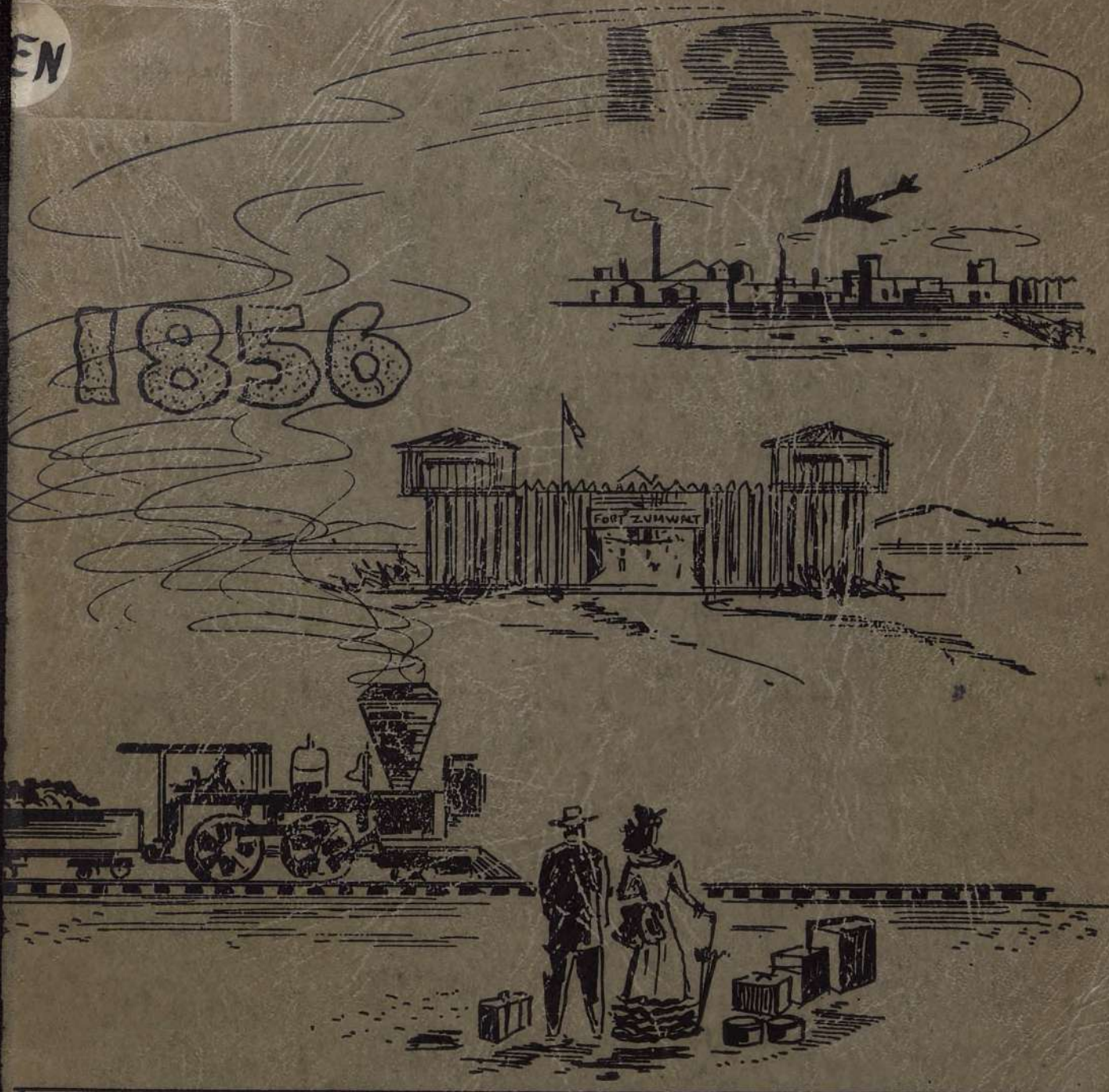


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Hernando de Soto and after his death his successor in command, Louis de Moscoso, were the first white men to explore the Mississippi. Moscoso marched entirely thru the Ozarks and reached the buffalo plains behind.

In 1673, the French Government undertook the exploration of the upper Mississippi with a view to discover a passage to the South Sea (Pacific). Louis Joliet, accompanied by Father James Marquette (missionary) and five men discovered that the Mississippi did not empty into the Pacific but took a southerly course.

Robert Cavalier de LaSalle took formal possession for King Louis XIV of France of the country around the mouth of the Mississippi on April 9, 1682 and named the new province Louisiana.

Louisiana was then divided into the province of Lower Louisiana with its capital at Fort Biloxi near New Orleans, and Upper Louisiana (sometimes called Illinois after the Illiani Indians) and Upper Louisiana with its capital at St. Louis.

On November 3, 1762, France ceded Louisiana to Spain but by a treaty of October 1, 1800, Louisiana was returned to France. On April 30, 1803, France ceded the province of Louisiana to the U. S. at the cost of \$15,000,000.

The District of Louisiana was the name given by Congress and it embraced what is now known as the States of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Oregon with much of the territory of Kansas, Minnesota, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado.

The Territory of Louisiana was organized on March 3, 1805 by Congress with a governor, two judges and a superior court. Its capital was St. Louis. James Wilkinson was the first U. S. governor of this territory.

