

St. Ann's Readies Enrollment Drive

By Peg Pease

Homell — St. Ann's School is looking ahead to Registration Days, March 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. Joan Lindeman, Kindergarten teacher, says, "we're working beautifully with the 17 children now in my class and anticipate an increased enrollment for Kindergarten when it once again commences in September."

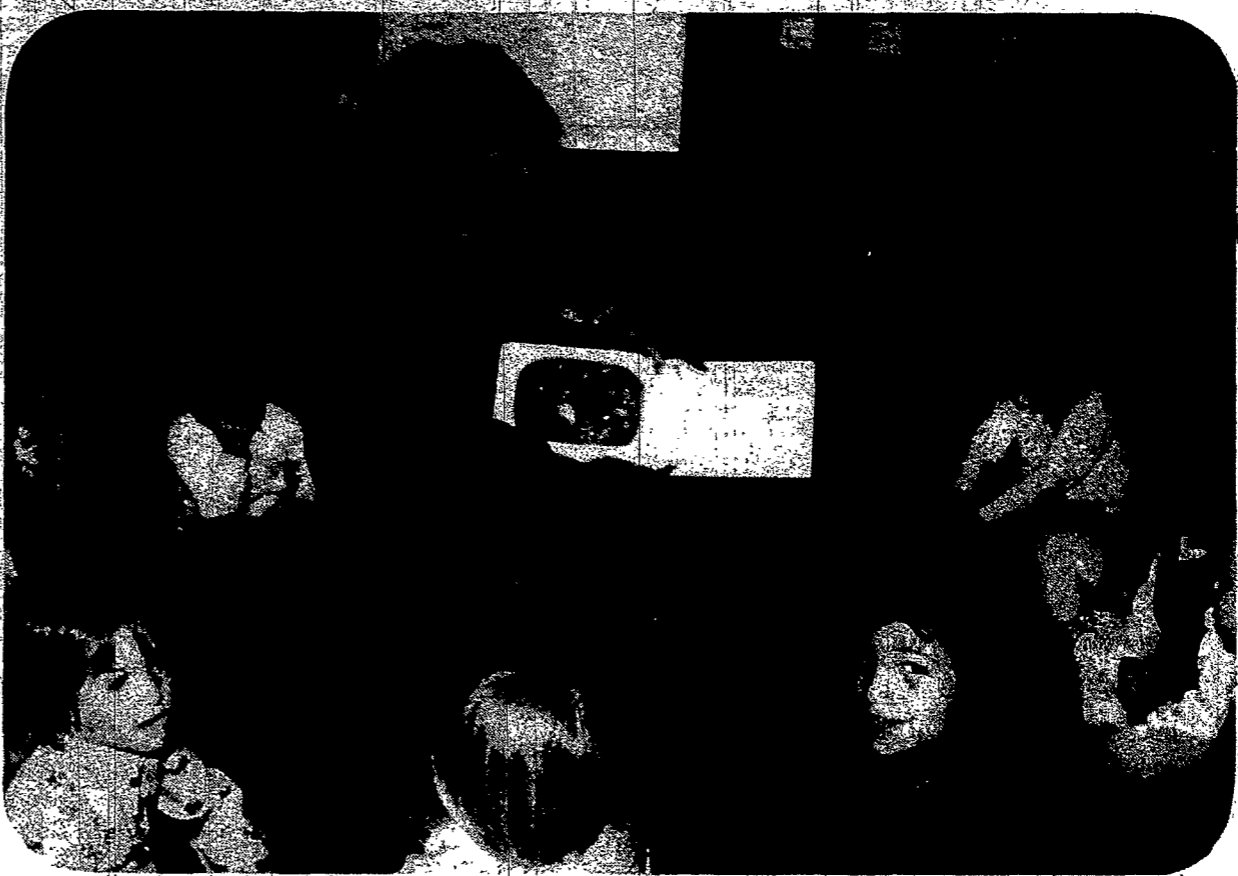
St. Ann's School will prepare for its 103rd year of continuous service to people of the area during the two days of registration.

Although St. Ann's, the first parochial school in the area, began its academic career in 1871, the site of the old building and of the present structure has been associated with education even longer. A private school was conducted there before 1870, when Father McNab, then pastor of St. Ann's, had the old building replaced with a two-story wooden structure. He also brought four nuns from the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Batavia to staff the school. Hornellsville then was a part of the Buffalo Diocese. The teaching sisters were Sisters Mary Joseph M. Aloysius, M. Dolores and M. Pazzi.

"Select School" instruction was offered for several years by the nuns. Courses in music, art, needlework and language were available. A tuition fee was charged since young ladies could meet requirements there for a teacher's certificate. With the addition of an academic department in 1884, the teaching nuns were needed for that type of instruction so the "Select School" was closed.

Construction of the present school was started in 1889 by Father James Early who had, about 10 years earlier, erected the convent adjoining the school at his own expense. Father Early, founder of St. James Mercy Hospital, died before the school was completed. His successor, Father O'Loughlin, carries out the final construction. The school, finished in 1890, was of brick, two stories high, 122 feet by 48 feet in size. The entrance was on Erie Avenue.

