



ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL SKIRMISHER



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Cornerstone Laying Ceremony Held



THE CORNERSTONE IS PLACED — The cornerstone for the new academic-administration building at St. John's Military School is guided into place by Bob Kastner, former SJMS trustee and chairman of the cornerstone committee, and William Baxter of Busboom and Rauh Construction, general contractors on the project. The cornerstone will provide permanent shelter for the lead box, below, which contains numerous items of historical significance. The new building replaces Vail Hall, which was destroyed by fire a year ago. (Photo, courtesy of The Salina Journal)

SJMS Cornerstone Contains Various Items of Interest

The cornerstone of the new academic/administration center contains the expected and the unexpected.

The expected -- historical items noting famous dates in the School's history; and the unexpected -- a little cash, bonds and stocks.

Bob Kastner, chairman of the Cornerstone committee and a nine-year member of the Board of Trustees, designed, constructed and donated the special waterproof lead box. He also acted as master of ceremonies during the ceremonies at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27.

The historical items included articles on the opening of the 1887 cornerstone, an 1887 historical sketch of the School and stories about the fire which destroyed Vail Hall where the new academic center is being constructed.

Money Included

The cash included a \$100 Savings Bond, 30 Susan B. Anthony dollar coins, a U.S. dollar bill, two U.S. \$2 bills and a gold krugerrand -- a one ounce coin whose value has been soaring in recent weeks.

The Savings Bond was donated by the 1979-80 Board of Trustees and was presented by G.W. Nicholson, Chairman of the Executive committee.

The silver dollars and dollar bills were donated by SJMS staff members. The gold krugerrand was given by the 92nd Corps of Cadets and was presented by Scot Greenidge, the Battalion commander of the 92nd Corps.

A \$100 bond at Homestead Savings and Loan was donated by Max Montgomery, a junior Cadet. Five shares of Kansas Power and Light company stock were given by the SJMS National Honor Society. Making the presentation was Mark Bassett, NHS president.

Other donations by the Kastner family were a 1976 Bicentennial Mint set and a 1979 U.S. Mint set.

Cadet Insignia Given

Cadets, representing the present Cadet Corps through the 101st Cadet Corps, presented a miniature of the School ring, a cap crest, "old boy" shield, collar insignia, captain's buttons, rank shoulder board, SJMS shoulder patch and Mule-skinners patch.

Items from the filming of the Warner Brothers movie were included. They were a scrap-

book of clippings, the original script and autographed photographs of the stars.

A heart pacemaker, an example of 1979 medical technology, was also placed in the box.

Medallions and brochures from the Brigadier program, Mule-skinners and Foundation were also presented.

Autographed pictures of the President of the United States, the Governor of Kansas, the two Senators from Kansas and the Congressman from the First District were all placed in the box.

The Episcopal 1928 Book of Common Prayer and the 1976 Proposed Book of Common Prayer, and the Order of Service and Institution of the Dean of Christ Cathedral, Salina, are also contents of the box. The new Dean of the Cathedral was installed shortly before the cornerstone ceremony.

Historical Items

Items of historical interest placed in the box were the 1979 yearbook; School catalog; 1979 Commencement program; newspaper clippings and pictures of the razing of Vail and Griswold Halls; the 1979-80 issues of The Skirmisher; the



PRESENTS BOND — Cadet Max Montgomery gives a bond to Mrs. John Fonck and Bob Kastner to be included in the cornerstone of the new administration/academic building at the School.

Foundation Elects Officers

James O. Cox, Steamboat Springs, Colo., was elected president of the St. John's Military School Foundation at its meeting during Parents' Weekend, Oct. 26-28. Re-elected as vice president was Mrs. B. Cecil Bassett, Pierre, South Dakota.

New members elected to the board of directors were Robert Martin, Broomfield, Colo.; Mrs. Patricia Sparks, Parker, Colo.; Kenneth Mausolf, Englewood, Colo.; Mrs. Kate Sweeney, Dallas, Tex. Re-elected as board members were Lt. Col. V.B. Loy, Salina; the Rev. Paul M. Snider, Tracy, Calif., and Dr. Jack Twombly, Boulder, Colo.

Carryover directors are Lt. Col. R.L. Guernsey, Salina;

Chester Hopper, Weeping Water, Neb.; Leonard Lewis, Dodge City, Kans.; F.F. "Mike" Lynch, Wichita; Larry Proctor, Casper, Wyo.; Mrs. Susan Ratcliff, Lakewood, Colo., and Erik Ringjob, Boulder, Colo.

