

By BEN SUSSO

St. Bridget's parish took full advantage of one of those rare Rochester days — the sun was out. The day was Sunday, June 27, and the occasion was the fiesta honoring St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of Puerto Rico. Although the actual holiday had been celebrated in Puerto Rico a few days earlier, it seemed appropriate to wait until Sunday.

The day began with a Mass attended by more than 400 people. A procession later flowed through the streets of the neighborhood, with nearly 300 people walking behind a "float" carrying the fiesta's queen and her court. Then the crowd moved back to the church grounds to the fiesta, which featured food, drink, entertainment, and of course, plenty of good conversation.

The kids had lots of room to run and play, and when they tired, cool shade for rest. When the music and dancing would begin, the people would wander over to the bandshell. Great bursts of applause would rise from the crowds. As the day drew to a close, one felt the fiesta had been a great success, and a fine way to honor the patron saint of Puerto Rico.

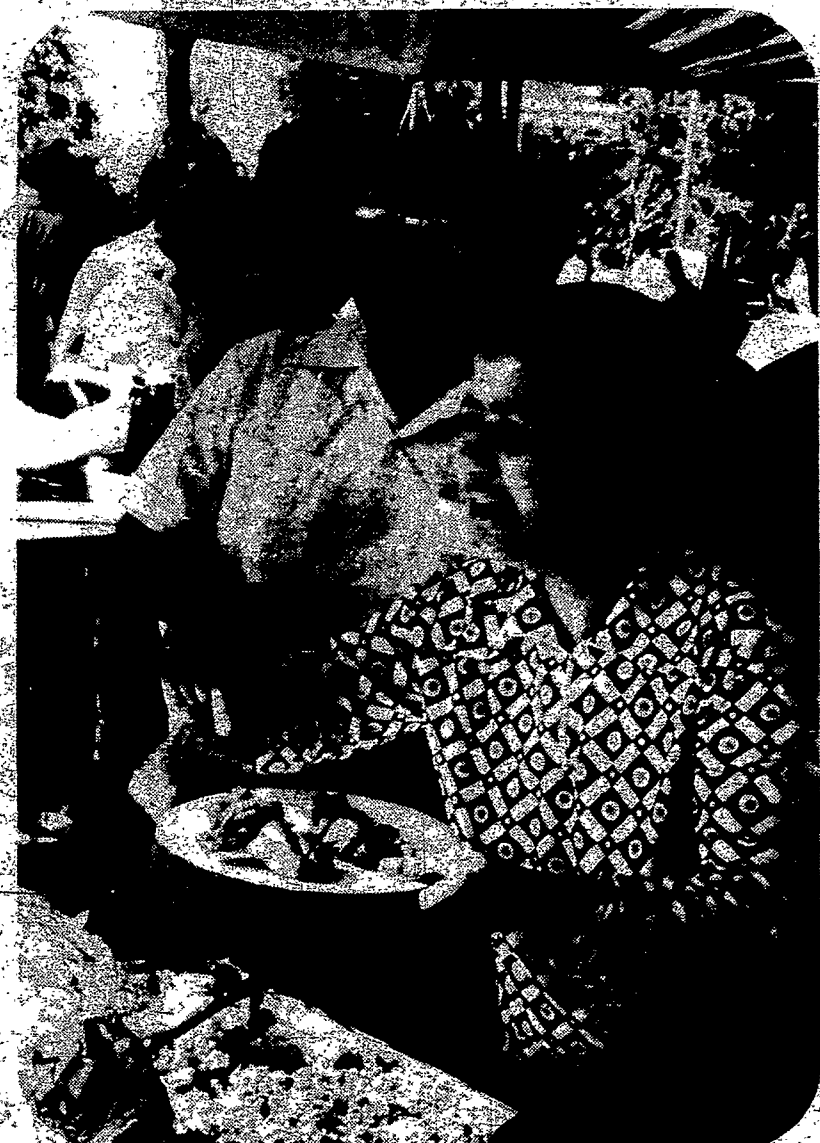
Photos by Ben Susso



Making flavored ices involves scraping the ice by hand, an old-fashioned touch much appreciated by the kids on this hot summer day.



One of the best things to do at any celebration is to eat and drink — and chat with friends between mouthfuls.



The food tent was the busiest place around for most of the afternoon. Maria Sanchez and Jose Luciano served a variety of foods.



A number of dances were performed by "Hermanas Latinas."



Good music was provided throughout the day.



The green grass made a nice dance floor, but most chose to sit it out.

Carried by the sun during the procession the Queen Ortiz and the American flag.