

Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire

Buffalo Bill's Wild West In The City Of The Caesars

We are already in the war, with the Navy and Air Force but according to revelations made during the past week we will not fully in it with the army until the mid-summer of 1942. Therefore according to the opinion of Mr. Hoover it will take us ten years to annihilate all aggressors establish the four freedoms everywhere and make the world safe for democracy for all foreseeable time.

There will be accordingly plenty of time to discuss terms for peace and the European brand of democracy. Anyway, a sedative for war fever is a good thing. During the week I was reading in one of the weekly magazines an article on Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and that set me a thinking. It recalled those happy days when we were boys and went to see Buffalo Bill's Wild West in the city of Rome.

I first saw Buffalo Bill's Wild West in Rochester. It was, I think, in 1884 or 1885, and not to speak of all of the performance, the spectacular procession up Lake Avenue and State Street was certainly a novel sight for young and old. A year or two before Barnum had been in town with his greatest show on earth, which included Jumbo the biggest elephant on earth then or ever. But a circus is something that people can see almost every year, and like World Fairs and International Expositions they are all very much alike. But Buffalo Bill's Wild West was something entirely new for Rochester, and by its very novelty stole the show from Barnum. On that day in Rochester the thought certainly never crossed my mind that I should some day see Buffalo Bill in Rome with his Wild West not only see him but hear him talk and talk to him. Yet so it happened.

ROME IN SPRING

In the winter of 1888-1889 Buffalo Bill took his show on a tour around the world. He reached Rome in the Spring from Australia by way of Egypt where the procession marched through the streets of Cairo and performed on the desert under the stars of the Pyramids. When Bill reached his hotel in Rome the first inquiry he made was about the American College. Bill by the way was a Catholic born out West of Irish Catholic immigrant parent.

It seems he did not work very hard at his religion during his Wild West years, but in his last sickness he asked for a priest and died an exemplary death as I was buried in consecrated ground. Having obtained the needed information about the College he dispatched a letter to the Rector, then Doctor Denis O'Connell, inviting "those American boys" to be his guests at one of the performances.

At the Roman Universities there are no lectures on Thursdays and so on the Thursday we went to see the Wild West. As we entered the Colosseum the band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner." A section right back of and above the band stand was reserved for us. The band seemed to be as glad to see us as we were to see the show. So when we had taken our seats the band boys jumped to their feet waved their caps and gave us three

going, cheers and a tiger for good measure.

TAUT DISPLAYED

At the end of the performance we had to witness what might have developed into an ugly or even bloody riot had it not been for the coolness and tact of Buffalo Bill himself. There are at least three wild then half-wild horses in Italy. At the sight of Bill's horse men in the first performance, shouting and riding the unbroken broncos, most of the Romans believed the horses were not untamed mustangs at all but had been trained to perform their role just as horses are trained for the circus.

A Roman nobleman I think it was Prince Colonna who had a large estate on the Campagna where young colts were allowed to run wild until the time came to break them in for service, met Bill at his hotel and made a wager with him that his men could catch and subdue and ride any one of his Italian colts. Bill accepted and it happened that on the day we went to see the show the Italians were to try their hand. At the end of the usual performance Bill's company retired to their tent at the farthest end of the arena, and the horsemen entered. A mustang was let loose and began to scamper around the arena.

The Italians succeeded in lassoing him and finally felled him to the ground. I don't remember what they were doing to the horse and perhaps I did not understand, but Bill's men accused them of foul play. A big Negro came galloping up the arena, brandishing a gun screaming at the top of a strident voice damning the Italians. A great number of the spectators jumped to their feet and began also to scream protests.

There was an ugly riot in the making. But Bill also came galloping up the arena with his pet colt at side and by his tact quelled the disturbance. The Italians were satisfied when one of their men had finally mounted the bronco and rode around the arena until the horse became exhausted from sheer flying and bounding.

INDIANS CATHOLIC

The Indians who accompanied Bill were Catholics from some Western Reservation and he succeeded in getting a public audience for them with the Holy Father. Of course there were other Catholics with the show, you can't get such an assembly without some Irish. In fact nearly all the members of the company went to the Vatican that day. The halls of the Vatican have witnessed many strange assemblages. But that one was unique.

Before they left Rome the Rector invited Bill to bring his company to see the College. Of course there was not room for them in the refectory, but we served them with some wine and cakes under the orange trees in the garden. We had two American Bishops living in the College that Spring. (This is the reason why I remember it was in 1888). Bishop McQuaid was waiting for a decision in the Lambert case and Bishop Keene was waiting for his charter for the Catholic University, of which he became the first Rector. Bishop McQuaid was a born orator. He was at his best in an impromptu speech and in the open air. Every-

body who ever heard him at the laying of a corner stone or on Cemetery Sunday in Holy Sepulchre will readily agree to that. That afternoon he mounted a stone bench in the garden and did certainly wave the American flag to the open-mouthed astonishment of the Wild West.

