

THE NEW ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL

June, 1960 - Construction of a two-room block and brick masonry separate school was scheduled to begin in the village of Maidstone, situated on No. 3 Highway, behind St. Mary's Church and St. Joseph's Convent alongside the cemetery.

The school will accommodate about 80 pupils. Tenders have been called by Pennington & Carter, architects, Windsor and a contractor would be chosen shortly. James Markham, school board chairman said the new school would help relieve over-crowding of other separate schools in the area. The school which will cost an estimated \$55,000.00 was to be ready for occupancy in September.

June 21st., 1960 - First sod turned on Separate School in the village of Maidstone will provide two classrooms. This is the first school located right in the village, heretofore children attended S. S. No. 5 & 8 located at the Six Corners

Pictures in the Star release was James T. Markham, chairman of the Maidstone - Sandwich South Area Separate School Board, Rev. J. P. Gleesen, parish priest and Edward Byrne, veteran board member officiating at the sod-turnign ceremony near St. Mary's Church.

Shepley Construction Company of Paquette had been awarded the \$46,200 contract to build the two-classroom unit. Also included will be a room for teachers and other normal facilities, and furnishings.

This brought to four the number of two-room schools constructed in Sandwich South Township this year. The other three were being built by the public school area board.

The new school designated as RCSS No. 5 Sandwich South would not be named until it was blessed by the Bishop. When completed it would give the board four schools. It was an alternative to an addition to No. 7, Sandwich South, a two-room unit on No. 3 Highway near Oldcastle. The other three schools are the three-room No. 2 Maidstone, near Pleasant Park and the No. 8 Maidstone at the Six Corners, also three rooms. Formerly No. 8 Maidstone was a Union School and was also No. 5 Sandwich South. The three existing schools gave the board eight classrooms with approximately 325 pupils.

Sept. 9th, 1960 - School in Sandwich South reopened on Tuesday morning with grades 5,6,7 & 8 being taught in St. Mary's Hall until the new school was completed. The other S. S. pupils are attending, No. 2, 5 & 8 and 7. School was being taught for Public School in the Townhall, Oldcastle until the new Frith school there is completed and Sandwich South Council met on Saturday and would meet again on Monday evening Sept. 19th.

January 6th, 1961 - The annual meeting of Union R. C. S. S. of 5 & 7 in Band. South and 2 and 8 in Maidstone Township was held in the new school in Maidstone Village on Monday evening with a nice attendance. The election of school trustees took place and owing to the fact that five trustees form the board, three new trustees were elected to the board with the former trustees, Ted Byrne and James Markham. The three new trustees were Gerrard McCarthy, Emmett McLean and Earl Cahill. Father Mackesy addressed the meeting.

Feb. 15th, 1963 - The finals in public speaking for Inspector G. Dwyer's inspectorate were held in St. Mary's Parish Hall, Friday, Feb. 15th, 1963 at 8 p.m. Contestants from six schools participated and the judges were Sister Louis Yvonne, Principal of St. Mary's Academy, Windsor and Sister Dennis and Sister Theresa who teach English at the Academy.

Representing St. Mary's School was Debbie Kettels who chose as her topic "Development of Out Space" and Margaret Collins whose choice was "Polluted Waters". Speaking for St. Malachy School was Chris Halford whose topic was "Canada 1967" and Maureen Waltz who spoke on "It Pays to Advertise" and for St. Joseph's School, Catherine O'Keefe who spoke on "Developments in Outer Space" and Gerry Whelan who spoke on "Electricity". Sacred Heart School was represented by Suzanne Maitre also speaking on "Development in Outer Space" and Edward Byrne with "Development of Northern Ontario. Katherine O'Keefe was the winner of these four schools. She was presented with a \$10 cheque from the Catholic Women's League and St. Joseph's School was presented with the public speaking award for 1963. These awards will be made annually by the Catholic Women's League. Katherine O'Keefe would represent the Inspectorate at Essex at the Dowsell School, Feb. 22nd. Katherine was also was invited to give her speech at the March meeting of the Oldcastle Women's Institute and was given an award as the Separate School winner in Sandwich South.

