



The Dunavan family . . .

Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Lay Missioners from Rochester

Assignment to Lesotho Seems 'Soft' To Them

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE
William and Susan Dunavan think they have it easy because they are going to spend three years in the tiny, impoverished nation of Lesotho, Africa.

"They give the single people all the rough assignments, like New Guinea. Because we're married and have two children," explained Bill Dunavan, "we don't get sent out into the really rough backwoods."

Union of South Africa. The chief wealth of the Basuto tribe, Dunavan said, is cattle; as a result the land is overgrazed and without grass, and the people have to burn dung as fuel, thus depriving the land even further of natural nourishment.

As a 1970 graduate from Humboldt State College in California with a major in management of natural resources, Dunavan feels he can assist the Basutos restore their land, which was originally like the North American prairie.

At the mission in Qacha's Nek, the Dunavans will be helping two priests of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and several Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Part of their work, in addition to teaching nutrition and hygiene, will be to operate an adult education center.

Dunavan and his wife are taking their two children, Tommy, 14 months, and Frances, 2 years, with them to Christ the King mission at Qacha's Nek, Lesotho. They will spend three years there as lay mission-helpers in a special program sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The program, founded in 1955, can be equated with a missionary version of the well known Peace Corps programs, explained Dunavan. "You have to say your prayers and make an annual retreat as part of this program," he said, "which is the whole reason behind the Peace Corps thing anyway."

The Dunavans were in Rochester last week for a "goodbye visit" to her parents, Richard and Doris Bedford of Fairport.

The Lay Mission Helpers Association, joke the Dunavans, "are the first people who ever checked our references out."

A year ago Susan Dunavan seemed like an unlikely candidate to be a Catholic missionary, since it was not until last June that she was even converted.

The religion classes that were part of the preparation for their mission work, she explains, went a long way toward preparing her for conversion. "They cleared up a lot of things that I didn't know," she said. Also included in their nine months of training were anthropology and geography, but no language.

It is more difficult to find people to teach the Sesuto language than the relatively common Swahili, said Bill Dunavan. However, since Lesotho is a former English colony, the Dunavans expect little trouble.

Lesotho, formerly called Basutoland, is a landlocked nation completely surrounded by the



JOHN RIESENBERGER

Retired, Rehired

By CHARLES RANDISI

Anyone who contends that age 73 is a time to sit in a rocking chair, waiting for the Social Security check, should talk to John Riesenberger.

Though officially retired from Regional Transit Service, Riesenberger is as active as ever.

He heads up three programs for RTS employees and retirees, is president of his Nocturnal Adoration Society, is a card-carrying member of the American Association of Retired Persons, keeps the books for the Brighton Republican Town and County Committee, and just returned from a two-week trip to Germany.

On June 1, 1970, he retired as head of the claims department at RTS. On the same day he was rehired. He was that valuable.

His three RTS projects are an

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Courier-Journal

Not 'Parochial'

Flood Torn Schools Collect from State

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

It was a long, frustrating time coming, but Elmira and Corning Catholic schools now have state money in hand.

Dr. Thomas Curran, an Elmira dentist who has spent much of his time in the last 6 years working to maintain the southern tier parochial school system called the \$277,500 "operational money."

"All we asked was to be placed back where we were June 22," Curran explained in a telephone interview.

"It would have been a political disaster to let us die the year of the flood," said the veteran of many "frustrating campaigns" with federal and state agencies for financial aid.

But this state money is not parochial, he continued. "It is emergency funding to keep us alive this year. It saved us from using money saved from consolidation and other savings. We can now see clear to two or two and a half years, whereas had we received no aid, our own savings would have only lasted us out the middle of next semester."

Curran thinks it no accident that the money promised four weeks earlier became available the day before Gov. Rockefeller's scheduled town meeting trip to Rochester.

Parents Press Aid Drive

Representatives of all parents clubs of Rochester Catholic high schools and home school associations joined the Bishop Kearney's Parents' Club last Sunday in its efforts to secure financial aid for private schools.

About 100 people attended the panel discussion moderated by Bishop Kearney's Dr. William Africano to learn where efforts have been made so far and what is now needed for diocesan schools.

On the panel were Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, speaking on the finan-

"The reason we are getting it today," Curran said last Wednesday, "I firmly believe, is because Rockefeller is going to be in Rochester tomorrow, and I told them (Rockefeller's staff) I was going to be there in the front row."

He stressed that credit for the state aid goes to local legislators. "Senator William Smith and Assemblyman L. Richard Marshall opened the gateway for us to Senator Earl Brydges, president of the Senate, and Senator Warren Anderson," Curran reported.

"If we had a game ball, the ball would go to Anderson's staff who wrote the omnibus bill and stuck out their necks for us," he said.

The money was picked up in Albany Nov. 29 and Curran said it would be distributed Nov. 30, and in use by Dec. 1.

Elmira's Notre Dame High School received \$92,500. Corning's two schools \$65,000 and Elmira's consolidated system of four elementary and one junior high school received \$120,000.

The \$277,500 from the state, plus federal funds received last fall makes a total of \$577,500 in government flood recovery assistance to the schools.

According to Dr. Curran, the cost of running Elmira and Cor-

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Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Town Meeting

Right to life members were first to confront Gov. Nelson Rockefeller as he entered the Sheraton Airport Motor Inn for the "town meeting" where he learned the variety of issues concerning Rochester residents.