

Blessed Sacrament School

Materbury, Connecticut

April 24, 1956

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The Reberend John F. Kenney, Pastor

The "Why" of the Catholic School

"The Catholic school exists in order that youth may walk morally as well as intellectually among the stars, that their consciences may be attuned to the voice of God. It constitutes a sanctuary wherein the two-fold truth—that well-rounded education requires the development of moral character, and morality, in turn, must be based on religion—is recognized not only in theory but also in practice.

"The Catholic school is a spacious tabernacle where Christ lives and reigns, and where the priceless truths of the Christian faith permeate the whole atmosphere with a sweet and lovely fragrance. It is a nursery of holiness where the tendrils of youthful hearts are twined around the ideals of God and country and the twin virtues of patriotism and religion are daily inculcated. The Catholic school is a bulwark of America, a mighty fortress against the forces of communism, fascism, and irreligion; a citadel where the young are taught to love their neighbor, their country and their God.

"Religion integrates all the subjects of the curriculum into a unified whole. God, Christ, and His truths are its center. Just as Christ reached out and embraced all the little children thronging around Him, and pressed them to His bosom, so Christ reaches out from the center of the curriculum in the Catholic school and pervades every branch with His divine presence.

"In the Catholic school, Christ is no exile, no outcast. He occupies the throne of honor and His teachings constitute her code of ethics. The Catholic school system stretching from kindergarten to the university and educating nearly three million children, erected and maintained without a penny of state aid by the people who love it, is the greatest moral fact in America."

THE REV. JOHN A. O'BRIEN, PH.D. University of Notre Dame

Dedication

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Waterbury, Connecticut

Tuesday, April 24, 1956 at 5 P. M.

By

The Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien, D. D. Archbishop of Hartford

The Reverend John F. Kenney, Pastor

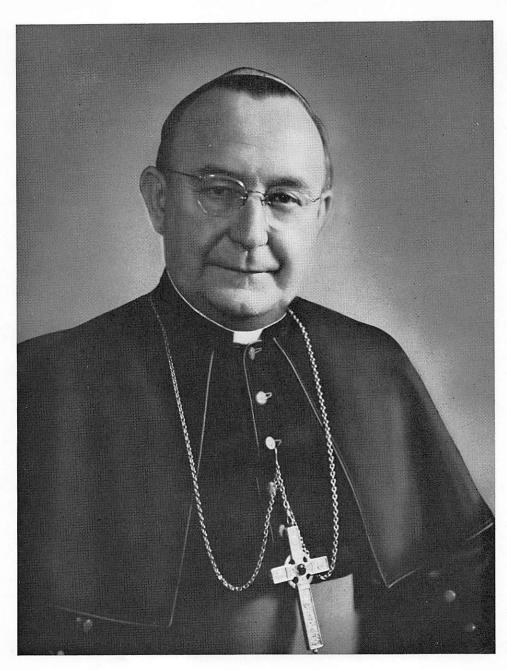
The Reverend Thomas F. Toohey, Assistant Pastor

The Reverend James F. Tomney, Assistant Pastor and School Principal

Parish Organized — May 7, 1911

Church Dedicated — Nov. 30, 1911

Ground Broken for School — Jan. 24, 1955



THE MOST REVEREND HENRY J. O'BRIEN, D. D. ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

Kpiscopal Residence

140 Farmington Abenue Hartford, Connecticut

March 27, 1956

My dear Father Kenney:

The occasion that brings the priests and parishioners together today is a noteworthy one in the annals of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. It marks the culmination of a long standing desire on the part of your good people. During the past year and a half they have watched this building arise from its foundations. They looked forward anxiously to its completion.

Today your people rejoice with you and your assistants as they assist at the dedication and the blessing of their new parish school. They take a justifiable pride in their accomplishment. It is the fruit of their spirit of generosity and sacrifice. It is evidence of their appreciation of the value of a Catholic education for the children of the parish. It is their contribution to an increased vitality in the spiritual life of the Parish. It is the promise of the future.

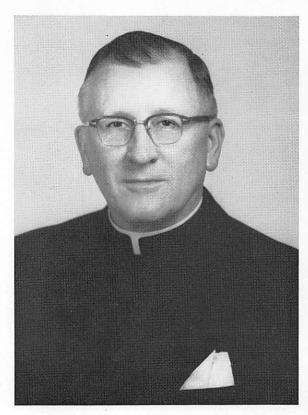
This new school, indeed, with its spacious parish hall and gymnasium should serve not only the children and the youth of the parish but also should give new life to all your parish activities. It should develop a new common bond of unity which will be reflected in a more intense spirit of faith.

Allow me to congratulate you and the parishioners of the Blessed Sacrament Parish on this splendid external manifestation of the deep spirit of faith that has ever characterized the people of this parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Tlany Johnins
Archbishop of Hartford

The Reverend John F. Kenney Blessed Sacrament Rectory 192 Robbins Street Waterbury, Connecticut Message from Our Pastor



THE REVEREND JOHN F. KENNEY, Pastor

My dear Parishioners:

This booklet commemorates a happy occasion—the dedication of the new Blessed Sacrament School. The parochial school is an integral unit of the parish plant, which consists of the church, the school, the rectory and the convent. The duty of Christ's Church is to offer worship to God, to teach and to administer the sacraments. The church teaches from the pulpit and also in the classroom. Today, therefore, we of Blessed Sacrament parish are justly proud of our new school and the beautiful auditorium which will serve the social needs of young and old alike.

As your pastor I want to congratulate you for your generosity and your sacrifices which made possible this magnificent structure. I congratulate those who gave of their earthly possessions, and especially those who in addition, gave their counsel, their time and their services to insure an edifice which is a credit to all. I am grateful to the architect who manifested such keen interest in the planning and in the erection of Blessed Sacrament school. The contractor and the sub-contractors, too, have earned our appreciation by their painstaking work. I thank our Archbishop, Most Rev. Henry J. O'Brien, D.D., for his kindly interest and his seasoned advice.

Today we ask God's blessing on our parish that this school may serve for many years to instill knowledge into the minds of our young and in their hearts love of God and love of country.

In conclusion, I express my gratitude to the sponsors and advertisers whose names appear in this booklet, and whose generosity made its publication possible.

