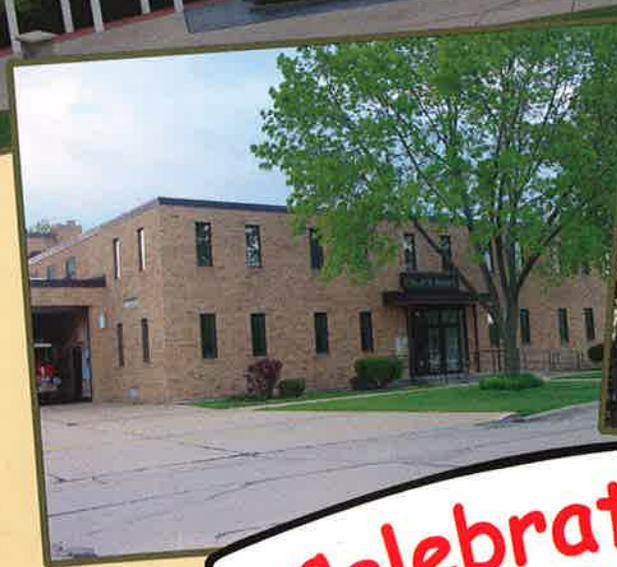
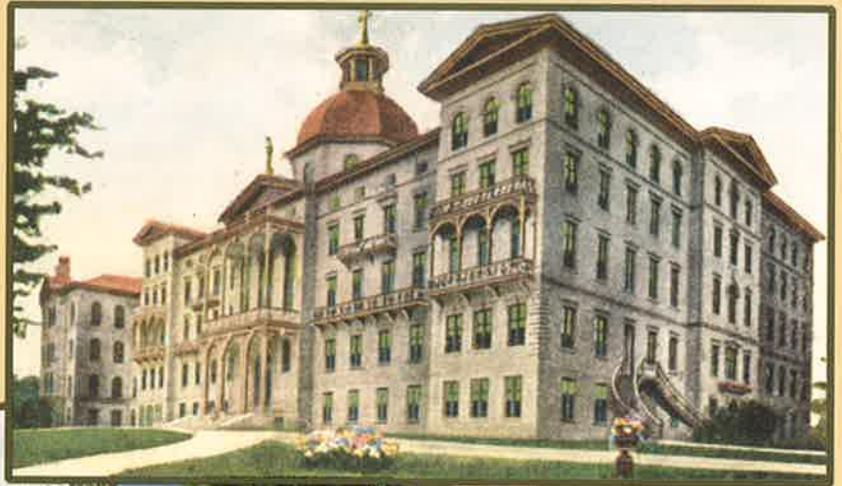


St. Francis



Where Your Heart Remains



Celebrating 50 Years

1951

2001



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Ald. 3rd District



David C. Sopolinski
Ald. 3rd District



Richard Lentz
Ald. 2nd District

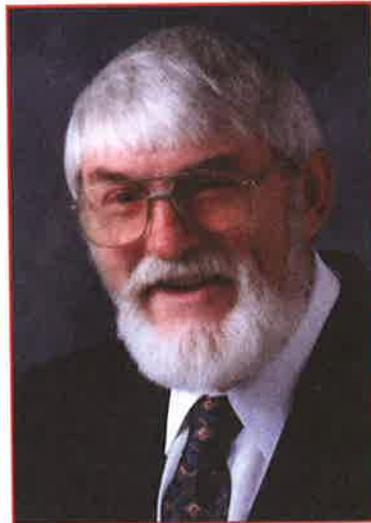


John Vugrinovich
Ald. 1st District

St. Francis



Dennis V. Lillrose
Ald. 1st District



Lawrence Burazin
Mayor



Stanley J. Raclaw
Ald. 2nd District



Peter C. Hemmer
Municipal Justice



Ralph Voltner, Jr.
City Administrator/Treasurer



Anne B. Uecker
City Clerk - Comptroller



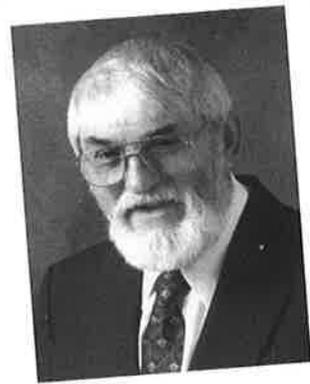
Richard H. Staats
City Attorney

Municipal Government

City of St. Francis

4235 South Nicholson Avenue
St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235
(414) 481-2300 FAX: (414) 481-6483

MAYOR
Lawrence J. Burazin



Congratulations to all as we honor our city's fiftieth anniversary!

Anniversaries are times of celebration; they are also times of remembering, times of taking stock, times of promise. Here in St. Francis this milestone of fifty years gives us the opportunity to celebrate, to appreciate what we have become and to resolve to take advantage of the future.

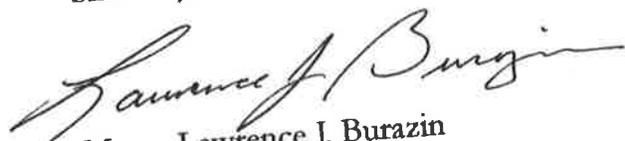
It is my privilege as Mayor to support festivities of all sorts to mark this anniversary year. I encourage everyone to take part in special events as well as the enhanced Fourth of July and St. Francis Days celebrations. We can be proud of the state of our community and rejoice in the wonderful spirit of our people.

We have come a long way since this city declared its independence from the old Town of Lake back in 1951. Many of us can recall the early struggles that threatened the survival of St. Francis as a separate community. This booklet chronicles that initial effort and later achievement and it honors those who did so much to make our city what it is today..

A philosopher once said, *"That which thy fathers bequeathed thee, earn it anew if thou wouldst possess it."* We owe a great deal to those who built our city and now it is up to all of us to continue to make St. Francis great. That means that we have to be able and willing to work to protect all that is good in St. Francis while being open to new growth, new neighbors and new ways of doing things. In doing so we will insure future success and prosperity for us and for our children.

I personally thank all of the businesses and organizations that helped to sponsor this book, and I congratulate the members of the Historical Society for their efforts in its production. May the years ahead prove happy and prosperous for all of us and for the City of St. Francis.

Sincerely,



Mayor Lawrence J. Burazin



ST. FRANCIS CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor	Larry Burazin
City Administrator	Ralph Voltner
City Attorney	Richard H. Staats
City Clerk/Comptroller	Anne B. Uecker
Municipal Judge	Peter C. Hemmer
Alderpersons - District 1	John Vugrinovich
	Dennis V. Lillrose
Alderpersons - District 2	Stanley J. Raclaw
	Richard Lentz
Alderpersons - District 3	Debbie Fliss
	David Sopolinski



August 14, 1951

PICNIC TO CELEBRATE THE INCORPORATION ON JULY 25, 1951
Left to Right — Anton Grabske, Sec'y of State Fred Zimmerman, Henry Rajchel, John Grabske

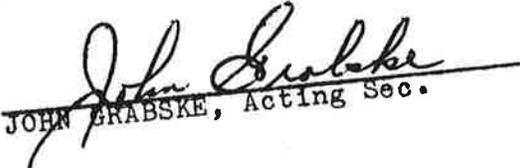
DEAR ST. FRANCIS BUSINESSMAN:

It shall be our honor and privilege on Sunday August 26, 1951 to have the Honorable Fred R. Zimmerman, Secretary of the State of Wisconsin, make the formal presentation of our Charter for the City of St. Francis to Mr. Henry A. Rajchel, Town Clerk. This event will take place at the Town of Lake American Legion Post #129, at 3877 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, from 2 to 5 P.M.

We intend this to be a long remembered occasion. As such, we wish to have free beer and door prizes. A contribution of a door prize in merchandise or gift certificate from you will be greatly appreciated. All of the citizens of the City of St. Francis are invited.

The organizational meeting of the St. Francis Businessmen's Association, is scheduled for Thursday September 6, 1951 at 8:15 P. M. at the Town of Lake American Legion Post #129 at 3877 South Kinnickinnic Avenue. Your attendance at this meeting is very important.

Respectfully Yours,


JOHN GRABSKE, Acting Sec.

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Milton Vretenar

Excerpts from an interview of Milton Vretenar, by Jim Goodwin, on November 13, 2000, as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

On coming to St. Francis from Europe...

"We moved into the community in 1937, and at that time I was nine years old. We came here from the old country, from Czechoslovakia, and I did not know a word of English. We are in the same area, living in the same home. Well now I live 1 house away next door to the old homestead. Our homestead is where we moved into in 1937, and is supposedly one of the oldest homes in the community at the present time. I guess what I can say is that things have changed quite a bit...there was very few homes around here. Most of it was vacant land, from, in fact on Packard Avenue, from what we call our city limits on Lunham Avenue there was only one home on Lunham which is where Black Bear Soda is. They used to make the soda over there in the 1920's, when they started it. We didn't have any electricity on Packard Avenue, there were no sewers, we had outside toilets, well water, we had to pump it. We'd go outside to the bathroom, and our electricity came from Black Bear because there were no electric lines in front of the home, or anything on Packard Avenue at that time..."

Recalling how farm life was in St. Francis...

"...at that time were busy trying to survive,... jobs were hard to come by. We had this little place here and which was a little bit of a farm and we had cows...if you take from Packard Avenue all the way to K.K, we used to farm that. ...I remember the first year we were here, you know in Europe you walk barefoot all summer long because you couldn't afford shoes and all that stuff. We used to make straw when they used to cut wheats and oats and all that, and stubbles they were in fields you could walk on all that. ...Like I say, there was absolutely nothing here except us, Kuciks, and Weinhold's house, Derksmaier had house there. There was another house there and Derksmaier on the other side, and it was all empty and we used to farm all this. Mr. Kucik had a cow, too, and we used to share in the thing here. Voltner's had a place where the high school is. And Pekar farm was across the way on Lake Drive. In fact, then we had our cows we had to take them to the bull; they didn't have all the professionalism like they have today. And we'd have to walk our cow from Packard Avenue to Pekar's farm, Pete Pekar that owns the liquor store; his dad ran that, his dad had the farm. Take them to the bull for breeding and that was a lot of fun because them cows were a little jumpy. Before that, in order to get them bred, if he didn't have a bull, we'd have to go where Hardee's is right now...on Layton and Whitnall,... there used to be a farm...Vijorick farm, I don't know if you know them. Right where Hardee's is, that's where we used to take our cows to be bred, come down along Layton Avenue with a cow on hook."

On the beginning of his political career in St. Francis...

"...when I got involved in it, it was the 1950's was the

rumble of things that maybe we should get up and get out and become our own community and get out of Town of Lake. At that time, Milwaukee was sort of annexing everything around itself and the rumors were that they were going to annex the whole area to the south, so...Rich Neubauer, was quite active and personal friend of mine, and we used to work, he was in construction, and we used to talk about it a lot and see what we could do to annex it. There was your father-in-law and all them guys in there, were really instrumental in getting it, Mr. Grabske, Joe Wolf and so on so forth. They were all business people in town and they felt that with Lakeside Power Plant being located here and the revenue that generated for community we could give good to the community and the taxes would really be minimal, which was true...But the important thing, rather I should say is, the mayor from Milwaukee felt that the electric company, being a utility, should share with the rest of the communities, the surrounding area should be given..., it's a public utility and everybody should share in it. Even though the nuisance was in our community...the tax base was good and everything else but when they got up to Madison, and our former, now the mayor, present mayor of Milwaukee, he was up there and they changed the law that everyone would share in the pot from the utilities. That really broke the camel's back. It really hurt us tremendously. We didn't have any funding,...to us, it was unfair to the community...Mr. Neubauer and I were close and going to the local gin mills for a beer and everyone would discuss politics. We had some hot arguments here and there. Some people were really dedicated to the community and wanted to keep it open and be by ourselves...Those of us,..that dreamt up St. Francis to become this city, we all stuck together and put our muscles to good use by not giving up and kept hustling and it all happened. I got involved in the fact that, if you go to the local bars, years ago, it was a place to express your opinions, and Sunday mornings after church a lot of the fellows would come in there and play cards and talk about the things in the future of the community and someone would say, "Well you guys all talk smart, why don't you get involved?" Well, I got involved. One of the aldermen that was there, Mr. Klug, asked me if I wanted to be on the public works committee, on the board of public works. So, I was on there for about 4 or 5 years...So, I went to Thompson Avenue School and now I have kids...going to Thompson Avenue School, but now there's a whole lot of homes around and no sidewalks. Lot more cars, no sidewalks. So, I thought, you should have a sidewalk there. They said, "Well, you talk smart. Why don't you run for alderman?" ... They conned me into it. I ran for alderman. The first time around I ran against Mr. Klug and he was very well know and I didn't anticipate I'd go anywhere with him. But, I only lost by six votes. The next time around I went and did real good and have been there ever since. So that's my involvement, trying to get some sidewalks so my kids would have a way to get to school."

St. Francis Seminary

The Midwest's first seminary, located in St. Francis, WI was founded in 1845. John Martin Henni, appointed the first bishop of the new Diocese of Milwaukee in 1843, saw a need to train clergy, which would be familiar with local conditions. In December 1845, a bilingual seminary opened near the bishop's residence to educate German-speaking clergy.

Originally, Henni began a training program for priests under patronage of St. Francis de Sales near his cottage on Jefferson Street in Milwaukee. In 1854, a cholera epidemic forced it to temporarily close. In the next year, the seminary continued to struggle to survive. It moved to Germantown, then back to Milwaukee, and finally to a building housing Franciscan Brothers, who later assisted with construction of the Seminary now at 3257 S. Lake Drive.

Henni was unhappy with the moving of the seminary and wanted to establish a permanent site. He found two priests, Frs. Joseph Salzmann and Michael Heiss to help him. In 1853, Salzmann initiated a fund drive to raise money. He personally pledged \$1,000. He set out across Wisconsin, and also visited Chicago, Memphis, New Orleans, Louisville, Cincinnati, and eventually Europe. From 1854 to 1874, he raised over \$100,000, much in the form of wheat, potatoes, pork, and vegetables.

Initially, 48 acres, then an additional 40, were bought in St. Francis, then known as Nojoshing. A three storied building, with a chapel in the middle, was set to be built, and cost from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

300,000 bricks were made on site and 150,000 feet of lumber were shipped from Sheboygan and Manitowoc. A team of 80 common and skilled workers was hired, earning \$1 to \$2.50 per day. Expenses averaged about \$400 a week. Though Henni and his colleagues worried over the debt, they had faith that God would help them.

Funds continued to slowly come in from the state and nation. Also, money was acquired from the Leopoldine Society in Austria, the Ludwig Society in Bavaria, and a generous gift from a wealthy Belgian.

Many helped to establish the Seminary. The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi provided meals and other assistance to the workers. The Franciscan Brothers made bricks, hauled lumber from the lakefront, cleared firewood from the brickyard from land near Cudahy, and did carpentry.

The cornerstone was dedicated July 15, 1855 by Henni. It was hailed as a historic event. The seminary formally opened January 29, 1856. Heiss was appointed as rector and Salzmann as procurator. 24 students were first enrolled. Tuition was \$10 a month or \$90 a year and each student was encouraged to bring his own bed. The desks were hand made, light was by kerosene lamps, and wood stoves provided the only heat.

The reputation of the seminary spread. Soon, students were coming from diocese in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, and the Dakota Territory. By 1868, attendance was more than 200 students, causing the needed construction of a new north wing.

Salzmann succeeded Heiss as rector in 1868. Other rectors to follow were Fr. Christopher Wapelhurst, Fr. Kilian Flasch, Fr. Augustine Zeininger, Fr. Joseph Rainer, Msgr. Augustin Charles Breig, Fr. Aloisius J. Muench, Fr. Francis

Haas, Msgr. Albert G. Meyer, Fr. Frank Schneider, Msgr. William Schuit, Fr. Richard Sklba, Fr. Daniel Pakenham, and Fr. Andrew L. Nelson.

Msgr. Augustine Charles Breig, rector from 1920-29, is credited with reorganizing the seminary, and appointing separate deans for the high school, college, and theology departments. The seminary separated its college and high school departments according to academic standards and started a degree program.

During the administration of Msgr. Albert Meyer, 1937-46, the seminary experienced deeper spiritual values, improved conduct from the students, and more interest in mission activities. Outside lectures would often come and inform the students of a variety of current issues.

Physical improvements during Msgr. Meyer's administration were the remodeling of Pio Nono High School in 1941 to house the prep seminary, including the high school and junior college. In September 1941, the high school and junior college were moved to Pio Nono High School, now Thomas More. The philosophy and theology departments remained in the original buildings.

During Fr. Frank Schneider's administration, the centennial was celebrated in 1956. Three new buildings were added to the campuses. They were Heiss Hall, administration center, student rooms, and chapel: Kiley Hall, student-faculty dining and kitchen facility: Rainer Hall, an auditorium. In 1963, the minor department was re-located on a new campus south of the major department in a complex of buildings and renamed De Sales Preparatory Seminary, now the Cousins Center.

In 1970, during Msgr. William Schuit's administration, junior and senior college departments were rejoined and incorporated as St. Francis de Sales College on the De Sales Campus. The major department became the school for pastoral ministry. As of 1969, it was accredited to offer a master's degree in theology and in 1971 bachelor and master of divinity degrees. In 1972, the seminary expanded its realm to grant degrees to professional lay ministers. In 1974, a program was started for the Permanent Diaconate.

De Sales was closed in 1979. The high school program was operated as a Call to Ministry Program and college students were transferred to the seminary while taking classes at Marquette University.

In 1984, the Vatican review team, who gave a strong positive review, evaluated the seminary. It cited the school's spiritual direction and admission procedures.

In 1987, Fr. Daniel Pakenham, the administrator, supervised the transfer of the college program to Weakland Hall, a residence building at 2301 W. Wisconsin Ave, near Marquette University. In 1988, the Office for Ministries was established to certify lay ministers through a non-degreed program.

Throughout the years, St. Francis Seminary prepared more than 4,000 priests. More than 40 of its graduates have become bishops.

Since its existence, St. Francis Seminary has been the oldest training facility for priests in the Midwest. It is among the oldest seminaries in the nation and it is the longest, continuous operation in the same place of any U.S. Seminary.

Father Thomas Hickey

Excerpts from an interview of Father Thomas Hickey, by James Goodwin, on November 17, 2000 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project

On going to schools in St. Francis and his time at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish...

"My life has really revolved pretty much around the city of St. Francis. For all my life I went to school in St. Francis, except for graduate school. Most of my ministry was right around St. Francis, so let me begin by saying that I was born in Bay View, and my parents, when I was 5 years old, moved out to Oklahoma Avenue, near Bay View Park, and it was there that I started my education at Sacred Heart of Jesus School, in St. Francis. I then went to Pio Nono High School, in St. Francis, then I went to St. Francis Seminary, in St. Francis. My first appointment was to Immaculate Conception in Bay View, but that was only for 7 years, and then I was appointed to the seminary, the St. Francis Minor Seminary in 1956. I was ordained in 1949. In 1956 I began to teach in the seminary at St. Francis, and I taught there 14 years until 1970, when I was appointed to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in St. Francis. I was there for 9 years. Then I moved out to Brookfield and Milwaukee for about 5 years, then back to St. Francis where I retired.

I became familiar with St. Francis in that period of 1970-1979, when I was the pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. It was a thrilling experience in the sense that there were so many changes taking place, not only in society, but in our church. There was a new attitude in regards to priestly ministry to people in St. Francis. We used to be very much involved in just the parish. I felt that I belonged to some sort of service organization in the city of St. Francis, so I was one of the charter members of the Lion's club in St. Francis, a service organization. I thought it was a very good experience because I met and dealt with, and worked with-in a larger community than just the catholic community. It was a very good experience, I got to know the politicians in St. Francis, I got to know the various organizations, Legionnaires and so forth... My experience at Sacred Heart was very good. It was, what the sociologists would call a "upper-lower class population"... Sacred Heart, St. Francis, have not too many professional people. I think we had 1 dentist and perhaps 1 physician, young physician in the parish, at the time. Most of them were hard working, neat neighborhoods, clean neighborhoods, they were not rich people, they were not expensive houses, but the people were people who wanted the best for their children. Great emphasis upon education, Sacred Heart of Jesus had a school for eight grades. At the time we didn't have a kindergarten, we had eight grades. It was a religious school, a private school, catholic school."

