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# ST. JOHN'S INDIAN SCHOOL

LAVEEN,  
ARIZONA









Our bazaar queen this issue is a Navajo, Miss Lorraine Yazzie from Fort Wingate, New Mexico. Altho here only three years Lorraine has endeared herself to the entire school by her friendly personality and genuine interest in all school affairs. On the left is Verna Kuwanhoyioma in her Hopi costume, and she, like Connie Mendoza, on the other side of the Navajo rug, is a junior at St. John's and wears her native Papago costume. All three are charming girls, and each a credit to the school.







This monastery was built in 1908, and was practically new when Father Bonaventure came to St. Johns in 1910.



Nell and Jimmie provided dependable transportation for Father Bonaventure over many desert roads.

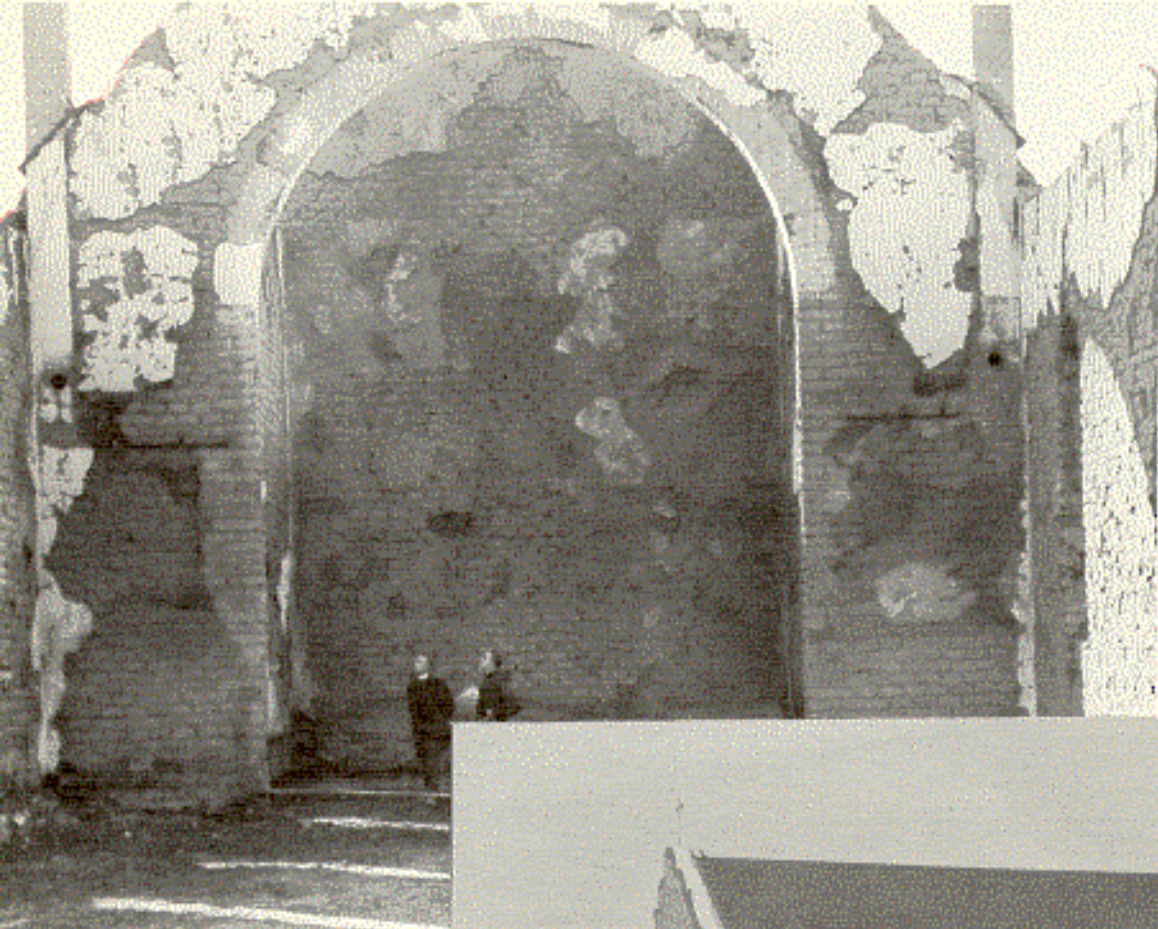


Pima house and family. One of many next to St. John's Mission and school.



Father Bonaventure's car in a not uncommon situation—showing that at this time the horse was man's best friend. Many Indians use horses as a second automobile. Some even as a first!





**BEFORE**

and . . .

