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VOL. 2, NO. 15

THE NILES BUGLE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1953

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8 Pages This Week

School Bonds Overwhelmingly Beaten

From The Left Hand

By David Besser
Editor & Publisher

Post mortems on Saturday's School Bond referendum have been many but none seem more closer to the truth than the observation by Superintendent Culver. He stated simply, "You don't build schools for the future, only for the immediate."

Second-guessers, both in the Village as well as the township are smugly smacking their lips with glee, as they put their own interpretation on just "why" the results were so devastating.

We in Maine township, who overwhelmingly approved an equally costly bond issue for the high school out our way last year, are wondrous at the contrast of the two votes right in our Village. Is it possible the Harlem Avenue dividing line could cause such a complete reversal of opinion concerning the need of additional high school facilities?

On the surface it would seem Niles Township taxpayers are just plain weary of an ever increasing tax bill. But what of Maine Township residents? It is the answer Maine Township residents in Niles should be doubly weary since their tax bills percentage-wise, and probably dollar-wise, have far outstripped Niles Township taxbills the past five years.

Thus, it seems unlikely high taxes was the primary reason for the heavy resistance to the referendum. Being a second-guesser like all other red-blooded Americans, who always think they know the answers AFTER events have been completed, seldom, if ever, beforehand, I would venture these reasons for the vote-out come.

First, the issues were badly clouded. The three proposals on the ballot were too complex for most voters. I believe a n issue at the polls must be simple and clear-cut. The need for additional high school facilities is great, but unfortunately the need was not felt "great" by the voter. This "need" was never transmitted to the electorate and unless the voter has a clear notion "why" he is voting he is quite likely to resist change.

Village of Niles voters had a fair example of this very problem when they were asked to approve the park & recreation tax a couple of years ago. In addition to the recreation tax the park board tacked on an issue for the purchase of land for tot-parks. Just as the additional high school facilities are (Continued on Page 4)

Santa Claus And Friend



Santa Claus visited the Harlem-Milwaukee Niles Shopping Plaza last Saturday afternoon in his first of two visits to the plaza. Heather Rae Laughlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Laughlin, 7233 Howard Street, wonders just what Santa has in store for her come Christmas morn. Santa will be at the shopping plaza for the last time this Saturday from 11 A.M. until 4 P.M.

On The Scene Report Of Our Lady Of Angels Fire

Time - Life reporter Art Shay wrote his eye-view account of the school fire which took the toll of 92 children's lives. The following is his report of this holocaust.

By Art Shay

Inside the still smoldering school, a few minutes after the last small bodies had been sorrowfully trundled out, with tears frozen in my eyes, it was my terrible job to take pictures of the classrooms on the second floor.

The reporter, with me scarcely spoke. He'd point to something, a charred and trampled zipper jacket, a yellow comb, a frayed geography book, a broken pair of glasses, the white raincoats of the patrol boys, the Sacred Heart statue untouched at the head of the front stairway.

Two fireman spoke while spading the rubble, still looking for tiny victims. "I hate the

St. Paul's Announce Christmas Schedule

Christmas Season services at St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church, 7801 N. Harlem avenue, Niles, as announced by the rector, Rev. Bartholomew A. James, include the 11:00 a.m. service Sunday, December 21st, and the young peoples Christmas pageant at the special program 4:00 p.m. the same day. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m.

The annual Christmastide Candlelight Service is held Christmas Eve, the 24th, at 10:00 p.m. This is a beautiful and impressive service with the singing of carols, special music and brief meditation on the Nativity theme. All are invited to all the services at St. Paul's and persons desiring further information about them or the Reformed Episcopal Church should contact the church at Niles 7-8234.

Among the young folks taking part in the pageant are Dennis and Judy Siebold, Gary and Edward Sabey, Sandra and Diane Hoffman, Diane, Gerald and James Singer, Ronald and Gary Klopp, Betty Lou-Penzell, Richard Lisy, Gregg Holt and Nancy and Kenneth Zahn. Refreshments following the program are being provided by the Women's Guild of the church.

Niles Bible Church Christmas Program

Christmas Program:

The Niles Bible Church will present their Christmas program, "The Message of the Bells," Sunday evening, December 21, at 7:30 P.M. Pastor Grannas extends a special invitation to the public to attend.