The Territory of Missouri (named after the Missouri Indians) was erected by an act of Congress, June 4, 1812. It embraced the same territory as the Territory of Louisiana. Under this organization the County of St. Charles stretched off West to form one of the largest counties ever formed in America.

The county, or district of St. Charles, as it was originally called had no definite limits. It extended from the Missouri River on the south, to the British Possessions on the north; and from the Mississippi River on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west. It retained these dimensions until 1816, when Howard County was cut off from the western part of St. Charles, and organized into a separate municipality. Cedar Creek, which now forms the eastern boundary of Boone County, was established as the line between St. Charles and Howard. In December, 1818, Montgomery and Lincoln counties were organized, and St. Charles reduced to its present dimensions.

The State of Missouri was admitted to the Union by a joint resolution of Congress on March 2, 1821. The

area of the state including the "Platte Purchase" is 65,350 square miles.

The capital of the state was at St. Louis until November 1, 1821; at St. Charles from 1821 to October 1, 1826; and since the latter date at Jefferson City.



JOHN O'FALLON

Notes on John O'Fallon taken from the Encyclopedia of History of St. Louis from the annual reports of the North Missouri R. R. Co. indicate that John O'Fallon, from whom the city of O'Fallon derived its name, was one of St. Louis most interesting and historical characters. He was a soldier, business man, real estate owner, philanthropist and public-minded citizen.

His father, Dr. James O'Fallon, was an educated Irishman of ancient lineage and high social standing in his own country, who served as surgeon-in-chief with distinction in the Continental Army under General Washington.

Dr. O'Fallon left to his descendants a record of the geneology of the family, which states that he was descended from Malachi O'Fallon, Prince of the Desies.

The name O'Fallon itself having been derived from Phelan, Faolan or Fallon. The O' (son of) pre-fixing Fallon.

After the Revolutionary War Dr. O'Fallon went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he met and married Frances Clark, a sister of George Robers Clark and William Clark, Army officers who became famous in the development of the Missouri Valley.

Dr. O'Fallon died while John was but a child, the mother afterward married Charles M. Thurston.

After obtaining the rudiments of an education at his boyhood home, John O'Fallon was sent to the academy at Danville, which later developed in Centre College. In 1810 he went to Lexington to finish his education, and there studied law under Robert Todd, the father of Mrs. Lincoln. In the fall of the following year, he left Lexington with a company of mounted volunteers under Colonel Joseph Hamilton Daviess to take part in a campaign against the Indians. In this campaign he met General William Henry Harrison and formed an acquaintance which doubtless had much to do with shaping the course of his later life. In the battle of Tippecanoe, in which Harrison defeated the Indians under "The Prophet," brother of Tecumseh, and in which Colonel Daviess was killed, the young soldier, O'Fallon, was severely wounded. Soon after this battle he came to St. Louis, and became associated with his uncle, General William Clark, then Indian agent for Missouri and afterward Governor of the Territory. General Clark entrusted him with various public errands of consequence, sending him on one occasion up the Illinois River to escort to St. Louis a band of Indians, who were to be taken to Washington, and on another occasion to Louisville and Pittsburg, to convey to St. Louis \$20,000 worth of deer skins belonging to the government. He was brought into intimate relationships with Governor Howard, of Missouri and Governor Edwards, of Illinois, and they, noting his inclination to a military life, applied for a captaincy for him in the United States Army. He did not receive a captain's commission, but on Sept. 12, 1812 received an appointment to the position of ensign in the First United States Infantry Regiment, and was assigned to duty as a member of General Harrison's military family. At about the time he went into active service Hull's surrender of the post of Detroit, and Winchester's defeat by the allied British and Indian forces at the battle of the River Raisin, had given the enemy, by which the American troops were confronted, a distinct advantage, and General Harrison faced great difficulties in the prosecution of the campaign upon which he had entered. Ensign O'Fallon was a participant in the momentous events which followed, going through the siege of Fort Meigs, accompanying Harrison to Detroit, and taking part in the battle of the Thames. Later he spent some time at Newport Barracks and Lexington, and then, returning to the frontier, was in command at Malden until the end of the war. He had been advanced to the grade of second lieutenant in January of 1813, and in May of the same year was made aid-de-camp, and was acting assistant adjutant-general during the siege of Fort Meigs. He was promoted to first lieutenant of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry in August 1813, and became captain in the Second United States Rifle Regiment, March, 1814. For a time after the battle of the Thames he was kept out of active service by a serious illness, but in December of the year 1813 he accompanied General Harrison to Washington, and at that time wrote to his friends in Kentucky letters which contain much interesting inside history of the war, so far as General Harrison's operations were concerned. He was not only a member of General Harrison's military

family, but was his close and confidential personal friend, and to the end of his life was one of his ardent partisans and admirers. After General Harrison resigned his command Captain O'Fallon took active command of a company, and was sent to Fort Mackinaw. Before the war ended he knew that he was one of four captains selected to remain in the peace establishment. He had by this time, however, tired of a soldier's life and yearned for domestic quiet and retirement. But he preferred not to resign until he had the certainty of an income in civil life.

He therefore sought an appointment as Indian agent, or factor, and after resigning his commission in the army, in 1818, traded extensively with the Indians, and became a contractor also for army supplies. He made St. Louis his home after his retirement from the army, and in 1821 was elected a member of the first State Legislature of Missouri.

