

100 years ago at St. Mary's

Students learn where cadets once drilled

By SUZIE MARKS

By the shores of Orchard Lake, 100 years ago, cadets in grey uniforms marched to the old Orchard Lake Hotel Buildings to begin study at the Michigan Military Academy.

Founded by Col. J.S. Rogers, the academy offered athletic programs in addition to academics. An important aspect of the athletic program was precision drilling. The cadets drilled for the public every Sunday during the summer and in 1889, the cadets drill team represented Michigan at the Washington Centennial in the nation's capital.

Years passed, and the academy grew larger, then Rogers died. The academy began to suffer financial

woes and was forced to sell its buildings.

In 1909, Allen Campbell, representing the Polish Seminary of Detroit, bought the grounds and buildings for \$83,000. Today, we know the Polish Seminary as the Orchard Lake Schools, three distinct but related institutions founded primarily but not exclusively to serve American Catholics of Polish backgrounds.

ALTHOUGH THE ideals have changed since the Michigan Military Academy sold its property, the buildings remain intact.

They have been completely remodeled on the interior and air conditioning has been installed, said Don

Horkey, public relations director at the schools.

"The only thing that is original is the outside of the buildings because we don't want to lose the flavor of the Michigan Military Academy," he added.

High school, college and seminary students use the historical buildings as their living quarters and classrooms.

The Castle, which is the oldest building on campus, was used by General Copeland and the Military Academy. It is situated on the crest of an incline running almost parallel to the shoreline of the lake and is 45 feet high. It now serves as the chancellor of the school's residence.

Originally occupied by the Prepmen as a dormitory is the gymnasium, measuring 156 by 50 feet. In the early days of the Polish Seminary at Orchard Lake, the gymnasium's chief use was for sleeping quarters. Presently, it is used for intermural sports and entertainment.

THE BARRACKS, a long rectangular three-story building once used for a seminary dormitory, is now occupied by faculty, and the second floor is a residence hall for college girls.

Along with these buildings inherited by the seminary from the Michigan Military Academy, there was also a 70-acre farm that supplied much of the food needs of the Orchard Lake Schools.

There are 440 students attending all the divisions of the Orchard Lake Schools, which is lower than it has been, Horkey said.

The cost for a student to attend the school, which includes room and board, is \$1,850 per year. Horkey said it costs the school \$4,000 per year to educate each student and provide room and board. The difference in the cost comes to the school through donations.

In order for the school to continue, it must reach more students, Horkey said.

"This year has been our biggest drop in students. We visit more schools and talk to more students, but the response isn't there."

Even though the enrollment has decreased, Horkey isn't worried. He said he believes the school will continue to receive donations, although construction on campus has come to a halt.

"We haven't had any new construction in the last five years."



The Castle is the oldest building on the Orchard Lake St. Mary campus. It was used by the Michigan Military Academy. (Staff Photo by Charlie Kidd)

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Thomas McFarland, of Farmington Hills, has joined the Detroit advertising sales staff of Better Homes and Gardens magazine. He will be responsible for Eastern Michigan and Ohio.

McFarland worked for the last 15 years in the advertising department of the Detroit News. For the past six years he has been a national advertising representative with the Detroit News.

He was a member of the Detroit Area Grocery Manufacturer's Association board of directors from 1974-76. He retains membership in the organization.



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