**AFTER**

the fire of

. . . 1922

Church built by  
Father Justin Deutch

Church built by  
Father Justin Deutch



Bishop Gercke of Tucson with students and staff of St. John's, around 1925.





#### FR. JUSTIN DEUTCH

He came in 1901. When he departed 17 years later, he left behind him dormitories, a convent, a new church, a dining hall, and an enrollment of about 500 children. This priest, tireless and farseeing, left on the school a deep and lasting impression.



Pima girls weaving a diamond design in this rug which will be size 6'x9'.



## HOW!

Would you like to help our AMERICAN INDIANS?

I feel I can help them by sending (check one):

1. One dollar — whenever I can spare it ..... ☐
2. Ten dollars — when the mood strikes ..... ☐
3. Twenty Dollars — now and then —      now ..... ☐  
                                                                                          then ..... ☐

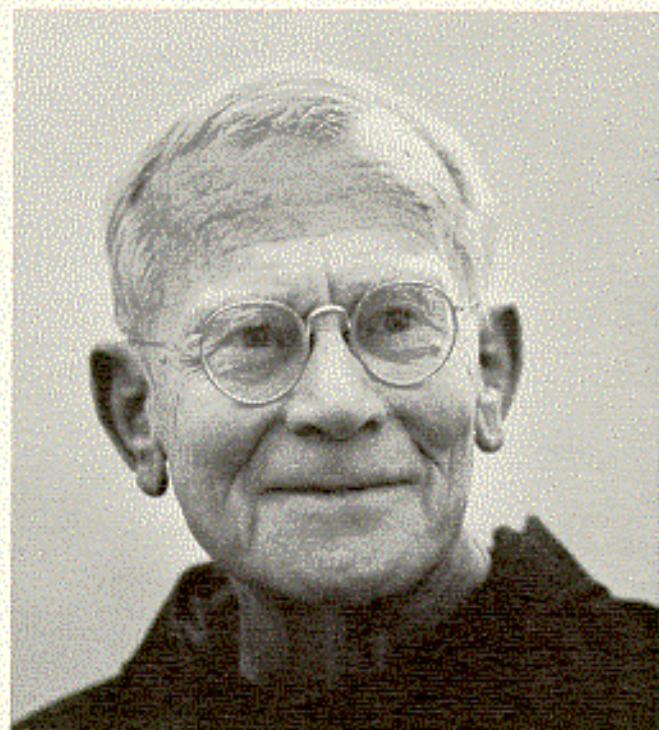
clip out or copy this coupon and send with donation to:

**St. John's Indian School and Mission**  
 c/o Superintendent  
 Laveen P.O.—Komatke Village  
 Arizona 85339



If you should be visiting in Arizona feel free to come on out for a visit to St. John's Indian School, on South 51st Avenue, 6 miles south of Baseline Rd. This School, run by Franciscan friars and nuns, has under instruction about 10 tribes of the Southwest; it is easily reached by car, about 17 miles south and west of downtown Phoenix, on the Gila-Maricopa Reservation. Our phone number is 276-8500—in case you get lost!





**FATHER BONAVENTURE OBLASSER O.F.M.  
MISSIONARY — HISTORIAN**

The year 1967 saw the passing of a much-loved priest, who had labored for many years among the Indian of the Southwest, Father Bonaventure Oblasser, and who was buried at one of the missions he was instrumental in founding, Topowa. Fr. 'Bonny' was also instrumental, thru his benefactress, Mother Catherine Drexel, in initiating the missions of Topowa and San Miguel. He will be greatly missed both in the mission field and the historical. A gentleman and a scholar!



Community House at Topowa

Burial  
spot of  
Fr. Bona-  
venture at  
Topowa. ➤



Father Bonaventure with Father Gerard — 5 —





Our entrance sign on Fifty-First Avenue, south of Laveen about five miles, under the Estrella Mountains, in Komatke Village - - -

The new sign can be seen for miles.