His business operations were eminently successful, and the large wealth which he accumulated was freely used to build up St. Louis and develop the infant commonwealth. Writing of him eight years before his death, the local historian, Edwards, said: "With a charity unparalleled for its munificence, he has already bestowed more than a million of dollars to advance the cause of education and science, and to relieve the wants of suffering humanity. He gave the ground on which St. Louis University stands, and also the site on which the First Methodist Church stood, on Fourth Street. He gave the five acres of land on which the water works of the city are erected, and endowed the O'Fallon Polytechnic Institute with property valued at a hundred thousand dollars. He gave most liberally to Washington University, and built the dispensary and medical college. He gave fifteen acres of land to the Home of the Friendless, and his private charities are legion. Liberality, so rarely found in the possession of wealth, forms one of the dominant traits of Colonel O'Fallon's character, and he once offered to make the city of St. Louis a present of a hundred acres of land if Peter Lindell, Esq., would do the same, each of the gifts to be laid out as a magnificent park. Unostentatious in his bearing, he can be approached by all, and his manner possesses much of that freedom and frankness which lend a charm to conversation, and are characteristics of the early settlers of the West."

O'Fallon was one of the promoters of the Pacific Railroad Company, was the first president of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad Company, and also of the North Missouri Railroad Company. He was the first Adjutant-General of the State of Missouri, appointed by Governor McNair, the first Governor of the State, and also held the appointment as visitor and examiner at West Point Military Academy. He was a director in the State Bank of Missouri, and subscribed liberally to the building of the Planters' and Lindell Hotels. John F. Darby, himself an eminent citizen of St. Louis, characterized him as "the noble and generous-hearted John O'Fallon," and said of him: "He possessed one of the most acute and vigorous understandings that any man was ever armed with . . . He was beyond all doubt, the most open, candid and liberal man . . . the leader in every noble undertaking, and the foremost and largest contributor in every public enterprise."

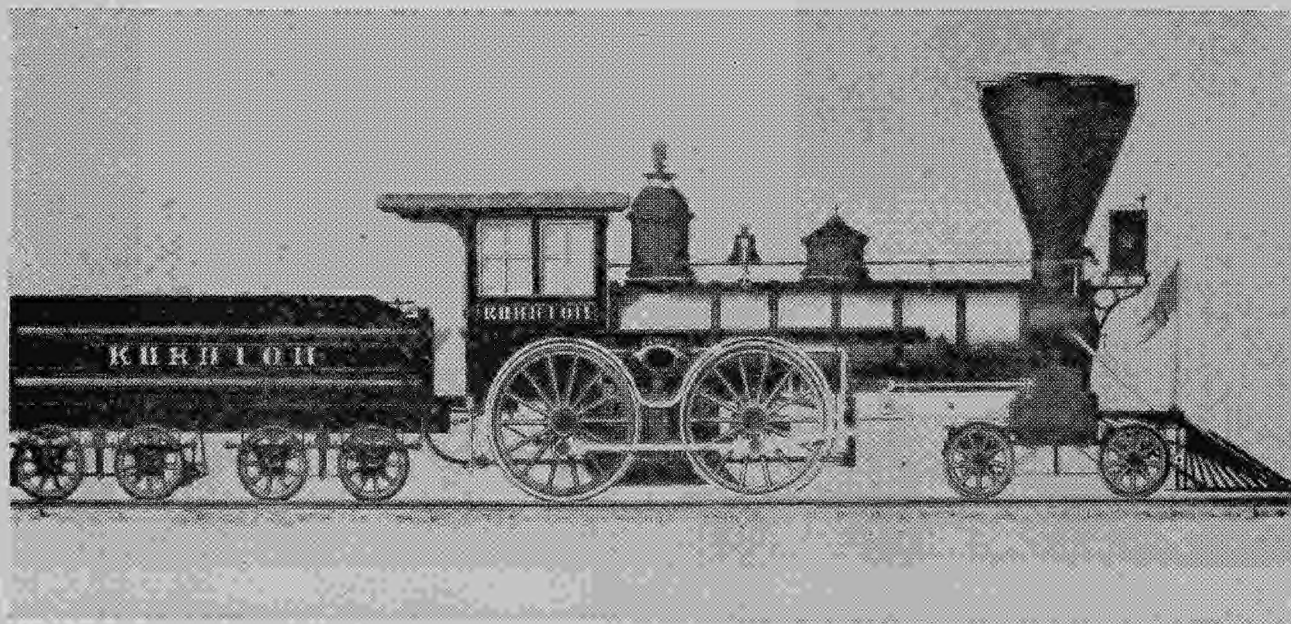
Tributes of this character might be multiplied, but it is only necessary to add that, at his death, on December 17, 1865 at his home, 1125 Washington Ave., St. Louis, Mo., many cities and an entire State mourned his demise.

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FORT ZUMWALT

(Continued from Page 5)

tavern has since been dismantled and rebuilt in O'Fallon as the home of Mr. Granville Stewart.

Later there were five Jacobs in the different Zumwalt families, and they were distinguished as Big Jake, Little Jake, Calico Jake, St. Charles Jake, and Lying Jake.

