

GEORGE BEAHON

"In This Corner"



The editors will get the gory shots off the UPI and AP wire-photo machines, and they'll print them, and quite a few of the cash customers will complain about using such pictures of destruction and death in the newspapers. "Why must you print such scenes?" they will ask.

And the answer, of course, is the same one editors give about using photographs of airplane crashes. "You don't expect us to print photos of routine landings, do you?"

This is a roundabout way of getting to a crepe-handing pre-

dition that Saturday's Indianapolis 500 auto race might warrant being renamed the Slaughterhouse 500.

It's that bad. Because the cars finally are too fast for the track, and for the special breed of humans who drive these new designs. The evidence began pouring in more than a week ago.

ABC's special TV on a Sunday afternoon showed us time trials out of Indy. They showed us veteran Jim Malloy, 36 and father of three, being pried out of his wreck after stoning a wall. It took half an hour to get Malloy out of the smashed and fire blackened wreckage. It was another four days before the surgeons lost him.

The same TV show offered us re-run after re-run of a miraculous escape by Bill Vukovich. He hit a wall, too, but he walked away from it. "See this!" yowled the commentator, noting also that Vukovich's father had twice won the 500. He neglected to remind us that Bill's father also had been killed in a racing car.

In the same week of trials, four other spinouts were recorded on turns, raising the question of whether safety technology had kept pace with soaring speeds.

A couple of days later another veteran, Art Pollard, got lucky. He spun and hit a wall but got away with nothing worse than a broken leg. He had just recorded a lap at more than 185 mph, and here's the point:

Bobby Unser negotiated the track at more than 196 mph, which is something like 17 mph faster than the 1971 pole winner's time!

Jim Clark, one of the best ever to race, is among relatively recent dead ones. Jochen Rindt, the Austrian who won the 1970 world championship of auto racing, wasn't around to collect his trophy.

Dan Gurney retired. He was one of the good ones, but he quit after lying awake one night and using about one hour to count the names of people he'd known who had died racing. He stopped when he got to 57.

So what's new about all this? What's new is that even the drivers at Indy are complaining that the new cars are too fast, and what's to be done about it?

The answer is nothing has been done about it, and next Monday's 500 could become complete folly, because the desire for victory (speed) is such that it's odds-on that tragedy will stalk the race.

There will be the cries of the followers of this noble sport that such events are testing grounds for improvement in equipment which is only absurd, because they are not testing equipment you and I are driving today, and major automotive companies have their own testing grounds, and practically no casualties.

Last year, you may recall, there was a wipe-out even before the

race began. A car dealer put the pace car into a photographers' stand. This year, assuring no repetition of that, Indy officials are ready to put Jim Rathmann, a veteran of 14 500's, in the pace car.

Rathmann's parade lap leader may wind up the only car to finish. And the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, judging from all the pre-race evidence, may wind up as the largest used car lot in the Whole Wide World. Of sports?

Viet Refugees Get CRS Help

New York (RNS) — Some 200 tons of clothing and blankets were shipped by Catholic Relief Services here to Vietnam to aid the thousands of refugees displaced by the combat escalation of recent weeks.

More than 350,000 items of clothing for men, women and children, as well as 20,000 blankets left the Port of New York for Saigon, according to Bishop Edward E. Swanson, CRS executive director.

Later in May, another 3,000 blankets will be shipped from Seattle to Saigon. The total estimated value of the two cargoes is \$750,000.

At present, CRS in conjunction with Caritas of Vietnam, is caring for about 55,000 refugees in the Danang area.

JOHN DOSER

Scholastic Notebook



"Did you know," MC Jerry Flynn said, "That Paul McKee personally went down to the Greyhound Bus terminal to personally pick up Bob Rosmarino's tickets?"

Of course Flynn's remark was made in jest and the more than 150 friends, students and parents in the audience at Sweet's Farm got a big kick out of it.

The occasion was the testimonial dinner in honor of Rosmarino, the Aquinas football coach for the past seven years who has decided to return to his hometown in Massachusetts next fall where he'll be starting from scratch with a new football team.

Rosy too, had some words to say which won't soon be forgotten by many in the audience.

"I owe everything I have to football," Rosmarino said. "My house, my car, my clothes, everything — all because of this wonderful game.

"I went to high school because of it, I graduated from college because of it, I'm here tonight because of it. In fact nothing like this (dinner) has ever happened to me."

Rosmarino explained how one college professor of his helped shape his entire life. "This professor used to harp on our spending all our college days to find out what we like to do best. And when you find out what you like to do best, then go look for someone to pay you for it."

It was at that moment that Rosy departed from perhaps what he planned to say to add, "Hell, I wouldn't have told Father Gaelens before, but I'd have worked here for nothing!"

Father Gaelens, Aquinas principal, noted the success of Rosy's teams at the Dewey Avenue campus and the powerful influences Rosmarino had on Aquinas students.

We always thought one of the greatest contrasts we've observed in schoolboy sports was watching Rosy the fiery, chain-smoking, tough-language coach on the field and Rosy the subdued, quiet, "thank the Lord" praying coach in the post-game locker room.

Syracuse University head football coach Ben Schwartzwalder, the main speaker for the evening who held the audience in the palm of his hand for 45 minutes, remarked that football is combating the enemy during the game, but loving him after the game. That too was Rosmarino for as long as we've known him.

Guests included Bishop Kearney athletic director Marty LaFica and BK head football coach Don DellaVella; East High ath-

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letic director Don Murray; Rush-Henrietta administrator and Section 5 workhorse Bill Farrell; and sports columnist Bruno Sniders.

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