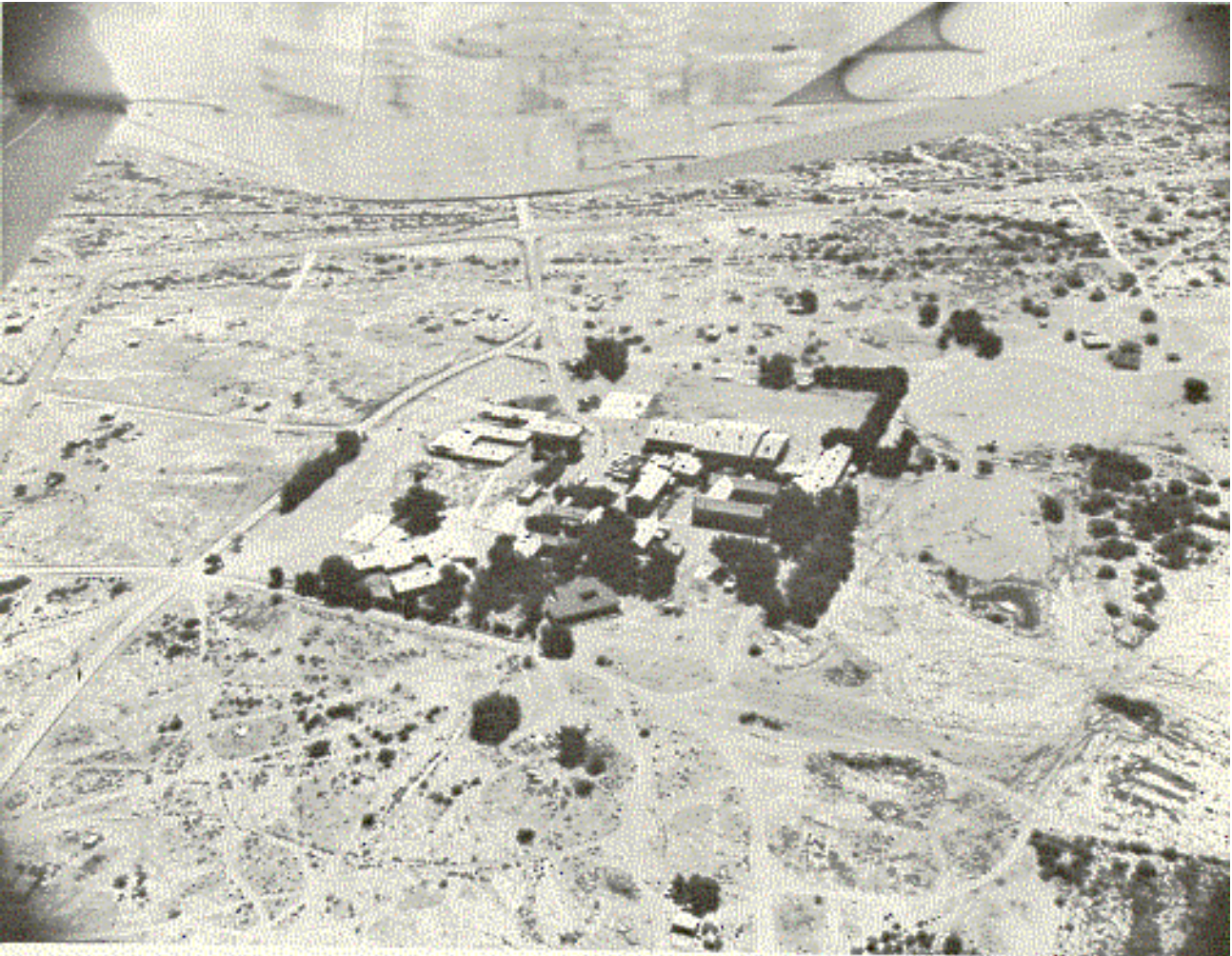
As you enter St. John's grounds you see first the high school on the right, then the office on the left. The office is both H.Q. for the mission and school, and, the monastery. This is where our tour begins . . .

Then comes —  
— 6 —



— The High School of Saint John's Indians





### ST. JOHN'S TODAY

The above photograph shows St. John's as it is today, still in the process of renovation and of adding new buildings.

St. John the Baptist Mission and School was founded in 1896. In 1967 it celebrated its 70th birthday. During this life span it has educated at least 15,000 Indians, of all tribes. Alumni of the school are spread through the United States, and many former students have grandchildren here now.

The Indian has changed much since Fr. Novatus Benzing baptized his first Pima in 1896. More and more the Indian is becoming identified with western culture. Yet he still retains the richness of his own Indian heritage: his intimacy with nature, his extraordinary patience, his devotion to family, his belief in the democratic process, his artistic sense, his deep faith.

If the Indian has changed much over the years, so has St. John's. As these pages tell, it is now a modern school with over 400 students. The high school department, started in 1943, and now accredited, is graduating students into professions and trades of all kinds. It is helping the Indian to rear good American families and to become first class citizens in a modern world.

The members of our staff are grateful to the many friends by whose generosity these doors remain open. They also remember the labors of the pioneers who have given the school such a wonderful past. But we must still say in the words of Saint Francis, "Until now we have done nothing. Let us then begin to do something."