The first brother Jacob was the owner of the Zumwalt house, later referred to as Fort Zumwalt. The house consisted of three rooms on the ground floor, with a loft above them. It had a one-story wing to the east and another to the south. There were two chimneys, one at the east end of the house and the other in the center between the two main rooms, with a fireplace on both sides. The floors were of split oak, the roof was of oak shakes, and the house was put together with oak pegs.

Originally built as a family dwelling, it was expanded and port holes were made in the sides of the building to be used in case of an Indian raid. As many as ten families found shelter within its walls at the same time.

In 1817, Major Nathan Heald came to Missouri and purchased the Zumwalt property. He and his wife, Rebecca, lived and died there and are buried near the house.

Major Heald's father had come from England and settled in Massachusetts at a very early date. He was married twice, and by his first wife he had two sons, Nathan and Jones. Nathan was born in April, 1775. He received a military education, and entered the army as lieutenant, but was soon promoted to the rank of captain, and at the commencement of the War of 1812, he was placed in command of Ft. Dearborne, where Chicago now stands. Here they were attacked by a large body of Indians, who captured the fort, murdered the garrison, and carried Captain Heald and his young wife away as prisoners into their own country. During his captivity he was promoted to the rank of major, but did not receive his commission until after he had been exchanged.

After the purchase of the Zumwalt property in 1817, the Healds led a more placid existence. In Fort Zumwalt were born their three children: Mary, Darius and Margaret. Major Nathan died in 1832.

Mary married David McCausland. Darius was married twice; first to Virginia Campbell and second to Mattie Hunter. He had seven children. Margaret died unmarried in 1837. Jones Heald, brother of Major Nathan Heald, never married. He lived in St. Louis until after the death of his brother, when he went to St. Charles County, and lived part of the time at the house of his sister-in-law and part at Judge Balis'.

The stockade which supposedly surrounded the cabin in its early days has completely disappeared. So, too, have vanished all traces of the old cemetery, where Jacob Zumwalt buried his first wife by the cedar trees on the hill. Many other graves are there; the bodies lie just as they were buried, but the stones were moved down to Mt. Zion Cemetery when the property passed to other hands.

The remains of the old fort, however, still stand on the crest of a sloping hill. The walls have fallen and most of the thick stand of white oak from which the house was built is gone but one of the central chimneys still stands, ravished by the elements; all is desolate, but the spring still flows at the bottom of the hill.

A marker was erected by the D. A. R. in 1929 on Highway 40, near O'Fallon, pointing to the spot, 300 yards away, where Fort Zumwalt stood.

As of this writing, the Fort site is a state park. It will be rededicated by the state and the city of O'Fallon during the Centennial. Mr. John Brassel, and his assistant caretakers, are laying out a picnic and children's recreational area which will be completed some weeks before the Centennial.

The above praiseworthy actions have been brought about by the persistent efforts of those interested in preserving the site as a state park.



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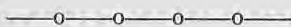
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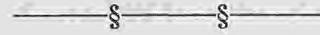
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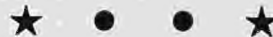
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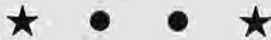
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The present Methodist Episcopal charge in O'Fallon, Missouri, has its church at Pitman and School streets and is under the pastoral guidance of the Rev. John Dinwidde. The Bishop is the Rev. Eugene M. Frank.

Trustees of the Methodist Church are: E. A. Keithly, Dr. Harold Mangold, Robert Dixon, Delmar Emge, Albert Dubach, Russell Emge and Raleigh Jessup. Mrs. E. A. Keithly is the organist and Mrs. A. W. Dubach is the choir director. The lay leaders are E. A. Keithly and Delmar Emge.

Regular Sunday worship services are held at 10:45 A. M., with Sunday School beginning at 9:30 A. M.

The Methodists, along with the other denominations in the city, have various projects for their youthful members. In this way, these devout citizens hope to instill in young minds the principles of their doctrines so necessary to Christian living.

The efforts of the past will disclose the vigor and sincerity of this charge.

Methodism is English in origin, having its beginning in 1739. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was an ordained minister of the Church of England. At Oxford University, he became a member of a society for religious improvement in the English Church, a movement begun earlier by his brother, Charles. Because of their strict adherence to a prescribed method of life, the name of this sect became Methodist Episcopal and its followers were known as Methodists. During his fifty years of itinerant preaching, John Wesley traveled on foot and on horseback, a total of some quarter of a million miles. He was ever aware of the plight of the poor. He encouraged the spread of education and reading. He took an active part in anti-slavery movements as well as in other efforts beneficial to mankind.

The Methodists were the first organized religious group in the vicinity of the present city of O'Fallon. They can trace their founding back to the historical walls of the house of Jacob Zumwalt. In 1778, "the hard riding, shouting, long-praying sons" of John Wesley came to St. Charles County as well as to other parts of Missouri. In these pioneer days of traveling preachers, they were not the least in leaving their imprint on the character of the times. The early, fire-and-brimstone religious services were conducted in private homes.

The first preacher in this category was Rev. John Clark, who led the first service in the fort. Tradition has it that Rev. Jesse Walker held services within the walls of Fort Zumwalt in 1807 and there administered the First Methodist Communion in Missouri to the Mt. Zion Society, which group built the first Methodist church west of the Missouri River. This initial church, built of logs, was erected a few yards east of the Zumwalt. Later, it was sold to James Sanford who moved it to the old Campbell place where it became a school for boys.

