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In Gym

XXVI

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL, EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

NUMBER 8

Speech Assembly Honors Bro. Leo

The Stage and Rostrum Club put on its first program in front of the student body Wednesday, May 14.

Jack Traynor, representing the speech club, dedicated the assembly to Brother Leo, who has promoted speech at Assumption.

The opening act was a one-act dramatic play, "Submerged." The setting was a damaged submarine lying on the ocean floor with its crew hopelessly awaiting death. The ship's crew was composed of senior Jack Traynor, juniors Jim Vermeersch and Tim McEvilly, sophomores Pat Argos and Mickey Bednara, and freshman Leonard Vogt.

Next on the agenda was the whole speech team participating together for the first time in a script "Daniel." This was the first time the student body had witnessed a choral interpretation.

John L. Nadziejko followed with a rendition of "Robin Hood" to add a touch of humor with his original monologue.

The third act of "Teahouse of the August Moon" that the student body has heard so much about was presented by a substitute cast. Jim Vermeersch and Tim McEvilly joined Joe Cullinane and John Nadziejko of the original cast to present "Teahouse" in "reader's theater" which is also something new by way of dramatic production at Assumption.

Sodalists Pilgrimage To Starkenburg Shrine

The Sodalists from the Belleville High School Sodality Union took advantage of the Ascension Thursday holiday to celebrate the Lourdes Centennial year with a pilgrimage to the shrine of The Sorrowful Mother at Starkenburg, Missouri.

Starkenburg's population more than tripled when three busloads of sodalists arrived for Mass at 11:00 a. m. After the Mass the sodalists and their moderators ate a picnic lunch under the shade trees around the rectory.

Fr. Peter Minwegen, O. M. I., pastor of the parish and chaplain of the shrine, gave the sodalists an interesting account of the
(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

The PIONEER staff offers condolences to the families of Howard Theis, senior 206, and Ronald Aubuchon, '56.

JIM VERMEERSCH STUDENT PRESIDENT

THE STUDENT COUNCIL FOR 1958-59



Student Council officers for next year: seated, in the center is President Jim Vermeersch; on the left, Vice-President Jack McAtee; on the right, Secretary Mike Mongan. Standing are Ron Shevlin, parliamentarian, and "Keet" Meyer, treasurer.

Jim Vermeersch received a majority of votes on the second ballot to become the Student Council president for next year. Jack McAtee was elected vice-president; Mike Mongan, secretary; George "Keet" Meyer, treasurer; and Ron Shevlin was later appointed parliamentarian.

The elections were the most closely contested in the five-year history of Assumption. On the first ballot only one office was filled, that of secretary. In the afternoon a second vote between the top two candidates for each office was needed to gain the needed majority for election. For president, Vermeersch was opposed by Bill "Moose" Siekierski; McAtee by Ed Manning; Meyer by Walt

"Stage & Rostrum Club" Unites Speech, Dramatics

Since with unity there is progress, the various divisions of dramatics and speech—debate, oratory, and interpretation—were recently united into one speech club officially called the "Stage & Rostrum Club" under the patronage of St. Genesis.

The purpose of the club is to develop the spirit of unity among the members and to help them acquire cultural training needed to become vocal and active members of the Catholic laity.

Membership is open to all those engaged in speech, debate, and dramatic activities who have earned fifty speech points by their participation in these activities. Membership is divided into three classes: Simple membership, 50-100 points; merit membership, 100-300 points; and honor membership, over 300 points.

The members enjoy voting power in proportion to their degree. At a preliminary meeting supervised by Bro. Pieper and Bro. Fitzsimmons, officers for the coming year were elected. Walter Mueller was elected

Mueller.

Vermeersch headed the Student Union party which included Manning, Mongan, and Mueller. When Vermeersch set forth his platform on the previous day, he advocated a plan for more assemblies, including pep rallies and talent shows, more informal dances, and a club to increase school spirit.

Siekierski captained the Progressive party which included Dave Huckla, Clarke Morse, and Paul DeGonia. He set down a plan for more freedom among the student body.

Shevlin led the Pioneer party which included Jack McAtee, John Haack, and "Keet" Meyer. Ron said he wanted to acquire more movies for the school and a speaker system in the cafeteria for the juke box.

president, Jim Vermeersch vice-president, Tim McEvilly secretary, and Mike Mongan parliamentarian.

Each division of speech enjoyed a very prosperous year, bringing a trophy and streams of certificates to Assumption. With this extra unity, they expect to do even better in the coming year.

