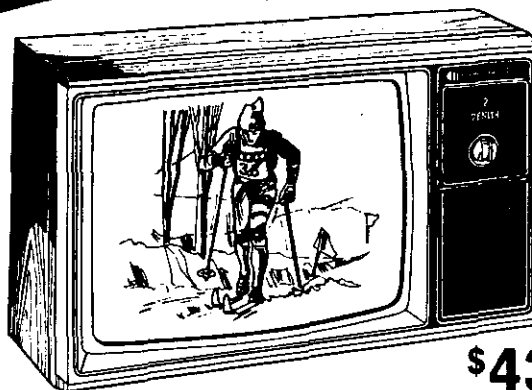
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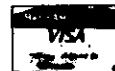
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The Spotlight

Graphic newsweekly serving the towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland, Albany County, N.Y. • (518) 439-4949

BUSINESS

Chain reaction: merchants have mixed feelings

When the K-Mart chain, one of the nation's merchandising giants, took space in Glenmont's Town Squire shopping plaza nearly two years ago, it was natural for some hometown store owners in Bethlehem to be somewhat apprehensive. It is a business axiom that one-store "independents" cannot compete successfully with the high-volume price-cutting of the giant chain operations.

But it doesn't always work that way, and in the Delmar area, it hasn't. In the two years since the arrival of the K-Mart behemoth, its impact on local merchants has been relatively mild.

Jim Howard, whose Garden Shoppe on Feura Bush Rd. would be expected to be on a competitive collision course with the K-Mart giant, said there was no noticeable falloff in his volume. "I sold just as many bags of fertilizer (as an example) as I did before they came," he added. The conclusion: K-Mart's customers aren't Jim Howard's.

Likewise Hilchie's hardware store, where local shoppers can get personal service from an abundance of clerks on the floor, and the prices are comparative.

"There's a big difference in the service and the attention," said one Delmar shopper. "At K-Mart it's hard to find a clerk, and if you want information on camera equipment or anything that's technical, you find their personnel has little or no experience with the products they're selling. And it's surprising to find that the prices aren't much better -

and often the same—in the so-called discount stores."

The price differential versus personal customer service is a sensitive point to many local merchants. Bill Candido, proprietor of the Voorheesville Pharmacy, last year made his own survey of prices of more than 30 popular shelf items from aspirin and Tylenol to toothpaste, shaving cream and deodorants. Candido, a former employee of two discount drug chains, found that the prices in his own pharmacy were lower than CVS, Fay's and the Grand Union in more than half the list, and "about the same" in many of the others.

That discovery prompted him to advertise four reasons why local shoppers should patronize their hometown stores. One of the reasons, of course, was personal service, but he attracted attention by including an added reason: "My mother shops here."

But if local pharmacies and other hometown stores carrying general merchandise successfully resist the mass-marketing of the K-Marts and CVS's, some Bethlehem merchants feel the pinch. Said one prominent Delmar storeowner: "Discount stores are making a dent in the local volume. We try hard to beat the prices, and we give our customers the

individual attention the discount stores don't."

There's another facet that touches a sensitive nerve with hometown businessmen: support of the myriad of local civic and community organizations. It is the local merchants who contribute cash and merchandise week after week to a long list of clubs and organizations—Little League, Babe Ruth baseball, their counterparts in softball, swimming and other sports, ambulance funds, fire department drives, the drum corps—and contribute many an ad in high school year-books, club programs, booster booklets, and support the Chamber of Commerce.

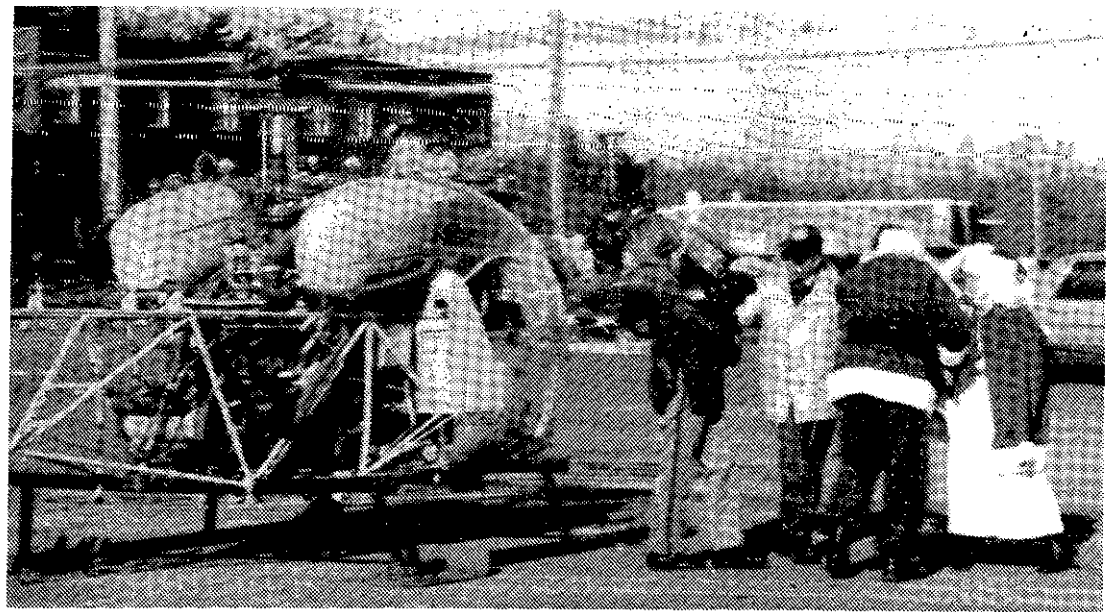


Getting into the holiday spirit, Kiwanis Club member Bob Farrell, right, attempts to make a wreath sale to Marie Hill outside the Voorheesville Grand Union. Joe Perry gets ready to collect the money, which will be used for one of the club's projects.

J. W. Campbell

With a few notable exceptions like McDonald's, Stewart's, Carvel and all but one or two local banks, the big chains turn a deaf ear to civic solicitors. Commented one merchant, a regular contributor to local causes: "They (the chains) only take money out of the community, they put nothing into it." Said another: "I wish more people realized how one-sided this is. I tell the high school kids to go to K-Mart or Denby's and I'll give them three times what they give. When they come back to report zero, I give them my usual contribution, but I never know if the lesson sticks."

In comparison to its sister suburbs in the greater Albany area, Bethlehem has relatively few outlets of the big-name chains. Besides K-Mart and a CVS outlet at the Town Squire complex, there are two Radio Shacks, one Brooks Drugs, one Woolworth's, a Denby's, a Peter Harris, a Kay-Bee Toys and scattered others. Apart from the big



One of the advantages of merchants working together is promotions such as Santa's visit by air Saturday to the Delaware Plaza. The event was co-sponsored by the Bethlehem PBA. Merchants association president Ken Schenkel greets Santa. *J. W. Campbell*

supermarket outlets, chain action elsewhere in town is sparse. Several Bethlehem stores are local franchises or have local management or roots strong enough to participate in community support activities.

The town also has fewer outlets of popular fast-food chains than Colonie and Guilderland. There is one each McDonald's, Dairy Queen and Friendly's, and a proposal for a Burger King was thwarted by the Bethlehem Board of Appeals and a strong citizen protest. Of these, McDonald's is a frequent participant and sponsor of many local functions.

There are only two shop-

ping malls in the town, Delaware Plaza, which has many local "Mom and Dad" stores, and the Town Squire, largely chain-oriented. Bethlehem and New Scotland shoppers also patronize Stuyvesant Plaza in nearby Guilderland, which also has many service-conscious independent stores as distinct from such giants as Colonie Center and Northway Mall. It was Stuyvesant Plaza that caught the interest

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GRAND OPENING
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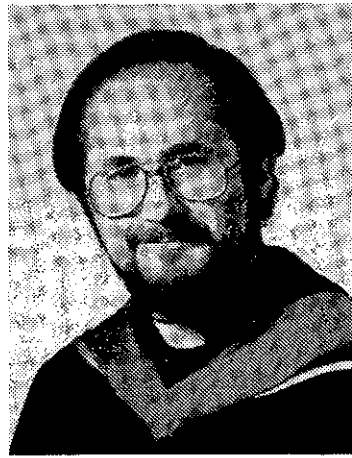


Sunday Special Dec. 14
Full Course
Pot Roast Dinner
\$6.40



of some shoppers in this area with a catchy radio ad: "We have everything you need for Christmas, including sales-people."

That message also applies to Delaware Plaza stores and the many independents along Delaware Ave. to the Four Corners and in scattered locations in Slingerlands and Voorheesville, people who put a lot back into the community.



David Gerber

David Gerber ordained

David C. Gerber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Gerber, formerly of Slingerlands, and son-in-law of James H. Carnahan, formerly of Glenmont, was recently ordained to the office of Minister of the Word in the Reformed Church in America by the Classis of Albany. The service of ordination was held at the Delmar Reformed Church.

Mr. Gerber is a 1972 graduate of Bethlehem Central and a 1976 graduate of Hope College in Holland, Michigan. In May, he graduated with honors from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Mr. Gerber is currently a

first year resident chaplain at the North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He is married to Sharon Carnahan Gerber, a Ph.D. candidate in the developmental psychology department at the University of North Carolina.

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--	---

Glenmont 439-8169 Guilderland 356-0442 Rexford 399-2848

BETHLEHEM

Artist to work, teach in schools

The Bethlehem Central School District has received a \$1,500 grant from the State Council for the Arts as funding for an artist-in-residence program this spring. The grant will finance an area artist, working and teaching, at the Middle School for 13 weeks, district Supt. Lawrence A. Zinn told the school board last week.

The artist has yet to be chosen.

Board member Bertold Weinberg was enthusiastic about the program, recalling a similar one last year.

In other action, the board declined to spend \$249 to hire an interim leader to direct a staff physical fitness program until the regular program resumes in the spring.

Board President Bernard Harvith urged rejection of this recommendation from

Zinn "at times of tight budgets."

Harvith later said the board welcomes input from residents concerning district spending as the board moves toward its annual spring ritual—the budgeting process—soon after the new year.

Quickly completing a routine agenda, the board heard a report on the high school career guidance program from high school Principal Charles Gunner and Asst. Principal Francis Rodgers. The two described the program as attempting to help students identify a career field that interests them, and which gives them several options.

Career education at the high school began under a federal grant in 1972, allowing the district to acquire special materials and a staff member for this program. When the grant expired in 1975, the district took over. The two administrators said the program now involves all five guidance counselors, as well as regular staff members (but no special career guidance staff) at an annual cost around \$1,000.

The program calls for class and individual guidance sessions for students in each of the four years of high school. In the junior year, students also may participate in a "shadow" program, in which a student "shadows" a worker or professional for a day. The career guidance program also seeks to involve parents.

Gunner noted that the public is welcome to use the school's resource materials on careers, although they are primarily aimed at the entry level worker.

Caroline Terenzini

Permits on sale

The New York State Thruway Authority's 1981 annual permit is now on sale for \$60.

Toll-free travel will be increased from 20 to 30 miles (50%). It will be valid from Jan. 1, 1981 to midnight, Jan. 10, 1982. Applications will be available from all Thruway toll collectors.

