

# Housing Foundation Notes Banner Year

The Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation, the diocesan-sponsored housing agency, reported last Thursday that 1976-77 was its most successful year so far.

In her "President's Report" Eleanor K. Bluhm stated that "through our Home-Ownership program alone, we have helped more families than in the past three years combined." Other foundation committees reported similar success.

The annual meeting was held at St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street. Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Social Ministry, opened the meeting with a prayer and was followed by committee reports and the election of new board members.

Besides doubling the amount of loans and grants for deserving families the 1976-77 year featured the contact with other housing agencies in the 12 county area, a successful Housing Day (in both Rochester and

Elmira), and the initiation of a "thorough examination of possible directions for future development," according to Ms. Bluhm.

The Foundation's Education Committee, headed by Georgia T. DeGregorio, reported that the major goal for the past year has been "encouraging communication and cooperation between parishes and community organizations interested in housing needs."

Their efforts are beginning to pay off as, for example, members of the Southeast Regional Assembly and the Southeast Home Improvement Program (SHIP) are planning to work together on future projects.

The Home-Ownership Committee, led by George D. Entz, reported that the foundation received 59 applications "to either buy or save a home," a "marked increase." Loan and grant approvals totaled nearly \$28,000, almost double last year's total.

### The Project-Review

Before I came across the author of that bit I learned that "Humor is a drug which it's the fashion to abuse." (William Schwenck Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan fame.)

Another author of note decided that humor isn't very humorous: "The secret source of humor itself is not joy but sorrow. There is no humor in heaven." (Mark Twain.)

And at the opposite end of the spectrum from Twain is this observation from Thomas Carlyle, which offers a far more indulgent view of the human personality: "True humor springs not more from the head than from the heart; it is not contempt, its essence is love; it issues not in laughter, but in still smiles, which lie far deeper."

And the name of the fellow (it had to be a man) who started me on the hunt originally?

None other than that chronic cynic Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde.

Committee, headed by Lewis A. Childs, "assigned a committee member to work closely with all applicants" and have begun to "update the status of those projects previously funded."

The second annual Housing Day was a great success. Cushing Dolbeare, executive secretary of the National Rural Housing Coalition spoke in Elmira and later in Rochester April 21. In Rochester she joined Msgr. Geno Baroni, assistant secretary of HUD, to speak on "A Decent Home - Who Can Afford It."



Eleanor Bluhm, Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation president, and Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Social Ministry, listen to committee reports during their annual meeting.

Three new members were elected to the Board of Directors: Richard Crossed, who spent five years with UDC, John Salter, director of the Office of Human Development, and Father

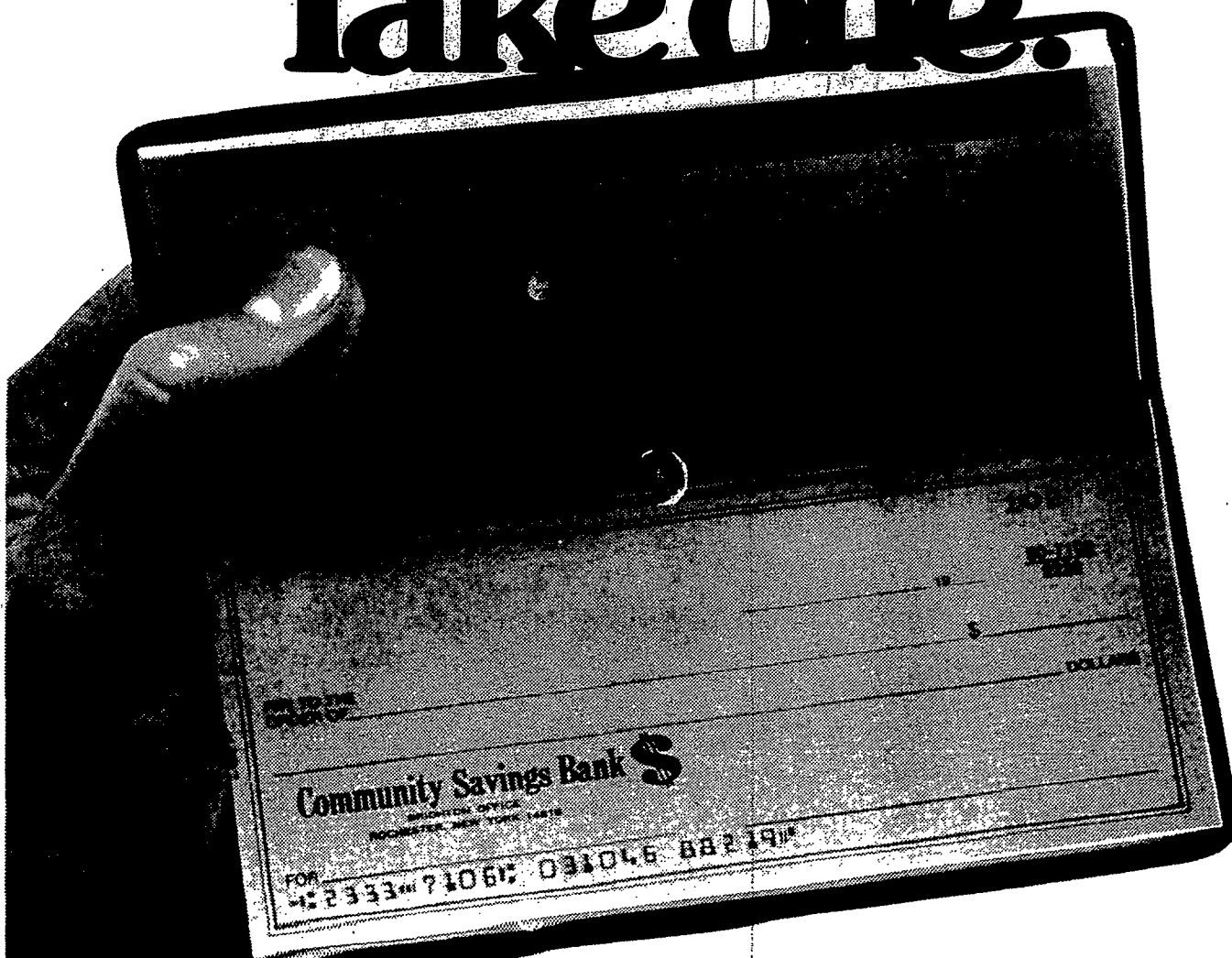
William Spilly, assistant director of OHD. Executive Committee members are Eleanor Bluhm, Georgia DeGregorio, John Salter and Victor Hadeed.

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### ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

Syndicated columnist Sydney Harris utilizes as a regular feature (appearing irregularly) something he calls "Things I learned upon the way to looking up other things."

In a variation of Mr. Harris' experience I am always discovering quotations on my way to checking out half-remembered other quotes.

Most recently, the phrase in question which sent me scurrying to the Bartlett's was the following:

"Nothing spoils a romance so much as a sense of humor in the woman."

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