



Grist Mill

Leonard Panaggio

Irish group seeks data on cemetery

The Newport Museum of Irish History, a new organization, is soliciting information.

Martin J. Murphy III, the museum's vice president, hopes that readers may have information on the oldest Catholic Church cemetery that is on the corner of Mount Vernon and Barney streets.

"As a project, aside from eventually seeking a permanent place for our organization, we looked into taking on the responsibility of enhancing and protecting the integrity of the cemetery," he wrote.

He came up with the following: "The lot and the building, which once stood on it, was owned by Eleazer Trevitt who used it as a school. In April 1828, it was purchased by the Rt. Rev. Benedict Joseph Fenwick, second bishop of Boston. It became the first permanent Catholic church in Rhode Island. One wonders where the temporary one was.

"The land to the rear was used as a cemetery and many Irish are buried there, at least 24 plots. We have the assistance of an archeologist to assist in locating other plots for recording. The cemetery was used until around 1847 when the church purchased property on Warner Street, which became St. Mary's Cemetery. Land was purchased at that time on Spring Street to

"When Hartford became a diocese in 1843, comprising the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island, it is assumed that this property vested over to the new diocese whose bishop was the Rt. Rev. William Barber Tyler, first bishop of Hartford, who actually lived in Providence. In 1872, the State of Rhode Island and Cape Cod became a diocese in its own right, with the Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hendricken as its first bishop. In 1904, Cape Cod was removed from the diocese and made part of the Fall River Diocese.

"Father Edmund H. Fitzgerald, Ph.D of St. Clare in Misquamicut, R.I., did much of this research and related to us that in 1872, it could be assumed that the property was turned over to the new Diocese of Providence.

"With the permission of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries, we have been granted the opportunity of maintaining and upgrading the historical integrity of this holy site."

Murphy hopes that readers have memories of the history of the location. He knows that it would be helpful to document the information for future Newporters and visitors to this city. "The completed documentation will become a part of our visual exhibits in the Newport Museum of Irish History," the letter ended.

If there is information, please forward it directly to Murphy at P.O. Box 1378, Newport, R.I. 02840.

■ ■ ■ STAMPS TO BE ISSUED

include one honoring four legendary football coaches — Bear Bryant, George Halas, Vince Lombardi and Pop Warner. They will be for sale in July and August with postmarks from Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Chicago; Green Bay, Wis., and Philadelphia.

The Department of the Air Force will have an issue on Sept. 18 with first-day sales in Washington.

Music will dominate other September issues. One will recall classical composers and conductors on a pane of 20 with eight designs; another will honor opera singers of the past on a pane of 20 with four designs.

Appropriately, on Oct. 1 a 20-pane of five designs will be issued from Universal City, Calif., with classic movie monsters.

Supersonic Flight will be issued on Oct. 14 from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on Oct. 14.

Leonard Panaccio is a Daily News

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