N. Y. State Ruling Restricts Parochial School Bus Rides

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — The State Education Department ruled here that a school district is not required to transport pupils to parochial schools more than eight miles from their homes.

Deputy Commissioner James E. Allen, Jr., dismissed an appeal filed by John Geary of East Aurora, Erie County. A spokesman for the Department said similar appeals pending before the Department also would be dismissed "if the circumstances are the same."

MR. GEARY appealed to the Department after taxpayers in his school district had refused on July 8, 1952, to provide his daughter with transportation to Mt. Mercy Academy, a parochial school in Buffalo. The academy is about 12 miles from his home. Voters in three other western New York central school districts last July also turned down proposals to pay the cost of transporting parochial school pupils beyond the eight-mile limit. Mr. Geary and one taxpaper from each of the other districts asked Mr. Allen to reverse this action.

Mr. Allen noted that the State Education Commissioner had "consistently held over the years that the legislature never intended that a school district be required to furnish transportation for unreasonable distances against the wish of the voters of that district."

He said the Commissioner had ruled "many years ago that a distance of more than eight miles approached an unreasonable level." The eight-mile figure, he said, was not arbitrary, but "constituted the general average of transportation being provided by the affirmative vote" of school taxpayers throughout the state.

MR. ALLEN added:

"Parents do not have the right under the statute to choose a school at such a distance from their homes that the taxpayers will be required to meet an undue tax burden in order to pay transportation of the children. The voters determine under what circumstances they are willing to pay for transportation."

Kevin Kennedy, attorney for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, represented the four taxpayers. He argued that the State Education Law made no reference to an eight-mile limit but specified that sufficient transportation "shall be provided for all the children residing within the school district to and from the school they legally attend."

Turks Plan Postage Stamps To Honor Assumption Dogma

Rome — (RNS) — Vatican circles expressed "satisfaction" with the Turkish government's announcement that it will issue two series of postage stamps commemorating the feast of the Assumption on Aug. 15.

The Assumption, which was defined an article of faith by Pope Pius XII during the 1950 Holy Year, teaches that the incorrupt body of the Blessed Virgin was taken up into heaven shortly after her death where it was united with her soul.

One of the stamp series will show the Blessed Virgin ascending into heaven, the other the house in Ephesus, Asia Minor, where the Blessed Virgin is traditionally believed to have lived for a time.

Turkish authorities encouraged the refurbishing of the shrine at Ephesus and gave a substantial financial grant. The government also built a new road to the pilgrimage center for the accommodation of tourists.

This year, Turks hope that large groups of foreign pilgrims will climb the steep hill outside the old ruined city of Panaghia Kapuli, where the house of the Blessed Virgin is situated.

While the Vatican has not officially confirmed the authenticity of the traditional claim that the Blessed Virgin lived in Ephesus, Pope Pius XII has granted a number of indulgences to pilgrims who visit the shrine.

Indulgence Granted For Kissing Rosary

Vatican City—(NC)—The Sacred Penitentiary has granted a new indulgence of 500 days, obtainable once daily, to those who devoutly kiss their Rosary beads and recite the first part of the Hail Mary, up to the word, "Jesus."

It was announced that the indulgence would be published in the forthcoming issue of the Acta Apostolicae Sedis, official organ of the Holy See. Since the pontificate of Pope Benedict XV, the Sacred Penitentiary has been charged with all concessions of indulgences.

Welfare Council Director Resigns

New York — (RNS) — Raymond M. Hilliard, executive director of the Welfare and Health Council of New York City, has quit his $25,000-a-year job.

His resignation came 16 days after the Council's board of directors voted to admit the Planned Parenthood Committee of Mothers' Health Centers as a Council as of July 1. As a result of this action the 53 Roman Catholic agencies in the Council decided to withdraw, effective same date.

In his letter of resignation, Mr. Hilliard, a Catholic, did not give the controversy over the admission of the planned parenthood group as a reason for relinquishing the post. He merely said that the Council's board of directors elected in May on a pledge to admit the planned parenthood agency "should have full freedom and opportunity to select an executive director of their own choosing."

'Paddy' O'Neill

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — Eugene Patrick O'Neill, one of Australia's greatest labor leaders, has died at the age of 77. Two days before his death he received the Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in recognition of his life-time service to the Church.

Family Received Into Church

AT THE ALTAR RAIL of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira, are Mr. and Mrs. William R. Bright and their five children after being received into the Catholic Faith, Sunday. The small boys received their instructions from the Sisters in the Parish School which they attend while the mother and father attended the parish Inquiry Class. Children are: William Russell, Joseph Christopher, Beverly Ann, Donald Lewis and Gerald Brian.

