

Mrs. John P. Doyle, Sister Joan Alice and Mrs. Winfield C. Boehler.

## Auxiliary Donates \$10,000 to Hospital

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — A check for \$10,000 was recently presented to Sister Joan Alice, administrator of Mercy Hospital and Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center by the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary. The money will be used towards the erection of greenhouses on the penthouse floor that houses the patient rest and craft area.

Retiring auxiliary president Mrs. Winfield C. Boehler made the presentation at the annual brunch given by Sister Joan Alice to honor the auxiliary.

In the main address, Dr. Simon Markind, director of Medical services, focused on the various

### Moravia Rosarians Elect Officers

Moravia — Nidia Calvo, a Costa Rican exchange student attending Moravia Central School, gave a slide presentation on her country at the January supper meeting of the St. Patrick Rosary and Altar Society.

The society elected the following officers: Pauline McGuerty, president; Ruth Bilinski, vice president; Irene Neal, secretary, and Patricia O'Connell, treasurer.

A donation for CCD and other parish purposes was reported. In a Christmas project, the women of St. Patrick's provided 15 gift packages and \$40 for the orphanage run by the Rochester St. Joseph Sisters in Selma, Ala.

### Auburn Area Notes

Port Byron — The public is invited to an open house at St. John's Church, Sunday, Feb. 4 from 3 to 5 p.m. to mark the third anniversary of the fund drive for the parish hall. A service will be held in the church at 2:30 p.m.

Waterloo — The Rosary Altar Society of St. Mary's installed new officers, Jan. 18. These included: Mrs. Jane O'Mara, president; Mrs. Helen Ferugia, first vice president; Mrs. Joyce Burke, second vice president; Mrs. Joanne Barczynski, secretary; Mrs. Frances Pontius, treasurer.

Clyde — A charter bus will leave Clyde April 5 for Washington D.C. and will return April 8. The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and other Washington landmarks will be visited. Interested persons contact Margaret Colasurdo, 172 Lock St., Clyde.

Courier-Journal

# Public School Nurse Fired For Letting Kids Meditate

Mineola (CPF) — A new chapter in the separation of church and state story was written here recently when a public high school nurse was dismissed because she allowed her office to be used for morning "meditations" by a group of students.

The nurse, Mrs. June Allen, has protested the dismissal, claiming her action was a "professional" decision.

"I felt it was necessary to (the students') well-being," she said in her defense. "If it made the school day a little better for them, having this time to meditate, why should it matter to me or the school?"

Her actions, however, led to charges that she was guilty of violating the First Amendment and was "insubordinate." Her district superintendent and her school board chose to refuse to grant Mrs. Allen tenure, although she was just a month shy of completing her probationary period.

## Career Lectures Prove Hit

Seneca Falls — St. Patrick's School's monthly lecture demonstration series encouraging 7th and 8th grade students to explore a variety of careers, diversity of interests and professions available in the area, is in full swing and well-received by the students, according to Sister Eileen Regina, Principal at St. Patrick's.

"This program was initiated in September to see if we could spark enthusiasm within the youngsters for different fields — industry, art, cultural activities," explained Sister Eileen Regina. "We live in a well-knit community with an abundance of creative people and a variety of facilities that should be tapped in order to help develop the potential of our students by exposing them to both cultural advantages and the variety of potential career opportunities."

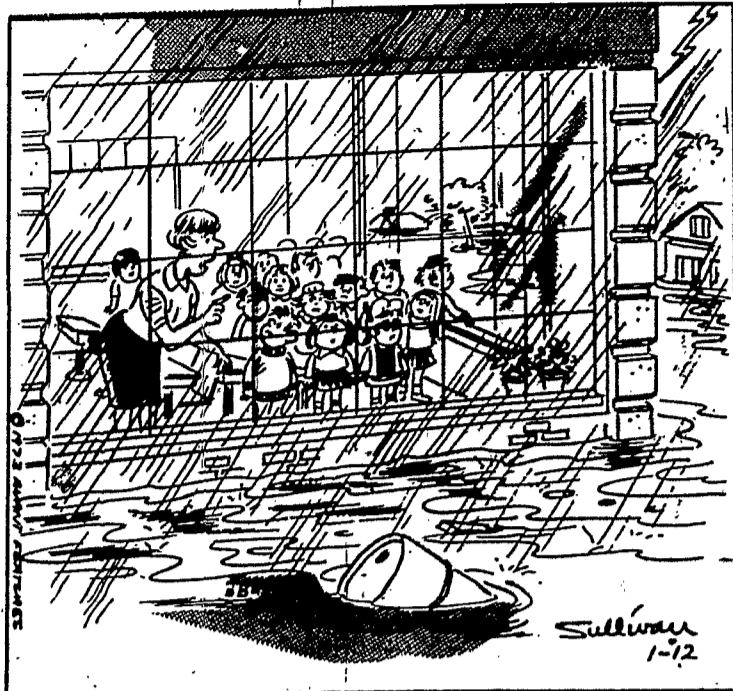
January lecture demonstration highlights included Army career openings for men and women. Another feature was a demonstration of jazz techniques such as syncopation and riffs by the Mynderse Academy Jazz Ensemble directed by John Fleming.

Michael Nozzolio, a student at Cornell's School of Industrial Relations and a participant in the recent national presidential campaign, discussed the student's role in political life and career opportunities in government service. Seneca County 4-H representative, Mrs. William Niles, talked with students about 4-H projects and how membership can lead to career openings.

"These experiences seem to be showing in their classroom work as they become enthusiastic about what future programs will be. We have found some of the students have picked up hobbies on their own, especially in the 'followup' once a month series," commented Sister Eileen Regina.

"Followup" once a month sessions include acrobatic and modern dance routines with Mrs. Angelo Lucchesi; knitting and crocheting with Mrs. John Conucci; an art workshop with Mrs. Gabriel Lombardo; craft projects with Mrs. Edward Zmuda, and grooming and poise with Mrs. Michael Schaertl.

In addition to the school-based lecture-demonstrations, field trips to Eisenhower College enable interested students to tour the college's television facilities and the drama department.



"UNTIL WE'RE RESCUED, YOU CAN SING, DANCE, PLAY GAMES, TALK... BUT WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T PRAY."

She admitted that she had allowed a group of six students — she did not join them — to use her office for silent meditation when it became too cold for the group to hold their meditations outside. The meditations do not include vocal prayers.

In her defense, Mrs. Allen insisted she had not broken any state law on church-state separation, and pointed to provisions in the New York State education law that she said permitted "a brief period of silent meditation" at the beginning of the school day.

One of the students who had used Mrs. Allen's office, a 16-year-old junior, named Susan Doherty, was reported as saying:

"We just felt it would be good to have a devotional together. I don't think we were doing anything wrong."

At a school board meeting where the decision was announced not to grant tenure to Mrs. Allen, the board's president denied that she was being dismissed on the religious issue but

because of "her inability to follow direction."

A number of Mrs. Allen's supporters who attended the meeting demanded to know the reasons for her dismissal, but the board president responded that their decision was based on "her over-all performance" and that the board "would not debate this publicly or discuss issues."

Miss Doherty said following the school board meeting that the students planned to investigate if there was some legal action they could take on behalf of the nurse.

The meditations in her office normally lasted about ten minutes each.

They needed a place to go," said Mrs. Allen. "I helped them just as I would any student who needed it."

The treasurer of the Mineola Teachers Association reported that a notice of arbitration would be filed with the New York State Employment Relations Board, which was expected to hold a hearing on the case.

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