The wine for this first communion service in 1807 was specially made by Mrs. Zumwalt and Mrs. David Bailey from the juice of the pokeberry, sweetened with maple sugar. The bread was cornbread crusts. Rev. John Travis, Missouri's first accredited Methodist minister, held regular services at the Zumwalt home the latter part of the same year.

The first recorded quarterly conference was held at Fairview, with the primary intent of enhancing the spiritual atmosphere of the church. It had been customary to close Sunday School during the winter months. A dedicated minister presented this pointed thought, "I oppose the closing of the Sunday Schools even for this limited time unless the devil closes his schools, because the following of Christ should be as industrious as the devil."

As this devout little group increased in numbers, it became expedient for the charge to build a new church. On May 3, 1853, the die was cast and the work began. The substantial, new stone church stood on Mt. Zion Hill. A front porch offered protection to the ladies from inclement weather and muddy roads. Behind the church stood the ground reserved for burying the dead. Among those who attended this little church were those well known in the neighborhood: Members of the Pitman, Dorsey, Sanford, Ferrell, Smith, McCluer, Henry, Johnson, Yates, Keithly, Heald, Dunlap, Bramblet, Woods, Gamble, Boyd and Williams families.

The Civil War brought anxious times to the Methodist Episcopal Church South in St. Charles County. Some accused the Church of causing this tragic national upheaval. The presiding elder of the St. Charles District, Brother H. B. Spencer, was arrested and banished from the state.

With the end of the fighting and with the gradual easing of the pangs of the Reconstruction, matters close to home and community again became of greater note. The zealous Methodist group was intent upon retaining the art of its culture and the heritage of its doctrine.

To prove that clear thinking men can reconcile the problems of changing times and traditions, an organ, given by Rufus Gamble, was installed in the church. Up to that time, custom had dictated that only the music of the human voice was acceptable at services. It was soon realized, however, that this instrument should be used in the House of God for the purpose which its creator and his God-given talent had designed it.

In 1863, a female seminary, known as Fairview, was founded under the patronage of the Mt. Zion Society, by Professor Richard H. Pitman. Young ladies from St. Charles and St. Louis Counties were given a "smattering" of Greek and Latin and a little philosophy, history, mathematics and science. At one time, Fairview had sixty boarders.

Professor Pitman, born and raised in St. Charles, was a man of thorough education and high standing with a special enthusiasm for the training of young peo-



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ple. Yielding to the urgings of many people, he established the Fairview Seminary. In 1876, he was elected president of Howard Female College, at Fayette, Missouri, which position he held for two years when illness forced his resignation.

In 1878, the professor had erected the Woodlawn Female Seminary, just outside O'Fallon which was considered one of the best schools of its kind in the state. Acting as principal, he was assisted by three teachers. Professor Pitman was "an educator of unquestionable qualifications with a marked natural aptitude for the instruction of pupils." He was a staunch supporter of individual, self-reliant study and research.

Early in 1880, the first Methodist revival was conducted by Rev. J. S. Allen on Mt. Zion. With the zeal of a true missionary, Prof. Pitman opened the first organized Sunday School in O'Fallon at the Masonic Hall on Elm Street, with an enrollment of 86 children.

In 1882, a great problem confronted the charge. The church needed extensive repairs and enlargement because of growing membership. The question was whether to raze the old church and rebuild on the same site or whether to build in the city of O'Fallon. The original site served as a focal point for these forthright American farmers whose land surrounded their church. The Woodlawn Seminary and the business men of O'Fallon were lobbying for the Methodists to locate within the city limits.

When the day of decision came, every available member was present. After vigorous discussion, pro and con, Mr. Heald, a highly respected member, gave his considered opinion. A veritable "Ben Franklin" of his day, his words were awaited with much anticipation. He deliberately told of his reverence for old land marks, then expressed his belief that the new church should be built in a place where it would serve the greatest good for the greatest number. At the conclusion of his remarks, he wisely, but reluctantly spoke in favor of removal. This closed the discussion. The vote was called and a majority of three decided in favor of moving. In view of the strong feelings involved, there was no rejoicing. But, it was evident that "in union there is strength."

In the words of an old member: "The days of camp meeting, class meeting and love feasts are over — no longer are the songs of victory heard on the hills of Zion." "Mt. Zion is no longer the most powerful social and religious influence of the community. Its glory lies in the past, but wherever the children of Mt. Zion have gone, their early training has borne fruit in providing the world with men of indomitable spirit and devotion to principle."

The next order of business was the selection of a building committee, which was composed of Dr. W. C. Williams, Jacob Keithly and Capt. Woods. The site was selected and purchased, now currently occupied by the Christian Church. An interesting anecdote indicated the piety and sincerity of these men. Uncle David Pitman asked that no profane word be uttered during the building of the church. So simple, yet difficult request was duly respected.

The church, debt-free, was dedicated on August 4, 1883 by Rev. J. H. Pritchett, who was eminently chosen because as a boy he was a member of the charge at the old Mt. Zion church, and was the first ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church of O'Fallon, Missouri.

