

Board of Governors Is Notre Dame Lifeline

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—"I look on the Board of Governors as being the life line of Notre Dame High School."

That is how Sister Mary Walter Hickey, principal of Notre Dame, summarized the importance of Notre Dame's Board of Governors.

"Their support is a marvelous experience," she explained.

The Board of Governors is a representative group which grew out of a fiscal crisis in the summer of 1969. Once that crisis was resolved, the board became an advisory group "particularly concerned with keeping Notre Dame going," Sister Mary Walter said.

The board has the responsibility of raising nearly half of the school's \$500,000 budget; tuition covers only 52 per cent of costs. Bingo, the concession stands at sports activities, parent activities, festivals and many other activities make up the difference.

One of Notre Dame's sources of income is more unusual. For the past two years, under the leadership of the board, the school has used a negotiated tuition plan. The board meets with each parent and explains that while the tuition is \$450, the actual cost per student is \$830. Those unable to pay the tuition are given tuition assistance; those able to pay more are asked to do so. The program resulted in donations from parents of \$19,443 last year in addition to tuition payments, Sister Mary Walter noted.

Also included in the negotiation is an opportunity for parents to participate in the school's fund raising activities as their way of supplementing tuition payments. As a result, the importance of fund raising is better understood, as are the school's needs. This is important, Dr. Thomas Curran, an original board member, pointed out. Notre Dame is "kept alive by people who work," he

emphasized. He added that many of those working the school's bingo games no longer have students in the school.

The board has three goals, Sister Mary Walter noted. The first is the "budget balancing act." Sister noted that when the school has had problems, the board has been able to resolve them. The second function is recruitment, and the third is public relations.

The "driving force behind the Board of Governors" in

the beginning was Judge John Frawley, Dr. Curran emphasized. His work was instrumental to the success of the board, he noted.

The current board president is John Gough. He said that the board would "continue the same program" in the future, noting that "I think things are moving along well." He cited the parents group, currently led by Leroy Tenny, and the athletic association, whose president is Jack Margeson, for their work benefiting Notre Dame.

Year-round Music At Horseheads School

Horseheads—St. Mary Our Mother School strives to offer a variety of rich musical experiences and programs for students by using all areas of the building and many different resources—especially resource people.

Mrs. Georgine Rohrer, the fourth grade teacher, provides the vocal music education for students from grades 4 through 8. Her program includes music theory as well as singing and she involves students in the selection of types of music they are interested in learning about. Mrs. Rohrer is like a minstrel; she travels from one classroom to another with her cart of books, tape recorder, record player and a small number of instruments. She has formed a children's choir, composed of both parochial school and other parish children, with whom she practices on a weekly basis preparing liturgical music for Sunday Mass and special celebrations.

Instrumental lessons are offered to students by Mrs. Ann Monaghan who travels from Mansfield, Pa., to Horseheads and instructs some 25 children in woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. The convent, where lessons are held, vibrates with the sound of music from early morning till the close of the school day. A beginners and advanced band offers musical selections at the Christmas Program and on other occasions. Mrs. Monaghan's students have received excellent ratings in

the State Music Teachers Association's competitions.

On Monday and Friday afternoons when the school library-cafeteria is not being used, Mrs. Gail Letts offers piano lessons to 15 children.

Mrs. Jean McCormick who is a part time staff member, teaches music in grades 1-3. Children become involved in discovering "melodic contours", pantomiming their interpretations of all kinds of musical selections, dancing, and rhythmically accompanying and singing songs.

After school hours on Thursday Mr. Russell, seventh grade teacher, can be found in a corner of the gym, sharing the basics of guitar playing with some avid guitarists. These very people may later appear accompanying the congregation at a children's Liturgy or adding a special dimension to a music class in one of the grades.

The school has tentatively scheduled a music festival for May, to let the parish and community know the vast range of talent and interest it has in music. Not only during "Music in Our Schools Week" March 6-12, but throughout the year music brings happiness and harmony to St. Mary Our Mother school.

SHOW CANCELLED

Elmira—The Ice America ice show that was to be sponsored by the Chemung Catholic School System has been cancelled by Ice America.

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN GENEVA



PETER FENNELL

Bona President Names Fennell

Elmira—J. Peter Fennell, local insurance executive, has been named to the President's Council at St. Bonaventure University, his alma mater. The new council, according to the announcement from President Mathias F. Doyle, OFM, will become "a vehicle of communication between the university and the communities that it serves."

Series Continues

Auburn—Father David Fedor, associate pastor at St. Mary's, Horseheads, will speak on conscience formation at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 13 at the St. Alphonsus Parish Center, here. The presentation, open to the public, is part of the enrichment program for Lent sponsored by St. Alphonsus Parish.

Auxiliaries Meet Jointly

Elmira—The auxiliaries of St. Joseph's and Arnot Ogdon Hospitals will have a joint meeting Tuesday, March 22 at 1 p.m. in the L. D. Clute Education Building to hear Dr. Willard Helmuth, neo-natologist. Dr. Helmuth will give a presentation on the newborn intensive care unit at Arnot Ogdon.

