



Photos by Martin Toombs

The seventh and eighth grades at Immaculate Conception School in Ithaca sought to show how "Everyone Grows" through history in skits presented during the school's observance of Catholic Schools Week. An 1890s classroom, (left) showed

the differences and the similarities with schools now. The 1920s were a time for the Charleston (center). A highlight of the 1950s was Elvis Presley (right), with the school's science and physical education teacher, Anthony Marks, playing Elvis.

**But Instruction Continues**

**Flooding Problems Cause Disruption**

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca—Immaculate Conception School students are seeing the sun rise each day, and getting home in time for lunch on the school's new schedule which resulted from flood damage to Ithaca High School.

For the past five weeks residents on Ithaca's northside have been battling flood waters from ice-jammed Fall Creek. Ithaca High School has been closed by the flooding; school administrators don't expect to be able to use the

building again this year. As a result, the district's junior high programs have been located at the Dewitt School on a split schedule, and the high school students are attending classes at Boynton Junior High, adjacent to the high school.

In addition to the school properties, more than 50 homes have been affected by the high water. Residents have been operating pumps around the clock, trying to prevent further damage to their homes. Sister Raymond Mary Davis, Immaculate Conception principal, noted that one family in the school has been battling the water

around their home for five weeks.

As Immaculate Conception and the high school are the only buildings that draw students from the entire school district, busing schedules required that the school change its hours, Sister Raymond Mary explained. Since Jan. 30, the school day has begun at 7:30 a.m. and ended at noon. Some students get their bus as early as 6:30 a.m., sister noted.

The school day is now one hour shorter, sister pointed out, but the dropping of lunch and the substitution of a 10-minute break, and a reduction of 10 minutes in each class period has allowed a full program to continue. A problem, Sister Raymond Mary admitted, is that the students and teachers are having difficulty adjusting to the new schedule. She noted that the students say "good afternoon" after having their break, even if it's only 10 a.m.

"The parents have been very cooperative" with the implementation of the new schedule, she noted, adding that a spirit of cooperation has been evident throughout Ithaca since the flooding started. She noted that Ithaca High School administrators had recently visited Immaculate Conception with a view toward using the school's currently unused cafeteria for classroom space for high school classes.

The first week for the new

schedule was Catholic Schools Week, but because of the changes, Immaculate Conception delayed their celebration a week.

An important function of the school right now, Sister Raymond Mary said, is to give the children from the Fall Creek area a refuge from the strain of the constant pumping and watching of water levels. She noted that the best attendance at the Schools Week open house was from families in the Fall Creek area, except that each left someone to keep the pumps running. After five weeks of constant effort, sister suggested, the families welcomed any diversion.

**CCGEB Hears Reports**

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) heard committee reports and tentatively rescheduled its workshop for September at its regular meeting Feb. 9 at Our Lady of Lourdes School.

The full-day workshop, to be led by Sister Roberta Tierney, diocesan director of the Education Division, was postponed due to bad weather, and could not be rescheduled until March. Lawrence Stephens, board president, informed the board. Members questioned the need for a workshop near the end of the year, and suggested that it be moved to September, to begin the new year.

T. H. Banks, school system business manager, reported that the tentative budget for next year has

been given to the Finance Committee.

Thomas Santulli, St. Anthony's Parish, reported that the Personnel Committee will soon be making a recommendation concerning lay teacher salaries for next year, and raised a question concerning the handling of teachers' paychecks. A motion was approved establishing a policy for handling the checks.

Robert Rohde, St. Casimir's, reported that the ad hoc Constitution Committee had been unable to meet because of the weather. Sister Julia Clare, St. Mary's principal, reported progress locating a supplier for uniforms for next year, and said that a report will be made at the board's March meeting.



Photo by Martin Toombs

**Nursing Students Capped**

Sister Remigia McHenry (left) and Mrs. Joan Rossi (right), capping two of the 50 students in St. Joseph's School of Nursing Class of 1980 at capping ceremonies Feb. 12. The capping marks the beginning of clinical studies for the first-year students. Families and friends filled the Little Flower Chapel for the ceremonies. The varied class includes four men and a 50-year-old mother of five; several class members also have family members in the medical profession.

**Dr. Spremulli:**

**Scientific Research Can Be Dangerous**

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—"I have lots of questions, I don't have very many answers," Dr. Gertrude Spremulli told those attending the Christian Institute of Man lecture Feb. 13.

Speaking on the "Dilemmas of Scientific Research," Mrs. Spremulli, a chemistry professor at Elmira College, discussed the increasing questions concerning scientific research.

Stating that she probably would not raise any new issues, she said that she hoped her presentation would result in "some ethical, responsible action" on the part of those attending.

When she first became involved in science, she noted, she thought that it was impossible for the scientific search for truth to be dangerous. "The facts of science (were) amoral," she said, even though they could be used in evil ways. That has changed, she noted, reporting that one of her two daughters that are scientific researchers has refused to participate in a line of research which she saw as dangerous.

Such developments are fairly recent, she said; past research was not itself dangerous. Scientific discoveries used for evil were the result of "the application, not the knowledge itself," she noted.

"More and more scientists are convinced that knowledge itself can be

dangerous," she said, defining "dangerous knowledge" as "knowledge that accumulates faster than the wisdom to use it."

To illustrate her point, she referred to recombinant DNA research, a line of genetic study that has been controversial. The research gives scientists "the capacity to redesign living organisms," Mrs. Spremulli said. The dangers involved in handling the new organisms are not really known, she pointed out, making it impossible to assess the risk involved. Some scientists have said that the work is too dangerous to be done, she noted, while others assert that it is safe. In addition to its potential dangers, she noted, the research also has great potential benefits, such as increasing the world's food supply and eliminating genetic diseases.

The issue of informed consent also is an important one for scientists, she noted. She pointed out problems with some medical research, saying that often informed consent cannot exist, as even the researcher does not know all the potential results of the experiment.

As scientific knowledge continues to increase, Mrs.

volunteers have been trained in income tax preparation, are sanctioned by the Internal Revenue Service and are recognized as legitimate tax preparers.

Information concerning the service can be obtained by contacting Janice Ingersoll, Chemung County Office for the Aging, 214 W. Gray St., 737-2914.

**SOUTHERN TIER  
AUBURN-GENEVA**

**Tax Clinics Available**

Elmira—The Chemung County Office for the Aging is sponsoring free tax filing clinics for low income elderly taxpayers during February, March and April.

Trained volunteers from the Volunteer Tax Assistance Program will provide free assistance to persons unable to prepare their own tax returns. The

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