Christmas Eve:

Christmas eve, December 24, Niles Bible Church is presenting a PRAYER AND PRAISE BY CANDLELIGHT service. Beginning at 7:30 P.M. it shall be over promptly at 8:30. The public is cordially invited.

HOMEOWNERS HI-LITES

Greenleaf Home Owners
Sunday, December 21, the association will conduct its second annual Christmas party. The party will be held at the Greenleaf Heights fieldhouse beginning at 1 P.M. Seventy-seven children from the Greenleaf two block area will participate in the party.

Thirty couples attended the homeowners' dinner-dance at the Lone Tree Inn on Saturday, December 6. The party's success guarantees that future affairs will be an annual affair event.

Jonquil Terrace

Santa Claus will come to Bob Perry's garage at 7500 Jonquil Terrace tomorrow, Thursday, December 18. The party is an annual children's - Santa - get-together, sponsored by the homeowners' association for the Jonquil children. Festivities begin at 7 P.M.

NICO

The homeowners' association presented the Lutheran General Hospital with a check for \$100. The association also contributed \$10 to the Niles library. The next NICO meeting will be January 20.

Oakton Manor

Santa Claus will make his annual visitation to Oakton Manor children at their homes Thursday and Friday nights. All children living south of Keeney will be visited by the bewitched Santa on Thursday. Children living north of Keeney will receive a personal visit from Santa on Friday night. This eagerly-awaited event is the annual project of the association.

Grannan Heights

Saturday afternoon, December 20, is the big day for Grannan Heights' Children. Two Christmas parties will be held at the fieldhouse that afternoon for Grannan Heights' children. Resident children seven years old and younger will be able to enter the fieldhouse at 12:30; the program will begin at 1:30. Parents can call for the children by 2:45. Children from 8 thru 13 will have their one-hour show beginning at 3:30. A talk with Santa and gifts will highlight the gala afternoon.

The following is the result of the township vote as well as the Niles vote:

I. School additions at a cost of \$1,125,000. Township vote: Yes, 5,187; No, 7,679. Village of Niles: Yes, 281; No, 532.

II. New building and site at the Evanston Golf Club at a cost of \$6,500,000. Township vote: Yes, 3,229; No, 9,572. Village of Niles: Yes, 144; No, 668.

III. 55 acre site at Waukegan Road and Dempster Street at a cost of \$1,000,000. Township vote: Yes, 3,556; No, 9,297. Village of Niles vote: Yes, 188; No, 621.

The teen-agers hold their weekly dances at the fieldhouse Wednesday night.

Three Rinks Being Used For Ice Skating

Niles three ice skating rinks are all in good condition and are now available to the public. The rinks are at the Oakton Manor park, the Grannan Heights park and the park at Touhy and Franks.

Per Cent Of No's Greater In Niles

Niles voters joined with other township residents in overwhelmingly rejecting the three bond proposals which were presented to them at the special school election last Saturday.

Niles voters were more emphatic in their rejection of the bonds than their township brethren.

Whereas, township voters were opposed to the additions to the existing schools by a 60-40 percentage, Niles voters said "no" by a 66-34 percent vote.

Township voters opposed the new school building and site on the country club by a 75-25 percent margin. Again, Niles rejected the measure by a larger margin, the percentage opposing being 80 to 20.

The proposed new Waukegan site, which would serve Niles and Morton Grove, was defeated in the township by a 72 to 28 percent vote. In Niles, surprisingly the percentage was 77 to 23 in opposition.

Mounting resistance to the bond issues reached its peak the last two weeks before the election. First the township democratic organization publicly opposed the three issues. Then last week the Mayors of four of the five interested villages in a joint statement, opposed the passage of the school issues. Only the Mayor of Skokie, a Northwestern University Professor, did not publicly resist the school bonds.

A hastily formed committee, The Committee For Higher Taxes Education At Lower Taxes, first attacked the bond issues as uneconomical. The committee was largely composed of interested Evanston Country Club members and residents who bordered the club. They were primarily opposed to one of the propositions which was proposed to build a school on part of the country club site.

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Arts-Crafts Program Takes A Holiday

Mr. Lou Schreiner, recreation chairman of the Niles Park Board, wishes to announce that due to the holidays, there will not be an Arts & Crafts class on Dec. 20 and Dec. 27. The classes will again resume on Sat. Jan. 3.

