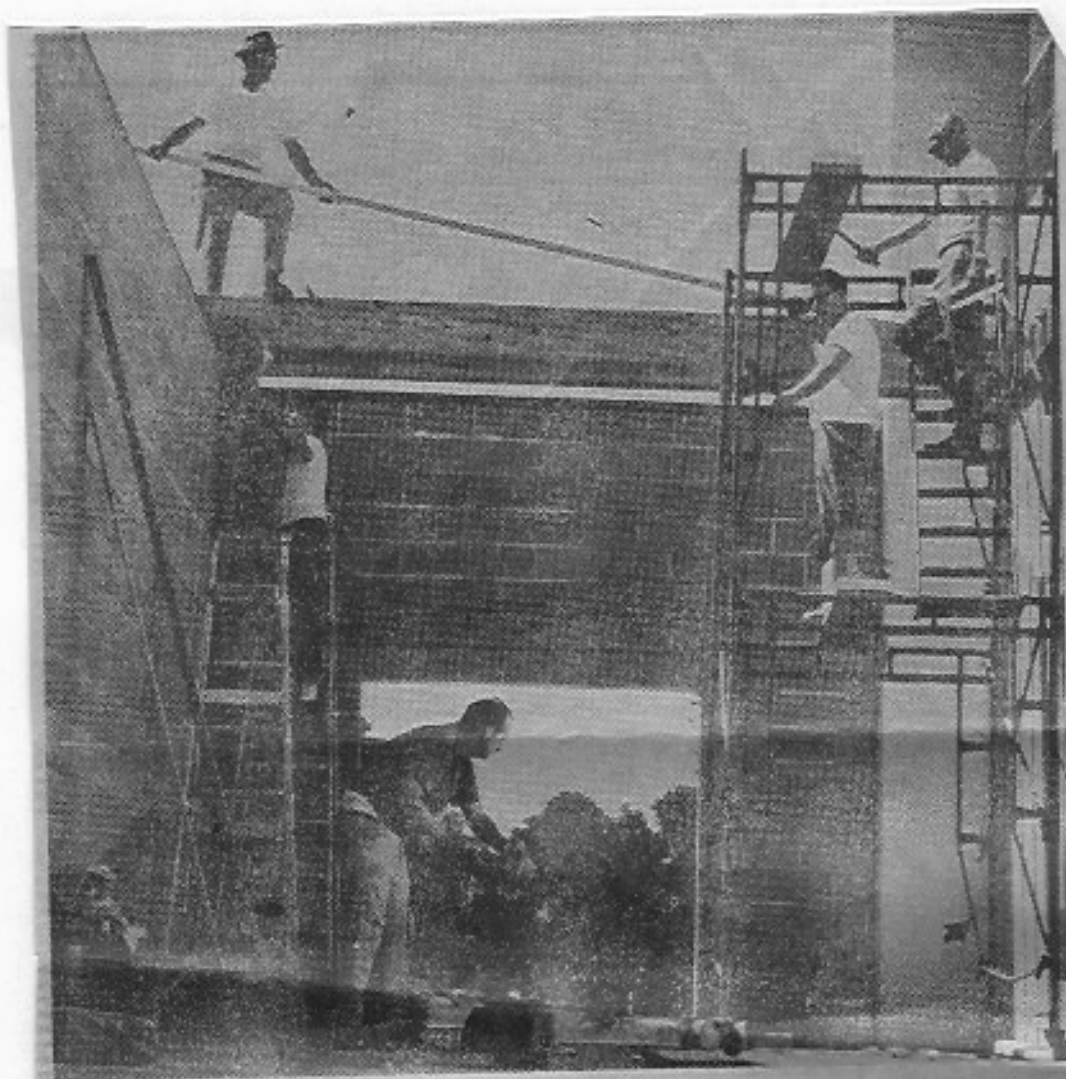


12/20/67



Addition To BA Gym

A group of LaSalle Club members are shown volunteering their time and muscle to build an equipment

room to the rear of the Bishop Armstrong High gym. It will be completed late this month. Sirlin Photo

LaSalle Club Muscle Adds Sports Room To Armstrong High

By Eleanor Doyle

For long years it has been an open secret that a member of the LaSalle Club is always willing to put his money where his heart is—promoting athletic equipment for high school boys being educated by the Christian Brothers.

In recent months, members have been adding their muscle to their money, and have built a 15 by 88 foot long equipment room to the rear of the gymnasium at Bishop Armstrong High.

25 Volunteers

Under the direction of Jim Mulhern, chairman of the building committee, volunteers have followed the plans drawn up by Architect Sooky Lee, and have erected the concrete block room, expected to be completed by late July.

Ralph Balanesi, newly installed LaSalle president, explains: "The room will be used to store such gear as hurdles, football sleds, etc. About 25 men have participated in the building project since mid-May."

Early Beginnings

The formal organization of the LaSalle Club dates back to 1937, when a group of boosters of Christian Brothers High School, then located at 21st and Broadway, obtained permission from the late Bishop Armstrong to form such a group.

However, the seeds for such a club stretch back fur-

ther to the early 1930s. In those times, parents and friends of the school annually staffed a food booth at the State Fair to raise funds for CBS, and, starting in 1933, sponsored a Field Day on the school grounds.

Tom Armstrong was the founding president in 1937, with membership non-sectarian in nature, which continues to this day. One of the first projects of the club was to build a grandstand at the old CBS ball field.

For a short period of time, LaSalle members spread their action over two schools, CBS and Bishop Armstrong, while the Christian Brothers taught boys on both campuses. However, when CBS was closed down and BA became a four year boys school, the members became single minded once again and now direct all their energies to the athletic programs of the Armstrong Falcons.

Annual Events

According to Balanesi, the chief money raiser of the year is the LaSalle Club Frolic, held each fall. More social than fund raising is the annual Old Timers Baseball Night, in the spring, which attracts scores of former baseball figures and hundreds of members of the hot stove league.

In recent times, LaSalle Club has inaugurated a Sports Night to honor the current crop of athletes at Armstrong High. Before next spring, members hope to install two new baseball diamonds at BA and on their "future" list are tennis and handball courts.

Current Slate

Manuel (Babe) Thomas is the outgoing president of LaSalle Club. Serving with Balanesi for the coming year are Walter Turner, first vice president; Clarence Machado, second vice president; Ken Williams, secretary; Joseph Kirrene, treasurer; Mulhern and Earl Betten-court, sergeants at arms.