May God bless you all,
Sincerely,
REV. JOHN F. KENNEY, Pastor



School History

A beautiful school now stands on the Blessed Sacrament Parish property. This structure is the culmination of the foresighted vision and tireless efforts of two great leaders—Monsignor Edward L. Morrison who first arrived as pastor in 1935, and of Father John F. Kenney who succeeded him in 1948.

As a prelude to the actual erection of a school there must be, of course, some tangible evidence that the need for one exists. Parish history records that during a short interval of Father Brennan's pastorate, nuns from the Congregation of Notre Dame gave religious instructions to the children of the parish. But it was not until the early 1940's that the need for a permanent curriculum of religious teaching became pressing. As a first step in the attainment of a Catholic education for the children of the parish the Guilfoile property, adjacent to the rectory, was purchased by Monsignor Morrison in November, 1940. This was done with a view to offering convent facilities and in the spring of the following year four nuns of the Order of St. Francis were established in the residence.

During the next few years it became evident that the growing child population within the parish could best be served by the erection of school facilities which would provide a complete and well-integrated Catholic education. Monsignor Morrison devoted his efforts to accumulating a sum of money towards that goal. In 1949 Monsignor Morrison was transferred to St. Margaret's Parish and his successor, Father Kenney, took up the task of the realization of this endeavor.

Only two years later Father Kenney was able to publicly announce that the fund had reached \$118,000, and with the Archbishop's permission, the construction of the school could commence as soon as an additional \$100,000 was on hand.

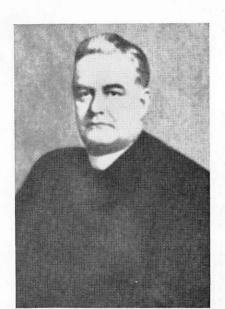
The announcement brought enthusiastic response from all segments of the parish. Parish meetings, formation of committees, and outlining of plans prepared the way for the final drive. During January, 1953, a group of approximately 100 parishioners launched a house-to-house canvass to obtain the \$100,000 goal. This drive and the payment of the pledged amounts consumed the balance of the year.

A supplemental and Memorial Fund solicitation was launched in 1954 under the competent direction of Rev. Leo Spodnick, assistant pastor. By the fall of 1954 a total of over \$135,000 in cash had been raised. The job of construction was now at hand and the drawing of the final plans for the new building, to be erected in the rear of the convent, was assigned to Louis A. Walsh, Architect.

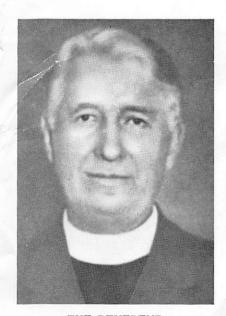
On January 24, 1955, the dreams and aspirations of the clergy and faithful parishioners were realized when the first shovelful of earth was turned over at a ground-breaking ceremony held on the appropriate spot where the new cafeteria now stands.

The rest is history as recorded by the photographs and articles in this booklet — a mute testimonial to the efforts of our untiring clergy and faithful parishioners — and a special tribute to our tireless Father Kenney.

Parish History



THE REVEREND TERRENCE SMITH



THE REVEREND CHARLES BRENNAN

When the Church of the Blessed Sacrament was built forty-five years ago there were few who could foresee the tremendous growth of the parish. Much of the area within the parish boundaries was woodland and grassland; the trolley car was still the main method of contact with the downtown area; the day of general use of the automobile had not dawned. Who then could dream that this infant parish would within less than a single lifetime be the center of religious life for Catholics in an evergrowing residential area and that in that time the parish would rank among the first in the state in scope and extent of activities by parish organizations?

In the years after the turn of the century Catholics of the West Side Hill and Bunker Hill sections, noting that their numbers were growing began thinking of a parish of their own. Originally the area was within the parish limits of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the downtown Mother Church of the city; later it was assigned to the jurisdiction of St. Patrick's Parish.

The need for a new parish received the personal attention of the late Bishop John J. Nilan. Accompanied by Monsignor Thomas S. Duggan, he inspected several possible locations for the site of a new church and finally decided on the present location, which was purchased from the late Michael Guilfoile.

With the Rev. Terrence B. Smith as the first pastor, Blessed Sacrament Parish was formally organized in May, 1911, and incorporated in June, 1911. The assignment of preparing plans for the new church was given to Architect Louis A. Walsh—the same Mr. Walsh who planned the new parochial school.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid by Bishop Nilan in impressive ceremonies held Sept. 10, 1911. The Solemn Dedication was held Nov. 30, 1911, before a gathering that included prelates and clergy from many parts of the country. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by the Rev. Walter J. Shanley, D.D., of Danbury.

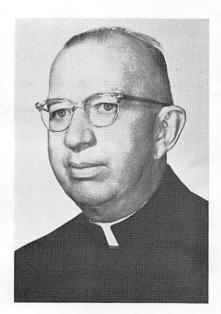
With the church erected, Father Smith devoted himself at once to the erection of a rectory.

Transferred soon thereafter to Bridgeport, where the tasks of building another church and rectory awaited him, Father Smith left behind him the foundation on which the flourishing Blessed

(Continued on Page 20)



THE REVEREND EDWARD FLANNERY



MONSIGNOR EDWARD L. MORRISON

Description - Blessed Sacrament School

Where once could be heard the crack of a bat, the youthful cries from a baseball game and the roaring motors from our Sunday-morning parking lot, now stands a magnificent, modern-in-appearance school building.

A complete, modern eight grade school with kindergarten has been the dream and need of our parish for many years, and with its realization comes the satisfaction of not just a school building, but one designed and constructed with an eye on the practical as well as the aesthetic; the feasible as well as the symmetric.

Blessed Sacrament School stands behind the convent on the Robinwood Road (Frank Street) end of the church property with an auditorium running parallel to Robinwood Road. Its exterior is constructed of impervious pressed cream-colored brick with limestone trim. The entrance to the auditorium is at that part of the building located closest to Robbins Street.

At this end is a lobby, ten by twenty feet with tile floor, ceramic glazed block, wainscot. Walls above the wainscot are of light rose colored "Waylite" block. Wash and toilet rooms with tile floors, ventilating fans, built in mirrors and combination towel dispensers can be found at the left end of the lobby; at the right end of the lobby, the cloak rooms and the ticket and telephone booths.

The auditorium proper is fifty-two feet wide, sixty-nine feet long and twenty feet high with level, acoustic plaster ceiling, so as not to interfere with gymnasium games. Two "Medart" basketball backstops and cages are provided; the one at the stage end equipped with a mechanism to fold it out of the way when not in use.