Woman's Club Meet

The Woman's Club of Niles will hold a Christmas Party and monthly meeting Wednesday, December 17, at 8:00 p.m., at Bunker Hill Country Club, 6635 Milwaukee Avenue, the club's new location. For the program that evening, Mrs. William C. Baum, Jr., Program Chairman, has chosen "The Christmas Window", an original bit of creative writing, which will be presented by Mary Girvin Conen, mother of Mrs. Edward A. Walger, one of the charter members of the club.

This picturesque fantasy is written and presented in the true spirit of the season. Created as a Fine Arts project for the North Town Woman's Club of Chicago on the club's tenth birthday, it has been in demand as a yuletide program for churches and clubs since that date — Christmas 1940. Mrs. Edwin Conen, the mother of four and grandmother of eight children, has always treasured the cultural advantages offered to her family and herself in the Chicagoland area. A rich, full, challenging and happy life filled the years when this was her home: Literature, Drama, Art and Music were fascinating subjects for study and always an inspiration for creative work. All of the four fine arts are incorporated into the program which will be the Christmas presentation for the Niles Ladies. The artistic beauty of the window, when the magic of the symbols of the season have touched it, is most appealing to the appreciative eye, which seeks beauty in even the simple

Woman's Club Guest Tonite



Mrs. Edwin Conen, mother of columnist Edna Walger, will present a reading of "The Christmas Window," an original writing by Mrs. Conen at the Woman's Club of Niles meeting tonight at 8 p.m. at the Bunker Hill Country Club.

corporated into the program which will be the Christmas presentation for the Niles Ladies. The artistic beauty of the window, when the magic of the symbols of the season have touched it, is most appealing to the appreciative eye, which seeks beauty in even the simple

things. Original poetry, which Mrs. Conen insists cannot be classed as great literature, nevertheless projects the thought of love, which is the real meaning of the joyful day. Music, which is the extra blessing for every home to bless the house on the Holy Eve. The old and the new, carols growing dearer with each year, two original compositions by the writer of the piece, and drama make the whole of it an enchanting and heartwarming picture of the average Christian family on Christmas Eve.

When the time came for Mr. Conen to return to "The hills of home" in southern Indiana, his dream of "A farm to retire to" was realized and friends of the family wondered how the change would affect the active life of folks who had always known the interesting pursuits of city life. The lady who will present the program on the 17th would like to go on record as stating that the best time to prepare for retirement is "right now". Latch onto a dream and keep it as a goal for tomorrow, pursue the avocation of your choice, one that satisfies and brings joy with each day's achievement, ride a hobby that will keep you galloping away down all the enchanting avenues which may be found in the pursuit of happiness. The chosen avocation of Mrs. Conen continues to be a constant challenge and brings, with each new year, a sense of fulfillment.

Success is a relative thing (a dozen people will have a dozen ideas of just that it is), but to most of us it means the spiritual tranquility that is purchased by daily living. Acknowledging the hurdle and summoning the reserve strength to soar above it; accepting the, sometimes undeserved, blessing and saying a prayer of thanks for it; treasuring always the gift of life and health; believing in the goodness of God and in the goodness of men (especially those who are intrusted to our care); knowing that love can make even the bare and "depression years" Christmas warm and sweet — these are the things that are good to the heart, — these are the things which inspired Mrs. Conen to write and present "The Christmas Window".

The all member Glee Club, under the direction of Mrs. John Swanson, is going to sing several Christmas songs and special selections. After being put into the Christmas spirit by the entertaining program, Christmas grab bag gifts will be exchanged by the members.

Refreshments will be served by the following social committee, headed by the chairman, Mrs. Allen D. Carlton: Mrs. David Besser, Mrs. Stephen R. Ciesol, Mrs. Leon Friedman, Mrs. Clifford Fritz, Mrs. Albert W. Green, Mrs. C. Richard Hanisch, Mrs. Walter E. Kramer, Mrs. Edwin A. Leith, Mrs. David McCormack, Mrs. Larry L. Mullins, Mrs. Edward Wiercinski, and Mrs. Harry R. Winchell.



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st
Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship — 11:00 a.m.
The Season Theme: "Greater than . . ."
Sermon Subject: "No Greater Joy"
Christmas Program and Pageant — 4:00 p.m.
CHRISTMASTIDE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Christmas Eve, the 24th — 10:00 p.m.
Come aside for a while, after the rush of preparation is over, and prepare your heart for the blessings of the Day itself. The Reformed Episcopal Church is a Low, Evangelical, Liturgical Church, preaching the Word of God, proclaiming Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, and emphasizing practical Christian conduct and living. For further information call Niles 7-8234.
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NNHA Next Meeting Weds., January 10

The North Niles Homeowners Association (N.N.H.A.) held their regular meeting Dec. 10, 1958. With the inclement weather, it was rather astonishing to see such a good turnout for this meeting. We sincerely hope the enthusiasm for this new organization enjoys an even larger response of Nilesites.