"It was a time... of great change, as far as the church is concerned. I became much more involved with the

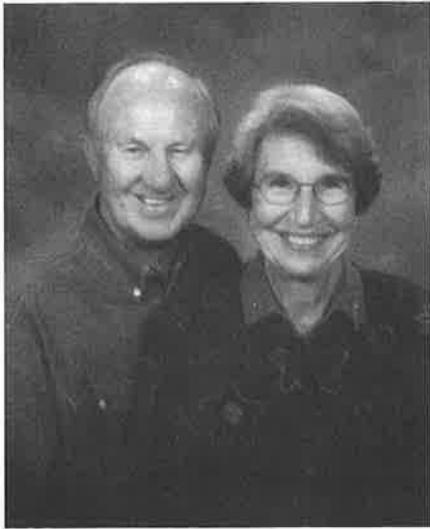


Father Thomas Hickey

ministerium. I met regularly, as we did not do before, but then we started to meet regularly with all the ministers in the area. We had Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, the Church of Christ, and Congregational. So it was a new kind of experience for me as a member of the community to, again minister, and that's what happened, found out that ministers really ministered to one another. It was very good to meet and to work with other people: we did not have any Jewish people, as far as I knew, no Jewish Rabbi. But for the most part, there were Christian ministers. I don't think we had any Muslims or Buddhists in the community, at least, it wasn't evident to me.

I was very much involved in a new kind of deffasis in the Catholic Church on family involvement. It used to be that the church would emphasize children, men, women, young people, and in 1970, when I became pastor, I saw the need and was responded to for having family oriented activities. We started... I don't know what the name of it was, but it was people coming together as families, and they had activities, family activities, so there was much more emphasis upon the whole family, drawing them together, rather than going out to just the individuals.

We had a whole new attitude in regards to worship in the home. Before this time, the activity at the church always took place in the church building, or in the church hall. From 1970 on, there was a new emphasis upon baptisms, even in the home, not just in church, but in the home. First Holy Communions, where the priest would go to the home and the family would have a family mass with the child receiving Holy Communion in the home. That was new. By the way, that now has changed again. There is much more emphasis upon the Christian communities and that the families should give to the Christian community and receive from the Christian community the fellowship that you find in the large community of the congregation."



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James McManus

Excerpts from an interview of James McManus, by James Goodwin, on September 20, 2000. As part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project

On moving to St. Francis...

"I came to St. Francis, I think, in 1952... I was working for the Telephone Company at the time and I was transferred from Racine to Milwaukee with the Telephone Company and they transferred me here. I rented a place on Kinnickinnic Ave., Andy Koenig had a duplex and we rented from him upstairs, 4062 So. Kinnickinnic... My wife's mother was a Malotke, and the Malotke's were an old family and I think they were some of the first residents of St. Francis. Back in the early days, they had a big family. There was, I think something like ten children, and one of them was her mother. They owned a home in St. Francis, on Arctic Avenue and they raised ten children there. My wife spent many, many summers with them in the home on Arctic Avenue. But she lived in Racine with her parents until we were married in 1948... We eventually bought the home as the family passed away and the last person around was my wife's mother and two other family members. They agreed to sell us the home and then we moved there, I can't remember exactly, but it was about 1957 or '58 that we moved there."

On getting involved in politics in St. Francis...

"I like to make things happen. I originally ran for alderman in the city of St. Francis before I became the treasurer. I ran against Lyndon McFaul who was an alderman in the early days. I had heard so much about the Town of Lake and some shady politics in the Town of Lake. St. Francis, my wife and I decided was going to be our home, and we were going to raise our kids there so I wanted it to be a good place to live. I was involved with the church, from the very day we moved to St. Francis. I was involved with Sacred Heart church and I just wanted to do my very best to make St. Francis a better place to live. I ran against McFaul, my first shot at public life, and I didn't know anything about politics, or campaigning in those days, but in 1958 I ran for city treasurer and got elected. That was my first step into politics... that was a very interesting time. There were two mayors and two city treasurers. There was Mayor Sommerfeld and Mayor Rainer and they were in quarrel over which one was mayor in those early years. The city treasurer was a lady by the name of Mary Rose Burazin, she was appointed by Mayor Rainer. Rajchel, who had come over from the Town of Lake, had been appointed to be the treasurer and so we kind of had two mayors and two treasurers and the city was kind of in a turmoil. When I was elected treasurer, that was the year that Mayor Rainer, I believe, defeated then Mayor Sommerfeld and Mayor Rainer then became the Mayor"

"I was city treasurer for eight years. Then, the council, with the urging of Fred Schoendorf, after we had



James McManus

moved into the new building, and had agreed with Mr. Schoendorf that the office of treasurer and clerk should be combined. So they combined the two jobs and made Fred Schoendorf the clerk treasurer. Of course, he had a staff to help him with that and he wanted a deputy treasurer. When that happened in 1966, I ran for alderman, and I was elected. So I was actually a city treasurer and an alderman for a couple of months. In 1966 I was elected alderman and I was an alderman for sixteen years. I think in public life that was about 28 years. Eight years as an alderman and I think eight years as council president, so my total time in politics was twenty-eight years."

On helping start a bank in St. Francis...

".....there was a group of fellows, I can't remember all their names. There are five of them, one of them was Kurt Frank, a state senator at the time, and then there were four others. They had each pledged \$100,000 a piece, which was 1/2 million dollars. They had talked to the banking commissioner in Madison and they had agreed that if the city of St. Francis could raise the other 1/2 million that they would probably approve a bank in St. Francis. These people had spent money and had an economic study, and they felt it was going to be successful bank. So they had come to me, I was council president at the time, I was active in the community in many things, I was active in the church, and I was active in the civic organizations and I knew lots of people. I guess it would be fair to say I was a pretty influential person. They came and asked me if I would join them. I put up some money, not the kind of money they had, because I didn't have that kind of money... But I had to put up a token amount and if I would organize a committee and help them raise the million dollars. I got some of the people in St. Francis on the committee and we organized a committee and raised \$1million and started the bank and the rest is history."

St. Francis of Assisi Convent



May 1849, six lay women, five lay men and two priests arrived in Milwaukee from Ettenbeuren, Bavaria, to work with the German immigrants. The women formed themselves into a religious congregation following the rule of St. Francis of Assisi, thereby becoming the first congregation of Franciscan women religious founded in the U.S. Land was purchased south of Milwaukee in what was called Nojoshing. The Sisters are believed to be the first to settle in this land now known as St. Francis. Their first work was with boys orphaned by the cholera epidemic; this continues today as St. Aemilian's, now located in Milwaukee.

In 1856 at the request of the bishop, they gave their land to him to build a seminary. They did all the household chores at the seminary as well as continuing the work in the orphanage. Four years later the foundresses left in frustration in not being able to do the work they came for. Eleven members remained. Work tension continued until 1873 there was a break in the congregation. A large number went to LaCrosse and became the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Those remaining in Nojoshing became the **Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.**

Besides the work in the orphanage and seminary, as members increased, the Sisters taught in a number of parish schools. In 1885 they began to teach at St. John's School for the Deaf and continued until it was closed in 1983. A mission in China was opened in 1929, but closed by revolutionary forces in 1945. In 1968 they returned to Taiwan. In 1943, the Sisters opened a clinic specializing in teaching and reading; this continues to the present day on the campus of Cardinal Stritch University.

The story of this group of women whose presence in the city of St. Francis goes back 153 years, would not be complete without noting their influence far beyond the city through their sponsorship of eight corporations:

1. Marian Center for Nonprofits in St. Francis, WI which leases space to nonprofit agencies and individuals in the fields of art, education, and social justice. It was formerly St. Mary's Academy, a high school for girls which began in 1900 in Jefferson, WI and was relocated to Milwaukee (St. Francis) in 1904. It closed in 1991.

2. Cardinal Stritch University

began in 1900 as St. Catherine's Normal School to train Sisters for teaching. It became St. Clare's College in 1932. The doors were opened to lay women in 1949 when the college was re-named Cardinal Stritch College; moved to the north side of Milwaukee in 1962, it achieved University status in 1997. It is the largest Franciscan University in the U.S.

3. St. Coletta of (Jefferson) WI opened in 1904 to educate persons with developmental disabilities.

4,5. To meet the needs of these persons, in 1949 the Sisters opened two other schools, **St. Coletta's of (Palos Park) IL** and **St. Coletta's of (Hanover) MA.**

6. Canticle Court, St. Francis, WI, offering affordable residence for the elderly, was opened in 1987.

7. Juniper Court, opened in 1993, also provides affordable housing. It was rehabbed from what had been the congregation's retirement home and health center.

8. What is now **St. Ann's Center for Intergenerational Care**, St. Francis, WI, in 1983 began to offer day care services for the elderly. It expanded in size and services until 1999 when, with a new building, it became intergenerational, offering services to infants, toddlers, persons with physical or developmental disabilities, and the elderly. Persons suffering with dementia receive help at Shepherd House, located in the former St. Ann's Adult Day Care space in the ground floor of St. Francis Convent.

ST. FRANCIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

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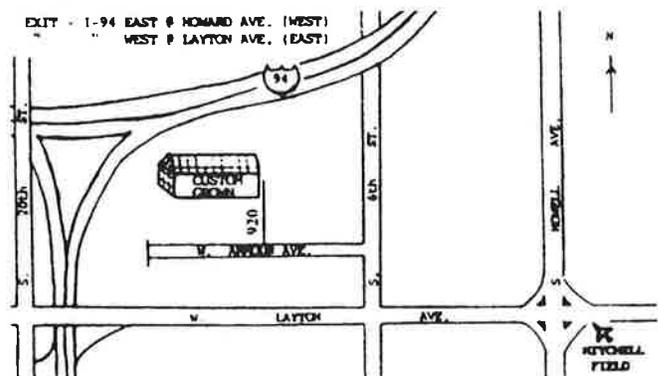
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Leo Polacheck

Excerpts from an interview of Carol (Polacheck) Kaiser, the daughter of the late Leo Polacheck, one of the orphans from St. Aemilian's Orphanage. Interview conducted by Jim Goodwin on September 22, 2000 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

My remembrance of stories my father told me about his youth was that his mother had died when he was five years old. And his father died when he was seven years old. At that time, this was in Berlin, Wisconsin. At that time, an aunt and uncle moved in to care for the boys. Well, within a year or so, the Catholic Church up there decided that the aunt and uncle could not take care of them properly, and sent the two youngest boys in the family (my father and his brother, who was a year older – at that time they were nine and ten years old) were sent down to Milwaukee to St. Aemilian's Orphanage where they stayed until they graduated from high school.

In summertime, the orphanage would send them home for three months, to Berlin, Wisconsin. And then in September they would go back to the orphanage. The orphanage had varied in numbers from 100 to 200-some boys at a time. A lot of the boys were not true orphans, as my father was. They were from homes, families that could not afford to take care of their children and so they would live, some for a short time and others for years at the orphanage.

They raised their own food. They had very large gardens and they ate the produce that came from there. My father said he ate so many tomatoes he couldn't stand tomatoes to the time he died.

At one time, a distant relative gave them some watches for Christmas. This is rare. Otherwise they would get underwear, socks from the nuns at the orphanage. That was their Christmas present. But they prized, they treasured these watches. Well, one night they were stolen. And at the same time two boys had run away from this orphanage. They could not be found, they were reported as lost. Well, about six months later, somebody went into the drain sewer that went out into the lake. It was near Lakeside Power Plant, and so large that you could walk into it. The skeletons of two boys were found, and these boys had my father and his brother's watches on their arms. And they had died of sewer gas. They had gone in there for the night to keep warm and didn't realize, you know, and they were asphyxiated.

After eighth grade, the orphans were sent out to work for their room and board – mostly to farms and wherever they could get them work. But the Monsignor decided to send my father and his brother to Pio Nono High School. One of his fellow students there, in his same class was Fred Wolf, who owned Wolf's Drug Store, down from Sacred Heart School.

He also said that the boys in high school, they'd sneak in chewing tobacco, which of course was against the rules. And one time one of the boys was caught chewing tobacco.

Of course, he denied it. So the teacher, he just made him keep going, and keep talking and finally he turned ghastly green and ran from the class and threw up and he was sick. He had swallowed it, trying to not let him know that he had chewing tobacco in his mouth.

My father graduated from Pio Nono. He and his brother in the same class. My dad was Valedictorian, and my Uncle Ben was Salutatorian of their class. And having been able to go through high school enabled him to get a job as a bookkeeper and then accountant. He worked for Cudahy Brothers for about 28 years before he went to work for another meat packing company. He was accountant and then Comptroller of Milwaukee Dressed Beef Co. At Cudahy he was Accounts Payables/Receivables Manager. Without being able to have that opportunity, and my uncle went into meat sales, they never would have perhaps been in Berlin, Wisconsin probably wouldn't have gone beyond sixth grade. And they would have had to get work to help for the family.

When I was growing up, we lived on the North side until I was about six years old. And then they bought a home on Kansas and Howard. And the backyard was in St. Francis, and the house was in Milwaukee. Down the street from St. Paul's Church. We moved there when I was seven years old. My mother died at the age of 90 and this was 1995, I believe. So all those years they lived in this home.

We went to Sacred Heart Church. My brother used to serve at the convent. Some boys were picked to go and serve mass at the convent and about four of them from Sacred Heart. And they'd go every morning at 7:00 over there. And then they'd be given breakfast, and then he'd come back and go to school. And in summertime, he and Carl Schoofs were chosen to work on the convent farm, and for some good wages. And then they were given breakfast and lunch. They did that for six years. They enjoyed that.



Leo Polacheck

St. Aemilian's Orphanage

St. Aemilian's Orphanage was named for St. Jerome Aemilian, "Patron Saint of Orphans and Neglected Boyhood".

A Diocesan priest, Father Martin Kundig, cared for seven brothers in his home, after the boys' mother died of cholera. Father Kundig's act of charity brought the issue of children orphaned by the cholera epidemic to the attention of Milwaukee Bishop John Martin Henni. In 1849, St. Aemilian's Orphan Asylum was founded and located in a small frame house just north of St. John's Cathedral in downtown Milwaukee. It was formally incorporated on October 31, 1850. (In addition to St. Aemilian's, two other orphanages were formed in Milwaukee in the mid- to late-1800's: St. Rose Orphan Asylum for girls and St. Vincent Infant Asylum to accommodate the needs of children less than seven years old.)

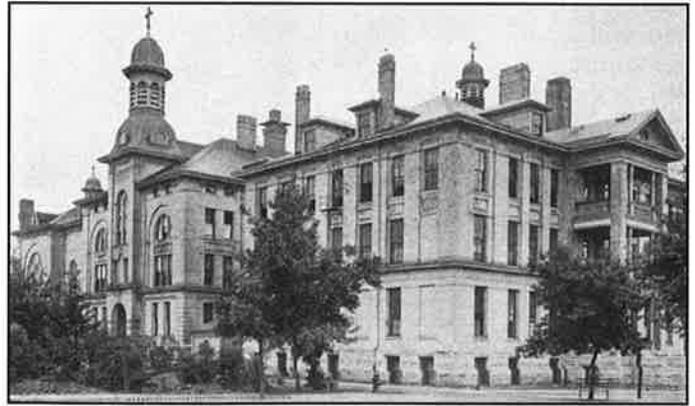
The need for housing for orphans grew, and in 1854 St. Aemilian's moved to a building on the St. Francis Seminary grounds. Care for the orphan boys was provided by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. The orphanage was originally supported by collections from churches, private donations and fund-raisers. In addition to financial contributions, other donations were accepted. For example: 1 dozen lawn tennis balls, supplies for kite making, a square piano, 4 sacks of apples, 2 dozen whisk brooms, 4 pails and 4 boxes of candy, 5 large cartons of popcorn, 10 dozen cartons of animal cookies, 2 boxes of oranges, 1 turkey, 50 lbs. of peanuts, 42 lbs. of sausage and a side of beef.

On December 11, 1895, a kerosene lamp exploded on the premises, and all the orphanage buildings but one were totally destroyed by fire. On December 13, 1896, dedication of the new, rebuilt orphanage took place. The building was considered a model for an institution of its kind. It was described as a "suitable place for deserted or vagrant children," and also accepted boys from state reform schools. At that time, it housed 165 boys.

In the 60 years between 1854 and 1914, St. Aemilian's sheltered 2400 homeless boys. In 1914, the ages of the boys ranged from 4-16 years old. Some of the boys were non-orphans living there for a variety of reasons: Boarders, Parent insane, Prison, Almshouse, Sickness, Divorce, Desertion, Neglected and Beyond control. The boys came from a variety of ethnic backgrounds: German, Irish, Polish, Bohemian, Hungarian, Croatia, Slavonian, Slovene, Lithuanian, Dutch, Belgian, Swiss, Scandinavian, Syrian, Indian, Hebrew, French, English and Scotch. The 1914 Annual Report describes the home-finding process as follows: "We always have good boys



whom we are willing to release to model Catholic families. Of course, we can act only after thorough investigation as to the fitness



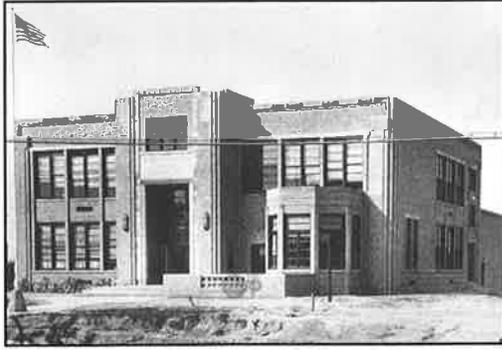
of the home and the purpose that prompts the application. These boys are not of a working age, and while we expect them to be called upon to perform ordinary duties of a boy about the house, we cannot send them to take the place of a man on a farm. If service is the object of the applicant, we refer him to an employment agency; if pity for the child without a friend in the world is the basis of his action, we can give him a boy who will brighten and bring God's blessing on the home where he enters."

During the 1927-1928 school year, 234 boys stayed at St. Aemilian's. Two priests and 25 Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi were in charge of the orphanage. St. Aemilian's offered Kindergarten through eighth-grade. Many of the boys went on to attend high school at Pio Nono in St. Francis, St. Catherine's High School in Racine, Waukesha and Kenosha High Schools. Some of the colleges they attended were the Salvatorian College, St. Nazianz, St. Lawrence College, St. Francis College, Marquette and Wisconsin Universities.

St. Aemilian's also had a manual training department which taught the boys various trades including carpentry, wood work, tin smithing, shoe repairing, cement work and gardening. The school had a football team, basketball team, baseball team, and offered track. Outdoor sports consisted of skating, coasting and skiing. The boys had approximately 125 pairs of skates and 120 sleds at their disposal. In inclement weather, the boys could gather in the play hall and participate in volleyball, boxing, indoor games and pocket billiards. Others played cards or whiled away their time with the Edison talking machine. The boys took recreational and educational hikes to such places as the Public Museum, Layton's Art Gallery and Milwaukee Art Institute. The school also offered vocal and instrumental music lessons, and housed a museum for specimens of birds, animals, butterflies, Indian relics, minerals, etc.

In 1930, a second fire destroyed St. Aemilian's. The cause of this fire was never determined and miraculously, there was no loss of life. At that time, St. Aemilian's Orphanage moved away from the St. Francis area. For a period of time the orphanage was located at North 60th Street and Lloyd Street in a former seminary. In the 1950's, new facilities were built on 89th and Capitol Drive in Milwaukee. In 1989, St. Aemilian's merged with Lakeside Children's Center to become St. Aemilian-Lakeside, Inc. and presently provides family-centered treatment and educational services.

