Father Elbert Congratulates Don Sharkey '34, Confers M. A. Degree

MAY • 1944
Billy Bruce On Campus 40 Years

When Chaminade hall was being built, back in 1904, there was a ready, willing and able young man with a great big smile just making the bricks and mortar fly. He hailed from Crystal Hill, Va., this dynamic little fellow, and his name was Billy Bruce.

Billy captured the hearts of his employers and there was something about the Hilltop that caught his fancy, too, for when the building was completed, he went to work—inside. And he's been there ever since, a mere matter of 40 years.

Billy has grown young at his job. He has seen the university's physical plant double and triple. He remembers and is remembered by nearly three generations of students. From those earlier efforts of St. Mary's Institute and St. Mary's College, a university has grown, but to Billy, (See BILLY BRUCE, Page 4)

BILLY BRUCE
—Picture, courtesy Journal-Herald

Front cover: Father John A. Elbert, president, congratulates Don Sharkey, '34 on his attainment of the Master of Arts degree at the Spring Commencement. The degree was conferred by Father Edmund J. Baumesteir, dean of the Graduate division. Mr. Sharkey is author of "White Smoke over the Vatican," now in its third printing at the Brucé Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wisc. He was also guest speaker at the recent meeting of the National Catholic Press Association in Milwaukee.

The University of Dayton
Alumnus
ESTABLISHED 1929

Vol. X May, 1944 No. 5

R. C. (Jim) Brown '34 ............................................ Editor
Betty Mayl '33 .................................................... Assistant Editor
Dr. Louis Saletel, S.M. ........................................ Staff Photographer

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THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

—OFFICERS—

President ............................. HON. WM. H. WOLFF '31, Dayton, Ohio
Vice-President ........................ CHARLES PFARRER '27, Dayton, Ohio
Treasurer ............................ WM. J. REYNOLDS '29, Philadelphia, Pa.
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Terms expire Commencement, 1943—JOSEPH GOETZ '31, Dayton
ELMER WILL '37, Dayton
Terms expire Homecoming, 1943—DR. LEON DEGER '10, Dayton
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Terms expire Homecoming, 1944—PAUL MOORMAN '30, Dayton
HUGH E. WALL, JR. '34, Dayton

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—BOARD OF ATHLETIC CONTROL—

Terms expire January, 1943—ROBERT C. PAYNE '34, Cincinnati
LEO SPATZ '28, Dayton
Terms expire January, 1944—LOUIS R. MAHRT '26, Dayton
MERLE P. SMITH '25, Dayton
Terms expire January, 1945—MARTIN C. KUNTZ '22, Dayton
J. ELLIS MAYL '08, Dayton
ASSOCIATION RECEIVES $500 FROM WILLIAM STRONG '75

The Alumni Association records with deep appreciation the gift of five hundred dollars ($500) from Mr. William L. Strong '75, retired publisher, residing at 230 West Palm, San Diego, Calif. Based on existing records, Mr. Strong’s contribution to the Alumni Association, received May 9, was the second largest individual gift in the Association’s history. A gift of one thousand dollars ($1000) from Mr. Victor Emanuel '15, New York, was recorded on January 1, 1930.

Mr. Strong, one of the university’s oldest living alumni, visited the campus for the first time in many years in December of last year. Despite his long absence from the Hilltop he remembered with astonishing keenness many events of his campus days. With his permission we publish herewith the letter which accompanied his contribution:

"Gentlemen:

"I am glad to be able to enclose this check to show my appreciation of what St. Mary’s Institute and Bro. Zehler did for me and my brother Charlie when we were two homeless boys. We left the school in the early seventies when times were very strenuous so it was necessary for us to devote all our time to making a living.

"Finally after arriving in St. Paul, Minn., we were employed by the West Publishing Co., where we were fairly successful. I spent fifty years with the company and retired in 1932. Charlie died in 1935.

"I do not know a single survivor of my old friends at St. Mary’s.

Sincerely yours,”

Wm. L. Strong,
230 West Palm
San Diego, Calif.

Mr. Strong’s statement, “I do not know a single survivor of my old friends at St. Mary’s” has prompted a little delving into the archives and we are wondering if perhaps there may have been some close associations among the following living alumni of the early seventies:

Mr. Will I. Ohmer, 88, was in attendance from 1867 to 1873. He is still active and living in Oakwood,

Mr. Joseph Maeder, 93, attended S.M.I. in 1872 and is living in St. Henry, Ohio. He is in good health.

