

# St. Joseph's Dedicates Spe



Elmira—St. Joseph's Hospital dedicated its specialized Burn Services Area Dec 18, after five years of planning and a year of construction.

The Burn Unit will provide sophisticated care for burn victims in the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania.

The \$300,000, four-bed unit, located on the second floor of the hospital, is the result of a \$206,500 Appalachian Regional Commission grant, and \$70,000 raised by local fire departments.

Hospital officials were surprised by the dedication's attendance, which caused them to move the crowd of 300 to classrooms in the nursing school.

To officially open the unit, a three-inch fire hose was cut by a Hurst Tool, known as the "Jaws of Life," a piece of rescue equipment, in honor of the support given the unit by local firefighters.

The dedication also marked the opening of the hospital's Respect Life Week.

Father Cyril Guise, hospital chaplain, noted in his benediction the "reverence for life" involved in such a specialized care facility, and he prayed for the "blessing and protection of the firefighters who risk their lives to save the victims of fire."

Dr. Bertram E. Bromberg, retired head of the Kings County Hospital, New York City, Burn Unit, was the featured speaker.

He had been asked by Sister Marie Michael, St. Joseph's assistant administrator, to help the hospital get approval for the unit, he reported. He noted that one of the things he was asked to comment on was the abilities of the unit's doctors, Drs. James Marshall and James Sonsire. He noted that he could easily say that they are "trained thoroughly in the area," as he had trained them.

Dr. Bromberg detailed the need for specialized burn treatment, and noted that Dr. Marshall and Dr. Sonsire were involved in the research that resulted in some of the techniques that are being used on burn victims. He noted that only three hospitals in Upstate New York have more burn patients than St. Joseph's, which will have about 70 burn patients this year.

Bromberg also noted the community support, which he said was demonstrated by the large turn out at the dedication, also was an important factor in the unit's establishment.

Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, noted that the hospital has provided a sophisticated burn care for the past two years, during which time the goal has been to provide the community with a

... AND ORGANIZATIONS  
 WHOSE FINANCIAL SUPPORTS RESULTED IN  
 PROVIDING THIS FACILITY.  
 IN BEHOLDING  
 THOSE WHO WILL PASS THROUGH THIS  
 BURN SERVICE AREA AS RECIPIENTS  
 OF CARE  
 THANK YOU  
 ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL



Dr. Bertram Bromberg, the keynote speaker for the dedication.



Sister Martha Gersbach, St. Joseph's administrator, listens as Judge Daniel J. Donahue, chairman of the hospital board of directors, notes the importance of the new facility.



To mark the opening, a fire hose was cut by a Hurst Tool, a "jaws of life." Watching are, from left, Dr. James Marshall, head of the unit, Sister Martha, Dr. Bromberg, and Smokey the Bear, while members of local fire departments do the cutting. Judge Donahue is watching over the firefighters' shoulders.