

Obituary

Benjamin R. Cox, former star athlete, at 69



Benjamin R. Cox, a tri-star athlete at Charlotte High School in 1936 and a sports enthusiast all his life, died Monday, December 8, 1986, at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Canandaigua, where he had lived for the past seven years. He was 69.

Mr. Cox was a parishioner at Our Mother of Sorrows and was waked at Vay-Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home, Inc. in Rochester.

Known to his many friends as Benny, Mr. Cox was short in stature — he was only 5'6" — but not in talent. He was named All-City in soccer, basketball and baseball at Charlotte in 1936.

Al Frattare, a longtime friend of Mr. Cox's, remembered him for his unselfish attitude both in and out of athletic competition.

"I would classify Benny as a miniature Will Rogers. He was always looking to help his teammates or his friends," said Frattare, who was a year ahead of Mr. Cox at Charlotte. "He was never just out for himself."

"Benny was the type of guy who should have been a politician because both political parties would have voted for him," Frattare said.

"He was a great sportsman and a great family man. He was a little guy that did good, and that's what America is all about."

After graduating from Charlotte, Mr. Cox worked for a few years before he went into the army around 1941. He served four years in the Infantry Division Engineering group, and saw much enemy fighting. He contracted malaria, but was able to return to Rochester in 1945.

After working in two construction companies after the war, including a business he started with his brothers Ray and Eddie, Mr. Cox went to work full time for Kodak in 1952. In addition to his 20 years as a heavy equipment operator at Kodak Park, he worked several part-time jobs to send all of his five children to college.

Before and after the war, Mr. Cox and his brother Ray were mechanics for their brother Eddie, who was renowned for being one of the top midget auto race car drivers on the Eastern seaboard.

Mr. Cox is survived by his wife, Anna; four sons — Ron of Gates, Roger of Ontario, Benny Jr. of New York City and Marty of Rochester; daughter Carol Gurslin of Hilton; six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bishop Clark to dedicate center at Our Lady of Lourdes

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will dedicate and bless the new parish center at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Elmira during a special 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 28. Following the Mass, parishioners will present a reception in the hall, and tours of the new facility will take place between 1 and 3 p.m.

In addition, a parish-center gala is planned for Friday, January 16. It will feature

Hour of prayer scheduled

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester have planned an hour of prayer at their motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, on December 21, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

All are invited to attend the afternoon service.

cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a 7 p.m. tour of the building and a 9 p.m. celebrity auction.

The celebrations promise to be a load of fun and all proceeds will be used for the purchase of a new curtain for the center stage.

The Social Ministry Committee will sponsor the packing of 70 Christmas baskets on Saturday, December 20, and their delivery on Sunday, December 21. Help is needed to pack the baskets after the Penance Service at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, December 20, as well as to deliver the baskets at 12:30 p.m. on December 21. Sign-up sheets are now available.

Cindy Bassett

The Bible Corner



The reluctant angel Part II

Angels have no need of sleep, as ordinary humans do. So all through the night, as Clarence Jones slept, the angel kept a vigil by the only window in the room. It was a clear, cold night, the very kind of night on which thousands of stars can be seen in the sky. The angel looked overhead, and he still couldn't help but think that he would have made a most excellent star.

In the streets below, Christmas lights seemed to mirror the stars. Garland had even been wound around all of the street lamps in the small town. Christmas would come here as it did every year.

Across the room, Clarence stirred slightly, and the angel thought, "What does Clarence really know of Christmas?"

The angel crept over to the bed and in a little more than a whisper, he began: "This is a very old story, Clarence, but maybe somehow you missed the message. Nearly 2,000 years ago, the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, issued a decree for a census to be taken of the entire kingdom. No one was exempt from this order.

"So Joseph, being a good citizen, took his fiancée, Mary, who was with child, and journeyed to his ancestral home, Bethlehem, for the registration. By the time they reached Bethlehem, they were all worn out and tired like you are, Clarence." The angel smiled and paused.

"Although they tried to find lodgings for the night at every inn in town, there were no rooms for them anywhere. I suppose Joseph would have been very happy to find a room even like this, Clarence.

"Finally, they took shelter in an old stable among the common beasts of burden. But they were thankful to have found even this humble place. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary gave birth to a child, a son. She

wrapped her baby carefully in a blanket and placed Him in a manger for a resting place.

"That very night, some shepherds were tending to their flocks in the fields nearby. Suddenly, the entire countryside was as bright as day. An angel, not unlike myself, appeared to them with the glory of the Lord. 'Do not be afraid,' the angel said. 'Tonight, Jesus, the Messiah, has been born in Bethlehem.'

"The shepherds left their flocks and went looking for the Messiah, praising God as they went," the angel continued.

By the time the angel had finished the story, Clarence was sitting up awake in bed. He seemed to sense a bit of the angel's presence, even though he couldn't see him. The angel studied Clarence's face very carefully to see if there was any change. Nothing at all had happened.

"Perhaps he hasn't really heard, or hearing, he doesn't believe," the angel said to himself.

"That's because you haven't finished the story!" the angel heard someone say.

The angel hesitated for a brief moment. Then he turned to Clarence again and said, "If you were the only person in this whole world, Clarence, Jesus still would have come. He loves you that much. And I do, too!"

The angel noticed a faint glimmer in Clarence's eyes, a bit like the last flicker of a star just before it fades into dawn. Then the heavenly visitor felt himself whirling upward, back to where he had come.

For Advent reflection:

Do I really believe that Jesus came to be my Savior?

For further reading:

The angel's rendering of the Christmas story is from Luke, Chapter 2:1-20.

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