The new all-purpose building contains dining rooms, kitchens, gymnasium, modern movie equipment, recreation rooms, a fine stage and dressing room, and showers for the teams. Many a tournament is rounded off in this gymnasium, and countless movies have been enjoyed here.



Our chapel, shown earlier in this volume, still is in use from the early days of the mission. It is the place of worship of the students of the school as well as being the Komatke village church. It has been ecclesiastically modernized, and is fairly comfortable, but hopes are for a new one in future.





The girls' dorm with its own cactus garden houses several hundred girls, under aegis of Sr. Daniel.



Above is the new Home Economics wing, complete in all details; also a new biology lab, waiting for equipment will be contained in this building, designed by resident architect, Brother Fidelis Miller.



After 60 years the nuns will now have a NEW convent, complete with central patio, modern heating and cooling systems, here we see left Sr. Eudema, Mother Edna, Mother Agna, and Sr. Mary Mark inspecting the new edifice before its completion—builders: Lang Construction Co.



In this Indian Room Sr. Eudema offers to the public the arts and crafts of the Indian people, beadwork, jewelry, leatherwork, et al.



And inside, the girls' dorm is as cozy-looking as outside (left above); Observe the neatness!

Below is the high school and library building.







And here come the students — anxious to start classes in September. Well, at least to play football PART of the time, as you can see from their helmets. They even brought two coaches!



Crafts play a vital part in the schedule of Indian education. Ed Chicarello and Pascal Casey began work on war bonnets almost as soon as school convened this year. Leather and bead work are also produced constantly. Pottery next year.



The new Home Economics Building under Sister Sheila's able hand is turning out seamstresses.



... and here you see the results as Eleanor Toya, Jaquie Laws, Eunice Lewis, and Virginia Chico model the evening gowns they made to wear at the Junior-Senior Prom in May. Beautiful Indian maidens, all.



And here we see Brother Fidelis, designer of the Home Ec. Bldg., breaking ground with superintendant Fr. Solano, and the builders, Lang Construction Co.



Home Ec. Bldg. rises from the desert.





In the high school we find Fr. Solano teaching Religion . . . and . . .



And here is a do-it-yourself history course underway, apparently . . .



. . . Fr. Walter dealing with Physics . . .



ABOVE—Phonics comes in for its day in the sun while below left we find Mr. Rea's class investigating the mysteries of Raven land in the S.W.



11 while, again, we find him with a student "collecting" specimens for historical project he has afoot.





A new Fine Arts Dept., has brought honors to St. John's. Prize winners Roy and Pascal display their latest paintings.



Here the typing class is put thru its paces by Sr. Josephine, an able instructor.



Mr. Ryberg advising geo-politically here.



Here students are taught the rules of the road, and, so far, they 'look' innocent.



And here they invade the library to 'study'? ?



Our newspaper, the "THUNDERBIRD", and yearbook, the "CRUSADER," absorb many students' hours throughout the year.



Far end—Tony, Norma, Benny, Regina, report to a Student Council committee, on the Indian Education Conference at ASU in March. President Joe V., (R) presides.



Fr. Walter talks over the future with Ed Valley & Mark Chino, seniors, about to go into the world.



# SAINT JOHN'S PRESENT STAFF



## Top Row

Mr. Tom Fennell, secondary teacher, yearbook  
 Mr. Joe Lamer, assistant coach  
 Sr. Leona, elementary teacher, Arts, Crafts  
 Mr. Brad Morse, choir, music, subst. teacher  
 Sr. Shiela, Homemaking, Home Economics  
 Fr. Justin, high school principal, sec. teacher, and  
 J.V. coach  
 Mr. Dewey Jackson, assistant cook and coach  
 Br. Fidelis, maintenance, architect

## Second Row

Mr. Robt. Earhart, secondary teacher  
 Mr. Sylvester Matthias, gardener  
 Sr. Thelma, secondary teacher  
 Mrs. Phyllis Giff, secretary  
 Mr. Tom Scribner, varsity coach  
 Sr. M. Mark, superior of nuns, primary teacher  
 Br. Ernest, dean of boys

## Third Row

Sr. Edelma, secondary teacher, librarian  
 Sr. Veronica, primary teacher  
 Sr. Carol, primary teacher

## Bottom Row

Sr. Daniel, dean of girls  
 Sr. Paschalita, primary teacher  
 Miss Becky Kalka, girls' coach  
 Br. Bonaventure, secondary teacher  
 Fr. Solano, superintendent, sec. teacher  
 Sr. Josephine, secondary teacher  
 Mr. Robt. Ryberg, secondary teacher  
 Mrs. Agnes Kalka, cook, laundress  
 Br. Martin, secondary teacher

## Not present for pictures

Br. Bernardino, cafeteria, dancers, publicity  
 Mr. Rios Andrews, truck driver  
 Br. Daniel, maintenance  
 Miss Eleanor Jackson, primary aid  
 Mrs. Rema Jay, primary aid  
 Mr. Walter Kalka, maintenance





Opportunities for a varied experience at St. John's are offered in the ranks of the Drum and Bugle Corps, seen here in action, and in the Indian Dance group.



