

Collin pipes and we dance

By DIANE DUBEY
Correspondent

GOOD OLD FRANK Collin is probably doubled over with laughter right about now.

And, ladies and gentlemen of Skokie and the larger Jewish community, he owes it all to you.

With your rhetoric, your announcements, your threats and your in-fighting, you've made it virtually unnecessary for Collin and his tiny group of neo-Nazi followers to travel to Skokie.

When the National Socialist (Nazi) party originally announced its intention to rally in Skokie last October, the voice on the tape machine at Nazi headquarters said something to the effect that "we're going to Skokie to see all those Jews go crazy."

Whereupon the Jews in Skokie went crazy.

While Collin is buffeted about by court injunctions, appeals and village ordinances which keep him physically out of Skokie, he actually is getting more attention than a youngster at his own bar mitzvah.

SKOKIE HAS BECOME a community with its dirty laundry on public display.

Representatives of Jewish organizations are publicly belittling one another. Well-known Jewish leaders are

booed by irate crowds whose ideas don't mesh with their own. And Skokie residents who probably have never before set foot in village hall are making their debuts at board meetings, praising or vilifying public officials, then presenting and repeating their own feelings about Collin & Company.

For practical purposes, July 4 is no longer the date of a proposed march—it's more likely to mark Skokie's first three-ring circus.

A village with 7,000 Holocaust survivors certainly can expect to see fear and hatred and threats of vengeance.

But "Nazi panic" has reached far beyond the survivors, becoming precocious rhetoric from 12-year-olds at village board meetings and overtones of fascism in those like the man who asked the board to pass an ordinance forbidding the news media from carrying information on the Nazi activities.

IN ANY CASE, July 4, 1977, may well be an event to remember. The invitations were sent out weeks ago, but the refreshments won't be much and you can leave your tux in the closet.

Everyone will be too busy to notice you as they seek out the host and the guests of honor. They're the ones in the funny brown shirts with the funny emblems wearing those big funny grins all over their faces.