Mr. Dwyer spoke briefly congratulating all the contestants on the wealth of material assembled for these speeches, their ability to speak before an audience also and encouraged the participants to try again. Katherine is the daughter of the Raymond O'Keefe's of No. 2 Highway, Sandwich South.

THE NEW ST. MARY'S R.C. SEPARATE SCHOOL (CONT.)

June 18th, 1963 - ST. MARY'S TO BECOME 8 ROOMS was the caption in the Windsor Star What started out as the two-room St. Mary's Separate School here three years ago is likely soon to be an 8 classroom building. The addition would replace two of the existing schools. It will make St. Mary's a virtual Central School. A special meeting of ratepayer's from the four school sections approved the building program, which may cost from \$120,000 to \$150,000 as an alternative to repairing two other schools.

The two requiring repairs or replacement are S. S. No. 7 Sandwich South, the two-room St. Malachy School on Hwy. #3 between Oldcastle and Maidstone and S. S. No. 8 Maidstone, two rooms plus annex at the Six Corners.

Thomas J. Mullin, board secretary-treasurer said the two schools were repaired in 1951 and now the issue is whether or not it is advisable to spend more money on them.

The Architectural firm of J. P. Thompson Associates of Windsor has been retained to draw sketch plans. Various approvals are still required from governing bodies.

When the addition is built the number of schools in the area would be reduced from four to two. The older one still occupied will be No. 2 in Maidstone, Sacred Heart on Cene. 6, Maidstone, just off 98 Highway.

Ratepayers voted 40-25 in favor of the school addition. What is now know as St. Malachy School was originally St. Mary's but the name was changed when the new school was built near St. Mary's Church. New trustees were James Maricham, Gerard McCarthy, Frank Renaud, Earl Cahill and Neil Mullins.

August 27th, 1963 - Star picture release showed artist's conception of St. Mary's Separate School, Highway No. 3 at Maidstone after two additions are made. The centre, portion with the Name Plate is the existing two-room school with a four-room addition at right and two rooms at left. Contract for the job has been awarded H. T. Reams of Tecumseh. The contract estimate \$96,000. The contractor expects to complete the work at the year's end. Reams bid, well within estimates, was the lowest of 11 received by the board and considered with the architect, J. P. Thompson Associates.

February 19th, 1964 - There were nine speakers who competed in the Oratorical contest in St. Mary's School on Wednesday night. Veronica Megyrodny was the winner of first prize. Patricia Ann McLean, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Emmett McLean was second, and Katherine Bellaire, daughter of the Orville Bellaire's was third. Others competing were Marjorie Matture, Mary Lynne Allen, Barbara Lauson, Patricia Molnar, Nevla Apasiewicz and Jacqueline Wellwood. Veronica Megyrodny placed third in the contest on Thursday night in Amherstburg, and is the daughter of the Wm. Megyrodny's of Malden Rd., Sandwich South.

July 31st., 1967 - Tenders have been called for an estimated \$167,000 addition to St. Mary's Separate School for a second time.

Plans call for a new classroom, kindergarten room, playroom and library resources centre. Bids would be accepted by the architect, J.P. Thompson Associates, Windsor, until 4 p.m. Aug. 15th. The addition is necessary because the old Sacred Heart Separate School, No. 2 in Maidstone Twp. is to be closed and students transferred to St. Mary's.

It will be designed to blend with the existing structure. The exterior will be face brick and the interior exposed cement block.

The library will have both reference room and work area. The playroom will include dressing rooms and a stage. It will financed through long term debentures. It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of the year. The kindergarten would be the first in Sandwich South as there has not been those classes available before.

December 15th, 1967 - Work would be complete early in the new year, perhaps March on the addition to St. Mary's School. Precision Builders Windsor Ltd., is general contractor at an estimated cost of \$139,400.