Schools in St. Francis



Thompson School

The first public school in the St. Francis area was Thompson School. Jared Thompson owned the land on which it was built. He donated the land in 1865, with the stipulation that it be used for a school. At the first meeting, 6 votes were cast. James Bonniwell, the owner of the farm that was the location of the Lakeside Power Plant, was elected clerk of the school district with four votes. Charles Tesch was elected secretary and treasurer. George Wentworth and George Tesch submitted bids for loads of cord wood. The wood was purchased from Tesch, the lowest bidder at four dollars per cord. James Bonniwell was appointed to have some iron seats cast for the schoolhouse. A tax would be levied for \$20 for wood, \$10 for incidental expenses, and \$30 for indebtedness. They agreed to hire a male teacher to teach for 4 months in the winter and a female teacher for three months in the summer. The male teacher was R.R. Wentworth. He taught school from November to March. His salary was \$50 per month and his duties included lighting the fire, sweeping the school and keeping the premises in an orderly fashion. The female teacher was E. Ophelia Thompson. Her salary was \$20 per month. She taught during the summer. In 1904, Thompson School had 30 pupils. The school year was gradually lengthened until a 10-month term was approved in 1910 by the school board. By 1910, the school only had one room. In 1914, the State Inspector said another teacher was needed, so the room was partitioned off and another teacher was added. There were no pencils or erasers or paper. Slates and slate pencils were used. The reading text was the McGuffey reader. The school is no longer in existence. It was demolished and is now the site of a senior complex.



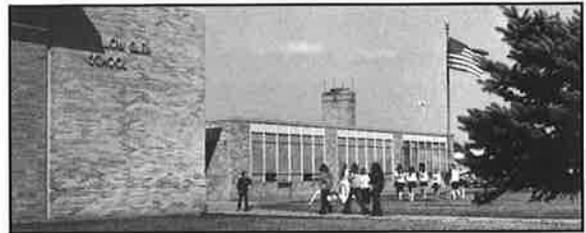
Faircrest School

St. Francis Heights School was constructed in 1918 west of the railroad tracks at 3819 S. Iowa Ave. In 1931, a basement room was completed. PTA's were formed for both schools in 1935. By 1953, the school had become so obsolete that the voters authorized an addition

to replace the sub-standard rooms in the basement. The name was changed to Faircrest School. The school has been razed and is now the site of a senior complex.

In 1954, voters approved a \$250,000 bond issue to build Willow Glen School on East Bolivar Avenue. The nine room school was dedicated November 18, 1955. In 1968 another building program saw the addition of five more classrooms and a kindergarten along with two temporary classrooms. Enrollment then was 275 pupils.

There are now only two elementary schools in St. Francis: Willow Glen and Deer Creek School. Deer Creek was formerly St. John's School for the Deaf. It replaced Thompson School.



Willow Glen School

When St. Francis became a city in 1951 we had no high school. Students could attend Cudahy High School or Bay View High School. On June 8, 1961, voters approved a 1 million-dollar bond issue. The school was built on the corner of Lake Drive and Lunham Avenues.

Originally, George Wentworth received this land, as part of 160 acres, as a soldier's grant. He built his house and barn here and started his family. The family lived on the farm until 1891. In 1892, Wentworth sold it to the South Point Park Company for possible development.

They never developed it and sold it in 1917 to the Wisconsin General Railway



Deer Creek School

Company. They were forced to sell the land due to financial troubles and Wisconsin Electric Power Company bought it. Three families rented the land, house and barn between 1900 to 1956.

The land the high school is built on was known as "Bessey's Hill", so named because of the first family that rented there-the Bessey's. Many children that grew up in St. Francis at this time remember sled riding, tobogganing, or skiing on barrel staves down the hill. In 1910, the house burned to the ground, and another house was built. The Frank Talaska family lived in the house between 1920 to 1928, and then the Voltner's from 1928 to 1956 occupied it.

But in the 1950's the St. Francis schools were crowded and the need and desire for a high school was evident.

Schools in St. Francis

The school was dedicated on November 10, 1963. In 1976, St. Francis High School won the Class B state championship in Track, Cross Country, and Basketball. A few weeks after the basketball championship was won, Coach Harold "Butch" McKeon died of a heart attack.



St. Francis High School

Some of St. Francis' first institutions reflected the Christian leadership prominent in the area. The first Catholic settlers realized the need for education so they sent their children to school at St. Aemilian's Orphanage, located near the seminary on Lake Drive. As the parish grew, a more centrally located school was needed. In 1866, a little building on the Pio Nono campus became Sacred Heart School. By 1885, the parish numbered 125 families. In 1888, a new school was constructed that had two classrooms below and living quarters above for the sisters. Within twenty years, it was necessary to double the size of the school. Mr. John Paulu drew the plans for the brick structure. Despite the great depression of the 30's, four additional rooms were added. Because of the need for more room, the old church and school were demolished and a combination church and school was built. On September 30, 1961 the cornerstone was dedicated. The rectory is attached to the church on the main floor. Classrooms are located on the second and third floors of the building. Today, Sacred Heart only has middle school classes.



Sacred Heart School

St. Francis Seminary at 3257 S. Lake Drive was dedicated on January 29, 1856 and has taught priests for generations. Originally the Seminary included high school, college, and theological training. In addition, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Convent has prepared nuns from the early decades of St. Francis. These Christian institutions helped build the basis for which Thomas More High School and the previous St. Mary's Academy were started.

The roots of Thomas More High School are in two extinct institutions. Catholic Normal School and Pio Nono High School and College for men were founded January 2, 1871 by the Rev. Joseph Salzman. In 1871 Bishop Henni persuaded him to establish a college for those seeking teacher's training under Catholic auspices. Starting with 90 students, the college had trained about 2,400 young men by 1920. The growth of Pio Nono continued into the 1940's.

In 1941, Pio Nono became St. Francis Minor Seminary, enrolling boys for the priesthood and church education. It was established to separate the "minor" seminary students from the "major", college level students. Due to increasing enrollment, in 1963 St. Francis Minor Seminary moved

to Lake Drive and became DeSales. Later, the old buildings were again occupied as a high school-Pio Nono. In 1965, Pio Nono reopened at its original site and plans for a new building were created.

Don Bosco High School, located on 12th and Becher in Milwaukee, was opened in 1945. The Marianist Brothers and Priests started it for Catholic boys. However, due to declining enrollment Don Bosco merged with Pio Nono and became Thomas More High School. In 1989, Thomas More became a coeducational high school. Joe Eul is the current principal.

The previous St. Mary's Academy, located at 3195 S. Superior St., was founded November 21, 1904 by Mother Thecla to educate Catholic girls. In the first class of 1904, only three students out of 60 graduated. The school began to encounter problems in the mid-seventies because the lay teachers had to be hired at higher salaries and teaching Sisters needed lay-equivalent salaries. The school kept up by raising tuition.



Thomas More High School

Finances were severely stretched by 1988 and thereafter. At that time, a South Side Commission suggested separate classes for boys and girls at nearby Thomas More High School and St. Mary's Academy, including co-ed social and extracurricular activities. Archbishop Rembert Weakland did not feel this was an affordable alternative and the St. Mary's Board decided to continue as an all-girls school. Thomas More went on to become co-ed in the fall of 1989. That year, Thomas More's freshman enrollment was 250 students. In contrast, St. Mary's had 22-registered freshman. After 86 years of educating, the decision was made to close St. Mary's in 1991. Over 8,000 young women had graduated from the Academy.

The building is now the Marian Center, an independent nonprofit corporation sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis.



Thompson Avenue School

St. Francis Fire Department

In 1954, a full three years after the birth of the city itself, the St. Francis Fire Department came into being. The Town of Lake and the City of Milwaukee had previously supplied its fire protection. The first station was a quonset hut at 3476 E. Howard Avenue also occupied by the department of public works. The building had originally been a machine shop. Two Seagrave, 750 gpm pumpers were the beginning of St. Francis's fleet of emergency vehicles. One was purchased through the disbursement of assets when St. Francis was formed and the Town of Lake was annexed into Milwaukee. The other purchased directly from the Milwaukee Fire Department.

It was retired Milwaukee firefighters who first staffed the fledgling fire department. Herbert Burnhouse was the first to hold the position of Chief.

Position of Fire Chief

Herbert Burnhouse- June 1954 to February 1955
Frank Fredrick- February 1955 to July 1967
Roman Oman- July 1967 to January 1968
Robert Schwingle -January 1968 to January 1990
Andrew Neargarder- April 1990 to present

Other founding members include:

Lieutenant Frank Fredrick,
Lieutenant Emmet Croasdale,
Pump Operator/ Driver Adam Makurat and
Pump Operator/Driver Emil Petrie.



Town of Lake 1924

These five personnel were divided into two platoons and rotated 24 hour work days. In addition to the full time personnel, there was a compliment of about twenty-two volunteers.

When a fire call was received at Humboldt 3-1416, a siren wailed from the roof of Thompson Elementary School calling additional personnel into quarters. The firefighters responded to the call riding the running boards of the engine wearing long, black rubber coats. While some things have changed, some things remain the same. Meals are still eaten on a table constructed forty years



St. Francis Fire Dept. 1955

ago and the soda money is put in a thirty-year-old tobacco can. The pride in serving this department and this city has endured for fifty years, and it will continue even further into the future.

Our current staffing is thirteen full-time personnel. Three platoons (Red, Blue and Green) rotate a twenty-four hour work day. One Captain, one Lieutenant and two Driver Operators (as they become trained) staff each platoon. A roster of about twenty-five paid-on-call firefighters is still maintained. Minimum education shared by all full-time personnel is Firefighter II certification and Emergency Medical Technician certification. However, the majority of personnel continue to gather additional education to allow them to grow with changes in the many areas of firefighting.

Ninety-nine calls were responded to in the first year. Almost 70% of these were fire-related incidents. We currently respond to almost a thousand calls a year. The vast majority of these are now medical emergencies.

The fire department has always been counted on to respond to any emergency. Our primary responsibility is to protect life and property. Our most important duty is fire prevention and education. Public education has been undertaken by the fire department since the late fifties. From extinguisher training and public safety classes in the schools to home inspection and fire awareness cam-



St. Francis Fire Department

paings. We have always taken a proactive approach to prevention and education. Current educational programs include Juvenile Firesetters, Exit Drills In The Home, and Survive Alive. All these programs play an important role for young people in fire safety and prevention.

Our fleet of vehicles has risen to six. We operate with two 1500 gpm pumpers. A 1991 Pierce Arrow and a 1998 General. We also have a 1979 Pierce Ladder truck with a 75-foot telescoping ladder and 1000 gpm pumping capabilities. All of our apparatus are equipped with ground ladders, saws, and the normal supply of various tools.



Our other vehicles include a four-wheel-drive utility pickup truck, and a customized astro-van serving as our command vehicle.

A 1998 Med-Tech is our primary ambulance. It is fully equipped to respond to any incident with the skills to handle basic life support including defibrillation and advanced airway. Our newest engine is equally equipped and it serves as our secondary ambulance in addition to

carrying our extrication equipment. Paramedics housed in South Milwaukee and Milwaukee provide advanced life support.

Rubber turnout coats had first given way to fire resistant Nomex, then PBI and now Basofil. Riding on the running boards on the back of the engines has given way to enclosed seating with seat belts. The siren on the roof of the school has given way to individual pagers. These changes have paved the way to a safer work environment. The foresight of our past members and leaders have allowed this department to grow and expand to meet the needs of the city as it grew and expanded itself.

There is a bell on the front bumper of our 1998 General Pumper. Next to the bell is a plaque that reads "Original Bell Passed Along From The St. Francis Fire Department's First Fire Engine, A 1924 Seagrave, Acquired From The Town Of Lake In June, 1954" But our dedication to the citizens of St. Francis and our gratitude for being allowed to be a part of this department is truly what has been instilled on us from people who have served here.

The St. Francis Fire Department looks forward to serving this community for years to come.

Submitted By DO Michael J. Buckhalter and the St. Francis Fire Dept.



St. Francis Fire Dept. 2001

St. Francis Police Department



Front Row (l. to r.): Sgt. Wayne O. Cameron, Chief Louis Frank; Back Row (l. to r.): Police Officers Hecker, Rappy, Barrett, Ast, Miller

When St. Francis was incorporated in 1951, officials first conducted business from their homes. The officials later rented space in the Town of Lake American Legion post. By 1953, City government was housed in a former convent at 2417 East St. Francis Avenue. When the Police Department was formed in 1961 they too shared space in the building on East St. Francis Avenue. When the City Hall was constructed, the police department moved into new quarters. With the move in 1962 it now occupied two offices, an interrogation room, a locker room, three cells and a two-car garage. The police department has seen many changes over the years. The offices have changed and been altered over the years to adapt with the times. For example the dispatch center has been in four different areas since the building was erected. Today the department houses many offices; the Chief of Police and Captain have their own offices. In the early 1980's there was expansion to the police area of the City Hall building. A new garage with room for four squad cars gave way to a new dispatch center and Sergeant's office. In the summer of 2001 a remodeling project in the dispatch center is scheduled. The remodeling includes an upgraded radio system capable of countywide communications and enhanced 9-1-1 capability.

AND THE FIRST POLICE CHIEF WAS ...

Who was the first police chief of St. Francis? Well I guess that depends on whom you're asking. Frank

Fredrick held the dual position of chief of police and fire for St. Francis from 1955 to 1961 even though the city never had an active police department. On April



Chief Louis Frank standing by SFPD's first squad car at old Police Department, 2417 E. St. Francis Ave. ('62 Dodge).

11th, 1961, Fredrick was forced to resign as joint police and fire chief and take on the sole duties of fire chief. A St. Francis resident and former Milwaukee County Deputy Sheriff Ralph F. Schuster was sworn in as the new St. Francis Police Chief. For reasons unknown Schuster, who was appointed Chief of Police on March 30th, resigned the position after only serving a few days after being sworn in. Louis Frank, the Hartland Police Chief for the past 6 years was then sworn in as the new

St. Francis Police Chief. So according to city records, the first official police chief was Ralph Schuster. Victor Venus, a former Captain with the Milwaukee Police Department is the current chief of police. Here is a list of the police chiefs who have served since the department was formed in 1961.



1992 Chevrolet Carpice-SFPD.

★ ★ ST. FRANCIS POLICE CHIEFS AND THEIR SWORN IN DATE ★ ★

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| 1) Ralph F. Schuster | 04/11/61 |
| 2) Louis H. Frank | 04/23/61 |
| 3) Gerald G. Barrett | 12/16/71 |
| 4) Mark F. Hayes | 11/19/84 |
| 5) James C. Burgess | 04/08/93 |
| 6) Victor E. Venus | 06/07/99 |



2000 Crown Victoria; 2000 Chevy Van

Currently the St. Francis Police Department has 12 sworn Officers, 3 Sergeants, an Investigator, a Detective, a Captain, a Chief and a Police Clerk. Our Department has recently hired 3 full-time and 1part-time dispatcher

to help better serve our city. The St. Francis Police Department is also looking to hire another sworn Officer in the up coming months.



Most Current Officers of the St. Francis Police Department (1997)

Back Row (l. to r.): Sgt. John Plachinski, P.O. Rodney Lucht, P.O. Thomas Brummeyer, Sgt., Peter Plachinski, P.O. Robin Steffes, P.O. Duane Mazur, Capt. Brian Kaebisch, P.O. Jefferey Obst, P.O. Kevin Hunter, P.O. Jeffrey Varga, P.O. Kevin Weins, Det. Russell Ratkowski.
 Front Row (l. to r.): P.O. Dorreen Lynch, P.O. Dimitri Kamolos, Sgt. Thomas Dietrich, P.O. Michael Dornak.
 Not Pictured: Investigator Kevin Jackson, P.O. Timothy Blout

**ST. FRANCIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
 Mission Statement**

The mission of the St. Francis Police Department is to protect and serve the citizens of St. Francis. The manner and level of service by which we accomplish this mission is a testament of the level of professionalism and efforts of those sworn to serve our citizens. Vital to this mission is a strong work ethic and a set of values which will contribute to maintaining the quality of life for the citizens of St. Francis.

Lois Neubauer

Excerpts from an interview of Lois Neubauer by Ed Wagner on December 19, 2000 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

The Bicentennial Committee was formed in 1976 and we started out as a Heritage Committee. I was the President of the Heritage Committee, and then Ron Tessmer talked us into becoming a Historical Society. The Heritage Committee produced a book called "And So They Came". We got all the information. We did all the digging for facts, and we gave them all to a writer and he wrote the book. His name was Larry Von Gothem. I was president of the Historical Society for four years.

I moved to St. Francis in 1951, when I married Richard Neubauer. And that's the year that St. Francis became a City. I was really impressed because my husband knew the Mayor. Knew his name, and the Mayor knew him. Coming from Milwaukee if you know the Mayor, that's pretty impressive.

Ours was the only house on the west side of Lipton Avenue from Howard all the way up to Greene Park. There were no other homes, and there was an apple orchard in the back yard. And there was a cow that was staked out in the apple orchard. It was quite a difference for me.

The City of St. Francis didn't have much. We didn't have a high school, we didn't have a municipal building, we had a volunteer fire department, basically, we didn't have a police department, we used the sheriff's department. There were only two schools, Faircrest and Thompson school, both of which are gone now. But this was really a lovely, lovely area. It was nice and quiet. My husband and I got involved in the planning for the new high school. My husband became an Alderman. He joined the Lions Club, and I was in the Lions Auxiliary. So eventually, we got a high school, we got another school, Willow Glen, we got a municipal building on Nicholson. The old place where the mayor and the aldermen met before that, was a building owned by Sacred Heart Church, and the building is now demolished.

My husband lived here all his life. He lived in a house on Kinnickinnic Avenue. It was next to the Legion Post. He was an Alderman for just one term, and then he was defeated. He became the Building Inspector/Assessor for the City.

I moved to Milwaukee in 1948 because I got a call to teach school in Cudahy. My mother and I and my sister and brother moved back to Milwaukee from Minnesota. I taught school at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Cudahy. That's where I met my husband. He was going to MSOE. He was doing the janitor work at school while he was going to school. He used to leave notes in my pockets. Our first date was taking a whole bunch of teenagers ice skating. He asked me if I wanted to go. I said sure. I had to take the bus to school, to St. Paul's, and then we went ice skating with 20 teenagers. But he did take me home. That was our first date.

I taught there for two years and then I got married. I had my family and then I went back to teaching in Cudahy for another ten years after the kids got older.

When I stopped teaching there, I was a substitute teacher in St. Francis. At Willow Glen, Faircrest and Thompson Avenue School.

My husband died in 1979. I was too young for Social Security so I had to get a job. I took a civil service exam and started working for the Veteran's Administration, Regional Office. I worked there for 14 years.

My son, Scott, is Police Chief in Palmyra. My oldest daughter, Sandy, is Director of Family Practice at St. Michael's Hospital. She's been a widow for a long time. Her husband was killed in an automobile accident. My next daughter, Sara, works for Congressman Kleczka. She's Assistant Office Manager for Kleczka, at the Milwaukee office. My youngest daughter, Sue, is married to a man from Spain. His name is Ignacio Catral, and they have a Graphic Arts business. I have eight grandchildren.

I'd like to tell you about when I wanted to get my Driver's License. I lived here for maybe a year. In 1952 I wanted to get a Driver's License. We didn't have a Police Department so you called the Sheriff's Department. Before my husband left for work he said, "You're never going to pass the test". So the Sheriff came out and he said, "Neubauer, Neubauer. Do you know Richie Neubauer?" I said, "That's my husband!" He said, "Awww, I know Richie". And he said, "Does he think you know how to drive?" I said, "Oh sure, yeah, sure he does!" He said, "I'll just write this out for you". I didn't have to take the road test. So my husband came home and said, "You didn't pass, did you?" I said, "Oh yeah, I did!" But that's how you took your driver's test. The Sheriff would come out on a motorcycle and take you out in your car.

When I was going to school I had to work in an egg factory, where you would sniff eggs. Break open two eggs, bring them up to your nose and sniff them. If they were good, you put them in a big vat. This was during the war and they were making powdered eggs for the army. It got so that you would crack the eggs, throw them in the cup, sniff and dump. Then every once in a while you'd sniff and you'd dump them in there and you'd think, "Oh no, those were not good." And you had to take this big vat of eggs up to a lady who could smell if there was one bad one in there. If there was, she'd dump all of them. So it was really bad if you dumped a bad egg. Another thing we had to do was wash the manure off eggs. Candle them. We also plucked chickens. Chicken plucker. They would kill the chickens and hang them by their feet on this trolley and they would dip them in a vat to pull all the big feather off. But we had to pull all the little ones - the pin feathers off. You had to walk with the chicken. The trolley kept on going and you walked with the chicken. Kept on pulling the feathers off and then when you got them all off you got another chicken and followed it. We had to wear rubber boots because it was so wet. There was all kinds of stuff all over the floor. But that was a small town in Minnesota and they didn't have very many places to work. So we worked in the egg factory. The owner was German and he was sending all kinds of Care packages to Germany. My girlfriend and I talked him into letting us wrap and address them for him so we didn't have to wash the eggs or pluck chickens.

