

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Parish

No. 21 of a Series on Our Parish's First 100 Years

1910 - 2010



In January 1921 St. Charles' congregation purchased a lot on Kendall Street, adjoining what was then the parish's rectory, from Joseph Rewald for \$2,100. The intention was to ultimately build a new rectory on the Rewald lot and use the existing rectory as a home for the Dominican Sisters who were conducting St. Charles school. The classroom in the church building, which the Sisters occupied as their living quarters, would then be available for school purposes. By February pledges for the new rectory had been secured to the amount of \$6,641.

In March it was reported that work in the United Catholic campaign, which had been announced in October 1920 to raise \$5 million in the three Wisconsin dioceses, was progressing nicely in Burlington and that indications were that both local churches would go "over the top" on their respective quotas. The quota of St. Mary's congregation, where Otto A. Klein was parish chairman, was \$12,500. St. Charles' quota was \$10,500 with George Weiler as chairman. The campaign headquarters in Milwaukee reported that the people of the state were responding generously and there was little doubt that the campaign goal would be achieved.

Early in Lent mission services were conducted at St. Charles by Rev. Eugene Gehl, of St. John's Institute for the Deaf at St. Francis. The services during the first of the week were for men and young men. Those during the latter part of the week were for single and married ladies.

In mid-April the St. Charles Alumni association's play, "Too Much Brown," drew a crowd to the opera house. According to the Standard Democrat, the play

"was of the typical farce comedy type and the young people rocked through their parts with ease. The stage was very prettily decorated. Harold Reuschlein distinguished himself from beginning to end and is fast developing into one of the best actors Burlington has produced. The parts taken by Art Finke, Margaret Hoelz, Gladys Forge, Evelyn Spiegelhoff, Ralph Spiegelhoff and Florence Wanasek, receive special comment. Lester Harding took the part of the frisky butler very well and drew many a laugh from the enthusiastic audience. The entire cast showed great ability and promise to entertain the Burlington public again next year."

About two and a half weeks later, the alumni presented the play at Wagner's hall at Brighton. A review in the Standard Democrat said that the performance there may have delighted the audience even more.

On Sunday, May 22, at 8 o'clock high Mass at St. Charles, the following children received their First Holy Communion:

Herbert Alby	Delos Hoffman	Elmer Lois	William Rewald
Catherine Bauman	Laverne Hoffman	Clarence Martin	Irene Richter
Andrew David	Katherine Hoppe	Mary McCourt	Catherine Siehoff
Monica Eckert	Marie Huening	Norma McNamara	John Sommers
Margaret Forge	Charles Isferding	Francis Meurer	Mary Stanley
Casimir Gawin	Joan Kerkhoff	Margaret O'Neill	Catherine Steinhoff
Helen Grossman	Elmer Ketterhagen	Arthur Reinardy	Aloysius Vande Sand

BURLINGTON OPERA HOUSE
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1921

H. S. YOUNG PRESENTS
"TOO MUCH BROWN"
FARCE COMEDY
Under the Auspices of St. Charles Alumni

Unparalleled Screams of Laughter
from Start to Finish

CAST

Harold Reuschlein	Cletus Prasch	Evelyn Spiegelhoff
Arthur Finke	Marion Hoelz	Marie Alby
Ralph Spiegelhoff	Florence Wanasek	Arthur Ebberts
Lester Harding		Gladys Forge

Get Seats Early All Reserved Seats 75c On Sale April 7

On May 31 nature smiled her kindest, providing a splendid day for the Memorial Day exercises. While it was hot, practically everyone in the city turned out for the morning's program which consisted of placing floral tributes on the graves in the two cemeteries. As usual, St. Charles students, led by the drum corps, joined the line of march at Lewis Street as the veterans and the Women's Relief Corps made their way to St. Mary's Cemetery.

At graduation exercises held in the church on Sunday, June 19, the following pupils received diplomas:

Helen Beuthling	Ralph DeGrave	Marion Finke	Evelyn Kornhoff
Catherine Christien	Bernice Ebberts	Oliver Finke	Henrietta Lohaus
Marcella Christien	Lloyd Eckert	Michael Janczak	William Martin
Lucille David	Roman Eckert	Philip Klein	Ralph Yopp

On the following Tuesday, the St. Charles school children enjoyed their annual picnic at Bohner's Lake; and on Thursday the Alumni association held its annual reunion. The alumni banquet was followed by a program headed by Eleanor Eckert as toastmistress and including a welcome to the 1921 class by Coletta Verhalen; a response by William Martin; talks by Father Dreis, Daniel Warren, Sister Mary Hortense, Lester Harding, and Leo Warren; a one-act play; and musical numbers. After a business meeting at which Harold Reuschlein was elected president, an alumni orchestra furnished music for dancing at the Knights of Columbus hall.

At a July 9 meeting of the members of the congregation, a Parish Council was formed with forty-four members. The following officers were elected: honorable president - Rev. Philipp Dreis, president - John T. Prasch, vice president - Daniel A. Warren, and secretary and treasurer - George Weiler. The object of the council was to enlist the services of the laymen in the work and social activities of the church.