Permit holders will not be charged for the first 30 miles of travel on the Thruway's ticket system, between Woodbury in Orange County to Williamsville, East of Buffalo, and on the Erie Section Southwest of Buffalo except for a 30-cent fee for using the Castleton-on-Hudson Bridge in the Berkshire section.

Full fare will be charged for that portion of the trip which exceeds 30 miles. A minimum of 15 cents will be charged for any travel over 30 miles.

Vehicles qualifying for the annual permit are passenger cars, motorcycles, and vans with 2 axles and four tires, registered as passenger vehicles, and registered by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles in the names of an individual, husband and wife, two individuals not constituting a business entity, or a non-profit religious, charitable or educational organization or a government agency.

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It's 135 pounds if its an ounce, and it's not a pumpkin. That's a giant Snow King squash waitress Wanda Cross is eyeing at Brockley's Delmar Tavern, and it was grown by her father at Westport, New York, near Lake Champlain. *Spotlight*

BETHLEHEM

State aid cut plan not well received

District officials, reacted negatively to a state Board of Regents proposal for allocation of 1981-82 state aid to education which would trim Bethlehem's share by nearly 3 percent, down to \$2.9 million.

Dr. Lawrence A. Zinn, district superintendent, said "I'm extremely disappointed in the Regents presenting that kind of proposal." Zinn said he has no argument with the Regents' attempting to provide equal educational opportunity throughout the state, but I am not in favor of leveling down to accomplish that."

Zinn pointed out that Bethlehem's \$96,560 assessed valuation behind each pupil is above the state average of \$69,300, but he added, "I hate to have them call us wealthy."

"I don't think it'll go through, he said. "It's too political." Should state aid be reduced, however, Zinn observed that the district's options are to make program

cuts or "go to the taxpayer."

The superintendent said state aid to the Bethlehem district has been at about the same level for the past four or five years and "we don't want any less."

Franz Zwicklbauer, district business administrator, sounded the same note: "I don't see how (the Regents) can justify a decrease in a time of rising costs." He noted, however, that other proposals for allocation of the state aid will come from other sources — for example, from the Conference Board, a group of educational organizations, and from legislators themselves.

The State Legislature makes the final decision, usually in April, Zwicklbauer said, and before then, "we write all sorts of letters, make personal visits, contact local legislators — do what we can" to see that the district doesn't have to reach deeper into the taxpayer's wallet.

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Key approval comes for sewer project

Bethlehem's ambitious sewer extension project, designed to service nearly all of the populated areas not now covered by sewers, has received the key approval needed to go ahead.

That still means at least two years before the new sewers are in place and the bills come in, says Merwin Atwood, superintendent of the Bethlehem Sewer District. He's been working on this since 1976, when it first became clear that federal and state aid would be available for collector sewers, and Atwood is under no illusions that projects of this size—an estimated \$6.7 million—always go as planned.

"This is how things go," he says, eyeing a drawer full of plans, maps, correspondence and memoranda. Along the way in this project, for instance, several areas which Atwood thought would wel-

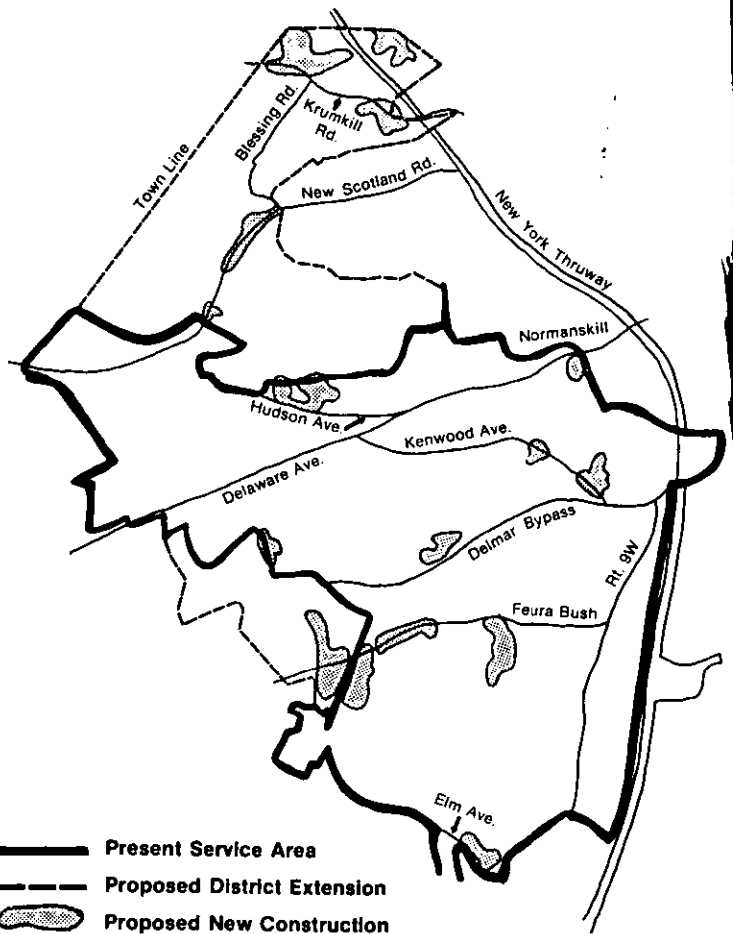
come sewers with open arms turned their backs on them.

But that still leaves 16 areas either in the existing sewer district or in what will be known as Extension 14 to get sewers. In addition, a new district will be created in South Albany to serve approximately 25 homes.

"We looked at areas that were unsewered and had problems," says Atwood. That, apparently, is true of most of the unsewered areas of Bethlehem where development has occurred, because soil conditions in the town usually cannot keep pace with growth.

Connecting all those pockets was no easy task. The main which will link the new areas in North Bethlehem (including Blue Cross/Blue Shield on Rt. 85) will go 14 miles to connect with the rest of the system.

Two weeks ago, the New



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York State Department of Audit and Control, which had been studying the financial aspect of the project, gave its approval. This was the important decision, says Atwood, because the federal and state aid will cover only \$4.9 million, based on expected 1981-82 costs, and the sewer district will have to raise the rest of the money by selling bonds and then assessing the property owners in the areas to be served.

The decision that Bethlehem's figures balance out, that the project is feasible, should clear the way for the other two participating agencies, the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, to follow suit. "EnCon should fall in line now," says Atwood, and the EPA approval will come in two to three months.

Following that, the sewer district will hire an engineering consultant to do the final designs and supervise the

bidding, a process which should take nine to 12 months. Construction, then, could begin in 1982, "we hope early, always being optimistic," says Atwood.

To keep to this timetable, Atwood will ask the Bethlehem town board to pass legislation at its meeting Wednesday giving its final approval to the project.

Carolers in Slingerlands

The Chamber Singers and music students of the College of Saint Rose will be Christmas caroling in the Southwood area of Slingerlands Monday, Dec. 15, beginning at 8 p.m.

This group, under the direction of J. Robert Sheehan, goes Christmas caroling annually in the Southwood area. They will be performing

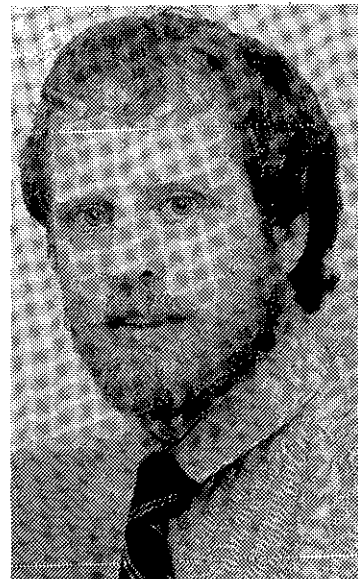
works from their Christmas concert as well as traditional Christmas Carols.

Albany Med appointment

Glenmont resident Richard A. Berman, M.D., has been appointed the first full-time director of the Intensive Care Unit at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

As director of the 30-bed unit, Berman will supervise and coordinate patient care and will participate in the continuing education of physicians, nurses and health care professionals involved in the care of ICU patients.

A cum laude graduate of Lehigh University, Dr. Berman received his M.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where he was elected to AOA,

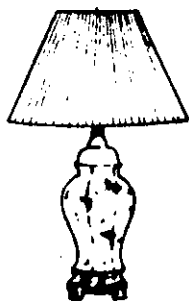


Dr. Richard Berman

the medical honor society. Dr. Berman is also assistant professor of medicine and anesthesiology at Albany Medical College.

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Pollution study set for Normanskill

The Normanskill, which runs through rural farmland, populated areas and a bit of urban sprawl on its way to the Hudson River, picks up quite a bit of unwanted material along the way.

A study of the 38,000 acres which make up the Normanskill Watershed will be conducted next year to determine what, if anything, can be done to clean up pollution problems on the creek.

The study, to be conducted

by the Soil and Water Conservation districts in Albany and Schenectady counties using federal and state funds, should be completed next summer or fall, according to Gene Kellam, Albany County district manager.

That does not, of course, mean that the Normanskill will once again become a first-class fishing stream, says Kellam. "I always have my skepticism, after the studies are done and the problems identified, where the money is going to come from to take

care of them," he says.

The need for some sort of action first became apparent when the City of Watervliet complained about pollution in its reservoir in Guiderland, which is fed by the Normanskill as it flows from Schenectady County. But it was later decided to expand the effort to include the full length of the creek.

The Normanskill winds through the northeastern tip of New Scotland and then serves as the border between Albany and Bethlehem on its way to the Hudson. Both of these areas have their special problems; the rural areas, particularly dairy farms, produce problems from animal waste and agricultural chemicals, while the urban areas contribute their own brands of pollutants.

Both county offices are gathering information on present land use in the watershed, and are also in the process of putting together a steering committee of local residents to insure public participation in the study. Interested persons should contact Kellam at the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Voorheesville.

BETHLEHEM

Speed limit policy to be examined

The Bethlehem Town Board will take a look next year at its present system of setting speed limits and determining which intersections should have stop signs.

The issue came up at the board's Nov. 26 meeting during a discussion of what has become a routine chore for the board — petitions by residents of newer developments to lower the speed limit or put in new stop signs.

In this case, the request was for a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Jefferson Rd. and Penn Lane, which Town Supervisor Tom Corrigan said would tend to work against the original traffic planning for the area. Jefferson is a through street and it "would be imprudent" to stop traffic there, he said.

Nevertheless, Corrigan said, "the people over there are pretty concerned" because as the area develops there is more — and more high speed — traffic. It may be necessary to reduce the speed limit in the area, Corrigan added.

That led to a general discussion of the present system,

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Gov. Hugh Carey, right, shakes hands with Glen Hiner, General Electric's vice president for plastics operations, at the dedication last week of Noryl Plastics Division's new \$11.5 million wastewater treatment facility. Looking on at left is plant general manager Don Shirey. The addition will make the Selkirk plant one of the cleanest in the country, say GE officials — so clean fish can live in the treated water. *Spotlight*

under which town speed limits are set at 55 m.p.h. unless the state or the town board takes specific action — usually in response to a set of complaints. Board member Scott Prothero asked if it would be possible to set speed limits at the time new developments are accepted by the town, but Town Attorney Bernard Kaplowitz said the law may not allow that course.

Later, Corrigan said Kaplowitz will research the question and report back to the board. "It just seems that the original development is the time it ought to be done," he said.

The board referred the Jefferson Rd. petition and also a petition for 30 m.p.h. speed limit on Murray Avenue between the Delaware Bypass and Feura Bush Road to Safety Commissioner Ralph Tipple.

