

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

No. 13 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years



1910 - 2010

The fall and Christmas season of 1910, following the dedication of St. Charles church and school on November 6, and the first several months of 1911 were busy and eventful times for the congregation. The first baptism at St. Charles occurred on Sunday, November 13, a week after the dedication, when Leslie Herbert Bratz, who was born to Francis and Sophia (nee Schumann) Bratz on September 17, 1910, was baptized. His godparents were George and Elizabeth Schumann. Also baptized in November and December 1910

Liber Baptismorum in Ecclesia										
No.	Nomen Infantis	Tempus Natiuitatis			Tempus Baptismi			Residentia	Nomen Patrum	
		Die	Mensis	Anno	Die	Mensis	Anno		Nomen Patris	Nomen Matris
1	Leslie Herbert Bratz	17	Sept	1910	13	Nov	1910	Burlington	Franciscus Bratz Sophia Schumann	Georgius Schumann Elizabeth Schumann
2	George Powers	22	Nov	1910	27	Nov	1910	Burlington	Indulcius Powers Anna Kottisch	Richard Porfeld Josephina Schmalzer

Portion of first page of St. Charles baptism record

were three infants - George Powers, Marcella Partee, and Emil Ketterhagen - and two young children - Edward and Frank Wisnefski.

While the fall fairs and other social activities raised money for the building fund and other expenses, financing of the church's operating expenses at that time consisted mainly of annual pew rentals. It was not until 1914 that the envelope system was inaugurated. The first pew rental on Sunday, November 13, 1910, resulted in some pews bringing as much as \$50. The annual report for 1911 showed that pew rent for that year accounted for \$2,337, or about 77 percent, of the total receipts of \$3,019. (Note: \$1 in 1910-11 would have the same buying power as about \$24 in 2009.)

The 1910 fall fair, held at the opera house from Tuesday through Saturday of Thanksgiving week, attracted large crowds to the booths and stands and to the dining hall. About 900 people were served with dinner and supper on Thanksgiving Day and 200 at the chicken pie supper on Saturday. The ladies of the congregation under the leadership of Mrs. Mary (nee Cunningham) Beller and Mrs. Anna (nee Cooney) Kleinkopf also served clam chowder and oyster stew on Friday. A "Kaffee Klatsch" and sale of home baking, conducted by Mrs. Mary (nee Pihringer) Itzin, assisted by Mrs. Susanna (nee Shanley) Warren, were held on Saturday. Fred W. Boulden's orchestra of five pieces "discoursed excellent music in the dining hall during the week that was thoroughly enjoyed by all."

December was another busy month as the married ladies organized the St. Ann's Society and the young ladies organized the St. Agnes Society. Also, sheds were built adjoining the church where farmers could shelter their horses while attending church. On the school front, Mrs. Mary Beller presented the school with a Burdette organ, several students received domestic science instructions at the Conkey Street School (later known as Cooper School), and the school children enjoyed a Christmas tree and an afternoon of games and entertainment during Christmas week.

On Christmas Day, three Masses were sung - a high Mass at 5 a.m. with an English sermon, a low Mass at 8 a.m., and a high Mass with a German sermon at 10 a.m. The church choir, under the charge of Mrs. Mary (nee Verhalen) Smolensky, rendered special music for the occasion.

The first funeral at St. Charles, on December 26, 1910, was that of Veronica Clara Eckert, the 2 year 8 month old daughter of Charles and Clara (nee Albrecht) Eckert of Spring Prairie. Veronica

Liber Defunctorum Ecclesiae S. Caroli					
No.	Nomen	Filius vel Filia	Coniugis	Actus	
				Anno	Mens.
1	Veronica Eckert	Clara Caroli Eckert	Clara Albrecht	2	26
2	Bernard Band			67	9/14

Portion of first page of St. Charles death record

had died on December 23, 1910. She was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery - also known as God's Little Acre, the only Catholic cemetery in Burlington at that time.