Discussions on our newly formed by-laws was the order of business for the night. Our next regular meeting will be held on Jan. 10, 1959 (Wed.) at 8:00 p.m. Oak school on Main st. Pres. Sigmund Lewicki will appoint new councilmen, committee chairmen and elevate new members to the executive board, so that we may be able to handle the new influx of new neighbors.

So for the next meeting date, we will be looking for a record breaking attendance of members and members to be. For those unacquainted with this new organization, why not drop in at our next meeting, to see and hear our aims and future plans. All residents of Niles are welcome to any of these regular monthly meetings.

P.S. Check your calendar date and try to make your reservations for this meeting.

Mailing Tips For Late Mailers

Christmas Card Week-End has passed and many mailers took advantage of this suggested mailing period to send their greetings. However, those who failed to mail on this important week-end can still be helpful by following these suggestions offered by Postmaster Carl A. Schroeder.

The Postmaster said, "It's too late to talk about early mailing of Christmas gifts and cards, because time means everything now — even a few hours delay in getting your cards and gifts mailed may mean disappointment to your friends and loved ones on Christmas Day."

He recommends that the last minute mailers sending cards and gifts to out-of-town addresses use Air Mail to be sure of delivery. There's still time for local deliveries, but all Christmas cards should be sent by First Class mail to receive the full benefits of the 4c rate.

Postal employees are digging in for the final drive to get everything delivered by Christmas Eve. All postal stations (Main Neighborhood Branches) will be open from 8:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. between December 16 and December 20 inclusive, and from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 21.

Entertains K. C. Children



Santa Claus, Niles 'Man of the Month', dropped in on the Knights of Columbus Christmas party at Bunker Hill Country Club last Sunday afternoon. Naturally, he was the main attraction of the gala afternoon which has become an annual affair for the K.C. members' children. Photo by George Braun

Jewish Services

Friday night services, Dec. 19 at Melzer School of Northwest Suburban Jewish Congregation of students of the second grade of the Hebrew School. The students will receive an insignia of the Ten Commandments from the Sisterhood, through its President, Mrs. Herbert Kligerman and from the P.T.C. through its Chairman, Mrs. Robert Slaw. Rabbi Lawrence H. Charny will direct the service and Cantor Milton Foreman, aided by the Synagogue Choir under the direction of Mr. Barre Marder, will chant the liturgy. Following the service, hosts at the Oneg Shabbat will be Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wenet, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Silverman and the parents of the Consecrants.

Students to be Consecrated include: Lawrence Kurlandsky, Jan. Levin, Bonny Pritikin, Terry Pritikin, Jeffrey Strauss, Howard Bernstein, Bill Burn-Ronald Chatter, Ronald Dicker, Robert Foreman, Anita Goldberg, Raphael Goldman, Alix Goodman, Bruce Greenberg, Neal Izaks, Sherry Miller, Roberta Piel, Ralph Ratskoff, Paul Reisman, Karen Robin, Joel Rubin, Allen Rutenberg, David Rutenberg, Larry Saver, Jack Bruce Swerdlow, Barry Talbert and Jack Zoldan.

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Maine '57 Reunion December 27

All members of the Maine high Class of '57 are invited to a Class Reunion to be held Dec. 27 from 8 to 12 p.m. at the West Park Field House, Western Ave., Park Ridge. Mr. Richard Van Sooyoc of the Maine industrial arts department, class sponsor, is making arrangements.

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Cuba-O'Shea Wedding



Judith Cuba, daughter of William and Mae Cuba, 8253 Odell was married to William O'Shea, son of William and Elaine O'Shea, 7636 Kedzie, October 25 at St. John Brebeuf Church. A reception followed was held at Freddie's Colonial House in Morton Grove. The couple, Maine High School graduates, honeymooned in the Ozarks in Arkansas. They are remaining as full-fledged Niles residents, having purchased a home in the Village. Photo by Selene Studios.

