

Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

A Member of the Family Leaves

BY JOAN M. SMITH

Included in the 1977 Bishop Kearney High School graduating class was a graduate who through his commitment to the school saw an outstanding number of scholastic awards presented to this year's graduates; enlarged the athletic department into the 27 teams that now represent BK's interscholastic sports program; directed the school through some hectic problems including media confrontations and protest marches; had the privilege of accompanying the award winning Marching Kings to Europe, Chicago and New York.

The graduate, Brother William Stoldt, is leaving as BK principal to assume the duties of vice principal at Bergen High School in New Jersey, his home state. Including him as a graduate best sums up his relationship with the BK family... he was one of them. And this, aside from the above mentioned accomplishments was the unique quality of his principalship. His rapport with the students was excellent. He was always around to listen, discuss, advise and to laugh with them but always maintained his quiet authority.

What's his secret? "Respect them as individuals," he said. "They in turn respect you." He explained that there are some people who as administrators use the mistaken attitude of sarcasm or belittlement and he observed, "They (students) will respond in kind."

Brother's open friendliness and enthusiasm set the BK spirit but his abundant energy made tracking him down during the school day a Herculean task. He was everywhere at once or so it seemed to one student who laughingly described him as

"like a phantom." Now he's in the corridors...now in the cafeteria...now in the parking lot.

"I want to know what's going on first hand," he emphasized. Not an easy task in a school of BK's size. But he did keep up with the young adults and he noted that getting up at 5 a. m. every morning and jogging a mile and a half with Vice Principal Brother John Walderman, "keeps us in shape for the 2,000 students when they arrive."

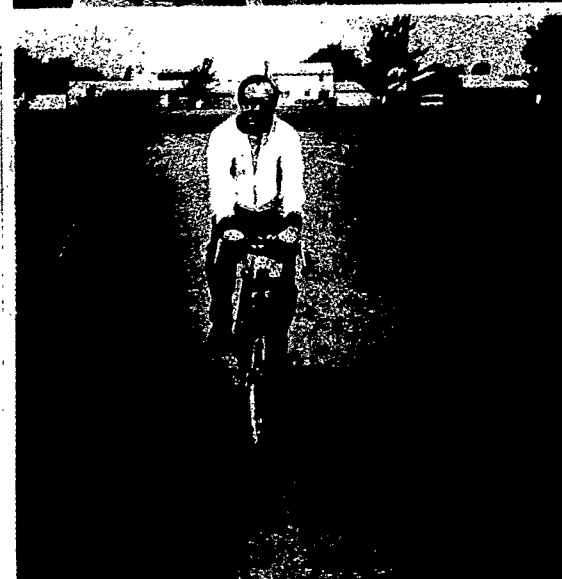
Besides his jogging, Brother bike rides and thoroughly enjoys his favorite sport — water skiing.

Throughout his four year tenure as principal, there hasn't been a school activity, project or event that hasn't had Brother's wholehearted backing and participation and he has had the honor of overwhelming support from the BK family. "I've been impressed with the students and parents and their dedication to Catholic education," he stated.

Brother is looking forward to his new assignment at Bergen High which is an all boys facility with an enrollment of 1,000. The one big difference in his duties, which he considers a happy change, is that instead of being the person whom all the problems finally come to rest with, there will be someone else to whom he can relay them.

Since joining the Christian Brother Order in 1958, Brother Stoldt has studied in Rome, taught in New York City and in Kimberly, South Africa, at a mission school attended by 1800 boys and girls, from kindergarten through fifth year high, and where "you taught everything," he explained.

In talking about the Order's



Photos by Susan McKinney

Before closing the doors on his tenure as BK principal, Brother Stoldt proudly displays the trophies won by the Marching Kings (upper left); gives a last helping hand in the office to senior Pamela Coleman; takes a spin around the grounds and talks about the school's sports program, remembering the days when he was a member of his high school's track and bowling teams. In discussing this generation's youth he observed, "I think the students of today are more like the 50's. We have a lot in common."

missions, he wistfully spoke of going to Australia someday. But no matter where his future assignments take him, even if

its to Mars, Brother is ready for the challenge. And if it ever does happen to be Mars you can bet that not long after his

arrival the Martians would be top scholars, winning athletes and boast a galactic marching band!

