

Father Flanagan

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2003

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>An Alum's Story</i>	2
<i>Tributes</i>	3
<i>How to Contact Us</i>	4

Father Flanagan Speaks to the Boys Town 1943 Graduating Class

You boys who are just about to graduate are considered adult citizens by our government—and our government is asking you to enter the armed forces that you may protect your Mother, our country, who is now bleeding profusely because of jealousies of other countries and peoples who do not like our democratic way of life.

It should make you feel very proud that you have been looked upon as adult citizens, and given the privilege of coming to your Mother's aid to protect the honor of your country and your flag—even with your lives. I envy you. I envy all young men who are playing this patriotic role.

For the first time in your lives you have been called upon to perform the most important duty that the adult citizenship has called upon—that is, to defend his country and flag, and you at your tender age are answering that call now.

The future of our country depends upon you and other young men who have joined the armed forces. You are going into a fight with a most formidable enemy—an enemy well trained, hardened, seasoned and well equipped—and an enemy that is cruel.

You are fighting for the preservation of democracy which means the preservation of the freedoms that you and your forefa-



Father Flanagan at veteran's

thers have enjoyed and your fight to preserve those freedoms and to pass them on down to your children and your children's children.

I know that the training you have had here will enable you to perform your military duties as young heroes, proud of your country and your flag—determined to fight to the bitter end until this war has been fought to a successful conclusion. May God preserve you during these dangerous and difficult times and give you the strength and grace to bear up spiritually and physically to be noble sons of a great nation. GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU! *(Boys Town Times, May 14, 1943)*

Gilson V. Willets of the San Francisco News reprinted in the Boys Town Times, May 28, 1943

...We have been privileged to learn about Boys Town through the magic of the silver screen, the radio and the printed word. We know that it is officially known as "Father Flanagan's Boys' Home" and that it is a non-sectarian, *(Continued on Page 2)*

FATHER FLANAGAN



Born July 13, 1886, Leabeg Farm, Co. Roscommon near Ballymoe, County Galway, Ireland.

*

Ordained, July 26, 1912, Innsbruck, Austria.

*

Founded Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, 25th & Dodge, Omaha, December 12, 1917.

*

Moved Home to German-American Home, South 13th St., Omaha, June 1, 1918.

*

Moved to Overlook Farm (present site) October 17, 1921.

*

Invested as a monsignor, November 21, 1937.

*

World premiere of movie, "Boys Town," September 7, 1938.

*

Spoke out against child abuse in native Ireland on visit there, June, 1946.

*

Met General MacArthur in Japan to develop care program for war orphans.

*

Sent to Europe by President Truman to aide war orphans. February 26, 1948.

*

Died May 15, 1948, Berlin, Germany

Ed Novotny, Class of 1943—A Boys Town Alum's Story *By Sharon Nelsen, Editor*

Ed Novotny has been at Girls and Boys Town since 1936. We begin his story by quoting an article from the Boys Town Times, April 23, 1943—*An All-American Boys Town Citizen: Ed Novotny*”:

“Eight years ago two young boys, 12 and 14 years old, came to Boys Town from Howells, Nebraska. There were John and Edwin Novotny. John Novotny graduated from the Boys Town high school two years ago and today he is serving his country in Uncle Sam's Army. Ed Novotny, 19, is a senior in the Boys Town high school... When Ed came to Boys Town eight years ago, there were approximately 175 boys here. He has literally grown up with the Boys Town of today. He has seen Father Flanagan's Boys' Home expand so that it now is able to care for more than 400 boys.

But let's get back to Ed. He is the son of Mrs. Rose Novotny. His father is dead. He entered the Boys Town fifth grade and when he was in the eighth grade, Coach Ken Corcoran urged that he report for spring football practice...when Ed was a sophomore, he won his letter in football, basketball and baseball. Since then he has been a mainstay on Boys Town high school athletic teams...”My life at Boys Town is full of pleasant memories,” says Ed....In the classroom Ed has excelled in his studies, being tapped for the school honor roll...”