(Continued on Page 20)

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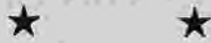
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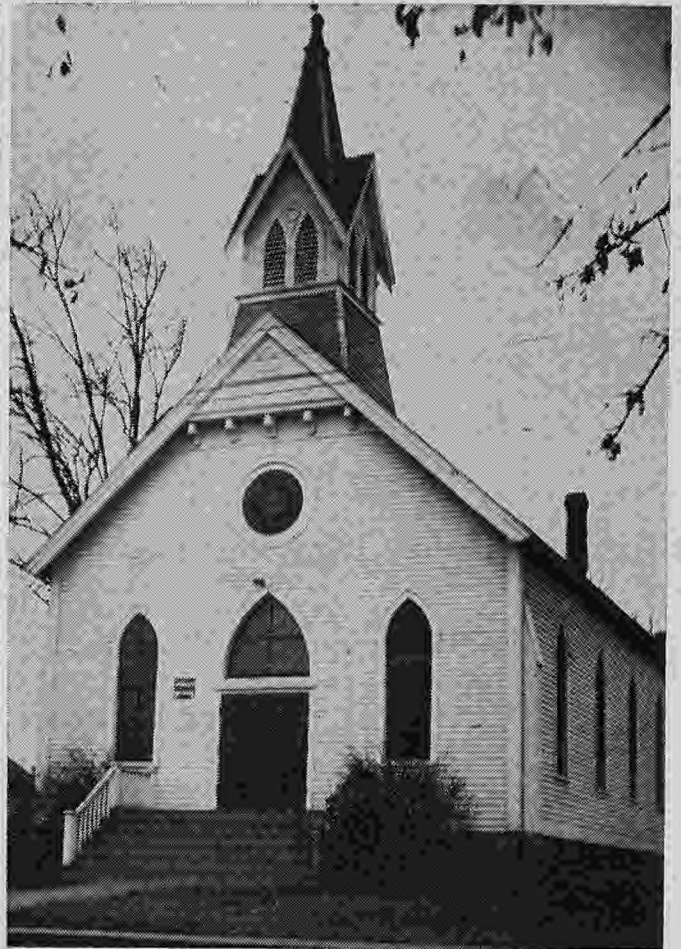
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O'FALLON METHODIST CHURCH

(Continued from Page 18)

In 1892, Prof. R. H. Pitman sold Woodlawn to Mr. Watson and Mr. McCluer and it became Presbyterian in denomination. Regular classes continued until the early 1900's, when it was sold to a Mr. Trevey. He used the building as a homestead. Mr. Trevey in turn, sold Woodlawn to J. W. Williams, a prominent farmer of Dardenne Township and one of the leading wheat growers of St. Charles County, who came from Virginia. Mrs. Margaret Boyd Williams was educated at Fairview.

This landmark still remains in the Williams family, in the capable hands of Miss Marcia Williams. She has been a successful teacher for many years but today limits her activities to writing for the local papers.

In 1908, a new page was written in the Methodist Episcopal Church history, namely, the building of a parsonage and making extensive church repairs.

About 1909, Mr. John Henry bequeathed \$1,000.00 to the church. From this a new organ was bought. Stalwart members who served as church trustees and stewards for over forty years were John, Murvin and Jacob Keithly.

Organizations of this charge include: The Women's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Men's Society and the Methodist Youth Fellowship Society. These societies support the mission enterprise of the church in the foreign and local fields. In addition, they provide social activities, such as dinners, showers, community projects, movies and other fellowship activities. Some of the specific work of the W.S.C.S., conducted at monthly meet-

ings, includes various church activities, worship, fellowship, missionary work, local and foreign, and also study clubs. The Methodist Men's Club supports the program of the local church, and provides an opportunity for the men of the community to enjoy its program of worship and fellowship. The Youth Fellowship fulfills an important function in the church program through its attention to the problems and needs of the young people. This organization plans worship and recreation, in addition to its weekly meetings.

The Methodist Missionary Society was at first Ladies Society of the Methodist Church, organized in 1883. The first President, Mrs. Pulliam was the Minister's wife of that time. Mrs. Clara Keithly, mother of Mr. Elroy Keithly, of O'Fallon, was a Charter member of this Society from 1883 to 1937. Sometime later the Society was given the name of Women's Society of Christian Service, whose present officers are: President, Eleanor Trussell; Secretary, Mrs. Louis Bussinger; Treasurer, Mrs. Elroy Keithly.

The officers of the Methodist Men's Club, organized 1953 are: President, Raleigh Jessup; Secretary and Treasurer, Edward Magnah.

The present officers of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, organized 1951 are: President, Floyd Herren; Secretary, Alma Fairchild; Treasurer, Clara Storkson.

Since 1940, the proximity of St. Louis via improved roads and the desirability of our community for residential living have increased and revitalized the membership of the Methodist congregation.

Providential favor has reflected on the church's recent activities. By 1953, two institutions had outgrown themselves, each to the advantage of the other. The Methodist Episcopal charge again needed larger quarters; the public school, constructed in 1948, too small for its present enrollment, presented a natural solution.

At public auction, in the Spring of 1953, the Public School building, at Pitman and School Streets, was purchased for \$12,500. This purchase was not without incident. When the bidding began, a speculator upon learning that the Methodist Episcopal Church was bidding withdrew in their favor. Such Christian charity certainly does not go without its eternal reward. The charge unanimously approved the purchase.