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BETHLEHEM

Zautner to file second appeal

A.T. Zautner and Son, has notified the Bethlehem Board of Appeals it plans to appeal the board's decision to deny permission to build two four-unit apartment buildings on Feura Bush Road.

The proposed apartment buildings would be near the Colonial Acres subdivision and Brightenwood Road. Last month, the board learned that a similar lawsuit brought by Zautner concerning apartment buildings on Beacon Road had been de-

ecided in state Supreme Court in favor of the builder. The board has decided to appeal that decision.

Both projects are in an area currently being reviewed at the request of area residents by the Bethlehem Planning Commission for an overall zoning change.

In other business the board approved the erection of a six-foot stockade fence on the property of David M. Rhodes, 11 Oakwood Place, Delmar; and approved the conversion of the single-family home of Frank J. Brady, 7 Grove Street, North Bethlehem, to a two-family residence.

Two new applications were presented. The first is a request by Joseph A. Hughes, 645 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, to allow the storage and sale of motor vehicles and the operation of a tow truck for a wrecking service from his property, which is currently operated as an automobile repair shop. The public hearing for this request will be held Jan. 7 at 8 p.m.

The second request is from James E. Peterson and Rita Madrazo-Peterson, 55 Salisbury Road, Elsmere, to allow a variance in order to enclose an already existing patio at the rear of their home. The public hearing for this request will be held Dec. 17 at 8:30 p.m.

Phyllis Banucci

BETHLEHEM

Complex planned

Harry Gochee, a local businessman, presented preliminary plans for an apartment complex at Kenaware Avenue and Dawson Road to the Bethlehem Planning Board last week.

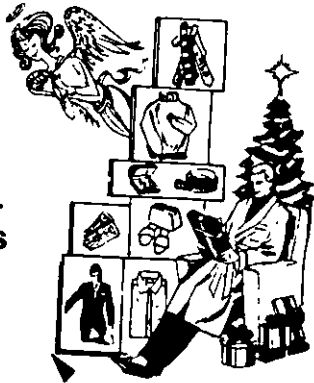
Gochee has purchased a section of the Howard property, 3.7 acres located between Delaware and Kenaware Avenues and Dawson Road. The property is a scenic, wooded piece of land containing a pond that is an integral part of the drainage system of the western part of Delmar.

William Harrison, Gochee's architect, explained the plans to construct five 4-unit apartment buildings. The board advised Gochee that they would need subdivision approval as well as an Environmental Impact Study before plans may proceed. The proposed building site is bordered by multiple family dwellings on Delaware Avenue and Single Family homes on Dawson Road.

In other business, the board continued its discussion of the zoning in the Glenmont area. Peter Strand, of Bayberry Road, Glenmont, spoke for several residents who attended the meeting; "None of us assume that the area will retain its rural nature." But, he added, "we didn't want the development of the area to be left to the builders, or to spot



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development."

Charles Redmond, a member of the board, proposed the board get some information from the highway department concerning future plans for improvement of some of the roads in the area. Ed Sargent, board chairman, agreed this should be done while the Planning Board continues to "crystalize some of our thoughts" on the future development of this area of the town

Phyllis Banucci

Driver without wheel

Bethlehem police arrested a Selkirk woman Sunday after she allowed her juvenile companion drive her disabled car on Rt. 144. The car, with only three wheels operating, made a gouge mark on the road from the town line to Wheeler Road, police said.

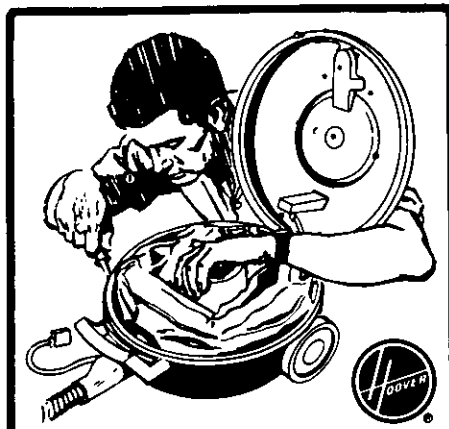
Aranka Nagy, 20, of Miller Road, Selkirk, was returning home early Sunday from a party, and hit a curb on the exit ramp of I 787 at South Pearl St. in Albany, according to police reports. Her 15-year-old companion drove the car "in an erratic manner" until stopped at Wheeler Road. She was arrested for endangering the welfare of a minor.



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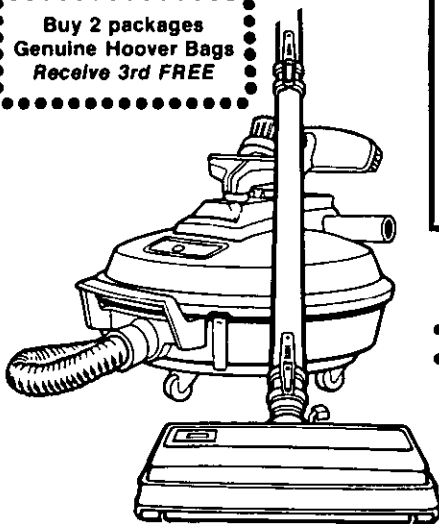
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More changes for The Spotlight

By Nat Boynton
Last of 3 articles

In the turbulent kaleidoscope of U.S. journalism, newspapers grow and wane in popularity and effectiveness. The yo-yo syndrome stems from various combinations of national economic cycles, the whims and policies of changing publishers, and the local business climate.

All three have had their impact on the evolution of the *Spotlight* from that inaugural four-page ad flyer on Dec. 1, 1955 to the production you are now reading. The paper weathered a fragile incubation period in the late Fifties, sprouted like an adolescent teenager in the Sixties, then almost came to grief in the Seventies.

Within a 12-month period between the spring of 1974 and the spring of 1975, four events had an adverse effect on the fortunes of the *Spotlight*. The paper might have

survived any two, possibly three, but when four setbacks ganged up on the one-room office at 154 Delaware Ave., it was almost too much.

Those four happenings—not in order of chronology or magnitude—were the advent of a serious business recession, the death of editor LeVeré Fuller, the arrival of a competitive newspaper, and the declining health of publisher Bob King.

Of these, the most devastating was the entrance of the *Helderberg Sun* as a competing newspaper. The *Sun* was the Albany version of a journalistic technique employed by publishers of metropolitan newspapers with the aim of extending their print advertising monopoly by eradicating the small suburban weeklies in their localities. The principle: a weekly tabloid filled with "happy news" of clubs, people and schools, distributed free as an

insert or given away in supermarkets and drug stores as a device to sell advertising at half the rate of the local paper targeted for extinction.

The *Sun*, first of five "zoned editions" launched by Robert Danzig, then publisher of the Hearst Corp.'s Capital Newspapers, made its debut in July, 1974. Its assigned territory was the towns of Bethlehem, Gunderland and New Scotland, and the victims pinpointed for obliteration were the *Spotlight* and the *Altamont Enterprise*.

For a while the intrusion was highly successful. The *Spotlight*, taking the brunt of the assault by a flood of Hearst ad salesmen, saw its revenues sharply reduced. Its advertisers, already cutting their budgets to cope with the business slump, either divided their advertising between the *Sun* and the *Spotlight*, or switched to the new paper entirely. As King's health declined, his sales revenues virtually disappeared. The

Sun soared to 40 and 44 pages, the *Spotlight* shrank to 24 and 16.

When King sold out in 1975 to a new Bethlehem enterprise, Newsgraphics, Inc., the files contained fewer than 300 subscribers, and the newsstand sales averaged under 70 per week. The bulk of the press run was free circulation by mail.

As editor-publisher, I theorized that by emphasizing full local news coverage, the readership could be restored, and with that, the advertising accounts were lured back to the fold. For the first time in its history, the *Spotlight* began coverage of town board meetings in Bethlehem and New Scotland along with regular coverage of the town planning board and board of appeals, school boards and the Voorheesville village board. A second innovation, instituted as a cost-control measure, was the termination of the policy of free distribution outside the "core area" of Delmar and Elsmere.

As the *Spotlight* and the

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On the Cover:

Ten full-time employees and more than a dozen contributors and part-time employees comprise today's *Spotlight* staff. From left, seated: Pamela Mosher, typesetter; Susan Moore and Joan Serfaty, sales; Phyllis Banucci, news; Mary Powell, office; Elisa Roth, production; Wally Campbell, photographer; standing: Lee Holder, office manager; Caroline Terenzini, news and typesetting; Glenn Adams, darkroom; Dick Sickles, printing; Gary VanDer-

Linden, printing manager; Ann Brink, production; Nat Boynton, editor; Dick Ahlstrom, publisher; Mary Ahlstrom, secretary; Irene Dereberry, production manager; Tom McPheeters, associate editor; Jim Sullivan, sales; George Bloodgood, Jr., printing; and Kim VanDyke, news. Absent from the photo: Jerry Gordon, sales; Mary Ann Malark, news; R. H. Davis, photographer, and Kara Gordon, subscriptions.

J. W. Campbell photo

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by Roberts Piano & Organ Co.



Enterprise, along with the community weeklies in Ravena, East Greenbush and other sections, continued to grow in acceptance by subscribers and advertisers. The Hearst Corp. reduced the number of regional *Suns* from five to three.

In February, 1977, the *Spotlight* took another major step by installing its own direct-entry phototypesetting equipment and preparing its pages for the press each week on the premises on Kenwood Ave. This paved the way for the addition of a commercial printing service, in which the typesetting and composition was handled in the new facility and the actual presswork vended to shops with printing equipment, including Delmar Printers, Artistic Press, New Art and several other Albany printers. It was not until 1979, when George Bloodgood, an independent printer in Delmar, merged his "job shop" with Newsgraphics, that the paper acquired printing capability.

In November, 1979, the Bethlehem town board accepted an offer from the *Spotlight* publisher for the purchase of the vacant Bethlehem Community Center building on Adams St., Delmar. That move, designed to consolidate the editorial, advertising sales, typesetting and printing operations in

one facility, has been delayed by litigation.

In September, 1980, Richard A. Ahlstrom of Newtown, Conn., became the *Spotlight's* fourth publisher, and moved his family to Delmar. Ahlstrom, a retired executive with the Westchester-Rockland Newspapers affiliate of the Gannett Corp., is a nationally recognized authority on advanced electronic techniques in newspaper production.

The latest phase of the paper's evolution has not been without heartbreak, frustration and humor. Robert King died suddenly in December, 1978. The omitted club notice, the typographical error that changes the intended meaning, the transposed photo caption and other pitfalls of reporters and editors are preserved in our files, hopefully buried and forgotten.

Then there are the brides that sometimes have to wait weeks for space to accommodate their wedding writeups after a month or two of waiting for their bridal photos from the studio. Only once, as far as anyone can recall, did we get a call from an irate bride who informed us that we'd gone too far. Her bridal photo and wedding story made its appearance two weeks after her son had been born.

A word of appreciation

As we at the *Spotlight* celebrate our 25th anniversary in various ways, including an Anniversary Issue planned for February, we are ever mindful of the tremendous support we have received from our own communities.

No newspaper can survive without loyal patronage from advertisers. The list of merchants and business people who have stood by us, many of whom have gone out of their way to encourage us, is a long one.