Elmira Church Receives 17 Converts

Seventeen converts were received into the Catholic Faith on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 12, in Saint Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira. The class began instructions before Lent on February 17 and finished them on June 10.

After the Profession of Faith, each convert was Baptized publicly in the Church before the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The ceremony was concluded with the presentation of the Baptismal Candle and the enrollment in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Each convert was then given his Baptismal Certificate.

On Sunday, each convert made his First Holy Communion, and was the guest of his godparents at a First Holy Communion Breakfast.

A NEW CLASS for those interested in inquiring about the Catholic Faith will be started at Saint Peter and Paul's in September. Those who are interested may call the rector, 2-2132.

The new converts are: Arthur B. Boyer, Owen Robert Brown, Jesse Joseph Hollenbeck, Daniel A. Minster, Floyd Joseph Nodine, Robert J. Schrom, Edward F. Sloane, William R. Bright Sr., William R. Bright Jr.

Mrs. Betty F. Bright, Miss Carol Ann Dalsis, Miss Betty Jean Jenkins, Miss Dorothe Mae Kelleher, Mrs. Marjorie E. Petrie, Miss Jean Ann Scalia, Mrs. Ruth Scalia, Miss Jeanette A. Wheeler.

Rosary Crusade

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., America's renowned family prayer crusader, will launch a six months' long National Rosary Crusade throughout Australia in the latter part of the year.

Student Convert Leads 14 Relations To Faith

Peru, Ohio —(NC)— When she was a Monroeville High senior 1947, Eleanor Brown went to the St. Alphonsus' rectory and told Father Marcellus Lambillotte, pastor, she wanted to be a Catholic.

A six year-later sequel came when Toledo's Bishop George J. Rehring visited the little parish to confirm Eleanor (now Mrs. Clark Fisher), and 11 of her relatives—including her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Brown; a sister and her husband, a brother and his wife, and five nephews and nieces.

Two other relatives swell to 14 the number of converts in the family since Mrs. Fisher took the first step. Her interest in 1947, she said, was spurred by the example of two Catholic schoolmates at Monroeville High. Then, too, she knew that her grandfather was a fallen-away Catholic.

Some of the first to follow her were members of the family who overheard Father Lambillotte's instruction in the Brown home.

Polish Resistance Vet Recalls Playmates As 'Death And Destruction'

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Erie, Pa.—Small wonder that soldiering comes sort of naturally to Walter J. Nagorski, 21, a Reserve Officers Training Corps cadet here at Gannon College.

He's cadet battlion commander and a top-ranking student in the Gannon Military Police ROTC unit. Come February when he is graduated from Gannon College, he will be commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

When he was 12, an age when most American youngsters are playing with toy guns from the "five-and-dime" or browsing through adventure books, young Nagorski was aiming a real rifle in deadly earnest with the Polish underground.

HE WAS BORN in Danzig, Poland, the son of an American citizen who returned to the old country when the depression in the late 1920's left him jobless. The boy was only seven and had completed just a year of school in 1939 when Germany's Nazis swept into Poland. The boy left his father, who owned a hotel and lumber mill in Danzig, caught a train to Warsaw with his mother and sister to enlist the aid of the American Consulate. When they arrived in Warsaw the consulate had been evacuated.

The student can recall vividly the German occupation of Poland.

Along about 1943, young Walter became suspicious of his parents' activities. He then learned they were working in the Polish underground resistance movement. In those days children mingled freely with the German soldiers and the boy kept his ears open, picking up valuable information to pass on to his parents. Then in the summer of 1943, when the Nazis opened up a slave labor program for children, the boy abandoned his passive part in the resistance and shouldered a rifle with the underground army.

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION were the playmates of the boy. He took part in the 11-fated, 63-day uprising against the Germans in Warsaw, staged in 1944 to help the Russian troops who were just across the Vistula River to take the city—But the Russians never arrived and the uprising was quelled.

Young Nagorski can recall the dejection which swept over the Polish people when the Soviet troops rather than the Americans, turned out to be their "liberators." He said the Russians systematically looted Polish property. There were waves of child - kidnappings, rapes and needless destruction, he said.

He said that in 1945 the Russians issued an order guaranteeing amnesty to members of the underground army. Trusting partisans, who fought for their country but still were loyal to the Polish government-in-exile, turned in their weapons, and were promptly arrested.