Lions Select Left Hand

The Niles Lions have selected two delegates and an alternate to represent them on the school District 71 Caucus. Angelo Marcheschi and Paul Alongi were selected as the delegates and Paul Saranicki is the alternate delegate.

The Lions had previously balked at sending representatives to this year's caucus meetings. Many members believed the school caucus groups is a political activity. They contend since the Lions is a service organization they should not become involved in such activities.

The opposing view contends there is no political activity involved. They believe that the representatives choose the school board candidates in District 71 which of itself is non-political.

This disagreement first came to light last year during the 1957 school board election. One newspaper had reported that the Niles Lions "endorsed" school caucus candidates for election. Many said this is contrary to policy and that there was no endorsement.

Furthermore, one school board incumbent, a Lion member, was not a selectee of the SCHOOL Caucus, and the members felt any such endorsement was unfair to the incumbent.

Christmas Party For Teens Friday Nite

The Niles Teen Dance Club annual Christmas Party, will be held on Friday Dec. 19th at the Bunker Hill Country Club, 6635 Milwaukee Ave., in Niles, instead of at the Grennan Heights Field House as previously planned. Due to the larger quarters, more free tickets will be given out to the Teens instead of the 150 that were announced earlier. Up to Dec. 17th, tickets may be picked up by the Teens, at the home of Mrs. Lou Schreiner, 8236 Osceola Ave. This dance is open to all the members of the club but admission will still be by TICKET ONLY. The dance will start at 8 p.m., and end at 11:30 p.m. (Parents please note)

Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded. Due to the holiday week-ends, there will not be a dance at the field house on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Don Eckel At Mer. Marine Academy

Cadet Donald R. Eckel, 4th Class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Eckel of 7902 N. Neva Avenue, Niles, is attending the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, Long Island, New York.

Don entered the academy in August, preparing for an engineering career in the Merchant Marines, but his appointment wasn't confirmed until the end of November, when Congresswoman Marguerite Stitt Church was notified.



Cadet Donald Eckel

Upon graduation, Don will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and a rating of Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. The entire second year of school the cadets spend at sea. Cadet Eckel is a member of the U.S. Merchant Marine Glee Club and Choir. He is a '58 graduate of Niles.

printer's ink was splattered across their headlines.

The paper is owned by State Representative Bill Carroll, a Maine Township resident. And while his paper favored the school bond issues in Niles Township, however, it didn't oppose them until after he was re-elected in November. And interestingly where he was most successful as a vote getter, in Maine Township, it was for the bonds. And where he received the least votes of four candidates, in Niles Township, it was against the school bonds... but it was against them AFTER election time. Twisting the phrase around... "politics makes strange fellows".

And where as Mr. Carroll is a Republican, he can't take the dubious credit for the organized resistance to the bonds. The Niles Democratic organization beat the drums at a feverish beat to defeat these issues. One school board member said he believed Democratic bigwig Dan Ryan is an active member of the Evanston Golf Club... if this is true historians may look back on our era as the age of the Russian sputniks and the American golf balls.

After the above it will sound like "Scrooge himself" is about to write: "A most happy holiday to you and your family."

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Named To University Executive Board

A Niles couple, Daniel and Betty Gajkovich, of 7622 Waukegan Road, has been elected to the executive board of the Roosevelt University Film Society for the coming year.

Mr. Gajkovich was also elected vice-president of the 150-member Society, which is currently celebrating its 10th anniversary.

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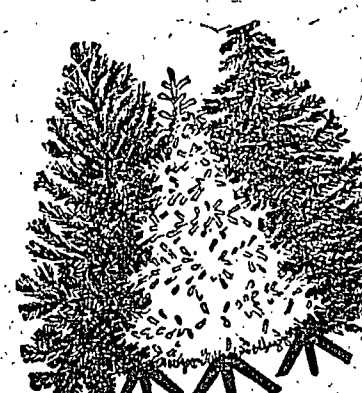
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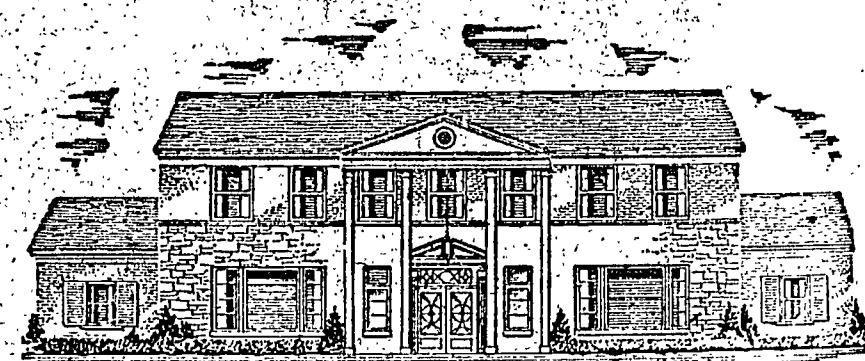
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GREETINGS



