



SILVER-TONGUED ORATORS: Mr. Robert Cross, left Maple Hill High Bicentennial Youth Debates coordinator, holds achievement certificates for contest winners, in the usual order, Patrick Scannell, Guy Gavryck and Thomas Van Hensbergen. Observing the awards presentation is Dr. Richard Bamberger, Maple Hill principal.

### MHS debaters advance in school competition

In the recent local round of the National Bicentennial Youth Debates Program, Patrick Scannell, a senior at Maple Hill High School won the Lincoln-Douglas category, successfully out debating his adversaries on the issue: "The melting pot metaphor is an historical fiction."  
Junior Guy Gavryck was the winner of the persuasive speaking competition on the topic, "My Country Right or Wrong" and another junior, Thomas Van Hensbergen won the extemporaneous speech division on a randomly selected topic, "Out of Many, One."  
Other participants from Maple Hill school were Kevin Dunne, Karen King, Laurie McLaughlin, Kevin Morgan, Jon Simms and Steven Caric.

Winners of the local contest will face winners from other high schools at Maple Hill on Thursday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. in district level competition.  
A new set of issues will be debated in the same three categories, the Lincoln-Douglas, persuasive speaking and extemporaneous speaking. The public is invited to attend.  
A medal from the U.S. Treasury Dept. will be presented to the winner of each debate. The winners will also be eligible to compete for scholastic prizes at sectional, regional and national debates on additional issues stressing values important to America in its 200th year.

### Stuyvesant Falls firemen schedule Christmas party

Lorraine Freeman  
Stuyvesant Falls  
683-3222  
The Stuyvesant Falls Fire Co. received an invitation from the Hudson Valley Firemen's Assoc. Fuller Road Colonie, and from the Chatham Fair to parade this summer.  
The firemen will hold their Christmas party Friday, December 19 and will draw the names of the winners of their annual raffle.  
Elect Mrs. Frick  
The Stuyvesant unit of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Auxiliary has elected Mrs. Lydia Frick of Stuyvesant Falls as publicity chairman. Mrs. Frick also works on the floor at the desk and is a smiling Hospitality Shop worker.  
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Allen & Paul Lert & Jon of Yorktown Heights spent the holiday weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Donald Allen. The families also visited Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simonson of Altamont.  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Folmsbee & children of Long Lake spent the Thanksgiving holiday with Mr. and Mrs. Theron Folmsbee.  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Heintz & son Jim, visited at the home of Mrs. Henry Frick on Sunday P.M.  
Jim Romanchuk was elected a member of the Stuyvesant Fire Department.  
Mrs. Harold Berninger, Mrs. Charles Dyer, Mrs. Alice Heintz and Mrs. Louise Giorie are local residents presently in the Columbia Memorial Hospital.  
Miss Ann Nawrocki is a resident at Barnwell Valatie.  
The first Sunday in Advent was observed at Emanuel Church with the lighting of the Advent wreath. Richard Geer was the acolyte.  
Lucy Winner  
Nona Susan recently won a 22 lb. turkey and all the trimmings raffled by the Stuyvesant Falls Drill Team.

### Castleton Names New Fire Chief

The Castleton Village Board has accepted with regret the resignation of Fire Chief George Leonard and has designated Ralph Hamn as acting chief until the spring elections.  
Chief Leonard submitted his resignation to the village board advising that he was leaving the village to take up residence in Florida. A resolution commending Chief Leonard for his services was unanimously adopted.  
Other fire company officers who will serve with Chief Hamn are: Douglas Labrecht, 1st Asst. Chief, Ralph Sherman, 2nd Asst. Chief, Albert E. Saville, Captain, Peter Trawinski, 1st Asst. Captain and David Peters, 2nd Asst. Captain.  
During the board meeting, Scoutmaster Michael Corey of Troop 53 which is sponsored by the village board, presented a new flag to be flown outside the village hall. He also gave the board of Certificate of Appreciation for the troop for its interest in their activities.

### Christmas, to the sound of a not-too distant drum, approaches

by Ellen Berry  
WE'VE TRIED everything. We've laid our finger by the side of our nose, given a nod and remained where we stood, right on our own unbedecked hearth. Must have had the wrong finger.  
Nothing daunted, we clicked our heels together three times and demanded to be returned to Kansas AT ONCE. Apart from a fleeting westward blast which we corrected before failing, we found our position still stationary.  
IN DESPERATION we retreated to the wisdom of books, thick, heavy tomes the Sears catalog being handiest. With shaking hand: we pawed through the pages looking for a packaged tour to some sunny, heathen clime where they don't celebrate much of anything. From bedspreads to zithers, we searched, to no avail. Christmas, to the sound of a not-so-distant drum, is coming!  
Yes, folks, with a cast of thousands of neglected details, that Cecil B. d'Mother Christmas production is getting underway! This was supposed to be the year of the linoleum block print Christmas card, of figgy puddings and of wreaths and garlands; that would make this old farm house look like something straight out of Williamsburg. We won't even mention the hand knitted mittens and scarfs these ten-thumbed hands tossed off on a sunny July afternoon; the fruitcakes consisted into a state of advanced alcoholism, or the secret vision of ourselves, dressed to the nines, graciously lading eggnog out of a mussy, holly-trimmed silver bowl.