Mr. J. E. Hamburger, 90, was a student of S.M.I. in 1874. He lives in Celina, Ohio.

210 TRAINEES HERE JUNE 7

The nation’s newest project for the purpose of educating and training young men as reserves for the armed forces, the Army Specialized Training Reserve (ASTR) will send 210 trainees to the campus June 7. The ASTR, in a large measure, replaces the discontinued Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) but differs in that the ASTR constituted enlisted men of the U. S. Army while the ASTR will be made up of civilians, young men below draft age.

ASTR units throughout the country will go first to the eight military institutes, ROTC schools, men’s schools and co-ed schools in the order named. Those receiving units in the Fifth Service Command include Ohio State, Indiana, Kentucky, Purdue, Ohio U., West Virginia, Cincinnati, Wilberforce and Dayton.

It was understood that the university’s outstanding record of 25 years with the ROTC as well as the highly satisfactory ASTP connection was a strong factor in its selection for the new unit.

The students, although civilians, will live under cadet regulations and discipline. They will receive no army pay but their scholarship, except for minor incidentals, is complete. Their ages at the beginning of the program will vary from 17 years, 3 months to 17 years, 9 months.

Courses to be pursued are again largely the same as in the ASTP. They will be slightly above the high school level. In addition, the students will receive five hours of military training per week and six hours of physical fitness.

Lt. Thomas '44 Is 20th Casualty

STEPHEN A. THOMAS

Lt. Stephen A. Thomas, U.S.A.A.F., troop carrier pilot, was killed in action in Italy, April 28, 1944. A native of Middleton, Wisc., Lt. Thomas would have graduated with the class of 1944. He had been in service since December, 1941. He was commissioned Nov. 10, 1942.

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Lt. Thomas attended the university during 1940-41 and was active with the Thespians and other campus organizations. He enlisted in the Signal Corps December 2, 1941 and was transferred to the Air Corps (See LT. THOMAS, Page 4)
The Student Body—Thirteen Years

Billy Bruce

(Continued from Page 2)

Chaminade hall is still monarch of the Hilltop. And the kitchen, where Billy holds sway, is the “main office.”

When Billy is not at his work making the china, cutlery and glassware shine you may expect to find him in one of two places, his home or his church. Billy has educated three nieces, two of whom are school teachers, a third a nurse. Tragedy of the war struck his family when a nephew was killed in a recent accident at Fort Bragg, N. C.

Ever since coming to Dayton he has been an active member and trustee of the Bethel Baptist church. Billy's present ambition is to one day retire to his farm in Halifax county, Va., and abide his reclining years with his brothers and a sister and their children. His countless friends on the campus hope he gets his wish. They all love Billy.

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Lt. Thomas

(Continued from Page 3)

February 11, 1942, at Kelly Field, Texas, where he began his pilot training. He was commissioned, November 10, 1942, at Brooks Field, Texas, and reported for active duty at Victorville, California, immediately.

He was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and left for foreign service in North Africa as a pilot in a troop carrier group. He was actively engaged in the African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns and met his death in the latter operation.

His parents, a sister, Frances, and his brother survive. Lt. Thomas' death brings to 20 the total of deaths suffered by the university's sons in World War II.

Diamond Jubilee Of Chapel Set for June 24

Plans are rapidly being completed for the Diamond Jubilee celebration commemorating the 75th anniversary of the consecration of the chapel of the Immaculate Conception on June 24. In addition to the solemn religious services which will mark the occasion, an elaborate souvenir book is being published for distribution at that time.


The University chapel is the only consecrated church in this entire section. It was finished in 1869 and consecrated the same year. Bro. Zehler was president at the time and the development of the chapel was largely through his vision and energies. Improved and re-decorated from time to time during the past 75 years, it still retains substantially the same appearance it made when first dedicated.

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1944 Membership

Drive Nears $2,000

The 1944 Alumni Association membership drive which began six weeks ago has reached the total of $1972. This figure surpasses the revenue attained in the entire years of 1940 and 1942 and is surpassed only by 1941 and 1943 in the five years of the Association's reorganization. Another $84 will put the drive ahead of 1941's $205.50 and $279 will break 1943's record of $2250.70. Considering the fact that the 1944 drive is only six weeks old and has seven months to run it is a foregone conclusion that a new record will be set.

