

**The Saturday Notebook:**

# What Did 1966 Mean To the Twin Tiers?

THE YEAR 1966 has been the kind of 12 months in the Twin Tiers that you could "point to with pride" or "view with alarm," depending on your approach.

The pointers with pride contend that many projects took root and will flower in 1967. They say a new direction was heralded, and that it'll be full speed ahead from now on.

The viewers with alarm don't like the direction in which we're headed and claim the year was fraught with inertia and delay.

## .. Reapportionment

THERE WERE disagreements in both Chemung and Steuben Counties over the U. S. Supreme Court's one-man, one-vote edict. Both counties had taxpayers sue the boards to force changes in the system of representation.

Steuben apparently has resolved its problem by adopting a plan to redistrict. Chemung is still kicking around weighted voting — which a State Supreme Court justice won't buy — and goes back into court in January.

It looks like 1967 will be the year of change on both boards of supervisors — with groundwork being laid in 1966.

It is amazing how many common problems are involved. Here's what they look like:

## ... Medicine

IN CHEMUNG and Steuben, the discussions involved county infirmaries and a state mental hospital. In Schuyler, it was a private hospital.

The dispute in Chemung County was over the location. The question: Should a new infirmary be built in the urban renewal area on Elmira's Eastside or on the present site in Breesport? The Eastside site won.

Steuben also decided on a new infirmary and then found itself in a fuss over the site, too. Supervisors want one large one in the Bath area; doctors say there should be

.. "Years teach us more than books."—Auerbach.

federal assistance, if the study shows its area can qualify.

Brick and mortar will fly in 1967 because planning came closer to the point of fruition in 1966.

## ... Education

CHEMUNG COUNTY'S vocational-technical school building should start to rise in 1967 in the Town of Horseheads and may even be completed by the year's end.

No one else in the other Twin Tiers counties is that close to construction.

Hornell and Bradford County have sites — although there has been a dispute over the Bradford choice in the Towanda area — and Corning is in the planning stage. The year of decision for voc-tech schools in those areas will be 1967.

The new year also may see a decision on a community college for Chemung County, and this will be important to Corning College as well.

A proposal to study the need was initiated during 1966 and appears to have enough backing to make it a reality. Whether a college will result is still conjecture. The answer should come in 1967.

What effect a new school in Chemung County will have on Corning hasn't been determined yet. That, too, will be the topic of much discussion in the new year.

## ... Housing

ELMIRA SPENT much of 1966 arguing over the need for housing, while Corning simply went ahead and resolved its situation.

A private group — The Twin Rivers Development Corp. — announced plans to build homes in an area outside Corning. Its members represent so many different facets of the financial community that Twin Rivers isn't expected to

# We Salute ...



Father Weider chats with Stephen Diana (center) and Ralph Tombasco, both of Corning.

By ARLENE SOUTHERN

CORNING—Today's youths have been shortchanged by the society they live in, says the Rev. Timothy Weider of St. Vincent de Paul's Church. And Father Weider is one adult who wants to even the score.

The young, energetic priest has a vital interest in young persons because today, more than ever, he thinks the youths have the potential to care about issues that affect their times.

His interest in youth is not limited to his own church, for Father Weider believes "there's no difference between a truly human person and a Christian."

AFTER WORKING with youths in this area for a year, in the Rochester riot area, with Boy Scouts and at a settlement house, Father Weider believes that these human qualities exist in young persons — all they need is development.

Youths provide a challenge, says Father Weider. They live in a world that has undergone vast and rapid changes. But the people have not changed proportionately with the world they live in.

Young people have a special problem today—time and nothing to do with it, Father Weider contends. He believes that today's young people would work, if they had to. It should inspire adults to help the youths find something to do.

"And they don't need dances," says Father Weider, who thinks that there are too many dances already.

INSTEAD, the priest sees the need for recreational facilities for youths that will provide them with challenge, when they want it, and with just plain fun.

In taking advantage of the human concern he sees in today's young people, Father Weider has attempted to get them involved in work in the commun-

ity and the area. They have the potential to understand and help people, but it is difficult today for them to get down to the personal level in understanding complex problems, he believes.

Through his work with youths in the community he has been instrumental in getting young people involved in the Red Cross and TAP (teen-age program of the March of Dimes).

"It's not do-goodism," Father Weider insists. He says the youths study the problems of the people they are helping, and therefore have a better understanding of what is needed.

HE HAS accompanied a group of young people to a migrant labor camp where the girls of the group helped the wives in the camp and the boys played ball with the men and boys living there. It is this kind of close personal contact, Father Weider believes, that will bring out the concern that young people are capable of and will give them ideas about how to constructively use their time.

Largely through Father Weider's efforts, the youth program of the Corning Chapter of the American Red Cross, has become an active one.

H. Raymond Owen, last year's chairman of the Corning Red Cross Chapter, appointed Father Weider to direct the youth program.

"It had been dormant for a

few years," Owen said, when he heard that Father Weider, then new in the community, was interested in young people. The young priest was appointed.

"And I found the right man to do the job," Owen said. He added that Father Weider "has done a tremendous job in the moral aspect" with the young people too.

WHEN OWEN WAS asked how Father Weider is doing in the youth director's position, which he has held since mid-year of 1965, Owen replied "he's killing himself . . . he's very dedicated and he has done a tremendous job with the youth in the Red Cross."

Besides giving the young people responsibility and a sense of personal worth, Father Weider believes that this work in the Red Cross and similar organizations may help build a bridge between the youths and adults.

The trouble with adults is that they treat adolescents like children, Father Weider said. Adolescent, half-adult, half-child, should be treated more as adults, the young priest thinks.

In his work with the Catholic Youth Organization and another unnamed discussion group at his church, Father Weider helps the youths discuss problems they encounter every day — problems that concern values. These frank discussions, he thinks, help the youths clarify for themselves what kind of values are good and how they can help achieve these values.

Father Weider is not the most popular person among youths in the community and he knows it. But he does take a thoughtful stand, whether popular or unpopular with youths or adults, and he attempts to bring about changes that will, in his opinion, help the youths.