

49 Years on Main Street

By CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI

Abe Raff reaches back through the last 60 or 70 years and flicks out names from the past as if he were throwing jabs in the ring. He was an outstanding amateur and professional fighter more than 50 years ago.

Raff who is retiring from his Main Street haberdashery after 49 years there recalls famous people from many fields, mainly politics, prize-fighting and religious.

"Lots of big names come in here," he said, dancing between customers taking advantage of a sale preceding Raff's closing on Feb. 27.

"Why I remember Cliff Bostwick (old-time Republican leader) saying, 'Give me a size 7 1/4, taking the hat, crushing it between his legs and then buying it.'"

Raff may be best known in the diocesan world through his connections over the years with the Aquinas Mission Bouts.

"I give Msgr. Grady (Msgr. Joseph C. Grady, former Aquinas principal who died in 1968) credit for the whole



ABE RAFF
Outstanding A.A.U.
Professional and Amateur
Western New York
Flyweight champion

ring. So the Mission Bouts were born, some 35 years ago."

More names — Police Inspector Jim Collins, Leo McSweeney, Judge Bill Love — all helped in setting up the "bouts."

Raff then turned to the "high-chair bouts we put on for Msgr. John S. Randall at Immaculate Conception Church." Johnny Kilbane, Billy Papke, King Mahoney helped.

Raff has many friends and they stop by to see him and add to "his story."

"Did he tell you he's been married 52 years . . . to the same woman," quips one.

Raff's wife Doris helps in the store and she laughs, "That's right, our anniversary is Feb. 23."

The Raffs are family people — two daughters, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren. They are members of Temple Beth El.

Reflecting on his amateur and professional ring career in which he lost only once, Raff recalled fighting such as Red Maloney, Ziggy Burns, Joe Burke.

"I fought over a span when I weighed between 86 and 103 pounds," he says. At age 76, he's a svelte 117.

He once fought and successfully defended his Rochester Athletic Club title after being laid up 32 weeks following a car wreck. Raff only lost once ("I weighed 97 pounds and lost in Syracuse to a guy weighing 126").

Who are his all-time favorite fighters? Steve Halaiko, Joe Goldberg and Ray Robinson.

What about the upcoming heavyweight fight between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier? "The man who misses will lose."

He added, "You can't take it away from Clay (Ali). He stays in good condition, works hard, and you really can't dislike a man who doesn't want to kill anybody."

The future? "I'll still help in the Aquinas bouts, training and refereeing, but Hunk Vadas does the bulk of the work there now."

Nursing Student Wins Award

Hornell — Karen Kolmer, a junior in the St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, has been awarded the Hazel Stewart Scholarship. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kolmer of Durnan Street, Rochester.

The \$350 scholarship is given annually by Miss Hazel Stewart of Almond, a retired public health nurse who serves on the school's advisory board.

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ANGELO L. DI NIERI

DiNieri — 73 And Going Strong

Angelo L. DiNieri, 73 next month, has been selected as John Hancock Insurance Associate of the Year.

The honor was bestowed on DiNieri after he completed last year with a volume nearing a \$1.5 million.

When not selling insurance, DiNieri is president of the Mass League, a member of St. Philip Neri Church's Lay Board, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, charter member and past president of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, past president of the Holy Name Society, a member of the Chamber of Commerce as well as many other civic and business organizations.

Holy Angels Guild Seeks New Members

The February meeting of Holy Angels Guild will be held Monday evening, February 22, at the Holy Angels Home on Winton Road North. A gourmet supper will be served at 6:30. Those planning to attend should notify Miss Clara Termotte at 271-1016.

A report on the current membership drive will be given. Miss Josephine Talerico and Mrs. Alfred Mickolichik are chairmen. The following are captains: Mrs. Louis Przynsinda, Miss Josephine Flora, Mrs. Leonard P. Oliver, Mrs. Glen R. Perkins, Mrs. Wendell Ryan, Miss Hayna Snyder, Mrs. J. Edward Naughton, Mrs. Ralph G. Tessmer and Mrs. Nicholas Colamarino.

Courier-Journal

Development Fund

Last week's listing of contributions to the Human Development Fund was exclusively for parishes. It did not include the following breakdown of institutions and groups which were included in "miscellaneous" in our report:

Catholic students, Rochester Institute of Technology	\$163
Catholic students, University of Rochester	67
Motherhouse, Sisters of Mercy	45
VA Catholic Chaplains	25
St. Ann's Home	130
Craig State School, Sonyea	102

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