

Loe D'Audiffret [at left], stops to help Alice Folts with her sewing while volunteers [above], tidy up after lunch. From left are Hope Vierhile, Anne Smith, Eileen Loehr and Charlotte Davis. All look like they're having a good time.

NAC — Providing Service to Seniors

Photos by Susan McKinney
Text by Sharon Damieder

Naples — The Naples Activity Center (NAC), which caters to the needs of senior citizens, has recently added another service to its already long list.

The NAC, an ecumenical community project administered through the Naples Council of Churches, has achieved one of its goals — that of providing hot meals for the aging on a regular basis through federal funds provided by Title VII, a national nutrition, recreational and service program for the elderly.

The program was introduced to Ontario County through NAC personnel and sponsors, and it's mainly through the efforts of Adolphe (Dee) D'Audiffret, one of the NAC's staunchest supporters, and his wife, Loe that the program began in Naples.

Since its inception here in April, it has spread elsewhere in the county to Canandaigua, Geneva, etc.

Counties were told late last year through the state that federal funds were available for the Title VII program, but through a series of misunderstandings the

money wasn't picked up by Ontario County.

The program in use in Naples now is under the sponsorship of the Steuben County Economic Opportunity Program, Inc., Bath. But D'Audiffret expressed hope that an Ontario County sponsor could be found in the future.

The NAC meets each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to recreational and craft activities, lunch is served.

(In other county areas where Title VII is in operation, meals are served as often as six times a week.)

Until the beginning of the program, the Naples Council of Churches used to pay for all meals. However, now Title VII pays for those who are over 60 while the Naples Council of Churches continues to pay for those under 60, and also provides craft supplies for those who come.

The council consists of the First Presbyterian Church, St. Januarius Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church.

The NAC, started by the Rev. Thomas Drake, former minister

for the Naples First Presbyterian Church, is in its second year.

Its purpose is to respond in a unified, coordinated manner to the needs of the elderly and socially handicapped in the southern portion of Ontario County.

Since the NAC began in January, 1973, a regular weekly program which included socialization therapy, counseling opportunities and the development of personal skills has been in operation.

In April, the NAC underwent a major expansion of its services, including the Title VII program and branching into weekly Thursday sessions.

About 45 to 50 people attend the sessions in the Naples Fire Hall. In addition to Naples residents, outpatients from Willard, Rochester and Newark state hospitals, and the Veterans Hospital, Canandaigua, also come.

D'Audiffret and NAC personnel have hopes of expanding their meetings in the future, as more people continue to show up.

Volunteers help serve the food and supervise participants at meetings. In addition, professional staff personnel from some of the hospitals are on hand.

The D'Audiffrets, both 71, have enjoyed immensely their participation in the NAC and the community.

"We couldn't get along without our volunteers," said Mrs. D'Audiffret. "They're so good and so helpful."

D'Audiffret, who's one of two lay members along with pastor Father Robert Smith representing St. Januarius on the Naples Council of Churches, said he felt that the NAC, and particularly the Title VII program, has been very helpful.

The D'Audiffrets came to Naples six years ago after he retired from the construction business near Columbus, Ohio.

"Years ago I used to work for a contractor in Ithaca," he said, "and I was over in this area quite a bit. I liked it."

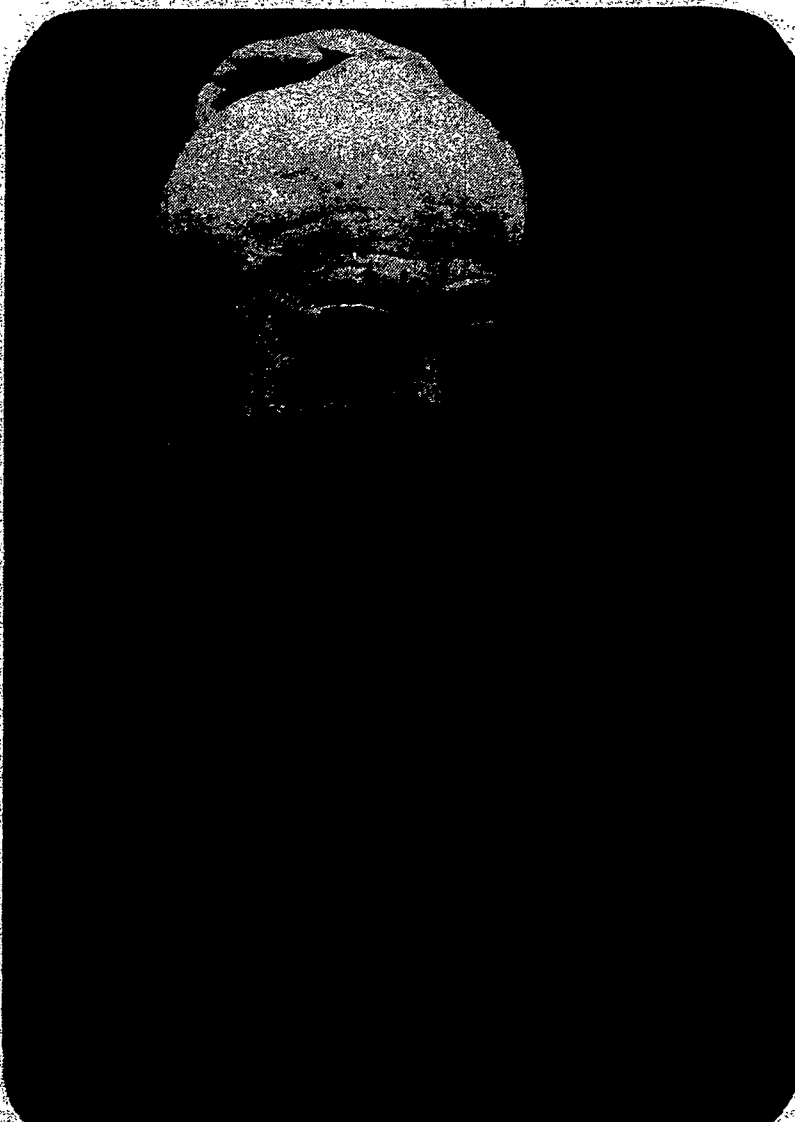
After his retirement, it was a tossup whether they would move to Naples or Mexico.

"Naples won," he said, "and we're very happy here."

And NAC personnel and volunteers agree that they're very happy to have the D'Audiffrets among them.



Deborah Schultz — a penny for your thoughts.



Maude Semans gives serious attention to her next move.



Adolphe D'Audiffret [left], Mary Sherwood and Loe D'Audiffret glance over some paper work for the NAC. When the program first started, Mrs. Sherwood took care of cooking and serving the meals in addition to helping in other ways.