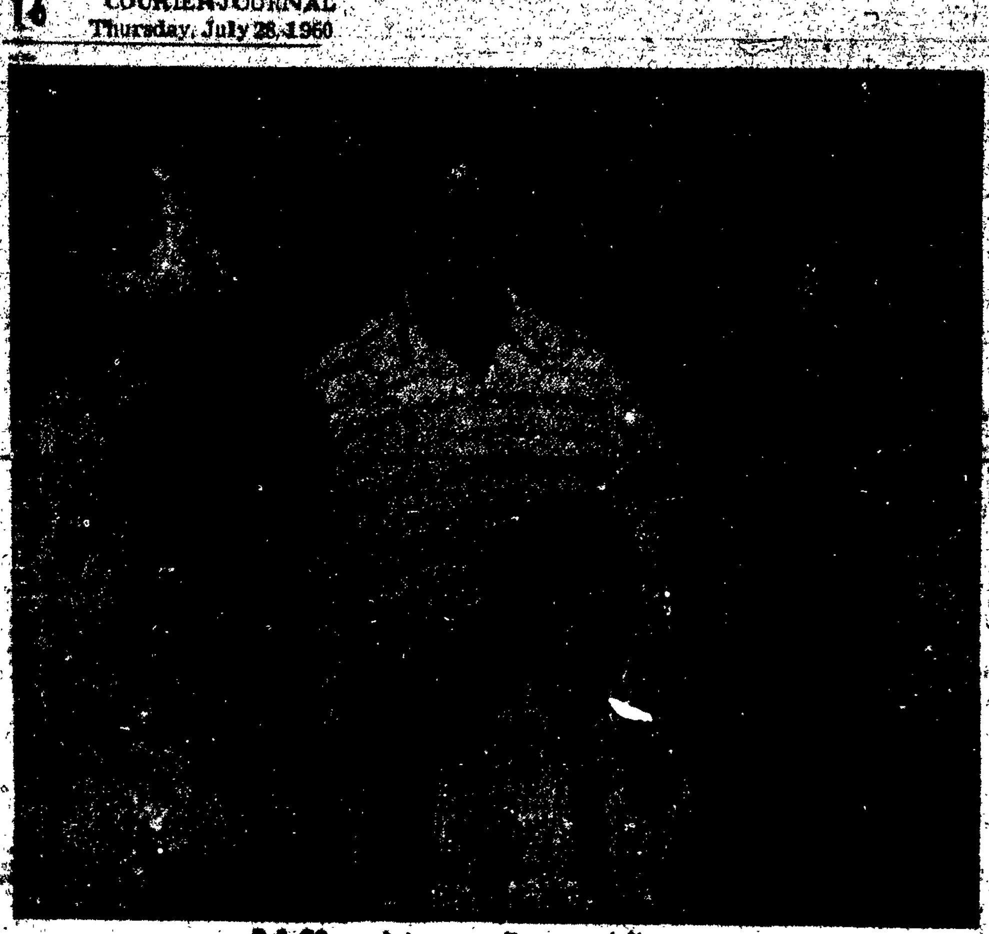

Win Dancing Honors

DANCING HONORS were captured by students of the Farrell Sisters School of Dancing at the annual Feis held in Cleveland this month. George Wigman, left, took third place medal and Daniel Etter a first and third place medal. Back row shows Sarah Keegan, William Garvey, vice president of the Harps Club, and Bea Maloney, who captured the professional solo dancing trophy.

Joy To An Empty House — The Adopted Child

(Continued from Page 14)

make good adoptive parents, physically, emotionally and spiritually. The pastors evaluation blank asks him to state whether the couple attend Mass regularly and receive the Sacraments frequently, also he is asked whether he would consider their home a desirable one for children.

The application blank is filled out and returned with the application fee. If these are all acceptable to Mrs. Daly the couple are then investigated further by Mrs. Wm. Emerson who handles the adoptions.

Mrs. Daly's advice for prospective adoptive parents is, "If they are interested, visit an agency to obtain answers and not to accept hearsay because the "red tape" is not as unpleasant as they think."