The Foundation made a three-year pledge of \$50,000 in the "Bridging the Gap" rebuilding program at the School.

Observe Veterans Day

The 92nd Corps of Cadets participated in the Veterans Day observance held at Memorial Hall, Salina, Nov. 11. The Corps also marched in the parade before the community service.

SJMS history, 1887-1963 with the history update, 1964-1978; the tape recording of the opening of the 1887 cornerstone and the 1887 historical sketch of the founding of SJMS, removed from the original cornerstone.

A copy of the first "Kansas" brochure, featuring a story about St. John's was included. Miniature Kansas and United States flags were placed in the box.

Future Plans

Looking toward the future, a brochure of the rebuilding decisions, a copy of the construction contract and an engraved plate bearing the name of the general contractors were inserted in the box. The archi-

tect plans for the new center were presented on microfilm.

State officers and 11 local Masonic officers conducted the official cornerstone laying ceremony.

Cadets Give Corner Contents

Various items of School insignia were placed in the cornerstone box. Cadets participating were Carl Millberg, 92nd Corps; Thomas Marelli, 93rd Corps; Scott Martin, 94th Corps; Mark Mausolf, 95th Corps; Mark Lawrence, 96th Corps; Daniel Todd, 97th Corps; Robert Hamilton, 98th Corps; Daniel Branson, 99th Corps; Scott McCurrach, 100th Corps and John Austin, 101st Corps.

Old Boy Hopes New Walls Will Mold Men

(Editor's Note: The following remarks were made by "old boy" Bill Meidell during the cornerstone laying ceremony, Oct. 27. Meidell is a member of the Class of '54 and president of the St. John's Old Boys group.)

Last night, as I sat in the stands and listened to the cheers of encouragement and the cries of anguish as the Corps was soundly defeated by the opposition, I was taken back to Commencement of this year.

I was sitting in nearly the exact place in the grandstand on Perkins field. One of the speakers mentioned they felt the outer walls of Vail and Griswold Halls refused to fall until they heard taps one more time. I looked again just to see that mighty building again. An eerie feeling swept over me. I guess for the first time, I chose to believe she was really gone.

The punishment and abuse she had withstood over the years died with her. Many attempts had been made to fell her, but she resisted. She saved so many within her walls why could not someone have saved her. Oh, the stories she could tell, the secrets she held. The memories, hopes and dreams of all those fortunate enough to have been a part of her were all gone. She would never again hear the scurry of feet going to classes, the clatter of typewriters, the joyous sound of laughter ringing through the halls, the sound of music from some cadet's room playing his favorite record. And not the least of which, a homesick boy crying in the night trying desperately to be a man. She fought two world wars, two military actions, depression, recession, and yes, even an anti-military movement. She stood proud and tall against the Kansas sky, against all odds, but in November 1978, fate chose to take her from us. She will, however, live on these grounds, if only in spirit.

My hope is that the very soul of her existence will be absorbed by this new building, to carry on the traditions and expectations of the faculty, parents, alums and future cadets of this great institution we all love.

May these new walls be as strong and powerful as the ones we knew before. May they mold the young men of the future as Vail and Griswold Halls did for us in the past.

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Fire Date Observed

The first anniversary of the fire that destroyed Vail and Griswold Hall was remembered in a Cadet Assembly at 7:45 a.m., Nov. 6 in Armstrong Chapel. Staff members and Cadets told of their feelings on that day.

Following is the prayer given by the Rev. Roy Molander during that assembly.

Eternal Father:

Out of the horrors of war have come peace and hard-earned freedom;

From the ashes of many dreams have come the fulfilled hopes of people all over the world; From the broken body of the

Stranger of Galilee has come our hope of eternal life.

From the tragedy that struck our School a year ago today already you have guided us into renewed purpose and dedication.

Bless us today and in the future as we seek to live together with purpose, as your children.

Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

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Montgomery Heads First Honor Roll

Max Montgomery headed the honor roll at the end of the first grading period. Others named to the roll with averages above 90 were Thomas Marelli, Gordon Snider, Shawn Goforth, Richard Fawcett, Randy Mitchell, Truls Ringkjøb, Kevin Price, Dan Jones, Eric Erickson, Tim Shive, Paul Unterweger, Carl Millberg and Rick Makoski.

Earning honorable mention were Robert Haught, Scot Greenidge, Chris Zorn, Mark Bassett, Scott Dark, James Foster, Oudy Wall, Vincent Raetz, David Blair, Dan Martin, John Wright, Martin Hopper, Chris Johnston, Mitchell West and Jon Hyde.