Veteran's Memorial



On Memorial Day 1992, the city of St. Francis dedicated its Veteran's Memorial across from City Hall on Nicholson Avenue. The memorial was the idea of the St. Francis Veteran's Memorial Committee, formed in 1990 by a group of veterans, their families, and friends.

David Kakatsch was the architect of the monument. He used his "Rank and File" design to construct the monument. According to Kakatsch, the 120-foot long V-shaped red brick path represents the courage of the veterans and the blood that was shed in the wars they fought. The 21 white poles represent a 21-gun salute to the loss of lives, and are reminders of the rows of white headstones in military cemeteries. In the center of the memorial is a black granite star, about 12 feet across with the names of the cities past veterans engraved on it. There are 12 veterans from St. Francis: Herbert F. Barnes, Donald A. Barnes, Donald C. Voltner, Charles J.

Treweek, David A. Siemanowski, Louis Delgado-Class, Richard E. Jaeck, Charles Runge, Lawrence A. Snifka, Emil J. Bronecki, Conrad R. Bruno, and Clarence J. Winzen. The stars five points represent the five branches of the military that serve the country. There are 3 flagpoles, for the flags of the United States, Wisconsin, and St. Francis.

Invited guests included VFW Post 9351, the 128th Air Refueling Group, the Veteran's of America Motorcycle Club, Miss St. Francis Candy Kruse, St. Francis High School Band, families of the 12 St. Francis veterans, Sen. John Plewa, State Rep. Rosemary Potter, County Supervisor Daniel Cupertino, Congressman Gerald Kleczka, and St. Francis Mayor Milton Vretenar.

The monument stands to pay tribute to those who serve in our armed forces and to honor veterans who lost their lives for our country.



History of St. Francis Library



The construction of St. Francis Public Library began in the fall of 1986. Helen Hachmeister, the first Library Director, began the work of organizing the library in January of 1987 in a classroom at the Thompson School. From a workroom-office, Helen began ordering and processing books and magazines, selecting equipment, performing administrative tasks and purchasing supplies. Volunteers helped with many tasks even before the library opened. On July 10, 1987, all library materials and equipment were moved from Thompson School, which was later razed in 1993, to the first St. Francis Public Library building at 4230 S. Nicholson Avenue. The library was opened to the public on July 20, 1987, followed by a Grand Opening Ceremony on August 9, 1987. The Friends of the St. Francis Library became active shortly after the library opened, providing both their time and financial support.

In the intervening years many changes have taken place. The library book collection has grown from 8,500 volumes to over 46,000. Due to advanced technology the card catalog had been replaced by an online catalog, and we have 21 computers, five designed for Internet use. Our audio-visual collection had also grown to include 2,140 videos, 2,350 CDs and 825 audiobooks. The newest formats include CD-ROMs, which the library began to collect on 1997, and plans to develop a DVD collection in 2001 are underway. Yet another change occurred in September of 1999 when library hours were increased to include three hours on Sundays during the school year. The newest physical changes

include a berm and staircase enclosure installed to alleviate flooding problems, and a sidewalk and railing leading to the parking lot. A new informational sign was installed through the financial help of The Friends of the Library.

The current Director, since May of 1998, Maggie Luczywko, is placing an emphasis on programming for adults and children, and cooperation with the schools. Through a grant written in conjunction with the school district the library is offering computer classes which are very popular with the community. These classes, as well as various other programs throughout the year 2000, were attended by 5,000 individuals. Circulation has grown from 8,900 items in 1987 to over 109,4000. Project Open Doors, for children with special needs will begin in the summer of 2001. Made possible through another grant, the project will provide computers equipped with assistive devices, and classes to teach children with special needs how to use them.

The future of St. Francis Public Library is bright. The St. Francis Public Library Foundation Committee is raising funds to develop a new Children's Area, which will allow expansion of the adult collection also. Volunteers and the Friends of St. Francis Library continue to help us in many ways. With new programs for adults, as well as our popular Children's Storytimes and Summer Programs, a new emphasis on cooperation with the schools, and our continuing outreach to seniors, the St. Francis Library Director and staff are committed to increasing our usefulness to the community.



ST. FRANCIS LIONS CLUB

3476 E. Howard Avenue, St. Francis, WI 53235

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WE ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVE

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING - First Wednesday of every month at the St. Francis Lions Club, 3476 E. Howard Ave., St. Francis - 7:30 p.m.

MONTHLY DINNER MEETING - Second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Dobies Lounge, 4136 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., St. Francis - 744-9064

BUSINESS MEETING - Fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. St. Francis Lions Club, 3476 E. Howard Ave., St. Francis - 483-5080

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Happy 50th St. Francis! Thank you for being great neighbors.

THE GROWTH OF EZ PAINTR

- ◆ EZ Paintr was founded in 1945 as a three man operation above a movie theater in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.
- ◆ In 1948 the company moved to Butler, Wisconsin where it made lambswool roller covers and paint trays in seven adjacent garages. Each garage housed a different department.
- ◆ The relocation to the company's present site



in St. Francis, Wisconsin came in 1952. The single story facility had 35,000 square feet of floor space and employed 50 people.

- ◆ 1972 saw the start of production of Masterset Brushes, Inc. under the EZ Paintr roof.
- ◆ In 1973 EZ Paintr was acquired by Newell Companies of Freeport, IL, (Presently, Newell Rubbermaid) a leader in the housewares and do-it-yourself industry.

- ◆ In 1988 Newell acquired Thomas Industries Paint Applicator Division, located in Johnson City, Tennessee, and began to operate under EZ Paintr. They continue to be an integral part of EZ Paintr's manufacturing and distribution operations with floor space of 137,000 square feet.
- ◆ In 1993, EZ Paintr completed a 62,000 square foot addition to the Distribution Center in St. Francis. The addition provided an additional 10 dock doors – from twelve to twenty-two and provided a high density, 40 foot high finished goods area.
- ◆ In 1996, EZ Paintr completed yet another exciting expansion, adding the 100,000 square foot building on Kansas Avenue, behind their original building.
- ◆ Today, EZ Paintr employs over 800, and continues to be the largest manufacturer of paint applicators in the world.



Helen Hachmeister



Helen Hachmeister

Excerpts from an interview of Helen Hachmeister, by Richard Raatz, on October 9, 2000 as part of St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

On working for the St. Francis Public Library and it's beginning...

"That was January 19, 1987, when I started working for the new library in St. Francis. The library was being built, in fact, when I first started. Construction started late in 1986, so I did work over at the old Thompson School, in a classroom. I ordered books, and cataloged them. I had a couple volunteers right from the very beginning. They were Mary Browy, Dolores Calteux, Betty and Norman Draeger, Evelyn Laven, and later Jo Konieczka, and other volunteers came to help out.

At Thompson School I organized books, ordered new books, cataloged the books, and also was involved in the construction of the new library. The general contractor was Bill Reichl, and the architect was from Madison, Potter Design. There were many meetings that I had to attend and walk through the preparation for the opening of the library in July. We moved in in mid-July of 1987 and the grand opening was in August of 1987. Previous to this new library in St. Francis, the residents of St. Francis were able to get books from various places, at various times. Sometimes there was a contract between cities, such as Milwaukee or the other suburbs. Some of the residents were able to go to Cudahy Library, or South Milwaukee Library. There was also a time when there was a bookmobile that was parked over near the old Ola's Grocery store.

When the cost for that became very high, over \$80,000, that's when the city fathers began discussing building their own library. There was a large donation promised and that was the beginning of the library. The building itself was about \$1 million, and it was built on the south end of the Citizen's Park, which is located right across from City Hall. At first, Eric Western, was the chairperson of the Library Board..."

"In the beginning, our children's librarian selected the children's books and I was the reference librarian and selected the adult books. However we always considered the requests of the patrons, so that's how we built our collection. We had many donations given to us. Those that we could use we put into our collection, those we couldn't use we gave to the Friends of the Library for their annual booksale. The Friends of the Library were organized just a few months after we started in 1987."

On funding of the library...

"Initially, there was a promise of a rather large donation, which spurred construction of the library. There was never a referendum. The city issued a bond for some of the costs and the rest was funded internally by the city... There were many businesses who came forward with donations. Becker Boiler and St. Francis Bank were some of the donors. They're listed in the Library lobby. As far as non-businesses, the Jaycees gave us \$7,000. The Association of Commerce, the Lion's Club and many more donated."

Other services provided by the library...

"From the beginning, the library had two study rooms that were available. You could sign up to use them. There was a Macintosh computer available for public use. Also, an electric typewriter was available. There were two meeting rooms on the lower level, one small room and one larger room. These were used of course for the children's library programs but also some scouts had meetings there. The St. Francis Day's committee, the Milwaukee African Violet Society, and various other groups met downstairs and took advantage of the facilities..."

"...from the beginning, that's 1987, the St. Francis Public Library was a member of the Milwaukee County federated library system. That system allowed the members, including the residents of the city of St. Francis, to use other public libraries in the county. Staff here at the St. Francis library could request books, magazines, videotapes, cassettes, and many other items from other libraries if St. Francis didn't have them. In the beginning we really didn't have that many books, but gradually the collection grew and as a result we had to borrow fewer items from other libraries."

Fred C. Frischman

Excerpts from an interview of Fred C. Frischman, by Mary Becker, on October 8, 2000, as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

On his life growing up in St. Francis...

"I was born at 3737 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue. In an old house that would be 113 years old, but it's gone now, it's been demolished. It was between Schoof's Plumbing and the Associated bank. Where the bank is now, there was another old house and when I was a boy, Adolph Schuster who was the fire chief of the old Town of Lake, lived in that building. That house is gone too, and the bank is on that property. I was born on March 10, 1933. My parents came to America in the late 1800's. My father came from Austria and my mother came from Germany: John Frischman and Anna Quimb. My father was a carpenter and cabinet-maker who helped build wooden altars and communion rails, mainly for the catholic churches. When you walked in the main door of the Milwaukee public museum, years ago, there was a big mosaic made of thousands of pieces of inlaid wood, which my father built and polished. When the museum was remodeled, they took all that stuff out and it's gone forever. It was actually a work of art. It was beautiful to see. In that house where we lived on K.K., we used to raise chickens and ducks in the back yard. Everyone in the neighborhood had chickens or ducks when I was a boy because money was scarce. You didn't just go to the store and buy eggs and chickens, you went in the back yard and got them. Everybody did that. Across the



Fred C. Frischman

street was Barney Felden's tavern and he used to raise chickens, ducks, and pigs. They had an old garage in the back and that's where they slaughtered their pigs in the fall of the year and fixed them up for winter. That was a long time ago, this would not be allowed today with our present day laws. I came from a family of ten and four of us are still living, six of them are deceased. We all attended Sacred Heart School and the church too. I myself graduated from Sacred Heart and went to Bay View and graduated there in 1951. From there I went to Bucyrus Erie and worked in the machine shop for two years. After which I joined the United States Army. That's where I met my wife Marge. We met in a restaurant in Frankfurt, Germany and we were married in a civil service over there. When we got home, we got married again in a Catholic Church here in St. Francis. The date of that marriage in Germany was September 2, 1955. When I got out of the Army I went back to Bucyrus Erie where I stayed until I had 41 years of machine shop experience. I retired from there in 1993. Getting back to that old house on K.K., when I was a boy there were streetcars on that street, the old Inter-Urbans and they went all the way to Racine as far as I know. What we did for sports was we played a lot of football and baseball across the street from where our house was at 3737, it was next to Barney Felden's tavern and now East Elizabeth Avenue goes through there. But years ago, there was no East Elizabeth and Crawford Avenue didn't go through as far as it is now either, it only went back about two blocks. Those areas were used for our baseball and football games. Now there's streets and houses there. In our baseball games when we were kids, everybody played, boys and girls, they all played. We played until 9:00 at night when it got dark and we couldn't find the ball anymore then we had to quit. Then we all went home and washed up and went to bed because we had no TV. TV wasn't invented. Our children are Joseph John, who lives in Greenfield. I have a daughter, Shirley Anne, married to a fellow by the name of Tom Lemanski. We have six grandchildren. I live in the same house at 3541 East Howard Avenue since 1956. We bought the house and stayed here since then. It's one of nine houses that were built by Beacon Realty, which later went into bankruptcy. Where our house is located was part of the old Derksmaier farm. It was subdivided by Beacon in 1955 and '56. The price we paid for this house at that time was \$14,950. Since the time I retired, I've been an active member in the VFW post 9351, which still meets in St. Francis at the Community Center, the first Thursday of every month. I presently serve as the chaplain elected, not ordained, and was a commander for about four years in this organization."

John Grabske

Excerpts from an interview of John Grabske, by Matthew Kuspa, on January 18, 2001 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project

On coming to St. Francis...

"We came (in 1921) from 562 25th Avenue, south of Greenfield, just between Sacred Heart sanitarium and St. Mary's Hill and the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis, which is on the old 22nd, just south of Greenfield. My dad had a mule and a horse and he used to haul coal for that sanitarium there. They had a tunnel all the way from 42nd street all the way up the hill to about 25th street. They pushed all their heat and that up there. Then he had a model-t ford, and they put a box on the back and he used to haul the trunks for the sisters, down to the various railroad depots there, Milwaukee Road and the Chicago Northwestern and pick up people when the sisters went to the convents. I was born there. Some time prior to that, pa came in the area of St. Francis where the St. Paul Church is. He happened to dig that basement where the original church was for St. Paul's. Upon which now they, in later years, have put an addition to the upstairs for a school. Then some years later, back in the sixties, I dug the basement for the addition for the new school and auditorium. We had a gravel pit just down the street, to the east, where we took out a lot of gravel and some of it was hauled to Cudahy for basements. It was all pit-run gravel, they didn't wash gravel in those days. Then, there's mason sand in there, in that location, that was Norwich just west of the railroad track over the old bridge. Well, I was born May 31, 1916."

On starting to get St. Francis incorporated as a city...

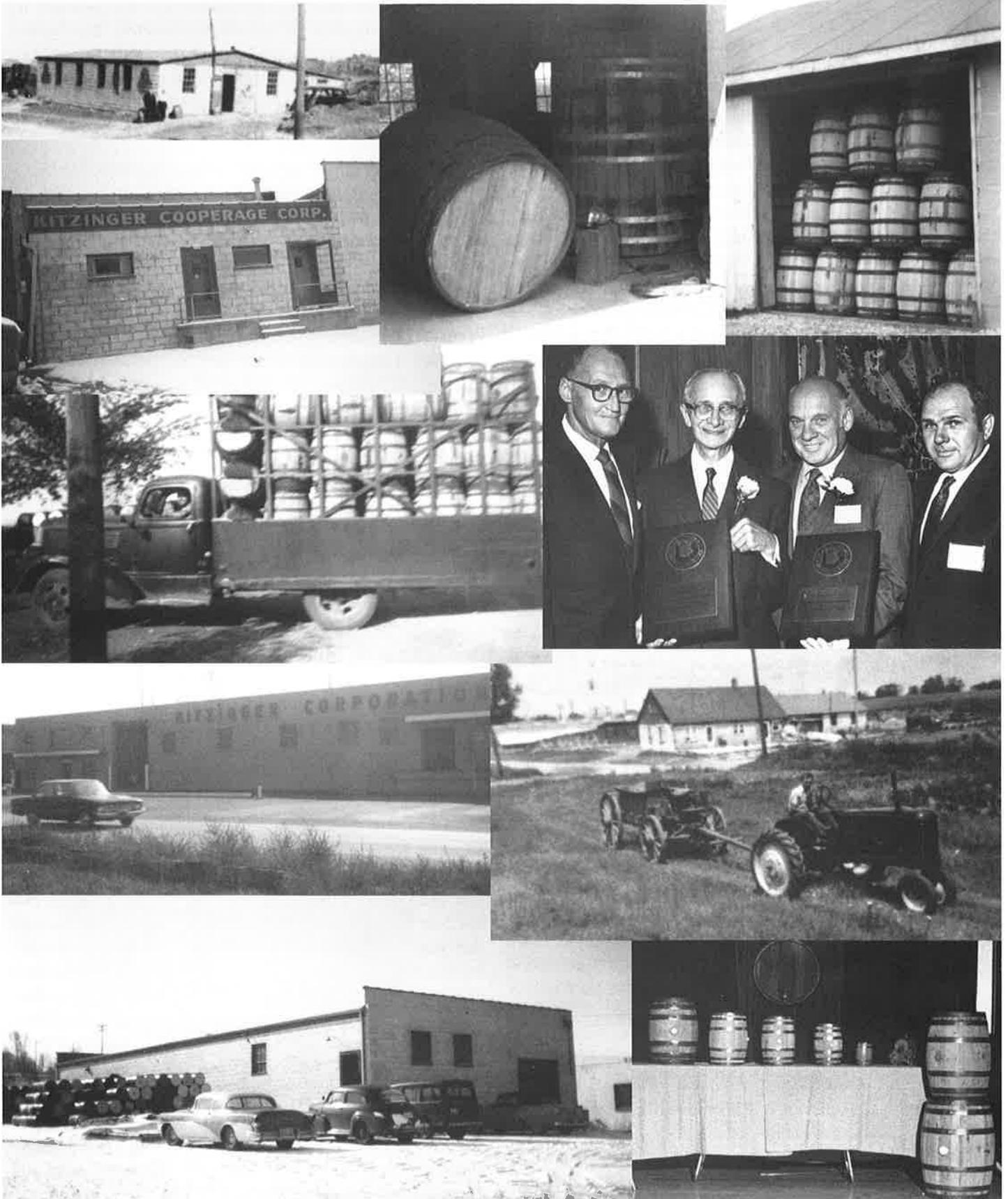
"...our businessman's association,...decided that the state, or the government, had just made a survey of that particular area, of what is now St. Francis and it's boundaries and the people in it, in the area. And it was no partition for incorporation for any part of it, so it was an ideal time to move on in getting the citizens of the township of that part to acknowledge if they wanted to make it a city or not. Well, the time was opportune, and myself and my wife and there was Art Weir, we started out one Saturday morning and we stopped at a butcher shop on St. Francis Avenue, Papa's, and well, we were asking for donations. Well, how are you going to do it? So I said, "Mr. Papa, would you unroll some of your butcher paper where you wrapped up ham and liverwurst pieces?" "Yeah." Well, he took off quite a roll, you know, so from there on we traveled for that half a day, and then this Art Weir had by that time they had a small little plant there at Advance and they did screw machine work. And he had to take his family for two weeks up to Winneconne to the big lake up there...Poygan. So he was gone for a couple weeks, so that left myself and my wife Eleanor to go out and do soliciting to get enough money

together so that we could have an election. We were able to get enough together, and with the business people we got four hundred different gifts and from our businesses and their businesses and their associates they did business by word of mouth, they all contributed because they figured that was a worthwhile cause for a community to establish it's identity from a big city. So, with the advertising and all, we accumulated some \$800 and some dollars."

"Moonshining days..."

"Now you wouldn't see that spring (down the road from his house). Just south of where the cul-de-sack is now, on Norwich street on the west side of the tracks, up on the hill. To the south was a big depression, the way the earth was left after the ice age. And there was a fellow across the street to the north, there was a great big oak tree there. There was a whole bridge there that the railroad had built for the people to walk from stormy hill, which is what it was called then, it's a block north of our present fire and police and city hall. Eric had a shack there, it was two-story. Down below he had a ford truck with a long wheelbase and a wooden box on the back and it had a wooden cab... They went through and put that Northwestern Freight Line through. So, when they dug through there, there happened to be a spring in the west side of that hill about a block north of where the present Norwich street is. So the railroad put a big two-foot or so, in diameter pipe there, where that spring was. And then they took a steel pipe, two inches, and they run that a length for about a block and a half to the south. Down to the south of Norwich Street which was a depression there. And the trainmen would always stop and fill their buckets up, the cabooses-men would stop and fill their water buckets up with that spring water. So during the course of time, to the east of those railroad tracks up on the hill, there was an old brick building in there. Well, it had wood and ground floors and it was double, it had two floors. And there was a fellow there that raised his family, by the name of Ketchumhorse... he was a moonshiner, and he used to make that moon you know, 100-110 proof. And this fellow on the other side was selling spring water. He'd haul that into Bay View next to the police station, the tavern. He'd unload that. Well, there were no labels or anything on that stuff other than called "The Diamond Springs Water." So this Ketchumhorse at night, in the full of the moon, he'd come walking across that bridge with one of these five-gallon water jugs on his shoulder. He'd take it over by Eric, the next morning it was on Eric's truck going into Bay View. And I don't know how many he'd carry over at night or how much liquor he made. Eric, he'd unload that stuff at the tavern right next to the police station, just like spring water. They never caught him at it! Those were the moonshining days. As I said, he came over when the moon was shining over the bridge."

