

# LANSSING COMMUNITY NEWS

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DECEMBER 19, 1996 ♦♦♦ Vo. I No. 10



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Dec. 17 Appearance:

## Preliminary Hearing On Rape Charges At Town Court

[Story prepared Monday @ 2:00 pm] - According to information received from Lansing court clerk Lynnette Geiger, Lester L. Bailey, 29, will have appeared Tuesday morning at 11:00 am in Lansing Town Court before Judge William Burin for a preliminary hearing on multiple felony charges involving two counts of first degree rape and a variety of subsidiary charges.

Bailey was arrested Dec. 11 by the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department after Lansing School District officials brought the alleged incidents to the attention of the county's Child Protective Services unit.

Because he was an Ithaca police officer at the time of his arrest, Bailey was transferred to the Schuyler County jail for his protection immediately after his Ithaca Town Court arraignment. Bailey was returned to the Tompkins County Jail on Sunday in anticipation of the Tuesday hearing and is currently under "one-on-one watch," according to Sheriff Emery Guest.

County District Attorney press spokesperson Leisa Amerman explained this morning that a preliminary hearing is an "evidentiary" process to determine if the accusatory documents submitted at the time of Bailey's initial arraignment contain adequate physical evidence and/or witness statements to bind the case over to the Tompkins County Grand Jury.

Though District Attorney George Dentes has some latitude in determining when the case goes to a Grand Jury, it could be heard as early as next week if Tuesday's preliminary hearing sustains the initial accusatory documents.

Though the Grand Jury meets every Tuesday, Amerman cited confidentiality in declining to indicate whether or when the Grand Jury might actually hear the case.

When the prosecutors' evidence is presented to the Grand Jury, this group of 23 local men and women will determine if probable cause exists to return an indictment against Bailey. At this point, the case would be scheduled for trial.

## CFCU Members Vote Friday At Noon On Conversion To NYS Credit Union Charter

By Matthew Shulman

The latest step in a national minuet that has brought credit union and community bank associations into conflict will be acted out this Friday at noon on Craft Road in Lansing as members of the Cornell Federal Credit Union (CFCU) vote on a proposition to convert their institution to a state-chartered credit union.

### A Little History

Under the 1934 Federal Credit Union Act, credit unions were authorized to form where "a common bond" existed. Until the early 1980's this "common bond" was construed to be the employee or associational group that constituted the credit union's field of membership when it first received its charter.

In 1982, however, the NCUA began a policy of allowing multiple groups to create "a common bond." Since then, employers and organizations have been able to petition federal credit unions to join the "common bond" shared by the initial credit union's members and affiliate with the core credit union as Select Employee Groups (or, SEGs).

Nationally, 3,500 of the 9,000 federal credit unions have SEGs. In Tompkins County, CFCU has about 105 SEGs. The Tompkins Employees FCU also has some SEGs, according to CFCU spokesperson Elizabeth Rudan.

Bankers' trade associations were not overjoyed with the quadrupled expansion of credit unions since 1982. They maintain that credit unions have an "unfair advantage" over community banks because of their tax exempt status and should only be able to operate within the core group's "common bond." On Oct. 25, federal Judge Thomas P. Jackson upheld the bankers' position and barred federal credit unions from accepting new members outside their original group (Cornell University in the case of CFCU).

### Impact of the Injunction

The immediate effect Judge Jackson's injunction is an instant curb on credit union expansion beyond the core "common bond." However, the NCUA is also concerned that the judge's ruling might eventually force credit unions



A NATIONAL STRUGGLE between the American Bankers Association and the National Credit Union Administration is at the heart of the CFCU decision to hold a special Dec. 20 vote on conversion from a federal to a New York State Credit Union Charter.

to expel existing members if they are employed outside (or are no longer affiliated with) the original core group.

Though the Justice Department will likely petition the US Supreme Court in January to overturn Judge Jackson's injunction, the credit union movement had already quietly developed state-based strategies to keep their tax exempt status, their ability to add new SEGs and to maintain their "once a member, always a member" policy.

### The Credit Unions' New York Approach

On May 2, the NYS Senate and Assembly repealed article 11 of the state banking law and substituted a new article 11 which allows "any federal credit union having its place of business in this state," to convert to a state credit union charter by a simple majority vote of those voting on the conversion proposition. The law takes effect Jan. 1, 1997.

