



← Everyone kept busy working on the preparations for the monthly luncheon.



They're 'Friends

Perkinsville—Identify a need, propose and then implement a solution. A simple process, but one that often isn't completed, leaving a problem simply recognized.

That wasn't the case in one circumstance in this town between Wayland and Dansville. Members of Sacred Heart Parish and its pastor, Father Timothy Weider, saw that there were several persons in the area who needed an opportunity to socialize and participate in activities that were not available in the rural community. Many were former residents of the Craig Developmental Center.

The proposed solution was an activities program tailored to the special needs of the individuals. With the assistance of several local teenagers who painted a room in Sacred Heart's school building, and several volunteers from the area,

"Genesis" began operation last August.

The "Friends of Genesis" as everyone involved in the program is called, meet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in their bright quarters in the school building.

Sandra Aloï, program chairperson, a title indicative of the venture's cooperative nature, explained that the activities are tailored to the needs and interests of the 18 to 20 persons who attend. Activities include a variety of crafts, sewing, games and recently work with clay was added. The group also plans, purchases and prepares a monthly luncheon.

A picnic last summer "was a huge success," and the group also has taken a field trip to the Corning Glass Center. Future trips to Letchworth State Park and

the Rochester Museum are planned.

A goal for the future, Mrs. Aloï said, is to include more activities of daily living in the program, activities that will help those attending in their everyday life.

Joyce Cross works in the program as part of her duties in the Community Service Department at Craig Developmental Center. She noted that "Genesis" is the type of community-based program the state is encouraging. The program provides those who attend needed interactions with their peer group, she pointed out. "We gain every bit as much from our clients as they do from us," she added, "we learn constantly."

The group had a bazaar on a Sunday before Christmas last year to sell some of their crafts. "The social exchange" between



Hazel working with a knitting machine.



Some of the Friends of Genesis, proudly displaying their crafts.