

# Midwest Bits and Pieces

DECEMBER 1, 1991

## CHICAGO AREA SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Chicago area celebration of the Holy Cross Sesquicentennial, commemorating the arrival of Holy Cross in the United States to begin its mission, was held on Sunday, October 13, 1991 at Holy Trinity Church. His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, presided at the liturgy and Rev. Theodore Hesburgh gave the homily. Besides the local CSC presence, there were representatives from the Sisters of Providence, students, alumni and parents from local CSC apostolates and a good representation from Holy Cross communities in the Notre Dame and South Bend communities.

A special program had been prepared for the celebration. In it were the readings and music for the liturgy and a picture of Father Moreau. It also included a sketch of the beginnings of Holy Cross in France, the United States and Chicago and the seven CSC pioneer founders. Present CSC apostolates in the Chicago area are Holy Trinity High School in Chicago, Holy Cross High School in River Grove, and Notre Dame High School in Niles.

## BROTHER WILLIAM GEENEN RECIPIENT OF 1991 ANDRE AWARD



Brother William Geenen was awarded the "Andre Award" at the 18th annual Harvest House Festival on October 21, 1991. He was the third person to receive the award. The award, a bronze plaque, given by Catholic Charities and sponsored by the Midwest Province, is named after Brother Andre who spent much of his religious life ministering to the sick and elderly. Harvest House was founded by Father Putz, CSC.

Over two hundred people were present for the liturgy and award presentation preceding the dinner. At the award ceremony, Brother Roy Smith, local director of Catholic Charities, served as Master of Ceremonies. Brother Thomas Moser presented Brother William for the award.

Brother William is the founder of Senior Friendship Centers, whose main facility is located in Sarasota, Florida. His "People helping people" philosophy is the basis of an extended network of service activities for senior citizens. Senior Friendship Centers operates six large non-denominational facilities in South Florida.

## **N. D. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING INCLUDED HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERIES OF STAMPS BY POSTAL SERVICE**

On October 15 the U. S. Postal Service issued a postcard featuring the golden domed Administration Building of the University of Notre Dame. In remarks at the ceremony introducing the new postal card, Father Edward Malloy, President of the University of Notre Dame, reviewed some of the historical events connected with the Notre Dame Post Office. He noted that it was begun in 1851 and that the first postmaster was Rev. Edward Sorin, founder of the University of Notre Dame.

Holy Cross Brothers have been working in the postal service from the beginning. Several Brothers, retired postal workers, were present at the ceremony at which the new postcard was released: Thomas Balaz, Ramon Purzycki and Francis Meduri. William Vondriska also attended. Brother Donald Schapker continues the tradition of CSC employees at the Notre Dame Post Office.

## **AWARDS NIGHT AT ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL**

Brother Leo Geiger was named an honorary alumnus of St. Edward High School at the recent Alumni Recognition Dinner which was held on October 17. He was recognized for his thirty-seven years of service to the school. Mr. William A. Roediger was also named an honorary alumnus. Mr. Roediger, the first chairman of the St. Edward Board of Trustees, still serves on that body.

The Thomas Henning award was presented for the first time. It went to Mr. Steven R. Barry, Sr., a longtime friend and booster of the school. Four of his sons attended St. Edward's, including Brother Joseph Barry, CSC, who is presently Director of Campus Ministry at St. Edward's University. The award was presented to the Barry family since Mr. Barry was in the hospital. Brother Joseph Barry gave the response.

Several hundred alumni, along with members of the school staff, were present at the gathering. The enthusiasm and spirit of the group was very positive and carried over to the weekend when St. Ed's beat St. Ignatius in their annual football meeting.



## **BROTHER LEONARD SIWIERKA HONORED**

Brother Leonard Siwierka, Food Service Director at Moreau Center, a division of Boyssville of Michigan, was presented a special five year award for his work at Moreau Center by Brother Francis Boylan, Director of Boyssville, on October 22. Leonard has been at Moreau Center since it was opened. Prior to that, he was on the staff of Boyssville at Clinton, Michigan.

## HOLY CROSS INTERCONGREGATIONAL HISPANIC CONVOCATION

The Intercongregational Holy Cross Hispanic Ministries Committee will be sponsoring a Convocation at St. Marys/Notre Dame April 26 - 29, 1992. The theme will be "Evangelization in light of the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry."

There will be a major address by Dr. Jaime Vidal on the history of national parishes. There will also be workshops by Holy Cross religious on how they are trying to evangelize in their apostolic works.

All Holy Cross religious are welcome! There is no fee for the convocation. For more information, please contact John Korcsmar, CSC, 1111 Montopolis Dr., Austin, TX 78741. (512) 385-4333.