Next Year's Seniors: What Do They Think?

An interview was recently conducted among next year's senior class to get their views on some important topics. The ideas discussed centered around the present junior class as next year's leaders of Assumption.

The first question asked was: "What is the place of a senior in high school?" PETE BAUER expressed the most frequent opinion: "I think that the senior should set the example." JIM VERMEERSCH gave the same opinion, but with a different twist: "The seniors have a duty of setting the right example." ROBERT SMITH added the reason for this duty: "Seniors have three years of experience behind them, so they should know what to do. Because of this, underclassmen look up to the seniors." Another junior stated: "Everything. Seniors have the most to say about matters and they know the most about school affairs. However, most seniors don't care what happens or what they do."

The next question was: "Do you personally think you are ready to accept the responsibility of a senior?" One junior answered: "No, I missed out on too many activities." TERRY VRZAL stated: "Not exactly. I am not ready yet for two reasons. First, I messed around too much my first three years. Secondly, I think it will take a while to adapt myself to the position. In other words, it will take time to find out what it means to be a senior. Seniors are men." AL MOGENIS: "No, I haven't done anything worthwhile that could be an example to others. PETE BAUER: "No, I didn't do enough."

"Do you think the present junior class is capable of taking over the leadership of Assumption?" This final question brought a variety of responses. BILL SIEKIERSKI: "Yes, I think the majority are capable, and they can change the minority." MIKE MONGAN: "Most are. Most of the juniors have done a good job, but a few are not ready. In every group there is a small number that messes around too much. GEORGE MEYER: "I think the juniors have some of the best leaders in the school. They have the potential to do a good job next year." RON VISINTINE: "Yes. Juniors are leaders in most activities and have done a good job on most of their projects such as the prom."

This is what we can expect. Apparently the future senior class is willing and ready to assume their responsibility. Next year is theirs.

—R. S.

It's All Over! Now Comes The Blast

"I been in this joint for four years. I'm gonna get my walking papers soon. When I go it ain't gonna be like no retreat. I been waitin' for this day, and I'm gonna live it up. Besides we got a tradition to uphold, so me and the boys are gonna go paint the town sixty-nine shades of red.

"Man, we get all sorts of sermons from the boys in black. Like—we've had four years of training to be Catholic men and we shouldn't blow it all in one night, and we can have fun sober, and why spoil the memory of graduation by sinning, and all that stuff. We're told we've really been wasting our time if we didn't get any more out of our training than that.

"Maybe they're right and all, but who cares? I mean, like if it's wrong, so what? Sure it's against the rules, and you can't break the rules. I mean, it's a sin, but why can't we be wrong? Like we got a right to sin if we want to . . . and . . . everything."

Four diplomas will never be handed out this graduating day. Four Assumptionites who belonged to the Class of '58 are dead. As the graduating seniors file to the stage for their last appearance in high school, they will not be without the memory of those who should have been there along with them.

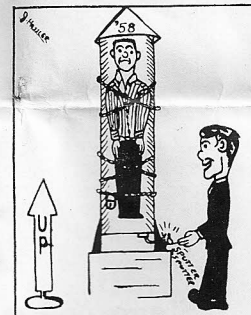
In the sophomore year, Lanny Lancaster was accidentally killed by a rifle bullet. In the junior year, Tim Crouch found death on a highway. Early this year John Schmitt died as a result of a brain tumor. Most moving, however, was the sudden disaster which swept Howard Theis into a moving train two weeks before his graduation.

To these graduating seniors God is very near. What does He expect from them that He should be so close, calling one then another from their midst over the years? Why has He given them this special grace, these special reminders? Possibly it is because He is going to demand much of them in the coming years?

LOOKING BACK: SENIORS SPEAK OUT

In a few days our senior class will graduate. The PIONEER has interviewed a number of seniors, asking a variety of questions which it believes will be of some help to the underclassmen.

OUR DEAR SENIORS

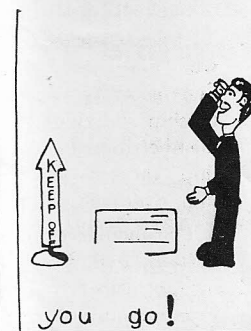
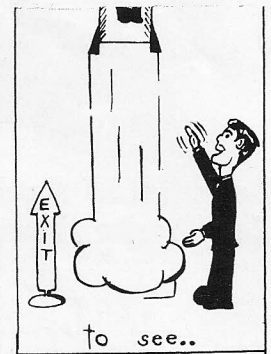


We hate...