If Friday's CFCU conversion vote is affirmative, the CFCU will become a state chartered credit union with the right to maintain and add SEGs; to guarantee its "once a member, always a member" policy and to keep its tax exempt status.

## Lights Above Lansing: Nalleys' North Pole

By Marc A. Catone

If you made reservations for a flight to the North Pole, cancel them immediately. You don't need to travel far to see Santa's village. It's just past the Salmon Creek bridge on Route 34B in the town of Lansing. Slow down and take a look at the Christmas light displays of Toby and Minnie Nalley, their families, and neighbors of Myers Road. They've been delighting area residents with their holiday illuminations for the past 25 years.

In 1972, the Nalleys first decorated the outside of their home with strings of lights to answer the requests of their four children. Each subsequent Christmas they added more lights and decorations. In 1975, Nalley planted trees and bushes. Soon he had more objects to hang lights upon. By 1978, both Nalley's home, at the top of the hill, and his mother's home, near Salmon Creek bridge, were adorned with lights on the roof, porch, and surrounding trees.

The tradition of holiday light displays has become a family affair. Toby and Minnie Nalley now live in the house at the bottom of the hill. Their son, Russell, and his family live in their original residence near the entrance of Myers Road. Daughter, Debbie Walawender, her husband, Brian, and their children, also live on Myers Road. All the families participate in brightening the night skies above their respective homes.

However, the Nalleys aren't an exclusive club. During the last 10 to 15 years, their neighbors, Bud Jensen and Lefty Hardy, have joined in the yearly celebration by draping their homes in Christmas lights as well.

Nalley estimates that there are approximately 8,000 light bulbs on his and Russell's homes. Extension cords, fitted with sockets, connect all the lines together. A total of eight electric switches control the lights on both houses. Nalley shops for lights at various locations, but is partial to a store specializing in Christmas ornaments and lights near



his winter home in Florida.

Usually, the Nalleys begin work on the lights in September. Any changes from previous years are organized at that time. Some lights are left in position all year long, but most are put up by hand every year. Although weather hasn't been a deterrent to overall plans, freezing rain and blustery winds can break wiring and light bulbs.

"The lights are on each night from December 1st until the weekend after New Year's Day. Normally, they're lit from sunset until 9:00 PM. The only exceptions are on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve when I leave the lights on all night," says Nalley, "And of course, everyone always remarks about the amount of our electric bill. Actually, it doesn't increase our charges all that much. Most people are surprised to hear that... but, it's the truth."

Since Nalley's retirement from Cargill Salt several years ago, he and his wife spend October and early November in Florida. After returning to Lansing for the Holiday season, they fly south to their Daytona home until spring. Their

southern home is also illuminated. A Florida neighbor makes sure an automatic timer for the lights is working properly while the Nalleys are in Lansing for Christmas.

People from all over the Finger Lakes region come to view the lights on Myers Road. A minister from the Aurora and Union Springs area takes senior citizens in his small van to see the displays each year. One year a woman who had emigrated from Germany took her mother, who was visiting the United States for the first time, to see the holiday lights. The daughter said it was one of the highlights of her mother's trip.

"I want people to know that they don't have to be bashful about parking in our driveways or walking around the grounds to view all the lights. They are more than welcome to do so. I'd much rather have them park safely than to take their chances stopping on route 34-B where cars go fast," exclaims Nalley.

Over the years, people have shown their appreciation for the Nalleys' lighting endeavors by bringing them cookies and homemade breads. The Nalleys are most appreciative of Ken Hover of Lansingville Road, who generously donates his time every summer by mowing the steep bank upon which the Christmas lights rest.

The most popular display is the large Nativity Scene consisting of Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, visitors, and animals. It's set apart from the other lights and is quite visible from the main highway.

"I am most proud of the Manger scene," states Toby Nalley, "People tell me they think it's beautiful. After all, that's what Christmas is all about. That's why we do this every year."

Photographs just don't do justice to this display, so head out to Rte 34-B and spend an enjoyable few minutes showing the Nalleys' creation to someone you love.



**For the Holidays, give your children the Gift of Knowledge and Discovery. Give them a Computer and the Internet!**

To get more information about how a computer and the Internet can help your children maximize their potential, call Digital Difference at 257-8596, or contact us at [info@clarityconnect.com](mailto:info@clarityconnect.com)

