# THE PICTORIAL REVIEW

Parade of Books Hobby Page "Bugs" Baer Crossword Religion Medical Roundup

## Saint-To-Be Escaped Deathin Mohawk Valley

## Sought Sanctuary In Canada; Bones Venerated There

By BARNETT "SPEC" FOWLER Times-Union Staff Writer

Two men leaped nimbly from the canoe as it rammed the north shore of the Mohawk River. They were big men, in the prime of life, and they smelled

strongly of sweat and grease and campfires. The third member of the party was a 20-year-old girl, of fragile build, also buck-skin clad. Despite the day's heat a shawl covered her head. Of her physical features her face was outstanding.

It was tranquil, delicately formed—and savagely scarred by smallpox. Her step from the canoe was a painful one. Yet it must have been determined, for 250 miles of travel lay ahead and death was close behind.

History records this incident as happening in the Fall of 1677, 25 miles BORN HERE-Angus Schewest of Albany. The girl nectady Albany, a Mohawk, now lives at Caughnawaga. was Kateri Tekakwitha, The 88-year-old Indian was whose fame is such that within a few years—possibly two or three—she is expected to become the first American born saint.

If the fact that a Mohawk Indian girl may attain such position is unusual, so was Kateri. In a nation noted in its early days for moral looseness, she remained a virgin. In a nation noted for pagan wor-

ship she was abused and threatened with death for

When she stood on Toueruena Hill in the Town of Glenville, Schenectady County, 276 years ago while one of her companions dashed into Schenectady for provisions for the gruelling trip northward into Canada, Kateri had much to think, much to worry about. Before her lay the unknown. Behind

Born at Auriesville, Kateri was orphaned at four when smallpox killed her Christian Algonquin

mother, her Mohawk father and her brother. The disease left more than mental suffering; it weakened her eyesight, thus necessitating the shawl. and it disfigured her features. Years later she moved to a second Mohawk village, across the river, known as Caughnawaga (now Fonda) and here she was baptized at

born near Albany.

was misery.

### REFUGE IN RELIGION

It was after the baptism that her life became completely miserable; she was known contemptuously as "The Christian," and the lonely figure huddled in the semi-gloom of the Mohawk long house, shielding her eyes from glare, submissive in her silence to the taunts and threats of violence by her pagan tribesmen, found refuge only in her new religion.

Then one day an Oneida chief, known to the whites as Louis Garonhiague and to the Indians as Hot Ashes, appeared at Caughnawaga. With him was a male relative of Kateri's. The chief urged her to leave the Mohawk Valley, to go to Canada, to the Sault St. Louis Mission near Montreal, which today is known as Caughnawaga. Here, he told the girl, were the "praying Indians," the Iroquois converted by the Jesuits. Here, he said, she would find the sanctuary she sought.

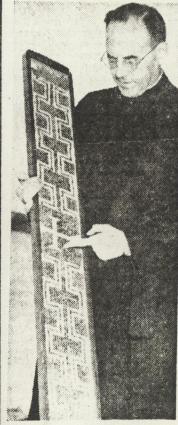
### AN UNUSUAL INDIAN

Hot Ashes is hardly a serious name to connect with a girl who has been declared venerable by her church. The comical aspect to such a name can be forgotten by remembering that the Indians gave highly descriptive names to one another. Further, the cold light of history reveals that Hot Ashes was an unusual Indian. He had murder ed a Jesuit. He

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HER MORTAL REMAINS.—The Rev. Burns, S. J., stands beside a small casket containing the mortal remains (portions of her skeleton) of Kateri. It is kept at the mission at Caughnawaga, is under seal. Ine et is a new concept of the Mohawk Indian girl, as pictured at Auriesvilla Shrine, place of her birth. At that time it was the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, scene of the martyrdom of Jogues, La Londe and



FRIENDSHIP BELT-Rev. Henri Bechard, S. J., with Huron wampum belt, presented to Iroquois in 1672, in Canada. Father Bechard is Canadian vice-postulator



KATERI WORSHIPPED BEFORE THIS-From France, in 1668, came this Monstrance, and Kateri Tekakwitha worshipped before it. Double image is due to mirror. The Monstrance, part of a valuable collection of Kateri articles at Caughnawaga Indian Reservation southwest of Montreal, is considered priceless.



SITTING ON HISTORY—As the Mohawks were christianized and sent north from the Mohawk Valley to Canada, the French built a fort (St. Louis) at Caughnawaga. Peter LaFleur, Stephen LaFleur, Roger Marion and Earle Barber relax on a portion of the wall which sets along the St. Lawrence River.