During the summer of 1921 the Sunday Mass schedule was changed to 6, 8, and 10:30 a.m., with high Mass and benediction at the 8 o'clock Mass. A couple of ice cream socials were held during the summer, one on the Knights of Columbus lawn and the other on the lawn of the Pat Warren farm about 5-1/2 miles south of Burlington on the Kenosha road (now Highway 142). The annual harvest festival was held at the church toward the end of August.

As school opened in September, it was reported that the work in the parochial schools of the city was going ahead with a larger number of pupils and assurances of greater success than ever before. In the three parochial schools, 430 children were receiving an education at the expense of the church operating the school, without cost to the city, and in many cases without cost to the parents other than their regular support of their church. The enrollments at the parochial schools were as follows: St. Mary's - 230; St. Charles - 158; and St. John's Lutheran - 42.

On October 5, Father Dreis, C. Roy McCanna, Henry N. Stang, George Weiler, and John T. Prasch went to Milwaukee to attend a banquet given Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.

A Hallowe'en carnival, given by the St. Charles Alumni on October 25 under the general direction of Harold Reuschlein, was a decided success. St. Charles' hall was described as more beautiful than it had ever been. Both sides of the hall were lined with most attractive booths and side shows, while the stage presented a real harvest scene. Multi-colored autumn leaves, tall corn stalks, and grotesque pumpkin faces added to the charm and attractiveness of the place.

At 5 o'clock a fine chicken supper was served to over 350 people. By 7 o'clock all the stands and side shows were running in true carnival fashion. A continuous free program was

presented on the main platform, one of the features deserving special mention being an impersonation of a Swedish family presented in costume by members of St. Charles choir and several of the teachers in the local schools. During the evening the hall was brilliant with countless bright colored balloons and the orange and black suits of the clowns, the presence of witches, ghosts, comical policemen and other characters, representing weeks of work on the part of the Alumni women, who prepared the costumes. Music was furnished throughout the evening by the high school orchestra.

The contest for the "Queen of Fun and Frolic," for which voting coupons had been printed in the local newspapers for a couple of weeks before the carnival, resulted in Miss Loretta Ebbers winning over Miss Millicent McCarthy by a very close margin. At 10:15, Miss Ebbers was crowned "Carnival Queen," bringing to a close a night of fun and joy, long to be remembered.

On December 4, Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer, assisted by a number of priests from this vicinity, confirmed a large class at St. Charles. In impressive services, the following candidates were confirmed:

Mary Albright	Francis Gerloff	Anthony Mutchler	Ruby Schumann
Bernard E. Bauman	Esther Grossman	Carlos Mutchler	Ida Sommers
Evelyn Bauman	Lyola Harding	Mathew Nelson	Cyril Spiegelhoff
Rosa Bauman	Amanda Henningfield	Robert Partee	Margaret Stanley
Waldo Bauman	Irwin Isferding	Peter Petersen	Joseph Surges
William Beuthling	Leo Isferding	Eleanor Prash	Lawrence Trimberger
Herbert Chesick	Barbara Ketterhagen	Rose Prott	Gilbert Vos
Edward Cook	Philip Klein	Dorothy Reesman	Arthur Wagner
Dorothy Cunningham	Ruth Klein	Edward Reesman	Florence Wagner
Margaret David	Andrew Koenen	Alma Rewald	Robert Wagner
Ralph DeGrave	Evelyn Kornhoff	Marion Riel	Louis Wanasek
Bernice Ebbers	Marie Kornhoff	Edmund Rossmiller	Frederick Warren
Esther Eckert	Elmer Lois	Robert Rossmiller	George Weiler
Lloyd Eckert	Alice McCormack	Harold Schneider	Arthur Winkler
Roman Eckert	Francis Meurer	Lucille Schneider	Francis Yambor
Helen Forge	Edward Meyer	Hubert Schranz	Warner Zimmermann

Following the usual schedule of Christmas services and early 1922 society meetings and social activities, the congregation's annual meeting was held on the last Sunday in January. At the meeting, it was voted to erect a new rectory the coming summer. The rectory was to be erected facing Kendall Street on the lot acquired from Joseph Rewald a year earlier. The cost was estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$15,000. The former Kessler house, which had served as the rectory since the congregation was established, was to be remodeled for use as the Sisters' home.

In March a building committee was appointed to handle the project. The members were Rev. Philipp Dreis, William Wagner, Henry Pihringer, George Weiler, William Finke, Henry Lange,

**The Whole Town is Going
Monster Hallowe'en
Carnival**

Tuesday, Oct. 25 St. Charles Hall

COME TO SUPPER IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN WHICH
YOU HAVE EVER EATEN

A WONDERFUL OCTOBER FAIRYLAND

M E N U

Roast Chicken and Dressing
Potatoes and Gravy Baked Squash
Cabbage Slaw Celery and Olives
Rolls and Coffee
Apricot Ice and Wafers

All for 50 cents
5 to 7 p. m.