Our status as members of the secondary schools association of the A.I.A., mandates that we have a P.E. course, and here the boys are 'one-two-threeing.'



Mike shows Cliff the intricacies of taking pix for the yearbook—an all-year job . . .







The dancers are often called upon to entertain visiting dignitaries. Here the boys chat after having performed for Hubert Humphrey at South Mountain in Phoenix.



The Drum and Bugle Corps, which has 70 members, acts as honor guard at Home-coming games, participates in rodeo parades throughout Arizona, here acts as honor guard for Bazaar Royalty.



One of the big attractions and a major support of the school is the famed Indian Room Trading Post where handicrafts of all major S.W. tribes are on sale. Come visit our salesroom.



At Sun City our fair Indian maids don their tribal costumes and have a fashion parade for 5,000 people. In the spring a fashion show was held at St. John's. Pow Wows also see many splendid outfits making their appearance on the gym floor.



Barbara and Stephanie Dazen are two of a long line in one family to attend St. John's. Here they appear in Apache costume before a performance of combined members of the Drum and Bugle Corps and the Indian Dancers in the gym.





#### SAINT JOHN'S DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

Composed of boys and girls from many tribes, this Drum Corps has become nationally famous. It has won a half dozen Grand Sweepstakes, and, trophies without number. Appearing in colorful hand-made costumes, the band is applauded and cheered wherever it goes. The Corps was begun in 1950 by Father Rupert Hannar, and is now directed by Brother Ernest and Buddy Ball.





Here boys from three tribes, Ray, Ron, Gabe, and Leander join forces to make music for school dances. They pose under a wren apartment house on the desert.



Homecoming decorators ready the goalposts.



While the night of the Homecoming game sees competition among classes for the best float . . . and . . .



the Drum and Bugle Corps parades in all its glory at half-time to honor the Queen — seen below:



Homecoming Queen Doris Juan and attendants Ellen Emith and Marilyn Lopez pose with Crusader captains, Pat Rubio and Hadrian Terry at crowning time at 'the' game of the year.



Our cheerleaders, Lois, Celia, Priscilla, and Marilyn C., always 'out in front' by day or night, are seen here at Sells game.



"Ich nicht spreche Indianner!"

Bro. Bernardino director of the Indian Dancers, chats with dancers, Mike, Eddie, and Pat before a performance.



At left are seen the St. John's famous Indian Dancers as they change planes in Frankfurt, Germany, en route to keep a week's engagement for the U. S. Army in Berlin where they danced for thousands of Germans, as they have danced for thousands of visitors to the State of Arizona, here for conventions from all over the world. In the summer they dance at the Franciscan missions in California, Disneyland, and Knotts Berry Farm. During the school year they perform also for rodeos, private parties, March of Dimes drives, and here at St. John's at Bazaar Day, the third Sunday of March. The students make their own costumes, and practice long hours a day.



Ancient ceremonies still occupy a large part of the festivities and rites of the Apache. The direction seems toward a meeting of the ways between the pagan heritage, and, Christianity. In these days of religious integration the Apaches are showing us that in praying for good crops in the Crown Dance, seen here, they are really invoking just one God—The Great Spirit.





Benny Lupe and Crispin Alchesay look into the future.



Sebastian Mendez, a real whizz with the hoops, looks all wrapped up in his work, but you should see him 'unwrap'. This is a dance of real skill, always popular.



The entire Dance Group with Bro. Bernardino above.



Two summers ago the dancers performed at Jacob's Pillow in Lee, Massachusetts with Ted Shawn, with whom they are posed above—the tour included New York, Canada, and Oklahoma.



Mike and Larry do a Double Eagle Rain Dance . . . Dance . . .

BELOW—Sterling Manuel displays his bead-work.







Benny Lupe, Mike Dazen, and Pascal Casey caught in the Superstition Mountains where the group performed for the Dons Club of Phoenix.

BELOW—Typical scenery, not far from St. John's Ind. Sch.



Sebastian and Roy relax in the pool at the Westerner Motel in Tucson after a performance at the annual Rodeo there.



