

Litany of Achievements

Blind Dad Man of Year

By FRED FRIES

Indianapolis — (NC) — In January, 1944, a young Marine lieutenant named Thomas C. Hasbrook was blinded for life when a land mine exploded accidentally at a training site at Camp LeJeune, N.C.

For most men that would have been the end of a career. But for Tom Hasbrook it was only the beginning.

Armed with the Catholic faith he had embraced only a few months before the accident, a deeply understanding wife and the promise of a job from his former employer, the Eli Lilly Company, Tom Hasbrook returned to Indianapolis to face the challenges that lay ahead.

HOW HE has met those challenges is evident from the litany of his achievements in his 14 years of blindness.

—He has progressed in his company until he now holds a top executive position as head of the employee communications division.

—He and his wife, the former Mary Jane Thompson, are the parents of six children ranging in age from one to 16 years.

—In 1948 he was named by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of the nation's 10 outstanding young men.

—From 1951 until 1954 he served as Marion County Representative in the Indiana General Assembly, and from 1955 to 1958 as Republican senator from Marion County.

—He is past national presi-

dent of the Blinded Veterans Association.

—In 1958 he was named a member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped.

—He is vice president and foundation chairman of the Indiana Chapter of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

—He is a member of the visiting committee of the Indiana School for the Blind and the Indiana Agency for the Blind.

—He is currently serving as a member of the Indianapolis City Council.

HIS LATEST honor — and one he describes as "just a little premature" — was being named "Blind Father of the Year" for 1961 by the National Father's Day Committee.

Despite a back-breaking schedule that would tax the energies of a sighted man, Tom has been active as a Boy Scout instructor and as a Little League baseball team manager, serves as a CYO adviser in Immaculate Heart parish and is a member of the Parents' Club of Cathedral High School.

He can hold his own on a dance floor and plays a good game of bridge. The only concession he asks at the bridge table is that each player announce the card played and that his partner read off the cards in the dummy when he wins the bid.

A seeing-eye dog has been Tom's constant companion since he left the hospital in 1944. His first dog, Fay, served him for 12 years until — paradox-

ically — she had to be retired because of falling eyesight. "It got to be a case," Tom commented, "of the blind leading the blind."

Fay's successor, Tuna, accompanies Tom on his daily lunch-hour "constitutional" around the Lilly area. During these walks, resourceful Tom Hasbrook carries a portable radio to keep abreast of world news.

Using talking records from the public library, Tom finds the time to "read" about 50 books a year as well as magazines. "Being blind has one advantage," he commented. "I can read a book and shine my shoes at the same time."

With patient coaching from his wife, his parents and his father and mother-in-law, Tom has learned to do many routine household chores. Changing diapers is a "cinch," and once, to prove that he could do it, he changed a flat tire. When his wife is out of town occasionally on a weekend, with a minimum of advance preparation he can even whip up a family meal.

Tom Hasbrook is keenly aware of the role that his wife and family have played in his rehabilitation. "Without them," he said, "I could never have made the grade."

When he was presented his award last week in New York, along with it came a sheath of congratulatory telegrams and letters — from Governor Matthew Welsh, Mayor Charles Boswell and scores of admirers throughout the country.

One telegram which he treasures highly read in part:

"Your selection emphasizes a truth so often overlooked... that a handicap need have no adverse bearing on a man's life; that a handicap certainly need not prevent a man from being a good father, or good worker, or a good citizen." It was signed by a man of opposing political persuasion — John F. Kennedy.

It was a deserving tribute to Thomas C. Hasbrook — a man without sight but not without vision.

Obnoxious Orangemen

Dublin — (RNS) — Members of the anti-Catholic Orange Society in Northern Ireland tried to disrupt ceremonies marking observance of the Patrician Year in the Catholic Diocese of Down and Connor. The year commemorates the 1,500th anniversary of the death of St. Patrick, Ireland's national apostle.

All roads leading to the slopes of Mount Slemish in County Antrim, where an open-air Pontifical High Mass was celebrated, were liberally marked with anti-Catholic inscriptions and Orange insignia.



Seven Special First Communicants

Seven deaf children received their first Holy Communion at St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Franklin St., Rochester, Sunday morning. Their instructors were Father Thomas Erdle and students from St. Bernard's Seminary. With Father Erdle are Timothy Kennedy, Marilyn Fedele, John Monaco, Stephanie DiLenola and Thomas Riggs. Roger Gregory received his Holy Communion in Buffalo and Bruce Mance couldn't stay for the breakfast and photo with his schoolmates.

Crusade in Venezuela

Caracas — (NC) — The Family Rosary Crusade is penetrating both the masses of poor of this capital and the Central University, allegedly a hotbed of communism, according to Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

Father Peyton, who has taken the rosary crusade to 44 countries, said that his 15 movies on the mysteries of the Rosary have provided "ammunition... capable of sustaining for five weeks or longer a crusade among the students."