Other newspapers may have more subscribers, but none has more faithful or

more loyal readers. The commitment of publicity chairmen of local churches, clubs and civic organizations in providing notices and calendar items, and the sincerity of letter-writers over the years has helped to give this community a remarkable unity that is the envy of our neighbors to the north, west, south and east.

To all our customers, friends, associates and neighbors, we thank you, and pledge our efforts to giving you the best paper we can in the years ahead.



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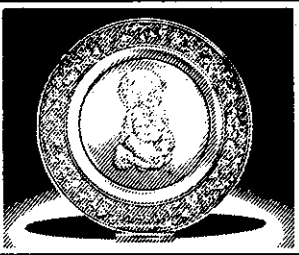
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In fact we've done such a good job that our shelves are a little bare — would you have some nice homes in our area? If so, please put them in our stockings and we'll do the rest.

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Voorheesville News Notes

Maryann Malark 765-4392

Have you entered the "name the newsletter" contest sponsored by the Voorheesville Library? If not, there's still time to submit an entry. Librarian Nancy Hutchinson is looking for a catchy name for the newly established library newsletter. Deadline is Dec. 31.

Kelly Hogan, 16, daughter of Kathy and Jim Hogan, Swift Rd., took first prize in a typing test given to 372 students from 50 area schools. The competition was a part of the annual senior high school day sponsored by Cobleskill State College. Kelly, a student

at Voorheesville High School, is enrolled in a typing and office secretarial practice class. In addition to Kelly, two other local students received certificates of merit. Karen Koskowski, daughter of Penny Koskowski, Sefer-son Hill Rd., scored fifth in the same contest. Kathi Hitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hitt, State Farm Rd., placed ninth in the data processing aptitude test.

Fall story hours for preschoolers at the Voorheesville Library will end on Thursday, Dec. 18, and resume again in January on Monday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

St. Matthew's Youth Group invites the Voorheesville community to their second annual Christmas sing-a-long on

Sunday, Dec. 14, in Evergreen Memorial Park. Carols will be led by one of the Church's folk groups until a mystery guest arrives laden with treats for the children. Voorheesville residents gathered together that evening will give special remembrance to the 53 hostages still held in Iran. Festivities will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m.

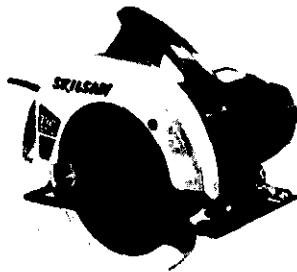
Shoots self in foot

John Vadney, 18, of First Ave., South Bethlehem, was checking his traps behind his house Sunday morning when he slipped on the ice and shot himself on the foot with a .22 rifle, according to Bethlehem police. Vadney was treated at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

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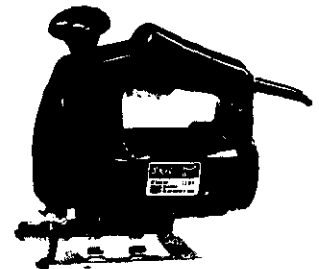
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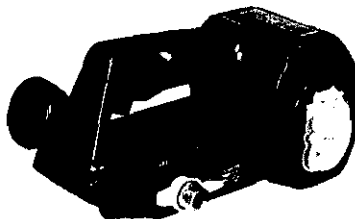
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RETAIL



WHOLESALE

REPAIRS—RENTALS

BUSINESS

Bethlehem bank to have new name

The City & County Savings Bank branch office at 163 Delaware Ave., Delmar, will change its name as part of a merger, but the office itself will be doing business as usual.

The merger between City & County and Home Savings Bank of Upstate New York will produce a new savings bank with combined assets of \$700 million, making it the third largest savings bank in Northeastern New York. The new bank is to be called Home and City Savings Bank.

The merger is subject to the approval of the state Superintendent of Banks and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and regulatory approval is expected by early next summer.

Marshall Hannock, president of Home, and Edward S. Berry, president of City & County, said all offices of both banks would be continued, "with very little duplication of service areas." There will be 16 offices.

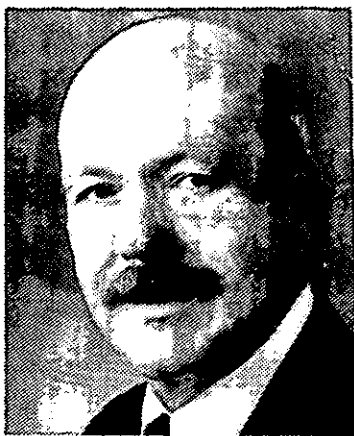
"Everything will be the same, except we're going to have a new name," said Joseph E. Keil, City & County vice president and manager of the Delmar office.

LaMarche joins bank

Alice T. LaMarche has joined the staff of City and County Savings Banks as a Savings Bank Life Insurance Consultant in the Bank's

Uptown Office, 301 New Scotland Avenue.

Mrs. LaMarche is a member of the Albany County Board of Realtors and its affiliate, the Women's Council, as well as a member of the Columbiettes Council 198 of Watervliet.



Samuel K. Wait

Receives promotion

Samuel K. Wait, a former resident of Delmar, has been named president of Vestal Laboratories, St. Louis, Mo., a division of Chemed Corp. Wait joined Vestal in 1961 as a sales representative in New Jersey and subsequently served as district and regional sales manager and as vice president and director of sales. He is the son of Mrs. Frances Wait, Delmar, and is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Cornell University. He is married to the former Beverly MacNamara, also formerly of Delmar. They have two children, Elizabeth, 19, and Scott, 23, and reside in west St. Louis County, Mo.

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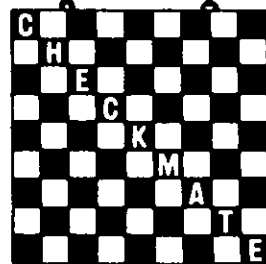
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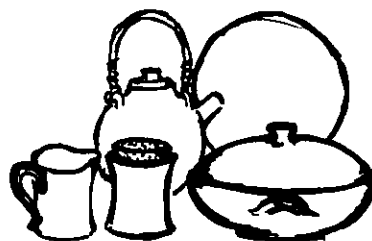
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Dr. Thorne elected

Dr. Clifton C. Thorne of Delmar, president of Blue Cross of Northeastern New York, has been elected to the board of directors of the national Blue Cross Association.

President of the Bethlehem-headquartered Blue Cross plan since 1976, Dr. Thorne previously served as vice chancellor for university affairs at the State University of New York. He is on numerous boards and is active in professional and civic organizations.

He was elected a director-

at-large at the annual meeting of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield associations held in San Francisco in November. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans form the largest health care financing system in the world.

On national panel

David De Porte of Slingerlands, public relations consultant to public radio station WAMC in Albany, has been named to a national advisory panel by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The panel, which will examine current proposed and potential public affairs ac-

tivities of the CPB, held its first meeting in Washington Sept. 24-25. This was De Porte's second trip to Washington as a representative of WAMC, which is regarded nationally as a trend-setting station. In March he addressed the nation's 237 public radio stations in a closed circuit National Public Radio broadcast. At that time, he described the development of WAMC's award-winning program guide and answered questions on concept, graphics and editing which were telephoned in from as far away as Alaska.

Schacht gets award

David W. Schacht of Clapper Road, Selkirk, was recently awarded the first "Good Citizen's Award" by the Employee's Club at the Hartford Insurance Group, 161 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Schacht, a senior property underwriter, has served many years as a volunteer with the Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance Squad.

Freeman in Firm

Sam D. Freeman of Slingerlands will be joining the Schenectady Insurance Firm of Bache Ter Bush & Powelo, Inc. in December.

Freeman's work for the State Department of Civil Service since 1949 has brought him to his present position as head of the civil service Department's employee insurance program.

A 1949 graduate of the



J. Dukehart Chesney, a resident of Delmar, has been named executive director of the Albany Medical Center Foundation. Chesney is retired manager of purchases and traffic for Huyck Felt Co., and a member of the adjunct faculty of Russell Sage College Evening Division.

Syracuse University School of Management. Freeman has served in the Army. He is married and has two sons.

Beuhler made treasurer

Paul J. Buehler of 37 Longwood Drive, Delmar, was recently selected treasurer of the Thomas J. Bergin Company of the Siena College ROTC program.

Initiated at Siena in 1970 in honor of Siena graduates who were killed in Vietnam, the company is limited to the top Siena ROTC students.

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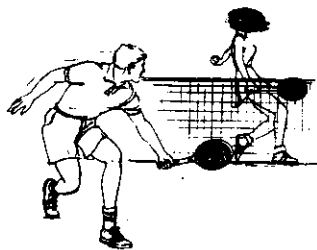
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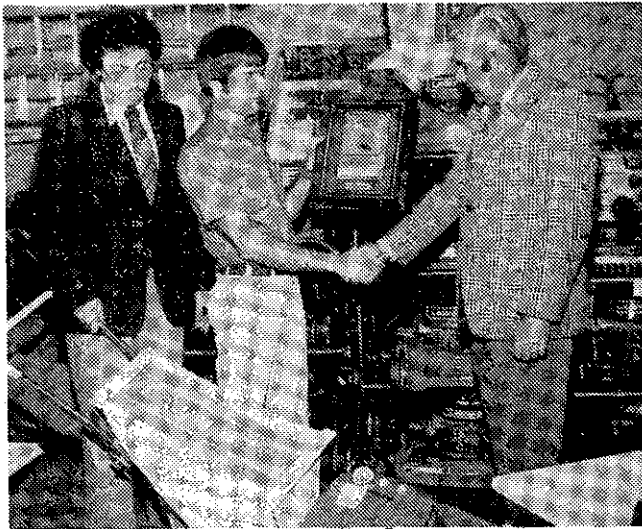
LAWN AND GARDEN EQUIPMENT

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Hilches American Hardware was awarded the outstanding achievement award for the Hudson Valley Area at a recent Lawn Boy dealer show, signifying that Hilches was the number one area Lawn Boy dealer in 1980. At left, Alan Isaacs, vice president of D.J. Mytelka and Associates, inspects a mower as Bob Callahan, Hilches power products manager, center, accepts congratulations from Jack Webb, district sales manager for Mytelka.

J.W. Campbell

Moyland to head drive

Delmar resident Neal L. Moylan has been named general chairman of the Albany Medical Center Foundation's 1980-81 annual fund drive.

The senior vice president-corporate relations of Key Banks, Inc., will oversee one of the primary fund raising activities of the Foundation, which helps support the patient care, research and education programs of the Albany Medical Center Hospital and Albany Medical College.

Moyland has held various positions during his more

than 26 years of state service, including that of Commissioner of Commerce under both former governors Nelson A. Rockefeller and Malcolm Wilson. He is also the United Way's Capital Fund Chairman. Moyland and his wife, Regina, live in Delmar. The Foundation was chartered in 1957 to coordinate fund raising activities of the hospital, college and satellites of the medical center.

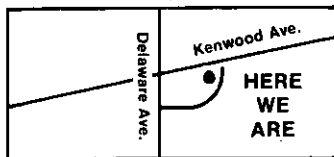
Bethlehem Jaycees, first and third Wednesdays, Center Inn, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, 8 P.M.

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BASKETBALL

Eagles plagued by foul trouble

Two of the old bugaboos that had such a heavy hand in Bethlehem Central's 1-20 basketball season last year have come back to haunt the 1980-81 Eagles: foul trouble and turnovers.