Kitzinger's A Proud Part Of St.



Francis History Since 1948

Firm Started In Back Yard

KITZINGER'S large and modern steel drum reconditioning plant at 2529 E. Norwich Ave., St. Francis, is an outgrowth of a back yard operation that became too large for the combined working space of a small shop, a smaller chicken house and a two car garage.

Today their office space is larger than their father's original shop. The present building is 180 by 220 feet with a 3 1/2 acre yard for storing drums.

The brothers started in 1948 with one employee, Raymond Hurula, a truck driver who is still with them. The employees now number 27, including five truck drivers and an office girl. They have four big semi-trailers and one two-ton truck.

FRANK KELNER, a displaced Hungarian, Walter Janssen and Allen Mason are veteran employees, having joined the firm in 1956. Most of the other workers started in 1959 and 1960.

The Kitzinger brothers are proud of what they have accomplished. Carl took us on a tour of the plant, beginning at the back of the building where the open head drums (without covers) are put into an open flame gas furnace which burns off the paint and the inside residue and then ejects the barrels, red hot, onto a conveyor which moves slowly enough to permit the drums to cool before the next operation.

The brothers and their mechanics designed and built most of the equipment and conveyors, including the open flame furnace. Carl



pointed to the smokestack and said, "It's made of drums."

THE DRUMS are put through several operations after the burning process. They are repaired by welding when necessary, dents are removed and the drums are sand-blasted, washed and painted.

The cleaning of the closed end drums entails different techniques and more special equipment. If the closed head drums have contained something gummy such as tar or rubber cement, and the remnants cannot be removed by washing, one end is cut off by a giant can opener so the drum may be burned clean. A special press is used to replace the head.

One bit of equipment for washing closed head drums involves the use of lengths of chains which are dropped inside the drums together with the solvent used. The drums are then spun and the chain acts like a steel brush.

If the drums are to contain edibles, a government approved substance

is baked on the inside at 450 degrees Fahrenheit. The final operation is the painting of the outside of the drum. When that is completed you can't tell the old drum from a new one. In fact it is a new drum.

AMONG THE MANY commodities shipped in steel drums are lard, vegetable and mineral oils, paint and lacquers. The honey season is at hand and Kitzinger has an order for 600 55-gallon drums that will be used for shipping honey.

We saw one drum that had contained chocolate for dipping paddle pops, but one of the strangest uses for steel drums is for the transportation of bobby pins.

The Kitzinger Corp., sponsors three bowling teams, Carl, Walter Janssen and Edward Janowski represent the company on a team in an "850 league." The other two bowlers are Elmer Dziubek of Ladish, and Otto Suderland of the Gas Co. This team has won two trophies and is on its way to a third.

Harwood Staats

On his involvement in politics...

"...my wife and I were members of the Democratic Party at that time. The situation in St. Francis was that the Mayor appointed the city attorney, back in those times. So when a Mayor got in, he got to choose his own attorney, if a different one got in, then he chose a different attorney. There were 3 or 4 different attorneys in the first 5 years the city was being organized. So there was no continuity. The city realized it was a spoils job, so they put it on an elected basis. Then I ran for office, and became the attorney (in 1956). ...The months before, the fellow that was city attorney was a friend of mine. He said "Woody, as long as you're going to be elected anyhow, you can have the job now". It only paid \$275 a month, at that time, because I needed the money and I know I was trusting a good fellow. And I was attorney until 1986...I've served with all the mayors except the present one, who was just elected, and I'm still the assistant city attorney, but I'm not that involved anymore. It's a non-paying job...We went from a convent, a nun's convent, which was our first meeting place, abandoned by them. It was pretty raucous at times, but now it's pretty tame, I think. And there's not as much participation as there was in the old days...we used to have one alderman at one time, got up, and we had a big table, about the size of this whole area. And one alderman got up and jumped on the table and went after another alderman...I don't remember the subject but everyone was very intense, at that time, about city government and sitting down and doing the right thing. And we had one alderman, alderman at that time had police powers. They don't anymore. But he bought himself a uniform, and he was arresting people. We didn't have a municipal court at that time, so he just warned them (people) and if he wanted to he could have taken them down-

town, but he was a working man too. But he patrolled the streets in his car and Sam Browne belt and he looked like a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer in a brown uniform."

On early law cases...

"We had a constable. I can't think of what his last name is, his first name was Louis Hibicke (called Louie). He had the power of arrest. But there was nothing, nobody did anything bad in those days. I shouldn't say it that way, but people were much more law abiding then, it seems to me...Any cases that came up, for as far as the city was concerned, they were all traffic cases. There were some disorderly conduct, if it turned out there were drunk and driving cases, they had to go downtown, to circuit court, they couldn't be tried here. And if somebody appealed a decision, they went to circuit court, and they tried the case. We didn't have a police department, at first, the sheriff's department finally patrolled. And then Ralph Schuster, was the sheriff deputy assigned to this area. I represented the city in all cases."

His involvement in the early development of St. Francis...

"The Construction Company that I was handling built most of the houses on Allerton Avenue...I ran the Construction Company at my Cudahy office... (The name) was Cudahy Construction Company...(From the office) I did a lot of divorce work. And a lot of real estate work, subdivision in the area of Whittaker Avenue, where the houses all kind of look alike, from Kinnickinnic up two or three blocks, two blocks this way and that way. I separated that for private clients and construction companies. Construction Company had a lot of lots over on Van Norman, Allerton, and St. Francis. Many of them were built by us, so I got a pretty good grounding on real estate law."

Shirley Staats

Early memories of St. Francis...

"When we moved here we didn't have any neighbors, we moved to Allerton Avenue. There was nothing across the street, there was Jones woods in back of us, but there was one house there that was Bejma's, in the woods... Oh, at the time we lived there, we had bread delivery, milk delivery,...(by) Gridley's, way back when... (you could get) any kind of dairy thing. And the bread man, that was Omar Baking Company and I could get my bread and rolls and things like that. My groceries were delivered from the Cudahy co-op, in Cudahy... Jack Fuller used to be the delivery boy.

When we lived on Allerton Avenue, it gradually got built up and on our block there were 52 kids on two sides of the street, everybody was young, somebody would get a case of beer and we'd have a party because everybody was poor. Then the kids started the fire in the field in back of us, and the fire was getting toward Mr. Bejma's geese so we were out there trying to put out the fire... they didn't get the geese. Then, Joanie Giencke's foot was caught in the sewer because her mother always took the cover off to let her (washing ma-

chine) water out and we called the fire department and they couldn't get her foot out, so I had to put my hand in there and untie her shoe so she owes me her life otherwise she would have grown up in a sewer. Every Monday, we had big problems with all those children... You had to drain the washing machine, because we didn't have automatic. She took the cover off the sewer and Joanie was little and she got her foot stuck in there and the firemen used all their tools but they couldn't get her foot out. So I had to untie her shoe, but then I got an infection because of the sewer."

On her involvement in the schools...

"I was always a room mother both at Willow Glen and Thompson School... And I was a member of the first band parent association. I was the secretary -treasurer and Arnold Baewer was the president... And I was on the high school site selection committee, so I took part in that...they had a couple (sites), some were over to the west of us, but this one was the nicest one, but I don't think the electric company would let it go for private building they just let it go for high school building... I was a Girl Scout leader at Willow Glen."



Advance Screw Products, Inc., 3767 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, has been in St. Francis since 1948. They specialize in the production of precision machined parts for motorcycles, the automotive industry, pumps, compressors, hydraulics, power tools, construction equipment, and agricultural components.

Advance Screw Products is continuing to grow, with an expansion in 1996 and a storage facility in 1999. All five plant expansions were built by Vretenar Construction.

Ed Schwalbach Sr. entered into semi-retirement in 1999. Ed's sons are the present owners of the company, Ed Jr., Dan and Al.

Although the owners have changed through the years, the philosophy of Advance Screw Products has always been the same, to maintain a reputation built on uncompromising quality and reliability.

Advance Screw Products looks forward to many more years of prosperity in the friendly city of St. Francis.



Advance Screw Products Co., 1948

In 1964, Advance Screw Products was purchased by Ed Schwalbach Sr., Ted Zyduck and Gene Czerniak from its original owners, Bob and Art Wier.

Under its second group of owners, the company experienced record sales and expanded its operations in 1969, 1973, and again in 1975. Ted Zyduck retired from the company in 1976. Gene Czerniak passed away in 1980, shortly after the company's fourth addition.



Advance Screw Products Co., today

Lake Protestant Cemetery

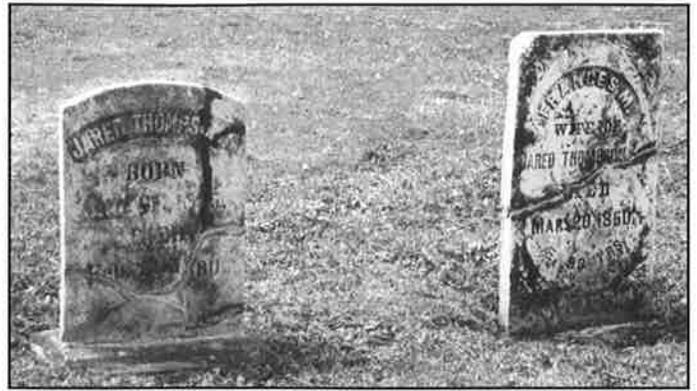
One of the oldest existing cemeteries in Milwaukee County is Lake Protestant Cemetery in St. Francis, on the corner of East Norwich and South Barland Avenues. It has been in existence since approximately 1850. Jared Thompson is said to be the original owner. Thompson was born in Connecticut in 1805 and traveled to this area, the previous Town of Lake, in 1837. The first chairman of the Town of Lake, Thompson was active in politics and a dedicated Methodist Minister. He held services in a building across the street from the current cemetery. Thompson originally owned the land of the cemetery and the land across the street, where the previous Thompson School, and current Thompson Meadows exists. He donated six acres of land to be used as cemetery plots, enough for 42 plots. In 1855, Thompson gave six of those plots to his friends, including Zebedee Packard, and Elijah Estes.

Elijah Estes is believed to have been the first settler of Bay View in 1835, after hitchhiking on a prairie schooner from North Carolina. His son, Coleman, also buried in the cemetery, was the first mayor of Bay View.

Packard Avenue is named after Zebedee Packard. His family owned the land from Lincoln School in Cudahy, on Packard Avenue, north to St. Francis. Zebedee's son, John, died at the age of two years, nine months. He has the oldest legible gravestone dated August 1, 1846.

There are many young children buried in the cemetery. It was believed many of them died from a disease in the area in the early 1900's. However, county records show that the children died of different causes such as meningitis, croup, measles, and inflammation of the intestines.

1935 was the last burial in Lake Protestant Cemetery. It was that year when the cemetery was abandoned, after the church that ran it, St. Paul's, disbanded. There had been some confusion in the past, as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery after the original church broke up. Lake Protestant Cemetery was part of the Town of Lake, but in 1951, when parts of Lake merged



with Milwaukee, the cemetery was then in St. Francis. According to records before 1986, the Presbyterian Church had control of the cemetery. However, they had denied any record or knowledge of this and felt no obligation to care for it. Under Wisconsin statues, the city of St. Francis was obligated to maintain the property.

Lake Protestant Cemetery has been a point of interest for many over the years. In 1971, Louise Simbach and her mother, Ester Wheelock, searched for what they heard was an abandoned cemetery in St. Francis. To their dismay, they found the cemetery, buried under waist high and bur laden weeds, as they struggled through it. Vandals had visited for some time before them, lifting stones off their bases, leaving liquor bottles, beer cans, and empty food packages. Louise carried a notebook and copied names and dates on headstones she could decipher.

In the early 1970's, Cudahy High School students, the highway department, county youth workers, and Boy Scout troops helped maintain the cemetery. Around 1980, Nicolas Kuiper, a member of the Wisconsin State Old Cemetery Society, studied the cemetery. He also helped the St. Francis Historical Society learn more about the cemetery. In 1981, the Historical Society donated and installed the arch that reads, "Lake Protestant Cemetery", at the top of the stairs, and entrance to the cemetery.

In 1986, Chad Stier, a 17-year-old Milwaukee Technical High School student, and his father happened to drive by the cemetery. Searching for a community service project for his Eagle Scout requirement, Chad chose to focus on preserving the cemetery. Chad belonged to troop 303 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Bay View. Along with Chad, three adults and ten other scouts from his troop worked two summers to clean up the cemetery and remove thirty-nine tree stumps. The St. Francis Lions Club helped provide money and materials. Robert Schwingle of the St. Francis Historical Society and the highway department helped provide the scouts with guidance.

Today, the cemetery stands as a monument in history in the city of St. Francis. It appears like a small park, a place to walk through on pleasant days. It is a place to pay tribute to the immigrants, farmers, merchants, generals, and their families who founded the city of St. Francis and pay homage to them.



The St. Francis Twister

March 8, 2000 was a historic day in St. Francis History. It began with unseasonably warm temperatures that day, reaching the mid 70s during the day. It's believed that this unseasonable weather may have contributed to the severe weather that evening. A tornado touched down at approximately 6:15 PM near the northeast corner of General Mitchell International Airport, near Layton and Pennsylvania Avenues. The force of winds caused a semitrailer truck to fall over onto its side at that intersection and caused widespread damage to several businesses in the Whitnall Square Shopping Center.

The twister proceeded northeast, doing extensive damage in the neighborhood between Layton Avenue north to Denton, and from Pennsylvania to Kinnickinnic. Garbage and debris littered yards and streets, roof shingles were ripped from homes, siding peeled off houses, awnings blew away, windows broke, trees fell down and were uprooted, houses and roofs were lifted from foundations, and cars were overturned.

The tornado continued to hop northeast across St. Francis and hit the area in the 4100 block of South Kinnickinnic Avenue. Corporate Limousine Service, at 4186 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue lost its roof to the tornado, and parts of the building interior were blown away. Trailers and boats parked at Max Motors at 4224 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, rolled into the parking lot of Teleview TV and Appliance Center, next door at 4200 S. Kinnickinnic.

The National Weather Service classified the tornado as an F1, on a range of zero to five in strength, causing moderate damage with winds of 73-112 miles per hour. About 16 people suffered minor injuries and approximately \$4.5 million worth of damage was done to the cities of St. Francis and Cudahy, according to the Mil-



waukee County Sheriff's Department.

Utility, roofing, and home repair vehicles drove up and down the streets looking for work the next day. The St. Francis Department of Public Works vehicles were busy clearing and cutting trees that fell from homes. In addition, approximately 25 employees from the Home Depot store in Franklin volunteered their time to assist in the recovery effort. They were on the scene just hours after the tornado, placing tarps over broken windows and cracked roofs, and removing debris and tree limbs from peoples' homes.

There were questions as to why the St. Francis emergency sirens didn't sound prior to the tornado touching down. Stan Schmitt, assistant director to Milwaukee

County Emergency Management, stated that there are steps involved to sounding the siren, starting with a confirmed sighting of a tornado by law enforcement personnel or designated spotter. Then the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning and the siren is sound. The St. Francis tornado formed and hit the ground at the same time and the siren sounded a few minutes after it touched down. Ironically, the new, 1-month-old siren ended up becoming a victim to the tornado. It was ripped from the ground and fell onto its side during the storm.





Lori Lutzka
County Supervisor
17th District



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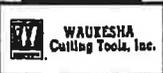
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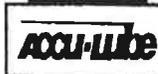
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Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Sacred heart of Jesus Church, at 3641 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue was founded in 1868, with a modest frame church built on three acres of land purchased by the Seminary. A parishioner, Victor Schulte, who had been the architect for St. John's Cathedral, Trinity church, St. Mary's Church, and St. Francis Seminary, drew plans for the building.

In 1872, a school building was erected on the parish property, adjacent to the newly built church. The school consisted of eight grades.

Behind the current church is the Parish Cemetery. The first burial on this land was in 1876. Early settlers whose bodies had been buried near St. Aemilian's Orphanage were re-interred in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in 1888. A chapel was built in 1914 for which architectural plans were furnished graciously by Mr. Peter Brust. Fr. Peter Grobschmidt, the first parishioner to be ordained a priest, is buried in the cemetery. In addition, former Sacred Heart Pastors Fr. Peter Frieden and Fr. Henry Stemper are also buried in this cemetery, as are many Sacred Heart parishioners.

By 1885 the parish numbered 125 families, double the size from 1872. Fr. Peter Frieden was Pastor of the rapidly growing congregation. A large church was needed and parishioners contributed to help build one. On June 6, 1886, a cornerstone was dedicated for a new church that could accommodate over 500 families. Additional effort by the parishioners provided stain glass windows for the new church. Inevitably, the increasing population led to the need of a larger school. In 1888, a new school was built that had 2 schoolrooms below, and living quarters above for the Sisters. In twenty years, it was necessary to double the size of the school. A parishioner, Mr. John Paula drew plans to match the structure of the 1872 building and increased the school by four rooms.

A Sister's Home and Parish Hall were built to accommodate the parishioners. Four additional rooms were added to the school during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

In 1958, a Catholic Census in the Milwaukee area indicated that again, Sacred Heart was in need of another expansion. Men of the parish set about providing an adequate new dwelling. Money had to be raised, more land needed to be purchased, and plans had to be made for a larger church and school.

On September 30, 1961 the cornerstone for the third Sacred Heart of Jesus Church was dedicated. The building included the church, school, and rectory under one roof.

Throughout the years, men and women, boys and girls of the parish began to minister to each other in various roles: servers, commentators, lectors, cantors, and in other facets of parish life. Organizations continued to develop for the laity to serve on: the choir, St. Joseph Benevolent Society, Holy Name Society, C.Y.O., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Catholic War Veterans, the Usher's Society, St. Vincent de Paul, the Elizabeth Ministry, the Home and School Association, the Parish Council, and many more. Some of these still exist today.

For over 130 years, a clergy dedicated to religious worship has served Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation. From the first pastor, Rev. Kilian Flasch, to the current Parish Director, Alexandra Guliano, the community has been well cared for. Many parishioners remember Fathers Hickey, Liska, Aramond, Thielen and Hubner. Some also remember the priest who served the longest--Father Philip Klein, who was with the parish for



fifty-two years (1904-1956).

In recent times, there has been a decrease in enrollment in Catholic Schools and Parishes. Many churches are closing and consolidating with other parishes and schools. Although Sacred Heart of Jesus Church has remained independent as a parish, it decreased its school to a middle school in 1999 due to declining enrollment.

Sacred Heart continues to provide service, hope, and faith for its parishioners and will meet the challenges of the changing times, as it has in the past, for futures come.

John T. (Terry) Duffey

Excerpts from an interview of John T. (Terry) Duffey by Mary Becker on August 28, 2000 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

I'm going to go back a number of years and give you some of my recollections. My first familiarity goes back to probably around 1950 or so when my brother-in-law and sister Hap Herrick and Gloria Herrick bought some land, what is now 3527 East Lunham Avenue. I came out here about 1950 or so to see the land, the two lots that my brother-in-law had bought on Lunham Avenue, and it was just overgrown lots, and we had to wade through the weeds and find the stakes that showed the boundaries of the property. That was about, I would guess, 1950 or so, and within a year or two, they had purchased what was known as a Quirk home and I also saw that before it was actually brought on the property. It was pre-constructed and we went up to Layton Avenue, and saw it up on blocks, and it was, oh that was about the 3300 of Layton Avenue where the Quirk business was. Very soon after that it was brought out to 3527 and put on the foundation. It turned out the foundation was over a spring, and I think it was the same spring that led down to Black Bear Soda. So we spent a lot of time in the basement putting star drills through the basement floor and wall to release the pressure from the water underneath.

