

Looking Back

School Offices Move, Ped Men's Club Sold

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

Two current events, the moving of the Diocesan School office to more adequate and finely appointed offices on the fifth floor of Columbus Civic Center and the announced sale of the Red Men's Club, formerly the Knights of Columbus Club at Main St. East and Union St. North sent this department down memory lane this week.

The club on Main St. came before the Knights of Columbus and built the Columbus Civic Center on Chestnut St., now serving as the Diocesan Building. The planners and builders hardly anticipated that the building would be almost adjacent to the Midtown development.

It was in the early 20s that the knights leased the Main St. property and found it hardly adequate for the council activities, planning extensive buildings for fulfillment of plans made before the heyday of fraternalism sent members of all groups into the market. In 1923 and automobile and television directed attention away from fraternal meetings.

After many setbacks, excavation took place in 1924, the steel 72 columns of it were delivered at the site in March of that year and was erected. Financial difficulties were not overcome until 1927 when the preliminary plans for the 12 story structure including a big Auditorium were announced.

IT WAS PREDICTED that the building "will exert a helpful influence upon everybody who enters its walls, and that it will be an institution not only to all Knights of Columbus, but to all people in the City of Rochester."

The building came into being after previous financial campaigns, during Grand Knight John J. McInerney's term. The adjustments caused by cost being above estimates were made when Grand Knight Charles J. Barnes was in office. Three names cited as bringing about the adjustments were John Connors, Richard T. Ford and John P. Boylan.

When the building was finally opened in 1929, an Open House was held. A total of 15,000 men, women and children toured the building. It made the trip four or five times and realized the extent of the place.

The upper eight floors were assigned as dormitories. They were to be open to all Knights of Columbus and also to men of good reputation, irrespective of fraternal or religious affiliations.

The lower four floors and basement were to be occupied by the Knights of Columbus and to be used for their gymnasium, athletic, basketball, social, fraternal and welfare work. Auditorium was to be open for rental to the public.

THE OPENING DAY was "the greatest day in the history of the Columbus Building thus far," Manager Raymond J. Curran was quoted, "and we greatly appreciate the cooperation of Bishop-elect O'Hern and priests who so kindly announced through the pulpits, the invitation to visit the building."

General Secretary Maurice F. Runnons and Financial Secretary Michael D. Kavanagh were active in the campaigns, transfer to the new building of the Diocesan office and the setting in the new home. Later after the diocese took charge, Peter Tettebach, a prominent business man, irrevocably sold to the building. Owing the dark days and many told the Knights "you shouldn't have done it."

While the knights lost little to their dream building, the achievement within it must be repaid to the credit of those who sacrificed, worked and contributed to its erection.

Accommodations for the growing Catholic Schools' offices and for the Community of the Christ the King on the sixth floor is the latest in space provided primarily for diocesan work.

Under the direction of the new Bishop Francis J. Kelly, the building was made available for the Knights activities but for the Catholic groups, young, middle age and seniors.

When the Cathedral rectory was closed on Plymouth Ave. North the Chancery was moved to the fourth floor where its offices now are a credit to the diocese. It has been the headquarters of Bishop Keenan for 25 years. The space was formerly used as the dining room where many dinners will remember.