After graduation, Ed went into the Navy, serving as a torpedo man 2nd Class in the Pacific on the USS DD Farenholt 491. When he was discharged in 1946, he visited Father Flanagan. The Founder said, “Ed, look around the campus and find yourself a job; you are one of many alumni that I will need to help me out.”

Ed began his forty years of service at The Home as a counselor, supervising boys in the dormitories under Father Peter Dunne. Later he became a security officer, a position which included driving an employee transportation service bus to and from the Home. His next job was working the grounds as landscaper.

When Father Walsh became interim director, he asked if Ed had any experience in printing. Ed said, “Yes, at Boys Town High School.” That was sufficient. “I moved into the new Trade School (1948) as assistant printing teacher to Chester



John and Ed Novotny when they arrived at Father Flanagan's

Plewa.”

For fourteen of his 23 years in the Print Shop, Ed attended UNO night school earning his B.A., M.S. and EdS in School Administration and Education.

In 1972, Director Monsignor Wegner asked Ed to take over as Director of the Trade School. Ed oversaw a curriculum that included:

- Graphic Arts, (print shop)
- Tailor shop, Shoe repair
- Barbering (Cosmetology)
- Electronics, Wood Shop
- Pottery, Bakery, Drafting,
- Horticulture, Culinary Arts,
- Vocational Agriculture,
- Auto Body, Auto Mechanics,
- Machine Shop, Welding,
- Heating and Air-Conditioning.

“All 8th and 9th graders took Industrial Arts; and all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders

took General Mechanics, so every student would know basic skills for maintaining their own homes later in life. In many of our trades, the unions recognized two years apprenticeship served.”

One of the best “employee benefits” for Ed at The Home, was meeting Geraldine Hansen, the daughter of the Farm Superintendent at Boys Town. Ed and “Jerri” married, had two sons, Charles and Randy, and now have seven grandchildren.

After serving 17 years as Director of the Trade School, Ed retired— only to serve the Home again as Director of Alumni. Presently, he is Advisor for the BTNAA Board with an office in the Hall of History.

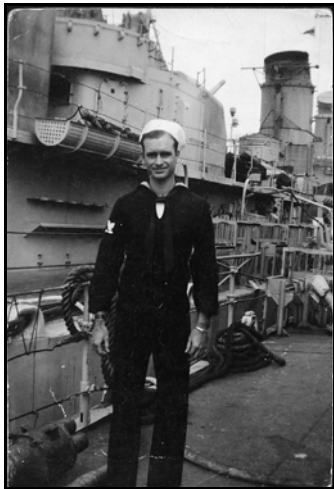
(Continued on page 3)

Willits article, continued from Page 1) non-proselytizing haven for homeless, abandoned boys regardless of their race or creed...We also know that the founder and guiding genius of Boys Town is an idealist who once had a great dream, and with unshakable courage, lived to see his dream become a reality, thus earning the everlasting admiration and gratitude of every true American...In addition to being a school, a home and a miniature republic, Boys Town steels its citizens to the fundamentals of perfect citizenship with a thoroughness which has commended universal recognition...In the armed forces, in Governmental positions of trust and in civilian life, former citizens of Father Flanagan's Boys' Home are deporting themselves in a manner which justifies the great faith of their mentor and the national enthusiasm which the American republic reveals for Boys Town...

