RapAroundRapAroundRapAroundRap

RapAround

Joan M. Smith, RapAround Editor

Journey Into Colonial Times

By JOAN M. SMITH

"They made use of everything and everything had its place," was the way Nazareth Academy senior Cheryl Sheperdsen explained the -early 19th Century settlers.

Cheryl was one of the students from Sister Campion Bush's Rochester Locale History Course and Miss Maryanne Satterlee's AP English class who visited the Genesee County Museum in Mumford. It was a day-long visit through the historical community of restored authentic buildings which have been transported from various Western New York locales. According to the young tourists, it was an experience well worth the trip.

The girls talked excitedly about the residents, who, dressed in period costumes, worked at the various jobs characteristic of that era — cooking over open hearths, making barrels, and blacksmithing.

The 19th Century as depicted in the original structures impressed the students and they were particularly taken with the country store, transplanted from Watkins Glen complete with its olden oaken counter. The girls noted that the store had sold everything including silk parasols, bolts of material, small inventions, hooped skirts and even a Boston rocker which in those days sold for $3!

Senior Giovanna Presta enjoyed the old log cabin built in 1799 which had an open ground hearth and hayloft where the children slept. In reminiscing about the cabin, the girls recalled the bed and still shook their heads over it. They described it as a four foot structure with its frame wrapped in woven rope, stuffed with cloths that served as a mattress. "It didn't look like two people would fit in it," exclaimed Cheryl.

Cheryl's favorite building was the coach house where there was a child's sleigh which to her looked like a highbacked chair on skis. Also on display were various carriages — stylish ones for the wealthy, durable ones for the average citizen — work wagons, donkey carts and an old Genesee Brewery wagon.

Eleanore Wilber was fascinated with the Livingston Manor House which she observed as a good architectural example of Greek Revival. "It reminded me of Tara in Gone With the Wind," she said.

Though she enjoyed having a look into bygone days she didn't think she'd care to live back then. "I don't think I could give up all the luxuries like electricity and heat."

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Nazareth local history buffs include from left, Yolanda Viera, Eleanore Wilbur, Dolores Fratta, Cheryl Sheperdsen, Giovanna Presta, Kathleen Moynihan, Karen Ricchueto and Sister Campion.

Giovanna was impressed that the early settlers were so self-reliant. "They made everything they needed," she noted.

Would she enjoy living in that time? "I don't know whether I'd want to," she mused, "but I'd be tempted to leave the noise and pollution."

Junior Yolanda Viera would consider it, "for a couple of days," she chuckled.

The Presbyterian Church was another structure which impressed the girls. Every family owned a pew and they told of the man who built himself an arm rest because of the long sermons (3 hours long!).

There is a Catholic Church, St. Fian's, but according to sister, restoration hasn't been completed yet.

The visitors indicated they discovered nothing about the early days which surprised them or differed from what they have learned in their history courses. They did agree, however, that the trip gave them a better understanding of how their ancestors existed.

AQ Shows Championship Form

By JOHN DOSER

One of the things that's bothered Aquinas baseball interests this year is the fact that last year the Little Irish tied Cardinal Mooney for the City-Catholic League baseball title but hardly anybody knew about it.

"It was never recognized," Aquinas coach Rich Pilliter says, "as everybody still talks about the last eight years and Mooney."

Mooney won the C-C crown for seven years in a row and last year did share the hardware with Aquinas.

This year both teams advanced to the Section 5 tournament but neither is accorded the favorites' role, generally a distinction reserved for teams from the Monroe County League.

Pilliter, in his fifth year of coaching at Aquinas has seen Aquinas baseball improve from under .500 three years ago to city champ this year.

The key to this year's success according to Pilliter is shortstop Chris Knuth.

"His fielding has been flawless and while his batting average may not be up there, he's our leadoff hitter. But's it's his fielding — in the Mooney title game he handled eight chances flawlessly."

Aquinas received good pitching from Lonnie Kaczka who won six of seven after sitting out most of last season. His ERA is about 2.7 which Pilliter says is pretty good for high school ball.

Another solid hurler for the Little Irish is Greg Tuttle, who beat Mooney in the teams' second match played at Silver Stadium.

Tuttle was a surprise starter against Mooney in the title game.

"I pitched Lonnie the first game against Mooney and we were leading, 5-1, when Lonnie walked a couple of people in the seventh I brought Greg in.

"They shelled Greg and finally beat him in the eighth. "The second time around we played Mooney on Memorial Day and Lonnie went all the way and beat him.

"So everyone figured with enough rest, I'd come back with Lonnie again. I thought Greg might just want that chance."

"It turned out quite well; Mooney only got three hits off Tuttle," Pilliter says.

There are six seniors among the starting nine; Knuth is a senior — both Lonnie and Greg are juniors.

The other seniors include the entire infield — Jim Brown at first base, Gary Sciarratta at second and Dean Holland at third.

The catcher is Mark Magliocco who doubles as the Aquinas football quarterback.

In the outfield Pilliter uses John Case in left, Alex Borrelli in center and Mike Visconte in right.

Case and Visconte are both juniors; Borrelli is a seniors.

Visconte is Aquinas' big hitter — he leads the team in hitting, home runs and RBIs, .368, two roundtrippers, and 24 RBIs respectively.

Next best in the RBI department is Brown who also has a hockey scholarship to Notre Dame.

"He's a good, solid baseball player. He's played two years for us at first base. He's so big and everything — he makes it real easy on the infielders."

Sciarratta is no slouch at second either; he was All-City-Catholic last year and is hitting about .350 this season.

Mooney jumped to a 1-0 lead in the second inning when Larry Keenan singled and scored on a sacrifice fly.

The Irish tied it in the same frame when Brown reached on an infield single, advanced on an error and scored on Terry Marks' single.

Pilliter doesn't have any ideas what will happen in the sectionals.

He'll just bank on the Luck of the Irish and a couple of Irishmen named Kaczka and Tuttle.

Talkative Winners

Aquinas' Mark Foley and Ben Bauer recently won New York State Championships in scholarship contests. Mark received $2,000 in winning the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Speech Contest. Ben took the State Championship in the Optimist Club Oratorical Scholarship Contest and won $500. Both students are members of Father Stephen Martin's Speech Club.