In February St. Joseph's auxiliary hosted the Arnot Ogdon group for a similar meeting on that hospital's burn services area. The program is designed to familiarize the auxiliaries with the special services offered at both of Elmira's hospitals.

Lenten Meals Scheduled

Elmira—The Feshoh-Macekur Ukrainian Catholic Post 1178 of the Catholic War Veterans is sponsoring a series of pot luck suppers, open to the public, featuring local speakers, on the Thursdays of Lent, according to Frank C. Peseky, commander.

Those attending are asked to bring a dish to pass and table service. The programs will be at the Veterans' home, 100 McCauley Ave., beginning at 6 p.m. Future speakers scheduled are: March 10, Father Gerald O'Connor; March 17, Father Thomas Streb; March 24, Father Richard Tormey; and March 31, Father Richard Murphy. Post chaplain is Father Stefan Chomko, pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church.



At the Meetings

At recent Southern Tier meetings, Sister Mary Walter Hickey, above, principal of Notre Dame High School, Elmira, described the school at the Corning Catholic education program at St. Patrick's. Her talk was supplemented by a slide program. Notre Dame students also spoke from the pulpits at three Corning parishes at weekend Masses. Dr. Thomas Curran also spoke, his subject the State Federation of Catholic School Parents. Below, Dr. James Saunders, Auburn Professor of Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary, speaking at the Elmira Preaching Mission as part of an ecumenically-sponsored mission.



Divorced, Separated Organize in Corning

Corning—Forty-five persons attended the organizational meeting of a Corning area divorced and separated Catholics group at St. Patrick's on Feb. 24. Several of those attending were from the Elmira area, and two had come from communities in Pennsylvania.

After Sister Kathleen Kircher, coordinator of ministry to divorced and separated, and Father James Lawlor spoke to the group, those from the Elmira area discussed formation of an Elmira group.

The third group to draw members from outside the diocese, the Corning group is the 13th to form in the diocese, the 12th in the past year.

A steering committee volunteered to assist the Corning group's coordinators, Father Louis Vasile, Sister Agnes Catherine, and Ann Marie Kapral.

Court Donated

Elmira—St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing has received a platform tennis court from the Helene Fuld Trust of New Jersey. The trust selected the school from among nearly 100 schools of nursing which are beneficiaries of the organization.

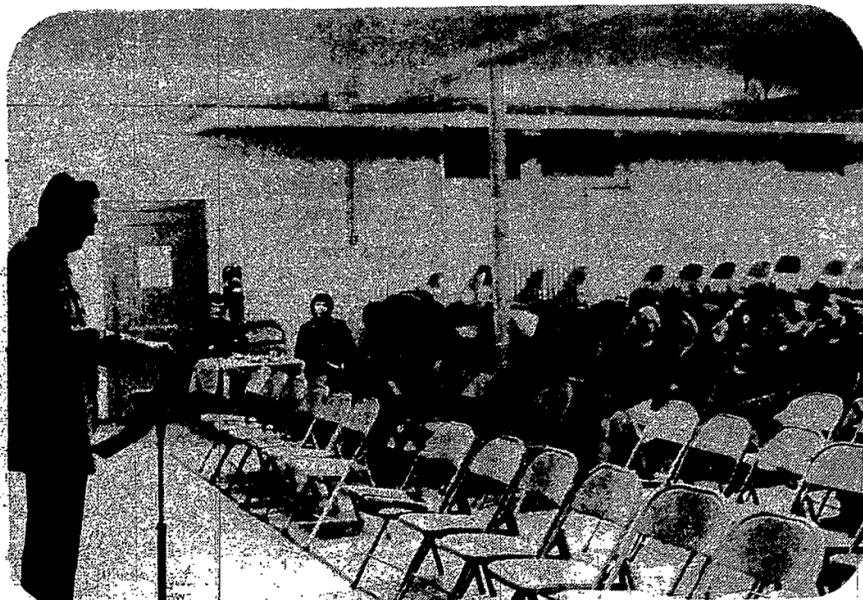
The \$20,800 court replaces facilities lost in the 1972 flood. The court fulfills trust restrictions, that awards be made for the "health, education and welfare" of student nurses.

POLKA PARTY

Waverly—The St. James Home-School Association is sponsoring a polka party March 12 at the South Waverly Community Hall, beginning at 8 p.m. The music will be provided by John Nyschot and His Orchestra, a noted Southern Tier band. The Bill Flynn Dancers from Binghamton also will present two 20 minute demonstrations of the polka. The polka evening is open to the public.

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Schools the Topic

The Our Lady of Lourdes Parent Teachers Organization recently heard Lawrence Stephens, president of the Chemung County General Education Board, at its regular meeting. Stephens explained the operation of the board and answered questions concerning busing, tuition and fund raising.

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