

Our many friends will be glad to know that the Garnier Arena is actually a dream come true. Its purpose is to be more than an Ice Rink. If we look back a little thru the years when 150 boys crowded into a small Recreation Hall (50 ft. x 75 ft.), where the playing of Basketball was carried on in a space filled with posts, where other games were out of the question, where on rainy days, the boxed up group had to mill about and wait for the rain to be over. But now we see a well-built rainproof building where 4 basketball games can be played at the same time, where box-lacrosse may be played, where a group of 100 junior boys from 6 years upwards may race around on a rainy day and still have plenty of room, then we realize the full purpose of the building. This indeed is the prime purpose of the building . . . a year-round large gymnasium for the Sundays, Saturdays and Thursdays that come so regularly and constitute the holidays for the School.

The Arena will have for its purpose too in other than Winter Season for our fellow citizens of Spanish who have shown such interest in it. We hope that the same young valiants who are aspiring to be other Rocket Richards under Mr. Pat Marrin's excellent direction and the guidance of the other town hockey mentors, will take the same interest in basketball and the other sports during the dull Spring season. There could be tennis or badminton for the older people . . . for there is an asphalt surface below the present ice surface.

Right now the purpose of our building is that of hockey and more hockey. There are 16 intramural teams at the Garnier School, plus 3 teams picked from the Public and Separate Schools from the town of Spanish. Besides these, there is the Spanish town team which plays host to outside teams, and also the Juvenile team from the School which competes in the Juvenile North Shore League with Blind River, Massey and Espanola Juniors. There are 3 Skating nights a week for the town, and also afternoon sessions for the children of the town. We do not have to prove further to what good purpose the Arena serves. People for miles around come to skate and watch games and enjoy themselves. The hopes of everyone who wanted the Arena are best fulfilled in watching the smiles and happiness of the skaters who fill the Arena

Prefect at the time had plans drawn up by a well-known architect. The result would have been a wonderful gymnasium, but the price would have been 3 times the cost of the present Garnier Arena. Father Hannin began to advocate the building of a rink on the Hipel line such as Blind River had just built. Being a hockey fan himself and knowing from his years of prefecting here on rainy days how necessary something in the line of an Arena was, he kept on inquiring.

In September, 1950, Father Barry, now Minister of the School, began to put on a drive for the building. Due to circumstances the project was delayed, but the end of November, 1950, the building got under way. When people talk of the "House that Jack built" they mean this rink, and they mean Jack Trowbridge. He and all of his men, mostly from Spanish, worked under the toughest of conditions during December and January. Our own boys come in for a large share of praise for they too worked alongside of Jack and his men and did yeoman service. Over and over again we were told by Jack, his crew and other men who worked on the building how impressed they were by the working ability of the boys . . . they were really interested in seeing such a building as we have now.

One feature that impresses visitors is the roof. Many of the Hipel Arenas in this area have only an aluminum covering on the superstructure, whereas our building has wood sheeting, roofing paper, and then aluminum. With this we have the guarantee of a rainproof gymnasium in the Spring and the Fall. Since the sides are insulated the same way, it will not be difficult to heat the whole building in the damp seasons for indoor games.

The girls from the Girls' School played their part in canvassing the surrounding towns for funds for the Rink. Good Father McKenna supervised this work along the North Shore. The history of the Arena takes in a lot of people but special thanks are due to Mr. Jack Trowbridge and all of his co-workers, especially Leo Landriault and Herbie McCormick, who worked with Jack from the start to finish. We are grateful to Mr. Bill Trowbridge, Jack's brother who no doubt would have worked on our Rink had he not been too busy building the Chapleau Rink . . . Bill truly was immensely interested in the undertaking. Again there is another man to whom we owe our everlasting

measure to Carl, so all we can say is many many thanks Carl, Jack and Bill for a wonderful job.

Indeed the history of the Rink takes in a lot of people but the writer of this sees two people chiefly responsible for the undertaking, two people who could have given up in the face of discouraging weather, shortages in lumber, in nails, in aluminum, in everything that you can mention . . . except courage of which they needed a lot and found somehow . . . our hats of to Father Barry and Jack Trowbridge for a grand job well done.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

Back in 1863 the Holy Cross School for boys and the St. Joseph's School for girls were begun in Wikwemikong and Manitoulin Islands; they were boarding schools for Indian boys and girls . . . about 60 pupils in the combined schools. By 1913 there were some 70 in each school. A bad fire demolished the Girls' section. It was due to this and other reasons that the staffs of Holy Cross and St. Joseph's decided to move to Spanish and set up their Schools for Indian children on the North Shore (of Georgian Bay. It was more central, nearer to Highways and Railways; land was available and cheap, the location was healthy. Pupils could come from northern, eastern and southern parts of the Province much more easily to this central location.

When the School began in these parts, it was named after Charles Garnier, one of the first missionaries to this country, a member of the now nationally-known group called the Jesuit Martyrs of Canada or the Canadian Martyrs. On the bell that for years called the boys from the playing fields or from work, there was inscribed the name of the new school—"Collegium Garnier." Somehow or other over the years the school received other names. At one time the school chapel was dedicated to St. Peter Claver and the school for several years became known by that name. Finally the original name was revived and so today the school goes by the name of Garnier. The 70 boys have increased to 180; the 70 girls to the 160 as of today.

Something that strikes us all at Garnier is the fact that all the people along the North Shore are by no means indifferent to the progress of the Indian children, but rather are very interested in them.

and loud for the kid in hockey has the right to be proud of having had a hand in encouraging the same boys and girls to a good place in life.

FINANCIAL STATUS

On seeing the Arena many people pop the question "How much did it cost?" How did you finance such a project?" The best way to answer these questions is this: we got all the breaks all the way; that all the people with whom we had dealings as regards the Rink were most co-operative . . . we owe them many many thanks.

The Arena cost approximately \$30,000.00 in cold cash. It was only the breaks and the co-operation of many that kept the cost down to that level. The chief breaks came from the McFadden Lumber Company of Blind River who supplied us with well over 100,000 ft. of lumber at a very reasonable price and the McNamara Construction Company of Toronto, who installed an asphalt floor for a song. The work that our own boys did, along with the favors granted to us by these two companies saved us a lot of dollars. We cannot thank them enough.

The Federal Government of Canada through the Indian Department helped us to the extent of an \$8,000.00 grant; The Province of Ontario grant amounted to \$5,000.00; and private donations amounted to \$2,000.00 have kept our current debt down to \$15,000.00. Our very grateful thanks are due to all of these donors.

There were others who assisted us through money contributions, through free labor, through the free use of their equipment. We cannot name them all but we feel that we should publicly acknowledge at least a few of these benefactors for often they favored us in more ways than one.

Blind River:—The Highway Department, G. H. Lowry Roy Nickle, R. B. Fraser, Chas. Lediett; J. J. McFadden, Rev. J. Benoit, P.P., Brooks-Lapointe Motors, District Services, John Menard, Tom Nash, C. E. Smith, Bud Gillespie, Ernie Shaughnessy, F. Y. W. Braithwaite.

Thessalon:—Hon. John Fullerton, M.P.P., Rev. M. B. Flannery, P.P. Mr. and Mrs. J. Abbott, Dale Gridale, Jerry Murphy.

Walford:—Joe Whalen, Marshall Harmon, Art Hartwick.

Massey:—Max Diotte, Chas. Thornton, Joe and Ray Sadowski.

Espanola:—The KVP Co. Ltd., B. F. Avery, John Hartman, Ernie Marsden, Bill McLaughlin, The