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Under the guidance of Mr. "G", Courier circulation jumped from 4,000 in 1934 to today's 66,000.

## Looking Back Pioneer Of Catholic Press, Mr. 'G' Mourned By Associates

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

This newspaper entered its 72nd year on Friday, Oct. 3, without the invaluable services of Elmer G. Grapensteler, circulation manager since 1934. Mr. "G" as he was affectionately known to his many associates died that day after a painful illness of long standing.

To look back on the Catholic Courier Journal's progress is to include Elmer highly on the list of those who have had a part in it.

He came to this organization when Monsignor Hart, Father Moorey, Howard W. Kippert and this writer were struggling with a newspaper skirting the bankruptcy line and with little interest yet developed in its necessity.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS at the time were in the low thousands and some had not been paid in several years. Having had greivous experience with the Catholic press in the days when gamblers had to be rescued by the police, Mr. "G" calmly entered into the work.

He tried earlier boys and girls in the clergy and laity today who worked for him and covered many city blocks in delivering the paper.

Other activities in which he cooperated were Diocesan Holy Name Society drives, a Knights of Columbus effort and then the school crusades. This brought Mr. "G" in contact with pastors, parents, school officials and pupils. He had many head-aches over the awarding of prizes but subscriptions were brought in to the paper.

A highlight in the Crusades was a rally at a local movie house, the Palace, I recall, in which the boys and girls packed the theater and listened to Fred Festorius as the knight in armor extolled the diocesan news- paper and encourage getting subscriptions.

PRESS DAY in the early thirties was a trial each week for Elmer. Often he worked with pastors and assistants at around the clock when the press drive time in April and

## Contrast To The Congo Nigeria Cools Seething Africa

October 1st was the Fourth of July for Jamaalho Abulbreed in Briggs' eyes. "They want a chance to develop the nation and enjoy a better standard of living — if they get more help from one side or the other, they'll lean in that direction."

He is a research chemist at Eastman Kodak Company and plans to return home in 1961. He is the son of a Nigerian immigrant on the coast of Africa's newest nation.

The former British territory was trained for its step into modernity for the past three years. Briggs — his Nigerian first name has been shortened to Jim — is proof that his nation is ready to rule itself.

He is college educated and his crisp British accent, peppered with American terminology, tells a story of hope and hard work.

He is quick to point out that his homeland is "half the size of the Congo" but twice as stable.

He said Nigeria will be one of the major factors in cooling the current hot national fever in Africa. Although still less than a week old, Nigeria has already given ample evidence it is not another Congo.

Briggs said Catholicism is strong in the southern, more industrialized, areas of Nigeria but Islam dominates the larger northern region.

His country has a population of 33 million, Africa's largest free nation about 2 million are Catholics.

Does Nigeria lean left or right politically? "Most of the people will lean

# THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWS PAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE  
Friday, October 7, 1960 Page 11



Nigerian native Jamaalho Briggs describes his homeland to Father Raymond Kenny of St. Andrew's Seminary and Mrs. Heib-er Mirra, member of the parents' organization of the school.

## Diocesan Women Meet For Annual Conclave

Catholic women of the twelve county Rochester Diocese will hold their annual convention tonight and tomorrow at the Diocesan Chamber of Commerce. More than 800 representing almost every parish in the Diocese are expected.

BISHOP KEARNEY will celebrate the convention Mass and preach in St. Mary's Church Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m.

A general session with the theme "Strengthening Your Parish Organization" will open the convention tonight at 8 p.m. Rev. Albert Simonetti will be speaker.

Eight workshops will follow the Mass tomorrow. "Work with the Aging" with Miss Mary Fitzgerald of Elmira, speaker. "Teen Age Challenge" panel discussion by Anthony Thomas, Messner and children's proba- tion officer, Miss Helen Fink.

Other speakers include Rev. Joseph O'Connell and Mrs. John Welch; "Public Relations" speakers Rev. John Kelly and Rev. James J. McManis; Mrs. Elmer Lord and Miss Patricia Hoy.

Light luncheon speaker at 1 p.m. discussion by Ms. Frank Theissen, Messner and children's proba- tion officer, Miss Helen Fink.

Mass Marks Independence  
Nigeria's independence was marked by a solemn Mass in the cathedral with native priests celebrating Mass and subdeacon.

The nation's national anthem was sung. "Help us to build a nation where no man is oppressed. And so with peace and plenty Nigeria may be blessed."

Forty Hours  
Monday, Oct. 10 — Annunciation, St. Andrew, St. Anne, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester, St. Alphonsus, Auburn; St. Patrick, Corning; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport; St. Andrew, Dundee; St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights; St. Patrick, Harborside; St. Michael, Monticello; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pavilion; St. Thomas, Red Creek.



## Safety Patrol Installation

HOLY ROSARY Safety Patrol officers were installed Sept. 30 in ceremonies at the church with the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, pastor, presiding. During the rites, Monsignor Shay addressed the entire student body on the importance of traffic safety. In photo above, the pastor is a host to present safety badges and bells. From left are: Officers Thomas Hastings and George Richardson of the School Safety Education Division, Rochester Police Bureau; John Dinolfo, safety patrol captain, and Paul Leonard, lieutenant.

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