



Bicentennial Play

Early Americans are portrayed in a one room school house scene from the play, "Our Country 'Tis of Thee" presented by the pupils of St. Mary's Regional School, in Elmira, on March 28. Left to right, Kim Huffman, Amy Cloke, Joseph Blide and Laurie Callahan.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

"Ill blows the wind that profits nobody," Shakespeare wrote.

And while we thought it was an ill wind blowing when Auburnian Violette Fitzgerald broke her arm on our Courier pilgrimage, we were profited by our introduction to St. Joseph's French Hospital in Jerusalem.

Our pilgrimage had continued from Mass at Nazareth to Tiberias, on the west shore of Galilee. Now, a pilgrimage practice is to ride on the Sea of Galilee and to have a Kosher dinner at a restaurant on the shore which features a big-mouthed St. Peter's fish served with head and eyes and fins and tail, one fish for each person.

At the Tiberias dock we got word our boat was delayed. This gave us time to visit the Franciscan Church of St. Peter, near the dock. The Church was built in the shape of a boat, representing "the Bark of Peter." All Muslims and Christians left Tiberias when the Israelis took over. The mosques are empty. The Franciscans have only one church and no parishioners. The church is served by an Italian Franciscan. Catholics from the U.N. posts do attend Mass there; and Sisters from Africa and Korea spend six months in the area to become familiar with the Bible's history.

While at the restaurant Mrs. Fitzgerald showed me her left arm. "I stumbled on a pebble at Tiberias, and fell on my hands. The arm is beginning to hurt." "When we get to Jerusalem tonight we had better have a doctor look at it," I replied.

We landed at the Ambassador Hotel in the Arab section about 5:30 p.m. and, *mirabile dictu*, found that the sole Sisters' Hospital in Jerusalem was *only one block away!* Immediately our guide, Mohammed, took Mrs. F. to the hospital. The administrator, a petite Sister Mary from Malta phoned me at the hotel to say they would have to keep Mrs. F. over night because she had needed anesthesia for setting the arm. So after dinner, four of us marched on to the hospital. Besides Sister Mary, there

are three Sisters from Ireland, three Arabs from the Holy Land, and ten French Sisters. A Sister Carmel of Waterford, Ireland, met us and as she heard the names "Fitzgerald, Flannigan, Heffron," she beamed: "Ah, those names are music to my ears."

A handsome young Arab doctor in residence had set the arm. Mrs. F. was relaxing in a nice private room, comfortable and drowsy. Sister Carmel was chattering cheerfully as she bustled about her patient.

Later that evening I returned to double check. As I stood outside, uncertain which building was the hospital, a big healthy youth about 20 was coming from a building across the road.

He called out cordially: "Can I help you, sir?" "Yes. I'm looking for the Sisters' Hospital," I replied. "It's just down the road, sir," he said. "Thank you. And where are you from?"

"Brigham Young University, Utah."

I was suffused with jealousy for the Church, wondering, "Would students from St. John Fisher or from our High Schools step forward with that same evangelical cordiality and offer to help?"

We were all surprised to discover how meaningful the Sisters' habits were to us. Beholding the Sisters in their religious habits gave us a sense of confidence and community which the tradition of Sisters' dedication has handed down.

When we returned the next morning to claim our pilgrim for the Bethlehem trip, our victim had to see a senior Doctor Houry who is from an ancient Catholic Jerusalem family.

As we were leaving I asked Sister Carmel: "Do you know our Archbishop Sheen?" "Oh, yes. We have several of his books," she replied. "Then I will send you a set of his conferences on tapes, as a token of thanks to the Sisters." A few days after our return I sent a set air mail, postage \$7.27, to the Sisters.

As a result of that ill wind, the Holy Spirit is blowing about Jerusalem through the Sheen conferences.

COMMUNAL PENANCE

Penn Yan — A communal penance service is planned at St. Michael's Church at 7:30 p.m. on April 14. A similar service will also begin at that time at St. Andrew's in Dundee.

CONFIRMATION

Dryden — Junior High students of Holy Cross Church are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Each student will write a letter to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan telling him why they wish to be confirmed. They will participate in a Rite of Reconciliation and will help in planning the liturgy for Confirmation. A party has been planned and will be paid for with money raised by the students. Leading money raisers were Wayne Dunham, Katie Hyde, Steve Hammond and Mark Machukas. The Confirmation will begin at 8 p.m. on April, 29.

