

St. Casimir's Marks Building's 50th Year

By Martin Toombs

Elmira — When St. Casimir's School opens its doors Sept. 5, the building will be embarking on its 50th year.

A planning committee has met to plan special events and activities for the "Golden Anniversary," according to Sister Yvonne Blind, principal. The year will begin with a special Mass for students, families, teachers and alumni, in October. The climax of the year will be an alumni banquet planned for the spring of 1980.

Looking back to the roots of the school, one cannot but admire the zeal and deep faith of the early pastors and people of St. Casimir's Parish. The first parish school, a small, wooden structure, dates back to Sept. 14, 1904, when 118 pupils entered the school under the direction of two Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters M. Catherine and Sisters Ladislaus. Many parishioners recall incidents dating back to the "little wooden schoolhouse."

Due to the parish's rapid growth, additional lots were purchased to serve as sites for the convent, school and a spacious playground area in 1921. Many persons sold "bricks" door-to-door in order to raise money for a larger and more adequate school building. Sister Protase, presently a reading aide in the school, recalls the day when all the children in school were given a card to "sell" in order to obtain donations for bricks to build the school.

On March 29, 1929, the dreams and sacrifices of St. Casimir's parishioners were fulfilled as the ground was broken for the new school, consisting of 10 classrooms, a large auditorium, gymnasium, kitchen and meeting rooms. The school was completed in

McQuaid Has Record Enrollment

This September, McQuaid is enrolling its biggest class since 1961 — 260 freshmen, with a second eighth grade section being added to accommodate 50 boys bringing the total student registration to 800 with 28 school districts represented.

A Physics course at the advanced placement level has been added, rounding out the AP curriculum which includes English, Chemistry and Biology.

New members joining the McQuaid staff are Father Untereiner, S.J., and Robert McCabe. Father recently completed his tertianship program with the Society of Jesus and will teach American History. McCabe holds an MA in Humanities and will teach English I, II.

The Parents Club has been busy scheduling this year's events which include Mass of the Holy Spirit for students and parents, the McQuaid Ball, cultural and spiritual activities; volunteer service programs. A new group, a Booster Club, is being organized to encourage attendance at athletic and other student functions. Bus trips for students and adults to attend the McQuaid-Corning football game on Sept. 15, are being arranged.



St. Casimir's students are learning about their predecessors as part of the observance of the school building's fiftieth year. Two students looking over some old pictures are Ted Murch, a sixth grader from St. Patrick's parish, and Elizabeth Scheepsma, a fourth grader from St. Anthony's.

April 1930, and students carried their desks from the old school to the new. In fact, as the eighth grade was anxious to graduate from the new building, they carried their desks over the mud on construction planks to be the first to occupy the new building.

On June 29, 1930, Bishop John Francis O'Hern consecrated the school building "to the service of God and American ideals." He commented that "The growth in numbers and efficiency of the Polish Parochial Schools spells a story of faith, patriotism, unparalleled generosity as well as supreme effort on the part

of clergy, religious and laity." That evening there was a civic celebration, a banquet in the school gymnasium with 500 persons attending.

Now a part of the Consolidated School System in Elmira, St. Casimir's ideals and goals remain unchanged: "to teach a knowledge and love of God," as Bishop O'Hern said at the dedication, and "duties of citizenship."

St. Casimir's has accepted the challenge to serve families in its area as a regional school in the Chemung County Catholic School System since 1971. The efforts of many parents, priests and sisters



Teacher's aide Patricia Spinelli works with St. Louis students David Putnam and Kerri Ann Purcio.

School Volunteers Are Recognized

St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place, Pittsford, opens its doors Sept. 5 and commences another year of its successful volunteer program.

Volunteer programs are not unique in this area, but what makes St. Louis's so special is the scope it envisions and the numerous people who dedicate their time and talents in not only working at the school but also devising new activities to further enrich both student and family. This is especially timely, since 1980 is the Year of the Family. The family is the crux of the Christian society and the pivotal point of the Catholic School system. Without volunteers, the students and faculty would not have the time or resources for a complete Catholic program.

This year the entire endeavor is under the direction of Robbie Williams, Home School secretary. She has recruited a committee which

encompasses the religious, academic, extra-curricular and social interests of every student. The purpose is to foster total pupil growth and enrichment.

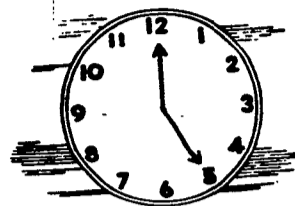
A meeting will be held early in September by Sister Barbara Hamm, principal, at which mothers will have the opportunity to learn about the various programs and then sign up for those which interest them.