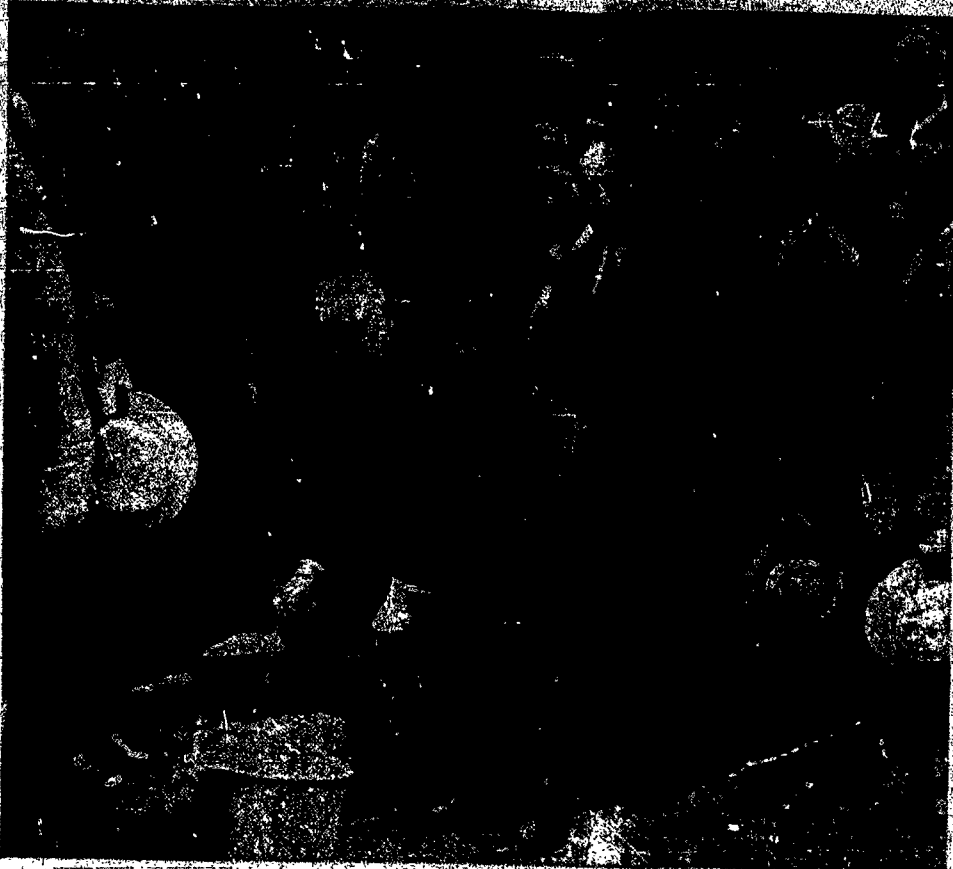
THE CHAPEL on the Third Floor added another Tabernacle in the diocese.

Prior to World War II, Niagara University conducted an extension on the fifth floor now occupied by the Diocesan Charities and DePaul Clinic offices, Society for the Propagation is located on the fifth floor and will move to the second. The Catholic Courier offices were for ten years on the fifth floor.

The Catholic Youth Organization supervises the gymnasium and swimming pool to the benefit of hundreds of boys and girls.

The organization which started it all is located on the second floor and uses facilities when needed for current activities although the scope has dwindled as in all organizations—note sale of fraternal buildings lately.

This is not a sales pitch for the building, nor an explanation of all facets of the building's history. It is just a recall of some of the things that happened at Chestnut and Lawn St.



"A KNIGHT can be a good mason" was caption under this photo by Gene Freher in the Democrat and Chronicle rotogravure section in the early 20s. John Connors is handling the scroll. Officers of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus at the time construction was laid for Columbus Building included (front left) Thomas H. O'Connor, Arthur N. Brewer, James P. Jones, John Keenan, Nell P. Collins, Grand Knight Charles R. Barnes, Daniel F. Fitzgerald, Cyril J. Stahl.

New Summer Chapel To Serve Fairhaven

Cato—Acquisition of a building for use as a summer chapel at Fairhaven to accommodate the hundreds of summer cottagers and campers at religious services was accomplished this week.

The County Clerk's office has recorded the deed to the former Odette Long Hall, located in Fairhaven at the corner of Main and Sterling Streets which was purchased from Rebekah Lodge, I.O.O.F. No. 459 by St. Thomas Catholic Church, Corporation, Red Creek. Price was \$4,000 plus expenses.

THE BUILDING is an attractive chapel. It will ease the strain of the Red Creek Church where during past summers, it was necessary to turn many away.

Bishop Kearney has designated the new chapel to St. Jude, one of the Apostles as an appropriate mission of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Red Creek. The altar of the new chapel is the former altar of St. Thomas the Apostle summer chapel, Irondequoit, now discontinued. Plans were donated by St. Michael's Church, Lyons and by St. Isaac Jogues Church, Fleming.