It was all fields around here. The kids would play in the fields and my nephew, Richard, was about five years old when he and his friend Johnny Fredrickson, who lived up the street played in the field with matches and burned the field down. And that's like, oh, between Lunham Avenue and Plainfield. And as I remember, the volunteer fire department had to come to put that out.

I remember the first year that we were here you almost had to wipe your window sills daily to get some of the coal dust off because Lakeside Power Plant was still operating. Then sometimes you got a double whammy when the smell from Patrick Cudahy's wind would come and get you and you had to close the windows. And then if you want a triple whammy, think of Ladish's drop forge. So sometimes you had this all coinciding where you get that banging and shuddering of your house, plus the smell from Patrick Cudahy, plus the coal dust on your windows.

Another recollection I have is, I had to walk down Lunham Avenue to the bus, and during the winter, by the time I'd get to that bus I'd be frozen. Greene Park was undeveloped so there weren't any bushes or trees, so the wind would come out of that park from the north, and just freeze you pretty good. Because there were no natural barriers to the snow, the snow would just pile up over where the street was. I remember one time walking down, and the snow had buried a milk truck. I remember walking over the top of the milk truck. So that must have been 12, 14 feet of drift.

Now I'd like to mention some of our early neighbors. There were houses on either side of us on Lunham. The first family to the east were named the Wicherts. And the first family on the west of us were the Schiltzes, Dick and Ann Schiltz. The Wicherts eventually sold to the next family which was the

Wall family. Across the street, east of my sister's house was Zess', Julie and Louie Zess. And to the west were the Mulvaney's, Bud and Gerry Mulvaney. So, and then as the years went by, of course, then Voltner's moved in and then next to them were the Morrisson's. Then around the corner were the Holiccek's.

After high school I went to Marquette University. And graduated with a teaching license, and in January of 1961, I was assigned to Burdick School, a little north of the airport on Bolivar Avenue. Just a super school. The Lake Band practiced every morning, and that's how I started my day - listening to the Lake Band practice. After five years I moved over to Lincoln Avenue School and started a Reading Center there. I was a Reading Specialist. After three-and-a-half years at Lincoln Avenue I went to Allen-Field School on Seventh and Lapham. I was there for about 25 years. It's there that I met a beautiful young teacher named Diana Gonzales. We were married in December of 1971.

Our daughter, Ada, had been born a few months before we bought the house, and Ada grew up here in St. Francis. And went to Sacred Heart School, and then went to St. Mary's Academy and graduated from there. Our son, Christopher, also went to Sacred Heart School and then he went to Thomas More.

Some of you might remember my mother working with children in the neighborhood. She had a little theater down in the rec room, and what she would do is she would have children perform in little plays. Some of the names that I remember are Laurel Becker, and Bonnie Schlazer. There was a little boy named Coates, and a little boy named Hinckle. I believe Karen Zess was in there at some point. I'm sorry, I'm sure there are more, but those are the ones that come to mind. My mother also would give speech lessons to children who were trying to make their speech better or had some impediments.



John T. (Terry) Duffey

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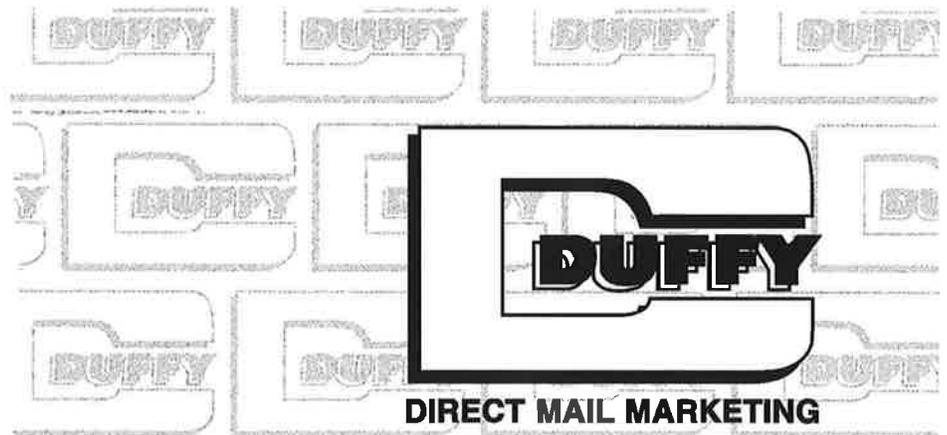
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Sister Anne Mary Rischar

Excerpts from an interview of Sister Anne Mary Rischar, on September 7, 2000, by Pauline McCabe, as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project

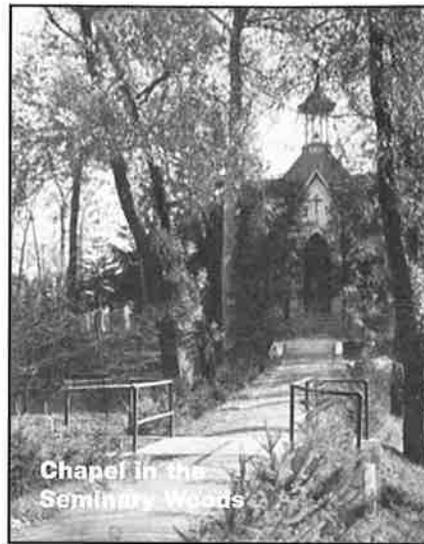
On moving to St. Francis and her present duties...

"I moved into St. Francis in 1955, where I became a candidate for the membership for the Sisters of St. Francis.... My responsibilities are the senior housing apartments that we have. We worked very closely with the city of St. Francis officials when we applied for private financing for Canticle Court. That was the first building we created for senior housing. To my knowledge it was the first federally funded senior housing in the city of St. Francis. We began those negotiations in 1987. We worked through the city planning department and engineering department to get them to approve our plan, and then in 1989 we opened the ground to create that new building on this property. We were very aware that there was very little to offer in affordable housing for the seniors for this southeastern section of Milwaukee County. That was what motivated the Sisters to donate 2 acres of our land to create housing. We opened in November of 1989. We have 48 units and have always had 100% occupancy, with a waiting list. And then the building that we're in right now is called Juniper Court. This served as the infirmary for the Sisters from 1949, when it was built, until 1991."

On the early days of the convent...

"We actually began in this area in 1849, and built our first convent on this property in 1861. We celebrated our 150th anniversary last year. Religious women were taught to be...very isolated, and we were not very well connected with the local political scene. So it was in the 80's that we knew we could no longer isolate ourselves and that we needed to let the public know what we were doing and to partner with them to meet the needs of the citizens."

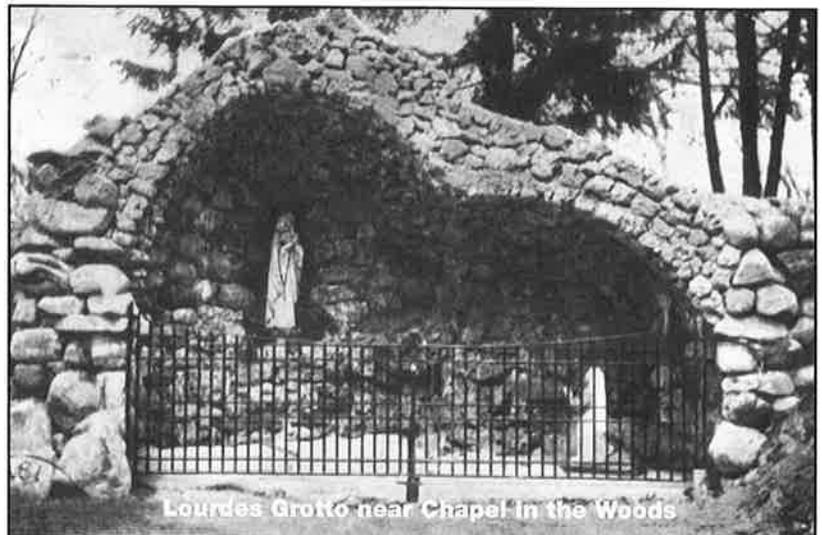
"Very interesting that we are conducting this interview today because the men and women who formed this community, came to us from a very small village in Bavaria, and right now, we have six people here visiting us who belong to that same parish. They kept the connection. Obviously, there were breaks in the connections over the years, but since 1949, the centennial year of the congregation, for the last fifty years there has been some contact between that little village and ourselves. Last year, when we had our 150th anniversary, there were thirty-one of them who came to celebrate with us. Because it was their faith life that prompted the missionaries to come here and when they come to see what their roots have sprouted



to it amazes them, it's pretty overwhelming. But it's a good connection, we're very pleased to have that. The two priests that came died in that early cholera epidemic, just shortly after they got here. So the group was pretty bereft at that point."

Speaking of the Cemetery in the Woods...

"The one (cemetery) that we used initially is called 'The Cemetery in the Woods', right behind the seminary, we were still burying sisters there up until probably the early 60's maybe, and then there was no room for us. So, at that time we bought 1000 lots in what is Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. And we've been burying there... the early leaders are buried in the cemetery in the woods... because it is tucked away, it has been a problem area because we've had a lot of vandalism out there. And yet, I know that the police do go through and patrol, it's just very disconcerting, so what we did, is we went through and replaced all of our headstones, so they could not longer topple them. There was one or the other that was damaged after that was done. So that's why we talk about the Healthier Communities Initiative, what can we do to create the quality of life that doesn't allow the value of destruction to take over, and I think that was part of what we were trying to do in the other initiative. It's something that has to be taught."



Mary Becker

Excerpts from an interview of Mary Becker, by Matthew Kuspa, on March 8, 2001, as part of the St. Francis Historical Society's Oral History Project.

On writing for the Reminder-Enterprise...

"...in 1966, Bee Stonek who, with her husband were the publishers of the Cudahy Reminder-Enterprise, asked me if I would write for them. And I thought, "Yes, this is fine, the children are all grown." And I started out in St. Francis and I covered the common council and the school board. Those were my main beats. And I got to really love the city of St. Francis. I think it's a very closely-knit community and I noticed there are circles within circles. That is, if a person is active in the Lions Club, he or she is active in St. Francis Days or the Association of Commerce. And sometimes they are on city boards, but it seemed like everybody seemed to get along so well in St. Francis and it was a very comfortable feeling. And that lasted, I can't remember how many years. And besides doing the school board, I got to be very good friends with the school board members and Mr. Lacke was a very good friend of mine. But besides doing that, I used to go and sit at the court sessions. And I was the only reporter in the whole Community Newspapers that was willing to spend the time on that. And that was kind of fun. It was amusing at times. I remember one instance, where the man came in with crocodile tears and sobbing, "Please don't fine me or arrest me for shoplifting because my mother would be so heartbroken if she knew." So Judge Berzowski let them by. I was sitting so I could see the doorway where he went out, and this man and his wife were just chuckling and giggling, and I got angry that they got so happy that they put one over on the judge. That kind of made me mad. And one time, a woman asked me to not put something in the paper about her, because she was convicted of shoplifting and I said, "No, it isn't fair to everybody else. I'm going to put it in." And she called up and she threatened me. I was surprised and I told the St. Francis Police Department about the serious threat I had. So a Cudahy police officer came over and they had evidently reported it to Cudahy. And he interviewed me then he really put the fear of God into this young woman and I never heard from her after that ...I'm really happy to write my column "City Sidelights" although it takes a lot of polishing and concentration. It's not just something you flip off with it very quickly. You have to make it something that people will enjoy reading. That's the hardest thing I write. Then I also do the police, I cover the court records for Cudahy, St. Francis, and South Milwaukee. And I have a history column, which is called, "This week in history." And then I do personalities for Oak Creek and South Milwaukee."

On her historical findings of St. Francis...

"...one time I was out in Franklin visiting the Historical Society out there, and I came across a great big book, a 1876 historical atlas of Milwaukee County. It had engravings of different houses in the county and histories, and I was just so happy to see a picture of the lakefront where St. Francis High School is now... It showed the waterfront, there were some people walking on the waterfront. You could look up and see cows and there was a horse and buggy going down Lake Drive and then in the background was a farm. And I thought, "My that would make a wonderful story! If we could trace the history of that land." That's what I proceeded to do starting from 1876, well earlier than that, the 1830's or so. George Wentworth got it as a grant from the government and they had treaties, well all this land was opened up. If anybody tells you they owned land here before 1830 something, they're not telling you the truth because it was Indian Territory. They might have been spawtters, but they didn't own it. So anyway, Mr. Wentworth got this farm and then I traced it through to 1911. I think that was about the time Mr. Wentworth gave it up and went to live with his daughter in Bay View. The electric company bought the land and they were planning on having their corporate headquarters up there. But for some reason they never did it, and so they just held on to the land and people just rented the property until the School Board bought it. And some of the families that lived there were the Voltners, relatives of Ralph. And the Talaska's and the Bessey's. Most people remember that hill as Bessey's hill. If you talked to anybody in Cudahy my age or younger and they will tell you about going sled riding down Bessey's hill. And I used to think it as they had a cow named Betsy, but that wasn't it, their last name was Bessey. And they lived on that farm for a long time."



Mary Becker

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Virginia & Joe Magestro



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Joseph B. Frederick

Excerpts from an interview of Joseph B. Frederick, by James Goodwin, on February 14, 2001 as part of the St. Francis historical Society Oral History Project.

On growing up in St. Francis and his childhood home by St. John's School for the Deaf...

"I was born in St. Francis...there were seven children, and my dad and mother. One died at birth, and one drowned in a pond. There was a pond in front of St. John's. I was five. He was 2 ½ when he drowned; that was back in 1934... Dad began working at the School for the Deaf when he was fourteen. His brother, Hank, began working right next door at The Minor Seminary, or Pio Nono, that's changed over the years. Their sister, Annie, became a sister... with the Franciscan's on Lake Drive. She worked as a nun about 65 years, and all but two of those years she spent as a nun at the School for the Deaf. The five children remaining are my brother Jack, the doctor, then myself, I come next. Gary was the next. Then Beth, who lives in Colorado, in Boulder, Colorado. Then Bob, who had been a high school teacher in South Milwaukee for thirty years... And Mary, the youngest one... We were brought up in that rather famous home, that had I believe sixteen or seventeen rooms. We had two living rooms. One was like a sunroom upstairs and the other one was downstairs, and had been a greenhouse I believe at one time. Then we had an office upstairs, way upstairs, where my dad would mail out periodically, every month or two months, Our Young People: The Deaf Mute's Friend; it was a magazine they sent out to bring information about the school to people who supported the school and friends of the school and so forth. He'd mail that out, so that was one kind of special room up in the office. And then the other special room was the pump room, that would pump and would make all kind of noise and push water out to the pond and

keep the pond nice and full and that type of thing. We also had, many years ago, one other room, one or two rooms away from the pump room, that was a shoemaker shop, where Mr. Heck, I forget his first name, would come in and repair shoes out of the basement of our house. So it's kind of a unique home. We all went to school at Sacred Heart for grade school, which was kind of across the street. Jack and I went to school at The Minor Seminary for high school. Beth and Mary went to St. Mary's Academy for high school and Bob went to Don Bosco for three years and finished up his last year at Bay View and met his wife there. Jack went on to Marquette pre-med and medical school. I went too, after finishing at the high school I went into pre-med, was accepted into the medical school at Marquette, dropped out and went back to the Seminary. I was ordained a priest in 1956. Beth went to Marquette for a year or so then got married. Bob went to UWM and got his Bachelor's and eventually his Master's degree in teaching. And then Mary became a x-ray technician. She went to St. Joe's Hospital and Marquette University for that."

On his experiences with playing with the children from the School for the Deaf...

"I would bring over my friends from Sacred Heart and we'd play with the deaf kids, and I never learned the deaf language because sports has it's own language. You know, if you kick a field goal, it's three points whether you're deaf or not, if you hit a home run it's so much, if you score a basket in basketball it's so many points whether you're deaf or not. We had little signs we used like for "foul ball", or "it's tie game", or something like that. I seldom went into the school; I just played with the kids outside. I guess that's why I like sports so much because I played so much in my youth because I had a football field and baseball field in my backyard; it was part of my yard, so to speak. So it was kind of interesting how we speaking kids would play together with the deaf kids, and it was fun, it was fun. So I was fortunate that way. The nuns who were there through the years were very, very special people, they were just very giving, very giving to the kids. The school was really open to any whether they could pay or not. And so there wasn't much extra money floating around there for salaries and things like that. I remember my dad telling me onetime, or maybe more than once, how they ran out of coal middle of winter, and it was just horribly cold, and the director... Monsignor Gerend had the kids all pray to St. Joseph... And the next day they said a big truck drove up with a load of coal out of nowhere."



Gymnasium, St. John's Institute for the Deaf

Ralph Voltner

Excerpts from an interview of Ralph Voltner by Pauline McCabe on September 13, 2000 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

I've lived in St. Francis all my life. I was born January 1, 1952. For the first three years of my life I lived on South Lake Drive on a farm. The family did lease it from Wisconsin Electric Power Company. My family also leased what was Bessey's Hill and now is St. Francis High School, across the street.

My dad worked at Ladish, along with my uncle, but basically, before that, farmed – both east of South Lake Drive and also on top of Bessey's Hill. So, they raised cows, horses, and also had one of the few combines in the area. They used to combine a lot of different crops.

We had a picture in our family taken in the 1920's – unfortunately it's been lost... A picture of my grandfather and a Cudahy Sergeant and a wolf. Right about where the St. Francis football field was, there was a timber wolf. Somebody saw two timber wolves there, so my grandfather went down and shot the timber wolf. The other one got away. And then proceeded to go to the Cudahy Police Department to get his bounty, because there was a bounty on it. Almost got thrown in jail because they thought he had shot a police dog, a German Shepard police dog. And so when finally it was verified that it was a timber wolf, a picture was taken. They took a picture of him and the Sergeant and it was put into the Reminder Enterprise. ...To think that timber wolves were roaming around here back in those days is something.

And here's a sidelight: when St. Francis High School and Willow Glen were built, I can remember us doing the seeding on the sides of the hills and over by Willow Glen. They put in the seed with a tractor at that time.

My dad had either lived in Cudahy or St. Francis his entire life, and I think one of the things that he always mentioned to me was the competition that the Voltners, the Stranaks and the Pekars had, regarding raising of horses. There was always pride. They were all Bohemian or Slovaks, so it was a common bond there. And that was one of the things that he could pass along and talk about with the Stranaks (an old St. Francis name) and also Pekars who lived on WEPCO land, also; but who have since moved to Cudahy.

There were a lot of open fields throughout the area. And swamps. And wooded area. So that there were a lot of places where kids could use their imagination and play. In St. Francis a lot of the land was either owned by Wisconsin Electric or the Archdiocese. So we had a lot of open land so that kids could be kids. We farmed on Lake Drive until I was twelve years old. One little crop that we had was sweet corn. And I would sell the

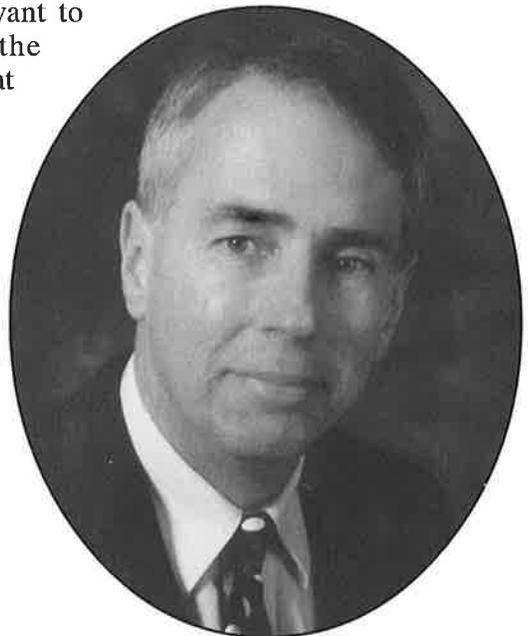
sweet corn at a so-called stand on South Lake Drive. It was 35¢ a dozen, three dozen for a dollar. And we prided ourselves in having Dr. Fine who only wanted the white corn, the young white corn and Mayor Kiehl and some of the people that came over and bought corn from us way back when. Dad built a home on Lunham Avenue where we lived until I got married – 25 years ago.

I was on the St. Francis Days Committee, very close to the beginning. I can't say right at the beginning, but either in my teenage years I was selling beer and soda tickets at the old location up at the High School. And after that I was a director for many years for St. Francis Days Committee. I did participate in the Miss St. Francis Pageant. I was one of the original St. Francis Jaycees. I became an Alderman when I was 22, in 1974. So there's been a lot of changes since then.

