

Misericordia marks 75th anniversary

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. - With pomp and ceremony, College Misericordia launched its 75th anniversary celebration Friday by formally dedicating the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library. The College first opened its doors Sept. 24, 1924 as the first four-year college in Luzerne County. St. Ann's Band played for the opening ceremonies, as 38 young women took their first steps toward earning a college degree.

The St. Ann's Band played again last week, as Misericordia students, faculty, staff, Sisters of Mercy and trustees of the college gathered for an Anniversary Mass before proceeding to the new First Union Amphitheatre for the library dedication.

The Most Reverend James C. Timlin, Bishop of Scranton, was on hand to give a blessing for the 37,500 square foot library, which is named for Mary Kintz Bevevino, a 1987 graduate and former member of the board of trustees. It was an upbeat celebration, with the Bishop remarking that he was overdressed in his flowing white robes. "I almost feel like I'm representing the Klu Klux Klan," he joked. "Wouldn't they be surprised!"

After the ceremony, guests could choose between a self-guided tour of the three-story building or head straight for the newly-refurbished Banks Student Center for a buffet lunch. Benedicta (Bennie) Matchett chose to check out the library. Matchett, who is a member of the board of directors of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, was accompanied by Martha Butler, library director, and Marilyn Rudolph, children's librarian.

Matchett is a 1956 graduate of Misericordia, and said the new facility was "a lot different" than the one she used while a student at the college. The old library was on the second floor of the administration building, and had been untouched since it first opened.

Bonnie Oldham, of Jackson Township, has worked at the college library for 10 years. She described the new building as "filled with light. It's a pleasure to work and study in."

Oldham, who is the Public Services Librarian, also appreciates the new office space, which replaces an arrangement in which three or four people shared an office, desk and phone. While the office space increased with the move, the staff did not. "We had a 10-year plan," she said, with staff added gradually in anticipation of the new building.

One of the new features is an "on-line" computerized cataloging system, which replaced the old cards. Oldham said while the staff needed training on the new system, the students seemed to know how to use it without instruction. And more of them are using the library. "There's definitely an increase in use by students," Oldham said.

Over in the student center, Patti Almond ('88) and her husband Alex were the first to pick up signed copies of "At The Edge of Centuries: College Misericordia 1913-1999," a book written by Dr. Agnes Cardoni ('69) and Dr. Regina Kelly, RSM ('43). The Almonds drove from Harrisburg to attend the celebration and tour the campus.



Bonnie Oldham manned the desk in the new library. She has worked at Misericordia's library for 10 years.



George Maculloch took a look at one of the computer stations.

PHOTOS BY RON BARTIZEK

Lake-Lehman

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pal," said Williams. "I think our positive fund balance had a direct bearing on that rating."

Some board members had questioned why the district, which has a fund balance of about \$4 million, didn't use some of that money and borrow less.

That fund balance is not likely to be used to offset this debt, however. "We borrowed \$10 million because we need \$10 million to pay for the Ross renovations and the Middle Level construction," said Williams. "We are relying on the money we do have in the fund balance to earn interest."

Regular maintenance and small improvements to the district's other schools must be paid for by the fund balance. "We need a new boiler at Lehman-Jackson that is

going to cost \$200,000 and there have been many complaints from parents about the lack of parking at that school as well as at high school sporting events, so within the next year we may be looking at adding additional parking spaces," said Williams. "Money from the fund balance would be used for those kinds of projects."

While several school board members have expressed concern about taking on substantial debt, Williams said the administration is committed to fiscal responsibility.

"Some board members have made accusations without considering the long-term view," she said. "We're being very financially and fiscally prudent and we're taking a conservative approach right now."

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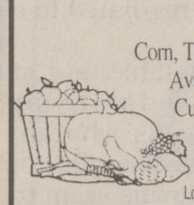
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Prison

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job will be contracted out or done by our maintenance staff."

SCID administrators plan to have surveillance equipment, which has been in storage facilities at the prison for two years, installed this fall. "That project will be contracted out next month," said Burnett. "Also, the lights are on full power and the fence (electronic detection system) has been turned up."

As part of its efforts to regain public confidence, SCID will conduct weekly siren tests every Wednesday at approximately 12 p.m. until further notice. "I did

speak with the new warden and I know he has already made some positive changes," said Rusiloski. "But we still have Secretary Horn and the Department of Corrections to deal with and I just can't bring myself to trust him."

Horn's abrupt departure from public hearings did little to improve his image with the Citizen's Advisory Committee. "He walked out right after his testimony," said Rusiloski. "To me that showed disdain and a lack of concern for the safety of this community. He should have stayed to hear what everyone had to say."

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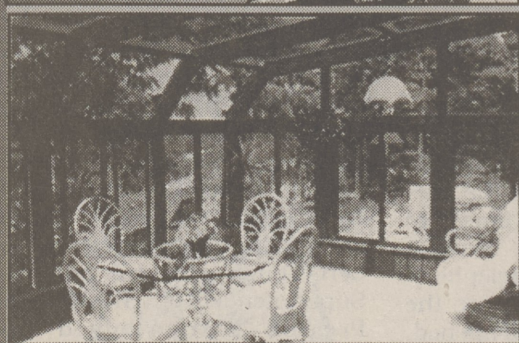
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