

# A Remembered Shipwreck New Suburban Parish Sees Need for HDC

By Father Benedict Ehmänn

Shipwrecks are all dramatic, even tragic when lives are lost. But only a few of them endure long in the memory of the generations, because of some unique circumstances, as in the sinking of the Titanic and of the Lusitania in the early years of our century.

Some shipwrecks are memorialized in literature, like *The Wreck of the Hesperus*, by Longfellow. Quite surely the most notable of these is *The Wreck of the Deutschland*, regarded by eminent critics as the major work of the great English poet of the 19th century, Father Gerard Manley Hopkins. The 100th anniversary of this shipwreck, Sunday, Dec. 7, and of the subsequent writing of this remarkable poetic memorial should not be allowed to pass without some notice.

Here is the log of the shipwreck: the liner *Deutschland*, with a crew of 90 and 123 passengers, set sail from Bremen, Germany, on Dec. 6, 1875, outward bound to the United States. The following afternoon during a blinding snowstorm, the ship foundered on a sandbar off the coast of England near the estuary of the Thames. For one terrible night of icy cold and wind, the ship was overwhelmed with mountainous waves. Most of the passengers took refuge in the rigging because the decks were awash in the swirling waters. Unable to keep their grip, many of them fell into the sea, and lost their lives. Before rescue finally came, one third of all on board were drowned.

In this sombre log of disaster, there were two circumstances which served to perpetuate the memory of the *Deutschland*. One, the presence on board of five Franciscan nuns exiled from Prussia when all teaching religious were expelled by

Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor: four of them were drowned. The other, the presence on the seacoast nearby of the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, completing his theologate at St. Beuno's Seminary in North Wales, two years before his ordination. He had been received into the Catholic Church by John Henry Newman in 1866. When he became a Jesuit a few years later, he gave up his writing of poetry in which he had already shown exceptional talent, simply because he regarded it as incompatible with his ascetical calling.

The wreck of the *Deutschland* affected him deeply, especially the deaths of the Franciscan nuns. He read in the newspaper how one of them, their leader, kept calling through the storm in a loud voice: "O Christ, Christ, come quickly!", so as to give the support of faith and hope to the desperate people clinging for dear life to the rigging.

He wrote in a letter to a friend: "I was affected by the account and happening to say so to my rector he said that he wished someone would write a poem on the subject. On this hint I set to work and, though my hand was out at first, produced one."

And what a poem it is, after the eight years' silence! In the form of an ode of 35 stanzas, it is ranked among the masterpieces of English literature, in the domain of Milton and Shakespeare.

In the ten stanzas of Part One, Fr. Hopkins addresses God directly in the manner of St. Augustine in his *Confessions*. He feels his kinship with the suffering nuns, having himself gone through terrible storm and stress in a dark night of his own soul.

"Thou mastering me/God! giver of breath and bread;/-World's strand, sway of the

way; you will do it over and over and over until you do it this way."

Sounds like a cinch to be resisted?

Teaff says it is sound discipline that comes from self-discipline, and that it must be taught. He insists that college coaching is the last citadel where discipline can be taught, and he calls himself just a plain, simple disciplinarian.

He narrows his own personal requirements of college football players to, 1: Being in bed every night by 11 o'clock; and, 2: Getting up and eating breakfast together.

Sounds overly simple.

At a team meeting players agreed they could benefit from a weight program, plus proper rest and diet. On a voluntary basis. "Negative," said Teaff. "I know your intentions are good but part of my dedication to you is to see that you never play when you're not physically right. So you WILL do these things, and we'll see to it that you do."

"One player says breakfast makes him sick, and I just say, 'Up, get up and eat breakfast. And don't tell me you have no classes until 10 o'clock. Get up, eat breakfast and study.' Well, our average grades improved by 10 per cent and we gained an average eight pounds per player and obviously got physically stronger in-season. I could probably say right now, 'All right, do it on your own' and they'd do it. But to start out, I had to use boss motivation. It is a force that makes for action. If we believe certain techniques and teach them, we use boss motivation to get the job done. It works."

In the case of Grant Teaff, Baylor University, college coaching theory has come almost full circle.

sea;/Lord of living and dead;/Thou hast bound bones and veins, in me, fastened me flesh;/And after it almost unmade, what with dread;/Thy doing; and dost thou touch me afresh?/Over again I feel thy finger and find thee."

In the depths of affliction, the poet clings to God, and proclaims his adoration:

"Be adored among men,/God, three-numbered form;/Wring thy rebel, dogged in den,/Man's malice, with wrecking and storm;/Beyond saying sweet, past telling of tongue;/Thou art lightning and love, I found it, a winter and warm;/Father and fondler of heart thou hast wrung;/Hast thy dark descending and most art merciful then."

In the poem's Part Two we have the drama of the shipwreck. Seldom if ever in poetry has a storm at sea been so powerfully described, with an astounding mastery of vocabulary and energy.

"Wiry and white fiery and whirlwind-swivelled snow/Spins to the widow-making unchilding unfathering deeps."