The stage has a complete wiring and lighting system of foot, border, spot and strip lights, controlled by stage panel and rheostat. Provision is made for moving pictures, with or without sound. The stage has two small dressing rooms with makeup counters and wall light brackets. Chairs can be stored under the stage in trucks on metal tracks. At the stage end of the auditorium there is an extra exit into the yard. At this end, also, is a passage leading to the school basement and to the boys' and girls' shower and dressing rooms.

The school proper has its main entrance at the upper end of Robinwood Road, and the corridors run through toward Merrill Street, with classrooms on the east and west sides. Inside the front entrance can be found the principal's office, the clinic, and the library, all opening off the foyer, which is separated from the front end of the school by a metal door with side lights. A large display panel is provided in the far end of the foyer.

The first story of the school consists of three classrooms and the kindergarten; the second story, five classrooms and a teachers' room.

Both floors have boys' and girls' lavatories, janitor's closet and store rooms. There are two stairways leading to the second floor.

The individual classrooms have cupboards, bulletin boards, aluminum trimmed chalkboards, built-in teachers' closets and children's coat rooms.

In the kindergarten there is a work counter with "Formica" top into which a sink with a drinking fountain is fitted. Under this counter are storage shelves and compartments of various sizes. There is also a storage closet for larger pieces of equipment, toys, etc.

Coat rooms and lavatories for the children are adjacent to the kindergarten.

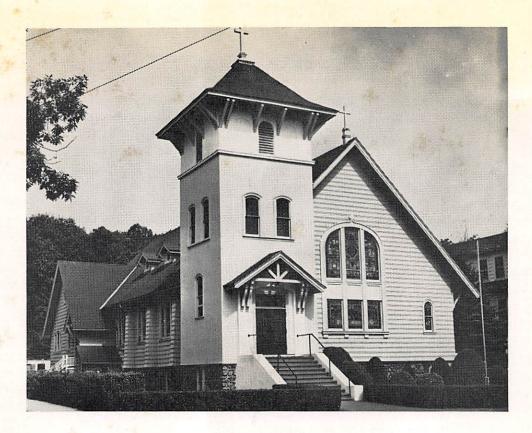
All ceilings are of acoustic plaster on metal lath, while the corridors have asphalt tile floors, glazed block walls, five feet high with colored Waylite block above to the ceiling.

In the basement there is located a kitchen with slide-up serving windows to the auditorium at one end and to the cafeteria at the other. The cafeteria on the east side of the basement is twenty-two feet wide and sixty feet long. On the west side of the basement there is a meeting room, forty-four feet long.

All window frames have polished aluminum frames, with lower and upper ventilating sections. Indiana Limestone is the material used in the window sills and the facings at each side and over the top of the Robinwood Road entrance. Front steps and platform are of granite.

In addition to the main entrance, there are two pupils' entrances, one for girls and one for boys.

The completion of the building connotes a step of consequence not only to our parish, but equally to Catholicism and education itself. We can feel assured that the physical requirements of an elementary grade education for our children have been accomplished; with guidance and instruction from our priests and nuns, the balance necessary will be met.



Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society is today an active society both spiritually and socially. It has an ever increasing membership of approximately 400 members and is under the able guidance of Rev. Thomas Toohey.

The society first came into existence in 1911 right after the construction of the Blessed Sacrament Church when the Pastor of the church was Rev. Terrence Smith.

Dr. Thomas Condon, who was for many years Supt. of Waterbury schools, was first president of the Holy Name Society.

The second president was James P. Phelan who is a charter member and the oldest living past president.

During the war years the society was rather dormant with only a few loyal members attending meetings. After the war the Holy Name Society started once more to become an active influence in the parish under the guidance of Rev. Francis Barrett, Rev. Robert Chagnon, Rev. James Lawes and Rev. Thomas Toohey.

Through the years the society sponsored many spiritual functions, such as the annual Mother's Day Communion Breakfast with notable speakers and which has an attendance of approximately 150 members. Other spiritual events are the receiving

of communion in a body once a month, the sponsoring of Retreats, the all night vigil during Lent and sponsoring an annual Mass for all members deceased and living.

Among the social functions that are most popular is the Pre-Lenten sports night which has boxing bouts, a sport film and featuring a well known personality in the sport world as speaker for the evening.

Other social functions were the Festivals in the past and, now, the minstrel which is the biggest and most successful financial endeavor of the year.

The annual minstrel was held at first in the basement of the church and in 1951 it was held at Wilby High School Auditorium and at that time they realized over \$700 for the Building Fund. In 1953-54 the minstrel again provided up to \$3,000 for the School Building Fund.

Many members of the Holy Name assisted the various curates through the years by being adult advisors for the C.Y.O. and Boy Scouts. They also assist in the collections at Masses and in participating in the church choir.

Members of the society assisted Rev. John Kenney by contributing much of their time and

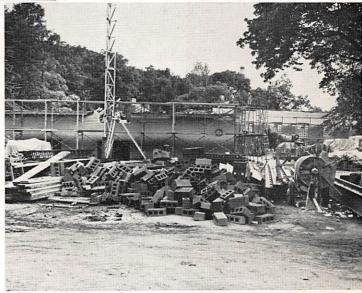
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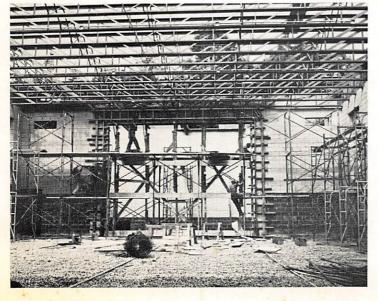
Progress of Construction



A WALL







A PATTERN
EMERGES



Ladies Guild

In reviewing the history of the Blessed Sacrament Parish one cannot overlook the contribution the "Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament" have made towards the parish growth. Their organized efforts have brought to realization thru the years many of the needs of the church. The cooperation and zeal of the women of the Blessed Sacrament Church have always been outstanding.

