

Different CBS fight songs
over the years

When the classes of 1938 through 1942 were putting together a joint reunion earlier in the year, someone called the school about getting copies of any official songs. What they drew, alas, was a total blank.

Unbelievable. Even back in the dinosaur days at 21st and Y Streets – before Broadway was invented – when our amenities were few and extremely far between, we did at least have songs. That they were copied from a couple of colleges is beside the point. The words were – more or less – our own.

One, derived from an Ivy League ditty, went like this:

Crash through that line of blue,
And send our backs on round the end;
Fight, fight for every yard,
Brothers' honor to defend,
Rah, rah, rah!
Run Irish down the field,
Roll up the score for CBS;
And we'll fight all our might
For the Blue and the White.
So roll, Gaels, roll!

It mattered not that we had no opponents who were clad in blue jerseys or that once that line of blue was crashed through, it made little sense for the backs to go around the end. The point was that we did have a song.

As a matter of fact, we had two, the second being a direct steal of the Saint Mary's College fight song:

On to victory, the Blue and White will win tonight;
From old Brothers High our team is ready for the fight;
When we've won the game, throughout the land will spread our fame,
And, with all our might, for Blue and White we'll fight, fight, fight!

For either of those to work today would call for a good deal of alteration, what with red and blue having replaced blue and white and Irish having been supplanted by Falcons. But you'd think someone could come up with something entirely original as an answer to the likes of "Fight, Dragons, Fight" and "Buckle Down, McClatchy."

It might be a bit pointless at that, though, since we're now in a different league.

Did we also have an alma mater hymn? I'm afraid not although there was another song, a somewhat clandestine one which combined the music of "The Caissons Go Rolling Along" and Notre Dame's "Victory March." It bore the title "In the Cellars of Old Brothers High," but I think I'll leave it to the readers' imaginations what supposedly went on there. After all, this is a family publication, and young men – at least in my day – tended to have both vivid imaginations and questionable vocabularies.