



story by Bob Smett
photos by Paul Contestable

Mrs. Porter Homer

The Lady Likes Blue

The Spirit of 1776 is a merry one — at least it is at 1776 Highland Avenue, lovely home of Rochester's new City Manager Porter Homer.

It begins with Mrs. Homer's warm welcome and quintuples as the children arrive home from school.

The large and friendly living room has blue walls, blue carpeting, blue chairs, and a blue davenport. "You just HAVE to like blue," says the most attractive Mrs. Homer with her blue eyes.

A native of Waterbury, Conn., where at one time her family lived in Rosalind Russell's old homestead, Mrs. Homer studied government at the University of Connecticut.

There she met her husband. While at the University she was active on the Newman Club publication.

Following college, Mrs. Homer took a position as business agent for a labor union. Good experience now that she has her own union — Kathy 11, Peter 9, Gregory 8, and twins Pierce and Andrew 6.

Soon after Our Lady of Lourdes School lets out, the Homer small fry begin to appear one by one — even the twins make a separate entrance. Each has a drawing, some exercise papers, or books all of which are deposited in mother's lap with a word of greeting.

Our photographer soon found himself with five able assistants — what he couldn't think of, they did. They piled

into closets, hung from trees and probably would have jumped off the roof if requested.

Before coming to Rochester, Mr. Homer held similar positions in Kansas City and Tucson. It was while in Arizona, (1) miles from our neighbor, to the South, that Mrs. Homer gathered her beautiful collection of Mexican glass and ceramics — all in her favorite blue.

We asked Mrs. Homer if she found this city-hopping difficult especially in view of her large family. "Not at all," she replied, "in fact we seem to thrive on it." She admitted being a bit reluctant about coming to Rochester — she had been told that Rochesterians were a rather cold reserved bunch. "I found just the opposite to be true," she remarked, "the first few days we were here, the door bell was ringing constantly. Everyone was so kind — some even brought pies and cakes."

And who couldn't welcome Mrs. Porter Homer? She is a very pretty addition to the Rochester scene and the spirit of 1776 is a merry one indeed.

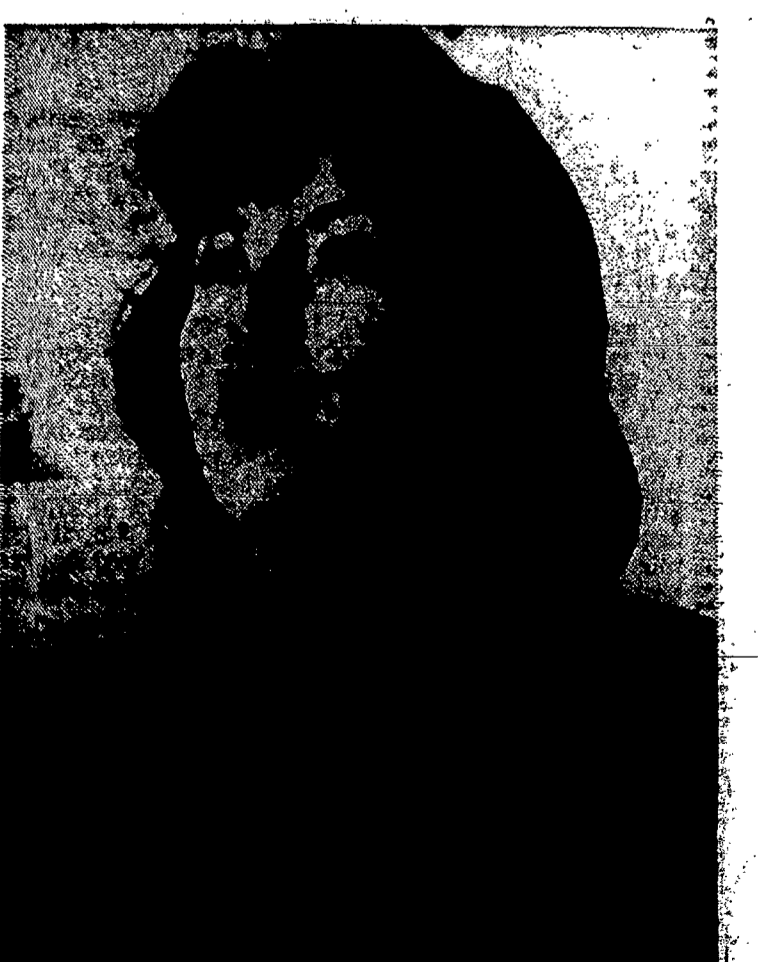
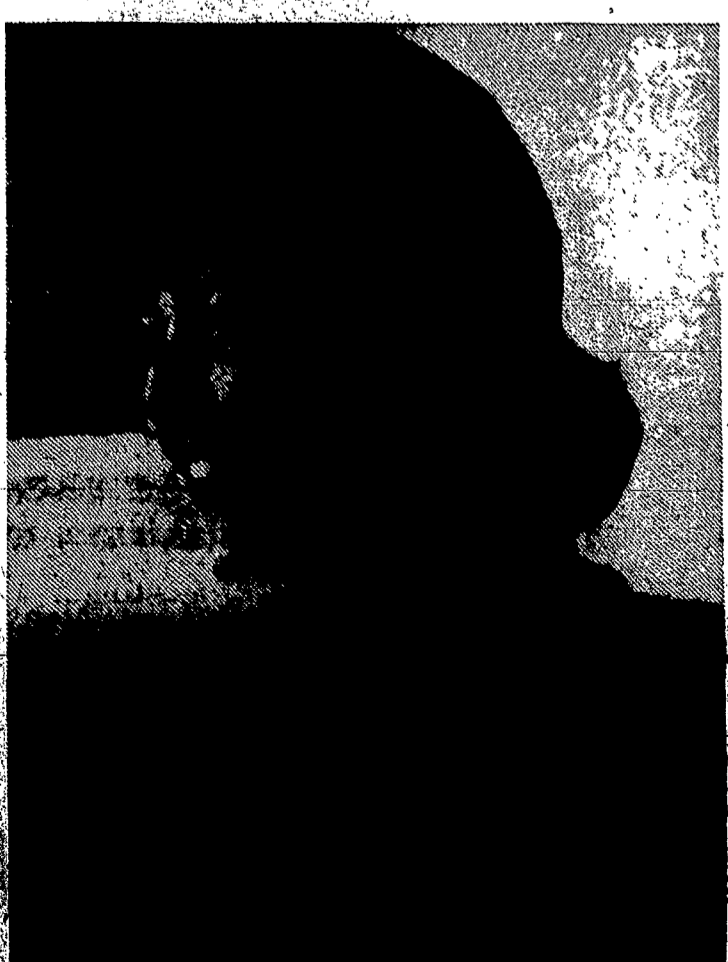
25 Years Ago

(From the files of Catholic Courier Journal, Oct. 7, 1937)

Drastically destroyed by fire, St. Bridget's Church, Hand St., completely restored, was to be reopened on Oct. 9, 1937, with Low Mass at 7:30 a. m., celebrated by the Rev. Gerald T. Brennan, pastor, and Pontifical Mass at 11 a. m. by Bishop Walter A. Foery of Syracuse.

An Open Letter signed by 150 Protestant clergymen, educators and intellectuals attacking a letter of the Spanish Hierarchy on the war in Spain was denounced by the Rev. Dr. Frederick J. Zwierlein, professor of church history, St. Bernard's Seminary, for "its patent lies, subterfuges and twisted interpretation of fact."

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