Many other donations and offers of help were received to make the building appropriate for Mass. During the latter part of last summer by the kindness of former owners, crews of volunteer helpers put in many hours of work and cleaning. More than 500 worshippers were served at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, last August.

Rev. Emmer W. Heindl, present pastor and also pastor of St. Patrick's Church; Cato plans to obtain an architect's recommendations for renovation and refurnishing of the property. The architect is Phillip Winkler.

Present scheduling is for two services each Sunday of July and August at 8 and 9 a.m. with the third Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Red Creek.

It is expected that volunteer parishioners, summer cottagers and friends will do much of the work. Father Heindl has accepted the services of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Van Speilbroeck who 40 years ago was the first and only Catholic family in Fairhaven. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Clement Squires and Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Grant to act as trustees and committee heads in service of the new chapel.

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St. Anne's Church and St. Joseph's Church are also active in the project of the Sacred Heart Cathedral dedicated to the same devotion as the club, honoring the Sacred Heart. Its yearly visit to the club brings out a large attendance according to Donald E. Woerner, vice chairman.

Receives Holy Communion on the First Friday is eligible to attend the luncheon.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Naughton, pastor of St. Anne's Church explained the ceremony of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home at the January meeting. Dedication of the home to the Sacred Heart is equivalent to making the Sacred Heart a member of the family and a part of all important family deliberations, the Monsignor said.

Devothons of the Forty Hours will be conducted in the following Churches of the Diocese of Rochester:

Friday, Jan. 25 — Nazareth Academy, Convent, Rochester; Carmelite Fathers, Auburn.

Friday, Feb. 1 — St. John's Atoneement Seminary, Montour Falls.

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Indian Nuns At McAuley

Sister Edith, S.A.C. and Sister Selka, S.I.C. students at Catherine McAuley College, belong to a Congregation, the Sisters of the Immaculate of Christ (also called the Bethany Sisters), which has as one of the special aims to work for the reunion of the dissidents of the Oriental Rite. Their other aims are the education of youth and the evangelization of India.

THE SISTERS are from Trivandrum, Kerala State, South India, and have been with the Sisters of Mercy since early September. They are here under the Sister Formation Overseas Project. Under this plan, two Sisters will come to the United States each year for four years, from the same Congregation, to study at Sisters of Mercy Colleges. Forty a year have been coming for the past few years.

The Sisters' Congregation is particularly interesting during

the Church Unity Octave because they were founded by Mar Ivanios, a Jacobite Priest in 1928 and their first Sisters made their Novitiate at an Anglican Congregation.

They were united with Rome in 1930 when Archbishop Mar

90 Applicants At Seminary

St. Andrew's Seminary has received notification from parishes throughout the diocese that ninety eighth grade graduates intend to take the entrance examination for the Seminary on Feb. 2 at the school.

Blessed Sacrament with seven applicants leads the list. St. Charles, Holy Redeemer and St. Helen's with six each are second in number of applicants.

OTHER PARISHES with their number of prospective seminarians are the following: Five - Sacred Heart, St. Ann's, Our Lady of Lourdes; Four - Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary (Watkinsport); Three - Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Michael's, St. Thomas the Apostle; Two - Holy Apostles, Holy Redeemer, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. James, St. John the Evangelist, City, St. John the Evangelist, Greece, St. Monica's, St. Theodore's, St. Agnes (Aron), St. Ann's (Hornell), Immaculate Conception (Hhaca), St. John the Evangelist (Sagehenport), Holy Trinity (Webster), St. Rita's (West Webster); One - Christ the King, Corpus Christi, Holy Family, Holy Rosary, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Ambrose, St. Plus, St. Salome, St. Stanislaus, Good Shepherd (Henrietta), St. Rose (Lima), St. Joseph (Rye Field).

Archbishop Mar Gregorius was a member of the Order of the Immaculate of Christ and his sister is in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate of Christ. St. Trivandrum, where he located the Novitiate, Mother Selka, S.I.C. is Provincial.

