

Cave Men Hear Brother's Counsel

Washington — (RNS) — Cave exploring is fun, but you have to be careful, a Roman Catholic teaching brother told the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Brother Gerardus Nicholas of Philadelphia, a 31-year-old member of the Christian Brothers of the Schools, held an audience of the nation's leading scientists spellbound while he discussed newest discoveries in the subterranean caverns under America's hills and mountains.

He is president of the National Speleological Society, known to other scientists as "spelunkers." (A spelunkologist is a scientist who studies caves.)

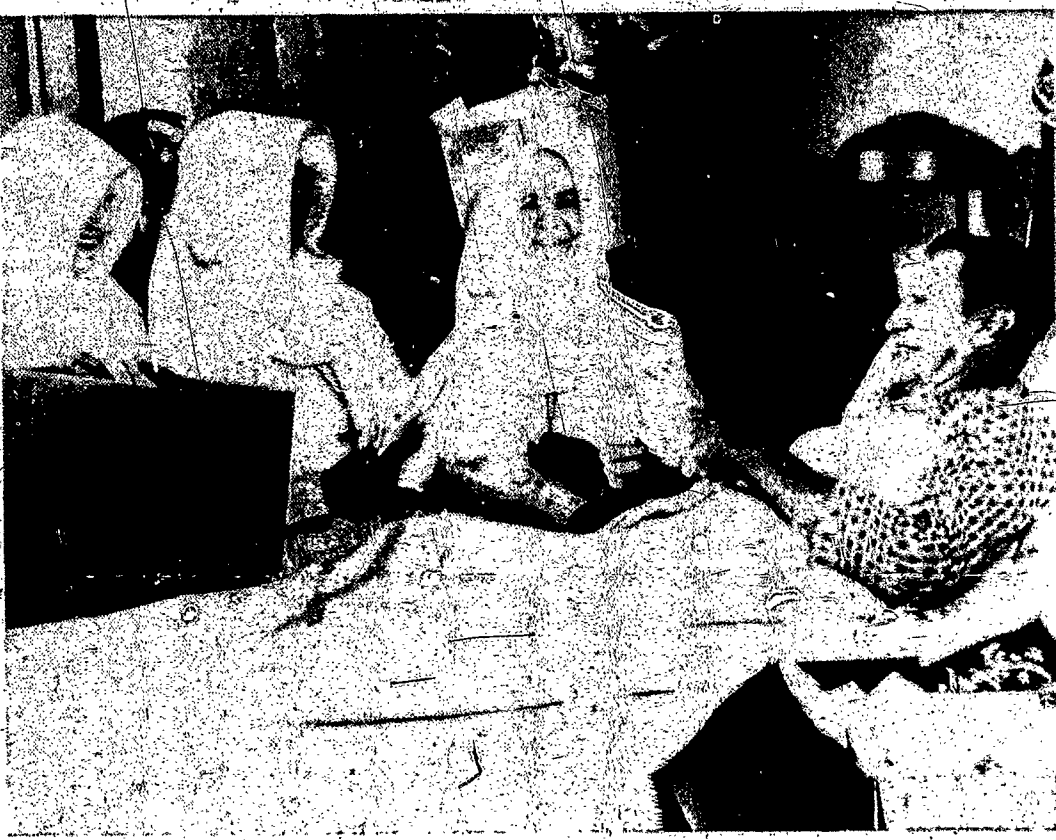
Brother Nicholas has been exploring caves for 10 years. He got started during a geology field trip while an undergraduate student at the Catholic University of America here.

He pointed to the death of David K. Spencer of Arlington, Va., a close personal friend, and outstanding cave explorer, as a warning of the hazards of this hobby. Mr. Spencer's death shocked scientists in April, 1958. He fell 100 feet to his death in a cave, known with good reason as "Catawba Murder Hole" near Roanoke, Va.

Investigation disclosed, Brother Nicholas said, that he kept his climbing rope in a closet used by a janitor. Every day the janitor brought out a mop and sprinkled cleanser on it and some of the cleanser fell on the rope. Hydrochloric acid in the cleanser gradually weakened the rope without visibly damaging it, and the first time Spencer trusted his full weight to it, he fell to his death.

If cave explorers are careful, they can make exciting finds, Brother Nicholas said. The first unexplored cave he entered was in West Virginia, he related, and the party was looking for animal life.

"I slipped and fell into some muddy water and when I came up, I was grabbing a bone," he said. "It looked like a cow's leg, but when I took it to the Smithsonian Museum they identified it as the bone of an extinct variety of bison about 20,000 years old."



Mail Pours In On Schoendienst

St. Louis — (RNS) — Bed-ridden with tuberculosis, Milwaukee Braves second baseman Red Schoendienst is shown a flood of get-well letters at Mount St. Rose Hospital here. The popular infielder, a former St.

Louis Cardinals star, has received more than 10,000 pieces of mail during his first month in the hospital. With Schoendienst (left to right) are Sisters Annela Marie, Mary Rosabelle and Mary Jean.

Jordanians Jail French Priest

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Father Jean Pierre Etcheberry, a 68-year-old French Roman Catholic priest, returned here after having spent six days in a Jordanian jail.