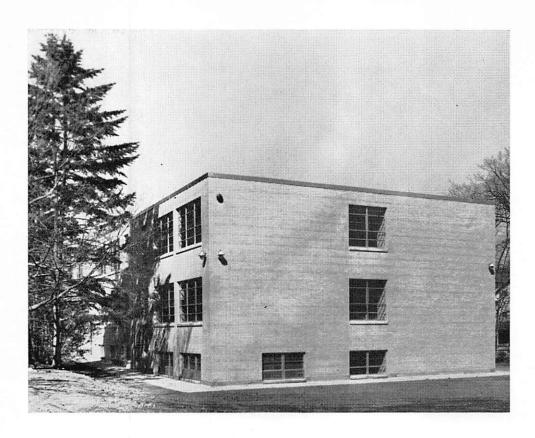
Whether it was a group called the Ladies Aid Society or the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament, or more recently the Guild, the purpose was the same — a coming together of Catholic women to satisfy their spiritual needs, to meet fellow parishioners on a social basis and to work for their pastor and church. Monthly communion in a body, regular meetings with religious or social programs; teas, cake sales, card parties, festivals and the like to raise funds perhaps to repair the organ or to provide altar supplies comprised the activities in the earlier days. It was only during the years of World War II that the women seemed to disband completely, because many of them were busily engaged in war work and the seriousness of the times was not conducive to socializing.

It was in the fall of 1946 that a representative group of women of the parish approached Father Morrison who was then pastor and asked permission to reorganize the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament. Out of this meeting grew the flourishing organization which now exists.

There have been nine presidents since 1946—one died while in office, two moved out of the parish and the remaining six are still active members of the organization. The first chaplain was Rev. Anthony Sima. He was followed by Rev.

(Continued on Page 23)





Boy's Activities

Boys activities in the Blessed Sacrament Parish had a historical beginning in the year 1929, during the pastorate of Rev. C. W. Brennan. It was in this year that a group of parishioners became interested in a program of activities for neighborhood boys both members and non members of the parish. The Boy Scout movement was expanding its program and through the efforts of five men a troop was organized. The original charter was presented June 12, 1929 with appropriate ceremonies and Troop 20, under the sponsorship of the Blessed Sacrament Church was officially established.

The charter members consisted of 16 boys and with the subsequent growth of the unit the enrollment increased to 34 boys by the end of the first year. Meetings were held Friday evenings in the church hall.

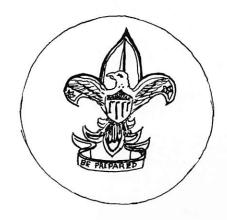
The work devoted to the organization and the many hours laboring to find leaders is not historically recorded but the 5 original committee men must have been wholeheartedly devoted to the welfare of the boys of the community. The troop continued to grow as the years passed with an ever changing enrollment of both boys and leaders. The first Scoutmaster was well chosen

because he continued with the troop through the year 1939.

The names of the original scouts and leaders show individuals who were then and have since developed into leaders in the professional, business and civic life of the city.

Due to the further expansion of scout units in neighboring areas the enrollment started to drop off and finally in the year 1943 the troop disbanded having well served its original purpose.

A period of three years elapsed with no or-(Continued on Page 24)





Children of Mary

As the parish grew so also did the need for youth activities in the Church. Fr. Morrison recognized this and in the Fall of 1945 he established the Children of Mary Sodality. He served as its first Chaplain and was succeeded by Fr. Robert Chagnon. Under the latter's direction the Sodality began to expand. Cake sales were introduced and still remain its chief money-making scheme. For social life seasonal dances were held and a picnic at Lake Quassapaug climaxed activities. Under Fr. Gerald Mullins the girls were encouraged in Catholic reading and devotional practices along with social activities. Fr. Leo Spodnick continued these practices as well as Fr. James Tomney the current chaplain who also introduced a three day retreat to take place every spring. In order to attract a larger group Fr. Tomney has instituted the custom of Friday night dances. These have proved so popular that the Sodality now has a greatly increased membership.

Aside from their own activities the girls of the Children of Mary in the past have aided the adult organizations. They have served at the Annual Communion Breakfast of the Holy Name Society and have assisted the Ladies Guild in serving at their card parties and other social activities.

The highlight of the year is the Coronation

of Our Blessed Mother in May, the month dedicated to Mary. This is a truly beautiful ceremony. The Sisters usually prepare a lovely floral shrine and the girls, all wearing flowing white gowns with blue mantles, form a guard of honor for the incoming president of the Sodality who is privileged to place the crown upon the head of Our Lady. At this time the new members are received into the Sodality and are invested with their medals.

Dedicated to serving our Blessed Mother and emulating her life as a young girl the Sodality is primarily of a religious nature. Meetings are monthly with a small social afterward. The Sisters of the Parish, of the order of St. Francis have served as counselors. They are in attendance at

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CYO

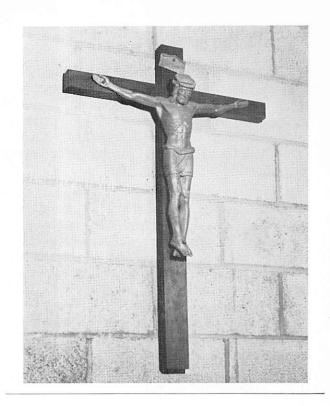
The Catholic Youth Organization is an agency established in September 1946 by the Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien D.D., Archbishop of Hartford, then Bishop, for the entire state in order to co-ordinate all leisure time youth activities in the Diocese. Prior to this each parish set up their own religious groups. Blessed Sacrament had the Boys Brigade and a class for high school children on religion.

CYO then taking its place had as its first Priest-Moderator Reverend Robert Chagnon. He was followed by Reverend Gerald C. Mullins. In 1951 Reverend Thomas Toohey was transferred to our parish and our pastor Reverend John Kenney, knowing of the fine work Father Toohey had performed in West Haven regarding youth, assigned him as CYO Priest-Moderator. Their success to date is due to his priestly attitude that youth can function, bearing in mind at all times and in all places that they must respect, prepare and act as true Catholics.

CYO Clubs are organized on a parliamentary basis in each parish to provide for the religious, social, cultural and recreational needs of its high school youth. These Clubs have uniform constitutions and by-laws, solemn religious reception, program, official membership card and pin. All parish youth actually attending high school or of high school age (under 19) are eligible for membership and are strongly urged to join. The Blessed Sacrament CYO started out with only 15 members. Today the roster has 165 names. Meetings are every Monday evening after the Novena honoring the Blessed Sacrament. These meetings have had an attendance of up to approximately 130 with an average of 80 to 90 boys and girls. They represent youth strongly organized on a Parish, District and Archdiocesan level. Through its program the parish CYO Club is an instrument for the sanctification and salvation of the souls of youth and the betterment of the community. It is an apostolate of youth for youth with the assistance of the clergy.