MRS. WILLIAM EMERSON, adoption caseworker, will visit the home three times to compile the couples background as to history, health, work, home conditions, likes and dislikes. She will ask who the couples parents are and inquire if there is any disease or mental illness in their background. She will try to decide whether they will make good parents by this personal contact.

A financial statement is obtained and bank accounts and insurance policies must be certified. A complete setup in "home study" as to the number of rooms, size etc. is made. Their references have to be 1 Protestant and 2 Catholics.

Usually 3 references are given and then the caseworker will decide the 4th so as to get an impartial opinion. She will also make personal visits to the pastor and doctor in addition to the evaluation papers mailed them.

The entire case is then presented to the adoption board under a ficticious name. The board is made up of priests, doctors and lay people who are not of the Catholic Family Service staff. The board members are not known except to the agency. If the board passes the case the couple is then notified that they will receive a child when there is one available.

EACH CASE requires from 2 to 3 months work but the approximate waiting period is 2 years. The babies surrendered by unmarried mothers come from Elmira, Hornell, Wayland, Ithaca, Owego, Corning and Watkins Glen. The agency places local babies outside Elmira and babies from other towns in Elmira.

There are about 23 adoptive applications now pending and about as many available babies are placed in a year's time. The agency will accept applications from all age groups but will limit placements to childless couples or parents with only 1 child. A childless couple will receive preference over a couple with an adopted child.

The baby is matched to the prospective adoptive parents according to nationality, physical characteristics and educational backgrounds. The adoptive couple is then called to see the baby and if all is acceptable they may take the baby home for a supervisory year.

DURING THIS time Mrs. Emerson will visit them 12 times, unannounced to see that the baby is loved and wanted. Also during this year the child belongs to Catholic Family Service but is supported by the couple.

At the end of the year, a re-investigation is made to check finances, references and the health of the three. It is again presented to the Adoption board for final approval, and if approved the adoption will go to court for the final adoption papers.

Mrs. Emerson's advice for adoptive parents is, "They should love and give devotion to the child and give it good Catholic training."

A local couples opinion on adoption is, "Since having these children they have made our house a real home. Frankly we do not know how we ever got along without them. We are certain we will do our part to bring them up as good Catholic children and will give them every advantage we possibly can afford. Naturally we are grateful to Catholic Family Service and Miss Mary E. FitzGerald for their cooperation and the realization of our dreams."

Owego Shrine Honors Blessed Mother

Owego — A beautiful six-foot outdoor shrine in honor of Our Blessed Mother has been erected at the home of Mrs. Rose Kaufelt on the Owego-Nichols highway. The idea of the outdoor shrine originated with Mrs. Kaufelt's husband, John Kaufelt, who died a few years ago.

Following her husband's death, Mrs. Kaufelt carried out the plans. The shrine, which is built of field stone which was taken from the family land was constructed, entirely by members of the family.

A large statue of The Blessed Virgin centers the shrine, and on either side are statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph. Shrubbery and flowers are planted around it.

The Rev. Michael L. Reagan, assistant pastor of St. Patrick's recently went to the Kaufelt home and blessed the shrine.

Mrs. Kaufelt, who is a member of St. Patrick Parish, extends a "cordial invitation" to all to visit the shrine. It is lighted by electric lights and is plainly visible from the highway and many persons motoring by are attracted by it.

Reds Approve New Prelate

Warsaw — (RNS)—Appointment of a new auxiliary bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cracow was formally approved here by the State Office for Church Affairs.

The new auxiliary, named by Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland and confirmed by Pope John XXIII, is Father Julian Groblicki formerly professor of theology in the Cracow seminary. Aged 53, the bishop-designate was ordained in Rome in 1933 and afterwards spent some time in graduate studies there.

Maronite Rite

Jerusalem — (RNS)—Maronite Rite Archbishop Joseph Khoury of Tyre, Lebanon, conferred here with Dr. Saul Colbi, director of the Israeli government's Department of Christian Affairs, on problems of the ... Maronites in this country ... their spiritual ...

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