Showing signs of complete exhaustion, he reported he had been subjected to constant "third degree" interrogation during his imprisonment.

Father Etcheberry arrived in Israel Dec. 23 to spend Christmas in the Holy Land. The next day he inadvertently crossed the Jerusalem border and was taken into custody by Jordanian authorities.

China Nun Sentenced

Hong Kong — (RNS) — A Chinese nun, Sister Mary Lucy of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Montreal, was sentenced to three years' hard labor by a court in Communist China, informed Roman Catholic sources revealed here.

They said the nun was condemned to gather coal in a smelting yard near Canton Cathedral. The charges on which she was convicted were not made clear, the sources said.

Schools Get Safety Check

Corpus Christi School, Rochester, is undergoing a \$20,000 renovation job to eliminate all fire hazards. Ross Albano, a workman, installs a fire proof door between classrooms. Fire inspectors gave a grand-new Annunciation school a 100 per cent rating in an inspection tour there. All local schools are currently being inspected by fire officials to guarantee safety for pupils and teachers.

'Don't Be Prejudiced'

Pope Likes Modern Liturgical Art

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John XXIII warned here that people should not be prejudiced against modern liturgical art just because it is modern.

The Pontiff added that he personally favors it.

THE POPE addressed his remarks to a group of founders and directors of the International Institute of Liturgical Art. Located in Rome, the institute seeks to stimulate and demonstrate the use of good taste in contemporary liturgical art.

Its latest project was providing the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at Manila with almost every object of art placed in the new church dedicated on this past December 8.

All statues, altars, mosaics and decorations for the cathedral were made in Italy and shipped to the Philippines by the institute.

The Pope said that he personally likes the new forms of art in their healthy expressions. He noted that these "works" which some time ago were not considered beautiful by the public in general, and which are now more readily appreciated.

The Pontiff added that promoters of art will always find him ready to help and give his support.

Ohio Court Voids Pre-Marriage Oath

By DENNIS C. FINNERAN, JR.

Columbus — (NC) — The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled in effect that agreements made by parties to a mixed marriage for the Catholic rearing of their children are "void and unenforceable."

The state's highest tribunal refused to review a lower court case in which the ruling was made. The action of the Supreme Court is tantamount to approval of the lower court's decision.

THE CASE originated in 1957 in a suit filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Lucas County which involved a Toledo couple.

There was a civil court divorce in June, 1956, but before the separation the mother, a Protestant, signed an agreement in which she pledged to fulfill her pre-marriage promise and raise their daughter in the Catholic faith.

Following the divorce, the mother enrolled the child in a Catholic school for a year. But in 1957 she sent the child to a public school and to a Lutheran church.

The father instituted the court suit to have the agreement signed by the mother enforced. In the agreement the mother had promised that their daughter would attend a Catholic school, be confirmed and attend all services prescribed by the Catholic Church, and would observe the fast, abstinence, Lenten and other regulations provided by the Church.

Common Pleas Court Judge Paul Alexander ruled against the father. He noted that the father contended it was the "welfare" of the child which should be the determining factor and, because of this the court should compel the mother to fulfill the agreement.

Judge Alexander said he would not decide the welfare issue but only the question of the court's power to enforce the contract. He said he wanted to make it clear that his decision in the

case was "neither condemnation nor condemnation of the mother's repudiation of her solemn promise or of her violation of a court order."