JACK TRAYNOR, C. Y. C., President, advised underclassmen, "Work hard in school; it will be a great help after you graduate, even if you don't intend to go to college." Jack added, "There are too many students who pass up extra-curriculars just because they require a little time outside school.

JIM HESSLER PIONEER cartoonist, commented, "I think that the most profitable course that I took was Latin; it gave me a reasoning power which, I believe, no other course could offer."

DAN BARBEAU, yearbook editor, said, "I'm not too anxious to leave Assumption, but it is a step forward." When asked about his most profitable course, activity, and year, Dan commented, "The math courses helped very much. My most worth-while activity was the yearbook; my senior year, undoubtedly, was the best." CURTIS BRITT related, "I believe the math courses helped me the most. If I had another chance, I'm sure that I would get into more activities."



TOM WALSH also holds to the value of languages. "The course (Latin) helped me most in the line of vocabulary." Tom stated further, "If I had the opportunity to go these four years again, I would take harder subjects; I'd also try to work in more activities."

The opinions of the seniors interviewed were consistent throughout. ALL agreed that "snap courses" should be avoided and that more should participate in the wide range of activities offered at Assumption.

—W. M.

Here 'n' There

Honor Society . . .

. . . In recent tests for the Mathematics Honor Society of the St. Louis Province of Marianist schools, Assumption was rated very highly. Thirteen juniors were among the forty winners in the advanced algebra category, while thirteen sophomores rated among seventy winners in plane geometry.

Tom Ganey, a senior, captured first place in the field of solid geometry. John Haack also won first place in advanced algebra. Pat Argos was rated fifth in plane geometry.

Congratulations . . .

. . . to Walt Mueller on his recent election as president of the CYC, and on ranking sixth in the state in serious interpretation in the IHSA speech finals at Urbana.

Ed Manning . . .

. . . Junior, 213, was recently elected as president of the Junior Social Planning Council of East St. Louis.

Well done . . .

. . . Brother Discher and Glee Club for your presentation of the new Assumption school song. Brother Lawrence Gommer wrote the song especially for the Pioneers.

John Haack and Ron Shevlin . . .

. . . have been chosen as the Assumption reporters for Prom magazine for the 58-59 school year.

Wait A Minute

June 1 launches the "grand dispersion." From June to September most Assumptionites will be scattered—some shaking malts, others bagging groceries, and most just loafing. Books become dust collectors.

There are a few things, however, that we shouldn't forget during the time off—frequent Mass, Communion, the Rosary. It's often difficult enough to stay close to God during the summer, even with these helps. True happiness—the summer should be packed with it—is found only in God's friendship. As the song goes, you can't have one without the other.

—T. P.

THE PIONEER
ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL
 East St. Louis, Illinois
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SAFE, WITHOUT A DOUBT



Glen Bischof crosses first base with a single as Assumption's final threat in the District game against Madison. The Pioneers couldn't bring him home and lost by a 2-1 margin.

THE SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

By Ron Visintine

Jim Wiegiers, highly-touted catcher of the Pioneers, finished his baseball career with a .454 batting average. Close behind him is Fritz Kurre with a .441 average.

* * *

Other Pioneer batsmen who finished above the 300 mark include pitcher Norm Skikas with .375, Joe Bauer with .345, and George Teasley, .308.

* * *

Keeping with their leading ways, the Pioneers have several speedsters who finished their season leading all city players in base swiping. The select group is headed by Joe Bauer with 15, followed by Glen Bischof with 13, Fritz Kurre 12, Charlie Kotarba 10, and Mike Mulconnery with 6.

* * *

Although Bro. Fitzsimmons' "racket squad" had little success in early tournaments, they showed considerable improvement in their play. Greater things can be expected next year with only team captain Jerry Bielicke being lost by graduation.

Next year's squad will boast returning lettermen in Ron Morosky, Ray Valeika, Pat Cullinane, Jim Leonard, Mickey Bednara, and Jim Norausky.

* * *

Norm Skikas showed his will to win in the last of the eighth against Madison. With the game ending run coming in from third, Joe Bauer fired a perfect peg from center field to the plate. Norm grabbed the ball and dove for the runner, trying to tag him in front of the plate. Norm missed the runner; Assumption lost its first game.

