



Sister Mary Bernard, RSM, one of many nuns in Corning to help with flood relief, pins up a notice on wall of Human Development office established to help assess needs of people in the area.

## The People... What Will They Do?

By CHARLES RANDISI

Corning — Beaver Valley Elementary School in Chambers has been temporarily taken over by the Red Cross as a flood relief-evacuation center. More than 300 victims of the flood in the Corning area have been staying there.

Many of them are elderly people who cannot move back into their homes yet. Others have been totally wiped out and have nowhere else to go. Still others are working both at their regular jobs and on their homes, and will remain at Beaver Valley until it is safe to move back.

Last week, I interviewed several evacuees there, asking them how they viewed their situation.

Mr. and Mrs. David Cook Jr. and family had been living in their home in North Corning for 10 years. They have been going back every day, said Cook, "just cleaning it up and getting it done."

It will be about a year before

they can move in again. "We'll be getting the use of a trailer from HUD until then," said Cook. "The whole house will have to be stripped down. God knows when we'll get a furnace."

Mary Ann, his wife, said her reaction to the flood was one of "disbelief." "At first we thought we'd be giving the kids a lark, she said. "We expected to move back within a few days."

Mr. and Mrs. John Ornac have been at Beaver Valley for three weeks. They lived on Hillview Avenue in Corning. Ornac, from Germany, has been an employe of Corning Glass for 22 years.

"I don't know what we're going to do," said Mrs. Ornac. "We're hoping for a trailer. We can't move back into our house. For what we'd have to pay it wouldn't be worth it."

If they get the trailer from HUD they would only have to pay for utilities. They are considering moving to Rhode Island, where they have two children.

"When I heard about the flood on the radio," said Mrs. Ornac, "I wasn't scared. But I knew I was going to be scared if I didn't get out of there."

Mrs. Jean Fitzwater said that her house on Winfield Street was completely lost.

"I had pneumonia at the time," she said. "I never would have believed it. I've never been in a disaster before. It didn't bother me too much at first, but when I went back there it did. I'm just glad I got my kids out. We had a lot of pictures that we lost."

Mrs. Fitzwater doesn't know where she'll move. "I've got a sister in Rochester, but I don't know how to reach her. I don't want to live in a trailer either."

Mr. and Mrs. James Delorenzo moved to Corning 22 years ago from Pennsylvania. They own a home that came off its foundation and drifted out to the middle of Baker Street. They are members of St. Vincent's Parish.

"We've been there for 22

years," said Verna Delorenzo, "and now we have nothing. We've just been trying to get a little at a time, but we lost everything. Everybody here has been so nice to us, and we really appreciate it. If the Red Cross ever asks me to do anything for them, I'll run to them."

The Delorenzos are not sure what they'll do. "Right now I just thank God we're still alive," said Verna. "It's really hard to believe this has happened. We might live in a trailer for a while but after that, where can we pick up and go?"

Margaret and Charles Barrett, who are sister and brother, are looking forward to moving back home soon. "We've got most things settled, and it won't be long," said Margaret.

"We could move upstairs now if we could get the gas working," said Charles.

Their reaction to the flood fol-

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## Pultneyville and Riverton . . . Tale of Two Towns

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Students of social change with an interest in American life past, present and future, had a rare opportunity last Saturday.

Two types of town festivals competed for customers.

Wayne County's Pultneyville had its 14th annual Homecoming Weekend; and in Henrietta it was Riverton's ground-breaking celebration.

The ride to Pultneyville via route 18 was a vacation in itself. From the two laned curving road on Lake Ontario you see many old cobblestone, brick and wooden houses reminiscent of New England.

Pultneyville itself is barely a mile square. It is part of the town of Williamson. "We are organized but not incorporated," is the way one resident explained the relationship.

If the homecoming day was any indication "organized" is the word for the residents of this little pocket of New England in western New York state. All 500 residents pitched in to make the day a success "rain or shine."

Village women made hundreds of sandwiches and pies and donated their time to run the lunch stand in the cellar of the Gates Hall.

The proceeds from the weekend go into the village treasury for the maintenance of the old town hall and village commons. When you become a resident of Pultneyville you become part owner of these properties, thus there is a real feeling of shared responsibility and community.

The flea market featuring 30 antique dealers and a book sale of rare books from Pultneyville's unique Yankee Peddler Book Shop, were the main events of the day.

The antiques were not your garage sale variety of "antiques" but fantastically preserved oak dressers, chairs, chests, bowls, shovels — the likes of which can be seen in the restored colonial town of Williamsburg, Va.

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One thousand chickens were barbecued for dinner and the curtain went up for Gilbert and Sullivan's "Ruddigore," in the Gates Hall at 8:40 p.m. The Pultneyville Civic Light Opera Company (the second oldest active little theater group in the U.S.A.) received a rave review from John Westerberg, the owner of the Yankee Peddler Book Shop and resident patron of artists and music groups.

Between the antiques, old books and Lake Ontario dotted with sailboats, the estimated 2,500 that attended Pultneyville's homecoming day couldn't help but leave believing the sign that announced entrance into the village — "Pultneyville: A good place to live, play and relax."