Two additional problems presented themselves, both of which were disposed of by fortunate occurrences. The newly organized Christian Church needed a house of worship so the old Methodist Church building was sold to them. The debt on the new church was next to be eliminated. This was accomplished by 53 members of the charge within four months.

The last Methodist Episcopal service in their church which was built in 1883 was held on the first Sunday of July, 1953. The following Sunday, the first service was conducted in the newly acquired church.

Facilities of the new church include a modern, well equipped kitchen and serving hall, with accommodations for at least one hundred people, plus additional provisions for Sunday School, Audio-visual Instruction and meeting rooms for various clubs.

On May 3, 1953, the Methodist Episcopal Church had celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. One year later, Bishop Ivan Lee Holt dedicated this new, debt-free church of the charge of O'Fallon.

Time marches on with these dedicated people, spirited and fervent followers of John Wesley, on into their second century of Christian teaching and living.

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At one time, the Negro residents of O'Fallon had three active churches in the community: the African Methodist Church (long out of existence,) the Wishwell Baptist Church and the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Wishwell Church was a branch of the Hopewell Church of Wentzville, off the Booneslick road. The Baptist Church has its initial building off Highway No. 79, near Huber Station. From there, it moved to the home of Judge Williams, now occupied by Mrs. Lucy Chase. It then moved to its present location in O'Fallon, where the present church was built in 1894.

Rev. C. W. Long was the first minister of the Wishwell Baptist Church. This congregation of thirty members has been in the community for about sixty-two years. The church building was constructed by John Rafferty and Rufus White. The present pastor is Mr. Wm. Clarence of St. Paul, Missouri.

Some of the older members of this church will be well remembered in the community: George Washington, George Murray, Rufus White and James Bess, all of whom were deacons. Some others were: Henry and Mary Tucker, Tom Williams, Judge and Jane Williams and Granville Stewart.

This historical data was supplied by a man with many friends in the town of O'Fallon, Mr. Simon White.

Mrs. Mishey Edwards provided the information for a sketch of the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church of O'Fallon. Mrs. Edwards stated, that according to her recollection, this church is about one hundred years old. She well remembers how her mother, Mrs. Francis Rafferty Letcher, her brother and herself, walked to services each Sunday, in all kinds of weather, from Dardenne to the church in O'Fallon.

The first Northern Methodist Episcopal Church was a log building given by Mr. Craven and became known as Craven's Chapel. Later, the present frame structure was erected. Next door to the church, at the foot of Elm Street, stood the Negro Public School, which was replaced by a newer frame building in 1935. This school was closed in 1949 and the children were transported by bus each day to St. Charles. This building has since been sold and converted into a residence.

The membership of the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church numbered twenty-five persons. Some of the old, familiar names are: John Rafferty, Frances Letcher, Phyllis Lucket, Annie Rafferty, Lucy White and Emma Hutchinson. There being no church records to consult, this information was given through the courtesy of the aforementioned Mrs. Edwards and Miss Lucy Chase.

The devotion of the colored citizens of O'Fallon to their churches is a most praiseworthy quality. In spite of dwindling memberships as many of the Negro population has moved out of the community, the remaining members have kept alive the glow of their religious fervor.

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THE STORY OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

The parish of the Assumption evolved as a matter of necessity. Eighty some families, Catholics of French descent, lived in and about St. Charles, existing as fur traders, trappers and hunters. These people came as far west as the site now known as O'Fallon as early as 1769.

Early missionaries extended the French Catholic outpost from the ancient Parish of St. Charles Borromeo in St. Charles to both sides of the Missouri River.

"Not all these temples of God, not even most of them, were actually upraised by Jesuit hands; but most of them, perhaps all of them, sprang up from the good seed that was brought to their fruitful soil, from neighboring Jesuit fields."

In about 1818, a log church was built at Dardenne. Jesuit missionaries took over this territory about 1823. A district known as the St. Peter's of Dardenne was settled by the French, encompassing an area which today includes O'Fallon.

The Germans began to arrive in 1838. The predominance of the German element in latter sixties brought a German priest, Father Conrad Tintrup, to Dog Prairie, which he immediately rechristened as St. Paul. Father Tintrup became blind in 1892 and retired to Arcadia College where he died, April 10, 1912.

He had been pastor of St. Paul almost a half century. The people of Allen Prairie, however, with their Church of St. Joseph, retained Father Tintrup as resident pastor from 1859 to 1868.

Accordingly, von Tintrup can be said to have spent almost all his priestly life in Upper Dardenne, from 1859 to 1892 in St. Paul. At times he served both churches, and also Old Monroe in Lincoln County, Wellsburg and several stations on the North Missouri Railroad. The fine brick church of St. Paul was built by him in 1897.

His sister, Mother Seraphone Tintrup of the Ursulines raised the efficiency of St. Paul's parochial schools to a high degree of perfection.

The parish of O'Fallon was organized by members of the parishes of St. Peter's and St. Paul's in the Fall of 1869.