In January 1911 the young men organized the St. Aloysius Society, and in February the married men organized the Sacred Heart Society. January also saw the first marriage recorded in St. Charles' matrimonial record when August Huening and Ethel Welch, who had been married civilly in June 1910, had their marriage blessed by Rev. Philipp Dreis on Sunday, January 29, 1911.

Liber Matrimoniorum in Ecclesia					Sancti Caroli Annus 1911						
No.	Nomina Contrahentium	Tempus Matrimonii			Tempus et Ecclesia Baptismi vel loci Natiuitatis Sponsi	Parentes Sponsi	Tempus et Ecclesia Baptismi vel loci Natiuitatis Sponsae	Parentes Sponsae	Testes Matrimonii	Adnotaciones	Minister
		Annus	Mensis	Die							
1	Augustus Huening Ethel Welch	1911	Janu.	29	St. Thomas Waukesha Wis.	Johannes Huening Maria Keller	St. Thomas Waukesha Wis.	Bern. Welch Rose Kargus	Augustus Huening Wilhelm Kargus		Philipp Dreis Karl Drees

Portion of first page of St. Charles matrimonial record

The Lenten season began on Wednesday, March 1, with a high Mass and the distribution of ashes. The newly erected Stations of the Cross were blessed by Rev. Dreis on March 5 and Stations services were held each Friday evening during Lent. Forty Hours devotion was observed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 24 to 26, with several priests assisting Rev. Dreis.

On May 13 the yard around the church and school was a busy place as an old fashioned "bee" was held to level off the school yard. A number of farmers were there with their teams and young men from the city tried their prowess at guiding the scrapers through the heaps of gravel left from the excavation for the building's cellar. Some additional work remained, however, before the St. Charles school children would have as fine a playground as the other schools.

The congregation and its pastor were saddened on May 16 when the angel of death entered the rectory and departed with the soul of Father Dreis' father, Philipp Dreis, who had been living at the rectory for several months. Had Mr. Dreis lived another week, he would have celebrated his ninetieth birthday. He was survived by nine children, three sons and six daughters, his wife having died about 10 years earlier. His funeral was held in Milwaukee at his home parish, St. Joseph's.

On Memorial Day at the end of May, St. Charles hosted the annual meeting of the Racine County Federation of Catholic Societies. The Racine delegation, accompanied by the Uniform Rank of the Catholic Knights, arrived on a special train at the St. Paul depot near McHenry and Market Streets where they were received by the Burlington delegates. The visiting clergy, Federation officers, and some of the delegates were taken to St. Charles in automobiles, but the greater portion of the delegates formed a line of march and were led to the church by Burlington's William J. Brehm mounted on his grey steed and carrying a large United States flag.

After a solemn High Mass sung by Rev. Anthony Meier, of Racine, assisted by Revs. F. X. Schneider and E. B. Schiefen as deacon and sub-deacon, and a sermon delivered by Burlington native Rev. Anthony Weiler, the ladies and young ladies of St. Charles served an "excellent spread" which was partaken of heartily both by delegates and by many Burlington citizens. While dinner was served, a musical program was rendered by Master Edmund Vos, the Misses Frances Schwaller and Elsie Petrie, and a young ladies orchestra.

Following welcoming remarks by Father Dreis and Mayor Henry Zimmermann at the afternoon business session, the delegates adopted resolutions pledging their allegiance and hearty support to the Holy Father, Pope Pius X, and the independence of the Holy See; to Archbishop Messmer of Milwaukee; to the parochial school system; and to the fostering of the Catholic press. Resolutions were also adopted to express the hearty defense of Catholic truth in faith and morals and to bring pressure on legislation to eliminate from our statute books the existing divorce laws, which "have such evil effects upon society, to the disruption of the family home." The principal resolution of the national Federation's convention declaring opposition to all forms of socialism was also discussed. The convention concluded with the election of officers for the ensuing year.

(to be continued)