

Six C.S.M.C. Representatives Enjoy Visit To Notre Dame

By Erma Fiste

Everyone loves to go to conventions, but no one likes to read about them.

That's why this story is going to omit all the doings of the 3,500 Catholic Students Mission Crusade (CSMC) workers who attended the 13th national convention held August 26th through the 29th at Notre Dame university.

The Big Six

Instead, this story will concern six U.D. members who migrated to the South Bend, Indiana, campus to attend the sessions: Joan Hull, Joanne Monaghan, Max Monaghan, Lois Kappeler, Al Neff, and Fr. John P. Finke, S.M., moderator of the U.D. CSMC group.

Al volunteered the car for the trip. . . . "The Neff Steamer", as it was affectionately called. Every 30 miles or so, it would cough up a cloud of steam to let us know she was still with you.

Neff Didn't Sleep There

New arrivals to the campus were herded off for registration. When Joan Hull and Al Neff found out they were roommates, they started some serious investigations and righted the mistake. (She had taken over Dan Palmert's ticket when it was found he couldn't make the trip).

In the shuffle, Father Finke lost his rabbi (clerical bib to the uninitiated). It was replaced, and the group was ready to eat . . . after the girls had "freshened up a bit". By the time the girls had "freshened up", the other delegates were nibbling their toothpicks and the waiters were stacking the chairs. The meal was over and they had missed it. As Father Finke put it, "We practically had to roll up the sidewalks to get a snack."

Barefoot Boys From Baltimore

Dress comfortably, they told the representatives. A few even attended the lectures barefoot. (Members of the Baltimore clan . . . the hometown of the blushing Father Finke.)

Lois Kappeler had an ambition . . . to meet a real, live Notre Dame football player. She met not only one but the whole team, which wasn't a bad fete since the ratio stood at 2.5 girls per fella.

The Coveted Paladin Jewel

Financial resources were pooled to purchase the highest award given to CSMC members — the Paladin Jewel . . . a symbol of outstanding achievement. The group moaned, "We could only get four, but each delegate receives a certificate."

It would be sorta nice if people liked to read about what was accomplished at conventions . . . like the five priests and nuns each having at least five years experience in mission work, from five different parts of the world, who pleaded for the aid of young people in work abroad . . . or the stirring words of Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen who spoke on "World Watching."

Honor U.D. Delegate

The daily paper prints a paragraph reading, Joanne Monaghan, sophomore in fine arts, was one of two delegates elected to the national executive board for CSMC. The only other laymen on this board are two representatives, each from a high school and veterans unit. Joanne is serving her second year as president of the U.D. CSMC.

But what people really like to read about conventions are stories about how Father Finke "looked" like he ran Notre Dame and, on this basis, got a suite of rooms and a stream of puzzled boys with questions tramping to his room all four days!