BC got in foul trouble early in Friday's Suburban Council opener at Scotia, forcing Coach Jim Tedisco to aban-

don his man-to-man defense in favor of the zone. The Eagles, who led by as much as 14 points midway in the second period, had four starters foul out and lost the game, 66-58, in overtime. They also turned the ball over 27 times.

"Even though it was our first game, I had hoped we wouldn't be making the same mistakes we made all last year," commented Tedisco. "We got into serious foul trouble right from the beginning, and the shooting wasn't

good enough to make up for it."

Although the turnovers were the most damaging, the Eagles shot only 30 percent from the field and a meager 47 percent from the penalty stripe. Tony Papile fouled out in the third period, Tim Cookfair and Steve Gillespie in the fourth, and Tom Dexter in the overtime stanza. The Eagles hung on, however, for a 52-all deadlock at the end of regulation time, only to be outscored, 14-6, in the extra period. Of Scotia's 14 points in overtime, eight were on foul shots.

The bright spots were the performance of Mike Lawrence, the burly center whose knee has been a question mark, and Tom Burdick, a 6-1 junior forward. Lawrence led the team with 23 points, while Burdick, coming off the bench in the first quarter when.

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Papile drew too many whistles, played most of the rest of the game and scored 12 points in his first varsity outing.

Lawrence played most of the game with seemingly no ill effects. His fragile limb has slowed him down a bit and limits his movements, but he got in some good work under both boards.

Bethlehem returns to action this Friday at Colonie, and makes its home debut Tuesday against Niskayuna. Game time is 8:30 p.m. for the varsity, 7 p.m. for the jayvees.

B.C.H.C. reunion set

The Christmas reunion for members of the classes of 1970 through 1980 of Bethlehem Central High School will be held Friday, Dec. 26, from 9:30 to 2 a.m. at the Turf Inn in Colonie.

Music will be by "Unlimited Danger" and there will be free beer and a cash bar. Tickets, \$4.50 in advance and \$5 at the door, may be obtained at Mullens or the Paper Mill or from Drew Maggard (439-5411) or Anne Ellery (439-6804).

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Girls' Volleyball, Mohonasen, away 3:45
- Fri., Dec. 12** Boys' Basketball, Colonie, away 8:30
- Sat., Dec. 13** Girls' Volleyball, Suburban Council Tournament
- Mon., Dec. 15** Girls' Volleyball, Shenendehowa, away 3:45
- Tues., Dec. 16** Boys' Basketball, Niskayuna, home 8:30
Bowling, Shaker, away 3:45

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BASKETBALL

Blackbirds off to ragged start

In the view of Coach Mike O'Brien, all Voorheesville Central's basketball team needs to get on the track is "one good ball game."

That could come this week in a Tuesday home game with Ravena or on a Friday visit to Cohoes, one of the better teams in the Colonial Council. Meanwhile, the Blackbirds are floundering in the lower echelons after losing their first two league starts and showing a 1-4 record overall.

Says O'Brien: "We lost two games we should have won. We're not playing to our potential. The kids are better ball players than that. We've done a lot of work on shooting, foul shooting, ball handling, all the basics, everything I can think of. We get one good ball game, we'll be all right. I know we can put it all together."

In losing to Schalmont at home and Albany Academy on the road, the Blackbirds committed more turnovers than O'Brien cares to remember, and they were off target on their shots. The Academy game was tied, 31-all, with one minute left in the third quarter, but the Cadets reeled off six quick points for a 37-33 lead going into the fourth, then outscored Voorheesville, 22-

6, in a disastrous final period. "They were quicker than we were, but they weren't bigger," observed O'Brien.

Chris Clark was high scorer for the Blackbirds in both games, getting 14 in the 64-59 loss to Schalmont and 12 in the 59-39 setback in Albany. The jayvees, however, are 2-1 under Coach Bob Crandall.

The Blackbirds have three games next week, including a trip to Duanesburg Saturday besides the Colonial Council dates with Ravena and Cohoes.

Pair honored by DAR

John B. Rodgers of Delmar and Janine Roeth of Berne, winners of the Tawasentha Chapter DAR Good Citizens Awards for 1981, will be presented with pins and certificates at the chapter's Christmas meeting Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. at the Bethlehem Town Hall.

The annual award is made to the high school seniors chosen by fellow students and faculty on the basis of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. The names of the winners will be submitted to the state DAR for consideration as regional and state DAR Good Citizen; state winners will compete for national DAR Good Citizen.

Rodgers, who represents Bethlehem High School, is the son of Dr. and Mrs. John B. Rodgers, 92 Dumbarton Drive, Delmar.



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SWIMMING

BC tank supremacy continues

There's bad news this week for members of the Adirondack Swim League: Bethlehem Central has come up with another batch of talented young swimmers, and that means the Eagles' pool dynasty should remain intact for at least another season.

Jack Whipple's crew took up last week where they left off last season, demolishing Hudson Falls, 115-58, in the opening meet of the season. The most significant item was not the size of the victory margin, but the fact that three ninth graders and one eighth grader contributed points, including three first places.

Matt Holland, a 14-year-old eighth grader swimming in his first varsity meet, won the 500-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke at Hudson Falls. Scott Apicelli, a freshman, won the 100 butterfly, while two other freshmen added points, Doug Schulz taking seconds in the breaststroke and individual medley, and Dave Young placing third in the 200 freestyle and swimming on

the winning medley relay team.

The younger swimmers got the chance to show their stuff when Whipple excused four seniors from the trip because of a conflict with the BC senior play. Co-Capt. Bob Holland, the area's premier breaststroker, freestyler John Tartaglia, flyer Bill DeFranco and Dave Seiden, breaststroke, missed the meet.

Some idea of Bethlehem's depth can be gleaned from the fact that with their two best breaststrokers absent, the Eagles still placed 1-2 in the event, thanks to Matt Holland and Doug Schulz.

This week's schedule calls for meets with Burnt Hills Wednesday and Amsterdam Friday, both at home. Next week there are 4 p.m. meets with Albany Academy Wednesday and Troy Friday, also at home.

Dolphins score well

Three of Delmar's young swimming stars brought home 11 medals from the Saratoga Invitational AAU meet Nov. 30, but it was two sixth place finishes that also pleased the coaches of the Delmar Dolphins. Kimberly Zornow in the girls' 13-14 backstroke and Aaron Halsdorf in the boys' 11-12 breaststroke each placed sixth against strong competition from a wide area of New York State.

Janet Shaffer, one of the area's top stars, garnered a first in the 100-yard freestyle and seconds in the girls' 13-14 butterfly, breaststroke and

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200 free. Lynne Apicelli took second in the girls' 11-12 50-yard breaststroke, third in the 50 butterfly and fourth in the individual medley. Matt Holland, swimming in the boys' 13-14 class, had seconds in the 200 IM, 100 free and 100 breaststroke and fifth in the 100 backstroke.

Also in the meet were Dolphins Jenny Halsdorf, Drew Patrick, Lisa Sheridan, Courtnet Roos, Brian and Erin Moorissey, Greg McQuide, Jackie Hackett, Christine and Fred Rudofsky, Indi Friedman and Joan Peyrebeune.



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Camera sale planned

The public is invited to the annual sale of used equipment that is part of the December meeting of the Delmar Camera Club. The meeting, scheduled for Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephens Parish Hall, Elsmere Avenue and Poplar Drive, Delmar, will also include a workshop on judging.

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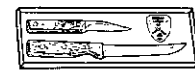
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Sale ends Dec. 24th

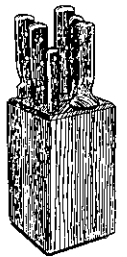


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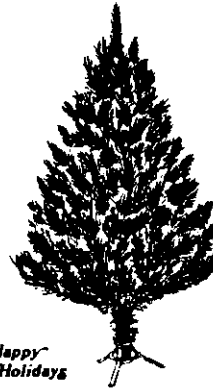
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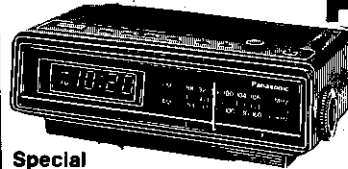


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Shop Talk

by Judi James

The fact that Mary R. Bragg was in the same school from which Ronald Reagan was graduated may have caused a bit more traffic in and out of her ceramic shop on New Scotland Avenue, Slingerlands (in the building next to the fire house). Mary doesn't know, but she does know that she and her husband Charles, thoroughly enjoy talking with people and helping them with a hobby which may be acclaimed the leading craft today.

We praise it because so many people, both adults and children, can make their own Christmas gifts and can get all the help needed from these two interesting craftsmen. This is the time to begin, so let us take you into the shop and tell you what we mean.

Whether it's as small an item as a Christmas tree ornament, or as large as a tiffany-type lamp shade, the greenware is there at Char-Mar, ready to be painted, glazed and fired. If there is a child at your house, you could let him purchase some of the little elfs, gingerbread boys or bells, and paint them as a gift for his teacher. The cost is minimum. His satisfaction maximum.

There are some nice napkin rings, too...both Santa Clause and angel holders.

We found some cups and saucers with holly design (painted and glazed, they'd be attractive holders for a Christmas floral arrangement for a hostess gift.)

This shop has both the greenware and the bisque nativity scenes. Beginning with the church, the figures needed are all there and your nativity scene can be as large as you wish, or your purse, demands. The greenware nativity scene in the large size is priced at \$15 while, in the bisque, it is \$30. There are tiny scenes, which you might consider for your child, at just \$6.

We saw an egg plate which would make a great gift. It's in the greenware, with each indentation for the eggs having a motif to be painted. Once glazed this would be a nice gift for the person who likes to entertain and it is just \$2.50.

All through the shop, Charles and Mary Bragg have an amazing array of items: "Hummel" figurines, birds, lamp shades, candle holders, etc., ready to be glazed and fired. They also carry all the fine brushes for painting — by Grumbacher and Marx — and of course the stains, sealers, glazes, and tools to complete the ceramic.

We were treated to a view of the room where they keep the molds and where Charles

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pours the clay into them. They have hundreds of molds here, and Mary and Charles will create a mold for individually designed pieces. So, if your own ideas are outlined to them, you can have your "custom" designed ceramic on which to work.

There are some of us who don't just quite have the ability of others for crafts. If you are in this league, you might want to telephone

Char-Mar and ask about their special instructional classes. There is a small library which gives step-by-step projects for each and every holiday and each and every type of ceramic creation.

So, for a venture into a new world of crafts — or a return trip for those who are into ceramics — we recommend a visit to Char-Mar and a talk with Mr. and Mrs. Bragg and their daughter Yvonne Wood.

The address is 1526 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands. Their telephone number is 439-8579. They're open 10-5 and 7-9 p.m. as well, each evening but Saturday.

Good snopping news! Karen's Corner, where the clothes, ice skates and skis are "almost new," has moved to Delmar (just behind Sport-haven). She's open daily for your special needs.