This whole-hearted response is most gratifying to the Alumni and the University administrations in that it sets the seal of approval on the Association's activities and lends encouragement to the hope that the organization can become and remain self-sustaining, something it has not done in the past. The constant necessity for the Association to dip into the University's general operating funds has become an increasing burden, particularly in these times.
This Month—Can You Find You?

of financial stress occasioned by a war depleted student body.

The warm appreciation of the Association and the University goes to all alumni who have contributed to the fund both now and in the past. Particularly to the large number of service men and women who have contributed do we send our thanks. Every effort will be expended to illustrate this gratitude in a practical manner through consistently improved service.

The total amount received thus far this year, as well as the average per contributor, received a substantial boost through the most generous gift of $500 from Mr. William Strong (reported elsewhere in this issue). There have been 312 contributors as of May 30. This represents a percentage of 10.25 of our 3200 known alumni on the mailing list. Average contribution is $6.32.

A casual study of the above figures indicates a willingness on the part of ten percent of our former students to share in the cost of publishing the Alumnus and the maintenance of the office. These ten percent are willing to do more than their share as evidenced by the average contribution of $2.32 more than the asked for membership fee of $4.90.

With regard to the remaining 90 percent we can only urge their help. Based upon common business principles we can promise that with their help our Association will be able to do more things better and that the university itself will be strengthened, something we all earnestly desire.

THIRTY-SIX RECEIVE DEGREES AT SPRING COMMENCEMENT IN GYM

Thirty-six degrees were granted at the Commencement exercises of April 30 which were held in the gymnasium. This was the first Commencement of 1944 and graduates included night school students and a few full-time students from the class of 1944. Degrees were conferred by the Very Reverend President, John A. Elbert, S.M.

Don Sharkey '34, author of “White Smoke over the Vatican,” was a candidate for the Master of Arts degree, conferred by Father Edmund J. Baumeister, dean of the graduate division.

First recipient of the degree, Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, was Charlotte Stidham while a similar first was recorded by Betty Jean Thomas with her Bachelor of Music degree.

Degrees “in absentia” were awarded five candidates in the armed forces: Michael J. Connair, B.Ch.E.; Robert J. Wening, B.C.E.; Frank Richard Welch, B.E.E.; Charles Freer, jr., and Robert Perkins, B.M.E.

David Tom, Honolulu, T.H., was valedictorian for the class.

Dr. Edward A. Huth, associate professor of sociology, gave the Commencement address, choosing as his subject, “The Twentieth Century Challenge.”

Father Henry Fritz, head of the department of philosophy, preached the Baccalaureate sermon at chapel services in the morning.

Graduates and Commencement officials enjoyed a senior breakfast in the visitor’s dining hall, Cham­nade hall, immediately following mass. Father Elbert addressed the group at that time.
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(See LT. THOMAS, Page 4)


### Letters from the Alumni

#### OUTPOST ON THE RHINE?

Dear Jim:

Kindly note change of address. Now that I've finally arrived, don't see they can hold up the show much longer.

As soon as circumstances permit, I plan to buy a castle on the Rhine and set up a U.D. outpost, as it were. Right now I'm holding forth in anything but palatial quarters under canvas and trying to get used to the nut brown ale. Outlook not too discouraging. Regards,

S/Sgt. James F. Martin, '39,
Somewhere in England

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#### LT. USAS AT FT. KNOX

Dear Jim:

A note of appreciation to you and your entire staff and thanks for keeping up such a wonderful and newsy publication as the Alumnus. Receiving the booklet always gives morale a boost and gives one moments of reflection and thoughts of the grand years spent upon the campus. The courage and self-sacrifice of our brother alumni brings pride—pride of letting others know that the University of Dayton has produced many excellent leaders.

After nineteen months I feel I'm entitled to call Fort Knox home. Presently, my duties are that of officer in charge of the stock control branch. It's a back-breaking and hair-greying assignment even though the only physical labor connected with it is guiding a pen or pencil. However, it's my share toward bringing this chaos to an end.