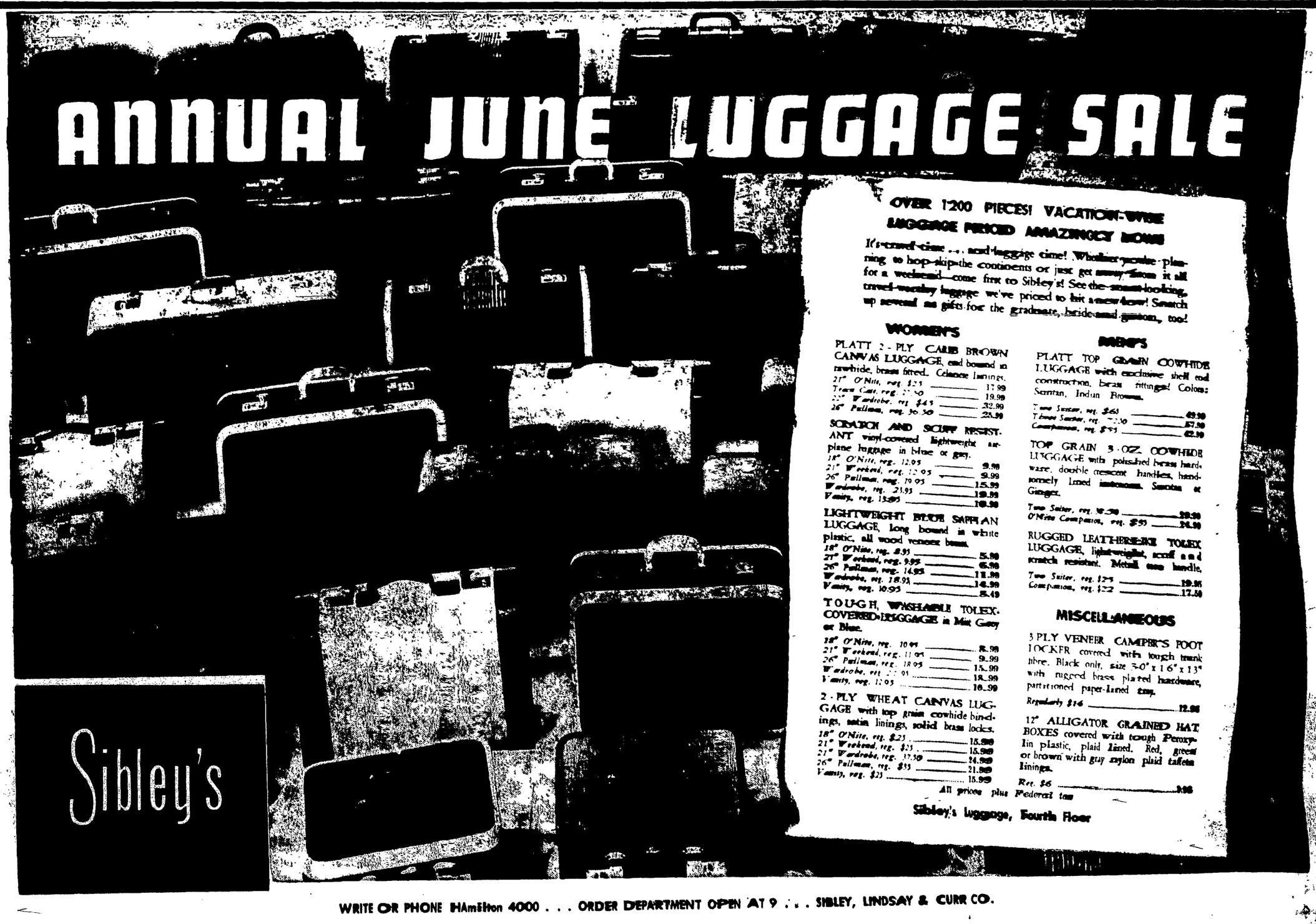
YOUNG NAGORSKI filed an application to return to the United States. In October, 1947, he received his papers from the American Consulate. One of his parting acts on leaving Communist-ruled Poland was to heave a brick straight through a red star topping a monument erected by the Russian conquerors of the nation.

Here in Erie, he attended East High School and entered Gannon College in 1950. Young Nagorski said he would like to return to Poland and direct a resistance movement against the Communists. He is loyal to the United States, but holds a soft spot in his heart for Poland—a free Poland, that is.

"Patriotism and loyalty to a country come with hardship," young Nagorski said. "I had to struggle for survival and freedom in Poland and it made me love the country."

Spiritual Bouquet

Ottawa — (NC) — An illuminated scroll containing a spiritual bouquet from the 80,000 members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada has been presented to Queen Elizabeth II.



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Vanity, reg. $25 — 15.99

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