Petree Heads Lower School Honors List

Steve Petree headed the Lower School honor roll at the end of the first grading period. Others named to the roll were Harry Buck, David and Scott McCurrach.

Earning honorable mention were Marshall Wilson, Matthew Bratton, Tes Melton, Robert Herzog, Tom McMahon, Greg McCann, John Nicholls, William Hickok and Dan Todd.

Cadets Enroll In Honors Class

Students in the College Prep English class are enrolled in the High School Honors program offered by Kansas State University. Two undergraduate credit hours may be earned in the program.

Mrs. Amy Hoffman, English teacher, said, "We are attending the Humanities series which is coordinated and moderated by KSU faculty with guest speakers from throughout the United States conversing directly over Telenet with the high school students. Speakers will represent the fine arts, popular arts, architecture and film."

The sessions are held six Tuesday mornings this fall at Kansas Technical Institute. In addition to attending the session, students are assigned

Chapel Services Set

Services in Armstrong Chapel have been set up to Christmas furlough. The Rev. Roy Molander, Chaplain, will hold Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m., Nov. 28; Dec. 5; Dec. 12 and Dec. 19 and at 11 a.m. Dec. 9. Holy Communion will be celebrated by the Rev. Scott Kirby, St. Francis Boys home, at 11 a.m., Dec. 2 and by the Rt. Rev. William Davidson, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Kansas at 11 a.m., Dec. 16.

★ OLD BOYS CORNER ★

Class of 1970 . . . Billy J. Harrington Jr. was recently promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the Air Force. He is stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines and is assigned to the 33rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron as a helicopter pilot on the HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopters. He and his wife, Fran, are the parents of a girl, Mary Frances, born Oct. 10. They also have a son, Michael Jerome, 2.



A FIRE TRAINING EXERCISE destroyed the old shack at the corner of Santa Fe and Otis across from the main gate of SJMS. "Old Boys" will remember the "We Ripe Planks" and "Planks Riped" signs of its former owner, the late Harlan Johnson. The new owners granted permission to the Salina Fire Department to destroy the building in a training exercise for new firemen.

relevant readings as background and will prepare five papers - four critiques and one research.

Cadets participating are Mark Bassett, Scot Greenidge, Dan Hofer, and Carl Millberg.

Grading Periods Set

The first grading period ended Oct. 5. Other grading periods will end on Nov. 12, Jan. 12, Feb. 22, April 11 and May 16.

Pictures Taken

Senior portraits and individual pictures of Cadets, faculty, staff and administration were taken for the yearbook, "The Sound-Off", Oct. 15 and 16 in the Clem Library. Pictures of various groups, athletic teams and clubs were also taken.

Commandos Drill, Practice

"The Commandos" are a special drill unit and Color Guard of Lower School Cadets being trained by Lt. Col. Paul H. Kellogg, Commandant.

Drill practices are held three times each week at 3:15 p.m. in the backyard of the duplex housing the military and academic offices.

The young Color Guard presented the Colors at the Lower School football game and the Homecoming game. Members of the guard were Harry Buck, Raymond Cleaver, David McCurrach and Robert Hamilton.

The "Commandos" are now in rehearsal for a special program to be presented before Christmas furlough.

Furlough Begins

Cadets left campus following classes Nov. 16 for a week-long furlough observing the Thanksgiving Holiday. Classes will resume, Monday, Nov. 26.

To Attend Ball Game

The entire Corps of Cadets will attend a Marymount Spartans basketball game Jan. 12 as guests of the local college.

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AUCTION ITEMS — — Displayed are a few of the items sold during the second annual benefit auction, Oct. 27, at Big John's Steak House. Viewing the items are Bob Kastner and Mrs. Donna Vanier, chairman of the event.

Movie's Statues Sold at SJMS Auction

Statues used in the Salina filming of "The Brave Young Men of Weinberg" went from their film pedestals and onto the auction block during the second annual SJMS Benefit auction.

A variety of items were sold at the SJMS Foundation sponsored event at Big John's Steak-house.

Preliminary figures show that the auction raised \$14,500 exceeding the amount raised last year according to Mrs. Donna Vanier, Chairman.

The statue of the fictional Gen. Sheldon Weinberg was sold to Chester Hopper, Weeping Water, Neb. Mr. Hopper donated the Weinberg statue to the School for use in a museum or lounge.

Another statue of the founder of the Butch Military Academy for Girls was still being used on the movie set, but it was auctioned to John Q. Royce, Salina. It will be autographed by the movie stars and crew.