Pat wields his tomahawk, defending his wikieup —







Urban Giff, now a major in the U.S. Marine Corps, is shown here with Father Walter Holly, addressing St. John's student body on matter of



Indian education, and says that to succeed they must work hard. Sally Pablo, Urban's sister (above) is a good example of this; now in college, she has great plans for her future and for her sons'.



A frequent visitor to St. John's, a good friend, and the nucleus of a string of backers of the school is Wayne Newton, T.V. star. Shown here with Superintendent, Fr. Solano.



And here the Ladies' auxiliary of the village church, (also the mission and school church) confer on matters extra-ecclesiastical.



As the village community hall is the scene of festivity where school and village meet at feats, the



school activities, games, and bazaars are attended in turn, and boosted by the villagers. (Marge, Joanne)





The impact of Anglo culture against Indian cultures produces many conflicts. Some Indians never adapt, most do, and there are many who embrace Christianity.



some even entering the Orders—as above—Sr. Juana Clare, formerly Emily Jose, Papago; and Sr. Victor, formerly Jeanette Kinlicheeny, of Navajoland.



Bishop McCarthy confirms in St. John's chapel assisted by Brothers Martin, and Bonaventure, and the bishop's secretary, Fr. O'Brien; on right, Fr. Solano, superintendent, and Joe Giff of Komatke preparing the next confirmer.

Brother Bernardino's Knights of the Altar pose for the camera. Tirelessly, these boys serve all year long at mass in the school chapel.



Father Solano Haugh, O.F.M., Superintendent of St. John's Indian School, Laveen, Ar., offering mass, available daily to all students of the school, and to the village.

The religious atmosphere is always in the ascendency at St. John's, and from the ranks of her students come nuns who were once students here, and who want to serve their own people as dedicatedly as they can.

BELOW—is Sister Pascalita, whose home was in Whiteriver, Arizona. She is a sister of Mary Riley, shown on the bazaar page. We got her to pose with her gradeschoolers — and don't they look cute? They are from the village of Komatke and come in every day, staying for lunch and going home at schoolout each evening.

We hope for more vocations from among our Indian people. Pray for them.







This year Mr. Robt. Ryberg and Sr. Marlene coached a group of fifteen of our students to enter oratorical contests at ASU and Flagstaff, et. al. All scored heavily over 67 other schools. Here Tony Ramon and Vince Thomas are seen trophyed and medalled for their part in the winning team, with Sister and Bob.



ASU plays host to the A.I.P.A., each year, and here is St. John's contingent learning what the rest of the schools are doing in Journalism around the state. Mr. Fennell snaps students studying conference activities, for posterity.



Fertile imaginations are apt to take an introspective turn, as they did just before Good Friday, where they sprang this 'pieta' on an unsuspecting campus, depicting all the sins of humanity crucifying Christ.



Every year the schools of Arizona hold their Student Council convention, many hundreds strong. Here Joe, Pres. Laurice, and Andy pose at Westwood High, host to 100 schools, where we, with others, learn about self-government.



And would you believe John Ramon in 'Indian' garb at the same Halloween shindig? Easter sees another frolic, so does Xmas, complete with party by the Friends of Saint Johns, a marvelous group, behind much good done here at school.





Our football team plays a hard and long season in the B-West Conference. We may not win them all, but we make a try at it, and this is what counts in the end. Baseball team produces, too.



'Chico' and Benny relax from the ardors of having their picture taken for the Yearbook.



Mark Chino makes a try for discus distance, while at right the 440, and mile races are started, and run, respectively.





The main-line FIVE posing



With their feathers and Mohawk haircuts showing, the boys get ready for another season. Don't they look mean — huh!



The action-packed pages—24-25, we think, show the fine calibre of boy attending St. John's Indian School. These and other students come from the Southwest tribes of the Papago, Pima, Apache, Hopi, Navajo, Pueblo and Maricopa People, and are learning to live in two cultures simultaneously, an extremely difficult feat, needing all their ingenuity and courage.



◀ Boys and Coach Bishop loading the "...GOOOOOO"!





A healthy mind in a healthy corpus is Sister Daniel's watchword. St. John's tries to see that its future mothers have just that combination. The school has a very vigorous program for the girls to follow both academically, and athletically, not to mention Home Economically! —



Margy Charlie scores on a high jump event and lands safely in the foam rubber "sawdust".



Here are the little girls in blue, posing in basketball regalia—all smiles—they were still smiling at the season's end, too!



Edith Dennis tries her hand at putting the shot. Where she put it is another thing! Kidding aside—she won . . . What else?



And their prowess in volleyball is not to be taken lightly—they won them all!





St. John's Elementary, under the able leadership of Sr. Mary Mark, takes pupils from first to eighth grades. She is assisted by a staff of very able Franciscan nuns.



