

FRANCIS A. MARKOE
421 SUMMIT AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
55102

August 24, 1967.

Dear Charlie:

Thanks for your fine letter and pardon for the delay in answering, but after fifty years have had a stay in the hospital that slowed me down.

My brother Fr. William is in town and after talking to him and Jim the opinion was unanimous that John would be pleased and honored if you would write his obituary.

While John felt great affection for all his class, no one was closer to him than you and Carl Spaatz.

I am enclosing a few items that might help. John and Jens Doe were close friends at Braden's school before entering the Academy and were to-gether on the border during the trouble with Mexico.

While John always cared little for a class room and hoped to be sent to the missions on becoming a jesuit he spent most of his life teaching mathematics and astronomy at Detroit University, Regis College in Denver, St. Louis University and finally at Creighton University in Omaha.

While still a young Jesuit he and his brother Fr. William noting the many injustices the negroes were subjected to even by the churches fought to change this. They ^{were} largely responsible ^{for} opening St. Louis University to them. Many honors were awarded to them for this work after it became more popular.

I will enclose a few items that might be of help. If you like I will write to Fr. Henri Renard for a copy of the sermong he preached at John's funeral.

The funeral was a final tribute to him. The church was filled not only by prominent people but hundreds of the poor that he had helped during his final years at Creighton. The Archbishop of Omaha presided, about one hundred Jesuits filed in and twelve senior Jesuits con-celebrated the Mass.

Will let this go and if I can send any more data I will be glad to.

Affectionately,

Frank



THE REV. JOHN MARKOE

A former St. Paul priest who was a teammate of ex-president Dwight Eisenhower on a U. S. Military Academy football team died Wednesday in Omaha, it was learned here today.

The Rev. John Prince Markoe, 76, had served as a mathematics professor at Creighton University, Omaha, the past 20 years. His death was due to a combination of emphysema and a heart ailment. He was a member of the Society of Jesus.

Born in St. Paul, Father Markoe attended the College of St. Thomas before receiving an appointment to the Military Academy. As an end on the Army's 1912 and 1913 football teams, he played against Notre Dame in the game in which the latter introduced the forward pass and against Jim Thorpe, legendary backfield star, when the latter was with the Carlisle Indians.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. John's Catholic church, Omaha, with burial in that city.

Surviving are two sisters, Sisters Ann Marie and Mary Joseph of Visitation Academy in St. Louis, and three brothers, the Rev. William M. of Marquette University, Milwaukee, and James and Francis A., both of St. Paul.