This past year at Blessed Sacrament the boys and girls participated in their fifth successive Annual Communion Crusade. With the permission of Father Kenney, they edited and produced the parish newspaper "The Marian". From the profits of this monthly paper they purchased and installed in the church hall a public address system and enriched the club treasury to assist other activities.

The Drama group produced plays on several occasions and during past years won the district



title twice. At Thanksgiving time they gave aid to the needy by their food baskets.

The boys participated in the Basketball leagues during their respective seasons.

The entire group assisted the Holy Name Society in putting on the annual Minstrel Show this year as they have for the past several years. The proceeds from these shows are turned over to the parish treasury and have amounted to several thousand dollars.

Their Annual Communion Breakfast this year was held at the Hotel Elton. It is at this event that the Priest-Moderator announces the duly elected officers for the coming year and each officer is then installed. Also at this time prizes for attendance, religious achievement, drama awards etc. are presented.

A mystery ride to a place of social entertain-(Continued on Page 24)



Church Choir

Always an integral part of every Roman Catholic Church function, the choir of the Blessed Sacrament Church has been no exception. From its very inception, during the pastorate of Fr. Terrence Smith and under the direction of Prof. Michael Grattan, this Church has been fortunate in having a fine choir.

It has been due in part to the great interest in music which has been displayed by all the Pastors who have served here. They fostered the development of the choir and took a personal interest in its music and activities. Fr. Smith, the first pastor and the priest who established the Blessed Sacracent parish, also possessed an excellent singing voice. He surrounded himself with real musicians and spared no expense in procuring a capable organist to direct his choir. Prof. Grattan gathered together singers of professional caliber from all parts of the City with the result that he had an outstanding four part choir.

In the following pastorate Fr. Edward A. Flannery was forced to reduce expenses in order to lower the debt on the new Church. He therefore cut out all excess salaries including that of Prof. Grattan. Replacing him as organist Fr. Flannery appointed a young girl, Jane Barrett (Imbert), a former pupil of Prof. Grattan. Miss Barrett served the parish in this capacity and as director of the choir from 1926 to 1950. Beset with many difficulties at first she managed to develop fine junior and senior choirs. She began with a few youngsters who learned hymns to sing at low Mass. Gradually, through practice, they learned a simple Kyrie Eleison, Sanctus and Agnus Dei which enabled them to sing the High Mass. Eventualy a few adults and teen-agers joined to form the first senior choir.

An amusing anecdote we'd like to recount is the story of the boys choir established during this period. Miss Barrett had labored hard and long drilling the boys in hymns and was beginning to accomplish something with them when the entire choir began to disintegrate. Fr. Flannery had adopted the practice of having the children sit upstairs in the gallery during Mass thus distracting the choir boys. The older boys not only distracted and mimicked them but afterwards teased them so unmercifully that they began to drop out leaving Miss Barrett to start anew. As we have said she succeeded in founding and continuing the choir which is still flourishing today under the guidance of Mrs. Donald Parks.

During the tenure of Fr. Charles Brennan,



Monsignor (then Father) Edward L. Morrison and currently under Fr. John F. Kenney there has been both a junior and senior choir. The junior choir, composed of grammar school students, all girls, sings at early Mass and at Msgr. Morrison's suggestion started the custom of singing for the inmates of Brookside Home on the feasts of Christmas and Easter. This not only gives pleasure to the poor but also provides a sense of well being to the youngsters for their charity on such holy occasions.

The senior choir has been untiring in its efforts to provide good church music. We were always fortunate in having a group of well-trained voices, both men and women, who were devoted enough to sacrifice their free time to practice in order to give greater glory to God in singing His praises at High Mass.

With the choir progressing smoothly, all went well until the organ failed. It was disconcerting for the organist as well as the choir to have the music unexpectedly stop completely during a passage of the Mass. After discovering the faulty stops Miss Barrett's accompaniment was more or less restricted in range until the organ underwent major repairs and changes. Most important of the changes was the removal of the organ pipes to the side of the gallery which permitted the choir to stand directly in back of the organ and greatly facilitated directing.

Each new pastor introduced further innova-(Continued on Page 25)



Little Red House

No book devoted to the new Blessed Sacrament School would be complete without mention of the Little Red House on Bunker Hill Avenue.

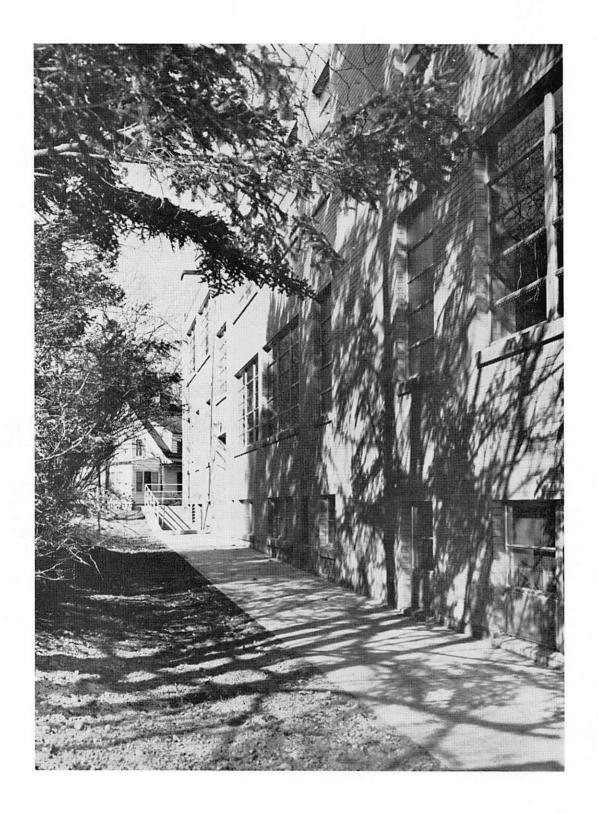
During the pastorate of Monsignor Edward L. Morrison he recognized the great need for a location for religious instruction classes for children in the Bunker Hill section. His search for a suitable spot ended happily with the acquisition in 1940 of the Little Red House next door to the Bunker Hill School.

Sisters of the parish soon began giving reli-

gious instruction in the newly acquired property and the classes have continued there to the present day.