Mooney Football Coach Fired

By JOHN DOSER

Josie Merola has become the spokesperson for her husband Tony, the head football coach at Cardinal Mooney who was fired last week.

Her husband, the only head coach the school has known since it went varsity football 13 years ago, isn't talking.

His silence is consistent with his media dialogue track record over the years — he'll talk football for hours, but he doesn't have it in him to "bad-mouth" anything or anybody.

His logical successor as head coach is assistant Al Cretney, although Mooney principal, Brother Aubert Harrigan, C.S.C., would not comment on it.

Mooney is also looking for new head soccer and wrestling coaches, Brother Harrigan says.

"We were shocked when we got the news," Josie explains.

"On Tuesday Tony went in and signed his teacher's contract and nothing was said (about football). He signed his contract and there was a lot of small talk.

"Wednesday he got a phone

call and was asked if he could stop in sometime Thursday. On Thursday he went in and was told he was through as football coach."

The apparent decision maker is Brother Harrigan; Athletic Director Ed Nietopski has been out of town and was unavailable for comment.

Merola is known for not talking.

His teaching job remains intact. He teaches physical education at Mooney.

During the summer months he works with the Kodak Park Athletic Association softball league as an instructor-umpire.

Why doesn't Tony talk?

"Because," his wife explains, "Mooney has had other problems and the news media has called us and he's never given a comment.

"So he doesn't want to comment on this either," she says.

Merola's firing shocked the local high school coaching fraternity.

Don Della Vella, Bishop Kearney High athletic director and head football coach, said

he heard the report on the radio, but didn't believe it until he read it in the morning newspaper.

Della Vella said he did not know of the impending dismissal, suggested it might have been an "internal thing," but adds "one must really sit down and question what the reasons coaches are hired for."

Generally speaking, Della Vella says, coaches in the Rochester area are hired first and foremost to teach and secondarily to coach.

Last year Merola's team suffered only its third losing season in 13 years. His record for the previous four years was 25-8.

Former Jefferson High head football coach Dick Cerone, recently appointed athletic director at Monroe High, had no previous inkling of the firing.

"I am just shocked that they did it. They couldn't get a more dedicated person; people don't realize that you just go into that period of time that there is no talent," Cerone says.

Here is the text of Principal

Brother Aubert Harrigan's press release:

"June 29, 1977 — Tony Merola will not coach varsity football at Cardinal Mooney High School in the fall, it was announced today by Brother Aubert Harrigan, C.S.C., principal. The new coach will be announced at a later date.

"According to Brother Harrigan, Tony Merola enjoys a fine reputation, is a good husband and father, and truly a Christian gentleman.

"The fact that the school is seeking a new head coach for football should in no way reflect on the person of Tony Merola.

"His present loyalty under press conjecture is a good indication of the expansive man that he is.

"Tony Merola has coached at Mooney for 13 years. His overall coaching record speaks for itself. It is hoped that Tony's successor will continue to provide growth and development to the athletic program.

"Mr. Merola remains a fulltime member of the physical education department at the school."

Graduates Create New Award

In recognition of Father Albert Gaelens, former principal of Aquinas Institute, the 1977 graduating class created an award in his name to be given students of outstanding Christian character.

Beginning next year, this award will be given to a student who exemplifies the Christian character and holds the Christian principles that Father Gaelens instilled in Aquinas.

The faculty and administration will determine the recipient on the basis of three requirements: The student must maintain a high standard of academic achievement, exhibit a Christian character in all areas of school life and reflect a sense of Christian concern for his fellow man.

The plaque will be mounted in the main hallway of the school and the name of each year's recipient will be added to it.

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