

Looking Back

Memories Link  
Two Cathedrals

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

The Golden Jubilee banquet of Sacred Heart Cathedral, last Thursday night, at the Manger Hotel provided an atmosphere for looking back more than sufficient to help me turn out this piece, this week. I had been thinking about such a column but the speakers at the banquet, each could have furnished the material supposed to be here.

Bishop Kearney whose parting words to the people were "See you in Church" as he left the hall climaxed a truly fitting program marking the consecration of the church built by Monsignor George V. Burns as a Cathedral by his successor Bishop Casey who claimed the consecration "a dream come true."

The completion of 50 years of parish life and the consecration were a demonstration of the great love of God for his people and their return to him of examples of faith, hope and charity, Bishop Kearney declared.

IN THE MEMORY jogging department the speakers all had contributions. Handling the toastmaster's duties was the Rev. John P. O'Beirne, pastor of St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, where he said he had no problems and Bishop Kearney assured him that that parish would not be divided "for a few years," at least.

As a former assistant at Sacred Heart, Father O'Beirne recalled that the Sunday collection he had to take to the bank on Mondays was in the neighborhood of \$500. That was back about depression time.

When word came to Sacred Heart about the appointment of Bishop Kearney as Bishop of Rochester, Father O'Beirne said that he told Monsignor Burns he had not heard of the Bishop nor hardly ever of Salt Lake City.

Monsignor George W. Eckl, pastor of St. Ambrose church told of taking the first census in the area to become Sacred Heart Parish and of going to one door where the women said: "Come in Father, I've been waiting 20 years to see a Catholic priest." Subsequently she became the first convert, he said.

As pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Greece, more than 50 years ago, Monsignor Eckl had to have a horse to get about. He told of a pacer he had that made it from Lake Ave. to St. John's in four minutes. (Long before Batavia Downs). He told of a runaway experience caused by faulty harness equipment.

His longest applause came from his recital of the growing of 150 plants of rhubarb and his striving to give away the grown plants.

BISHOP CASEY told of his first day as pastor of Holy Cross and of Monsignor Burns coming to wish him well. Bishop Casey's connection with the parish started many years ago and the Monsignor he succeeded had been at one time his pastor.

Father O'Beirne cited the achievements of Bishop Casey as Sacred Heart pastor with emphasis on the work of refurbishing the church for its consecration as a Cathedral, the erection of an adequate convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph, a parking lot and the great number of spiritual activities promoted in the parish of the diocese.

Although their rule did not permit them to attend, the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught at Cathedral school since its beginning were paid tribute by Bishop Casey.

Father Robert McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary was hailed for his masterful history of the parish by Bishop Casey. Former assistants and priests who were boys in the parish were presented by Bishop Casey from Monsignor Francis W. Mason, "the dean" of former assistants, to Father Roger Switzer the last "boy of the parish" ordained.

It was Children's Court Judge Joseph G. Fritsch speaking for the laity, who told many reminiscences of Sacred Heart Parish. He was born in the parish and while he attended Nazareth Hall, he went from the parish to Aquinas Institute to college and law school and into the Navy. He is married and resides in the parish.

FATHER O'BEIRNE mentioned that Judge Fritsch's eighth child is named "Lawrence B." His parents whom I knew, U.S. Marshal Fritsch and Mrs. Fritsch, resided on Parkdale and their son recalled he was actually born in the parish because of inability to get to the hospital, because of the weather.

He spoke of the early active parishioners such as Earl Van Deusen, the usher. I can remember those days because once in a while I would be tapped for passing the basket. He told of the esteem and love of parishioners for Father Burns.

Thirty-nine years ago, my wife and I took up our residence in the parish and have been there since. Our eight children were baptised there and the seven living are graduates of the school.

I went from the old Cathedral (St. Patrick's) parish to the one (Sacred Heart) that was to become the Cathedral parish. Monsignor Burns was an assistant pastor at St. Patrick's at the time Monsignor Eckl was seeking the data to establish a parish there and taught in Cathedral High School in 1910.

As one parishioner, I look back on the 50 years with gratitude to both pastors, Monsignor Burns, my old teacher and Bishop Casey whom I came to know and highly esteem when he was Secretary to Bishops before taking over the jubilee parish.



TREVOR DURRANT, award winner for 1961, and Joseph Beauchamp, Monroe County CWV Commander.

Catholic War Veterans  
Reward Trevor Durrant

At a special meeting of the executive meeting of the Catholic War Veterans, Monroe County Chapter held Saturday afternoon Oct. 28, a presentation of outstanding merit was made to Trevor Durrant as the Catholic War Veteran of 1961 presentation was made by County Commander Joseph Beauchamp.