The house itself is reputed to be a century and a half old and has long been a Bunker Hill landmark. It is fitting that the historic dwelling should, since 1940, have had its history linked with that of a growing, vigorous parish whose members have been making important contributions to the annals of Catholic achievement in Waterbury.





Program

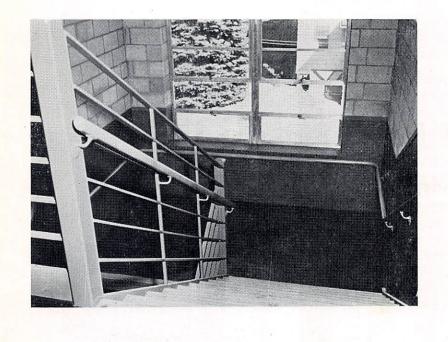
Dedication of Blessed Sacrament School

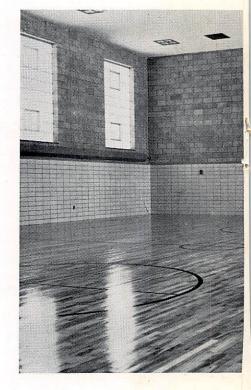
Tuesday, April 24, 1956

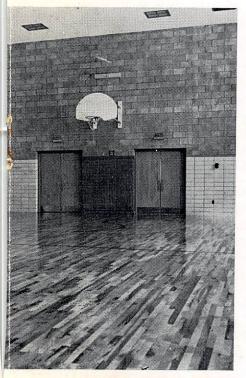
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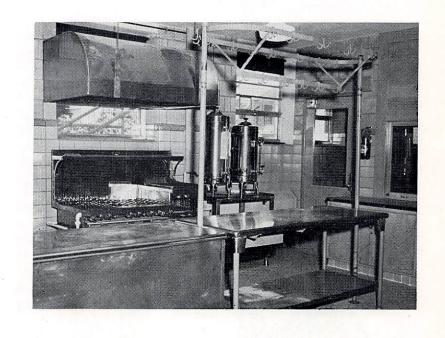
SOLEMN PROCESSION	Church to Main Entrance of School
PRAYER	Foyer of School; Blessing of Crucifix
BLESSING	Rooms of New School
WELCOME	The Rev. John F. Kenney, Pastor
DEDICATORY ADDRESS	of St. Francis Church, Torrington
ADDRESS His Excellency, Th	e Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien, D.D., Archbishop of Hartford
INTRODUCTION	The Most Reverend James A. McNulty, Bishop of Paterson, N. J. The Right Reverend John L. McNulty,
President, Set	ton Hall University, South Orange, N. J.
CLOSING REMARKS	Father Kenney

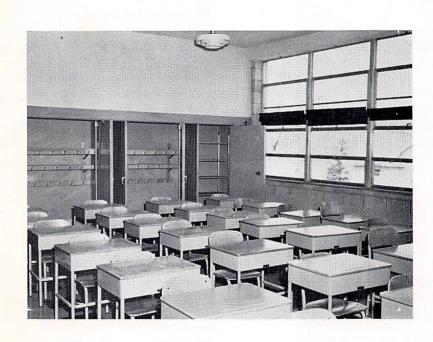
Description and explanation of Blessing ceremonies by the Rev. James F. Tomney, principal of Blessed Sacrament School.

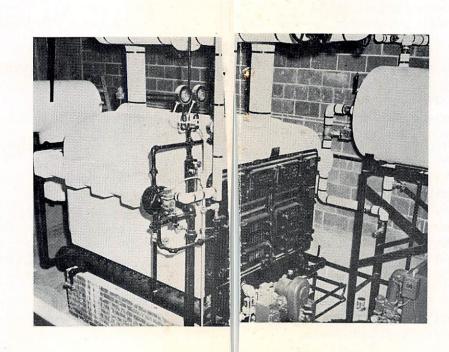








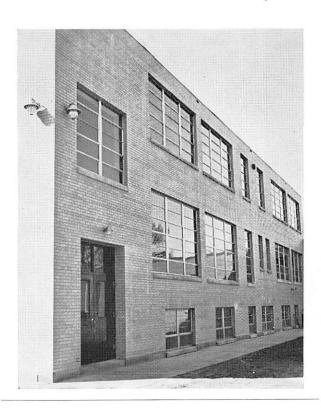






Parish History

(Continued from Page 6)



Sacrament Parish of today has been built. His were the worries and cares of the trail-blazer, and the record shows that cleared the way well.

Next to guide the parish was the Rev. Edward Flannery, whose golden eloquence won him wide acclaim. A man of literary leanings, he was both a scholar and a doer. The entire city mourned when illness overcame him, and his funeral was attended by a vast throng.

The Rev. Charles W. Brennan, a former curate at the Church of the Immaculate Conception who had been stationed in Norwichtown, was next to assume direction of the parish. Under his supervision, the church was redecorated and a number of improvements installed. It was with deep regret that his parishioners learned in February, 1935, that Father Brennan had been transferred across the city to the Church of St. Francis Xavier.

Succeeding to the pastorate was the Rev. Edward L. Morrison, now a Monsignor, who was to remain for 14 fruitful years. Under Father Morrison, previous gains of the parish were consolidated and activities were extended into new fields. With the inspiring example set by the pastor, the parish went successfully through the trying war years and into the difficult post-war years.

It was in 1949 that the Rev. John F. Kenney came to the pastorate with the dynamic and forth-right leadership that the parish has since enjoyed.

Almost immediately Father Kenney devoted himself to the problem of proper education for the children of the ever-growing parish. When his plans had been carefully studied and weighed, he announced to the parish his intention to build a parochial school. The dedication of the beautiful new structure for Catholic education is the result.

During the pastorate of Father Kenney, the Church of the Blessed Sacrament has taken giant strides forward. Parish societies are flourishing as never before, two additional Masses have been scheduled on Sunday mornings to handle the overflow congregations, the spiritual life of the parish has grown richer.

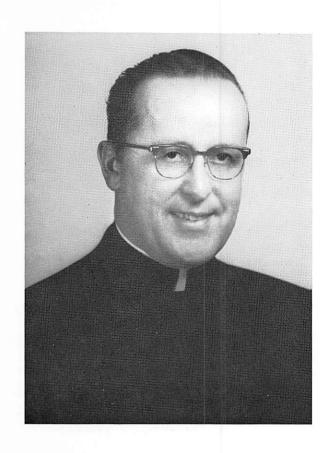
The energetic-plus pastor has the valuable assistance of two hard-working aides, the Rev. Thomas Toohey and the Rev. James Tomney.