The ceremony ended with three cheers and a tiger for America, the College and Bishop McQuaid. The mascot of the show was a Negro boy of about 12, and it is strange that of all that happened that day what has remained most vividly in my memory was seeing Bishop Keene in conversation with the mascot and running his hand over the woolly curls. Bishop Keene was a Southerner.

He wished to show Bill our appreciation of the invitation to the show. So we put our pennies together and purchased a collection of large photographs of places and objects of interest in Rome. In no other city in the world can you find such a varied and splendid assemblage of photographs. These we had made into an album, beautifully bound with the dedication embossed in gold lettering on the cover. Bill was delighted, told us he would keep it till the day of his death and asked us to pray for him.

William Frederick Cody to give him his full name was the most splendid specimen of physical manhood that I have ever seen, well over six feet in height straight as a rush with a lion's head, clean shaven but with a mass of Auburn hair combed back from the forehead and at the back reaching to the shoulders. He had fought in the Indian wars and although he had never gone to a military academy, he had the bearing, courtesy and affability of the well trained army officer. To meet him was to like him.

Church Year Opening Marked At Seminary

By JOSEPH W. BAILEY

The first of the monthly days of recollection was held at Saint Andrew's Seminary on New Year's Day, the first day of the Church's Ecclesiastical Year. It was especially fitting that this day of prayer and meditation should be held on the opening day of the year. The day was also the feast day of the patron saint of the school. The occasion gave the students a better opportunity to look back over the past twelve months and see where in they had failed and to make resolutions to avoid these failures in the future.

Father Leonard, Kelly, of Nazareth College and Father Edward Lyons, the Rector of the Seminary gave the conferences. The day was closed with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and with the revival of an old church custom, the blessing of the Advent Wreath.

The Advent Wreath is, in itself, nothing more than an ordinary Christmas wreath. However, it has placed in it at regular intervals

four red candles. It is suspended from the beam of the Chapel by four purple ribbons. The four candles are symbolic of the four weeks of Advent while the four purple ribbons show that Advent is a time of penance. The circular wreath represents the cycle of the Church year.

Saint Andrew's day was celebrated on December 1 by a low Mass in the Saint John Fisher Chapel. To use the Bishop's own words when he spoke of the dialog Mass at the Catholic Press Conference, Bishop Kearney "did" Mass and the Student Body "HELPED HIM DO IT." The Bishop then addressed the students on "Saint Andrew, Lover of the Cross."

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the new students at the Seminary were received into the Sodality of Our Lady. The Rev. Bartholomew O'Brien addressed the Sodality. The Dramatic Society of Saint Andrew's gave an excellent rendition of the play "King Robert of Sicily."

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE HOME
Framed Pictures and Mottoes
Statuary, Crucifixes, Sick Call Sets
Plaques, Book Ends, Crib Sets

For the Man, Woman, Boy or Girl
Prayer Books, Bibles, Missals
Rosaries, Crosses or Medals on Chains
Catholic Magazine Subscriptions
The Latest Catholic Literature
Gift Certificates

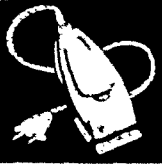



FOR THE CLERGY
Clerical Shirts, Rabbis, Rabbi Vests
Pocket Holy Water Sprinklers
Pyxes, Oil Stocks, Rituals, Breviarics
Surplices, Stoles, Birettas

E. TRANT
96 No. Clinton 115 Franklin St.
ROCHESTER, N. Y.



GIFTS THEY WILL REMEMBER

GIVE USEFUL GIFTS this year. Gifts that will spread happiness throughout years to come. Among other 'Santa Claus specials' we suggest the ones shown below. Come in and look them over. Terms if you wish.

 <p>ELECTRIC RAZORS Quick, clean, safe shaving SCHICK 'Flyer' and 'Colonel' and the 'SUNBEAM'.</p>	<p>COFFEE MAKER The famous 'SILEX.' Many styles. Perfect coffee every time—automatically.</p> 
 <p>LAMPS Sight-Saving Lamps add beauty touch to any home.</p>	<p>ELECTRIC TOASTERS Three of the best 'SUNBEAM', 'TOAST-MASTER' and 'WESTINGHOUSE.' Automatic and non-automatic types.</p> 
 <p>ELECTRIC CLOCKS Two famous makes, GENERAL ELECTRIC and TELECHRON. Alarms, kitchen clocks and others.</p>	<p>ELECTRIC IRONS 'SUNBEAM', 'WESTINGHOUSE', 'AMERICAN BEAUTY', 'GENERAL ELECTRIC' and 'Durable' TRAVEL IRON.</p> 
 <p>ELECTRIC MIXER America's favorite 'SUNBEAM' Mixer. 'Tune In' the correct speed for every need.</p>	<p>Easy Terms</p> 

SHOP EARLY and S-A-V-E TIME MONEY

Rochester Gas & Electric