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Bethlehem Given DEC OK to Install Less Expensive Pollution Control System

By Peter Kemp

Despite the fact that air pollution levels in the Lackawanna and South Buffalo area still exceed federal limits, Bethlehem Steel Corp. was given permission in September to not complete a multimillion dollar coke oven pollution control system.

State Environmental Commissioner Robert F. Flacke gave his approval with little publicity.

However, Bethlehem will install a less expensive system to control the flow of smoke and dust from coke ovens.

The original system, estimated to cost \$10 million, has already been installed on two of the Lackawanna plant's coke ovens.

Even with the shutting down of Republic Steel Corporation's South Park Avenue plant earlier this year, and scaled-down production at Bethlehem, state monitoring systems still reflect levels of pollution above those set by federal guidelines.

However, state air quality engineer Robert A. Armbrust said the pollution levels are "coming down."

He added that he is hopeful

that the new system at Bethlehem will bring the area into compliance.

Other changes at the plant aimed at reducing emissions of airborne pollutants include new doors on its 70-unit Battery 9 coke ovens to limit leakage of smoke, and a new foam sealing system that incorporates the spraying of material around coke oven doors to limit emissions.

The company has also increased its coking time to permit a better burning of the coke, limiting wasteful byproducts.

A new, state-installed monitoring device in the area, the location of which was calculated by a computer, showed initial readings of pollution levels at 91 micrograms per cubic meter.

The federal limit is 75 micrograms per cubic meter. Officials say that a longer period of time is required to verify the accuracy of the early readings.

Bethlehem is one of several state companies that have been trying to get higher limits through lobbying efforts while Congress is trying to rewrite the Federal Clean Air Act.

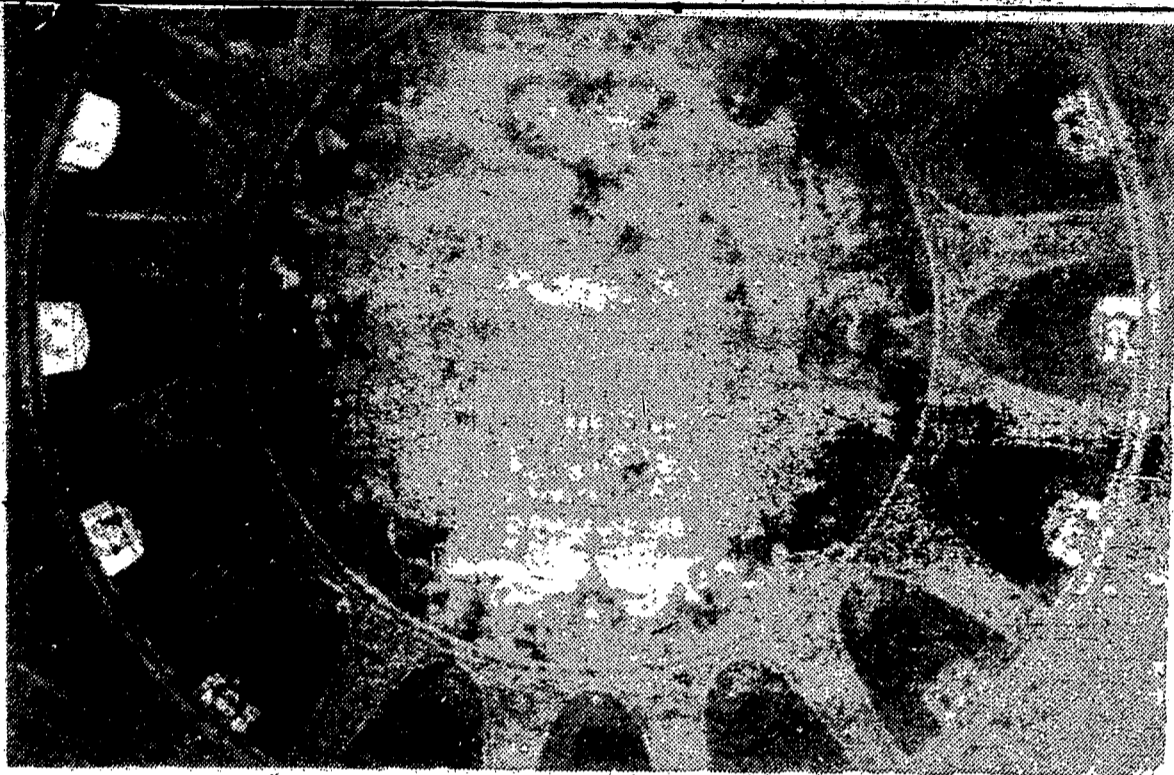


Photo by RICHARD CARTER

OUR LADY OF VICTORY BASILICA

The Basilica's beautifully detailed ceiling mural is pictured here. A wide-angle lense was used but even that wasn't even to capture the breadth of the dome.

