

# Corinth, N.Y. -- Nice to Live In

By JOHN R. SULLIVAN

Corinth, N.Y. — Nearly 200 miles to the south, in New York City, people are actually crying in their lunch-time martinis.

Advertising is down; the midi is a turkey—and a lot of very highly paid people are out pounding the streets looking for jobs.

But here on Main Street, where the banner celebrates the 100th anniversary of paper-making, Leo Bergeron stands in the door of his children's clothing store and smiles.

"If business stays like this, 1970 will be the best year we've ever had," he said.

The town of Corinth, population 3,200, won't be able to say that. But it can say that 1970 is a good year — and that's a lot more than New York's businesses can say.

Finding the reason for this difference is an elusive job. But it seems to have more to do with the people and their goals than with the state of the economy.

Corinth is not isolated—it's less than three hours by automobile from New York, less than an hour from Albany, the state capital.

But it is insulated from the extremes — its ups are not so high, and its lows are not so desperate.

Bergeron should know. He has seen both the big-city hustle — he was once a regional manager for one of the nation's largest distillers — and the small town ease. He prefers the latter.

"We like it here," he said. "It's not sophisticated, but it's pleasant. We like the people, and we know them all."

Because he and his wife, Terry, know them — she was born and reared here — they have not tried to get rich over the backs of the town's mill-hands.

## Prison Chaplain:

## Family Life Weakening

Cincinnati, Ohio — (NC) — "Every one of my parishioners has problems."

That's the chief difference between his "parish" — Elmira, New York's correctional facility — and parishes "on the outside," Father James P. Collins commented here.

The priest, president of the American Correctional Chaplains' Association and of its Catholic counterpart, warned that the "growing contagion of drug abuse" is shaping up to be "the biggest threat to the future of our youth."

A veteran of 11 years as a prison chaplain, the Rochester priest said he was especially worried about the effects of hallucinogens such as LSD.

"My practical advice to young people," he said, "is to separate themselves from a circle of friends that trots out even marijuana. Otherwise the peer pressure will be too much to resist."

Father Collins, who also heads the New York Correctional Chaplains Association, went on to comment that "the still major problem of alcoholism among youth is being obscured by the reams of publicity about drug abuse."

He said that at the Elmira prison, where the average age of prisoners entering is 22 years, about 24 per cent are "full blown alcoholics."

One of the most significant

Courier-Journal



Their store—The Little Shop — stocks the same clothes New York shoppers find on Fifth Avenue. But their price tags are lower — even though their costs are the same—by a dollar, sometimes two.

So they haven't gotten rich. But you get the feeling that they won't become destitute either; the people will keep coming because they know they'll get fair treatment.

The ideas of loyalty, mutual interest, thrift and trust that most of us give lip service to seem to work in Corinth.

And modesty. That's probably why fresh paint—not five-level houses with four color TVs—is the most accurate indicator of the economic health of towns like Corinth.

And there is lots of white paint here—the churches, the old houses now gleam.

Corinth Hospital, which used to be a ramshackle wooden building, has become Adirondack Regional Hospital, a modern brick building with large parking lots and an automatic emergency door.

The credit union for em-

ployes of the International Paper Co. mill — the town's only industry — now occupies a modern brick building.

The I.P. Co. itself has changed; this month they broke ground for a treatment plant that will all but eliminate the pollution it has poured into the Hudson River for a century.

All is not new, however.

The tenements in the hollow below the mill are still there; the only thing different is that Freddy's Grocery, which used to occupy a corner of one of them, has moved to new, modern quarters.

The town's only movie theater, the Starr, has succumbed to old age and modern transportation — Corinth folks can see first-run movies in Saratoga Springs, a scant 20-minute drive away.

Why live in Corinth?

"Corinth," said one man, "if you're not a high liver, is a nice place to be."



## Bishop Walsh Visits President

Bishop James E. Walsh, the Maryknoll missionary 12 years in a Communist Chinese jail, meets with President Nixon in the White House. (RNS Photo)

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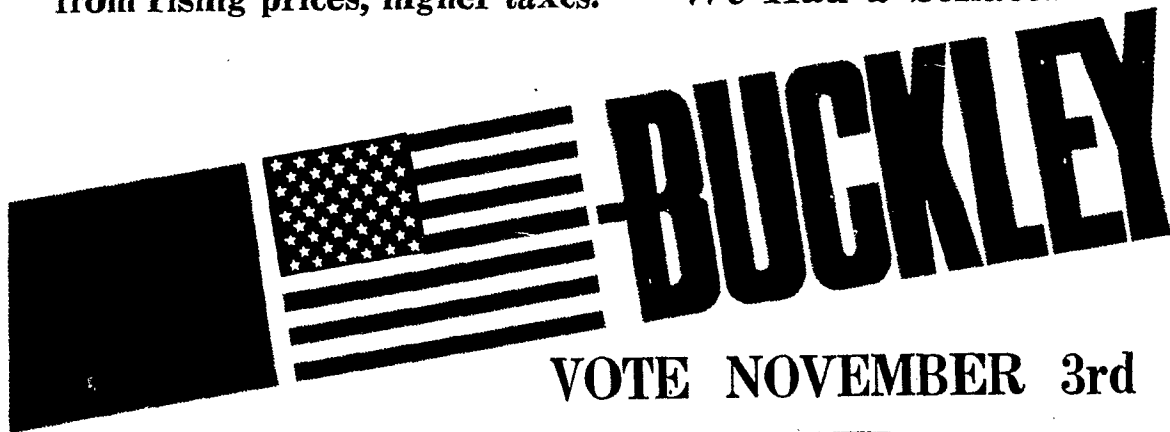
- the majority of parents who want to see the drug traffic stopped before it ruins any more young lives.
- the majority of students who want education, not revolution.
- the majority of our older people who want their pensions saved from rising prices, higher taxes.

- the majority of the rank and file of labor who love this country they have done so much to build.

- the majority of our black fellow Americans who seek fulfillment within the American system and repudiate fanatic radicals who call for hatred and bloodshed.

- the majority of all our citizens . . . silent no longer!

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