Nov. 27th, 1964 - The pupils of St. Mary's School were successful in the 9th annual contest held in the past year by the Educational ABC's of Industry. Those who won prizes were: Sr. Project - Margaret Collins, \$5; Barbara Pike, Ronald McLean and Veronica Megyrodny each \$3; Patrick Mullin, Maureen Mullin and Jo-Ann Chittle each \$1; Jr. Project: Kelly Waltz, Stephen Palamear \$4. Lionel St. Louis, Mary Flanndon \$2; Ronald Mullin and Robert St. Louis each \$1; Essay Contest - Jacinta Revenburg \$1 and special prize for excellence, a set of four silver speons. The school won a prize of \$20.00 for the work sent in on the different projects.

The Educational ABC's of Industry is designed for use in the schools and is available only to teachers. A teacher orders a free book for every pupil in the class. These industries sponsoring pages make the program possible. The purpose is to afford an opportunity for students to gain an insight into the way in which the different

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industries operate, and fits mainly into the Social Studies area, although hand-writing plays an important part.

July 22nd., 1965 - On June 24th at the home of the Wm. Mogyorody's of Malden Road, their daughter Veronica hosted the "Last Roundup" of the grade 8 class of St. Mary's School, Maidstone.

The party was presented western style with ponies to ride, games and dancing. Barbequed hamburgers were served and Veronica treated her guests to her prize-winning "Texas Pecan Pie". There were 22 graduates, brother Kevin, grandparents and her Uncle George present. They burned down a replica of the "little red school house".

June 25th, 1965 - St. Mary's School graduates who were graduating from St. Mary's Academy, Windsor, were: Elizabeth Sexton, daughter of the Ralph Sexton's, Miriam Mullin daughter of the Tom Mullin's, Gemma Revenberg, daughter of the Gerard Revenberg's.

Sept. 29th, 1967 - Among the 200 students of Essex High School on a 4-day trip by C.N.R. to Expo-67 were: Ed. & Tim Flood, Michael McCann, Randy Sexton and Ronnie Wayne Holland.

January 12th, 1968 - Delbert Taylor was appointed Truant Officer for the public and separate schools in the township for 1967 at a salary of \$250.00.

January 19th, 1968 - The combined Board of the Roman Catholic Separate Schools of Maidstone and Sandwich South Townships on the 20th day of Nov. 1967 passed By-law No. 2 to authorize the borrowing of money by the issue and sale of a debenture of the said Board in the principal amount \$180,000. 1. - The purpose was the construction and equipment of an addition to St. Mary's School located at Maidstone, consisting of one classroom, 1 kindergarten room, 1 library and 1 gymnasium. 2. The debenture is to be dated Sept. 1st, 1967, is to bear 6½% interest per annum, payable semi-annually, on March 1st., and Sept. 1st. in each year from 1968 to 1987.

Dec. 19th, 1968 - Essex High School students were collecting canned goods to assist needy area residents at Christmas. Steve Palencar, 16 of R. R. 1, Oldcastle and son of the Steve Palencar's who operate the Oldcastle Cold Storage was in the Star picture release helping to collect the goods to be distributed by the Essex Salvation Army.

April 24th, 1968 - The 4-room addition to St. Mary's Separate School at Maidstone, adjacent to St. Joseph's Convent and St. Mary's R. C. Church on No. 3 Hwy. was officially opened Sunday evening, Apr. 23rd., with R. J. Ryan of Windsor, area Supt. of Separate Schools as guest speaker.

The \$180,000 project was designed by J.P. Thompson Associates and constructed by Precision Builders Ltd., Windsor.

Mr. Ryan said "the educational picture is a rapidly changing one", and stressed the necessity for "better teaching facilities and improved programs".

He was joined in the dedication ceremony by Board chairman, Geoffrey Cainen, School Principal, John Armaly and board members, James Markham, Charles Quinlan, Dominic Bissonnette and Sylvester McGuire, Jr. Future plans call for the area adjacent to the school to be asphalted and the play area at the rear to be filled and graded.

Mr. Cainen disclosed that the board had purchased an additional 2 acres of property to allow an enlarged outdoor play area. The school now has a total of 10 classrooms, plus a physical training centre. Enrollment is near 325 and it is a central school drawing its pupils out of Sandwich South and Maidstone Townships by bus.

Parents who attended the opening were taken on a tour of facilities.

