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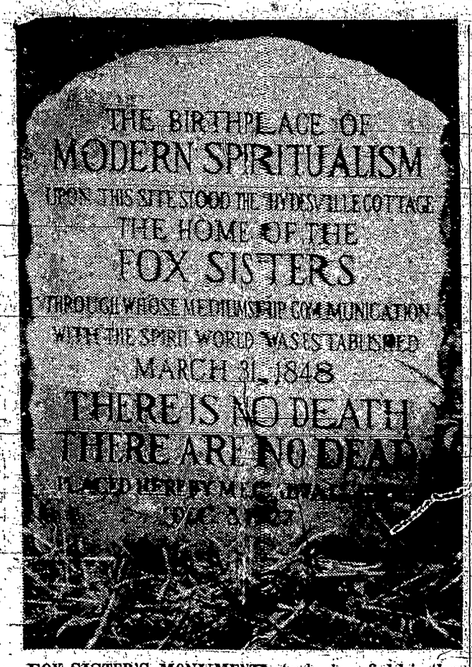

FOX SISTER'S MONUMENT stands in a field in the town of Hydesville, a mile and a half from Newark. The photo above was taken "on the run" by our Courier photographer, who was not partial to the snake-infested field.

New $300,000 Church Rises In Elmira Heights

Rev. Joseph G. Merkel, pastor, expects the new $300,000 St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira Heights, to be completed some time early in 1960. It will have a seating capacity of 522 and will replace the present church that is no longer adequate for the rapidly expanding parish population.

SOME IDEA of the vast growth of the parish may be gained by noting that there are over 500 families identified at this time as compared to 110 families, 15 years ago.

There are 395 children receiving religious instructions on released time, evidencing the great need for a parish school that is contemplated in the future.

Six Masses are offered each Sunday morning to care for the needs of this fast growing parish. — 2 Masses were all that were needed 15 years ago.

The new church will be situated on a 3½ acre site that will be used for any future parochial expansion. The rectory is located adjacent to the new church.

Seton Groups In Action

33RD BRANCH of Seton Workers of St. Mary's Hospital will have the annual picnic at Honeoye Lake, Saturday, Aug. 22.

REV. JOSEPH NATALE — REV. ANTHONY F. CALIMERI — SAM COLANTONI

God's Handprint And Man's Fantasy

Picturesque Genesee Country, Home of Cults and Occult

by ROBERT SMETT

This was a very special land. A land especially blessed by the Gitchi Manitou, according to an old legend. A very special land—this valley of the Genesee. A land that God had chosen for His very own.

Though no longer beautiful, the woman showed traces of a handsomeness now lost in an overfirmness of the chin, a cruelty in the eyes and around the mouth.

She stretched her foot out over the icy blue water of Keuka Lake, then slowly drew it back. She had said she could walk on the water. Would she do it? Who was this woman dressed in the severe manishness of a riding habit?

The shores of Keuka were not native to Jemima Wilkinson. She was born in Rhode Island. As a young girl she suffered a comatose illness which was thought to be fatal. However she rose from her sick bed completely cured and announced that she had died and was now a reborn Christ.

Jemima Wilkinson could not read or write, but she posessed a prodigious memory that enabled her to memorize practically the whole Bible simply by having it read to her.

She had a magnetic personality that attracted the simple farmer as well as the man of letters.

Her congregation followed her from Rhode Island in search of a "promised land". They found it . . . a land where God's handprint in the form of long slender lakes was surrounded by green pined hills and covered by an incomparably blue sky.

Her followers built her a beautiful home high above the "lady of the finger lakes"—Keuka—and from a mahogany bannistered staircase the Universal Friend, as she called herself, preached an illogical religion and was obeyed like a medieval tyrant.

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE on Quaker Road in the township of Wheatland, near Scottsville, is still used today as a Grange Hall. The "Shaking" Quakers gave way to the Hicksites who finally joined a new sect, the Fourierites. None remain in the area today.

Jemima, Wilkinson, albeit illiterate, was a shrewd woman. Jemima Wilkinson was also accused of being a swindler. Her followers were not allowed to marry, not for any puristic reason, but simply in order that, upon death, their wills would name but one beneficiary—the Universal Friend.

Jemima Wilkinson was a clever woman. She drew her foot back from the calm Keuka waters and turned to her followers crowded on the shores.

