

## Old Folks Find 'Life Worth

### Home Haven For Dave

Dave was born in Syria and lived there during his boyhood. Like the rest of his family he grew up as a follower of Mohammed. He had no opportunity to attend school as our American boys do. Instead from his early years he worked on his father's farm.

Soon after his 18th birthday, during the summer of 1895, Dave came to America with seven other people from his neighborhood, leaving at home, besides his parents, two brothers and four sisters. When their vessel arrived in New York, Dave left his traveling companions and boarded a train which took him to Utica, New York. Here he remained four months, working on various "jobs."

While in Utica, Dave became acquainted with a Mr. Schraney, who resided there with a son and daughter. Dave liked these good people and when Mr. Schraney told him about their plans to move to Rochester and proposed that Dave accompany them, he accepted the proposal. A few days later he was settled comfortably in a boarding home, located in a Syrian settlement in the vicinity of Platt Street. He soon secured employment in a nearby factory.

When sufficient time had elapsed Dave registered in old Public School No. 9 preparatory to securing his citizenship. He attended the required number of days and was later successful in receiving the desired papers.

Living close to old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dave accompanied his friends frequently to Mass and to evening Devotions. Eventually, he requested instructions in the Catholic Faith and was baptized in the old Cathedral.

In 1903 Dave was married to a Syrian lady, Evelyn Ferdin, and the wedding ceremony took place in St. Bridget's Church on Gorham Street. At this time Dave was offered work on a farm not far from the city. Fortunately he was able to secure a house in the vicinity of the farm where they remained until the oldest of their four children was ready to attend school. They then had three daughters and one son.

For many years everything was normal and they were a very happy family, until their only son, who had grown to be a fine young man, high school age, was killed in an auto accident while on a deer hunting expedition. Not long after this great sorrow his beloved wife died and was followed closely by one of his lovely daughters. In the course of time the two remaining daughters were married and Dave was alone again.

He did not care to live with either daughter. For a short duration he lived with a nephew. He became restless and very depressed. He would repeat over and over: "I have no house! I have no wife! No children! No one cares! I feel lonely!"

Hearings and disturbed he went to his Reverend Pastor for counsel. The suggestion, St. Ann's Home, interested him and he lost no time in following directions, which established him here. Now he is happy again. He smiles and says: "Now, I have a home! I have a Church! I am happy! Somebody cares!"

Dave is an interesting little man, neat in appearance, and always wanting to assist in some way. He assumes and accepts many little responsibilities about the premises. He is courteous and especially well liked. He visits his daughters and they come to see him. In all, Dave is now very happy and feels secure in St. Ann's Home.



ST. ANN'S HOME — There are no insoluble problems. Home for the aged. Here the guests find "Life is Worth Living."

### St. Ann's Home For The Officers Of The Board

Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D. D.  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, Vice  
Rev. Arthur E. Ratigan  
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### Charles House

#### Teenager Cites Settlement

Bishop James E. Kearney  
54 Chestnut Street  
Rochester, New York

#### Your Excellency:

This letter concerns a beneficiary of the Rochester Catholic Charities and Community Chest. I am a sixteen-year-old Catholic teenager and I would like to express my deep appreciation to you and all others who have made my childhood memories so happy. I am speaking of the benefits I received from Charles Settlement House. I am so grateful that I would like to tell you about my days at Charles House, in hopes that the people of Rochester will appreciate the opportunities they have.

Through the years I have attended Charles House for many activities, from nursery school all the way through to Girl Scouts and teenage dances. However, the object of my letter is not to give a list of the activities at Charles House but to tell you "What Charles House has done for me."

In order to do this, I must relate some of my experiences at the Settlement House. I do not remember too much of my nursery school days, one of the earliest memories I have is running all the way home from school, to change my clothes and then running down to take part in one of the many activities going on there—be it craft, games, a hike, play practice or Brownies. I loved them all.

Charles House gave me some-

#### CHARLES SETTLEMENT HOUSE

445 Jay Street

Enables children and adults of the hood to participate in recreational, educational, social activities.

#### STAFF

Ruth Eshmann, Ellen McClellan, Louise Bryson, Annette Paul, Bill Scudder, Al-

thing definite to thing I and all my to do, because it was long. I do not think went by when I did something new, either craft, an art or a

Variety of Activities  
There is always a variety of activities going on, under the guidance of friendly instructors. Charles gave me the opportunity of many things which I may not have done otherwise. Charles House, we of the neighborhood, to have a safe place after school, to learn (paper mache, wood pottery, etc.) to be in camp, to be in Bro-Girl Scouts to attend sewing and nutrition

## Ann's Home

### Opportunities By Oldtimer

when all of a sudden, like a bolt out of a blue sky, the linotype was invented. This was the end of my career as a printer. It used to take eight men to get out the semi-weekly. When the linotype was installed, two men did the work of eight. For a few months I continued to work as a compositor.

I forgot to mention that on May 3, 1903, I married a Goshen girl. During the year 1913, my beloved wife died, leaving me with a little girl nine years old.

One day, (I had now reached the age of thirty-five) I went to visit a friend who was a patient in Bellevue Hospital. I watched the nurses there caring for the sick and infirm and before leaving my friend, I said to him, "From this day forward this will be my work."

I applied at Bellevue Hospital for work and was advised to take a three year course in nursing in the old Dr. Miles Training School. After three years there, I obtained a position as nurse in the old Soldiers and Sailors Home in Bath, N.Y. I remained there until the beginning of World War I. At that time, the U.S. Marine Hospital on Staten Island was advertising for male nurses. I applied and was accepted.

After four years of strenuous work at the Marine Hospital, fighting the terrors of the "Spanish Flu" epidemic, I returned to the soldiers hospital in Bath. Soon after, I suffered a nervous breakdown. I was no longer able to work. I lived with my daughter until the beginning of World War II. Then she joined the W.A.C.'s and was sent overseas.

Then I decided to apply for admission to St. Ann's Home. Am I happy at St. Ann's? I have never regretted my coming here. Here no one can complain of being in want of the material things of life. Folks at St. Ann's are noted for their longevity. The majority of men and women here are in their late eighties and a number are ninety and over.

What I love most here is the spiritual life. St. Ann's is the best place to prepare for the journey to that lasting city, the city of eternity which is Heaven. There, we hope to meet our loved ones whom we have loved long since, but have lost awhile.

### Mother Likes Charles House

Bishop James E. Kearney  
54 Chestnut Street  
Rochester 4, New York

#### Your Excellency:

I, being the mother of eight children, am in an excellent position to praise the merits of the Charles Settlement House.

My children, ranging in age from five years to twenty-five years, and have all benefited through the very capable hands of the directors and leaders of Charles House. The Scouting programs, the cooking classes, the choral school, the work shop, the day camp, the teenage gatherings have afforded my children many pleasures and excursions, to say nothing of the invaluable training and guidance that simply would not have been theirs, had there been no Charles House in our neighborhood.

As we, in the past, have reaped from the benefits extended to us, my only hope is that we will be allowed to continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Chester Viba

Rochester, N. Y., April 20, 1964 T-3