My father ran and always involved us in political discussions. And he had run in the early 60's against Ray Klug and Rudy Hoppe and Richard Neubauer and Al Richards. Which are some names in town. I think he came in last or second last. I think he didn't want to be right at the end. We've kept his old signs and some of his old campaign cards. While I was still going to Marquette, my senior year, I ran for Alderman against Ray Klug and was successful. I think at the time it cost me \$50. \$34 went for buying matches with my picture on it.

In St. Francis, we have been working for 15 years, trying to get something developed on the lakefront that would benefit not only those people who live there but us in the entire city. And would be a focal point for the city. You don't want them to overbuild, you don't want them to underbuild.

You don't want to jump into the first thing that presents itself. I think the Lake Parkway and Howard Avenue are assets that were needed and facilitated a lot of growth.



Ralph Voltner



Happy Birthday St. Francis!

Elizabeth & I wish to thank
you for having us help you to
make St. Francis a
better place to live and
raise our families.

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in the future.

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Mr. & Mrs. Milt Vretenar

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 by daughter Kim Beth Polinski
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 by Joyce Kuehl
 Bill "K9JGT " Thompson
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 by Irene C. Wichgers
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 Leonard C. Symkowski, Sr.
 by Margie Symkowski and family
 Alfred and Angela Richards
 Charles J. Lacke (1912-1994)
 Superintendent of Schools(1960-1977)
 by his wife, Marguerite
 My dear wife, Kathy Schwingle, President-
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 by Robert Schwingle, Sr.
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 Carol Wojtecki for designing the City's 50th anniversary logo
 The City of St. Francis, and all it's past and present citizens and city officials, for 50 wonderful years and many more to come
 Last, but not least, the city's founding fathers, without their time and dedication we would not be having this celebration!

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St. John's School for the Deaf

St. John's School for the Deaf was founded May 10, 1876 by the Rev. Theodore Bruener. Rev. Bruener, rector of Pio Nono College and Catholic Normal School in St. Francis, accepted two students. In 1877, enrollment increased to seventeen students. To start a building fund and to collect funds to support the school, Fr. Bruener visited many parishes in Wisconsin and surrounding states. In addition, collections from the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Pope Pius IX were given to the School for the Deaf. With the donations, a new school building was completed by the end of 1879.

In 1879, Fr. Bruener was recalled back to Illinois. Father John Friedle then became rector of Pio Nono and the School for the Deaf. Fr. Charles Fessler followed him in 1881. However, due to lack of funds and the resignation of Fr. Fessler in 1889, the school was closed.

In fall of 1889, Fr. Matthias Gerend was placed in charge of Pio Nono College. He soon became interested in the School for the Deaf and, with permission from Archbishop Heiss, Fr. Gerend reopened the school and renamed it St. John's Institute for Deaf Mutes. Determined to put it on solid financial ground, he decided the students could learn useful trades and at the

same time support the school. A large workshop was completed in 1891. Male students did cabinet making, carpentry, painting, decorating, gilding, drawing, and designing. Girls were taught sewing, cooking, and baking. They also helped support the school by working in the kitchen and doing laundry.

In 1893, a chapel was added and dedicated in memory of Archbishop Heiss. It was decorated and furnished by the students.

The school's surroundings were pleasant and homey. The seminary woods, with the flowing streams and abundant wildlife were to the east, beyond which lay St. Francis Seminary, St. Aemilian's Orphanage, and the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis. Pio Nono College was to the north.

In 1907, the school was almost destroyed by fire. Most of the building was destroyed but the west wing. Donations poured in as the word spread and within a year, a new school was built on the ruins of the old. Students helped greatly in the rebuilding.

In 1938, Fr. Gerend died and Fr. Eugene Gehl became the director at St. John's. He was determined that the deaf receive the best education possible. Under his administration, it became one of the best schools of its kind in the United States. Father Gehl died on May 10, 1963.

Fr. Lawrence Murphy was made director following Fr. Gehl. The school maintained funding through the St. John's Alumni Association, charity basketball games, and festivals. Fr. Murphy's first priority was to finalize plans for a new school and by 1965, construction began on the elementary school building. It was completed in fall 1966. It was also decided that a high school be added to St. John's. It was the third Catholic High School for the deaf in the nation. In 1965, classes were open to freshman, but construction of the addition of the high school was not completed until 1967. The old school building and gym was razed and a parking lot was laid in its place. By 1972, a new gym,

large playrooms, The Little Theatre, and Olympic sized swimming pool were complete.

In fall 1974, Fr. Murphy requested a leave of absence and resigned from his position as director and principal. Rev. Donald Zerkel took over as director.

In 1983, the school was closed and the facility became known as St. John's Center.

It was the site of the Archdiocesan ministry with the Deaf, the Tyme Out Retreat program, offices of the International Catholic Deaf Association, Wisconsin Association of the Deaf, and the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons.

Since the school had closed in 1983, Tyme Out Youth Retreat Ministry used majority of the building, and was given a five-year lease by the archdiocese, with the understanding that it would be renegotiated at that time. According to Archbishop Rembert Weakland, the archdiocese agreed to let Tyme Out use the building as long as Tyme Out provided money for the upkeep of the building. In September 1990, the archdiocese decided not to renew the lease, due to lack of funds by Tyme Out to cover the funds needed for maintenance. In 1990, the St. John's Center was sold to the St. Francis School District for \$1.2 million. The building was purchased to replace the aging Faircrest Elementary School, at 3819 S. Iowa Avenue. The St. John's Center is now the site of deer Creek Elementary School.



Lakeside Power Plant

For more than six decades, Lakeside Power Plant's lighted smokestacks were visible for miles. The plant produced electricity for millions of southeastern Wisconsin homes, and its brick buildings brought employment to many area residents. Its massive turbine generators produced not only electricity, but well needed tax dollars for the small city of St. Francis.

Lakeside Power Plant was opened for public service on April 15, 1921. The idea for the revolutionary plant came years before, at a time when Milwaukee relied heavily on one power-source, the Oneida Street plant.

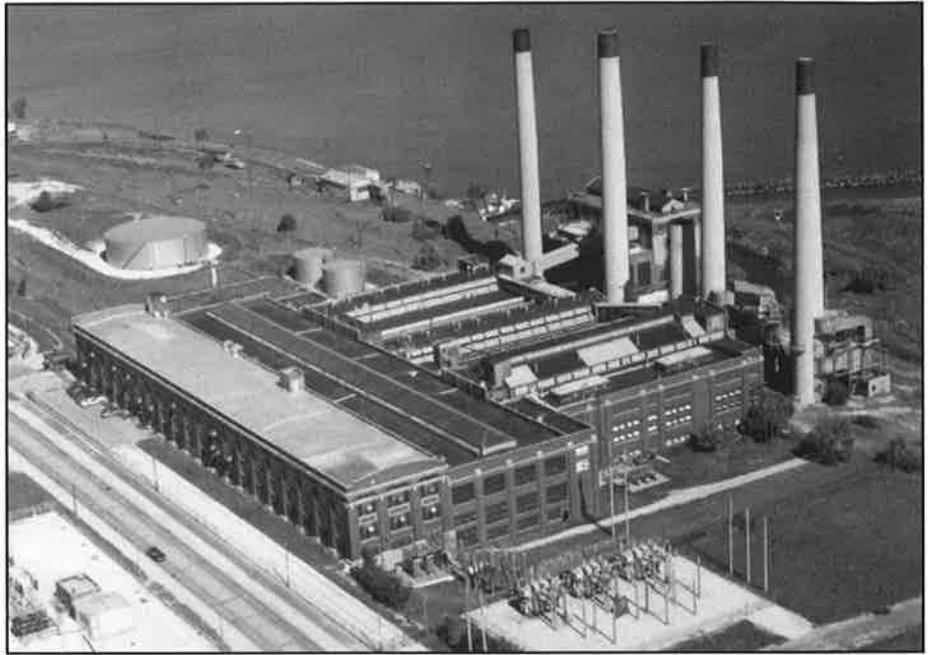
A site on Lake Michigan south of Milwaukee was purchased, railroad right-of-way was procured, plans were developed, and contracts were placed for the proposed 40,000 kilowatt first section of a new plant. Our country's entry into WWI in 1917, however, made it impossible to proceed with the construction.

The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light (TMER&L), seriously in need of additional power, revived the lakeside project in 1919, and groundbreaking started on February 18, 1920. Large amounts of capitol were needed to complete the project and the company found it very difficult to secure enough money to complete it. Many investors were skeptical about the new plant's radical pulverized coal system, and were therefore hesitant to fund the project.

The company was operating in 1920 on a borderline, and often at a financial deficit. Without large cash advances from North American, TMER&L's parent company, TMER&L might-well have failed.

By the middle of 1920, TMER&L had invested \$875,000 into its Lakeside Plant and would need \$4,000,000 more to complete it. With no easy answers in sight, a solution was finally found. A separate company, called Wisconsin Electric Power Company, was formed to complete Lakeside and the necessary substations and transmission lines from the plant. Because the state allowed it to pay a healthy rate of return, the new entity had no difficulty in raising the capital needed to complete the Lakeside project.

Construction proceeded rapidly, and over the next decade, twelve steam-turbine generators were installed, ranging in output from 7,700 to 60,000 kilowatts. Three boiler rooms housed the plant's twenty boilers. In a re-organization in 1938, all of TMER&L's power operators were consolidated under Wisconsin Electric.



Because of growing environmental concerns, Lakeside was converted to gas from pulverized coal in the mid-1960's, ending the need for the Lakeside Belt Line Electric Railway to bring coal into the plant.

Permission was obtained to abandon the portion of the belt line between the North Western track just west of Pennsylvania Avenue. The remaining portion of the belt line, between Lake Drive and Pennsylvania was sold to North Western in 1969.

However, in 1970 a severe shortage of Natural gas occurred and Lakeside was forced to add standby oil firing. This, in turn, meant using the belt line again, only this time bringing in fuel oil instead of coal.

From its inception in the 1920's until 1961, the belt line featured a passenger trolley car that shuttled Lakeside employees between Kinnickinnic Avenue and the plant entrance. After the end of the Milwaukee street car service in 1959, the Lakeside shuttle was left as the last passenger trolley in Wisconsin until it eventually ended in 1961.

The Lakeside plant continued to produce electricity throughout the 1970's. However, by the early 1980's the increased cost of fuel oil and natural gas made it unprofitable to continue operating there. On September 30, 1983, the signal was given for final shutdown. The mighty turbines came to rest after 63 years of public service.

The Lakeside site was sold to an investor in 1985. In 1987, demolition of the buildings began, and sixty-three years of memories crumbled. Today, the only physical remain of the power plant is the guard shack on the property. However, the memories of the once active smokestacks and the distinct cry of the starting whistle every morning and then at quitting time every afternoon will always remain.

Dolores Scott Goodwin

Excerpts from an interview of Dolores Scott Goodwin, daughter of Wilbur Scott, the first Justice of the Peace of the city of St. Francis, on Thursday December 7, 2000. Interview by Jim Goodwin.

On growing up in St. Francis and attending Sacred Heart of Jesus School...

"I was about 2 ½ years old when we moved into the home at 3703 S. Rutland Avenue. My dad built the house on his own with materials he purchased a little at a time. For instance, oak floor in the dining room came from the sister's home at Immaculate Conception. Their home was being remodeled and my dad salvaged the good oak flooring for our house.

The topic of part of Town of Lake becoming a city was discussed quite often. I know my dad was in favor of this and worked with the men in the area to bring this about. In fact, my father, Wilbur Scott was elected first Justice of the Peace for the city of St. Francis. I remember my dad officiating at a couple of wedding ceremonies. But, we, the children, had to stay in another part of the house while this was taking place.

Little Sacred Heart remains in my memory, with the beautiful brown altars, and the services that took place there. The little boys and girls wore their communion attire, for the processions that took place, for the closing of 40 hours devotion, and also for the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in May. Whenever I hear the hymn "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name", and the lines of "Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today", I can close my eyes and picture Sacred Heart Church and Father Klein. Father Klein, who always said, "If you give to the church, you will never be without".

When we were in first grade, Father Joseph Frederick, Betty Jean Schawbach (now Chovanoc), and I were escorts for the first communion class. We represented faith, hope, and charity, and escorted the children one group at a time to the altar for first communion. Sacred Heart School was the grade school my 6 brothers and 2 sisters attended. Sr. Mary Joletta did a very good job teaching us phonics, while we sat on the tiny little chairs in the front of the classroom. She also was very determined that we



Dolores Scott Goodwin

learn to read out loud with expression, she always said, "Read with expression". Later on in sixth grade, Sr. Mary Donald was just as determined we learn prepositional phrases. To this day, I know prepositional phrases.

We went home for lunch everyday, which gave us plenty of exercise and where my mother always had a good lunch, like macaroni and cheese, which was a favorite and hot cocoa. Our only worry was getting held up by a train and being late for school. We also wanted to get back to the playground early enough to play dodge ball. The watchman on the second set of tracks always came out of his little house with his lantern to warn us to hurry when a train was coming.

After school, my sister Bernadette would stop at the post office, across from school and pick up the mail for many of our neighbors. She laughs today when she talks about her mail route. She couldn't stand the sun so she carried a little pink umbrella. I must say she looked kind of cute.

One of the favorite tasks we didn't mind doing for my mother was a trip to Romie's grocery store, on the corner of Rutland Avenue. He seemed to have everything good when food like butter, sugar, and chocolate, was rationed during the war. We had to have stamps, as well as money at this time. Romie was a very friendly man, who laughed and joked a lot. As a kid, one of the items I looked forward to buying was the chocolate éclair cookies, made by the Johnson Company. This was a very special treat that we only had occasionally. Romie tried to see that he could sell us the items that were rationed, because we were very good customers. He would keep track of the groceries we brought during the week and my mother paid the bill on Friday.

My mother and dad made a good life for us in this beloved city of St. Francis, and looking back at all the good neighbors and friends we grew up with; I wouldn't change a day."

ELECT
Wilbur O. Scott
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
City of St. Francis



HONEST **EFFICIENT**

37 Authorized and paid for by the Victory Club, Tony Zapal, Secretary, 3660 S. Iowa Avenue, St. Francis, Wis.

Carol Wagner

Excerpts from an interview of Carol Wagner by Ed Wagner on April 2, 2001 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

I was born in 1940 in Milwaukee. My father was in the newspaper business and we lived in Dixon, IL, Fort Atkinson, WI and Stoughton, WI. We moved here to this Whitnall Avenue address in approximately 1949/1950. My father was trying to get a job in the area, and we lived here temporarily until he was able to look for a home. We lived here with my grandparents, John and Eva Koniar and my Aunt Molly Koniar, John Koniar, and Jerome and Rose Koniar and my father John Bednar, mother Eva Bednar and two brothers Ron and Ken.

My husband, Edward, proposed to me on Christmas Eve 1960. He came over here to give me an engagement ring and ask me to marry him and as he was coming into the driveway, a car hit him and the engagement ring was in the glove compartment of the mashed-up car. I can remember my uncle driving us to Trinity Memorial Hospital so that he could get stitches and he had asked if I found the engagement ring in the glove compartment and I didn't know anything about it. So that was an exciting proposal. We have two children. Michael was born May 11, 1962. Our daughter, Lisa, was born May 1, 1966.

My grandparents came from Czechoslovakia. My grandfather came first in 1913 or 1915 to try and set up a residence while his wife, my grandmother, and his two children stayed in Czechoslovakia. And when he had this house pretty much ready for them to live in, he sent for them and they came over to the United States in 1920.

When my grandfather settled here, he purchased approximately ten acres. Four of those acres he sold for the Inter-Urban transportation. And six acres remained. Some of those acres were sold off and the property that we have now consists of approximately four acres which are still on the tax roll. I remember my grandmother and grandfather had chickens and pigs and cows on the farm.

I can remember many times my grandmother would take the cows to these areas along the railroad tracks and I was horrified that a cow would get loose so I quick ran into the porch and slammed the door when she would go past the side of the house to take the cows to be grazed. One of grandmother's favorite things was the strawberry patch that she had, and I can remember as a child helping pick strawberries and putting them in the quart or the pint baskets and then putting them into a wooden crate and putting that crate on a coaster wagon and taking it up to the road (Whitnall Avenue) and sitting there and selling the strawberries for my grandmother.

Grandfather had an old car, a jalopy, and there were times where he would go and do his errands and go to Cudahy and he would ask me if I'd like to go along with him. And I'd sit in the back seat and pray that I would get back and forth safely because he got up to the top of

our driveway on Whitnall Avenue and most of the time he never looked, he just tore out of the driveway. And he would go and do his errands and he always finished up at Ulichny's Tavern on Layton Avenue and I would sit in the back seat and wait for him to come out. And my reward was always a Hershey bar. And I think that my grandfather is the person who made me the chocoholic that I am now.

After my husband and I were married we moved to 35th Street. We were married in 1961 and purchased a house on 35th Street. And we lived there from 1961 until 1973. Both our children grew up in that house on 35th Street. In about 1972/1973, it was discovered that my Aunt Molly Koniar who was living in this house on Whitnall Avenue with my mother, was diagnosed with cancer. And after talking it over with my Aunt Molly, we told her that we would sell our house on 35th Street so that we could move back into the homestead here so that my mother would not have to sell the old homestead and move into either an apartment or a flat, which she probably would not have enjoyed. She was very active. She enjoyed working in the yard. With us living here it would've made it easier for her not to have to worry about cutting a large lawn and taking care of all the apple trees. So my husband and I and the two children moved into this house on Whitnall Avenue in 1973 after my Aunt Molly passed away.

I've always enjoyed gardening. My Aunt Molly, before she passed away, was an avid gardener and she had many areas of different types of flowers, annuals, perennials. And I still try to keep her flower gardens going, sort of as a memorial to her, because I knew how much she enjoyed the gardening. She was an Auditor at the bank. She started out in Cudahy at the Cudahy State Bank, and then the bank started a new bank in Shorewood called the "North Shore State Bank" and she worked there until the time of her death.



Carol Wagner

Sr. Doris Pehowski

Excerpts from an interview of Sr. Doris Pehowski by Pauline McCabe on September 26, 2000 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

Our religious community goes way back to the year 1849, when a group of six women and five men from a tiny little country village, Ettenbeuren, Bavaria, heard a call from their parish priest that the Bishops in the United States needed missionaries to come and help with the spiritual needs of the German immigrants. Bishop John Martin Henni of Milwaukee had made an effort to get this young group to come to Milwaukee to help him with the spiritual needs of the immigrant population. He had the idea of beginning a Seminary for young German men, and he was hoping that this group would begin a religious community of women and that they would be able to help him by doing the domestic work in a Seminary. So he welcomed them to come to Wisconsin and to the little area on the lake called Nojoshing. That was an Indian term meaning "a tongue of property in the lake".

The Seminary is named in honor of St. Francis de Sales. Our religious community is named after St. Francis of Assisi. The five lay men who came to Nojoshing did not form a religious community, but they came to help build the buildings, clear the forests, do all they could do to help the women. Later they helped to build the Seminary. And so the women organized a religious community named "The Third Order of St. Francis." It became St. Francis Convent and the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. In 1851, two years after they arrived, the six women pronounced vows as religious women. They took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. And they committed themselves to doing works of charity.

Now the first work of charity that came along for them was care of the orphans at St. Aemilian's Orphanage. In 1850 there was an orphanage started downtown in Milwaukee, around the Cathedral Square area. And it was founded because there was an epidemic of influenza. The Diocese founded two orphanages: St. Rose for girls and St. Aemilian's for boys. In 1854, the sisters were struggling to survive. They couldn't speak English, they had no means of working at this time, they had to build their own few buildings that they needed, and they were having a very difficult time really finding a ministry that would be meaningful for them. And so through the efforts of Father Michael Heiss, it was agreed with Bishop Henni, that the Orphanage would be built right next to the convent. Our sisters took on the ministry of taking care of the orphans. And they have taken care of them right up until this very year. This year, the last sister to work in St. Aemilian's retired.

