

Joy's Back... Grateful to Hospital

By JOY CHALONE

Ithaca — The "Fighting Spirit" of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, is a story worth reporting. I was recently a patient there, being a victim of several broken bones and head lacerations resulting from a serious auto accident nearby. The expert clinical treatment given was hard to imagine, knowing this hospital was just recovering from the flood. X-rays traction equipment, dedicated long working doctors, nurses, sisters, students, even the cleaning and cafeteria staff, plus plain "tender loving care" was something one could hardly imagine. Yet, it was all there.

St. Joseph's is still struggling daily to get back in full swing from the flood that destroyed all its washing machines, dishwashers and ruining or maiming much of its central supply equipment. Yet — a patient would never know it.

After 2½ days of intensive care I was pronounced well enough for a semiprivate room on the orthopedic floor. I soon learned I was a "real person" to them and quickly learned all the nurses' names. Many of them will remain long lasting friends and I'll never forget any of them.

I'll never forget the day my plastic surgeon said, "Yes, Joy, you can wash your hair," after I had pestered him every day for the last week. Three nurses volunteered immediately and I was treated "royally" with a shampoo in bed, as I am bed bound in traction (a long tedious method of straightening and healing bones and clinically the best way). A plastic sheet was laid under my head, towels around and my own lovely receptacle for washing my hands in — a sterilized bed pan! What more could one ask for? It worked beautifully and I soon had

clean hair after much laughing, scrubbing and a little spilled water.

Every nurse on all three shifts is etched in my memory.

My doctor, God bless him, put up with my endless questions concerning my injuries. Each day he entered my room with a grin and "we" would tackle my imminent problems from medication, traction equipment, aching back, itchy spots, mental attitude and the pain that goes along with such injuries. The atmosphere at St. Joe's is "come on, we're not going to let it get

you down." The Sisters were like mothers to me, caring for those little details that mothers are made for and the visiting priests more than cared for any spiritual needs and served as somebody to talk to.

I left St. Joseph's after five weeks, my bones being set enough to withstand the ambulance journey to Ithaca so I could be near my home. I have to be hospitalized at least until Christmas, but am planning on reporting Ithaca area news from now on — as per usual.

I'm at Tompkins County Hospital, room 241, telephone in my hospital room is 273-2556. Anyone with news should contact me there.

I want to thank Lilla Licht for pinch hitting for me.

Panel on Aged At Glen Church

Watkins Glen — On Nov. 1, St. Mary's Guild sponsored a panel on the "Care and Needs of the Aged" at St. Mary's of the Lake Church here. The guest speakers were Katherine Possee, from the Public Health Agency; Kathryn R. Doqittle, director of the State Department of Social Services of Schuyler County; Mrs. Pauline Dennison, director of the Schuyler County Senior Citizens Group; and Rev. Alton Stivers, rector of the St. James Episcopal Church here.

Mrs. Neil E. LeRoux, secretary, reports that the speakers concentrated on explaining the various social and governmental programs and services available, and illustrating the county's need for nursing and boarding homes for the elderly.

There are more than 1,800 citizens in Schuyler County over 65, with half of them over 75. Rev. Stivers informed the group that a "Meals on Wheels" program would begin within the next few weeks.



The St. Dominic children's choir in rehearsal.

The Torch Is Passed And Choir Carries On.

Shortsville — Although losing its founder, director, and "spark," the Children's Choir at St. Dominic's here is still performing. The thanks go to Tim Mattice, a senior at Red Jacket Central.

The choir was started last year by Mrs. David LaBarge, who moved away recently. Determined not to lose the choir, Tim took over its direction. Children from grades 3-8 practice three times a month to sing at the Children's Mass, at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

If numbers are any indication of the group's popularity, one would have to say the choir is widely appreciated. Many people come to hear and join the children singing, and the choir itself often has as many as 40

children. The children sing both new songs and the familiar hymns.

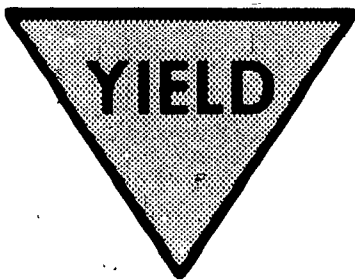
Tim plays the guitar, loves music and children, and is assisted by another Red Jacket senior, Karen Harkenrider. Both Karen and Tim are teachers in St. Dominic's CCD program. Classes are held after the Children's Mass.

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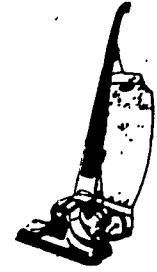
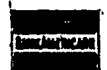


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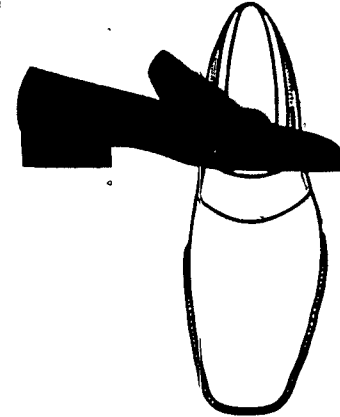
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