

### AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

By the time this is in print our ordinary television set will have been transformed into a magic lantern extraordinaire. Or maybe a Pandora's box is a better description.

In plain language a man is coming from People's Cable Television Service to hook us up to something called Basic Cable which in addition to Rochester programming will bring in Buffalo channels, one Syracuse station, two independents from New York City and a host of other services including 24-hour weather, news, sports, etc., etc. This will cost \$8 a month. For an additional \$8 we will have Home Box Office Service which will screen eight new "premiere" movies every month (currently being seen in theaters) plus a "wide selection of encore movies from previous months."

To say I have mixed feelings about the entire move is the understatement of the year.

On the surface, such additional features sound fantastic if only to counteract some of the apathy of local program managers who tend to place undue emphasis on making a buck, i.e. showing such oldies and baddies as "The Untouchables", not always picking up network movies during prime time and showing dogs for their late night movie selections.

But when you analyze what People's Cable does bring, you must realize that all is not beer and skittles.

For example, two of the channels using AP Wire Service show nothing but sports stories and sports scores 24 hours a day. Marvelous! Terrific! Incredible! It's what every woman dreams of. Pushbutton saturation!

Then there's the fare that is offered by the two independent stations from New York City. I read down the list of "goodies — "I Dream of Jeannie", "The Real McCoys", "Superman", "Lone Ranger", "Gilligans Island", etc., etc. Ugh and double ugh.

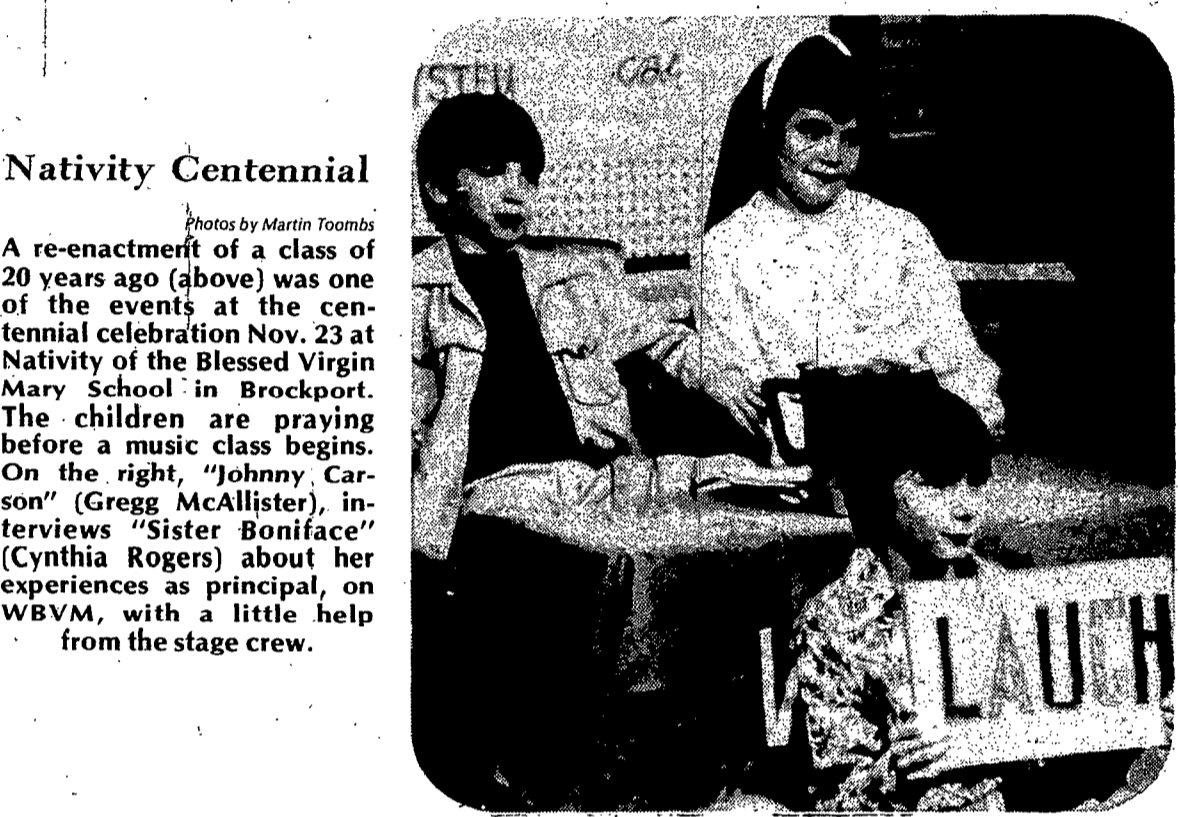
There also will be the problem of conflict. "What," my husband asked rhetorically the other night, "will happen if there's a sports event and a terrific movie on at the same time?" I did not bother to answer inas much as I cannot stand to see tears well up in a grown man's eyes.

And finally there must be a realization of the fact that already we watch too much television. What this new toy will add to the total number of viewing hours I can only guess. At the outset, obviously, it's going to be plenty. Hopefully the luster will wear off in time.

I would not be honest if I did not say I am looking forward to seeing new movies, uncut in our own home. This does present another problem, however, as the films are uncensored and are shown at all times of the day. Vigilance must be the key word around here if we do not plan to see our children educated at a far faster rate than we intended.

#### SNOWFLAKE SERENADE

The annual Christmas dinner dance given by the Cardinal Mooney Womens Guild is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the school. Norma Phalan and Veronica Savino are handling reservations.



### Nativity Centennial

Photos by Martin Toombs  
A re-enactment of a class of 20 years ago (above) was one of the events at the centennial celebration Nov. 23 at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Brockport. The children are praying before a music class begins. On the right, "Johnny Carson" (Gregg McAllister), interviews "Sister Boniface" (Cynthia Rogers) about her experiences as principal, on WBVM, with a little help from the stage crew.

## THE BISHOP SHEEN HOUSING FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Last week the Catholic Bishops of the United States declared: "the dimensions of the crisis in housing seem overwhelming . . . the greatest obstacles are apathy and indifference . . . we call on individual Catholics . . . to join us in a new commitment to those who suffer . . ."



The Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation is the only diocesan-wide organization working to provide decent housing for low and moderate income families.

### WHY DO WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT NOW?

Requests for help have increased greatly. Applications from housing organizations and families total over \$30,000.

Money available to fund these is only \$4,199! Must we turn away deserving applicants?

#### REMEMBER:

- All contributions go to families and organizations in our own Diocese.
- All BSHF workers are volunteer except for one part-time coordinator. YOUR MONEY GOES DIRECTLY TO THOSE WHO NEED IT.
- BSHF aid to organizations is in the form of no-interest loans. When the money is paid back, it's available to finance other projects.

PLEASE HELP MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SOME FAMILY TO ENJOY THE WARMTH AND SECURITY OF A DECENT HOME!

Send your tax deductible gift today.

I would like to become a member of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send your gift to:  
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