

Return adoration cards
signed or unsigned
tonight

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 7, 1932

Immaculate Conception
Masses, 6-7-8-9
(No 10:30 parish Mass)

A Tribute To Professor McCue.

"Dear Father O'Hara: Though I have been many years away from Notre Dame, and during those years have not kept in touch with my teachers there, still to me Professor McCue is much more than a memory - I have never felt that he was far away - his presence always seemed so near and so real, a condition that has not been in the least disturbed by your Bulletin telling of his death some weeks ago. To me he is still the friend and inspiration he was nearly two score years ago - commanding the respect, the affection, and the admiration of his students.

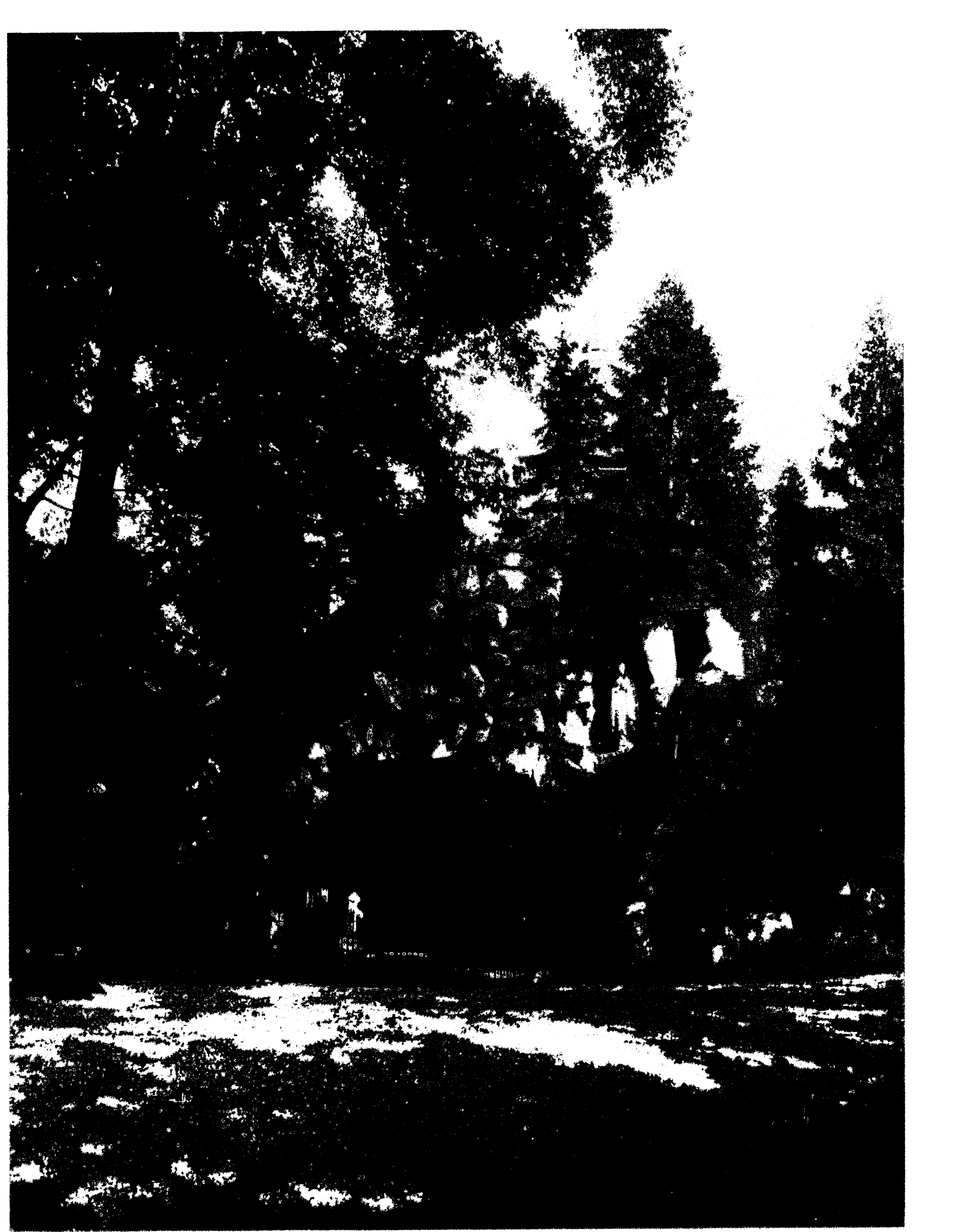
"I liked your characterization of Professor McCue - Gentleman, Scholar, Saint! Most of all I liked the Gentleman, and I am sure it will be his wonderful qualities of soul and mind which caused you to put the word Gentleman first after his name; it will linger longest, being most deeply graven in the memories of all who knew him. -- And all who knew him counted him Friend.

"I was a very young man when I came under Professor McCue's tutelage. In 1892-3 I was a member of his class in Surveying; in 1893-4, of his class in Railroad Surveying; and in 1894-5, my senior year, I attended courses given by him in Mechanics of Engineering, Hydraulics, and Astronomy. He was a wonderful teacher - a scholar who knew his field with a thoroughness of depth and breadth that will ever be unusual. He was gifted with a clarity of exposition, of demonstration, of expression, and had a control over his classes which compelled their attention and understanding. No one was ever inattentive in his classes. He controlled his pupils, not by wielding a big stick, but through sheer intellectual force and example. A saving sense of humor pervaded his surroundings. His boys instinctively felt that he loved them - that he loved all boys - and what was equally if not more important, he understood them.

"A student at Notre Dame during a period of great teachers (not that such a time is past), I have intimate and happy memories of Professors McCue and Neill, of Professors Egan and Ewing, and of Fathers Zahm, and Burns, and Fitte, and Cavanaugh (well beloved) and O'Neill (whose very sermons rocked with metre), and others. But of all these, I think it was in Professors McCue's and Neill's classes that human interest ran highest, from whose classes we carried more unfading memories of interesting periods. Not that there are no keen memories of other classes. Ask Judge Hudson of the time that Father Zahm was liquefying some gas (carbon-dioxide, I think it was) under pressure in a laboratory demonstration, and Hudson asked what pressure the apparatus would stand before coming apart. Just as Father Zahm said, 'you pay the damages and I'll see,' the tube with the gas in it went straight up through the ceiling, and as Father Zahm came back from a hurried departure - I think he was one of several who went under a table - he asked: 'Mr. Hudson, did you read the gage?'.....

"Professor McCue was one of the most dynamic men I have ever known - the speed and accuracy and directness with which he could cut to the very heart of things made an especially deep impression on me, particularly in those first years at Notre Dame, when a youngster 'from the wilds of Texas' (as Bishop Foley said of Bishop Hurth at his consecration), I was both awed and static (I am still the latter). But his gentleness and understanding soon put me at ease, while his encouragement fired me to accelerating efforts.

"Psychologists have recently given us a new word - 'Eidetic' - which they tell us is a gift possessed by only a limited number of children, and which is usually fading out in the early teens, and gone with adolescence. I feel that perhaps they are wrong there, for the images I call before me of Professor McCue in his classroom and on the campus have all the detail and clearness of eidetic images, and they come and go at will. And I will them often, for to me Professor McCue will always be more than a memory - always an understanding friend, an inspiration, and one of God's own gentlemen.
-- Hugh C. Mitchell, C.E., '95; B.Sc., '98."



THE GROTTO

Notre Dame, Indiana