



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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THE HUNT FOR INFORMATION

Nobody would forget what year it was Flaget won the state basketball championship, or what years the Braves won it all in football. When it comes to the academics part of high school, and let's face it, that is why we were sent to school, information is much less available than if searching for a football statistic. When I first took over as curator of the Flaget Museum one of the first things I did was to make a framed piece noting the valedictorians and salutatorians that were named each year. It was a simple task, look in the landmarks and yearbooks, and if not there check the Courier Journal and or Catholic Record newspapers. The last twenty-nine years were quickly completed and the framed recognition was put on the wall. I had tried to find out who were those so honored for the 1945 first graduating class but the information was nowhere to be found. It was not in the Landmark, Courier, Times, or Record and it was told to me by some that possibly there was not a valedictorian for the first year. I even talked to a couple members of the 1945 graduating class without results. They could not remember if there had been and if so, who the valedictorian for 1945 was. For years the recognition frame hung in the museum with the top part blank. A couple weeks ago I was working in the museum and was doing some maintenance on the 1945 graduation photo. I decided to replace a somewhat damaged photo with another that I had in storage. When I looked at the reverse of the new photo there were notations on the reverse stating the teachers etc. and what do you know, yes it stated who the Valedictorian and Salutatorian was for 1945. The recognition frame has been updated and a copy is on the table in front of the room today. In 1945 Francis J. Birkel was the valedictorian and Henri L. Mangeot was the salutatorian. Both of these alumni have passed, but at least they are now recognized for their academic achievements many years in the past.

The museum is always seeking vintage memorabilia from the years that Flaget was open. Sports programs and Landmarks are especially appreciated in that we are missing a number of them for our master file. Trophies, jewelry, letters, and just about anything from the school is appreciated.

Many thanks to all those who visited the museum in June. That month had more registered visitors than any month since I took over. If in the neighborhood, please stop by and relive a little bit of your younger years.