



The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus



Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

Contact Information

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This month the traveling Flaget Museum looks back at one of the many highlights of the early 1950s, **THE MINSTREL SHOW**.

As the 1948-49 school year rolled around somebody had a great idea. Joe Herde, the band director who had just completed a successful Christmas recital started planning for the first concert and minstrel show. This would be the biggest musical undertaking to date and would not only include the band but also the glee club and other talent from throughout the school. Minstrel shows were the rage of the 1950s. Many organizations took to the stage for entertainment and fund raising. The show would feature band and choral selections as well as novelty acts including black-faced students doing slap stick. The show was slated for The Memorial Auditorium and was held in late February. The participants practiced for weeks and the performers as well as the many students needed as stagehands and scenery duties were applauded loudly. The show went over so well that the minstrel show became an annual event for the next six years, the last being held in 1955. The talent was in abundance with solo musical acts, singing groups, dancers, and of course the men of Flaget filling all of the roles where the fairer sex would normally be seen. There was even an act with a live monkey. After Joe Herde, Mr. Smith and Mr. Taylor assumed the roles of production manager. As the band goes, so does the minstrel show. As the band was ending in 1955 and Father Dentinger was taking over as the new orchestra director it quickly became apparent that he would not have the large amount of time necessary for such a large undertaking. So after a seven-year run, the minstrel shows faded into blue and white history.

At the front of the room are the four programs from the minstrel shows that the museum has. Please feel free to look at the reprints of the acts presented, you might find your old friends listed in there somewhere.

Should you have any of the Minstrel Show programs please consider donating them. We only have four of the seven programs. We are missing the programs from 1949, 1951, and 1952. And as always, we are looking for any Flaget memorabilia for display in the museum.