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CT Scanner Installation Announced

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—A CT Scanner will be located in the Elmira Medical Arts Center adjacent to St. Joseph's Hospital, the hospital announced in a press conference Aug. 31.

The \$500,000 piece of sophisticated diagnostic equipment will be owned by a private corporation, which will lease space in the hospital-owned building for the scanner. The arrangement was approved by the hospital Board of Directors in a unanimous vote, it was reported.

Space preparations will begin immediately, with operation to begin in early

1979.

Computer Axial Tomography Scanning, or CT Scanning, is a new diagnostic technique that permits physicians to see cross-sectional pictures of internal body structures. X-rays are sent through a cross-section of the body or brain; differences in absorption are detected and transmitted to a computer which constructs a picture or image. This enables the physician to "see inside" the brain or body. Organs and lesions previously hidden from the conventional X-ray can then be seen.

Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, said that she was "pleased with the decision of the board since this

move will allow the neurosurgical and other specialty services at St. Joseph's to utilize the most modern technological advances available in diagnosis of internal body structures. Its addition to the community will also enhance the recruitment of neurosurgeons to the Southern Tier."

"CT Scanning is a simple and painless experience for the patient," Sister Martha noted. "Moreover, as a highly effective diagnostic tool, CT Scanning may eliminate the need for exploratory surgery and for painful and risky invasive studies presently required."

Noting the unit's half-million-dollar price, Sister

Martha pointed out that the arrangement with the private corporation "will avoid a large capital investment by St. Joseph's in order to effect its purchase."

"St. Joseph's has been assured by the corporation," Sister Martha emphasized, "that the scanning equipment will be available to all hospitals and physicians in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties."

Although declining to name members of the corporation, Sister Martha said privately that it involves some of the doctors who have been urging placement of a CT Scanner in Elmira.

Sister Martha also ex-

plained that the purchase will not require approval by the state's health planning agencies, as it is being made by a private group. If the hospital were to make the purchase, she said, approval would be required; she added that currently the Health Systems Agency is not taking such applications, as it is observing a moratorium on such requests.

Sister Martha further commented that the leasing arrangement was not an attempt to avoid the planning process, but a satisfactory way to supply a needed service to the area.

Dr. Ferdinand Rossman, an Elmira neurosurgeon, emphasized the advantage of having the scanner in Elmira,

noting that currently patients are taken to Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa., a trip which can pose a "tremendous hardship" to a sick or injured patient as well as to their family, he noted, as often the trip's costs are not covered by health insurance plans.

He noted a variety of brain ailments the scan can detect, and added that scans also have been used to find that persons thought to be mentally ill actually were suffering from a brain tumor.

Dr. Rossman noted that the charges for the scan vary; he reported that a brain scan at Packer Hospital currently costs \$225. Nationally, Sister Martha explained, costs range between \$175 and \$250 for each procedure.



Donald Howling of Corning (left) reviews techniques for speech while using an artificial larynx, under the direction of Harry Ash, speech pathologist.

St. Joseph's Sets Speech Seminar

Elmira—The September meeting of the Corning-Elmira Lost Cord Club will be Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hospital's Department of Speech and Hearing.

Harry Ash, speech pathologist, will demonstrate the latest equipment available to facilitate development and refinement of esophageal voice in the hospital's new Laryngectomy Resource Room. Physicians from Elmira, Corning, Sayre and Ithaca also will be on hand to answer questions.

As part of the new Resource Room, a well-stocked library will be available, with information regarding pre-operative procedures, surgery, speech therapy and return to a normal life. The hospital also has a complete stock of prosthetic devices to demonstrate and lend to a person awaiting delivery of an artificial larynx. This allows the patient to communicate almost immediately following surgery.

The public is invited to take advantage of the free seminar.

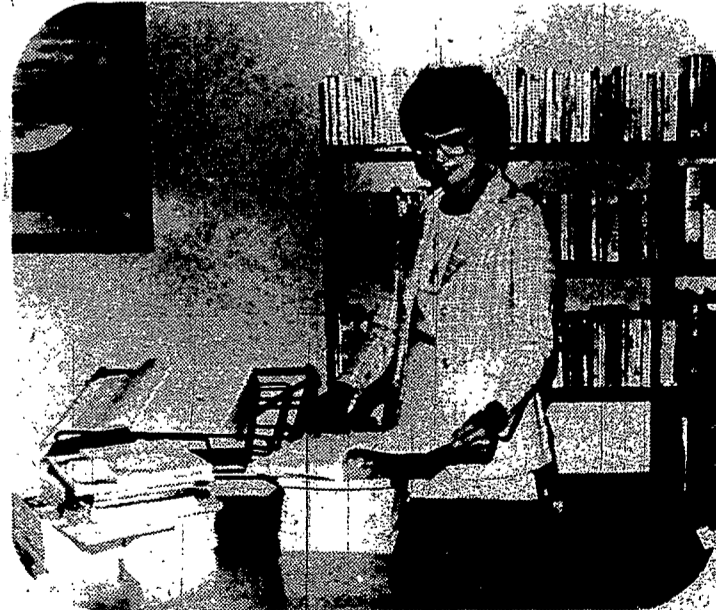


Photo by Mary Ann Ginnerty

New Principal

Sister Alice Marie Kurtz, newly arrived principal at St. Mary's School in Auburn, looks over additions to the library in preparation for last week's opening of school. Sister Alice Marie is a graduate of Nazareth College and holds an MS degree in education from that school as well. Prior to her Auburn appointment, Sister was stationed in Elmira.

NFP Session Sept. 13

Elmira—There will be a Natural Family Planning (NFP) informational meeting Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Doctors Meeting Room of St. Joseph's Hospital.

The meeting is for information only. Methods will be taught to engaged and married couples at a later date.

Beryl and Nick Iven of Odessa, certified NFP instructors, conduct the NFP program at St. Joseph's. They are volunteers associated with Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Ivens at 594-2380.



Photo by Martin Toombs

The first kindergarten class at St. James settles down to listen to Mrs. Nancy Hughes read a story.

St. James Initiates Kindergarten Class

Waverly—Nineteen students greeted Mrs. Nancy Hughes as the first kindergarten class at St. James School when school opened Sept. 6.

The class was added so students would not have to attend kindergarten in another school and then transfer to St. James for first grade.

Parents played a big part in getting the kindergarten classroom ready for the new class, Sister Maria Hoffman, principal, noted. Painting, cleaning, hanging shelves and assembling furniture took many hours of work over the summer. "The spirit of cooperation and eagerness to see the transformation of the rooms has been a tremendous boost to our morale this summer," noted Sister Maria.

Parents, old and new, also donated many of the toys and

other equipment needed for the new class.

St. James previously included grades one through six. Also joining the school this year are 13 first graders and 12 other students. Total enrollment is now at 127 students, 20 higher than in June, Sister Maria pointed out. The school also had an increase in the number of families, from 64 to 82.

Mrs. Hughes, in addition to teaching the kindergarten, will take Sister Maria's third grade

class in the afternoons, freeing Sister Maria for administrative work.

Sister Maria expressed her gratitude to Father John Morgan, St. James pastor until last June, Father Edward Foy, pastor since then, the parish council, school board, faculty members, parents and parishioners whose support and cooperation have helped St. James School.

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