

The idea of a giant cross here in the heart of Indian Country needed financial aid to become a reality. And this came in the form of donations, from Catholics and non-Catholics. A family in Indianapolis financed the cross. Thousands of others contributed to what became known as the Cross in the Woods.

Kateri, named affectionately, "Lily of the Mohawks," has been designated for sainthood. A wood statue of her graces the grounds. Monsignor Brophy attributes the 13-acre Shrine to his prayers offered to God through the intercession of this Indian.

Fredericks and his wife were on hand to assist and watch the sculpture go up.

Several thousands of others were on hand for the dedication, August 16, 1959. The statue of Christ was placed on the cross appropriately on a Friday, while the dedication took place three days later on a Sunday.

The Shrine today, include an outdoor church. The retaining wall, pulpit, communion table and the altar are of deep green granite.

Handsome, winding walkways amid the trees have been created to allow visitors quiet meditation. And inside the church building the largest collection of religious dolls—some life-size—ever assembled anywhere in the United States is available for viewing, adjacent to a large gift shop.

But it is the cross and the statue of Christ that predominates this place. Of that bronze figure, one notices

the crown of thorns and the side wound are missing. When asked about it in 1985, the sculptor, Fredericks, still active at age 83, told me, "I purposely left them off. I did not want to portray the agony of Christ. I did not want people to leave the shrine unhappy or sad. Rather, I wanted the viewers to feel a sense of uplifting, a happiness if you will."

"If you look at the face closely, you will notice that it is not a pained one."

Although it is not generally known, Fredericks had to obtain special permission of the Vatican to do this, perhaps his most important work, without the thorns or the wound in Jesus' side.

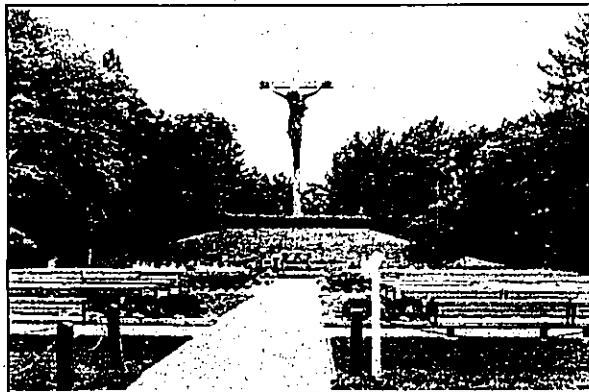
"Oh, my yes, for a sculptor there could be no greater inspiration than Christ in doing a piece like this. I was moved by Him as people are of this Crucifix."

Fredericks, who has visited the Cross in the Woods many times since its erection more than 30 years ago, donated his four years of labor on the sculpture. "I couldn't...I wouldn't charge for something like that. All they paid was for the costs, not my time," he told me.

Its value is incalculable. Simply to have the statue cleaned costs in excess of \$25,000.

The sculptor did the plaster case work in New York City, and it was shipped to Norway to be cast in bronze.

The sculpture is not Frederick's only contribution to the Shrine. He



UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE—Parishoners and visitors hear a homily in front of the Cross in the Woods, one of Michigan's best known and most loved monuments.

also conceived and designed the hill on which the cross stands, the stairway, altar and the redwood cross. "I still have the original drawings here in my studio (in Royal Oak)."

Of the cross itself, he says, "It is solid wood, not hollow, you understand. Only a California redwood tree was big enough to make it."

The artists still remembers vividly the day "I stood outside the church and viewed the magnificent landscape. Only a monumental work featuring Christ would be appropriate in this wooded setting, I thought."

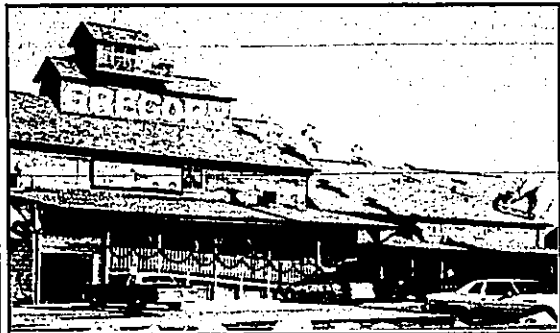
"I am delighted with the result...very proud of this work in your town."

No more more proud than is Indian River, which has become synonymous with the Cross in the Woods.

About the author: He and his wife, Joan, own and publish the Straitsland Resorter, a weekly in Cheboygan County named in 1990 "Michigan's Best" newspaper by the Michigan Press Association. They moved to Indian River in 1985 from the Detroit area where he had been a journalist for 25 years.

Journey through Hell (Mich.) to the New Frontier

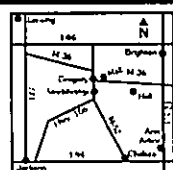
THE NEW FRONTIER TRAILSIDE MALL IN GREGORY, MICHIGAN



A Renovated Grain Elevator is now a Shopping Mall!

10 STORES FEATURING

- Gift Shop
- Rustic Ice Cream Parlor
- Restaurant
- Bulk Foods
- Realty
- Satellite TV & Video's
- Party Store & Gas Station
- Barber Shop
- Full Service Garage



Come & See Our Outdoor Christmas Display With Over 1 1/2 Miles Of Lights Surrounding The Mall

NEW FRONTIER TRAILSIDE MALL

P.O. Box 18, Gregory, MI
(313) 498-2772 or 498-2771

TRAIN RIDES — BLISSFIELD

- 2 1/2 Hour **DINNER TRAIN, SAT, 7:00 PM**

TRAINS DEPART 2 BLOCKS EAST OF DOWNTOWN BLISSFIELD

TURKEY TRAIN

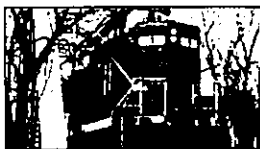
SNOW TRAINS SANTA TRAINS

Turkey Train Line Nov. 29 & 30

Snow Trains - Santa Trains

Dec. 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22

1 1/2 Hour Trips - 12, 2, 4 PM



HEATED, AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES,
TAVERN CAR & DINER

- Charters!
- Bridal Showers!
- Company Outings!
- Engineer Fantasy Weekend!



- Engagements!
- Fund Raisers!
- Birthday Parties!
- Anniversaries!

**ADRIAN & BLISSFIELD
RAILROAD**

(517) 265-3626

**708 E. Mich St.
Adrian, MI 49221**

**Clip & Bring In This Ad For
10% Discount - GLG 11/91
(Except Dinner Train)**