At that time, when he visited the Our Lady of Mercy High School, the C.S.M.C. made donations for a Church which is called Our Lady of Mercy, near Pandalam, Kerala State, India, and still send donations for its upkeep.

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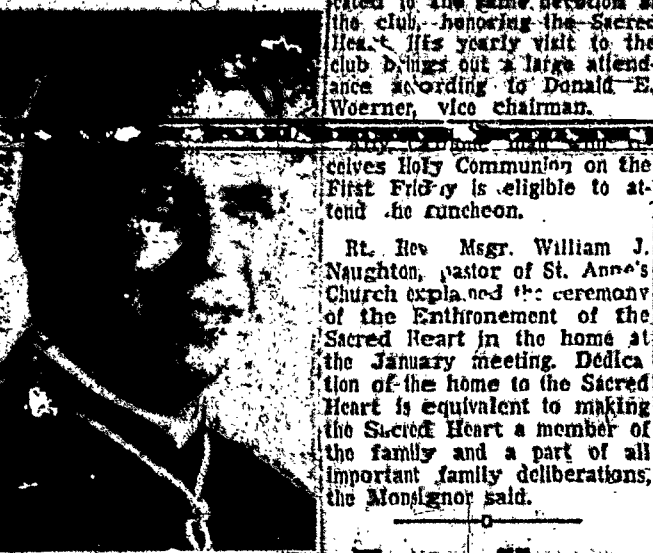
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BISHOP CASEY

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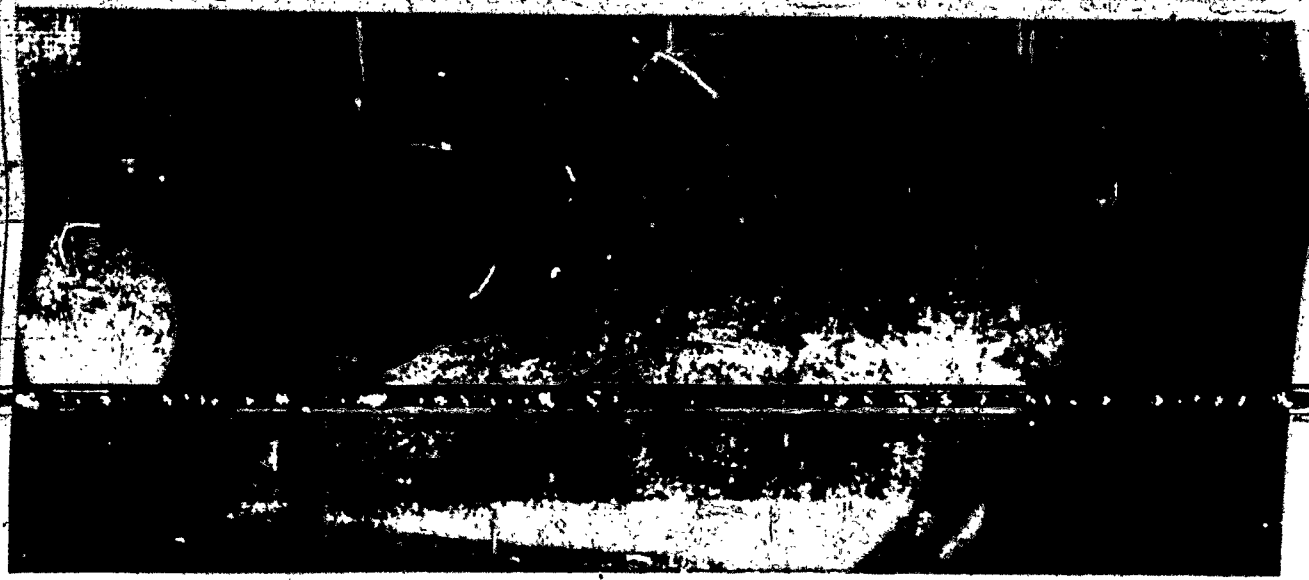
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INDIAN SISTERS EDITH AND SELKA are shown with Sisters of Mercy studying in the Catherine McAuley College library.

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