At the same time, in far off Henrietta, which seemed much farther than the 35 miles the car tallied, was the ground breaking celebration of the new town, Riverton.

Thousands were bused in to celebrate the coming of the first planned city to the Rochester area.

Driving to Riverton, via West Henrietta Road you pass all that city planners criticize. Urban sprawl in the form of shopping plazas, restaurant franchises, neon signs jetting out from all directions.

You are convinced a planned town would be better than this.

Then you near the Riverton site. Signs posted pointing out where a school will be, the town center, tennis courts — then flags flying, bands playing, booths featuring food for every taste, arts and crafts. And a microphone is manned between music performances to keep you up on what is next to entertain you.

You browse as you did in Pultneyville but mainly you are talked to, your attentions directed by the microphone, directing you to pony rides, picnic tables, introducing music, reminding you that Bob McGrath of "Sesame Street" will be back on shortly.

Entertainment galore — entertainment inescapable. You begin to wonder if this is any indication of what is meant by "planned community."

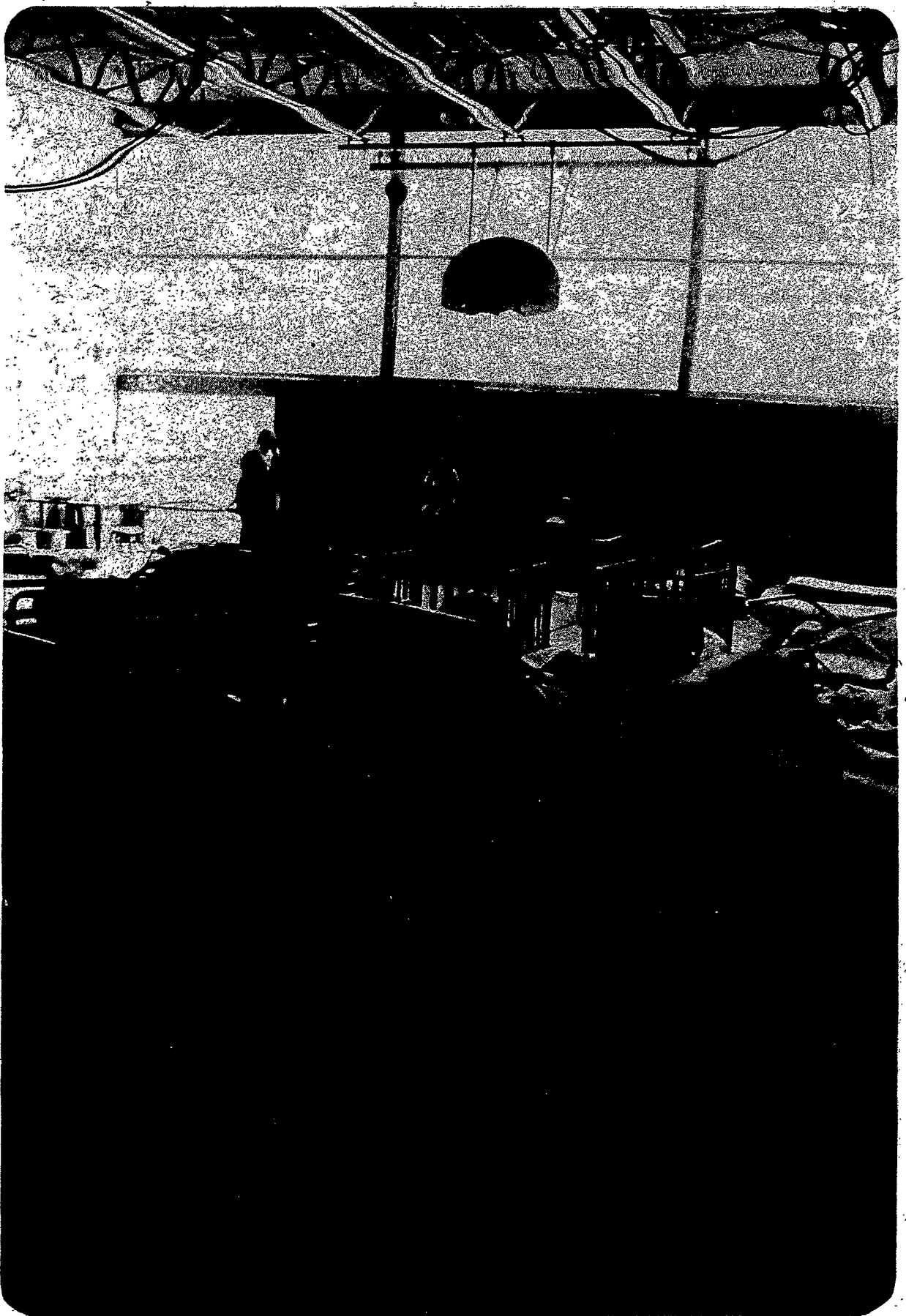


Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

### Playing Basketball

Evacuated children while away the time in Beaver Valley Elementary School by playing basketball on a court crowded with Red Cross relief supplies.