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

On Friday, June 12, 1992, the Midwest Province will hold its celebration of the Sesquicentennial of Holy Cross in the United States. The following day, Saturday, June 13, 1992, the Province will celebrate the jubilees of nineteen of its members who will be celebrating sixty, fifty, forty and twenty-five years of religious life. You may wish to put these dates on your calendar to insure your being available to join in these celebrations.

## HIS HIT PARADE

**SOUTH BEND** It's a cold October night on the Notre Dame campus, the brisk wind and rain conspiring to bring winter before fall has had its due. But in the clock tower of O'Shaughnessy Hall, in the tiny rooms that make up campus radio station WSND-FM, it's still summer. Cramped and poorly ventilated, the control booth swelters like an August afternoon.

Brother Pedro Haering, CSC, 68, sits behind the microphone, just as he has almost every Friday night for the past two and a half years as the host of "Words and Music, Remembered." The show has proved so popular that six months after its debut, Haering began a second show, "Performers of Our Times," on Sunday nights. Both programs dig deep into the pre-rock era of American popular music, an era dominated by song writers with last names like Berlin, Gershwin, Kern, Porter and Rogers.

The featured artist tonight is the Indiana-born composer, Hoagy Carmichael, whose best-known tune, "Stardust," written in 1927, is four years younger than the host. Just seconds past 8 p.m., the program begins. Artie Shaw's classic 1940 recording of "Stardust" wafts through the speakers, with Shaw's lyrical clarinet leading the way, gracefully turning upper-register pirouettes.



"Stardust", arguably the most popular song in history, has been recorded some 1,300 times, the most of any single piece of music. Any record collector who specializes in what many call the golden age of American popular music probably owns at least a dozen versions of "Stardust." Haering owns 11. That's approaching 10 percent of all the "Stardust" recordings ever made. That's astounding. But, then, that's Brother Pedro.

Look up the word "enthusiast" in the American Heritage dictionary and you find this definition: "One ardently preoccupied with a particular subject." Don't be surprised if the American Heritage people someday replace the words with a picture of Haering standing next to his more than 10,000 long playing and 45 rpm records, along with the card catalog in which he has painstakingly indexed the 60,000 vintage pop tunes encompassed by his collection.

"He lives, breathes and eats that music," says Adele Lanan, who, as assistant director of student activities at Notre Dame, oversees the operation of WSND.

After Shaw's "Stardust" concludes, Haering introduces tonight's program, the 125th edition of "Words and Music, Remembered." As usual he reads his opening words from a typed script; later, his between-song patter is ad-libbed, aided by a stack of index cards packed with detail about each tune.

His radio voice is the same as his speaking voice: a gentle tenor speckled with a hint of an autumnal rasp. He wears a lime-colored SHORT-SLEEVE SHIRT UNTUCKED. A Few drops of sweat trickle down his neck. His right hand taps compulsively on the table in front of him as he speaks.

"We are going to open with a few classic interpretations of Carmichael from the early '30's," he says. "The Boswell Sisters, on Sept. 13, 1932, recorded a forgotten Carmichael novelty called "Charlie Two-Step"; and that will be followed by Mildred Bailey, singing with the original Dorsey Brothers Orchestra, the first Carmichael/Johnny Mercer hit, "Lazybones," from 1933."

While the music plays, Haering talks about the origins of his new career in radio. Now retired, he was previously a math teacher and administrator at several Catholic secondary schools in the Midwest.

"I'm a little bit worried that this great music that we have, especially from say, 1930 to 1960, is generally squeezed out of public awareness, and those who want to hear this music have no recourse if they don't have the records," he says. "I don't want this music to be lost. I don't pretend what I do is going to keep it from being lost, but it's some sort of an effort in that direction."

Haering never considered becoming a disc jockey before joining WSND, though he had long wanted to find some way of sharing his massive record collection with an audience. After retiring in 1989, he wrote to radio stations nationwide that showcased his style of music and offered to write and produce the kind of programs he now does on the air. No one, however, took the bait.

At the same time, Haering discovered Ed Witulski's big band show on WSND. He liked the program, but noticed that Witulski could only fill about half of his requests. So he phoned him and offered the use of his record library. Soon, WSND manager Lanan called about

borrowing more records. When they met in person, however, she was amazed by the breadth of his knowledge and decided he belonged on the air.

"He was a little hesitant," she says, "but I told him, 'All you have to do is share what you know.'"

Fan letters began arriving within weeks of his debut. To date, there have been more than 100. According to station surveys, "Words and Music, Remembered" is the WSND's most listened-to program. (WSND, at 88.9 FM, can be heard in a 35-mile radius of Notre Dame.)

Haering houses his library and prepares his programs in his modest office at the Holy Cross Brothers' Center across U.S. 33 from campus.