OLV Infant Home's 'Choose Life Program' Assists Unwed Mothers

By Kathy Coffta

"The foundation of the 'Choose Life Program' is that every woman has the right to choose to carry her child until birth—and the right to whatever help she needs to do so."

These words were taken from a pamphlet describing Our Lady of Victory Infant Home. The pamphlet deals with the 'Choose Life' Birthright Program and the Maternity Group Residence Program. These programs were developed in 1970 as the more modern alternative to the original Father Baker Infant Home.

From the time of its development in 1906, the Father Baker home has embraced the cause of the unmarried mother. Today's live-in home has the capacity for 25 unwed mothers. The program attempts to teach these young mothers responsible parenting and to prepare them for the arrival of their babies.

The average age of the client is 15½ to 16 years. "The average age has decreased over the years," said Ginny Purcell, director of social services at the home. "Our oldest client was 42 and our youngest 12, I guess this can happen to anyone."

Ms. Purcell went on to say that "there are many more problems when dealing with the teen-agers, simply because they

are not able to adjust developmentally to their new

adult role."

Clients are taught the Lamaze method of prepared childbirth. According to Ms. Purcell this is done in an effort to help the young women regain a sense of self control over their bodies and the situation in which they find themselves.

Only about 10-15 percent of the fathers are involved in the program. Those who are involved are "involved extensively." The fathers are also taught the Lamaze method, and are involved in the responsible parenting education program. The home also works closely with the father's parents in an effort to help the family deal with the situation.

For the school-age clients who are in residence at the home there is a certified school program for grades 7-12, 24-hour medical care, and an intensive counseling service.

Counseling is provided in an attempt to help the clients and their families. "Many of the girls experience classic denial," said Ms. Purcell, "they don't accept the fact that they are having a child. Our counseling service tries to prepare the girl for what it is going to be like when the baby is born."

Under the program the client can choose to keep the child or surrender it for adoption. This

program allows the mother to give up the child for one or two months, until she is sure of her

decision. At that time, the child is taken out of temporary foster care and either returned to the mother or placed permanently with adoptive parents.

The program works closely with Our Lady of Victory Hospital, and while the client goes into the first stages of labor at the home she delivers her baby in the hospital delivery room.

Once the child is born the home provides a "rooming-in" program for those clients who feel they are not ready to return home right away. In this program, counselors try to help the clients cope with caring for the child on a 24-hour basis.

If the client chooses to return home immediately the "after-care" social service staff goes to the client's home to provide post-natal care for the child. The staff also provides follow-up medical and psychological care for the mother.

Ms. Purcell feels the most rewarding aspect of the program is "being able to build a relationship with these young mothers so they can trust us enough to come back for help when they need it."

The program exists along with an out-patient program that tries to provide the same services while the unwed mothers are at home. Both are funded by private donations and resident's fees are licensed by the New York State Department of Social Welfare.

The John T. Osborne Local History Museum Opens in Lackawanna

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, the Lackawanna Public Library officially opened the John P. Osborne Local History Museum. The guest of honor was Mr. John P. Osborne. He greeted the many friends and colleagues who came to share the time with him. Tea, coffee and refreshments were served by the Lackawanna Garden Club, which also provided beautiful flower arrangements for the opening.

Mr. Osborne has served the library for many years as trustee and as treasurer. He also has been the resource person for all those questions about Lackawanna's history for which the answers were so hard to find.

With the opening of the museum, the library hopes to be better able to locate information about the city — its history and its people. The museum itself is just beginning or, as one of the trustees put it, "It's in the embryo stage."

"To fully realize the potential of the museum," said Lynne Nothum, library director, "we need your help. You, your families, churches, and businesses all share in the past and the present of this city. Why not help by volunteering some time or donating materials for the museum."

Catholic Daughters To Meet Nov. 15

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Monsignor Baker #1043, will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, at 8 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall on South Park Avenue in Lackawanna. A Mass for deceased members will be celebrated by the Rev. William Doerflein, chaplain of the court.

The court's regent, Mary Jaycox, has announced that \$10 will be donated to the "Victory Project" to benefit the Our Lady of Victory Infant Home. The Seminary Fund, a special project of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, will be given \$30.

At the September meeting, the membership agreed to donate \$100 to the Our Lady of Victory Organ Fund.

Dorris Steinmetz, Court St. Ages #817, has been named district deputy for Court #1043 in Lackawanna.

The Catholic Daughters are joining with the Knights of Columbus to monitor the new fall television shows. This is to promote morality in the media.

Chamber of Commerce Schedules Meeting

There will be a directors' and general body membership meeting Monday, Nov. 8, at noon. The meeting will take place at John's Flaming Hearth, 1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna. A dutch treat luncheon will be served.