Through the violent hurly-burly the nun's cry rings out, "O Christ, Christ, come quickly!" and it rings like a bell in the poet's soul. "The cross to her she calls Christ to her, christens her wild-worst Best." The poet revels in Christ shining like flame in the nun's passionate plea through the wild storm, finding Christ in her cross.

The poem comes to rest with a prayer that Christ come back to England, where the drowned nuns were brought to be buried:

"Dame, at our door/Drowned, and among our shoals,/Remember us in the roads, the heaven-haven of the Reward:/Our King back, oh, upon English souls!/Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us,/be a crimson-crested east,/More brightening her, rare-dear Britain, as his reign rolls,/Pride, rose, prince, hero of us, high-priest,/Our hearts' charity's hearth's fire, our thoughts' chivalry's throng's Lord."

## NEW YEARS DANCE

Ithaca — Parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena are preparing for a bicentennial New Years Eve dance. Food, party favors and music are being prepared for a maximum of 60 couples. For reservations call Joe or Bunny Sick at 257-1062.

The problems of youth and the elderly have given the members of Resurrection parish in Perinton projects for their newly formed Human Development Committee.

continues to hold Masses in St. John of Rochester's Catechetical Center on Ayrault Road.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Through examination of their community, committee members found that transportation, especially for the elderly, was a problem and that youth services were insufficient. These two problems are now being studied. Proposals will then be presented to the entire parish.

The Shire at Culverton Adult Home is looking for people willing to volunteer their time to help aged residents who need assistance to and from doctor's appointments and shopping trips. The Shire will provide the cars, gas and insurance.

Resurrection parish, of which Father Robert Kreckel is pastor, is not yet three years old. It con-

For more information Miss Sharon Ferguson, director of Volunteer Programming, should be contacted at 467-4544, Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# f. bruce sports for All Sorts of SPORTS GIFTS

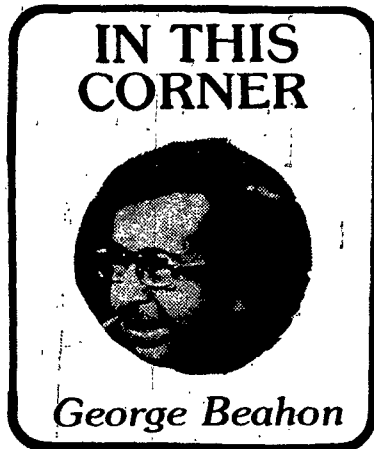
Your One Stop Sport Shop in Rochester

**BOWLING**  
Balls by Brunswick . . 19.<sup>95</sup>-27.<sup>50</sup>  
Shoes & Bags . . . . . FROM 5.<sup>95</sup>

**HOCKEY**  
☆ Skates ☆ Sticks ☆ Helmets  
☆ Gloves ☆ Jerseys ☆ Shin Guards  
By Cooper-Bauer-CCM

**SPORTS ACCESSORIES**  
✓ PADDLEBALL RACKETS & BALLS  
✓ FEATHERED DARTS BY KWIZ  
✓ PING PONG PADDLES & BALLS  
✓ NFL TEAM INSULATED STEINS & MUGS  
✓ WEIGHT LIFTING SETS, BENCHES, GYM BARS  
✓ BOXING GLOVES & SPEED BAGS by EVERLAST  
✓ Golf Club Headcovers—GOLF BAGS & BALLS

**f. bruce sports inc.**  
PITTSFORD PLAZA LONGRIDGE MALL



Two of the most overworked words in football reporting are momentum and motivation. Momentum is nothing more than a cliché used by broadcasters trying to fill time. A team has momentum if it happens to be keeping the football and making first downs and scoring. Suddenly the other guys get hold of the football and the broadcaster delights in revealing that the momentum has turned around.

Motivation is overworked by coaches but seldom explained to any degree. It was this reporter's pleasure to catch a talk by Grant Teaff, doing a clinic for Kodak, as part of his extra-curricular work (reward) after being named coach-of-the-year last season.

In this day and age of permissiveness and spoiled athletes it's hard to conceive of Teaff's method of motivation not encountering serious resistance.

"I don't believe human beings can get really involved without motivation," says Teaff. "Too many talk about it but are not sure what it is. All motivation is, is a force, tangible or not, that propels man into action."

The Baylor coach talked about "boss" motivation: "Do it this

# NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE!

## SEE'EM & SAVE PLENTY!

 **LAWN & GARDEN TRACTORS . . . See the Complete line and Save !!!**

**SNOW BLOWERS**  
• Self propelled snow blowers. Choose from 57 or 8 h.p. in 24" and 32" widths.

Put John Deere dependability to work in dozens of ways this winter. With John Deere Chain Saws, Space Heaters, Batteries and battery chargers, Hand tools, Flashlights and Work Gloves, Hydraulic Jacks.

**JD SNOWMOBILE CLOTHING**  
• Complete Line . . . Save \$\$\$

CHECK OUR JOHN DEERE LOW-COST FINANCING



• Good Selection of Used Sleds! Save \$\$\$

**SNOWMOBILES SALES & SERVICE**

**JOHN P. HALPIN & SONS**  
4799 W. HENRIETTA RD.  
334-4150  
OPEN 8 A.M. - 4 P.M. MON. THRU SAT.