In 1894, Father Arthur Barlow, then pastor of St. Ann's, accompanied by W.H. Murray, applied for a Regents' charter for St. Ann's Academic School. The first charter states that "official inspection shows that suitable provision has been made for buildings, furniture, equipment and proper maintenance," and that "public interests will be promoted by such in-



Joan Lindeman reads to her Kindergarten class.

corporation." The first board of trustees consisted of Father Barlow, Stephen V. Ryan, William Gleason, William K. Smith and Herman J. Reese.

The school was remodeled in 1901 by Father F.J. Naughton who was pastor of St. Ann's for 29 years, the longest pastorate in the history of the parish. Each succeeding pastor made his own unique contribution to the school. A wide scale enlargement, renovation and redecoration project was completed during the pastorate of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Cannon. With the addition, several spacious classrooms and a large assembly hall were made available.

Each classroom, renovated annually, is painted in a pastel shade which harmonizes with the light oak movable desks and chairs. St. Ann's School now also houses a well-stocked library and

media center, a science laboratory, a nurse's office, a CCD office, a music room, a Legion of Mary meeting room and a pre-school nursery.

Physical education facilities are available at the nearby YMCA by special arrangement. Departmental instruction is provided in the 6th through 8th grades to orient the students for changing classes when they enter high school. Services of the public schools, health, psychological and remedial instruction as well as speech therapy are furnished St. Ann's students.

The school has a green and white uniformed award-winning band, backed by an active Band Parents' Organization. St. Ann's Mothers Club, a long standing organization meets regularly to provide programs of educational interest and to raise funds for school equipment. Policies are formulated by an active School

Board which makes its recommendations through the Parish Council. St. Ann's faculty is headed by Sister Mary Ambrose, a non-teaching principal and the faculty now includes three other Sisters and seven lay teachers.

Over the years, St. Ann's School has given early training to many priests and nuns. Its academic excellence also has been obvious by the number of its graduates who consistently rank in the "top ten" students of high school graduating classes.

Top O' the Morning!

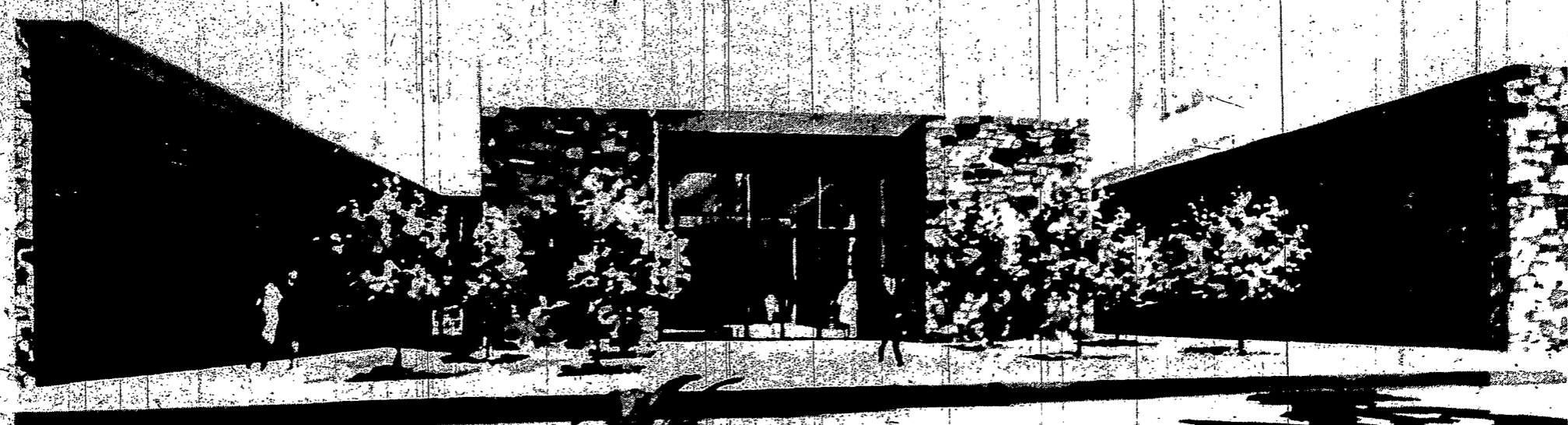
Many social gatherings of all kinds have been announced for this week in the name of St. Patrick. Many other less formal encounters no doubt will turn into feast day celebrations.

Two groups with a special claim on the patronage of Ireland's holy man — the Hibernians and the Paddy Hill folk — will gather for commemorative Masses on The Day, Sunday, March 17.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians invites all the Irish people in Monroe County, and their

friends to noon Mass in St. Augustine's Church. The Mass will be preceded at 10:30 by a traditional ceremony at City Hall, where Mayor Thomas P. Ryan will help run up the Irish flag. There will be open house at the Hibernian Club, 48 Alexander St., from 2:30 until midnight. Descendants of Rochester's early Irish community, and others, will be favored with Irish melodies at the 9:30 a.m. High Mass at Mother of Sorrows. The music will be announced as a salute to Bishop James E. Kearney. "All Irish, and those that wish they were," are invited, according to Choir Director Caroline Effinger.

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