“A Tribute to Father”

- by Eddie Novotny, *Boys Town Times*, May 14, 1943, page 2

As a class reporter, I feel it is my privilege to pay tribute to Father Flanagan. In behalf of the Senior Class, Father Flanagan, I thank you for all that we have received. All of our cares and worries have been yours. You have showed us kindness and understanding and in you we have had a true friend. We thank you, Father Flanagan, for the fine training each and everyone of us has received. A training which will remain with us as long as we live. This same training will make us good Americans, and to know you will be proud of us. The class of 1943 will soon be leaving Boys Town, but memories will always remain with us. We shall always feel that Boys Town is our real home and a refuge from a troubled world. Father Flanagan, we hate to leave Boys Town because it has done something to us. To many of us it has given us new hope and assurance. We will face the world with determination to make you proud of us. I really don't know how to express all the feelings which we have, but Father Flanagan, I know you understand. May God bless you and your work which we have partaken of...“The Class of '43”



Ed Novotny

(Alumni story continued from Page 2)

Ed's class tribute statement “A training which will remain with us as long as we live” was prophetic not only for Ed but for all of those he has in turn mentored throughout more than a half century of service at The Home.

His response today to that statement made 60 years ago: “Our class was a super class—whatever can be said about me can be said about them and about most of the alumni. Father Flanagan started us on the right path; I am grateful to Father Flanagan and to the American public, all of those generous-hearted donors, who gave us the opportunity to be successful.”



Class Poem

*By Charles Mitchell, Class of 1943
(Boys Town Times, May 14, 1943)*

With our youthful years behind us,
And the future ever near,
We pause and part in sorrow
With friends we hold so dear.
Our life is now beginning,
You're on your own, young man
You're out to make or break yourself
In this our cherished land.

Now from your very beginning,
Set all your ideas high,
And always keep remembering
The limit is the sky.
In these war-torn days of ours
With the whole world full of strife,
It's gonna' be sorta' hard, I guess
To lead a normal life.

But we the Class of '43
Always had the will to win,
And we will keep on winning
Until the very end.
And to you, Father Flanagan
We give a sincere “Thank You.”
For all we are or hope to be
You enabled us to do.

Father Flanagan League: Society of Devotion

Prayer Groups:

- Second Tuesdays, after the 11:40 A.M. Mass, 15 to 30 people gather in Father Flanagan's tomb to pray for all needs and to spread devotion to Father Flanagan.
- You are invited to form a prayer group to spread devotion. The prayer leaflet guideline allows for about a 15 minute session. This can be added to your monthly meeting.

Presentations are available to your group upon request. We will come to your scheduled meeting, give a 20 to 40 minute presentation and hand out materials for the cause.

Materials: Prayer cards, prayer leaflets, photo posters, biographical materials, reprints of Father's writings, newsletter, video clips, a teaching unit for children, instructions for forming prayer groups for the cause and brochures are available at no charge.



**Father Flanagan League:
Society of Devotion**

14057 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010

Www.fatherflanagan.org



“We thank you, Father Flanagan,
for the fine training each and
everyone of us has received.”
Eddie Novotny, Class of '43



One hundred Founders' Edition 18" miniatures have been cast of the Fred Hoppe statue of Fr. Flanagan. Some are still available for sale at \$1,850.00.

To reserve yours or request more information, call (800) 345-0458. Credit cards are accepted.

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Boys Town,
Nebraska
PERMIT NO. 1

Another sign of holiness in Father Flanagan

Father Flanagan was truly a prophet in his work...he did not hesitate to affirm his convictions concerning the care and development of youth when there was need to do so...he denounced harsh and inhuman treatment of youth wherever he encountered it.

League Prayer

✿ Send to: ✿

God of mercy, love and compassion, we are grateful that You gave Your servant, Father Edward Joseph Flanagan special graces to love, protect and guide neglected, vulnerable and oppressed youth. Thank you that the work he began with the foundation of Boys Town has continued to spread throughout the world. We pray that you inspire many to adopt his caring, loving ways as mentor and protector of youth. Loving Father, we bring our own needs to you now, asking that through the intercession of Father Flanagan, in accordance with your Holy Will, you grant these special favors:_____.

Mail all requests for prayers, materials or presentations, all testimonies of answered prayers, to:
Fr. Flanagan League:Society of Devotion
14057 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010

*Please place my prayer request at
Father Flanagan's tomb.*

Thank You for Your Faithfulness and Providence, and for hearing these petitions which we ask in the Name of Your Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**