Father Toohey not only directs several parish activities, including the outstanding CYO organization, but has also been assigned by the Archbishop to the task of District Director for the Catholic Youth Organizations in the Waterbury area. The number of awards and citations won by Waterbury District CYO groups in the past several years is the best testimony to his achievements in this role.

Father Tomney, already serving as spiritual director of several parish groups, has also been designated as principal of the new school. His tremendous work with alcoholics has won him fame far beyond the confines of the parish and city.

The parish considers itself indeed fortunate in its pastor and assistant pastors. All three have proven themselves ready and willing to work in any way possible for the advancement of the parish; laymen have marvelled at their invariable willingness to pitch in on any worthwhile project.

As Blessed Sacrament Parish marks another milestone with the dedication of its new parochial school, it looks ahead to even greater days in the future. Great deeds have been done; greater deeds lie ahead.



THE REVEREND

THOMAS F. TOOHEY

Assistant Pastor

Waterbury District Director, CYO

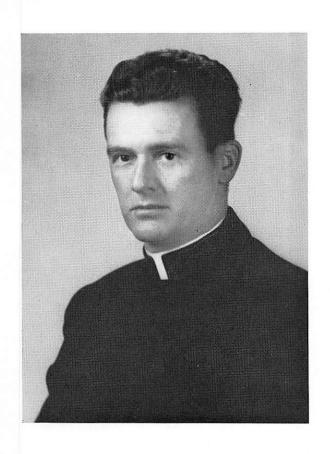
THE REVEREND

JAMES F. TOMNEY

Assistant Pastor

Principal of Blessed Sacrament School





THE REVEREND

JOHN T. O'CONNOR

Torrington, Connecticut

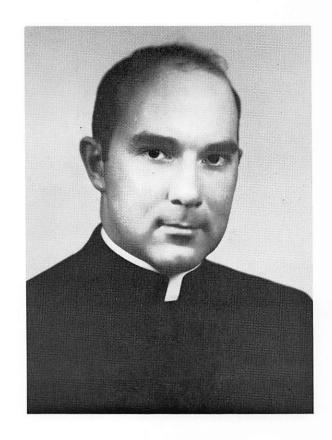
Dedication Speaker

THE REVEREND

A. LEO SPODNIK

Former Assistant Pastor,

Church of the Blessed Sacrament



LADIES GUILD-

(Continued from Page 10)

James Laws, then Rev. A. Leo Spodnik and at present the chaplain is Rev. James Tomney.

The original by-laws and constitution drawn up in 1946-47 have been amended twice and were completely revised this year to keep up with the rapid growth of the organization. It was in 1950 that the group became known as the Ladies Guild of the Blessed Sacrament Church which is now the official title.

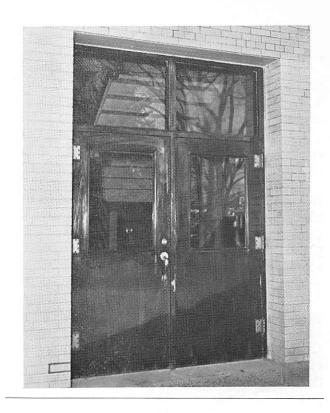
Membership in the Ladies Guild has practically tripled in recent years due to the rapid growth of the parish and increased interest in the Guild. New members are welcomed each year at the end of the membership drive in November when the annual membership tea is held.

Young and old, married and single women gather together once a month from October to June for a planned meeting at which the program may be in turn religious, cultural or purely social to include speakers of note, movies, plays, music, covered dish suppers, and even square dancing or games. In lieu of the June meeting a banquet is held annually at a nearby inn or country club. Since June 1951 the new officers each year have been installed with appropriate ceremony at the annual banquet.

The spiritual benefits derived from membership in the Ladies Guild include a Mass for living members in May of each year, a Mass for deceased members in November and a Mass for any member who dies. The ladies receive Holy Communion in a body on the first Sunday of each month, and early this year a very successful first annual communion breakfast was held. The Guild has planned a "Day of Recollection" for members during the past several years either at the Cenacle in Middletown, Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, or in our own parish church.

The fund raising activities of the Ladies Guild have been many and varied, even to include a paper drive. Better known to the public is the annual Valentine Bridge and Hat Fashion Show which is always a sell-out. Until two years ago one of the outstanding social and financial successes of the season was the annual Garden Party in June. We may see the revival of this party when construction of our new school has been completed.

The women of the Ladies Guild bake cakes.



sell tickets to card parties, hold rummage sales and the like because they want to help their pastor and contribute to the growth of the parish. Since 1946 the Guild has purchased or otherwise solicited much of the equipment in the church basement kitchen. Gold candlesticks for the altar and vestments for the priests are some of the church needs which have been procured with funds provided by the Ladies Guild. During the year 1953-54 when the School Fund Drive was in progress the Guild made sizable donations to the school fund of all profits from major ways and means projects.

The Guild has always been interested in the younger generation of the parish. This is evident in that a Christmas party complete with Santa Claus, gifts and candy has been sponsored each year by members of the Guild for all children of the parish. It was only in 1953 that the children of the parish did not receive a Christmas remembrance from the Guild and that was by their own choice since they voted that the \$100 usually allocated for a party be contributed instead to the School Fund.

With the opening of the parish school and its new, modern, adequate facilities the members of the Ladies Guild are looking forward to continued growth and progress of their organization and above all to a happy future of serving God and His Church.

BOYS' ACTIVITIES-

(Continued from Page 11)

ganized boys group active in the parish. However, the spiritual, athletic and social welfare of the parish boys was administered to by the parish priests with the assistance of some of the original scout leaders and volunteers.

During the years there was developing in the Hartford Diocese a new boys organization known as the Boys Brigade.

An awakened interest in the program of the Brigade for parish boys was generated and in June, 1946, the Catholic Boys Brigade of the Blessed Sacrament Church was officially organized and a new phase of youth activities was started. The program consisted of spiritual, athletic and craft projects well rounded into a full and interesting schedule.

Under the leadership of the priests of the parish and the Holy Name Society the unit became one of the most active and progressive ones in the area. With the able direction and leadership of the Holy Name Society and solid programming the unit grew to 45 boys. For five full and inspiring years the Brigade provided mature and interesting activities for the boys of the parish. With an ever changing pattern of youth programs and the desire to provide them with the fullest and rounded activities the Boys Brigade program was terminated late in the year 1951.