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Niles Barber Shop
ANGELO — NICK — JOHN
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Niles Car Wash
7969 Milwaukee

Niles Color Center
7950 Waukegan

Niles Fabrics And Gifts
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Quality Woodworking Co.
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Rosy-Bacci Marriage



Janet Rosy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rosy, 7516 Keeney, became the bride of Leroy Bacci, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Bacci, 7027 Grennan Place, October 25 at St. John Brebeuf church. A reception was held at Bunker Hill Country Club. The couple went on a honeymoon through the southern states and Florida. They are now residing at 7029 Main Street. Photo by Selene Studios

BOWLING

Standing of Dec. 11th, 1958			High Team Individual Game		
Won	Lost		Pratscher Construction	1089	
Atlas Tool Service	28	17	J. E. C. Inc.	1063	
Niles Plaza			Loma Acceptance	1056	
Delicatessen	27	18	High Ind. Series		
Acro Remodelling Contr.	25	20	Hank Teuscher	665	
Conoco	24 1/2	20 1/2	Herb Gunther	622	
Ken Johnson Contr.	24	21	Howie Duffy	611	
Dohl's Morton House	24	21	Carol Roberts	550	
Lincoln Petroleum	21 1/2	23 1/2	Eileen Friedrichs	495	
Lone Tree Inn	19 1/2	25 1/2	Marie Washburn	495	
Niles Drug	18	27	High Individual Game		
Di Maria			Ginger Troiana	243	
Morheiser Inc.	13 1/2	31 1/2	Hank Teuscher	239	
Ind. High Series			Carol Roberts	235	
John Wolff	647		Al Polcyn	233	
F. Fornall	579		Elenore Christensen	201	
L. Miele	579		Marie Washburn	200	
Ind. High Game			Grennan Heights Women's		
John Wolff	236		Bowling League		
Mike Christie	232		Standing of Dec. 11, 1958		
NILES MIXED LEAGUE			W	L	
Week Ending December 10, 1958	Won	Lost	Emrich & Co.	27 1/2	17 1/2
Acro Remodeling	27	18	Greenwood		
Pratscher Construction	27	18	Sewerage Co.	27	18
Loma Acceptance	24	21	Benade Cleaners	26	19
Jones & Niessen			Poeschl		
Insurance	23	22	Decorating Co.	25	20
Audette & Lopina	22	23	Bob's Drive In		
C. A. Olson & Son	21	24	Liquors	24 1/2	20 1/2
Anchor Edge	20	25	Norwood Builders	22	23
J. E. C. Inc.	17	28	Niles Plaza		
High 3 Games Series			Delicatessen	20	25
Pratscher Construction	3025		Pankau Drugs	18	27
Loma Acceptance	3000		Di Maria-Morheiser		
Anchor Edge	2952		Ent.	18	27
			Niles Color Center	17	28

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(1 block north of Oakton St.)
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Vicar, The Rev. Walter C. Klein,
Ph.D., Th.D.

Dec. 21st—Sunday

10:00 a.m.—Service and Sunday

School

Sermon — "Preparing For

Christ", Observing the 4th

Sunday in Advent

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Services

11:00 p.m.—Doors open

11:30 p.m.—Carols

12:00 midnight—Holy Eucharist

Short Sermon, Vicar Klein

Holy Communion, Vicar

Klein, assisted by The Rev.

Howard H. Hassinger, S.T.D.

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School Fire

(Continued from Page 1)

grim load. A pair of small spec-
tacles clattered to the floor.

These were the men who had
removed the bodies that were
still sitting in their places. In
their minds, forever, are gra-
vened the picture of 20, 24, 26
chaotized forms bent in dark sil-
houettes over their desks.

Pausing for a moment at the
Sacred Heart statue that over-
looked the events on the second
floor, one newspaper reporter
muttered to another, "If I were
a believer, this would certainly
shake my faith." He shook his
head.

