



Growing a Future in a Shell of the Past

There is hardly a Catholic now alive who hasn't walked along the Suffern Track with Joyce Kilmer, and seen the House with Nobody in It, with windows all broken and black.

Kilmer wrote his poem to celebrate the lives and joys that once happened in an abandoned house.

A group of volunteers, in Rushville, however, see in an old slack-jawed Victorian house, a chance to celebrate something quite new, and so they are working at putting life back under its weathered gingerbread eaves.

What they have done, in this small community on the border between Yates and Ontario Counties, is to turn just such a House with Nobody in It into a clinic for many residents of the area who find themselves

without adequate funds for health care.

The chief architect for the project is Father Robert Buckland, a member of the diocesan Secular Mission program.

According to Father Buckland, the work started with \$5,500 purchase of the once elegant house pictured above, by the Secular Mission. Then, since January, there was a complete renewing of the interior into offices, consultation rooms, volunteer living quarters, laboratories, and examination cubicles.

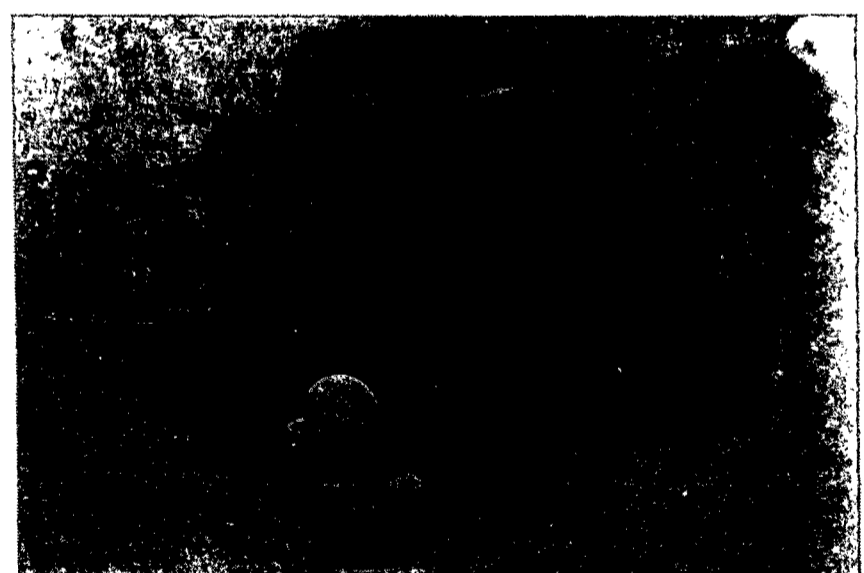
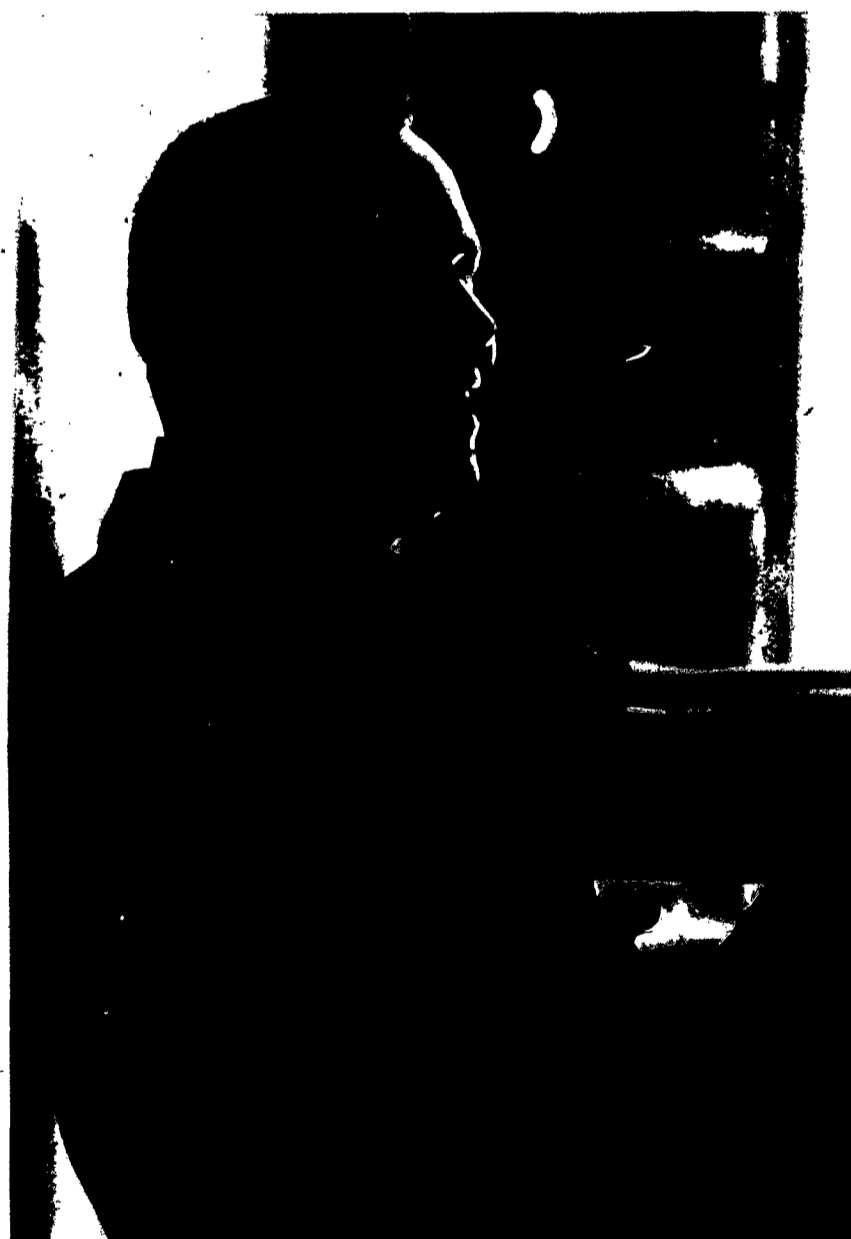
And, according to the hefty

priest in charge, the restoration work was the doing of an extraordinary list of people, including companies from Georgia Power to National Gypsum. "It was a national effort," Father said.

He commented that there are as many as 20 area doctors and nurses on the volunteer health care programs. This number is complemented by many lay volunteers from Rushville itself and from the neighboring communities and campuses.

"You just gotta get here and see this place," Father said during a phone interview. His enthusiasm crackled in the wires.

The day the pictures



(Photo

Hope and fascination: Father Buckland (above) shows the face of a man on the crest of accomplishment and the face of a dreamer seeing much yet to be done. (Right) Children at their first party are enthralled with the wonders of a new future.

