



The Twin Churches

The Evolution Of Two Churches

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Driving along the country road (35B) in the Ludlowville-Myers area, the abandoned "Twin Churches" high on a knoll appear like ghosts from an Andrew Wyeth painting.

Was the building of these churches, one Methodist, the other Catholic, the first event of an ecumenical movement at the turn of the century? Answers to this and many other fascinating questions have been obscured in the pages of time.

It is known that the building on the left was a Methodist church and the church on the right was the original All Saints Church. The present All Saints Church was constructed around the corner in Ludlowville in 1933 and is a mission of Our Lady of the Lake in King Ferry.

The little hamlet of Myers was named for its first settler, Andrew Myers, who reportedly arrived at the mouth of Salmon Creek in 1794. He built his first log cabin on what later became the site of the International Salt Company.

In 1877 the Cayuga Railroad was completed and with it came many new settlers. The first salt well was drilled in 1892 and the population increased with this thriving business.

For many years, there had been only a few Catholics in Myers or Ludlowville, so for 30 years or more the old section hand-car was commanded and propelled by a few of the faithful to worship in Ithaca, 10 miles away. As the salt plant grew, many foreign families, mostly Catholics, sought work in the area.

About 1910 or 1911 James L. Cooney, who was at the time Superintendent of the International Salt Co. plant, and a devout Catholic, enlisted the support of an old time settler, one Mrs. Gallagher, to establish a local place of worship. Wooden benches and an improvised altar were placed in a vacant tenant house owned by the Gallaghers. Services were conducted by the pastor out of Scipio. When a tenant occupied the home the altar was removed to the Gallagher home, where Sunday turned the dining room into a church.

Through the efforts of Father John B. Doran, pastor of St. Bernard's in Scipio Center, and Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, the Diocese of Rochester erected and presented the first chapel to the people of Myers in the spring of 1913. It is thought the money came from the funds of the Extension Society.

The first church property was a parcel of land 75 by 140 feet purchased from the Barr brothers for \$175.

The architect was Mark Conklin of Auburn who charged \$80.50 as his fee. The builder was G. B. Stryker whose construction bill for the church amounted to \$2,000.

In the evolution of time and building costs, the present All Saints Church was constructed in 1933 for about \$10,000.

And in the spirit of practicality and economy, when additional room was needed for expanded parish and CCD activities, a trailer was purchased in 1967 for about \$5,000 and is used for meetings and CCD classes. Frequently it is occupied by a priest who studies at Cornell.

Aerospace Is Her Bag

Sandra Smith, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, has been awarded a \$750 scholarship by the Monroe Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers. She is the first girl applicant ever to receive this award. She will be presented with the scholarship at the National Engineers' Week Dinner on Feb. 26.

Sandra became interested in engineering through her father, who is also an engineer. She has chosen to continue her education at Purdue University because of its excellent engineering school.

Got Some News?

The Courier-Journal wants to print news of your organization, club or association. Please remember that the deadline is Thursday noon for the following week's paper.

Courier-Journal

A career in aerospace engineering is Sandra's goal. She feels space exploration is well worth its cost in yielding benefits to mankind. She also wants to join the women's branch of Air Force ROTC.

Sandra is a member of the National Honor Society, and has won a National Merit Letter of commendation and the DAR Best Citizen Award. She is an oratorical contest semifinalist and was sports editor for the yearbook. She is a member of the Young Conservatives and worked for James Buckley's election campaign. She is currently working part-time at Eastview Mall.

Other local NSPE scholarship winners are Kevin Parker from James E. Sperry High School, William Simmons from Aquinas Institute, and Blaine Van Der Berghe from Greece Arcadia High School.

Council Offers Knights Aid for School Costs

Geneva—The local Knights of Columbus council has offered financial aid to members who have children at DeSales High School.

Grand Knight Robert L. Peters announced the establishment of ten \$100 allowances to

help parents meet increased expenses. Application should be made before May 1 by letter to the pastor of either St. Francis DeSales or St. Stephens parish. Grants will be made on the basis of financial need only, and the names of recipients will not be announced,

Peters said.

"Should fewer than ten members apply for the grants," he explained, "the unused funds will be distributed by the pastors for educational purposes, to other Catholic families in Geneva demonstrating need."



OUR SPRING
BEAUTY . . .
USHERED IN
BY RONA

A lovely cotton blend, coat costume in crisp navy and white. Four front mock-pockets accent the coat, a short-sleeve polyester top softens the dress. Navy patent belt with white trim. \$150. The Miss Sibley Shop, Second Floor, Downtown and Eastview.

Sibley's Downtown open tuesday and thursday 'til 9
Suburban stores open monday thru saturday 'til 9:30