Volunteers provide a broad range of services at St. Louis. Their selfless willingness and vitality have helped students in all areas of their lives and Sister Barbara feels that without the generosity of these people, the school could not function in its present status of offering such a wide range of activities. Father John Reddington, pastor, further shows the school's appreciation by offering a yearly Mass of Thanksgiving and social evening for all teachers and volunteers.

involved in the system have enabled children of Elmira to continue to learn and grow as their ancestors had dreamed — in a school which en-

deavors to teach children to integrate religion with life, to make faith a living and active reality through daily instruction and application by

means of liturgical celebrations, prayer, daily religious instruction and the commitment of a faculty and staff to these goals.



TIMELY VALUES FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

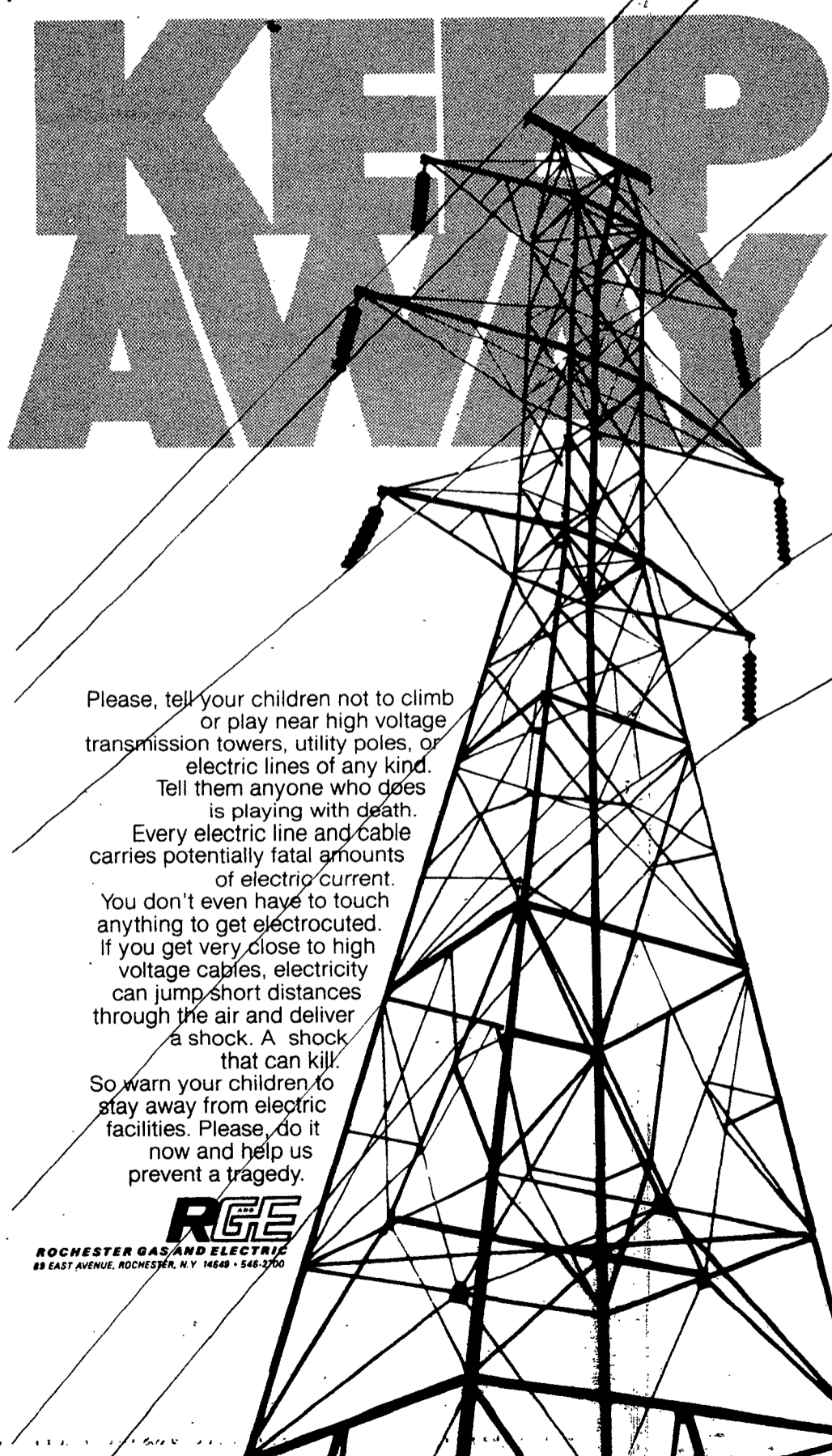
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