

Scholastic Notebook

Stadium For Sale

By John Doser



One stadium. Capacity, 20,000. Concrete. Adequate parking.

Send check or money order for \$1 million to Aquinas Institute, Dewey Avenue, Rochester, N.Y.

There is no doubt that the Little Irish have their stadium at Ridgeway Avenue and Mt. Read Blvd. up for sale.

Everybody knows it. Nobody wants to buy it. Nobody wants to buy it as a stadium at least.

Monroe County doesn't want it. County Manager Gordon A. Howe said so.

When the bricks and mortar come tumbling down, then some noise will be heard.

That's the opinion of Aquinas principal Father Albert L. Gaelens, C.S.B., anyway.

He is at a loss to understand why the public hasn't reacted to Mr. Howe's statement. Father Gaelens believes the public will react but by then it will be too late.

Aquinas needs the money from the sale of the stadium to pay for renovations to its 42-year-old Dewey Avenue school house. The renovation price tag runs \$650,000 and Aquinas stands to get about \$800,000 from either of two bidders, both housing developers, who will tear the football factory down.

"We have no alternative," Father Gaelens said. "We must pay for the renovation this year." Father Gaelens said the stadium was put up as collateral against the bank loan which paid for the repairs.

Nobody wants Aquinas to sell the stadium. But then no one is breaking down Aquinas' front door to buy it.

The rumor of the sale of the stadium has been around for several years. It's not the price tag on the stadium that has prevented Aquinas from completing the deal.

"The problem is finding a buyer who will retain the stadium as a stadium," Father Gaelens said. "We think the loss of the stadium will be a great loss to the community."

So, the American champions of professional soccer — Rochester's Lancers — as well as numerous drum and bugle groups — Rochester's a drum corps hot-bed — plus local Catholic schoolboy football, will have to go elsewhere to play.

The only reasonable alternative to AQ Stadium is Silver Stadium which of course houses the International League Red Wings. Red Wing general manager Bob Turner has stated in

the past that his ballpark is community-owned and would have no objection to having it used for community purposes.

Turner said the Wings wouldn't necessarily be shopping for profit off the schools, but that they would expect the schools to pay for any turf they might destroy. Fair enough.

The Lancers? That's another question. Their soccer dates run from May through September, in parallel with baseball. And would Silver Stadium be conducive for soccer? It could be; after all that's where Aquinas football set Rochester's all-time sports crowd mark of 23,609 in 1948 (7-7 Thanksgiving Day tie with St. Benedict's of Newark, N.J., for you memory buffs).

One very disappointed Aquinas fan will be Father Cyril Carter, C.S.B., the Aquinas athletic director for more than 25 years. Father Carter is now retired.

"Father Carter put many hours into that stadium," Father Gaelens said. "In fact he seemed to spend nearly all day every day at the stadium 12 months of the year."

Father Carter told AQ students back in the middle 50's that football was doomed unless \$15,000 in tickets could be assured the following season to pay for equipment etc. The classes of the middle 50's went out and raised the money and the Irish have survived since.

Students, always looking for a cause, would undertake a humdinger if they tackled this one. Of course back in the 50's only Aquinas was involved. Now there are three other Catholic schools using Aquinas Stadium.

It couldn't be done, could it?

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Last Week's Results

- Aquinas 18, Fairport 12
- McQuaid 35, Canandaigua 0
- Kearney 34, Brighton 13
- Mooney 6, Brockport 6

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GEORGETOWN VARSITY

Washington, D.C. — Mike Cavagrotti, a 1969 graduate of Aquinas, is a member of the 1970 Georgetown varsity football team. Cavagrotti is a 5-9, 170-pound sophomore halfback.

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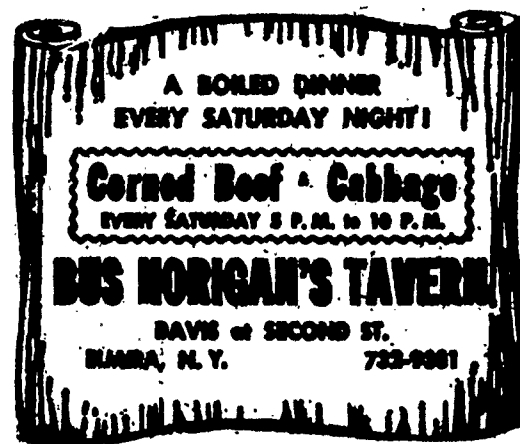
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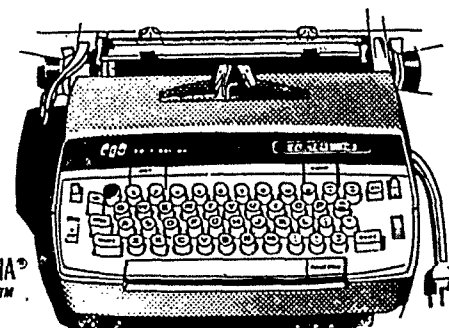
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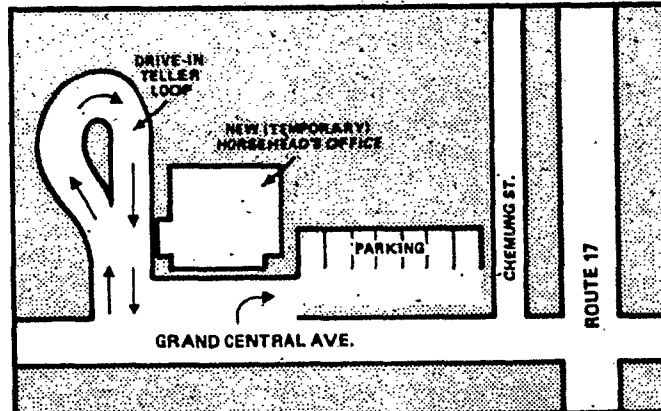
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