



Photo by Dave Witbeck

New Flag at St. Monica's

Lt. Robert Doherty of Fire Truck Co. number five, replaces the flag at St. Monica's School. After trouble with pranksters some years back, the school adopted this unusual method of flag-raising. Flags are donated by the VFW and are replaced every year by the area firemen.



IN THIS CORNER George Beahon

No matter what you hear from the deep thinkers in the football press boxes, baseball is alive. Perhaps not well, but alive. In spite of itself, not because of itself.

The national pastime it never was, but professional (major league) baseball did deliver its biggest attendance figures in history for the 1973 schedule. More than 30 million humans paid their way into 24 ballparks, and the commissioner's office joyfully pointed with pride.

Baseball has a strong constitution, which enables it to ward off the ills in certain areas. Cleveland, for one, has a problem attracting cash customers, but offers losing shows. Baltimore presents repeated winners, but can't break even unless it gets into post season play.

And out on the West Coast, which lured the Dodgers and Giants from New York City, three franchises have been established as poor operations — San Diego, San Francisco and Oakland. San Diego offered the public a disgraceful expansion team, and has one more year to put up or get out — to Washington, D.C., an established loser.

San Francisco and Oakland, to put it simply, are lousy baseball towns. New Orleans and Toronto are waiting in the wings.

Baseball survived several things this season.

The Designated Hitter in the American League upgraded hitting and scoring. For only the third time in 20 years, the A.L. outproduced the National League. Criticized by many during pre-season, the D.H. was well accepted at the end of the 1973 season. Despite opposition in N.L. cities, opinion polls come back in favor of the D.H.

So along came a World Series in which the A.L. reps were not permitted to use their D.H. Not even in their home games. So what? So Oakland pitchers in the seventh and deciding game of the

tournament managed to spray three base hits in a 5-2 victory, and one of these was a most important double.

Ever since the playoffs — calculated to create the illusion of close races — there has been a fear that a bad ballclub might get into a World Series. Well, with a week to play, five top clubs in the six-team N.L. East had a cumulative record of minus 10 or 12 victories. With a few days to play the leader had an even .500 record.

So the improbable Mets, three games over .500, got into the playoffs, against a team — Cincinnati — that had won 36 more than it had lost. Naturally the Mets prevailed and the N.L., on paper, had a stiff going in the World Series.

After four of the worst World Series games imaginable, the A's and Mets got to playing baseball, and the better team won. Distracting the view of the terrible games was a lot of off-field drama which included the resignation of Dick Williams from a two-time winner, to take a job with a loser.

Also, there was the matter of playing night baseball in climate that included a wind-chill index of 20 degrees under lights in Shea Stadium. National Broadcasting Company dictated this night ball in October, and any fan who was there will tell you it was miserable.

It is history that once television wastes something, it drops it. TV helped waste the 1973 World Series, by forcing the players and cash customers to play in an igloo. (Imagine the climate if Montreal had won!)

Back to Dick Williams. This man gets this one little vote as Man of the Year, Man of Any Year. He survived the press in Boston, where he won a pennant. Now he has survived an impossible owner in Oakland, where he won two pennants. The muggers in Fun City should be no problem whatsoever.

Parents to Fill Kids' Shoes In Penfield

A special program has been planned for the parents of high school students who attend CCD religion classes at St. Joseph's Parish, Penfield. On Tuesday, Nov. 6, the students have a night off from classes and their parents are invited to attend in their place. The regular class time of 7:30 to 9 p.m. will be observed.

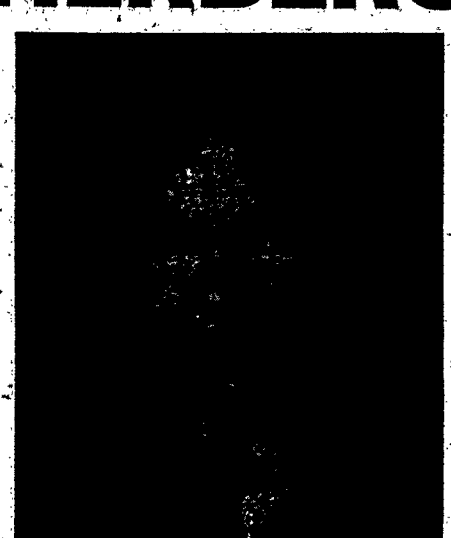
Gordon M. Richardson, principal, will open the program with some comments on the program this year. Father John McCall's book *Grow with Your Teenagers* will be reviewed by Father Walter L. Wainwright, co-pastor of St. Joseph's, followed by a question and answer period. After a coffee break, a panel of the religion teachers will give a presentation of the "mini-courses" being offered this year to the high school students. Their presentation will include discussion and a question-answer period with the parents.

ENVOY WELCOMED

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul praised Canada's contribution toward "peace and the development of all peoples" in receiving the new ambassador from the Ottawa government to the Holy See. In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Paul Tremblay expressed the appreciation of the Canadian people for papal efforts toward world peace and justice.

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