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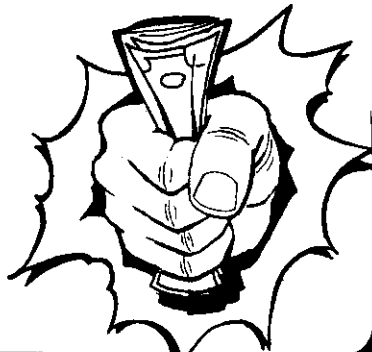
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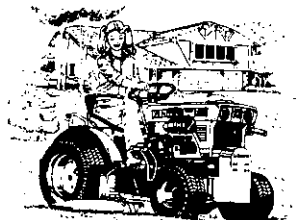
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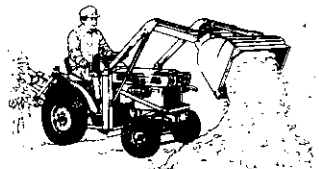


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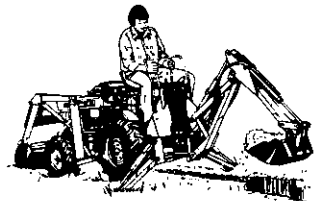
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Carolyn Mary McGinty

Carolyn McGinty engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. McGinty of Clapper Road, Glenmont, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Carolyn Mary McGinty, to Joseph A. Adragna, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adragna of Fairview Avenue, Catskill.

Miss McGinty, a graduate of St. Thomas and the Academy of the Holy Names, received a B.A. in English-Communications from Le Moyne College in Syracuse. She is employed as a Media

Assistant in the Junior College of Albany Library.

A graduate of St. Patrick's High School in Catskill, Mr. Adragna holds a B.A. in Psychology from Le Moyne College and is employed in Restaurant Management.

A June sixth wedding is planned.

Blood donors needed

The Bloodmobile will visit the Town Hall Monday, Dec. 15, from 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Walk-in donors between the ages of 17 and 66 are welcome. Babysitting is provided. Appointments may also be made by calling 439-4955.

La Leche meeting set

All women interested in nutrition and breast feeding are invited to attend a meeting of La Leche League Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 8:15 p.m. The topic for the meeting, the fourth in a continuing series, is "Nutrition and Weaning". For more information call 439-3419.



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Jennifer Wilber, 10, has a leading role in the Berkshire Ballet's Nutcracker. A fifth grade student at Voorheesville Elementary School, she has been dancing for four years.

Local youngsters dance in Nutcracker

Ten-year-old Jennifer Wilber of Voorheesville was chosen to dance the leading role of Clara in the Berkshire Ballet's eleven performances of "The Nutcracker" this holiday season.

1980 marks the third season for Tchaikovsky's famous Christmas ballet performances in the Capital District, under the direction of madeline Cantarella Culp, artistic director.

More than 150 children auditioned for parts in the ballet, which has been presented to the Berkshire Ballet's home base Pittsfield, Mass.,

audiences for the past six years. A Springfield Performance will also be presented this season.

Twenty three area children between the ages of 6 and 13 from Voorheesville, Guilderland and Dlemar will also have parts in "The Nutcracker".

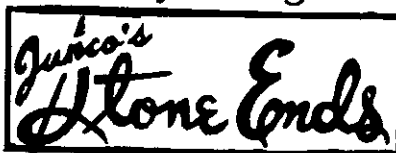
Performance schedules for the Capitol District are as follows:

Proctor's Theater, Schenectady, Saturday, Dec. 13 at 3 and 8 p.m.; Gloversville High School, Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.; and Hudson High School, Hudson, on Sunday, Dec. 21, 3 p.m.

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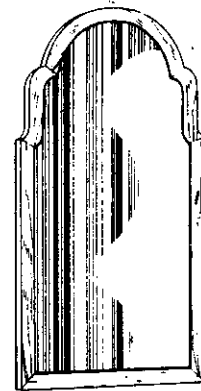
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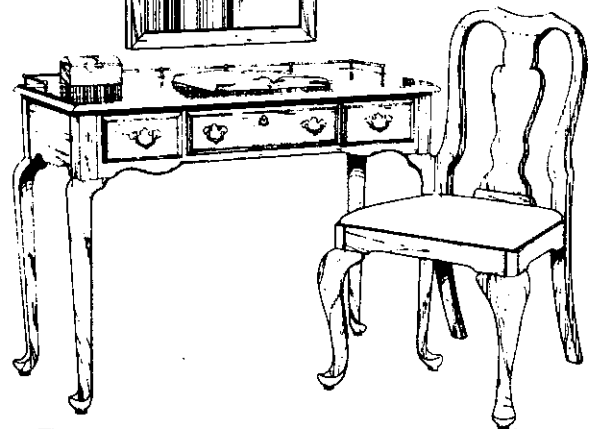
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Getting the Bethlehem Library ready for the holidays are Laverne Myron, left, and Dorothy Guyer, members of the Delmar Progress Club. The club assumed responsibility for the library decorations as one of its community service projects.

J.W. Campbell

New league president

Bonita Sanchez, a Delmar resident, has been elected President of the Albany League of Arts Board of Directors.

A social worker with the Early Childhood Education Center of the Altamont Elementary School, Sanchez has been a member of the Albany league of Arts Board of Directors since 1978.

In addition to serving as a member of the League's Coun-

cil of Presidents and its Long Range Planning and Legislative Committees, she has served in the community as an officer of the Thacher Homes Day Care Center, a member of the Camp Opportunities Board of Directors, and is a member of the Albany County League of Women Voters.

Sanchez succeeds Sandra Ray, who served as League president from 1979-80.

Spotlight Classifieds Work!

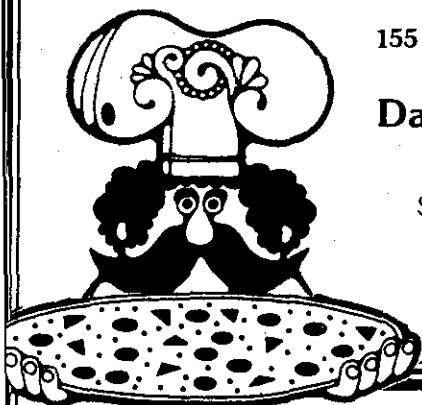
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Lynn M. Vadney

Lynn Vadney engaged

A June wedding is planned by Lynn M. Vadney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Vadney of Delmar, and Frank Verde, son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Verde of Athens.

Miss Vadney is employed by the state Department of Environmental Conservation in Delmar. Her fiancé is a self-employed painter in the Albany area.

Making baptism stoles

Something new and exciting has been happening this fall to the senior ladies of the St. Thomas Catholic church Altar Rosary Society. At the suggestion of society president Margaret Dandeneau, the ladies have been gathering to enjoy lunch and create crafts for the coming Christmas Chinese Auction.

One project, which was designed to tie the elderly and young members of the parish together, has the senior citizens making baptism stoles, which are presented on an individual basis to newly baptised infants of the parish.

The senior group is planning to have a covered dish on Wednesday, Dec. 17, after the noon Mass. For more information about the senior group call Marge Morlock at 439-4496.

Huszar at Curry

Jennifer Huszar of 27 Wexford Road, Delmar, is among some 250 freshman to enroll at Curry College in Milton, Mass., this fall.

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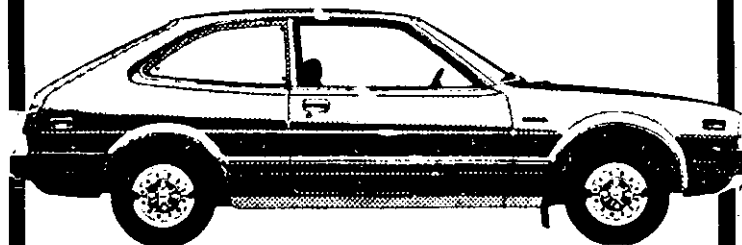
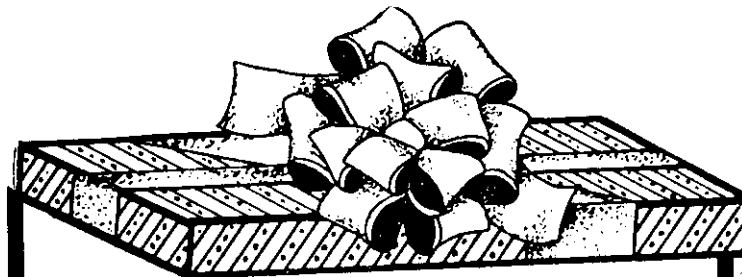
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**Rosemary Barba and
Kenneth Durivage**

Rosemary Barba engaged

Mr. and Mrs. James Barba of Glenmont have announced the engagement of their daughter, Rosemary A. Barba, to Kenneth P. Durivage, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Durivage of Troy.

An early spring wedding is planned.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and attended the College of Saint Rose. She is employed as a teacher aide at BOCES.

Durivage is a graduate of Catholic Central High School in Troy and is employed by the state Department of Correctional Services.

Honored for grain work

Kristin E. Zimmerman, a 1967 graduate of Voorheesville High School has received a special award from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Zimmerman of Helderhill Rd., Voorheesville, is a graduate of Radcliff University and Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

Zimmerman has served as a confidential assistant to the U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture since 1979, and her award came as a result of her role in administering the Grain Task Force, which was set up in January 1980 after the suspension of grain shipments to the Soviet Union.

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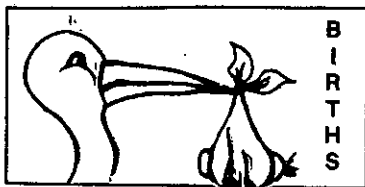
Balsam Boughs - \$2.50

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Girl, Krysta, to Ms. Wendy A. Domery, R.D. 2, Selkirk, Nov. 2, 1980.

Girl, Anne, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bishko, 7 Galaway Rd., Delmar, Nov. 4, 1980.

Girl, Jessica, to Mr. and Mrs. David M. Sedlock, 19 Rigi Court, Selkirk, Nov. 11, 1980.

Boy, Craig, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lamme Jacquish, 23A King Court, Selkirk, on Nov. 1, 1980.

Boy, Jason, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. McMullen, Jr., Selkirk, Nov. 17.

Girl, Cailin, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Moore, Delmar, Oct. 13.

Girl, Nicole, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph V. Fowles, Jr., Delmar, Nov. 24.

Albany Medical Center

Boy, Brian Dennis, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pilatzki, Voorheesville, Nov. 5.

Girl, Sarah Hope, to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Steinkamp, New Scotland, Nov. 10.

Girl, Liza Marie, to Mr. and Mrs. John Leuallen, Delmar, Nov. 12.

Girl, Amber Tyana, to Dr. and Mrs. Gary D. Niehaus, Delmar, Nov. 17.

Joyce Shen to appear

Joyce Shen, well-known Delmar pianist, will perform for the Second Milers retired men's organization Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 12:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Delmar.

Awareness sheds pounds

According to Mary Rozell of Delmar, awareness is a special bonus of Weight Watchers, through which she has shed ten pounds.

The administrative aide for the New York State Department of Social Services recently participated as a model in a fashion show of successful Weight Watchers held at Flah's at Colonie Center. Her dress size has dropped from a twelve to a nine.

Stevens heads program

Slingerlands resident Gregory I. Stevens, formerly of Auburn University, has been named program director of the State University of New York at Albany's Capital District Humanities Program (CDHP).

Stevens received his bachelor's degree from Tufts University and his M.A. and Ph.D in comparative literature from the University of Michigan.

The CDHP provides educational programs for adults throughout the community on weekday evenings and weekends.

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In his image, three young visitors to Five Rivers Environmental Education Center show off the new T-shirts and tote bags bearing the likeness of Archimedes the barred owl, held here by conservation educator Jan Foley. They are, from left, Mike Manzella, Robyn Edwards and Molly Foresman of Delmar.