Archbishop Henni decided that it was time to build a Seminary. He secured assurance from the sisters that they would be willing to do the domestic work in the Seminary. So in 1856, Henni Hall, the largest building on the Seminary grounds, was built. And in that very same year, a convent was built near it. Our sisters went to help with the cooking, the cleaning, the sewing for the Seminarians, doing the farming, the milking of cows. And they did it without any salary. They did it for the love of God. They were very poor. The boys who came to become priests were very poor and the only money that the Seminary had was what they collected on begging tours. For many years the sisters worked without any

remuneration, except that their basic needs were taken care of, like their food and basic clothing that they needed and just a few extreme necessities. And our sisters worked in the Seminary until just a few years ago.

The last sister retired from there in - it could've been as late as 1997. Women coming into the convent did not want to do domestic work in recent years. But in all those early years, for almost, for over a hundred years, they were willing to do the really humble work in the Seminary to help the young men to become priests. And they were very proud of the ministry that they did in the Seminary.

In 1860, the women who began felt that they had failed in their efforts. They worked so hard in the Seminary that they didn't have time to follow the schedule of their religious life - time for prayer and reflection and quiet. They felt they were so busy that they did not accomplish what they hoped to. So they decided to go back to Europe and join convents there. They left in 1860. They were not accepted in convents in Europe because they were past the age of entrance into a convent. So they stayed in Milwaukee and became housekeepers and cooks and did simple domestic work.

The sisters in Nojoshing realized that they needed to diversify their ministries, that some young women coming to the congregation wanted to be teachers. They asked permission of Bishop Henni to begin teacher training. We had Sisters working in the Orphanage, in the Seminary, and now we had Sisters going out to teach, particularly in rural areas. Eventually teaching became our primary ministry. We taught everything from kindergarten, primary school, elementary school, high school and college. Today we still have Cardinal Stritch University as a college that we began way back in 1937 as St. Clare College.

We had St. Mary's Academy, which began in 1904 and closed in 1991. It was a high school for girls, right here on the property, across from the lake. It was an outstanding high school. But in the 1990's it was difficult to get funding for a girls' school. There were not too many agencies that were willing to donate funds for a girls' school. And the students we had found it difficult to meet payment and we did not have as many Sisters available to teach in that school. And we were no longer able to support salaries for lay teachers and were forced to close at that time. We still have that beautiful large double building, and we opened it as the Marian Center for Nonprofits in 1991. It is an office complex. There we try to create quality of life in the community through the 35+ agencies that have their offices there. All of them promote the values of St. Francis in our society, creating quality of life.

We've been active in St. Francis. We taught at Sacred Heart School for many years. Almost from the beginning until recent years. We always refer to it as our parish, because we worked there for so many years. And we also served at St. John's School for the Deaf, from 1885 until the early 1980's when it closed because of expense. It was a national institution. They had children from all over the country. They just did outstanding work.

So we've been in St. Francis before St. Francis became a city. We've been here since 1849, continuously. It's always been our headquarters.

Ray Calteux

Excerpts from an interview of Ray Calteux by Jim Goodwin on January 16, 2001 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

I was born in 1925, and I lived at 2008 East Cora Avenue, St. Francis (the old Town of Lake) until I got married.

I went to Sacred Heart School. Graduated from 8th grade in 1939. And from there I went to Pio Nono High School. Graduated from Pio Nono in 1943.

After high school, I worked for Screw Machine Products Company located on Iowa and Norwich. And I worked there for about three years. And then I started my carpenter apprenticeship. We had a family carpenter business. We built houses and did a lot of remodeling and things like that. My father had two fellows working for him at the time and they showed me the trade. I went to school one day a week and the rest of the time we worked.

My brother, Bill, and I formed a business (Frank H. Calteux and Sons, Incorporated). My dad was the president, and we were officers. The business lasted until 1965, when we terminated the business.

After that, I worked for several different carpenter contractors. Right in the area – the south side of Milwaukee, Cudahy, South Milwaukee. Built different homes in those cities.

I ran for School Board in 1963, and I was elected to that post. And I spent around 24 years being re-elected. I held a Clerk position for a number of years, but not right at first. Other members of the School Board at that time, were Frances Schuster, Rudy Hoppe, Bob Long, and Doc Wichgers. Doc was the president at that time. Bob was the secretary. He also taught school in the City of Milwaukee. Charlie Lacke was the Superintendent of Schools.

I was still working when I terminated my School Board job. I worked for the City of St. Francis as a Building Inspector and Assessor for approximately ten years. The Building Inspector prior to me was Mr. Richard Neubauer. He had passed away and they appointed me as the Building Inspector and Assessor. Well, there wasn't too much building. You had some... I'm trying to think of the biggest project. I'd say the biggest project while I was the Building Inspector was the shopping center over on Whitnall Avenue. I was also the Building Inspector when the Library went up.

I'm a Charter member of the Lions Club. I belong to Sacred Heart Parish. I'm a member of the St. Joseph's Society. I have gotten quite involved with the Historical Society and some of the problems we

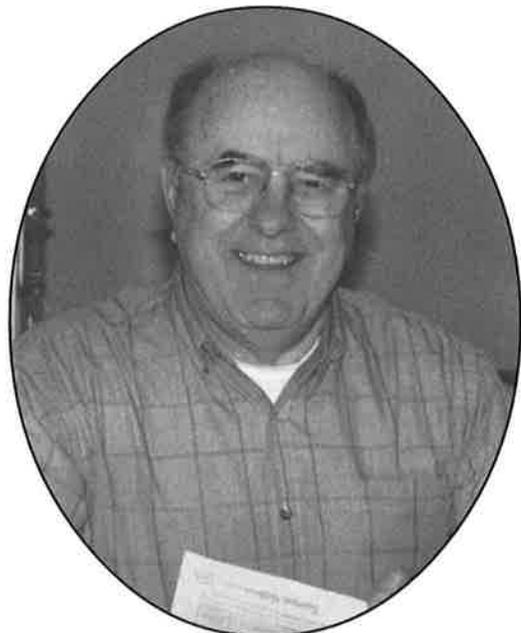
had over at the Lupo house. We did a lot of work after the water damage that we had in the building.

I can remember when I was a little guy, we didn't have any concrete sidewalks. It was all black cinders. I can remember that real well. I fell down on them a couple times. There were a lot of empty lots at the time growing up, and, of course, we managed to use them for baseball games and things like that.

I met my wife, Dolores, in St. Francis. I met her at a party. The next day we went out, and we've been going ever since. 52 years of married life with the same woman. We have six children. Five boys and a girl. They all went to Sacred Heart Grade School, and when it came to High School, Tom was our first son that went to St. Francis High School. And then David decided he wanted to go to Pio Nono. So, David went to Pio Nono. Chuck also went to Pio Nono. And Karen went to St. Francis High School. Mike went to St. Francis High School. And Pat went to Pio Nono.

We have thirteen grandchildren.

My dad was the Supervisor in the Town of Lake for I think it was two years. I think it was 1939 that he ran for office. It didn't last very long. Evidently, it was the business that kept up most of his time, I guess. He was the Director and the Building and Loan Vice President. He did a lot of home inspections for people. Would build the house and when they needed money then they'd come in for a loan and dad would have to check, keep track of how far the job was along so they could pay the contractors for their work.



Ray Calteux

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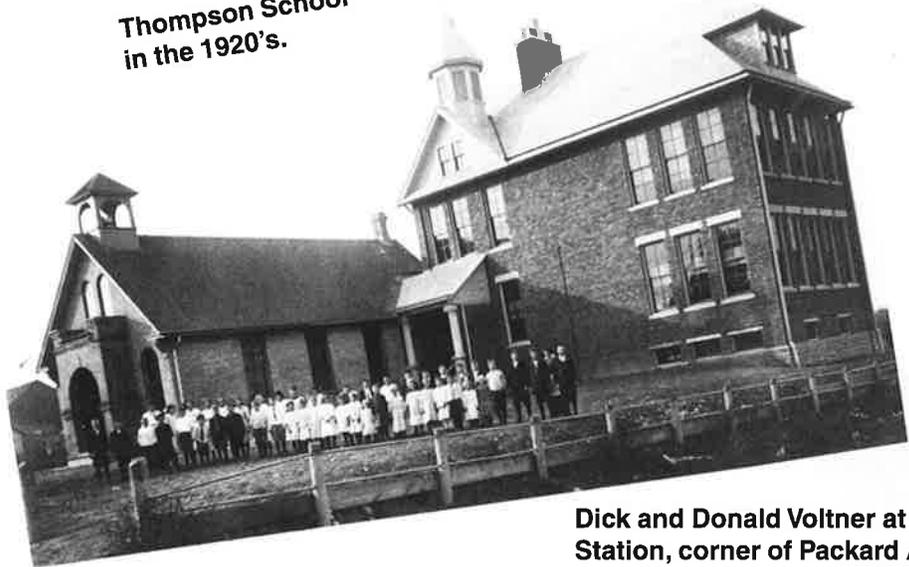
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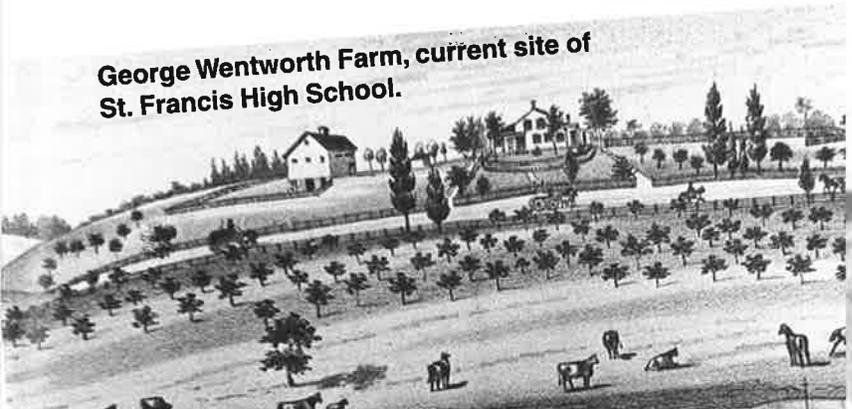
Thompson School in the 1920's.



Herbert Barnes selling peanuts at Station.
Killed in Air Force May 20, 1943.



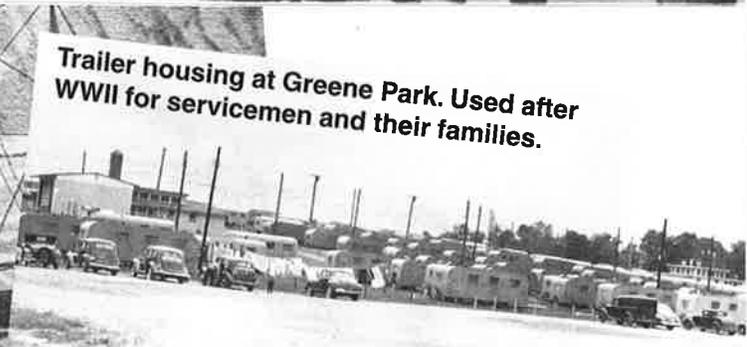
George Wentworth Farm, current site of St. Francis High School.



Dick and Donald Voltner at Station, corner of Packard Ave. and So. Lake Drive.



Trailer housing at Greene Park. Used after WWII for servicemen and their families.



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Robert Schwingle

Excerpts from an interview of Robert Schwingle by Lois Neubauer on April 2, 2001 as part of the St. Francis Historical Society Oral History Project.

I was born October 25, 1930 in the house that I live in right now on East Van Beck Avenue, and I was born on the kitchen table, by a midwife. I have to tell a little story about in 1960 when I went to get a certified copy of my birth certificate. I went to the Register of Deeds office and filled out a form and they came back about a half-an-hour later and said, "We're sorry, sir, there was no one born at that address on that date at that location". And I looked at what they had, and they had a birth certificate of a Robert Schmingel, born in the vicinity of East Layton and Nicholson Avenue, which is about a mile-and-a-half from where I presently live. At that time that was nothing but a swamp. So, needless-to-say, I said, "I'll take that name as being born." But I had to have my name correctly changed from how they had it spelled to "Schwingle", which is the present spelling of the name.

When I was a child, I remember the Depression. I can remember back to 1933 and the Depression hit us hard. We were on the County. My dad was working with the railroad, the Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul Pacific Railroad, but the Depression forced him out of a job. We used to have to walk from this present location to Cudahy to get our rations that the County provided.

The people in the area would form a wagon train. The people that were on the County would all get together and say we're going to go at such-and-such a time and then they all went, and we called it the "Wagon Train". And our parents would pull us in the wagon up there. But, on the way back we would have to walk back because the rations, produce and the food that we got would be put in the wagon. Some of the things that we used to get from the County were: salt pork, beans, prunes, flour, canned goods and a lot of condensed canned milk. And I will not drink any condensed milk at all any more. You diluted it with water. They also had fruits that were in season and because she got flour and everything, my mother did a lot of baking. All of the women did a lot of baking. They baked bread, rolls and pies. Then, as far as the meats that you used to get, you'd get bologna and once in a while you'd get fresh meat. And I can remember that us being German nationality, when we were young we had pork and veal roast on Sunday. That was a staple on Sunday. We also had pork hocks and sauerkraut or spare ribs and sauerkraut because that was a very economical meat in those days.

I remember a few taverns in the area. You had Casa Grande's on Lake Drive. And right next door to Casa Grande's you had Kanyuh's filling station. And then on the intersection of Lake Drive and Packard you had another filling station that Percy Barnes ran. And then that's about all the businesses you had in our area.

There were some taverns on Kinnickinnic Avenue. You had Art Ryback's Tavern, you had Barney Felden's Tavern which later became Sal's Tap. And then down

towards Waterford and Kinnickinnic and around the bend is where you had some places of ill-repute. On Waterford and Kinnickinnic you had the place called the Flag Station. And the reason it was called the Flag Station is because they had a little waiting room inside the vestibule-type thing because the streetcar ran every 20 minutes. And they had a little flag mechanism that if you wanted the streetcar to stop there, you could warm yourself inside that vestibule and you could put the arm up on the flag and then that was an indication that the streetcar should stop at that location for a pickup.

And then, there also was a Riding Academy on Barland and Waterford Avenue, where the Kitzingers later moved in and started their barrel business. It was called the "Shamrock Riding Academy".

Kitzingers started that business there in the 1940's. Because they had a little farm, they started farming there first. And their father had the barrel staving business in Cudahy and then they moved it over to Barland Avenue.

There were a number of farms in the area. One was the Stranak farm on north side of Thompson Avenue. They had a big barn fire in the mid- or early-30's. It was struck by lightning. I remember us going up there and watching the barn burn down. The Hrncar farm was across the street. The Rapant farm was right on the lakeshore, east of Lake Drive where that old pine tree was. Then on Lake Drive you had the Pekar farm. And then you had the Voltner farm, that was up on the hill close to Cudahy. Right next door to us was the Schoendorf Estate on East Howard Avenue. They were rich farmers. I can remember as a young boy playing where the remains of a big barn was. They also had a massive apple orchard. Then over by the stucco house they had grape vines.



Age 3 - 1933



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Lorraine Maass

Excerpts from an interview of Lorraine Maass, by Mary Becker, on March 14, 2001 as part of the St. Francis Historical society's Oral History Project

On her life in St. Francis and living in the "Lupo House", the property owned by the St. Francis Historical Society...

"My name is Lorraine Busch Maass, I am 73 years old. I have a brother, Patrick, who is 78. I live in South Milwaukee. Pat recently moved out to California. Our father, Joseph Busch was the grandson of Peter Mueller, wife Elizabeth, who settled in Wisconsin about 1850. He owned all the land from Lunham Avenue on the south, to Tesch on the north, and Packard east to Lake Drive. He was a tailor and lived in the cream brick house just north of Lunham Avenue. Peter and Elizabeth had five children: Frederick (Fritz), Helen (who was my grandmother), Sophie, Barbara, and Steve. When the children were married he gave each one five acres of land, and the girls were given their sewing machines.

As far as I know, Fritz got the five acres just north of Lunham, My grandma, Helen, the next five acres going north, Steve the rest of the land to Tesch Avenue and Sophie the five acres north of Lunham fronting Lake Drive.

Barbara, who married Frank MacShane was given the five acres immediately east of Steve's land. It fronted on Lake Drive and was just north of the high school. Great-aunt Barbara had a large berry farm and there was also a gravel pit on the land.

The house, which is St. Francis' Historic Site, was built by my father, Joe, and his older brother, Peter (sons of Helen (Mueller) Busch) when they were young men. I'm guessing in about 1914. Peter was employed as a pattern maker at Bucyrus Erie and Joseph was a student at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Joseph and Peter had a little sister, Helen, named after her mother. Grandma left the farm in 1930. She went to live with her daughter Helen who had married Ed Horn. They lived on Allerton Avenue, I believe the address is 3746 East Allerton Avenue. They had three sons: Severin (who became an IRS man), Eugene (who wrote featured articles for The Harold Citizen), and Leon who was an operating engineer. He became a fast friend of the little Lupo boy and spent a lot of happy hours down on the farm.

Joseph and Peter both served in World War I. Uncle Peter served in the Navy and my father, Joe, overseas in the Army Corp. of Engineers of the Red Arrow Division.

Peter was engaged to be married but died of TB at the age of 36. My father passed away at 39, when I was seven years old.

When Mr. Goodwin showed us our homestead, my brother remarked on how flat the land looked. The house originally was on a hill. We'd go down the hill, across the footbridge and up another hill, about one block of flat terrain to Lunham Avenue.

Tiger lilies grew along the little creek that bordered the south of my grandma's five acres. Pink roses grew on the south side of the house. Potatoes and watermelon were planted

on the hill. The church bells of St. Frederick's would chime at noon. We would stop our hoeing to pray the Angulus. It was a beautiful scene, grandma in her kerchief, apron, and long dress to her ankles and we children in our straw hats.

In 1932, during the Depression, we lost our nice house on Bottsford but luckily had the farm to move to. It was fun living there. My father's cousins, Steve JR. and Catherine Mueller, happened to be our ages. They lived across the lane, which is now the new road, Denton... Uncle Steve Mueller inherited the 5 acres from Denton to Tesch fronting on Packard.

Catherine and Steve Jr. were really our second cousins. Their dad, Steve, was the youngest of the Mueller's and he played with my father and his brother. That's how I always say they are my cousins, but Catherine and Steve are my second cousins.

When we walked into the kitchen, I exclaimed, "Oh, the kitchen used to be huge!" It went a couple of feet past the upstairs steps. It had a monstrous beauty of a wood-burning stove and a sink with a hand pump in the southeast corner. When we would come home with wet shoes, we would put our feet in the oven, which was always a bit warm. It was really comforting to do that.

My brother and I slept in the west bedroom. It was so cold up there that we had feather-tics on our beds. I would pull my clothes from the chair and dress under the covers. The funniest thing I remember was when my brother hopped out of bed and recited the Gettysburg Address in his sleep, on that cold, cold floor. The other bedroom was my grandpa's, Matt Keating, my mother's father. There wasn't any bathroom up there of course. We had to use a pot. The outhouse and the woodpile were about 60 feet out the kitchen door.

On rainy days we would climb up in the hayloft of Uncle Steve's barn. The pitter-patter of the rain was such a pleasant sound. My brother would tell stories and once we found four new born kittens nestled in the hay. It was a memorable day for all of us. We all remember that.

We would swing on a stout rope from the shed roof to the roof of the chicken coop.

A distance of about 40 feet... We played hide-and-seek in the cornhusks, which were stacked up like Indian tepees and climb up a ladder on one side of a haystack and slide down the other. That was fun.

We had a cat, a dog, a duck, and a horse named Polly. She was a pretty little bay with white hoofs and a star on her forehead. That horse and just living on the farm attracted many guests. On a Sunday afternoon the cars would start coming up the lane. We fed many in our large kitchen. There was always plenty of food while we lived on the farm: corn, tomatoes, cucumbers. My mother would make a short cake with berries, cherries, or apples for a topping.

Here's one thing that might interest you that my mother told me. She lived on the west side of Packard and she said that there was a baker named Volg, from South Milwaukee. He would blow a horn at the top of Allerton Avenue and he'd come charging down the hill with a team of broncos and whirl into their yard."

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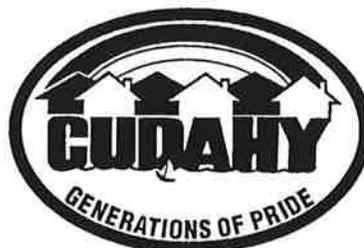
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