"Old Boy" Gets Miss Dyke

A white full-size statue of "Miss Dyke", of Miss Dyke's Academy, that was not used in the movie, posed seductively with hand behind head, with knee parting her Grecian robe. It was autographed from head to toe by the stars and crew and was purchased by Danna Vanier for her husband, Jack.

A one-week stay in a Palm Desert, California condominium brought in the largest amount of money. Mr. and Mrs. Craig Roberts paid \$650 for the holiday donated by Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Nicholson, McPherson. Mr. Nicholson is chairman of the SJMS executive committee.

Auctioneer Joe Mendicina kept the bidding brisk and the prices soaring during the sale. An old light fixture from the remains of Vail Hall sold for \$15, a case of assorted wines brought \$140 and a makeup and hair style session with experts from Warner Bros. studios went for \$150.

A Weinberg Academy flag used in the movie went to Mrs. Evelyn Cory, Russell. She is the mother of a Cadet.

Other items auctioned, all donated, included photos of Vail Hall framed with wood salvaged from the ruins, a pheasant feather wreath, a trip for two to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, a cocktail party for 40, several dinner parties, paintings, antiques and hand-crafted afghans and quilts.

A Scandinavian embroidered tablecloth, made and donated by Mrs. B. Cecil Bassett, sold for \$500.

Cadets Attend Dramas

Sponsorship of Cadet groups to attend plays and dramas in Salina is being provided by Lt. Lee Hoge, Lower School teacher, and Chris Shively, Art instructor. Different groups have attended "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Dracula" at Marymount College.

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Thank Offerings Given in Chapel

Thank Offerings were received during the Chapel Service Wednesday, Nov. 14, sponsored by the Chapel Council. Truls Ringkjøb, Council president, said the money will go to the Episcopal Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Hunger.

Used postage stamps are being collected. These will be sent to the Salvation Army which sells them and sends the money to help feed the starving in Bangladesh.

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★ PROMOTIONS ★

A number of promotions have been made by special order since the last issue of "The Skirmisher".

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PLATOON SERGEANT -- Shawn Goforth.
STAFF SERGEANT -- Greg DeBuhr, Gordon Snider.
SERGEANT -- Terry Fihaley.
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS -- Patrick Gist, Chris Johnson, Greg McCann.

Art Cadets Attend Seminar

A seminar on photography was attended by 10 Cadets Oct. 4 at Marymount College.

The program was divided into three parts -- a showing of award winning films; a lecture by a Warner Brothers photographer and participation in making an animated film.

Bill Sherman, Greg DeBuhr, Tom Marelli and Chris Zorn shot 18 feet of film which took two hours to get one minute of animated film.

Other Cadets attending were Shawn Goforth, John Wright, Truls Ringkjøb, Tom Bowler, John Slater and Brian Flynn. Ms. Chris Shively is the art teacher.

Young Cadets Learn Tennis

Beginning tennis skills were taught to eight Lower School Cadets by Ms. Chris Shively, SJMS Tennis coach. The Cadets learned basic skills and scoring in the eight weeks of practice and intra-squad competition.

The players challenged one another to arrive at the first, second and third place awards.

Tommy Smith was the first winner and David Griswold, second. Play is continuing to determine the third place award. Other players were Marshall Wilson, John Austin, Bobby Plummer, Bob Herzog, Scott McCurrach and Danny Branson.

Cadet Court Elected

The Cadet Court for the 1979-80 school year has been elected. Lt. Col. Scot Greenidge, Battalion Commander, is the chairman.

Court members, elected by their companies, are Mark Bassett, Matt Minson, Carl Millberg, Scott Martin, Martin Hopper and John Williams.

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— THE SKIRMISHER —

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MISS SJMS

Hanna Spitze, Littleton, Colo. was named Miss SJMS-Homecoming queen Oct. 27. She was sponsored and escorted by her brother, Mike. Other contestants and their sponsors and escorts were Theresa Bridgewater, sponsored and escorted by John Weatherman; Renee Paret, sponsored by Richard Fawcett and escorted by Max Montgomery; Michelle Foster, sponsored and escorted by her brother, Jim Foster; Bea Makoski, sponsored by her brother, Richard, and escorted by Scot Greenidge and Shauna Waddell, sponsored by her brother, Erroll, and escorted by Mike Hill.

Cadets Enjoy Activity Room

The Activity Room in Parkview Hall is a bee-hive of activity most of the time. The room was the idea of the Lower School director, Capt. Gerald Woody.

The SJMS Foundation purchased a color television and TV games. The room also features a large aquarium and a variety of wildlife including snakes, lizards and toads.