At this period in the life of the parish, activities for the boys of the neighborhood and the church has been active for 22 years. This period covered an era when boys programs was in a state of flux and with ever changing leadership and enrollment it is not surprising that we see an ever changing type of organization filling the needs of the boys.

And so in the year 1952, upon a call from the pulpit, the reactivation of Tropp 20 was planned. The first organization meeting was a memorable if not an encouraging one. The group to sit around the table at this first meeting was one of the curates, a boy scout and his father and the father of a potential scout. This was in August 1952 and from this humble and frail beginning the organization group rounded up leaders and a scout master finally in November. The need for such a unit was quite obvious to the leaders when 35 boys registered with the troop the first meeting and eventually grew to 45 boys by charter night in January 1953. Troop 20 has since grown to a giant unit, evolving in phases of Catholic Scouting sponsored by the Archdiocesan Scouting Committee and several of the boys and two leaders have been honored by Catholic Scouting Awards from Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien.



With the advent of the parish school the opportunity for expanding the scout program in all its phases is a challenge to the leaders.

The first phase of this expansion started in the year 1956 with the organization of an Explorer Post for boys 14 years of age and up.

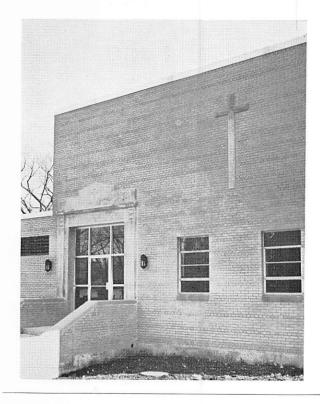
The need for scouting to develop spiritual, educational and outdoor interests for the boys of the parish cannot be denied. The present organization has expanded to the extent that currently 75 boys are participating in the program.

C. Y. O .-

(Continued from Page 13)

ment was held in May, and a Day of Recollection was held at Camp Palmer in June with outdoor Mass, religious talks, recreation and good food being enjoyed by approximately fifty youngsters. Other events of interest include—the Archdiocesan Press Conference, Bowling, Oratory, Drama and Softball. Also, the Annual Workshop at which district leaders learn items of interest which aid in bettering CYO Clubs, and Open House at Novitiates and Seminaries.

Adult supervision is of great importance as a review of this program will indicate. The Priest-Moderator more than covers his ground as there is a minimum of thirty weeks, September through May, with all social and cultural events being extra. Lest we forget—these are our boys and girls—future parishioners.



CHOIR-

(Continued from Page 14)

tions. Fr. John Kenney, acutely conscious of good music, has instituted the custom of having the organist play at three Sunday Masses throughout the summer months. The choir also sings at all evening Masses and at four Masses on Christmas and Easter.

The progress of the choir has been gradual and although there have been constant changes in personnel the music has remained at the same high level under the direction of Mrs. Parks. She has been doubly endowed in that she is not only a fine musician but is also gifted with a delightful singing voice.

We are sure that God will continue to bless this parish with fine choirs dedicated to singing the praises of Our Lord present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.



HOLY NAME-

(Continued from Page 8)

efforts serving on the executive committee which planned the campaign for collecting funds for the first and second school drive. During the Fund raising campaign many members worked as captains of teams and as workers. They also assisted Rev. A. Leo Spodnick on the special Memorial Drive.

Every male parishioner is a member of the Holy Name Society and it is his spiritual duty to be an active member.

With the Grace of God, this society will continue to grow and flourish with the parish and to continue assisting our Pastor and his curates.

CHILDREN OF MARY-

(Continued from Page 12)

every meeting and assist at most of the activities especially during the coronation ceremony. Along with their social and religious activities the girls also have a yearly charity which consists of donating toys to a worthy family of the parish at Christmas time.

Although members are considered Children of Mary until marriage the membership in this parish has been more or less restricted to high-school girls. As a result this is necessarily a small society. However, it has gradually been increasing and has reached its highest membership now under Fr. James Tomney. We are sure that under the continued guidance of such fine leaders this sodality will continue to grow and flourish.



Blessed Sacrament School Fund

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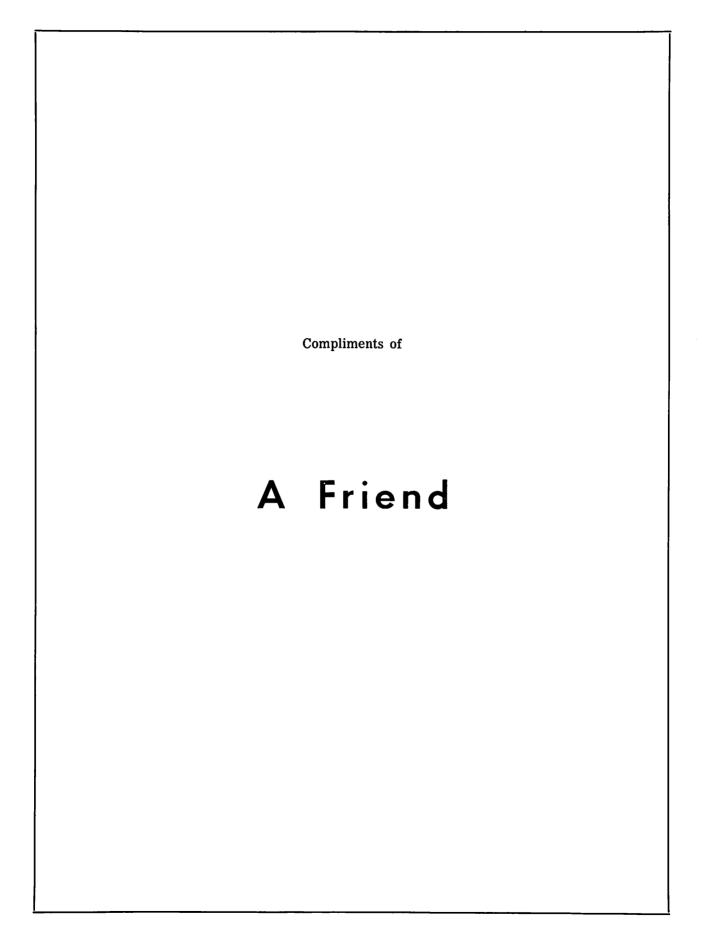
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