Rome Free Academy Graduates Its Largest Class

School Board Gives 484 Diplomas At 94th Annual Commencement

Rome Free Academy graduated the largest class in its history Tuesday night with 484 receiving diplomas from Dr. Frederick K. Beek, president of the Board of Education.

It was the academy's 94th commencement, the 129th held in the stadium. Because of failure of the stadium lighting system, the order of the program was changed to permit as many as possible to receive the awards at night.

The official program was moved to the roof of the stadium, which also served as the stage. In the firstclass record.

Girls were graduated. The firstclass record.

WILL SERVE THEIR COUNTRY—Three members of Rome Free Academy's graduating class will attend military service academies. David M. Draper, left, will go to the United States Military Academy at West Point; and Carol Jean Pettinelll, center, and Donald V. Hock, right, will go to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Three Going To Military Academies

By BSI Staff

This Class More Than 100 Times The Size of First One in 1870

If it's the biggest one yet. The graduating class, more than 100 times the size of the first commencement in 1870, was attended by hundreds of families and friends.

The new class was a more than 100 times larger than the first class of approximately 300 graduates. The new class included 49 who were awarded to RFA Regents scholars, 29 who were awarded by the Rome Cable TV parent company, 10 who were awarded by the Jewish Community Center, 8 who were awarded by the National Honor Society, 6 who were awarded by Colgate Seminary, 4 who were awarded by the Academy Board of Governors, 3 who were awarded by the Academy, 2 who were awarded by the Class of 1870, and 1 who was awarded by the Rome Free Academy.

The program was moved to the roof of the stadium, which had to be closed due to failure of the lighting system. The program was opened with the presentation of flags and the national anthem by the U.S. Marine Corps and the Army National Guard, followed by a prayer by the Rev. Charles S lyras, D.D., pastor of Zion Episcopal Church.

Schooler Funds Top $50,000

This amount does not include the proceeds from the sale of the firstclass record.

YELEED THE CLASS — Some of the leaders of Rome Free Academy's graduating class from left are: First row: Vincent J. DiCiccaro, head of the DeWitt-Sta. business staff; Frances L. Balin, commissary of the Bureau of School Information; Carla R. Cecilia, valiantfighter and head of Hill press editor; and Francie E. Miller, head of Hill board. Back row: James A. Chupka, salutatorian, John S. Grapp, president of the Student Senate; Carol E. Jones, editor-in-chief of the DeWitt-Sta.; and Peter P. Zavaly Jr., president of the principal class.

Three 'Magic Number' For 1963 Graduates

This number does not include the proceeds from the sale of the firstclass record.

SEEING DOUBLE? — Yes, three times. Three lets of twins were among the 484 who received diplomas from Rome Free Academy last night. From left are John A. Veireich, with Joseph S. behind him; Luke J. and Larry J. Stevens; and Jerry Black with Jeffrey Q. behind him.