TREVOR DURRANT has been a member of Sacred Heart Post No. 1127 of the Catholic War Veterans since his discharge after World War II. He is married to Rita McGary Durrant and they live with their three children at 95 Lapham St. Their oldest boy, John is 15, and attends Aquinas Institute, Patricia, 12 and Jeanne, 8, attend Sacred Heart School.

Durrant is a convert and is a member of Sacred Heart Post. He has served as Commander of his post and for seven years as Officer of the Day for the County organization. He is active in the Incentive literature drive sponsored by the post, and represents the County at the Monroe County Joint Veterans Assistance Committee. At Sacred Heart Cathedral he is an usher, member of the Men's Club, and the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

He is employed at Eastman Kodak Company in X-Ray Scanning Division and just this year received his 25 year award. He is married and resides in the parish.

Unit To Sponsor  
Card Party

St. Mary's Rosary Altar Society, Elmira, will sponsor a card party Thursday, Nov. 16, at 8 p.m. in the parish auditorium. Tickets are available through Zone Leaders.

CHAIRMEN OF the affair are: refreshments — Mrs. Thomas J. McCarthy, Elmira; Mrs. Thomas Morrissey and Mrs. Thomas Harrison; tickets — Mrs. Frederick Veisley and Miss Marian C. McInerney; prizes — Mrs. Anthony Crescenzi and Mrs. John Wood; publicity — Mrs. Frank D. Maloney.

Fourth Degree  
Slate Installed

Ithaca — Dinner meeting and Installation of Officers, Fourth Degree Assembly, Ithaca Council No. 277, was held at the Knights of Columbus home, Father Richard Murphy was the guest speaker.

HONORED GUESTS were District Master Raymond Nary and Mrs. Nary, Warden Richard Seaton and Mrs. Seaton, assisted by Seaton, pre-Nary, at the installation of the following newly elected officers: Navigator, Claude Coley; Captain, George Kieeman; Pilot, Dr. A. Edward Cappucci; Sentinels, Joseph Conway, Robert Mancini; Controller, Frank Spedding; Admiral, Frank Egan; Friar, Rev. John Maloney.

Women Sponsor  
Bazaar, Sale

Clifton Springs — The annual bazaar and bake sale sponsored by the Rosary and Altar Society of St. Felix Church will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7 in Weld Furniture Store, Main St.

Mrs. Ellis Weld, Mrs. John Driscoll and Mrs. Leigh Smith are heading up the committee of arrangements for the "Holiday Theme" Bazaar starting at 10 a.m.

Elmira Newsman  
Listed For Talk

Mrs. Thomas J. McCarthy, Elmira Newsman Feature Writer will be the guest speaker at the meeting of the Rosary Altar Society of St. Charles Borromeo parish on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the church hall.

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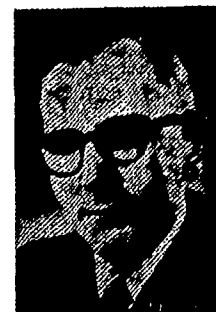
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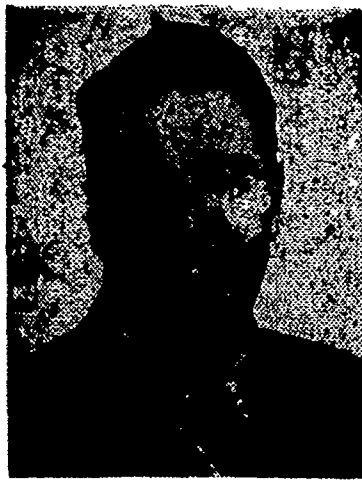
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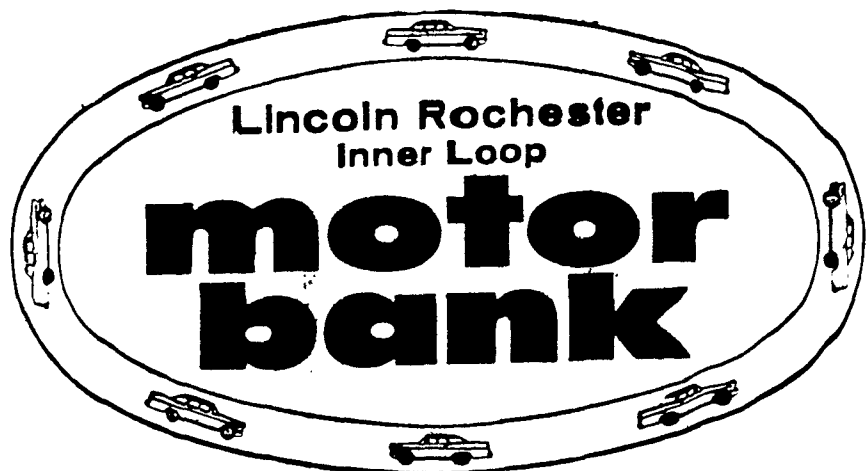
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