Obituaries

Joseph John Nasser at 74; served longest as Corning mayor

Attorney Joseph John Nasser, mayor of Corning from 1960 to 1983, died of a heart attack on Monday, March 21, 1988. His mayoralty was the longest in Corning municipal history, and one of the longest in the history of New York state.

When informed of Mr. Nasser's death, Congressman Amory Houghton, Jr., who considered the former mayor a close and helpful friend, said, "He's done more for Corning than any other politician has ever done"

Mr. Nasser was born in Syracuse on Feb. 26, 1914. In 1910, his Lebanese-born parents, John Thomas and Mary David Nasser, brought their family to Corning, where Mr. Nasser opened a clothing store.

Mr. Nasser was graduated from St. Mary's School in 1927 and Corning Free Academy in 1931. He then studied pre-law and law at Georgetown University. Admitted to the New York State bar in 1937 — the year he graduated from law school — he immediately started his own practice of general law in his hometown. The only interruption of his career came in 1942, when he served with the U.S. Army/Air Corps Division as a World War II counter-intelligence agent until 1945.

Mr. Nasser built up a substantial law practice over the years. His success became almost proverbial. "If Joe Nasser takes your case, you won't lose. He really enjoyed trying cases," Steuben County Judge Donald J. Purple observed last week. "And he gained very favorable results for his clients?"

Though he was no waster of words, he had a deep feeling for the "common man," and this sympathy gave his trial work its drive.

Mr. Nasser entered politics in 1948, when he was named Corning city attorney. In 1959 he ran for mayor on the Republican and Liberal tickets, and won the first of his 12 terms in the office. In four later elections, he ran unopposed. He finally met defeat in his 1983 bid for re-election. His opponent won by a mere 68 votes.

The main reason for Mr. Nasser's popularity was that he actually achieved his aim - one highly appealing to the average citizen — "to lower taxes without sacrificing progress." His frugal policies were often criticized, but he weathered controversy and when he retired as mayor, the city treasury had a surplus of \$6

Mr. Nasser's response to the great flood of June, 1972, was his finest hour. Re-establishing order in the sodden city called forth all his energy and his exceptional administrative ability. It also prompted his vision of a resurrected Corning. With the aid of federal, state and foundation funding, he was able to supervise the building of a new hotel, housing project and library-city hall complex. The Common Council subsequently voted to name the complex in his honor: The Joseph J. Nasser Civic

Next came the renewal of Market Street. This restoration of the old Victorian buildings, now one of Corning's chief tourist attractions, has achieved national renown.

"Joe was proud of Corning," Dick Peer wrote in the Corning Leader, "second only to his family."

On the day of the funeral, the procession to the church was appropriately routed through the neighborhood that he had largely recreated.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Church on March 25. Father Francis R. Davis was celebrant and homilist. Concelebrating priests were two former associate pastors, Fathers Philip J. Billotte of Webster and Andrew W. Teuschel of Dansville. Representing St. Mary's in the sanctuary was its pastor emeritus, Father Thomas F. Brennan. The large crowd of mourners in the church was a cross-section of Corningites; 60 members of the Steuben County Bar; ranking officials of the Corning Glass Works; Mayor John C. Kostolansky; the aldermen and other city officials and employees; an honor guard of Corning firefighters; and a host of friends and of "simple people" who had experienced the late

mayor's kindness.

Mr. Nasser was "an excellent parishioner, an excellent family man and one who was always there when anybody sought advice or assistance," Father Davis observed.

Mr. Nasser is survived by his wife, Eleanor Gilmartin Nasser, and by four daughters, Jennifer Ann of Piscataway, N.J.; Mary Ellen Monahan of Corning; JoAnn Nasser of Martinsville, N.J.; and Kathleen Nasser of Corning, a retired businesswoman and city official.

Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Corning.

Mercy sisters schedule last of year's Faith Sharing events

The Sisters of Mercy invite women who are interested in learning about religious life and the Sisters of Mercy to attend the congregation's final two Faith Sharing Program events for this year.

The first is a weekend retreat to be facilitated by Sister Virginia Wilson at High Acres, Geneva, from April 22 to 24. Sister Virginia is a member of the Mercy Prayer Center staff on Highland Avenue, Rochester. Car pools can be arranged to the High Acres retreat house from several locations.

The final event is a Eucharistic liturgy and supper scheduled with the Mercy Sisters' community at 18 Upton Park on Monday, May 16, at 6 p.m.

The Mercy Faith Sharing Program is sponsored by the congregation's Vocations Team in order to offer an informal opportunity for women to expand their knowledge of the vowed life and their own possible call to it, and to share faith experiences with other lay women and Sisters of Mercy.

For registration or information, the Rochester area contact is Sister Mary Fran Wegman, congregation vocation director, (716)342-9594. Outside Rochester, call: Sister Lucille Lenhard, (607)734-6840, Elmira/Corning area; Sister Nancy O'Brien, (607)687-3121, Owego; and Sister Virginia Taylor, (607)273-0143, Ithaca.

Seton fashion show planned to help St. Mary's Hospital

The annual Seton fashion show "Fashion Impressions" will be take place on Saturday, April 16, at 11 a.m. in Sibley's Tower Restaurant, downtown Rochester.

Tickets to "Fashion Impressions" are available by calling St. Mary's volunteer office at (716)464-3255. All proceeds from the fashion show and luncheon will benefit St. Mary's

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General

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other necessary activities in connection with or related to these purposes. The sole general partner of Eisorrand Associates, Limited is Carvin Eison, 12 Granger Place, Rochester, New York 14607. Mr. Eison holds a 25% partnership interest and has committed to an initial capital contribution of \$250.00. The limited partners are: 6 Girth Fagan, 95 Canterbury Road, Rochester, New York 14607: David Rose, 188 Oakdale Drive, Rochester, New York 14618; and Linda Chiavaroli; 15149 Killion Street, Van Nuys, California 91411. All of the foregoing limited partners each individually hold a 25% partnership interest and have committed to an initial capital contribution of \$250.00.

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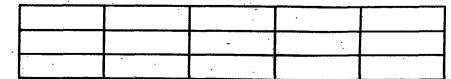
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