The Irish-born, U.S.-educated priest said that it is in the Central University's schools of law, economics and humanities that the communists are strong. "But it is in these very schools," he said, "that Our Lady is winning a response and triumph that fulfills literally the saying: 'Those who came to scoff remained to pray.'"

FATHER PEYTON said that the Family Rosary Crusade films are being shown daily in both morning and afternoon in the Central University's three auditoriums. He added that it is the first time that "an activity so religious in character as the Family Rosary Crusade has been permitted to anchor itself within the university grounds and use its buildings for its purpose."

At the same time, the Holy Cross priest said, several hundred trained catechists and projectionists, armed with 40 movie projectors, have been bringing the message of the Rosary films to some 350,000 people living in the slums and poorer sections of Caracas.

The campaign is being carried out on a person-to-person approach through separate or-

ganizational drives in the parishes and the schools of the Caracas archdiocese.

Father Peyton announced that the Caracas crusade will be climaxed with a rally on July 16. He said he hopes attendance at the rally will reach 500,000 persons.

It was revealed earlier at a new conference here that His Holiness Pope John XXIII has sent his second apostolic letter conferring his blessing on the Family Rosary Crusade. The letter, read to reporters by Jose Cardinal Quinto, Archbishop of Caracas, said in part:

"A true Christian... must not content himself with a position of selfish piety in which he is concerned only with his own good when his Faith tells him that there are others, who are his brothers, to whom perhaps it is necessary to teach the truths that are interwoven in the Gospel scenes of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem and to impress upon them the need to know how to take advantage of the inexhaustible graces obtained there for the human race."

Archeologists Find 'Pontius Pilate' Stone

Jerusalem — (RNS) — The first physical evidence of Pontius Pilate, the Roman Procurator of Judea who delivered Christ to be crucified, has been reported discovered on a stone near Caesarea about ten miles south of Haifa.

The discovery was announced by Professor Antonio Frova, director of the antiquities department of northern Italy, who said a University of Milan archeological expedition came across it in the ruins of a Roman amphitheater.

He said the name of the Roman procurator was found on a stone measuring 31 by 23 inches. Three lines had been carved on the stone. The first line said "Tiberium" the second said "Pontius Pilate." The third line has not been deciphered.

Volunteers To Construct Chapel for English Town

Gillingham — (RNS) — Members of the Building Brothers, a Roman Catholic volunteer group led by Father Werenfried van Stratten, of Antwerp, Belgium, will come to England for the first time to help construct a chapel near here.

Since the Dutch-born priest founded the group in 1952 as an auxiliary to his Dutch-Belgian Aid for Eastern Priests organization, more than 4,000 volunteers have participated annually in construction projects throughout Europe under the agency's auspices.

About 20 Building Brothers are coming to England at the appeal of Father Norman Swinton of Gillingham, who wishes a chapel constructed in a new housing development in the nearby town of Rainham. The site had already been purchased, but the English priest found that he had insufficient funds to go ahead with construction.

To add to his worry, local authorities informed him that unless work was begun on the chapel by October, he would lose the site.

However, with the assistance of the volunteers and local parishioners, the new chapel should be finished long before October. Trade unions have promised to "overlook" the project, despite the fact the workers will not receive wages.

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'No Catholic Position'

Books, Materials Asked for Pupils

Providence — (RNS) — The superintendent of schools for the diocese of Providence declared here that he personally believes federal aid to parochial schools should be limited to supply of textbooks and materials "only in areas of national concern."

In an address before the Women's Council on Inter-Group Relations of Rhode Island, Msgr. Arthur T. Geoghegan said there is no national "Catholic position" on the controversial issues of federal aid to public education and the possibility of government funds for non-public schools.

The areas of national concern to which Msgr. Geoghegan referred included science, mathematics, remedial reading and physical education. He declared that federal aid should not be

given to parochial schools for construction costs or teachers' salaries, because of the danger of federal control.

FEDERAL AID for school construction might impose restrictions on design and building that would cause a parish to lose money, he said. As to salaries for members of religious orders in parochial schools, he noted that they are paid "very small" salaries, so "why bother" to get federal aid for them.

However, Msgr. Geoghegan added that he has not yet come to a conclusion about salary aid for lay teachers in parochial schools and that he might advocate such assistance in the future. He said he did not see how there could be a question of religious influence through a lay teacher.

Seminaries Get Million

Cincinnati — (NC) — Two diocesan seminaries will receive the bulk of a widow's estate valued at more than a million dollars.

The will of Mrs. Grace Schwenck, former Cincinnati school teacher, after cash bequests to relatives and friends, left the bulk of her \$1,152,265 estate to Mount St. Mary's Major Seminary and St. Gregory's Minor Seminary for the education of young men for the priesthood.

The parochial school educator was in substantial agreement with Providence attorney Milton Stanzler, who also addressed the women's group from the same platform at Brown University on the topic: "Religious Harmony in a Pluralistic Society."

Stanzler said he thought it would be highly unlikely that a constitutional question could be successfully raised against federal aid for specific programs in the national interest in all schools.

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