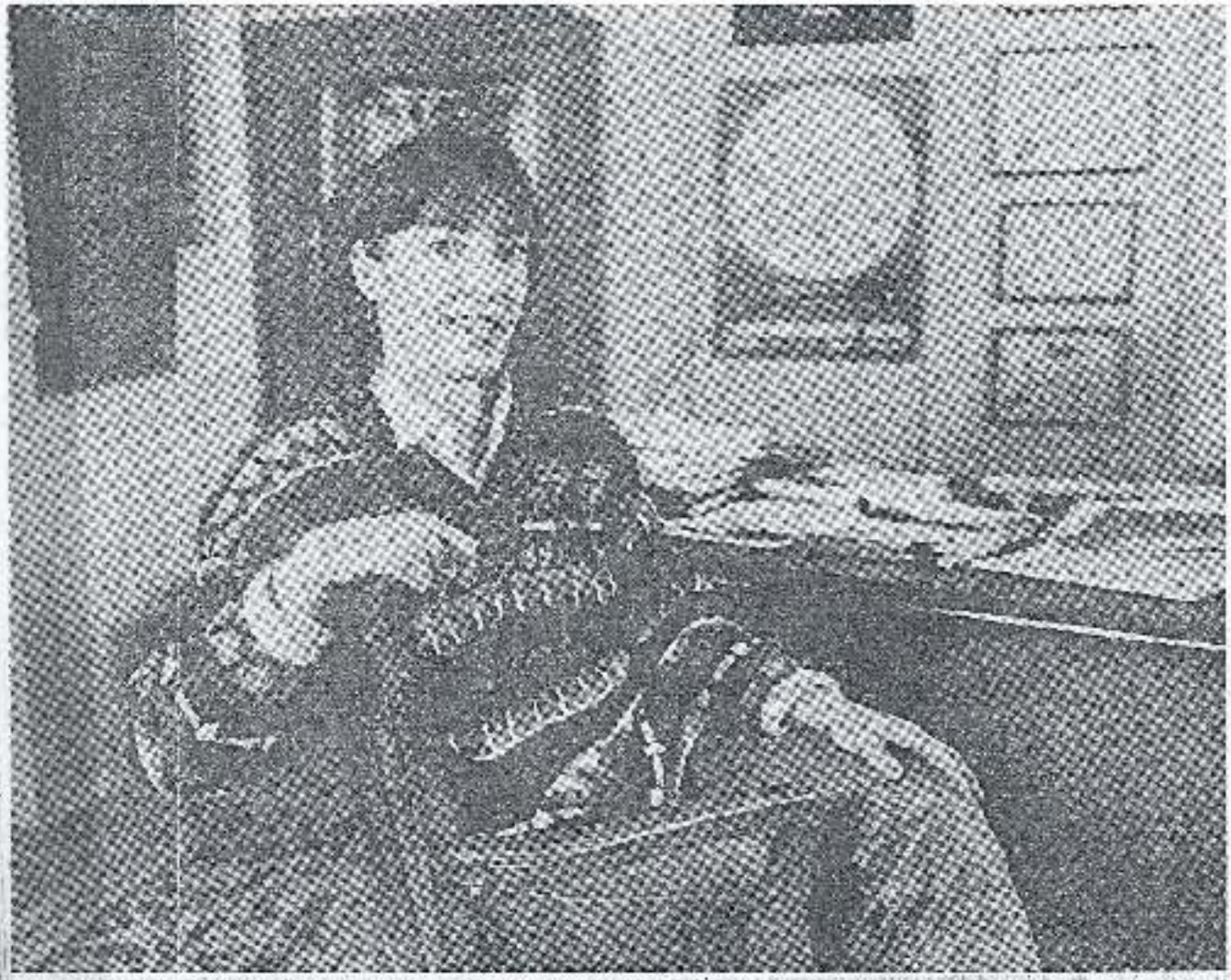


Winsted's community lawyer, Charlene LaVoie, in her office. *Judith Petrovich*

ing on now," explained Ms. LaVoie, who noted that "I felt it was my job at that early stage" to protect the interests of residents of the Northwest Corner.

The community lawyer's involvement in the issue of low-level radioactive waste took place about six months before the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service announced the top candidate sites for a waste dump in Connecticut. With the assistance of Winsted's community lawyer, several other Litchfield County towns also drafted similar anti-nuclear ordinances.

According to Miss Nader, after three years in action, the community lawyer/advocate program is adequately accomplishing its original goal. "It's fulfilling the hopes that we had...but that doesn't mean much more can't be done," said Miss Nader. She noted that the community lawyer program is "really in uncharted waters. We're learning as we go along. But what is clear," said Ms. Nader, "is that people can express themselves" through the privately funded position.