

WHO IS VAN WALLACE?

(A Reprint)

This question is asked time and again, and in spite of all that has been said about Van Wallace on the *Bulletin*, a brief review of his case will be made:



Van Wallace with Gene Tunney and friends.

He entered Notre Dame in September, 1923, to take engineering. He was a brilliant student and a great reader of good books. He was about the best-looking member of his class, and certainly no one had a happier disposition and no one a higher character. He was faithful to daily Communion and to other practices of piety, and was ready for a wholesome good time always.

On the fourth of July he broke his neck in an attempt to dive into two feet of water without striking bottom. Three vertebrae were broken when they dragged him, paralyzed, from the water. His head had not struck and he was perfectly conscious, as he has been ever since. The doctors gave him only the slightest chance to live. The summer school students started a Novena for him, and on the ninth day, when he was at death's door, he fell into a deep sleep, the first natural sleep he had had in the twelve days since the accident.

After eight hours he awoke, much refreshed. He was placed in a cast, and for some time improved. Through the fall he made only slight progress, however, and an attack of flu early in December nearly proved his undoing. A new specialist was called in recently to operate, in the hope of restoring him. He was hopeful at first, but a second examination showed some severed cords that made surgery helpless to aid him. The doctor says now that he has no right to be alive, from the medical point of view.

Through all this space of nearly eight months, Van has been game to the limit. He is the best living example of Notre Dame spirit, of the kind of spirit that brought Father Sorin through the epidemic of cholera in the fifties and the devastating fire of '79, that made him build a state capitol without a cent in his pocket, that made him draw Notre Dame on magnificent lines when he hadn't two hundred students. Van doesn't complain, he plans to come back to school in a wheel-chair, he does calculus problems in his head, and he is everlastingly grateful to you for all the prayers and Communions you have offered for him.



Van's cot on wheels is on the verge of collapse. The student body is going to make Van a gift of a new cot, with many new mechanical appointments which will make such things as reading and eating more convenient for him. Drop a dime in the hat tonight. Student canvassers will stop at your room. In case you are missed, leave your offering with the Prefect of Religion. Observe that Van's accident happened twenty-two years ago.