Beautiful Music by
an Excellent Orchestra

**At 7 o'clock the Biggest Carnival
You Ever Saw Opens Full Blast!**

St. Charles Alumni Entertains you. 'Nuff said.
Continuous Free Program.

Entertainers Dancers Indians Ghosts Singers Animals Goblins Drink Sweet Cider Eat Pumpkin Pie Sweets of All Kinds	BIG SIDE SHOWS "Bringing Up Father" (4 Big Scenes) "The Gunner" (Andy, Min & Chester) Romp Through the Four Seasons All in One Evening. Seek Your Fortune in the Witch's Gulch Visit Rebecca at the Well. Schute-de-schute for the Kiddies.
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**Witness the Spectacular Corona-
tion of the Queen**

**Your last chance to give her 1000
votes for each 5c**

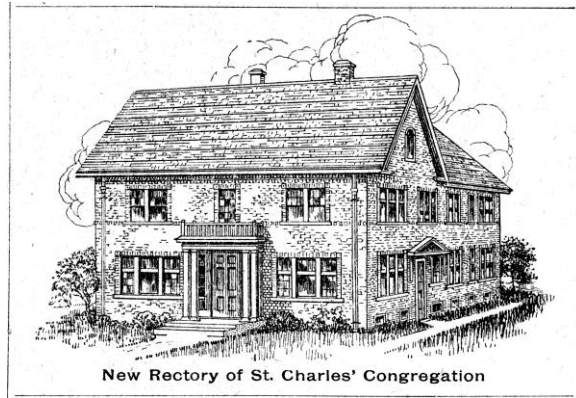
Everybody vote now for one of the following:

Catherine McCarthy	Millicent McCarthy
Hildegard Weisman	Margaret Hoile
Loretta Ebbers	Lyola Alby
Eleanor Eckert	Eleanor Ketterhagen

to be Queen of the Hallowe'en Carnival, October 25 at St. Charles
hall. This week only, each 5c gives her 1000 votes. Cut out this ad.
and mail to HAROLD N. REUSCHLEIN, Origin St., Burlington.

John McCourt, and Henry Koenen. This committee spared neither time nor personal expense to secure for the congregation the best rectory that the funds available would permit.

By June architect William J. Redden, of Racine, had the plans for a modern rectory ready (see architect's drawing) and on June 20 bids were opened and contracts awarded to the following: William Hoppe and Henry Rueter, general work; Leo Zwiebel, plumbing and hot water heating; A. J. Gement, Racine, electric



New Rectory of St. Charles' Congregation

wiring; Racine Mosaic Tile Co., pressed brick; Reineman Hardware Co., finish hardware; Wilbur Lumber Co., millwork; Dardis Lumber Co., lumber and flooring; and John Angsten, painting. The contracts designated that the building was to be ready for occupancy by November 15.

On January 31 the Alumni association presented its annual play at the Burlington Opera House. The comedy, entitled "The Private Secretary," was reported to be "excellent throughout." The review said that "It is rather to be wondered at that a group of young people, practically unassisted, could put on a play necessitating so much work, and put it on so well. All the characters were suitably chosen and carried their different parts in fine style." Harold Reuschlein directed the play and played the leading role. The other cast members were Lester Harding, Dan Wegge, Evelyn Spiegelhoff, Margaret Hoelz, Gladys Forge, Herbert Bauman, C. John Forge, Anthony Rewald, Victor Woeste, Edward Reesman, and Eleanor Eckert.

A number of St. Charles' students did well in an essay contest conducted early in 1922 by the Bank of Burlington in connection with its fiftieth anniversary. In the grade school competition, Cyril Spiegelhoff and Evelyn Bauman won the second and third prizes, respectively, and several other students won lower-place prizes and honorable mentions. On Washington's birthday, the children of St. Charles sang Southern folk songs at a social gathering given by the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters for their husbands and friends at the Knights of Columbus hall. Father Dreis gave an address at the gathering

To celebrate Father Dreis' namesday, the St. Agnes Sodality gave a supper and program at St. Charles' hall on May 1. The celebration, which seventy-two young women and other guests attended, included musical numbers and a recitation, which followed the supper, as well community singing throughout the evening and short talks by Rev. A. P. Kraus, of Brighton; Rev. E. B. Schiefen, of Dover, and Father Dreis.

On Memorial Day morning the St. Charles school children again participated in the march to St. Mary's Cemetery for decoration of the veterans' graves. In addition, Father Dreis gave the opening prayer and the benediction at the afternoon program at the opera house.

At St. Charles church on June 11, twenty children received First Holy Communion at the 8 o'clock Mass. They were:

Evelyn Beuthling	Elizabeth Gerloff	Myrtle Kline	Lavern Reuschlein
Warren David	Cecelia Grueter	Aloys Nienhaus	Leander Rewald
Evelyn Disher	John Itzin	Mary O'Neill	Coletta Rossmiller
Margaret Disher	Clarence Kornhoff	Bernard Peters	Hubert Schranz
Phillip Finke	Rose Klein	Everett Reinardy	Ruth Staudemeyer

(to be continued)