

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

Sobering Up Stations . . . Are They Worth It?

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Sobering up stations were established at the beginning of 1976 in response to the new state law that made public intoxication a non-arrest offense. In its place, sobering up stations were established to provide a place for intoxicated persons to sober up with proper medical supervision.

Jeffery Weyrauch of the Elmira Psychiatric Center spoke to the monthly seminar of the Southern Tier Alcoholism Rehabilitation Service at St. Joseph's Hospital on the effectiveness of the first eight months of the Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben County sobering up station that the psychiatric center operates.

Since Jan. 1, Weyrauch said, the center has had 100 admissions, 65 of whom were from Chemung County. Weyrauch noted that only seven have come from Steuben and theorized that distance prevents the police departments

from bringing intoxicated persons to the station. He said that the police could be either taking the person home, a possibility provided for in the law, or arresting the intoxicated person for some other offense, such as trespassing.

Weyrauch noted that the number of admissions—only about three per week—makes the operation of the program expensive, with the cost running at more than \$100 per admission.

Intoxicated persons are taken first to St. Joseph's Hospital for a physical, and then given a bed for the night and breakfast in the morning. If the staff feels that a person could be dangerous to himself, others, or property, the center can detain the intoxicated person for up to 24 hours.

Costs for the program are paid by the state, Weyrauch said. He noted that he felt the concept of the program was a good one, but he questioned the expense of maintaining the facilities for so few admissions.

Food Stamp Task Force Organized in Schuyler

BY MARTIN TOOMBS

Montour Falls — Increasing participation in the food stamp program in Schuyler County has become the goal of a group of local residents and social-action workers concerned with the current situation.

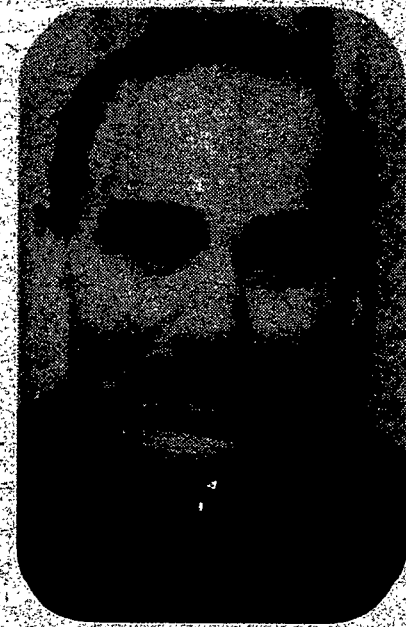
"Schuyler County seems to have missed out on everything," was the conclusion of Glen Gazetti, worker for the State Senior Action Council, when he heard about the situation in the county.

Efforts to correct that are now under way. The task force is attempting to identify the specific problems in the county, and the methods to be used to correct them. Gazetti, who has worked in food stamp outreach in several Upstate New York counties, spoke to the task force at the Rural-Urban Center here Thursday.

Task Force members include Father Neil Miller and Sister Mary Kruckow of the Office of Human Development, Sister Mary of St. Mary's, Watkins Glen, John Turnbull, Schuyler County VISTA volunteer, and Bernard Morris, RSVP director for Schuyler County.

Father Miller has been convenor for the group. He noted that an outreach program in Chemung County has been very successful, and he feels a similar effort is needed in Schuyler County.

Statistics for Schuyler County seem to indicate that there are people in the county who are eligible for food stamps but not receiving them. Figures released by



FATHER MILLER

more than 2,300 county residents now. The result indicates that there may be more than 1,600 persons in the county who are eligible for food stamps but not receiving them.

Gazetti also explained how the food stamp program works, noting the benefits both in nutrition to low income persons and the assistance it provides both the local and national agricultural economy. He pointed out that it is hard to be against the program when people understand it, as it provides the necessity of food to those unable to provide suitable nutrition for themselves.

John Turnbull, VISTA volunteer in Schuyler County, related problems that he has encountered while helping local families register for food stamps. He said that a delay of three or four weeks for an appointment just to fill out the food stamp application is not unusual. He noted that the county food stamp office, staffed by only one person, often then takes another month after the appointment to notify families of the decision.

Gazetti emphasized that education of both those who are eligible for food stamps and of the county legislators who control the local administration of the program is important.

The task force also established committees, and began to plan a training seminar to bring together as many persons as possible from the local community to learn more about food stamps.

the Schuyler County Department of Social Services reveal 1,848 persons in the county below the poverty level in 1970. Current estimates place the figure perhaps 500 higher, according to Patricia Meehan, who is the food stamp worker for the county. The April 1976 food stamp report for Schuyler County states that 645 people in the county received food stamps, according to Gazetti.

A conservative figure for food stamp eligibility can be computed from the number of poverty level persons, Gazetti said. Using the 1970 figure of 1,848 persons, the formula would predict eligibility for



Children from St. Mary's School, Auburn, bring leaves for the Tree of Life during the Offertory of a Mass celebrating the opening of the school.

302 Enroll at St. Mary's

BY MARY ANN GINNERTY
Auburn — St. Mary's School year began with an enrollment of 302 students and a staff of 26, according to Sister Judith Whalen, principal.

The theme of the year, resulting from recent goal-setting sessions, is to help develop and encourage positive attitudes in the students, focus on improving their image, relationships with others and to have positive attitudes toward learning.

Among programs to encourage the cooperative spirit, junior high students have volunteered to assist the primary grades with books and

coats before and after school. Eighth grade students work with younger students, either as tutors or by presenting shows for them. The "show and tell" tradition will have a new name: "share and tell" to lessen competitiveness.

Sister Judith announced the hot lunch program will continue for all students. Applications for those qualifying for reduced costs should be filed now.

Newly elected co-presidents of St. Mary's Home/School Association are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Powers.

A Mass commemorating the opening of school was held September 20.

SOUTHERN TIER NEWS

Martin Toombs
Oakwood Terrace B-1
West 13th St.
Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903
607-732-3371

AUBURN-GENEVA
Mary Ann Ginnerty
294 1/2 South Street Road
Auburn, N.Y. 13021
315-253-2176

A. W. BRILBY & SON
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News Notes And Gatherings

SCRIPTURE SUNDAY

Elmira — An afternoon of adult religious education focusing on Scripture will be sponsored by PACE, the Chemung-Schuyler adult education committee, at St. Patrick's Junior High Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. The program currently calls for a keynote speaker to precede seminars on the relationship of scripture to various topics.

CAYUGA CHURCH WOMEN

Auburn — Church Women United of Cayuga County will meet at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday Oct. 6, at First Presbyterian Church on South Street. Mrs. Marjorie Banks of the Syracuse UN Office will show slides on how UNICEF is helping children throughout the world.

PARISH MISSION

Elmira — Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will have a Parish Mission beginning Sunday, Oct. 3 and ending Sunday, Oct. 10, given by Passionist Father Julian Connor. Sunday services will be at 4:30 p.m., weekday at 7:30 p.m., with a morning Mass at 11:15.

ROSARY RALLY

Elmira Heights — The Southern Tier Curia of the Legion of Mary is sponsoring a "Rosary Rally" at St. Charles Borromeo Church Sunday, Oct. 3 at 4 p.m. All Catholics are invited.

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