Regional Confab Wants Workers

At the March 11 Tompkins-Tioga regional conference a proposal was passed which requests two paid specially assigned staff members from the Office of Pastoral Ministry to train parish councils, bring in resource people and organize workshops in a variety of ministries. This proposal will be referred to parish councils, the regional assembly and Father Douglas

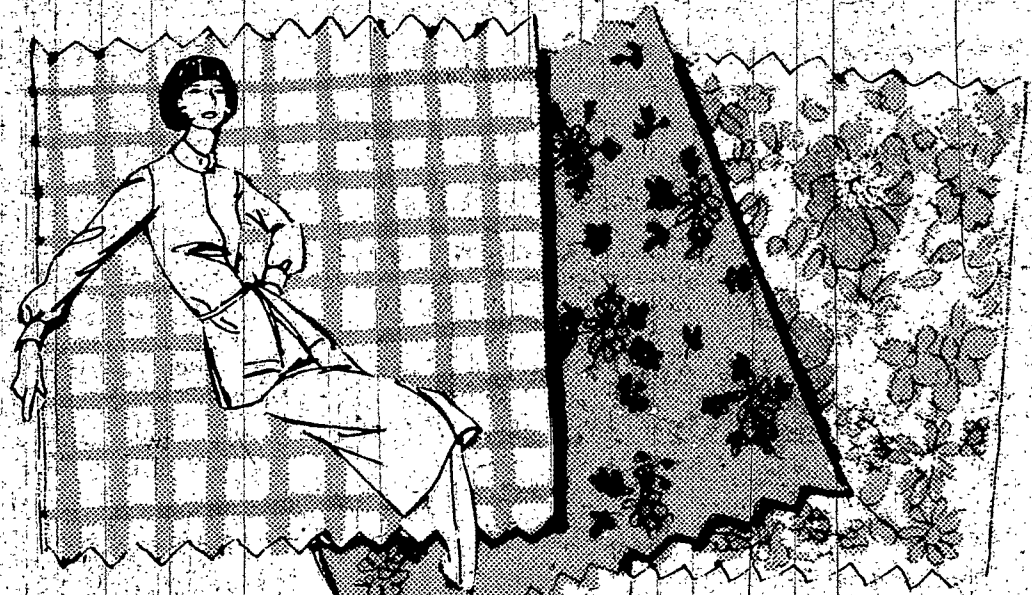
Hoffman, director of pastoral ministry.

— Jack Evans reported that parish council constitutions in the region will soon be reviewed. Linda Decillis, office coordinator of pastoral ministry, will present a workshop on constitution review.

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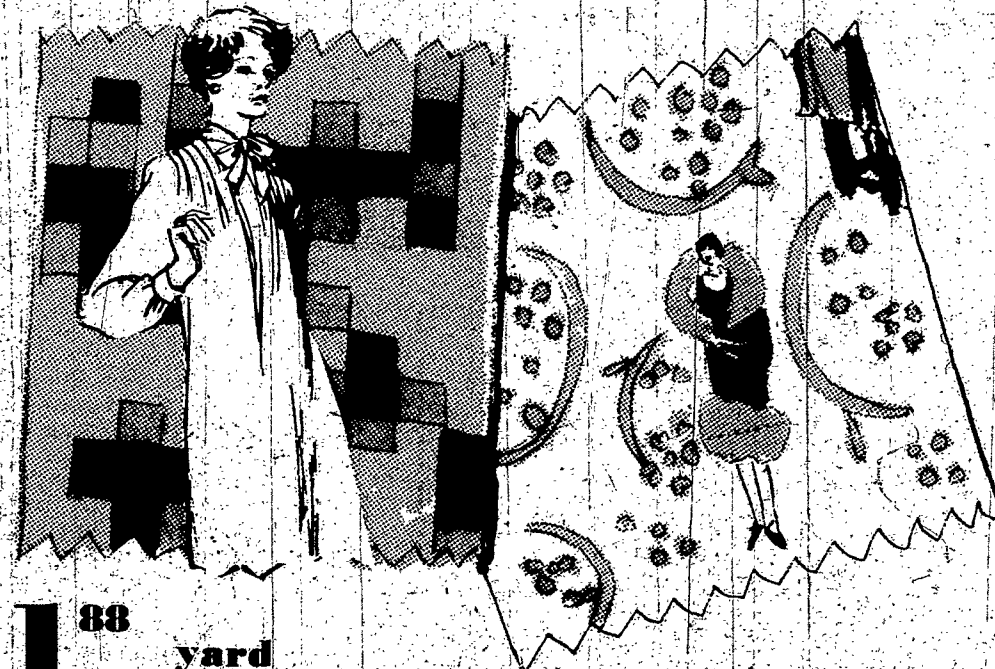
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