Give my regards to all with the promise that I'll visit the campus on my next trip home. Sincerely yours,

Lt. Michael J. Usas, '35,
Fort Knox, Ky.

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#### HARRY GOT A ZERO

Dear Bro. Nagel:

Things over here have been going along okay but we get a little excitement now and then, I don't know if I told you before or not but I got my first Zero the first of last month. Well, Brother, "he won't bother us no more." The past couple of weeks we have been bombing the heck out of them with a great deal of success, but the other day I had another close one. A Jap got on my tail and let loose all he had, I thought I was a goner, my ship was all shot up but I flew it back okay. Good old armor plate—it sure is wonderful stuff. I got a couple bruises on my arm and leg but they are nothing. The good Lord was with me again, Brother. As ever,

Lt. Harry Zavakos, '43,
China

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#### BACK FROM ALASKA

Dear Jim:

The March issue of the Alumnus has reached me with its usual quota of news. However, I notice that my mailing address is shown as Kodiak, Alaska. Since that station, I have been at Anchitka, Alaska, and recently have returned to the States after two years overseas. At present, I claim Camp Carson, Colo., as my permanent station, heeding Horace Greeley's admonition. Many thanks and regards to all at the university, Capt. Charles C. Westbrook, '34,

Camp Carson, Colo.

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#### BOB McINTIRE IN ITALY

Dear Jim:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and kicking and still sticking my chin out. Please say hello to all my friends at U.D., especially Bro. Fred.

I have been receiving my copy of the Alumnus from my mother regularly. I ran into Tom Glick a few weeks ago and he is the same old Tom. He is captain now and is doing fine for himself.

Goodbye for now and when I get back we'll renew the good times we used to have. Your friend,

Pvt. R. J. McIntire, '43,

Italy

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### CLASS NOTES

#### 1909

The Very Rev. Monsignor Francis A. Biendl, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Fayetteville, was recently elevated to the rank of Papal Chamberlain.

#### 1914

George Staab reports that Walter Staab is now living in McKeesport, Pa.

#### 1921

(H. S.) William B. Sweeney, service engineer, traveling for the Ohio Steel Foundry Co., was a campus visitor May 18. Gerry Corbett is with the Schiff Co. in Columbus.

#### 1923

Sgt. Ray Michel recently returned from overseas duty and is convalescing at Fletcher Hospital, Cambridge, Ohio.

#### 1924

Lt. Col. William T. Larkin is in Washington.

#### 1927

Dick Snelling, of Springfield, was a recent campus visitor. He is now with the Sherriff Goslin Roofing Co., in the Dayton office.

#### 1928

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Spatz announce the birth of a daughter, Alice Josephine, May 5. Major Joseph Keller, stationed in Washington, was a campus visitor May 10. Dr. V. A. Aufderheide is a first lieutenant in the army medical corps.

#### 1929

Pvt. William J. Reynolds is with the medical corps in Camp Barkley, Texas.

(See CLASS NOTES, Page 8)
Class Notes

(Continued from Page 7)

1930—James T. Devaney, manager of the Oliver hotel, South Bend, was a campus visitor May 20. Major Francis Gabel is overseas. Ph. M. 3/c Louis R. Gross is at Great Lakes, Ill. Major Joseph W. Servaites is stationed in Dayton, Maurice J. Costello, assistant chief, depot branch, control section; supply division, Air Service Command headquarters, has been promoted to major.

1932—Major E. A. Greer is in New Guinea, V. J. Braun is with the Lockhead Aircraft Corporation at Burbank, Calif., Joe Pesce is in the army stationed at Culver City, Calif.

1933—Rodney Love is chief deputy of the Montgomery county probate court.

1934—Kevin Dwyer has been promoted to captain. Mr. and Mrs. Don Sharkey announce the birth of their third son, May 14. Charles E. Mathews is now a Lt. (j.g.) in the Navy, Capt. Irvin Gleim is in England.

1935—Capt. George Walther is at Camp Hale, Colo., Corp. Clyde Carr and Jean Blake were married May 6. Robert Brockman was graduated from recruit training as honor man of his company at Great Lakes, Illinois.

1936—Major Robert Grimes is at Yale University. Pvt. Robert Reiling is at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Joseph S. Chmiel is with the navy in the South Pacific. Verne Malloy has been promoted to major. He is commanding officer of a squadron in Italy.