At the Dime Carnival, held every Easter Monday, grade scholars, too, have their day of fun.



And the elementary division, not to be outdone by the highschool department, has its own cheerleading section. Here they are seen practising their gyrations before a game where they'll cheer their Wildcats to victory. Latter are under the direction of Brother Brophy.



And they supply the Jayvee and Varsity of the high school when they GET there, and most of them DO . . .



And here Brother Brophy's little leaguer — Wildcats are running around each other's ends for that touchdown,— Touch Football is their game; so is basketball; so is baseball!





Brothers Daniel and Fidelis get the stoves ready for the 'cookout' — food booths — at the annual bazaar.



Sr. Marlene explains surprise pkgs. to Pat Rubio.



The first Sunday in March sees 15,000 people at St. John's famous Bazaar—rides, all kinds of food, barbecue, prizes, Drum and Bugle and Dancer performances — all day long! ! !



The library is turned into a huge salesroom for Indian crafts of the Southwest. Here Sr. Mary Mark shows Arnold Lupe a record album of Apache songs to be on sale . . . Noon sees crowning of the QUEEN. Willie Mays performed the act in 1968.



Here the tables are turned as Bernadette 'crowns' the bishop by placing a war bonnet on his episcopal head, after he has crowned her — see next page — as Queen of the annual basaar.



Joe Valdo & Marilyn Cosen help clean up after the bazaar .It really takes 100 students to get the grounds back somewhere near normal—but it takes a year to get ready for the bazaar—FIRST SUNDAY IN MARCH.



Fr. Solano announces to huge crowd at bazaar that Bishop Edward McCarthy will crown Bernadette Vallandingham Queen of the Bazaar, introducing him to the people.



The bishop crowns Bernadette, while the two attendants, Lorraine Yazzie, and Elsie Francis, look on. Bernadette is in Apache dress, while the attendants are wearing Navajo costume. The colors must be seen to be believed!

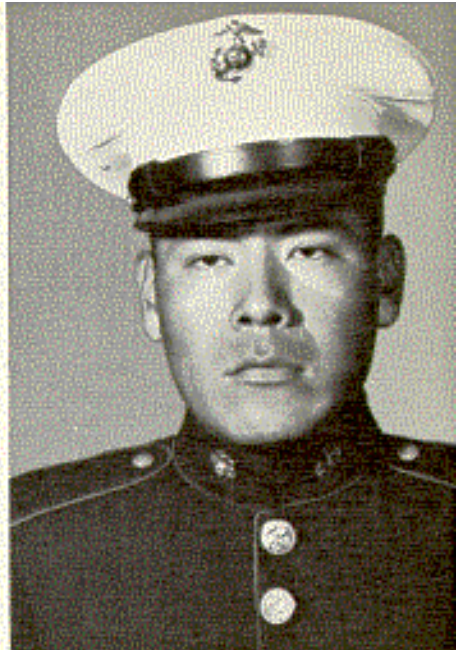




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Larry Antone wins for Explorer Post #130



Father Solano casting a practised eye over operations — sees that all works right at St. John's — also acts as host to many visiting groups during the year.



Boy Scout Explorer Post while operating at St. John's had one of the best known groups in the state, here Roy and Simon fill their cups down in Cholla Bay on a field trip into Mexico. Others are fishing . . .



A German Verein comes to entertain students now and then, thru the kind auspices of The Friends of St. John's. This group of fine 'friends' helps the bazaar to be the success it is each year.

- 1—Pat Francisco, USMC, gave his life in Vietnam in 1967—RIP, Pat.
  - 2—Wilbur Evans, from Komatke Village, did his stint in the Marine Corps.
  - 3—Mike M. Chiago, USMC, currently in Vietnam, married last year to Lilli.
  - 4—Dewey Jackson, Sacaton, former Indian dancer, now in Vietnam with U.S. Army.
  - 5—Edith Dennis, is now in N.J. with the U.S. Army—cute, eh?
  - 6—Rico Thomas, from Chui-chu, doing duty now in Vietnam, former dancer.
  - 7—Alfred Lopez, USMC, was yearbook editor at St. John's, now chases Gooks.
  - 8—Leonard Enos, USMC, and his wife, emerging from Bapchule chapel!!
  - 9—Vincent Dawahongva, now in Vietnam doing duty on a Navy ship, coastwise.
- idents for pix opposite page. ←



The whole school attends the State Fair every year—here we all line up at the ticket window.



"The blind leading the blind"—Karen and Noreen on one of our monthly skating parties in Phoenix.





