

Churchville Mass

Continued from Page 5

challenge them with new, different kinds of music.

Although Sunday was purely celebration, earlier this year St. Vincent's parishioners were gathering to work. In honor of its 100th birthday, the church was redecorated, in part through their volunteer efforts.

Father Dominic recalled that while the major renovations — enlarging the choir loft, painting the ceiling, and work on the

chapel of the Blessed Sacrament — had to be done by professionals, parishioners pitched in for everything else.

"I went to eat lunch one day," Father Dom related, "and when I came back there were 70 people there to install the new carpet. The benches were outside already and the preliminary work was done." Parishioners also sanded and stained the benches, touched up the paint and did many of the other necessary repairs.

"A fraternal outpouring of mutual help" is the way life-long parish member Tom Dermody, 73, described the renovation effort.

"I'm sorry my folks couldn't be here to see this," Dermody added. In his 73 years he has come to the church "by horsepower and horsecart," has served as lector, eucharistic minister and delegate from the church to the northwest region of churches. Dermody has also worked with the altar boys and confirmation classes as master of ceremonies.

When his grandfather came from County Meath, Ireland, he settled on the same farm Dermody still runs. "I'm careful not to boast," he said, "but in fall of 1844 my father and grandfather drew the first load of stone for this church. Up till recently, I had a team descended from those horses."

In his long history with St. Vincent's, one of the biggest changes Dermody has seen is "a greater, more lasting prosperity ... In the month of February, 1934, 30 men came to the rectory kitchen door and the women baked to feed them," Dermody remembered.

"Since Vatican II, we've been concerned with the community in a larger way and our neighbors because we're all responsible, one for another ... This business of community at St. Vincent's, it's something that has to be built up and made more widespread, welcoming to new people. It comes from the heart, you know."

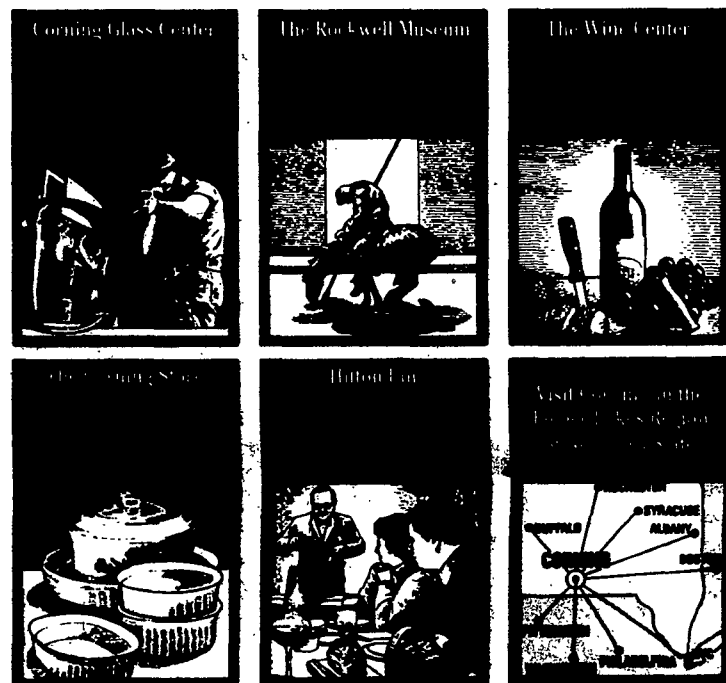
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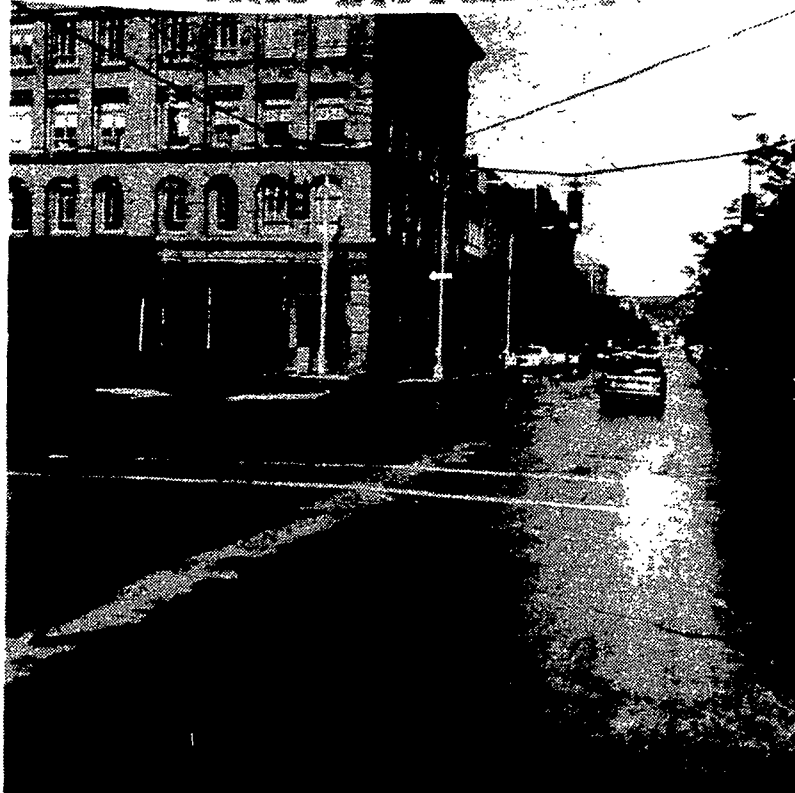
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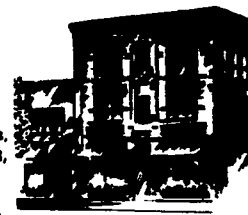
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