



A CAPITOL IDEA!

State Sen. Charles Lemmond Jr. hosted an exhibit of drawings and paintings by students of Sue Hand's Imagery at his office in Dallas. Students' renditions were inspired by the 1997 calendar of the State Senate, which includes photographs of the Capitol building in Harrisburg. Sen. Lemmond congratulated A.J. Son (above), as his parents Josie and David looked on. At right, Jane Clements smiled proudly before her painting of a montage of features of the Capitol.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Rev. Seegar will speak for adoption

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN - The stigma surrounding adoption has slowly faded over the years. For Rev. Kenneth M. Seegar of St. Therese's in Shavertown, it was hardly ever an issue; he considers his adoptive parents and his life with them a gift from God.

Seegar, now 36, was born at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre and adopted by Irene and Kenneth Seegar of Taylor when he was just three months old. The agency involved was St. Joseph's Children and Maternity Hospital in Scranton.

A few years later the Seegars adopted another boy, Michael, now 32 years old. "Our parents always let us know (we were adopted.) They told us that we were a gift from God," explained Seegar of his early understanding of adoption. "They gave me a sense that my natural mother couldn't take care of me so God gave me a family who could."

Seegar's mother and father are now retired. His father worked in a chemical mill and his mother was a nurse at the VNA of Scranton for many years.

As time went on and Seegar entered grade school, kids tended to be relentless in their teasing at times. But, after finding Seegar secure with his status as an adopted kid, they gave up. "When kids found out, I had some trouble. I just ignored it and it went away," Seegar said.

Many adopted people share a natural desire to contact their birth mother and Seegar is no different. Several years ago he wrote to St. Joseph's expressing



Rev. Kenneth Seegar of St. Therese's Church will give the homily at a Mother's Day Adoption Mass May 11 in Scranton. He is an adoptee.

his desire to correspond with his birth mother and the process began. His parents supported him in this decision.

"I wrote to them (the agency), they wrote to my mother, she wrote back to them, they wrote me a letter stating that she would be willing and I wrote her back," he explained. The process of using the agency as a "middle man" is a safeguard for both the birth parents and the child.

Seegar wrote and told his birth mother who he was and that he was a priest. "She wrote why she did what she did and gave a little family information. At the time she was a single parent and taking care of her elderly parents. She couldn't juggle a job, family and me at the same time and there was no hope of support from the father," Seegar said.

That was the last he ever heard from his birth mother, but it was enough to put his mind at ease. "I

wrote her back and thanked her and told her I would like to continue correspondence and she didn't respond so I let it go. I figured it was 32 years later and she probably wasn't in the mood to have her past come back," he said.

"It helped put my life in perspective, just knowing that this person really isn't a mystery any longer," Seegar said. "At the time I needed to find out why she gave me up and she satisfied my question. I let it go, that was all I needed." He added that his birth mother was pleased he had become a priest.

Seegar said the entire process of contacting his birth mother went smoothly. "The social worker at the agency said it's one of the fastest cases she ever had."

Seegar said his brother, Michael has no intention of trying to find his birth parents.

Seegar will be the homilist at the second annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass to be held at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton on May 11 at 10:30 a.m. The liturgy is being held to thank and pray for all the people involved in the adoption process.

"The mass is trying to show that adoption is an option to abortion. There are families who can't have children and would give a loving home," said Seegar about the event. "In society, a lot of the stigma has been taken away for unwed mothers. There are many more social programs to help them."

Seegar is a staunch supporter of adoption. "If it wasn't for adoption I wouldn't be sitting here today. Adoption is the better choice."

Postal service collects food May 10

On Sat. May 10, members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will be doing more than delivering mail. They will be picking up non-perishable food items in addition to their regular duties. Nationwide, this one day food drive is an attempt to fill community banks across the United States.

Local members of the NALC are working in cooperation with the United States Postal Service, United Way of Wyoming Valley, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council AFL-CIO and the Commission on Economic Opportunity.

Residential route customers are invited to participate by leaving non-perishable food items by their mailbox on May 10. Their letter carrier will pick them up and distribute them to local food banks. Customers in participating areas will receive a flier with more information from their letter carriers about one week prior to the collection date.

Mother/daughter dinner May 9

Shavertown United Methodist Church is having its annual Mother-Daughter dinner on May 9 at 6 p.m. All ladies and girls are invited. The dinner is "pot luck" style, and you are asked to bring a dish of food to share. The program is Ark-E-Ology, presented for all ages by the St. Paul's Lutheran Church's group "Gestures for Jesus". There is no cost but reservations are required and can be made by calling Mrs. Ketchmer at 696-4518.

Lake Twp. recycling to be held May 10

The voluntary recycling drop-off center for Lake Township will be accepting recyclables on Sat. May 10 from 10-12 noon at the township building. The following items may be dropped off: Aluminum and Bi-Metal cans, clear, brown and green glass, plastic #1 and #2 only. No motor oil containers can be accepted.

Corrections

Due to a mistake made by the reporter, in its April 30 issue, the Post reported that Lake-Lehman School Board candidate Samuel Rhodes said the school would earn reimbursement from the state if a feasibility study was done on the middle school. In fact, the district does not receive reimbursement due to the study, but can apply for it after the study is completed.

In the April 30 issue of the Post, Shirley Moyer, Kingston Township Board of Supervisors Chairperson, was misidentified as vice-chairperson. Also, Paul Sabol was misidentified as chairperson, he is a supervisor and Herbert Hill is the vice-chairperson of the board.

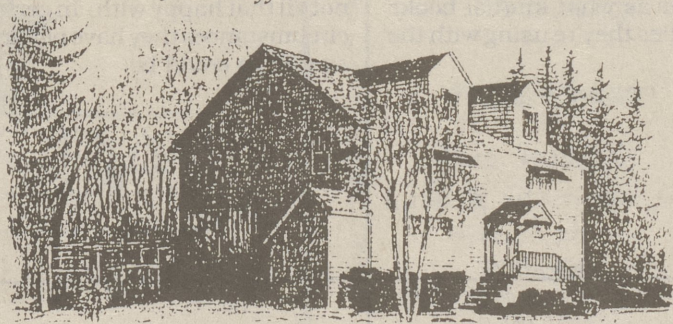


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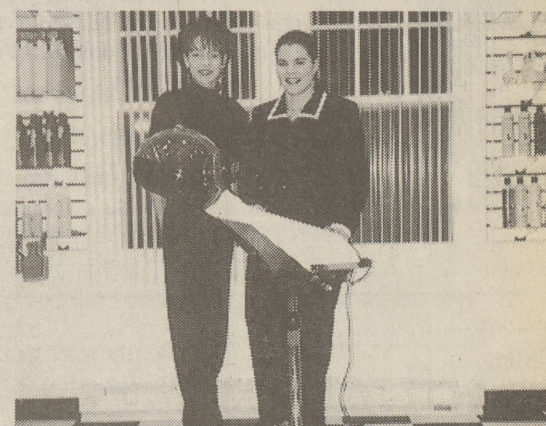
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