Five Rivers raising funds

Now you can take Archimedes, the barred owl is the symbol of the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, home with you.

Five Rivers Limited, the citizens' support group for the environmental center, is conducting a sale of T-shirts and tote bags, both with Archimedes' picture on them. The funds raised will be used to help maintain the center's programs, which were threatened in May, 1969, by a closure order from the state. Hundreds of concerned citizens rallied to save the center then.

The items were designed by Joan D'Ambrosi of Delmar, and will be on display at the Bethlehem public schools and the Bethlehem library. They are on sale at the Courtside Tennis Shop, Delaware and Elsmere Avenues, and can be ordered at the Five Rivers Center.

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Cindi Reusswig

Cindi Reusswig on tour

Cindi Reusswig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Reusswig of Glenmont, is on a three-week concert tour abroad with the Allegheny College Choir.

A sophomore at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., Ms. Reusswig will participate in seven concerts which will be given in London, Central Europe and Italy, culminating in a performance Dec. 11 at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Rome.

The touring choir consists of 55 members of the total 80-voice choir of men and women who are chosen by audition from the campus at large

Food stamps available

The Albany County Department of Social Services Food Stamp Outreach Program will take place at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, from 9 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Dec. 18.

A representative from the Department of Social Services will accept applications at that time; no food stamps will be distributed at the Bethlehem Town Hall, however. Those individuals who are eligible to receive food stamps will receive their stamps by mail.

Application forms and additional information on the food stamp program can be obtained at the Bethlehem Town Hall, which is open weekdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Check blood pressure

There will be a free Blood Pressure Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. No appointment is necessary.

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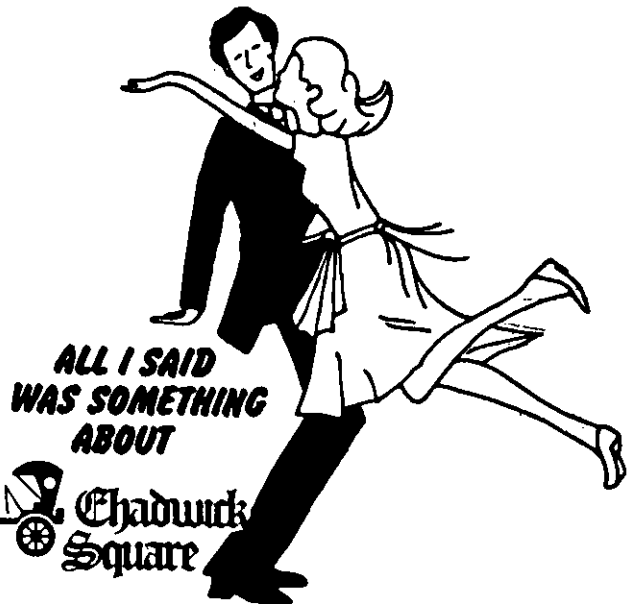
Whether you're looking for that hard to find gift for that special person or planning to dress-up your fireplace for the holidays...be sure to visit The Fireside Shop. Here are just a few of the many items available.

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Christmas Hours
Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. — 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.



The new leaders of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship are, standing from left, Julie Pelham, Lisa Clark and Sue Budzyna. Seated are Reed McEwan, treasurer; Matt Heineman, chairman; Lynda Stokoe, and Andy Hall. Not shown is John Budzyna.

Early music program

Music for viols, harpsichord, recorder, krummhorn, rebec, voice, guitar, and percussion will be heard in "A Holiday Program of Early Music" Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Library, 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

The unusual program of sacred and secular music from the 13th through the 18th Centuries features vocal and instrumental pieces by the well-known and the less-known: Bach, Handel, Scarlatti, Praetorius, Tobias

Hume, Diego Ortiz, and those ubiquitous Medieval and Renaissance composers named Traditional and Anonymous.

The music will be presented by three performers well-known to area concert-goers: Carole Friedman on harpsichord, Joan Mullen of Elsmere on voice, guitar, and treble viol, and Julian Cole on all of the others.

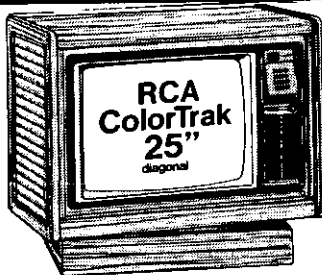
In training for Navy

Elizabeth A. McKone, daughter of Francis L. and Patricia McKone of 7 Concord Road, Glenmont, is participating in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) at Cornell University. She is a 1980 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School.



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Festive foods display

Look for delicious ideas to brighten the holiday season at "Festive Foods", a special display at the Bethlehem Public Library from Dec. 14 to January 2, on holiday foods to eat, give, or decorate with.

Pick up a list of books that contain "sinfully" delicious recipes for holiday feasts and get your copy of a booklet containing the Library staff's favorite holiday recipes.

Delmar doctor named

Dr. Thomas A. Caputo of Delmar has been named vice chairman of the upstate New York section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, an office he will hold for three years. He is a former chairman of the New York task force on gynecologic oncology. Dr. Caputo is chief of gynecologic oncology at Albany Medical College.



Approximately 300 women attended the 11th annual Christmas Interfaith Tea sponsored by the United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church in Delmar last week. More than 1,500 fancy sandwiches were prepared. At right, Molly Adkins pours tea. *Spotlight*



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The mysterious East: journey through time

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of three articles by Allison P. Bennett, well-known author and former town historian. Her most recent work is a book on Albany architecture.

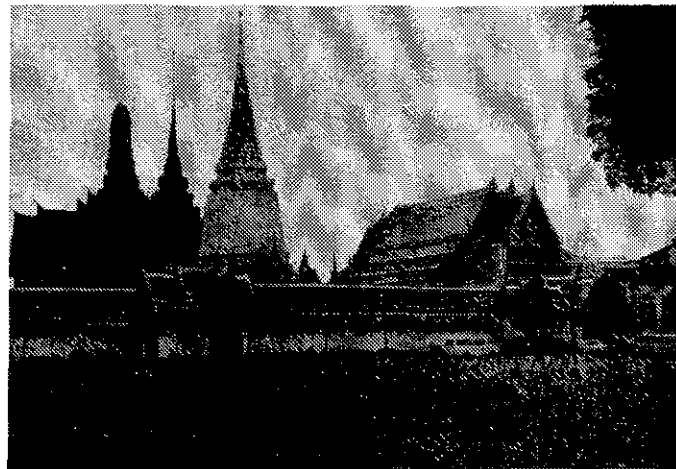
A tour to the Orient can really begin in San Francisco, with its own Chinatown and many interesting shops selling a variety of Oriental goods. That, at any rate, was how my husband and I began our three-week journey to the East to visit our daughter and her family.

This picturesque city with its Golden Gate Bridge spanning the huge bay is an inspiring sight to the outgoing or incoming traveler. The hulk of the Alcatraz sits like a battleship in the middle of San Francisco Bay — a grim fortress falling into decay that

has not become a tourist attraction.

Studding the Bay are numerous hump-backed islands, some of them sporting splendiferous homes hanging from the steep slopes. Across the Bay, the little town of Sausalito is one of America's treasure towns, alive with artists and galleries, and an abundance of gift shops and pleasure boats. The town has its share of mod types and old men trying to be mod and succeeding poorly, but it certainly is a town that exudes charm from its houses and hillsides.

Some of the homes actually are in the Bay — quite palatial homes floating on barrels, with their companion boat and sea plane tied up at the front door. In this way the owners avoid paying property taxes to the Marin County,



the wealthiest county in America, where the average price of a home is \$110,000. Here the weathered wooden homes cling to the steep hillsides in casual and expensive profusion, with their glorious outlook toward the skyscrapers of San Francisco. Hard as it is for an East Coaster to admit, this is a gorgeous residential and scenic area.

San Francisco is also the place for a take-off on a ten hour flight to Tokyo. That flight is not something to be enjoyed, but endured for the sake of crossing 5,300 miles of ocean with comparative ease. Upon reaching Tokyo there is always mass confusion with immigration and baggage, as busloads of tourists disembark.

The number of Japanese-Americans going to visit their homeland amazed us. Living on the East Coast, we do not realize the number of these people who reside in California and other Pacific Coast states. Many came here, or their parents before them, to raise fruits and vegetables in the sunny climate, because most Japanese have a natural affinity for gardening and a great love of nature. For some of these people it was their first trip ever back to Japan and they were taking a tour of the country, then going on to visit with relatives.

Narita Airport is located an hour and a half bus ride from central Tokyo's hotels. We stayed in a spectacular hotel that had a huge main building, plus a 40-story tower

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complex. It is a miniature city in itself, with several restaurants and a gigantic shopping arcade, all set beside a beautiful 10-acre Japanese-style garden and surrounded by an outer moat which originally enclosed the lands of a feudal lord of old Japan. The inner moat still surrounds the Royal Palace grounds in the heart of Tokyo, where the Emperor resides.

Our hotel room had its own doorbell and the corridors had piped-in music, and in the early morning the sounds of singing birds came over the system to greet you as you awaited the elevator to breakfast. Your pleasure is uppermost in the minds of the hospitable Japanese, and the room also was supplied with bedroom slippers and a freshly laundered kimono each day.

Dinner at the rooftop restaurant was spectacular, but Tokyo is conserving electricity and is not nearly as brightly lit as our American cities, with very little neon. However, as we ate dinner we could see electric-powered commuter trains pulling in and out through the city

lights, nearly every three minutes — they really have mass transit down to a science that we might do well to imitate.

The city of Tokyo itself is a huge sprawling complex of 11 million people, with the surrounding areas of Yokohama and Kawasaki populated by another 10 million. It is the world's largest metropolis in the area and second in population density, and it is an impressive blend of contrasts between traditions and technology.

Needless to say, people are packed in little houses and big apartment complexes everywhere, and their cars are tucked in the adjoining corners. The Japanese love their cars as much or more than we do and \$5,000 will buy one. The average wage in Japan is \$17 to \$18,000 per year and the people mostly buy their vehicles on the installment plan.

To say that Tokyo is overpopulated with cars is an understatement. The roads are choked with vehicles, even at a gasoline cost of over \$3 per gallon. The guides told us that most people use mass

transit for work and only take their cars out on weekends, but the traffic problems in Tokyo didn't collaborate those statements. Surely the Japanese expend more gasoline just sitting in traffic lines than they do going over the road.

Trucks are everywhere, thousands of them, moving the goods to both local and port markets. Producing goods is what the Japanese economy is all about. The workers are proud and industrious because they desire Japan to be a world leader.

All of this activity does not mean that the city of Tokyo is dirty however. In fact it is one of the cleanest we had seen, with very little litter of any

sort. There is no unemployment in Japan, because such people are put to work to travel about the streets with a little broom and dustbucket, sweeping up the cigarette butts dropped on the sidewalk. If the carbon monoxide doesn't get to the Japanese, cigarette smoke probably will, as they seem to enjoy using that weed very much. We need not speak of prices except to say that if you go to Japan expect to empty your purse. Our dollar is so devalued that a bottle of beer costs \$2.50 U.S., and a slice of muskmelon in that rooftop restaurant cost nearly \$5.00.

Allison P. Bennett

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LAYAWAY



George Mayers and his wife, Belle, share the honors at the reception held recently at the Child's Hospital.