Cadets in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades have made trips into the country searching for lizards, gophers and toads to feed the bullsnake.

Mrs. Lillian Faerber, Lower School office manager, says it takes the snake about an hour to consume a gopher but that the snake is then satisfied for several days.

An area of the room has been set aside for art and craft projects such as designing linoleum block prints and building models. Mrs. Jack Vanier donated a paper cutter to the room.

Cadets Howl On Halloween

Pizza, prizes and fun were enjoyed by the Cadets at the Halloween Howl, Oct. 3 in Nichols Dining Hall.

Best costume awards in the Lower School were given to John Austin, Eugene Heathman and William Hickok.

Upper School winners were Jeff Straub, Shawn Goforth, Greg Pringle and Scot Greenidge.

Prizes for the bingo games were cakes and cookies furnished by wives of SJMS staff members. A fish pond also yielded many prizes.



"KAZ" LEADS THE WAY — Ron Leibman, perhaps better known as Emmy Award winner "Kaz", leads a squad of St. John's Cadets in a march across Perkins Field for movie filming. In "The Brave Young Men", Leibman plays the role of Major Liceman, the school's executive officer. (Photo, courtesy of Nancy Hamilton, movie publicist).

Film Takes

"Getting a break" in a major motion picture can seem like the dream of a lifetime. The four young actors who play Cadets in the Warner Bros. movie, "The Brave Young Men", know the thrill of being tapped for their first movie roles.

Last summer, the four New Yorkers, Wendell Brown, 14; Tom Citera, 15; Ralph Macchio, 17 and Hutch Parker, 16, were appearing in TV commercials and making the rounds of casting offices, never dreaming that they would meet in the fall on a movie set in Salina, Kans. The movie set is, of course, the St. John's Military School campus.

Ian Wolfe, who will be 83 this month, plays the commandant in the movie. His lined face and fringe of silver hair are instantly familiar to movie-goers and TV watchers. But, like so many character actors, his name is not as well-known as his face. He has been in more than 200 movies and 145 television productions—his latest are "Angie" and "Taxi".

One of his early roles was in "Mutiny on the Bounty" starring Charles Laughton as Captain Bligh and Clark Gable as Fletcher Christian.

★★★★★ Movie Filming Highlights ★★★★★

Warner Brothers purchased tickets for the 92nd Corps of Cadets to attend an exhibition basketball game between the Kansas City Kings and the Milwaukee Bucks professional teams in late September at the Salina Bicentennial Center. Members of the cast and crew purchased tickets for the Cadets to attend the Shrine circus in Salina and acted as hosts for groups of four or five Cadets.

Production manager for "The Brave Young Men", Ira Loonstein has enough problems to cope with without having a broken leg. But Loonstein will be returning to California with his leg in a cast. It happened like this:

The crew of the film was engaged in a softball game against members of the Salina Police Department, for which Jan Saylor doubles as an officer and hard-sliding base runner. "I was playing third base,"

Loonstein explained, "And this lady (Officer Saylor) slid right into me. She hit me pretty hard and I thought I had wrenched my knee."

However, X-rays at the St. John's Hospital emergency room revealed a fracture of the left leg, meaning Loonstein now has "props" of a cast and crutches.

And besides that, the cops won the game.

Lt. Col. Paul H. Kellogg, SJMS Commandant, was to play the role of the "goalie" for the faculty soccer team in the movie. But he never had a chance to star, as he suffered a leg injury in pre-filming practice. Warner Bros. provided him with a golf cart which gets him around campus in "rapid" fashion.

The decorations for the SJMS Homecoming Dance were created and installed by the set

designer of Warner Brothers, Mary Swanson. A dance sequence is a part of the movie. . . so the decorations were put up a few days ahead of schedule for use at the "real" SJMS Homecoming - Parents Weekend dance.

Most faculty and staff members at SJMS have had special roles in the movie or have been "extras" in the crowd scenes. Col. Keith G. Duckers, President, played himself. He was visiting head of St. John's Military School attending Parents' Day activities at Weinberg Academy.

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Members of the Weinberg Academy faculty soccer team were SJMS staffers, Scott Haviland, Bill Bunting, Donald Martin, Larry Mattison, Charles Speilman, Kelly Rudolph and Jimmy Wyatt. Playing "Weinberg" parents were R.L. Guernsey, Lee Hoge, Louis Lyda, Larry Lysell, Mrs. Dorene Rietzke, Mrs. Mary Ann Rupp, Christine Shively, Mrs. Lois Trump, Mrs. Nancy Swisher, and Gerald Woody.

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