As calm as Keuka and as cold, she asked, "Have you faith in me?" "Yes—oh, yes," they responded. "If you have faith, no evidence of my powers is necessary," she stated. Then Jemima Wilkinson put on her shoe and went home.

The Universal Friend lived ten years in her lovely home near Branchport. She died in 1819. She died in the winter and was buried in her own cellar to await the melting of ice and snow.

Her final resting place is a secret handed down by word of mouth to a chosen few—a secret guarded with masonic religiousity. Arch Merrill says there is a man in Penn Yan today who knows the secret of Jemima Wilkinson's grave but won't tell.

On a balmy April evening over a hundred years ago, my great grandfather, whose name was James Edward Kearney, (no relative of the Bishop), sat by a fireplace in Ulster County, Ireland, reading his favorite author, John Henry Newman.

He planned on coming to the valley of the Genesee. He would marry a girl from Carey, have thirteen children, and grow a beautiful white beard.

On that same night in 1843 a group of white-robed men and women stood on Cobb's Hill Rochester and waited for the world to end. They were followers of William Miller, who had left his plough in Vermont, defied the Farmer's Almanac and prophesied that the earth's destruction was upon us. And my great grandfather was only half way through his volume of Newman.

Dawn came with nary a thunderbolt having disturbed the April calm. The Millerites decided to go home. Most of them had forgotten that they had sold all of their posessions and didn't own a pillow on which to lay their heads.

The Society of Christian Believers was a nice, quiet group—except when they prayed. They would twitch and squirm as if their clothing had been invaded by a family of ants. Hence the non-believers dubbed them Shakers or Shaking Quakers. Their founder, Ann Lee, who like Jemima Wilkinson claimed to be a reincarnation of Christ, led them from eastern

(Continued on Page 12)

Parish Improvements Told By Father Fox

Sixteen 1000-watt lights were installed in the ornamental lourves on each side of the ceiling of SS. Peter and Paul Church, Rev. Robert J. Fox, pastor announced today.

It is estimated that these new lights will give parishioners between 23 and 25 candle power lights in the pews making it possible to read the finest print with ease.

FATHER FOX also announced that the area west of the school on Brown St. was surfaced to provide enlarged parking facilities and another entrance to the parking area. Much of the beautiful convent yard was utilized for this purpose.

Bumper to bumper parking will allow about 300 cars to be parked during church services. Cars entering the area from Brown St. will come in by the new west entrance and will leave by the two exits on the east side of the school.

Those entering from Wentworth St. may leave by Wentworth or Brown St. exits.

Father Fox has asked the parishioners to contribute $5 a month for the next 10 months to defray the expenses of these improvements.

Sunday Masses are at 6, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11 and 12:15 noon.

A birthday party was held recently by relatives of Father Fox at which 85 attended. He was presented with a new serving table and tray and a clothing valet.

Sisters Attend Art Convention

Three Sisters of Mercy of the Rochester diocese attended the Catholic Art Association Convention at the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J. from Aug. 16 to 19.

Sister Mary Jeanne, Notre Dame High School, Elmira; Sister Mary Lisette, Our Lady of Mercy High School; and Sister Mary Estelle, St. Thomas School, Rochester joined delegates from all parts of the country at the meeting. Sister Mary Lisette and Sister Mary Estelle are also members of the faculty of Catherine McAuley Junior College in Rochester.

The convention was honored by the presence of His Eminence Giacomo Cardinal Lercaro, Archbishop of Bologna, Italy. Among the speakers were Hildegarde Marie, president of St. Elizabeth's and Arnold Bank, leading American designer and letterer.

Earthquakes Recorded By Students Here

Earthquakes that caused extensive destruction in the Northwest, Tuesday, were recorded by McQuaid Jesuit High School's student-built, student-operated seismograph station.

Shock waves recorded at 2:42 a.m. were so intense they threw the instruments off scale temporarily, Paul McAvinney, 16, McQuaid student said. The intensity was calculated on the Richter scale as 7.8.

Assisted by Paul Weis, Daniel Doell and Christopher Husson, McAvinney has been virtually living at the station during the summer. The students maintain excellent records and forward them to Fordham University for comparison with seismographic readings there.