Each May's end sees the senior class on stage with the dignitaries going thru the long-awaited diploma awarding ceremonies. Paul Guitteau congratulates Geraldine Hunter in this shot.



And here are Karen Stevens and Jerome Garcia posing for the cameraman—another gracious royal prom couple.



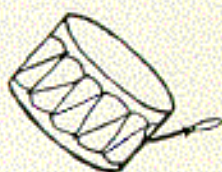
Where could you find a more beautiful Prom beauty than Francine?



And thus endeth another year at Saint John's Indian School at Komatke Village, on the Pima Reservation in Arizona . . . U.S.A.



Prior to graduation the Junior-Senior banquet and dance is an elegant affair. Here we see the beginning of the grand march: here—John, Mary, Clark and Francine.



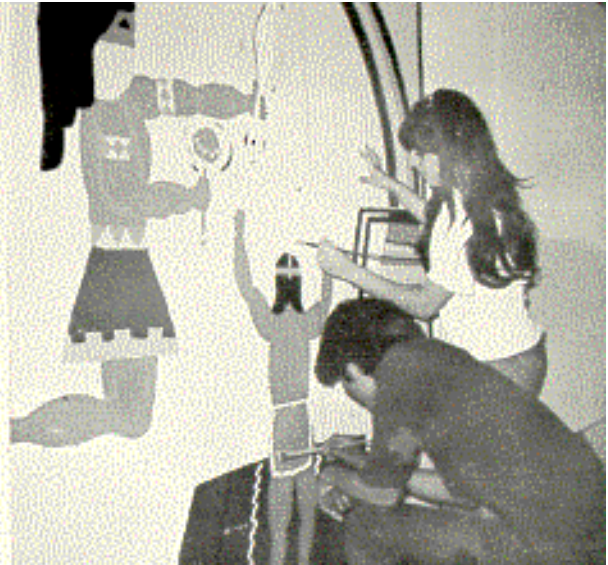
Here we give you Dean Azule, Valedictorian of his class, imparting words of wisdom to the assembled multitudes in the gym on commencement day.





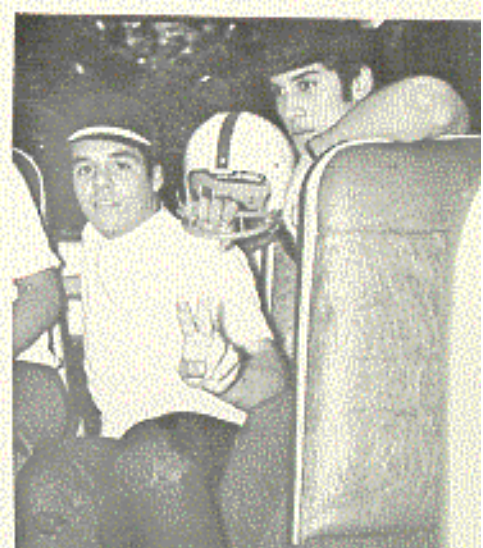
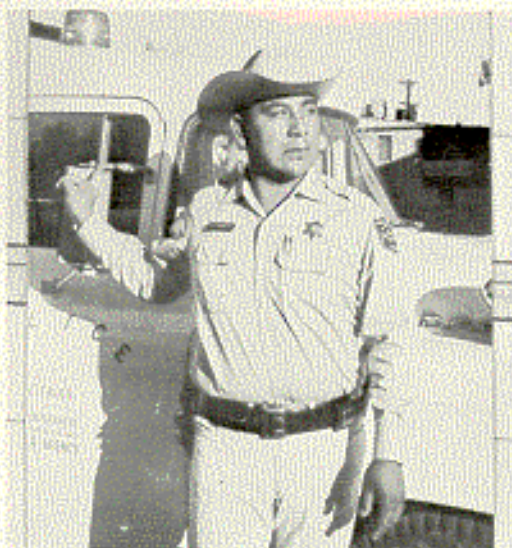


And as the year endeth and students go away for the summer, and many forever, the little villagers must be resigned to wait until fall for their friends' return



from the reservations of the Southwest. Some may follow their artistic bent, as here Roy and Angelina are doing as they work on a mural at St. Joseph's Hospital. Others will work at Colorado resorts, or in California.

And Irvin Tashquinth, Dept. of the Interior, Reservation police will keep his eye on St. John's while everyone is away . . .



And 'away we go!' — for the summer—helmets and all.



Camelback Mountain says "Good-bye until fall!" as some go by plane to far parts of the country.



And, as the oleanders bloom on the desert around St. John's, others leave by bus, car, and horse saying—"Dtha-uhp-iminyih" and "Ya-ta Hay for now".