### PIC erects additional Yule decor

The G. A. Trahan Co. of Coboes has placed a new decorative Christmas streamer on Hudson Avenue in Chatham, near the Chatham Rural Cemetery, Margaret Walker, chairman of the Preserve and Improve Chatham, Inc. Christmas Lighting and decorations committee reported at the PIC meeting Wednesday night in Tracy Memorial Village Hall.  
Mrs. Walker said the streamer was requested by several Chatham merchants and that an additional fee will be charged by the Coboes firm, which was contracted to erect the decorations by PIC.  
Free tickets to the movie "Tom Sawyer" to be presented at Crandell Theater in Chatham on December 20, are available from PIC members and participating merchants at approximately 40 locations.  
The 2 p.m. matinee performance is being sponsored by village merchants and PIC members.

### Legion nears '76 membership quota

The Columbia County American Legion has reached 76 percent of its 1976 quota, membership chairman Jeffrey French told a meeting of the Legion's county committee at Hudson Tuesday night.  
To date, French said, the Legionnaires have 1,152 members toward their 1,499 quota and Columbia now stands 12th among the 62 counties in the state.  
The membership drive is also 25 ahead of last year as of December 1 and the county is in the running for an Early Bird Award presented units whose member percentage is higher on January 15, 1976 than the

previous year. Awards will be made February 2 in Albany at the New York State American Legion Department's Legislative Conference.  
At the Hudson meeting, John W. Mc Connell Post, Valatie, was cited for going over its quota, 162, on November 25. Gerst-Williams Post, Maiden Bridge, had exceeded its quota earlier.  
Citation awards were given Ralph Melino, Philmont, Warren Hover, Hudson, and Fred Oles, Kinderhook, for enrolling 25 or more Legionnaires in the drive which opened in September.

### CFD ladies net \$1,300 from bazaar

The Chatham Fire Dept. Auxiliary realized a \$1,300 profit from its benefit bazaar on December 5 and 6, it was announced today. Prize winners were as follows: 1st prize, \$100, Leroy Spring, Indian Lake, N.Y.; 2nd prize, \$50, Stephen Walsh, Chatham; 3rd prize, \$25, Paul McCagg, Chatham; 4th, knitted afghan, Dorothy Carter, Mahopac, N.Y.; 5th prize, \$25, Anna Mae Van Alstyne, Chatham; 6th prize, \$10, Bea Gustafson, Chatham; and 8th prize, \$5, Carol Scott, Chatham.  
The regular meeting of the auxiliary was their annual Christmas party on December 6th with 34 present including guests from Canaan. A delicious covered dish dinner was enjoyed by all who attended. Gifts were exchanged under the lights of a large tree which had been donated by Dick and Do Griffen. A short business meeting was held at which time a donation of \$150 was made to the firemen towards the annual Christmas party for local children.  
The dark horse winner was Rita Boehme and the \$50 a month club was won by Louise Cazzolino.  
The food committee for January and February will be: Louise Cazzolino, Betty Cazzolino, Roberta Eigenbrodt and Margaret Ambrosio.

### Arrest violator of conservation law

Chatham Police arrested William Ingham of Chatham for alleged possession of a loaded gun in a vehicle Friday, a violation of the conservation law.

### Kinderhook bank declares dividend

At a meeting of the board of directors of the National Union Bank of Kinderhook held on December 2, a regular dividend of 50 cents per share and an extra dividend of 50 cents per share was declared payable on January 2, 1976.  
At the same time, the board unanimously adopted a resolution proposing a 12 1/2 per cent stock dividend one share for each eight shares now held.  
Tentative approval of the proposal has been received from the Regional Administrator of National Banks and it will be submitted to stockholders for their approval at the annual meeting on February 10, 1976.  
This is the sixth dividend to be declared by the Kinderhook Bank. Previous dividends were 20 percent in 1956, 16 2/3 percent in 1962, 14 28 percent in 1966, 12 1/2 percent in 1970 and 11.1 percent in 1973.  
Bank President Allen J. Thomas, Jr. said: "At this time it appears the earnings per share will equal the \$6.50 per share which was the best year in our history."  
The stockholders were also advised the bank does not have any bonds of the City of New York or any of the (moral obligation) bonds of the State of New York in its portfolio. All of the municipal bonds are direct obligations of the State of New York or political subdivisions.

### ONLY THREE MORE weeks 'til Christmas comes'

interrupted the child, all aglow. "It is coming then, isn't it?" "Yes, Virginia, we're crooned rashly, Christmas is coming - you read it in the COURIER!" My name's not Virginia," said the boy. "It's Andrew."

### Son for Congdon

A son, Jeremiah David, was born to Lt. and Mrs. John L. Congdon of Heaventon, N.Y. on December 1. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Congdon of Austerlitz.