PIONEERS TALLY 18-1 SEASON MARK

By T. K. Moore

The Pioneer baseball season coming to an end showed the team holding an 18-1 record. This was due greatly to the hard work of the team and coaches.

The season was highlighted by many spectacular plays, fine fielding, and good hitting. Holding the city batting crown is catcher Jim Wiegiers with a .490 batting average in regular season play. Joe Bauer leads in stolen bases with a total of fifteen in eighteen games.

One set of statistics that is conspicuously lacking in the modified box scores is the defensive marks. The Pioneers as a team compiled a .938 fielding average. Individual members of the regulars listed the following averages:

	PO.	A	E	Avg.
Ganey, rf.	7	1	0	1.000
Skikas, p.	8	11	0	1.000
Wiegiers, c.	143	10	3	.980
Ryan, 1b.	39	4	1	.978
Teasley, lf.	64	9	3	.960
Kotarba, 1f.	19	0	1	.950
Bischof, ss.	14	28	4	.913
Bauer, cf.	19	1	2	.910
Mulconnery, 3b.	22	22	6	.880
Kurre, 2b.	18	21	6	.867

A strong pitching staff contributed greatly to the number of wins. This staff includes Norm Skikas (8-1), Jeff Arnold (6-0), George Teasley (2-0), and Jim Ryan. Norm lost his only game of the season against Madison in state tournament play. This pitching staff compiled a fabulous .068 earned-run average.

Several games taxed the ability of these pitchers, such as the game at Cathedral, losing 3-2 with two men on, Jim Wiegiers blasted a homer over the left field fence. With this assurance, Norm set down to work for a 5-3 victory. To Jeff Arnold went both victories over East Side, neither one easy, the second one in eight innings. Both Ryan and Teasley have been called in when a tight situation arose as relief pitchers. A glance at the local pitching statistics show these four to be at the top of all area pitching efforts.

The hitting is also very powerful. Assumption claims five of the fifteen area players batting over .300.

* * *

Local statistics also show that the Pioneers lead in runs scored. Fritz Kurre has crossed the plate 23 times, followed by Charlie Kotarba with 21. Three other Pioneers scored 15 times: Joe Bauer, Glen Bischof, and Mickey Ganey.

SODALISTS PILGRIMAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

history of the devotion and of the shrine. The group was surprised to learn that the Brothers of Mary played an influential, if indirect, part in the inauguration of the devotion.

It seems that the young man who was responsible for the beginning of the devotion was educated by the Brothers in Germany and had spent six months in the Novitiate of the Brothers in Dayton, Ohio, before being sent home, a victim of galloping consumption.

He gathered the children of the community around him each evening during May to teach them the devotion to Mary that he had learned from the Brothers. The May devotions spread to the adults, and a shrine seemed the inevitable result.

The piety of the people and their simple faith was rewarded by Our Blessed Mother by many spiritual favors and miraculous cures.

Sodality Reception

On Thursday, May 1, thirteen Assumptionites took the final step up the Sodality ladder. Received as Sodalists were seniors, Bill Aschbacher, John Laurent, and Jim Bonifeld; and juniors, Al Eversman, Jim Margason, George Meyer, Bill Siekierski,

TEACHER ORDAINED



Rev. Bernard Rochon, S.M., who taught at the old Central and at Assumption for five years, will be ordained July 20 at Fribourg, Switzerland.

Jack McAtee, Jim Vermeersch, Paul DeGonia, Terry Demarest, Mike Voelker, and Ron Shevlin. Father John Fournie, Diocesan Director of Sodalitys, guest speaker, stressed the importance of making use of

ALLAN MARTZ VISITS TEACHERS IN EUROPE

Allan Martz, graduate of Assumption and brother of George, surprised four of his former teachers when he visited them at the Marianist Seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland. Allan, stationed in LaRochelle, France, on the Atlantic coast, was making use of a two-week leave with three of his buddies to tour Germany Austria, and Switzerland. He and the four teachers had an East St. Louis reunion. The teachers were Bros. Louis Riele, Ralph Doorack, Bernard Rochon, and Fr. John Gorman.

Rev. Rochon, now a deacon, will be ordained July 20 this summer. In a recent letter to Fr. Norbert here, he commented: "It sure was good to see Allen and hear about the other kids in his class. Teaching is disheartening work until you see the kids several years later—all of them making good in their own right. Those kids were toughies, but they are good through and through. The kids in East St. Louis are tops in my book."

the extra graces which members of the Sodality receive. Benediction followed the reception ceremonies.

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