The McQuaid station was built under the guidance of Roy Drake, S.J., a Jesuit scholastic who organized the school's science club. The club obtained seismometers from the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, galvanometers from Fordham, and film for the recording of data has been supplied free of charge by Haloid-Xerox Inc.

KC To Honor Father Zimmer

Ithaca—William E. Seitz, Fraternal Committee Chairman of the Ithaca Council 277, Knights of Columbus, has announced a change in the date of the dinner party to honor the past Chaplain, Father Edward Zimmer to Thursday, September 24. It will be held in conjunction with the annual Past Grand Knights' dinner.

Father Zimmer had advised that he was unable to keep the date this month and the date also conflicted with a dinner sponsored by the Interfraternal Council, of which the Knights of Columbus is a participating member.

Fr. Calimeri Honored By CWV Testimonial

The Rev. Anthony F. Calimeri, assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church and County Chapter Chaplain of the CWV for the past 3 years was honored at a surprise testimonial dinner on Aug. 12. The special meting of the CWV drew over 70 of the members to the Lakeshore Country Club.

Father Calimeri has served the local Catholic Var Veteran unit in post and county capacities for the past 7 years. He has held his present office, as Monroe County CWV chaplain, for over 3 years. Prior to holding the office of county chaplain, Father Calimeri served in a similiar office at St. Jerome's and St. Patrick's Memorial posts of the CWV.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS were presented by the post commanders of Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Jerome's, St. Augustine's, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Patrick's Memorial posts.

County Commander Sam Colantoni presented Father Calimeri an official CWV officer's cap, Gerard Beauchamp, P.C.C. read a "special edition extra of a local newspaper.

Among those attending were the Rev. Leo C. Mooney, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Rev. Joseph Natale, U.S. Army Paratroop Chaplain and post Chaplains Rev. James Doyle, Rev. James Marvin and Rev. John Hempel.

Program chairman was Don Foley, P.C.C, who was assisted by Sam Colantoni, Gerard Beauchamp, P.C.C, Raymond Jeffery, Sam Ronzo, William Schmitt, William Slincy, Michael Tedone, Joseph Grassi, Mario Ferrari, Arthur Buckley, Travor Durant, Ralph Blier, Joseph Korbel, and E. Joseph Ranaletta.

CWV Auxiliary Wins Awards

At the 24th National Convention of the Catholic War Veterans held in the Penn Sheraton, Pittsburgh, from Aug. 13 - 16, the following auxiliaries won merit awards: Sacred Heart Auxiliary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Auxiliary, Holy Rosary Auxiliary and Assumption Auxiliary in Fairport.

HOLY ROSARY Auxiliary won two trophies for unit awards. One award covered the 3rd Vice Program which includes "Mary's Junior League" Program. The other award was for the best Welfare and Mission outside the VA hospitals.

Open House Set By Xavier Club

Xavier Club will hold an open house dance on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 8:30 p.m. in Holy Cross auditorium on Lake Ave. Admission is free. There will be entertainment and refreshments.

An eight piece orchestra will play for dancing. Invitations have been extended to other youth clubs to join in festivities. All young people of post high school age are invited.

Dan Morgan is chairman; Pat Kavanaugh, cochairman and the Rev. Neil Goodman, moderator. Club dues are now payable at $1 a year.

46 Nursing Graduates To Receive School Pins

Forty-six graduates of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing will receive their school pins in ceremonies in the Nurses' Auditorium on campus, Saturday, Aug. 29. The seniors will receive their pins from Sister Teresa, Administrator of St. Mary's Hospital, and Sister Frances, Director of Nursing.

THE PIN medalion bears the school motto — "In conspectu tuo servimus—In Thy sight, we serve," and reception of it represents completion of an approved program of training in nursing.

Parents of the graduates will attend the ceremonies and the Rev. John V. Rosse, chaplain of the hospital, will give the benediction.

MEMBERS OF the Women's Board of St. Mary Hospital will entertain the graduates and their guests at a reception in the hospital auditorium. Mrs. Martin P. Dunsmuir and Mrs. Arthur B. Weston, co-chairmen of the hospitality committee of the board, will have charge of arrangements. Mrs. Frederick C. Moser, chairman of the Board, Mrs. John C. Menihan, chairman of the nursing committee, Mrs. Harry B. Crowley, and Mrs. Charles W. Dennison will pour.

Commencement exercises will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, Aug. 30.

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