Editorial Raps Coach's Firing

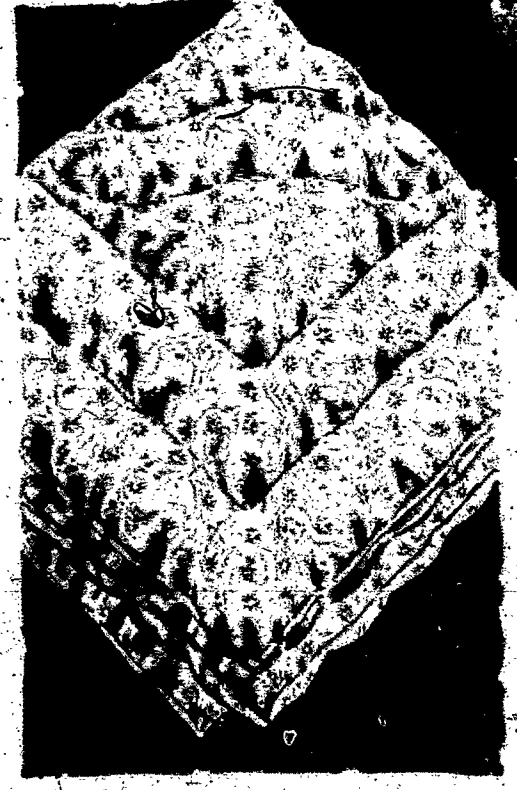
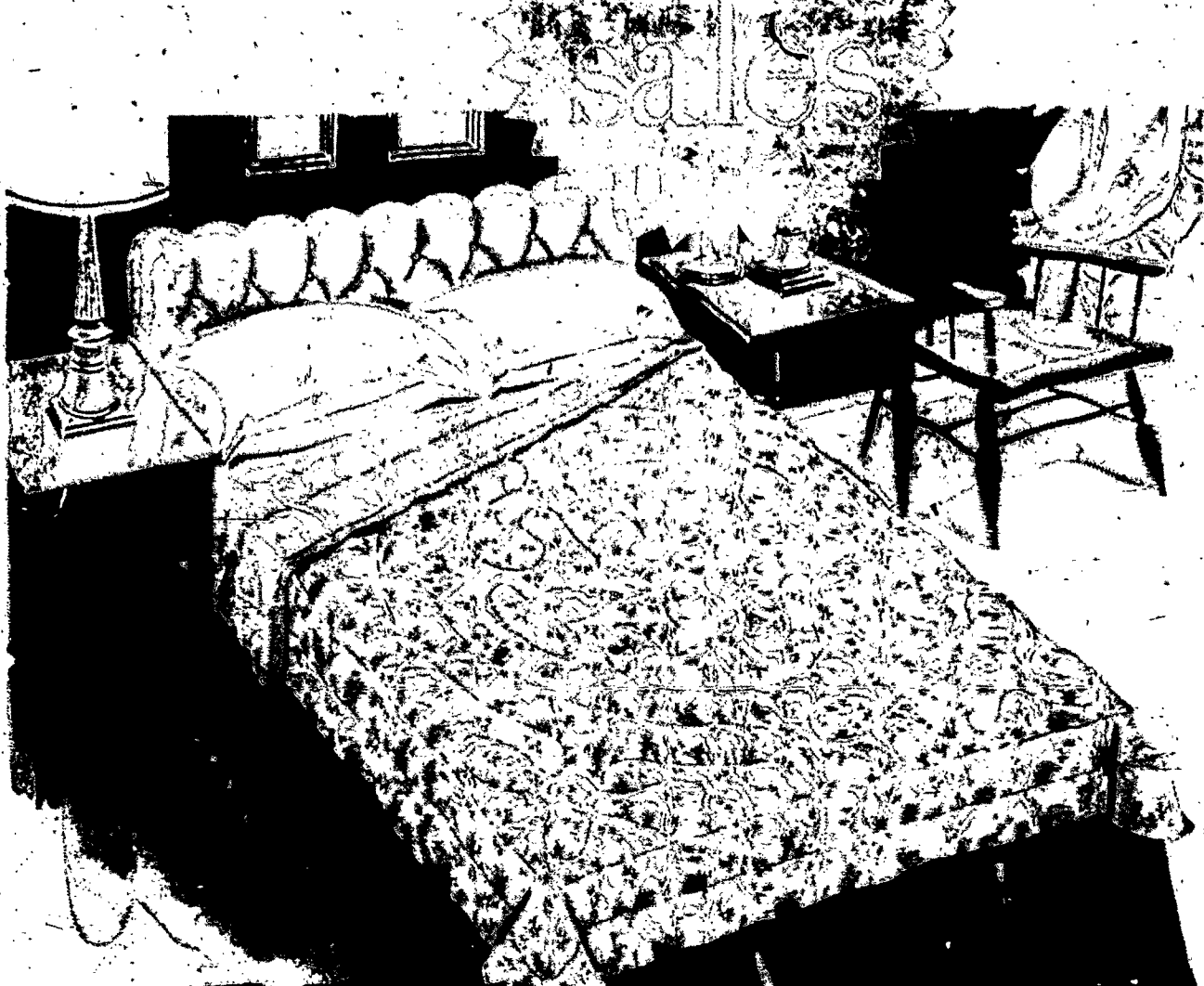
Indianapolis — (RNS) — The official weekly newspaper of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis called the firing of Terry Brennan as head football coach at Notre Dame a setback "for the priests and laymen who are trying to remake the public image of the institution from 'football factory' to first class university."

"We sympathize with ex-coach Brennan for losing his job," the Indiana Catholic and Record said editorially, "but we sympathize even more with the people at Notre Dame who were trying to bring academic prestige to that institution."

"They are the ones who really lost when the 1958 Saturday alumni and supporters pressured Brennan out of his job."

Joe Kuharich, coach of the professional Washington Redskins was hired to replace Brennan. "How are they going to explain the university's position about athletics being strictly secondary to academic concerns," the paper asked, "when a football coach is fired after winning 6 out of 10 contests?"

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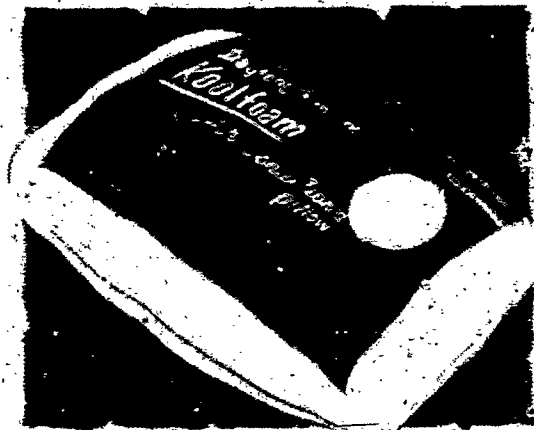


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