

Southern Tier:
 Martin Toombs
 268 W. 13th St., B-1
 Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903
 (607) 732-3371

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Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

Auburn-Geneva:
 Mary Ann Ginnerty
 294 1/2 South Street Rd.
 Auburn, N.Y.
 (315) 253-2176

St. James Hospital Opens Outpatient Surgery Unit

Hornell — In an effort to eliminate unnecessary overnight stays, a new approach, outpatient surgery, has been implemented at St. James Mercy Hospital, with approval from the state Health Department.

A patient requiring minor surgery — for example, a gynecological D and C (dilation and curettage) in 1978 would have been admitted on a Monday afternoon. After spending the night in the hospital, she would have her surgery Tuesday morning, and would go home on Wednesday.

Now, the same patient would arrive at 8 a.m., and she would be home by 5 p.m. the same day.

In addition to saving time, the patient also saves substantially on room costs, and avoids the inconvenience of spending two nights in the hospital.

Surgery performed in the

outpatient surgery unit is part of the growing nationwide trend to decrease hospitalization for comparatively minor surgical procedures. Physicians decide whether outpatient surgery is appropriate for an individual patient. Among the procedures commonly done are cystoscopy examinations, breast biopsies, dental extractions, minor orthopedic procedures, and others. Also, for the removal of skin lesions, when general anesthesia is not involved.

Although these procedures can sometimes be performed in the doctor's office, outpatient surgery often is used when the possibility of complications is present. Should they occur, the hospital facilities are then available.

Admissions for one-day surgery are scheduled for pre-admission testing. The patient receives detailed instructions on the day before surgery. On the scheduled day, the patient

reports to the outpatient center, and then is taken to the outpatient surgery unit. Following the procedure and stabilization in the recovery room, the patient returns to the outpatient unit. After observation by nursing personnel and the physician, the patient may leave the unit accompanied by an adult.

Planning for the unit started about a year ago. Committee members named to study the unit's feasibility made visits to several hospitals where outpatient surgery has been established. The decision to locate the unit in close proximity to the operating suite called for relocation of the respiratory therapy department and remodeling of the former respiratory therapy unit for the outpatient unit. It is on the fourth floor of the east wing, and contains four beds.

In addition to reducing costs, the outpatient surgery also frees a hospital bed, making the bed available for a more seriously ill patient.

New Name For CDA

Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas throughout the nation have been notified that their application for change of name, as agreed at the 1978 national convention in New York City, has been approved by New York State.

The organization has 17 courts in this diocese — St. Rita Elmira; St. Joseph, Corning; St. Ann, Hornell;

Joan of Arc, Waverly; Santa Maria, Ithaca; Auburn, Auburn; Annunciation, Geneva; St. Rose of Lima, Owego; Lourdes, Watkins Glen; Theresa, Waterloo; Seneca Falls, Seneca Falls; Isabelle, East Bloomfield; Gleason, Clyde; Nativity of Our Lady, Brockport; Our Lady of the Cenacle, Rochester; St. Michael, Penn Yan, and Fitzsimons, Lima.

New Officers

Geneva — The parish council at St. Francis de Sales elected officers during its regular July meeting here. Elected were Carl Roberti, chairman; R. Gerald Deel, vice chairman and Ednor Yunits, secretary.

Barbecue

Owasco — St. Ann's Church, Main Street, in Owasco, will hold its 31st annual Chicken Barbecue and Bazaar on Sunday, July 29 from 12 to 5 p.m. All are invited.



High Averages

William Bishop (left), president of St. Ann's Alumni Association, with Mary Lou Davis and Frank Schneider, recipients of awards from the association for attaining the highest scholastic averages in St. Ann's School eighth grade. The two were honored at graduation in June for their achievement.



Summer School

More than 100 youngsters participated in the Summer Bible School at St. Patrick's, Owego, July 16-20. The students, in kindergarten through sixth grade, participated in a variety of activities in addition to classroom sessions. Above, Sister Miriam, who headed up the program, conducts a closing prayer. At right, some of the students working on an art project with a religious theme.



Deaths

Helen O'Rourke

Auburn — Miss Helen M. O'Rourke died June 25, 1979 in Auburn Memorial Hospital, after a brief illness. She was a member of St. Mary's Parish and its Rosary and Scapular Society, and of the Catholic Daughters of America.

She was a niece of the late Father Daniel B. O'Rourke a former pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece. Miss O'Rourke is survived by Mrs. John Douglas Pattin of Rochester, a cousin.

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