JOY TO ALL  
THE DALLAS YARN SHOP  
31 MAIN STREET CHATHAM, N.Y.  
392-2929  
Open Every Night Till Christmas

CRANDELL  
CHATHAM 392-3331  
NOW THRU TUESDAY  
7:20 & 9:10 - MAT, SUN, 2 PM  
ADULTS 1.50 - CHILD 75c  
It's a better movie than 'Blazing Saddles' or 'Young Frankenstein' - Rolling Stone  
MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL  
STARTS WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 GONE WITH THE WIND

HUDSON'S NEWEST MUSIC SHOP  
NOW OPEN  
MARKLE'S  
MUSIC  
747 Col. Street Hudson, N.Y. Across from Smith's Goodyear  
DISCOUNT ALBUMS 20% OFF RETAIL LISTINGS  
TOP 200 new releases of rock and soul. Such as People's Choice, Tower of Power, Al Green, Earth, Wind & Fire, Rufus, The White Eagles, Spinners, War, Orleans, Pink Floyd, ZZ Top, and Rick Wakeman.  
Plus we can order any album you may want.

### CCS board studies sale of old buses

The Chatham Central School Board of Education tabled a proposal for the retirement and sale of two school buses pending consideration of the cost for repairs to the vehicles, at their meeting Tuesday night at the Ghent School.  
The buses, both of which have been used this year, need extensive body work which cannot be done in the district garage, according to Francis Howe, bus garage coordinator, who proposed the advertisement for sale of the vehicles through the board's transportation chairman Donald Burns of Canaan.  
Mr. Howe said an inspector from the State Department of Transportation advised him Tuesday, December 2, that the inspection validation of the buses would not be renewed. Mr. Howe said the present validations on the buses have expired.  
Two new buses, one delivered in July and the other scheduled to arrive before Christmas, have been earmarked to replace the vehicles.  
The board asked Mr. Howe to obtain estimates on the cost of repairing these vehicles and submit them to the board at their next meeting on January 13.  
Linda Gulotty, the board's Relations Committee chairman, told the board that negotiations for the district and teachers met Tuesday morning, but there was nothing to report except that contract negotiations will continue in future scheduled meetings.  
In other business, the board made permanent appointments of Lawrence Schroeder as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and Elmer Keller as his assistant after a six month probationary period.  
Awarded contracts on canned foods to the lowest bidders as compiled and submitted by Columbia-Rensselaer Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

### Explicit data needed on fire reports

Residents of Columbia County are asked to be prepared to give complete and specific location information when reporting a fire because of a change in procedure, according to Charles Buchermal, Columbia County Fire Coordinator.  
Reports of fires are no longer handled through the local operators, but rather the caller is contacted by the operator directly by the dispatcher in Hudson, who must be advised of the town or village and then of the specifics of the location.  
The change in operation, implemented approximately one month ago, reportedly speeds up the call from Hudson to the local fire district.

### Susan R. Pease completes field study with 4-H

Susan Rebecca Pease, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Pease of 906 Clove Road, Castleton, has completed her field study with Cooperative Extension Association 4-H of Rensselaer County under the supervision of Margaret J. Story, 4-H Program Leader. Susan is a senior majoring in Home Economics Education at the New York State University College of Arts and Science at Plattsburgh.  
Prior to Susan's field study she completed her student teaching at the Guilderland Junior High School. She is a 1972 graduate of Maple Hill High School, and was an active 4-H member in the Castleton Busy Beavers 4-H Club. Along with 4-H club work she has done volunteer work with the BOCES (Board of Cooperative Extension Services) in Rensselaer County.

HUDSON STUDIO  
JAMESWAY SHOPPING CENTER  
81 9 Hudson 828 6800  
TONITE THRU TUES. EVES 7:30 & 9:30  
'CHARLOTTE' X RATED NO ONE UNDER 18 YRS.  
CHILDRENS MATINEE SAT & SUN AT 2 PM  
'DIGBY'  
FAIRVIEW  
CINEMA FAIRVIEW PLAZA  
Rt 9 Hudson 828-1900  
TONITE THRU TUES. EVES ONE COMPLETE SHOW STARTS 7:15  
'THE RETURN OF PINK PANTHER' (SHOWS 9:15)  
'THUNDERBOLT & LIGHTFOOT' (7:15)

The Whistle Stop Shop  
392-4440  
\$125 for an antique drop leaf table  
\$12 for sterling silver and turquoise choker  
\$9 for earrings to match  
IN THE BARTLETT HOUSE  
At The Railroad Crossing  
On Route 66  
Ghent, N.Y. 518-392-4440

BROWN SHOE CO. SINCE 1920  
THE BOOT  
Main St. Chatham, N.Y.  
Open 4 Days A Week  
Friday until 7:00 P.M.

THE GHENT VOL. FIRE COMPANY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE  
WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th AT THE FIRE HOUSE DANCING FROM 9 P.M. - 1 A.M. TO THE PATZWALD TRIO TICKET PRICE \$4.50 PER PERSON INCLUDES MEAT & SET-UPS TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR FROM GHENT MEMBERS

ROCK ROCK  
Joe Feeney Band at the Chatham House  
FRI. - DEC. 12  
SAT. - DEC. 13