1937—Capt. Joe Fletcher is in Indiana. Capt. John Reiling was a campus visitor May 17. Storekeeper 3/c Robert Saurine is in the navy.


1939—Lt. John J. Ferron returned to the campus for a visit after two years in Alaska, Joe Oleinjik moved to 12312 Parkhill ave., Cleveland. Lt. Dick Bucher is in advanced navigation school, Ellington Field, Texas. Lt. Ted Brazelton, attending post graduate school of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, became the father of a son, Jonathan, April 25. Lt. James Plum, intelligence officer with his outfit in the South Pacific, was commended by Major Gen. Robert Beightler, commander of the 37th division.

1939—Capt. Christopher Barrettt is with the 15th academic group, Boca Raton, Fla. Bob Grasser and Dorothy Headington were married April 29. Ensight Charles Hoppa, of Pittsburgh, was a campus visitor on his wedding trip May 3. He married Mary Mallon, May 1. Glenn Smolka graduated from the Naval Air Training Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, and was commissioned an ensign in the U. S. Naval Reserve.


1942—Mrs. Donald High (Sue Martin) was a campus visitor recently. Charles Whalen is at Camp Lee, Va. Lt. Joe Bernard is in Brazil. Lt. Robert Walter is a technical officer in communications. Pfc. Robert Dawson is in England. Lt. James Warren married Irma Drechsel April 22. Pfc. Robert Hunkeler is on duty in the Army recruiting office in Dayton. Mary Anne Hoyt has joined the WASPs, and is in Texas. Capt. Richard Hirt is an engineering officer with the 8th Air Force. Ensight Robert Maloney is at Princeton, Lt. Howard Sloan is overseas. Lt. "Bud" Egbert and Nancy Iams were married May 6. Lt. "Beno" Keiter is home on leave from the South Pacific. Bob Greene was married to a Southern girl April 15. Lt. "Gus" Kinzeler is in Italy as are First Lt. Hugh Scott, Lt. Bob Waltz, and Sgt. Joe McShane. Ensight Paul Ryan was married recently. We extend our deepest sympathy to Lt. Joe Dunn upon the death of his father. Lt. Gilbert J. McEwan will be married to Jeanne Mary Smith on June 17 in Dayton.

1943—Larry Jahn and Betty James were married May 27. Larry has accepted a fellowship in mathematics at Brown University, Providence, R. I. Lt. William Stoerner is in Hawaii. Sgt. Jesse Evans is overseas. Lt. Dick Strugarek is with the marines fighting on New Britain. Lt. Bob Miller is at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif. Lt. Harry Zavakos, in China, has been awarded the Purple Heart. Lt. Frank Doorley is at Camp Wheeler, Ga. Lt. James Wagner is at Camp Davis, N. C. Lt. Jack Stang was a campus visitor on his way to Camp Butner, N. C. Lt. Kay Shearer is piloting B-24's in England. Dr. Stanley Scott and Gloria Cee of Kansas City, Mo., were married May 28. Scott is a graduate of the Kansas City School of Osteopathy. Mr. and Mrs. John Marshcall announce the birth of a daughter in May. Mary Kay Sherman and Lt. Robert Nushaw were married May 3. Lt. Bob Ashenfelter is with the Air Forces in England. Margaret Wheelbarger will be married to Sgt. Carl Lindee June 3. Corp. Ted Howell travels trains as an MP guard. Ensight Paul Schauer is on the Pacific coast. Marty Bucher returned to work at Wright Field June 1.

1944—Pfc. Firmin Paulus, Al Shoen, Joe Accraco and Paul Ameel are at Camp LeJeune, New River, N. C. Ensight Ray Austin reports to Portsmouth, Va. Joe Zoul was a campus visitor May 25. Lt. Robert Schwellner is at Spence Field, Ga. Lt. Eugene Channell and Carrol Smith were married April 9. He is stationed at Del Rio, Texas. Bette Rogge has gone East to appear with a Buffalo, N. Y. stock company this summer. Jeannette Hibbert and Marita Sharkey have been awarded scholarships at the Plymouth, Mass. Drama Festival. Anna Catherine Weimer and James C. Milam, Jr., were married May 10. Mary Margaret Wack and Bob Milling leave for medical school at Marquette June 30.