April 8th, 1968 - 36 Essex District High School students were trying to re-adjust to the English language after returning from a 4-day exposure to French. The students, as part of an annual exchange with students from Victoriaville, Que. spent four days last week living with French Canadian families. "Their English was much better than our French", said one, "but it was a ball". Cathy Bellaire, daughter of the Orville Bellaire's of the village was pictured in the Star release arriving home. 36 French students then visited here from Quebec on Apr. 19th. Among hosts from St. Mary's School were Theresa McCann, Sally McGuire and Hiedi Haas.

June 30th, 1971 - Smiling with retirement plaques in hand were Sister Mary Helen, Sister Mary Alexandrine and George Kir, who were honoured at a retirement party held by the Essex County Separate School Board at the Rendezvous Tavern the evening before. Sister Mary Alexandrine has been teaching for 49 years. She served five years as Principal of St. Mary's School, Maidstone and latterly for three years was librarian at the same school. St. Mary's Separate School is the only remaining Separate or Public elementary school left in the township of Sandwich South.

Jan. 27th., 1967 - Twelve pupils of grades 7 and 8 at St. Mary's School, Maidstone, held their Public Speaking Contest sponsored by the Ontario School Trustees' and Ratepayers' Association, Friday, January 27th, in the parish hall.

Participants were Tim Beaudette, who chose as his topic, "The Great River"; Sylvia O'Neil, "Red Cross"; Lawrence Kennette, "The Honey Bee"; Gerald Eyraud, "Stamp Collecting"; Erika Kolbrich, "The Solar System"; George Molnar, "Vaccination"; Deborah Palencar, "Life Beyond The Earth"; Lana Jobin, "Nursing"; Mary Plamondon, "Manpower Retaining"; Joyce McLean, "Citizens of Canada"; Ronald Bissonnette, "The Great Fire of London and Cathy Seguin, "Canada!

These pupils are to be commended on their efforts and each one deserved to be a winner but regulations require the judges to select only three winners; namely, first, Erika Kolbrich; second, Sylvia O'Neil and third, Gerald Eyraud. Judges were Mr. Furlong and Mr. Charrette, teachers of the Essex District High School, and Mrs. James Markham of Maidstone. Erika will represent this district in the Elementary School Contests, also her name will be engraved on the St. Mary's school plaque, presented each year to the winner, by the Catholic Women's League. The contestants were awarded prizes by the School Board and St. Mary's Parish Council, of the Catholic Women's League, Maidstone. Erika, also gave her winning speech to the March meeting of the Oldcastle Women's Institute and was given a cash award.

(98) SCHOOLS OF SANDWICH SOUTH (CONT.)

THE NEW ST. MARY'S SCHOOL (CONT.)

Oct. 9th, 1968 - The new secondary-elementary School Board which would come into effect on January 1st, 1969 would have 16 members, 11 from the present public school areas and 5 from the Separate. There would be 12 members on the combined Separate School Board. Elections would be Dec. 2nd., 1968 following nominations on Nov. 18th.

Seeking the seat on the combined Separate School Board, representing Sandwich South-Colchester North was Geoffrey Cainen of Oldcastle. He was on the interim committee for organizing, and wants to be on the School Board he is helping to create. He has lived in Oldcastle $3\frac{1}{2}$ years moving here from Windsor and resides in the former John Beer home on No. 3 Highway. He is manager of the credit department of John Wyeth and Bros. Pharmaceuticals. He has four pre-school children and is chairman of St. Mary's School Board.

Also Harold Wellwood, Jr., 47 of Hwy. No 3, Oldcastle a close neighbor of the Cainen's announces he is a candidate to represent the Separate School supporters of Sandwich West- Sandwich South on the new County Secondary School Board. Mr. Wellwood is father of 7 children and a 27-year employee of Ford Motor Co., Ltd., Windsor, where he has been a supervisor for 18 years and presently is a communications co-ordinator. Well known in Windsor and area sport circles as a former coach, referee and league executive in hockey and basketball as well as for the leadership in Catholic youth groups. He is a member of the Sandwich South Community Centre Bd. for the past 8 years. Both these candidates lost out at the polls.