George Mayers honored

George Mayers, who has retired after 20 years as executive director of the Childs Hospital in Albany, was recently honored by the hospital's board of directors at a special farewell reception.

A resident of Delmar, Mayers joined Child's in 1960, after having been Assis-

tant Director of Fox Memorial Hospital in Oneonta since 1955. He helped plan and execute Child's Hospital's move from inadequate quarters in downtown Albany to its present location on Hackett Boulevard, and guided the hospital's growth from its 1874 beginnings as a child care facility to its current

Holiday Homes

Candles glow in the window, rhododendrons shine green against the snow, a Christmas Card home in Colonial acres. \$119,900. For appt. 439-1348.

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Mayers was also instrumental in shaping the development of The Good Samaritan Center, which now includes the hospital itself; Child's Nursing Home; the Samaritan Service Corp., which provides shared medical and other services among other units of the complex; and a professional medical building. It also includes Nelson House, which is composed of residences for the well aged.

"George Mayers is a unique individual who has been able to successfully blend the needs and concerns of the hospital, patients, and the hospital's staff," said Child's board president William Conway. "Through his leadership and commitment to providing quality health care to the individual at Child's Hospital, he has made innumerable and lasting contributions to the growth and development of Child's and the welfare of this community and its citizens."

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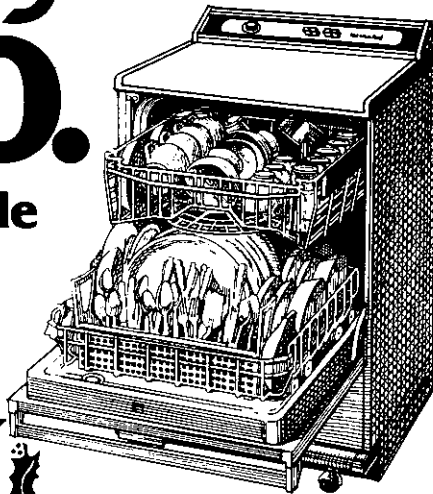
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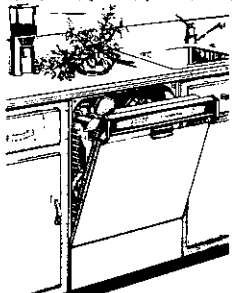
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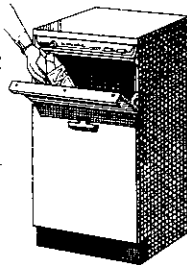
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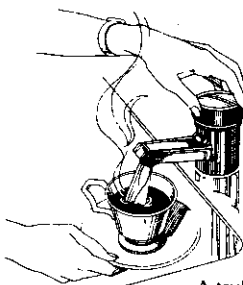
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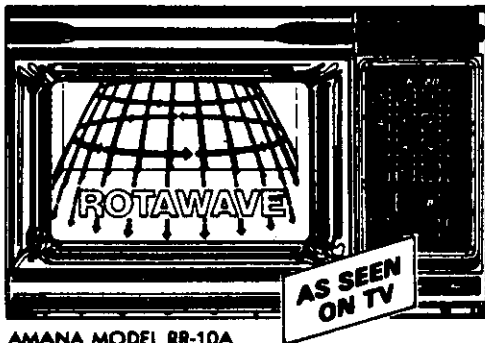
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 17, 1980 at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York to take action on application of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., P.O. Box 538, Allentown, Pennsylvania for a Special Exception under Article V of the Bethlehem Town Zoning Ordinance to permit the installation of a 20,000 gallon diesel fuel tank and a 10,000 gallon gasoline storage tank in addition to existing storage capacity at premises, Route 144, Glenmont, New York.

CHARLES B. FRITTS
Chairman
Board of Appeals
(Dec. 11)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 17, 1980 at 8:30 p.m. at the Town Offices, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York to take action on application of James E. Peterson and Rita Madrazo-Peterson, 55 Salisbury Road, Elsmere, New York for a Variance under Article VIII, Percentage of Lot Occupancy, of the Bethlehem Town Zoning Ordinance to permit the enclosure of an existing patio at premises, 55 Salisbury Road, Elsmere, Town of Bethlehem.

CHARLES B. FRITTS
Chairman
Board of Appeals
(Dec. 11)

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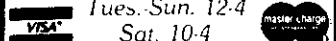


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By BETTY LENT

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For informed choice

Editor, The Spotlight:

It annoys me to find people supporting water fluoridation on the basis of half truths and partial information. In order to have educated opinions, one must be well read in all aspects of a subject. The Health Department has encouraged favorable reaction by promoting one side of the issue through the use of television commercials, presentations and printed literature paid for by our tax dollars.

There is another side, however, not as publicized because its finances must come from private individuals who

support such organizations as the New York State Coalition Opposing Fluoridation, Fluoridation News and The National Health Federation. Their objective is to aid in the education of the public concerning the hazards of fluoridation. Their goal is to show, through publications and research, that (1) fluoridation is not always effective, (2) it is not safe for every segment of the population and (3) it is not beneficial for most people.

Information about water fluoridation is available at the reference desk in the Bethlehem Public Library. Only after hearing all views can a person make an educated judgement, thereby insuring the continuance of our democratic process.

MaryLou Schulz

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Sargent explains vote

Editor, The Spotlight:

If a legislator is to do his job conscientiously as an elected official certainly one of his most important decisions is his vote on the budget each year. In most municipalities, including the counties surrounding Albany County, there are certain accepted procedures used to review the budget. One is to have department heads appear before the standing committees or the full legislative body to answer questions and discuss their requests. Even in Albany County this was done in past years, but not in 1980.

As an alternative, it has long been the contention of the Republican minority that each of the standing committees of the county legislature should review the budget of each department responsible to it under our own Rules of Order, with the department head. This was not done.

On Oct. 14 the county legislature designated the Finance Committee to review the budget and report back to the legislature. In its report to the legislature on Nov. 15, this committee stated, "The members of the reviewing committee have over the past several week's, diligently reviewed the proposed budget." The reviewing committee must have been a sub-committee of the finance committee since the minority members of the finance committee had their first opportunity to discuss the county executive's budget with the entire committee on Dec. 3 at 4 p.m.

This was the same day that the revised legislative budget, which included substantial changes, was handed out for discussion, again without any opportunity to discuss items with any department heads. It was then voted by this same finance committee, with the two minority members dissenting, to recommend the adoption of this budget by the legislature at the meeting on the evening of Dec. 4.

On just the procedural basis alone, on which this

budget has been handled I could not, in good conscience, vote for it. How any committee legislators could vote for this document of over 260 pages which had substantial changes from the County Executive's budget, with only twenty-four hours to review it, is beyond me!

Edward H. Sargent, Jr.
Delmar

Questions zoning story

Editor, The Spotlight:

I am writing in response to the article by Phyllis Banucci in the Dec. 4 issue of the *Spotlight* entitled "Planners mull Glenmont zoning." As a representative of over 300 interested and concerned citizens from Glenmont, I accompanied Mr. Scanlan to the Planning Board meeting to discuss our petition.

While most of the article reported the events of the meeting accurately, some information was omitted or stated in such a manner as to give the readers an inaccurate impression of the proceedings.

For example, it has been our impression that Paul Hite, the land surveyor quoted, has some business association with Mr. Zautner, who wants to build 4-family apartments on Feura Bush Rd. and is currently contesting the refusal of an exception to "A" zoning. The *Spotlight* article omitted mention of this relationship and erroneously implied that Mr. Hite presented an unbiased opinion. Also, the meeting of the Planning Board was not a public hearing. Mr. Scanlan made a statement as chairman of the Glenmont citizen's committee. While the Planning Board graciously allowed Mr. Hite to speak, it is quite inaccurate to infer that his statements were official testimony.

Another example of misinformation is the out-of-context quote from John Flanigan, town building inspector. Mr. Flanigan appeared to me to be mulling the complexities of the situation and certainly made no definite

statement concerning single or multiple-family housing.

The citizens of Glenmont have been impressed with the town's willingness to listen to us and to study the many facets of housing and planning. It concerns me that inaccurate reporting can give readers the view that the town has already decided and that citizen interests have been cast aside. Perhaps my recollections will help set the record straight.

Susan R. Filipp

Glenmont

Land surveyors such as Hite regularly represent builders before the appeals board. In this case, Hite made it clear he was speaking only as a citizen. The quote attributed to Flanagan is accurate and in context. Ed.

Halloween reply

Editor, The Spotlight:

Well, it looks as if I hit a nerve with the people of Delmar when I dared speak out against Halloween! (Is this in the same category as apple pie and mother?)

Maybe if I lived in your neighborhood and you lived in mine, we'd both feel differently. So, until you've walked a mile in my moccasins, don't pass judgement. Scrooge, by the way, was a penny-pinching old miser who took advantage of his employees.

As for my childhood, it was happy — sorry about that. We kids went out on Thanksgiving morning to do our "begging". We wore old clothes, did not do tricks, and were home by noon to eat our loot and our turkey dinner. Maybe this made me the "poor unfortunate soul" that I am.

Name withheld

Hearing aid appeal

Editor, The Spotlight:

This letter is an appeal to your readers for discarded hearing aids.

For the past five years a group of three people, including an audiologist, from Ontario, Canada, have made an annual pilgrimage to the

Caribbean island of St. Vincent to test hearing impaired children and adults. If they can benefit from amplification, they are fitted with a hearing aid.

The time has arrived for this program to be extended to other West Indian countries as the need to help their hearing impaired is equally great.

We would ask your readers to dig out any old or discarded hearing aids and mail them to:

Canadian International
Hearing Services

c/o 375 Kinsey

Kenmore, New York 14217

All contributions will be acknowledged and receipts will be issued for all cash contributions.

Thank you for 'hearing' our appeal of the hearing impaired children of the West Indies.

Ken and Pat Hamilton

Thanks to rescue squad

Editor, The Spotlight:

We would like to publicly commend and thank the Delmar Rescue Squad. On Saturday, (Nov. 22), our 80-year-old father was suddenly taken deathly sick while at our house on Winne Rd. My wife prayed while I called the emergency number.

I had hardly replaced the phone on the hook — so it seemed — and they were there. Paramedics, a police officer, drivers — the whole crew. They administered oxygen and spent a good 40 minutes or more ministering to him before bringing him to Albany Med.

It is a privilege to live in a community where there is such selfless, dedicated, life-giving service available. Our thanks to the Delmar Rescue Squad — a fantastic group of skilled volunteers. We hope that when fund raising time comes around many will support this fine organization. It is needed. We know.

Alan and Margery Hoffman
Delmar

In Voorheesville, the Spotlight is sold at the Grand Union and Voorheesville Pharmacy.



Community Corner

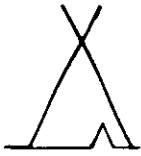
Music to your ears

This is the season to sing out joyfully, a time when good cheer is as important as good harmony. For those who wish to celebrate Christmas as it was known centuries ago, Old Songs is presenting "Nowell Sing We Clear" Sunday at St. Mark's Community Center in Guilderland Center. For the modern caroler, the Chamber Singers of the College of Saint Rose will be singing in the Southwood area of Slingerlands Monday at 8 p.m.

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

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Thank you so much Gloria Stevens and all of the lovely people who have helped to make my wife a healthier and happier woman."

Frank Almeida

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