His auditor shook his head too.
"I'm a Catholic," he said, "and
I don't feel that way at all. You
can't look at a thing like this in
that way." He kept shaking his
head. "Those poor parents," he
said. "Those poor parents."

Downstairs another reporter
leaned with us on the wall of the
grocery next to the school
watching the pathetically late
display of ladders, toothpicks
up an side wall to every win-
dow. "Think of the fathers," he
said. "They've been out of touch
with a radio, say. A guy comes
home, five thirty or so. His wife
isn't there. A neighbor, trying
to keep from crying tells him,
"The school burned down. Your
wife went to see it." "How?" the
poor guy screams. "When?" And
then it hits him: He doesn't
know if his kid is dead or
alive."

"Aw, shut up," another re-
porter says heavily.

"No matter what you picture
in your head, it's not as bad
as it really is. We've all got
kids. We all know how it could
be."

A tearful father, a man of 50,
tried to get into the school. A
friend or relative was restrain-
ing him, and two policemen help-
ed.

"I just wanna see the room.
I must see the room," he said.

"They identified his boy's
body at St. Anne's," his com-
panion explained to the police
who wouldn't let him in.

"He was 12," he kept sob-
ing. "He was so full of life . . .
he was a hockey fan, and Sat-
urday we were going to see the
Hawks play . . . He said I should
be sure to get mezzanine seats
. . . I can't understand why he
couldn't jump . . ."

"One father saw his son on
the edge," a reporter said. "He
kept screaming for him to jump,
but the kid couldn't. He fell back
into the flames."

Another reporter said, "One
of the kids has been talking. He
said the Sister said they should
sit in their places and say Hail
Marys, and this kid says he
yelled, 'The hell with that, Sis-
ter!' and jumped out the win-
dow with one other kid."

"Nobody'll print that," said
an older reporter. "Even if it's
true." He shuddered. "This sto-
ry is terrible enough as it is."

At the police station the lieuten-
ant was reading names. Pa-
rents and relatives thronged the
day room, hoping to learn where
they were thankful or be-
sated. Outside, one woman
knelt on the pavement.

From a public phone booth
a 35-year-old mother emerged.
They found him!" she said to

a woman who might have been
her sister. "Wonderful! The wo-
man said joyfully. "Where is
he?"

"He's dead," she said.

The momentary smile gave
way to a paroxysm of horror.

She clutched her hand to her
mouth, her eyes madly wide,
and then they collapsed in each
other's arms, moaning and
moaning and moaning.

The big, tough-looking father
identified himself as a truck
driver, and between sobs ex-
plained, "She was just a little
girl who went to school like oth-
er little girls . . . She just hap-
pened to be my little girl . . ."

Next morning the nurse led us
into rooms in which children
who had jumped and were feel-
ing up to it, could hold still for
picture. "We never thought An-
gela was so brave," a mother
marvelled, combing her daugh-
ter's hair. "I was pushed from

behind," Angela said. "I didn't
have to be brave for that."

"I just closed my eyes and
jumped," a pretty red head
said. "And here I am."

"Yes darling," her mother
said. "Now try to eat a little."

Behind a screen a smaller,
chubbier girl coughed and
coughed.

"The smoke," she said bet-
ween coughs, and pounding her
own chest. "I can't get rid of
the smoke."

In the hallway the nurse said,
"You know, we have a morgue
downstairs and last night it was
my job to lead the parents in so
that they could identify their
children. Usually I look the oth-
er way when something like this
happens, but I happened to be
looking at the both of them. This
poor little thing was all charred,
with her front teeth broken in,
and the mother became wild
and the father began to pound

his head on the wall so hard I
thought we'd have to restrain
him. Why? he kept screaming.
"Why? Why? Why? Then
he'd look under the sheet again
to make sure, and then he'd go
back to the wall. Luckily the
mother passed out and that gave
the father something to do. No,
I never want to see anything
like this again . . ."

She took a
deep breath. "There's a very
brave boy upstairs who had part
of his personal parts' burned
off . . ."

"And you know something?
All they wanted to do was give
blood. 'We wanna help,' one of
them said. 'We feel lousy about
this fire.'"

"At another hospital the recep-
tionist said, 'You know, last
night, while the poor babies
were in stretchers up and down
the corridors, these six mean-
looking kids with Elvis haircuts
and leather jackets came in. I
thought to myself, 'Uh oh, here
comes trouble.'"

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