Shelves of LPs dominate the room, running from the floor almost to the ceiling. Some 30 wooden chests of 45s rest against the south wall. There are two stereos in the room and maybe two score of books about songs, composers and musicians. A wooden crucifix hangs on the wall. Another wall boast a sign that reads, "God is Irish."

A few days after Hearings Carmichael program, he sits behind his desk preparing the next week's program -- movie songs from post-1950 that were not nominated for an Academy Award. Each program takes 12-15 hours to prepare.

He's surrounded by a fortress of 21 narrow boxes that hold his monumental card catalogue. Look up Cole Porter's "In the Still of the Night," for example, and you'll discover that it originally appeared in the 1936 movie "Rosalie" and that Haering has 47 versions in his collection, including those by artists as varied as Eddie Fisher, Ella Fitzgerald and the Ozzie Nelson Orchestra.

The files were begun in the 50's and took years to put together, though Haering says that all of the time he's put into his collection was vacation time. That's why he refuses to call his hobby an obsession: "It's not in the sense that it's taken away from my responsibilities. I never neglected what I was supposed to be doing."

He leans back in his chair, rests his crossed arms on his ample belly and recounts his biography.

He was born in Evansville. His father was a postman and when the Depression hit, his mother took a job making cake flour. There was food on the table, but little money for much else, including music lessons. Haering still can't read music, but that hasn't stopped him from penning his own alternate lyrics to dozens of standards.

He was introduced to music by neighborhood girls, who would gather across the street and sing the favorite ditties of the day. The red-letter date of his youth is April 20, 1935. That's when the Hit Parade began radio broadcasts. The 11-year-old was hooked. He'd track his favorites each week; and he'd curl up in bed and listen every night to the live remote broadcasts of such stars as Bing Crosby, Benny Goodman and all the rest.

He bought his first record player by saving three months worth of lunch money -- \$1 a week -- when he was a sophomore in high school. Now all he had to do was buy records, no easy task if you were poor. Columbia and Victor sides cost 50 cents a piece and their budget subsidiary labels like Decca and Bluebird were 35 cents.

"All the record companies put out pamphlets that listed everything they released each month," says Haering. "I knew everything that came out from those and what I heard on the Hit Parade, except I couldn't buy anything."

One day, Haering passed a jukebox shop, looked in and saw records stacked high on tables. He soon learned that jukebox operators sold used records -- many only four weeks old -- for 5 cents each, 25 for \$1. That's a price he could afford. By the time he graduated, he owned 1,000 78 rpm records.

Haering gravitated toward a teaching career because he was interested in working with young people. "The religious life," in his words, "was also attractive." Most of the teachers at Evansville Memorial High School were Holy Cross Brothers, and they were an important influence on the young Haering. So in 1941, he joined the order, beginning his religious education at Sacred Heart College in Watertown, Wisconsin, later continuing his studies at Notre Dame.

There was little time in those days for music. Students of the order were not allowed to listen to the radio, except for 30 minutes of news after supper. Of course, they were also permitted to listen to the Notre Dame football games on Saturdays: He heard the Axis lose and the Irish win.

He graduated in 1947 with a degree in math. The brothers moved him around quite a bit in the following years: He taught five years at the former Central Catholic High School in South Bend, before becoming principal at Indianapolis Cathedral High School. Then there were stints in Akron, Ohio, Cleveland, South Bend and Indianapolis. He returned here in 1980 to run the Holy Cross Brothers' infirmary until his 1989 retirement.

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It's now about 8:30 p.m. Friday and Haering's Hoagy Carmichael program is in full swing. As the music plays, Haering chats leisurely: "I usually say my favorite program is the one I'm working on," he says, responding to perhaps a too obvious question. "I always tend to favor what I feel is neglected -- like the songs of Harry Warren, who had more songs on the Hit Parade than anyone.

"If you say his name, everybody says, 'Who?' But if you start playing his songs, everybody recognizes them: "Lullaby of Broadway," "Jeepers Creepers," "You're My Everything." Haering continues, shifting the discussion to underrated lyricists like Leo Bobbin ("In Love In Vain") and singers like Joyce Carr.

At one point, while announcing several Carmichael songs, Haering tells his listeners that he's about to play a personal favorite -- a little-known unpublished tune called "Serenade to Gabriel." In this 1964 song, Carmichael speaks of old musical friends like Bix Beiderbecke, who had since passed away. Reverently, Haering quotes the lyric: "They say that every night way up in heaven, from 10 o'clock till 2, It's serenade to Gabriel time on station Who's Who..."

If there ever were a natural to someday spin records on station Who's Who, it's Brother Pedro Haering, CSC.

(South Bend Tribune, November 2, 1991).