It was on a Sunday afternoon that twenty charter members met to decide upon the construction of a Catholic school in the town of O'Fallon, primarily because of the great distance from St. Peter's. Little did they realize that the real objective would be the organization of a new parish. All present displayed great enthusiasm until ways and means of financing such a project were unfolded. The members were these: Antoine Mispagel, Joseph Pieper, Henry Boegel, Henry Mispagel, Frederick Westhoff, Henry Hennis, F. Hoeckelman, Theodore Westhoff, John and James Gentemann, Franz Kemper, Gertrude Roeper, Frank Schone, Henry Kirchoff, Sr., Henry Eike, Joseph Boegel, Henry Ahrens and Nicholas Krekel. The leader proved to be Antoine Mispagel who arose and spoke to the point, "Talking will get us nowhere. If we want to build a church, we must supply the money. We cannot build a church with words, but only with money. I, for my part, give \$500.00." Turning to his neighbor, he asked, "How much will you give, Joe?" Joseph Pieper signed for \$300.00. By the end of the meeting, \$2,500.00 had been subscribed, 165,000 bricks donated by an anonymous St. Louisan and four acres of land given by Judge Arnold Krekel.

With material and moral support assured, the next step was to petition Archbishop Kenrick, who left the decision to his Vicar General Father Muehlsipen, who in turn granted permission to proceed with the project. A contract was signed with Mr. Henry Kister of St. Charles to build the church for \$6,500, provided the parish furnish the brick and the stone for the foundation, besides the sand and lime.

In the spring of 1870, the corner stone was laid by the Vicar General. This was a festive occasion and, it is said, that the surrounding woods resounded with great joy. By fall of 1870, the structure was under roof and was ready for occupancy by spring of 1871. Almost completely unnoticed was the completion of the first log school house. During the summer months, local carpenters built the altar. The tabernacle came from St. Louis. A melodian was lent by Mr. R. H. Pitman of Woodlawn Seminary. And so, all was in readiness for the dedication.

It is to be noted that Mr. Oscar Radefeld was the first organist, 1871-73. The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood have continued to provide an organist since the year 1873.

The dedication was set for September 17, 1871. Up to September, all work and arrangements had been accomplished without the aid of a resident pastor. Father William Sonnenschein was appointed and arrived on the 14th to take charge of the parish which included, at that time, the present Dardenne parish in the town then called Ploutersberg. Father was not unknown to the people since he had been pastor of All Saints Church, St. Peters, Mo., a few years before.

The day of dedication, the Vicar General celebrated the first Solemn High Mass in the new church. After the dedication, Father Sonnenschein's work began. He purchased an acre of land and a residence for \$1,600. Pews for the church were bought for \$300. Later in the summer of 1872, the first small bell was obtained and is still used today.

The Assumption school had its beginning in the little log house erected concurrently with the church. Mr. Joseph Rustige was engaged as the first teacher for \$25.00 per month. He taught from September, 1871 through March, 1873. Father Sonnenschein taught the remaining three months. In September of 1873, two Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, Sister Camilla and Sister Blanche, took charge of the school. The order still teaches in the parish schools today.

Father Sonnenschein has been characterized as an able man, full of determination, good will and the spirit of sacrifice. During his four years as pastor, he paid off part of the parish debt. Part of the present parsonage was also built by him and later enlarged. When all things seemed to be prospering, Father suddenly resigned his charge and departed September 17, 1875.

For seven months after the Rev. William Sonnenschein left, the Assumption parish was without a resident priest. Until April of 1876, the Franciscan Fathers of St. Louis and the convent chaplain took care of the spiritual needs of the parish. The trustees conducted the temporal matters.

On April 22, 1876, Rev. Henry Brockhagen was appointed pastor of O'Fallon. At this time, a man of his caliber was sorely needed. He is described as "a man who would tolerate no half measures; a man of frank utter-

(Continued on Page 26)



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(Continued from Page 24)

ances, independent and not the least ingratiating; well versed in methods of farming; a man of deep faith and piety."

Father Brockhagen and his seventy families welded into a militant unit almost immediately. His first act was to replace the log school with a brick building in 1877, to accommodate the marked increase in parish membership. He tried a new system of financing the school to avoid another subscription. Stock was sold. The idea was enthusiastically received and the stock quickly bought up. Eventually all stock was donated to the project.

Two new bells were installed in the church tower in 1878. All three bells still ring the call to worship today.

In 1882, Father Brockhagen made a casual statement that he would like the altar replaced with one more fitting to the dignity of its purpose. He even mentioned the approximate cost. The following Monday as he approached the altar, he found the exact sum he had stated, donated by one or more anonymous parishioners.

Incidents such as the above show the high esteem in which he was held. On May 20, 1884, Father was again surprised by his people on the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Friends gathered; a torchlight procession was made to his home; speeches were made and a note-worthy purse presented to him by the parish; another, by his clergy friends.

These purses enabled Father to buy the equipment to print and publish the "Katholischer Hausfreund" (Friend of the Catholic Home), a weekly publication. Started in January 1882, the paper was distributed in St. Charles and neighboring counties. The first regular issue came out May 10, 1882, at a subscription of \$2.00. Its format was eight pages, four column paper 13x20 inches in size. The paper contained religious information, with considerable attention given to household items and matters of general interest. Soon, the paper lost its strictly rural character and was subscribed for all over the Union. It is difficult to imagine a small village publication so widely read but this was no ordinary paper nor was its editor a man of ordinary stamp. The paper stopped in 1895. It was revived as the "O'Fallon Hausfreund" about 1900 and again stopped in 1909 when the editor, seriously ill, resigned.

Father Brockhagen reached another milestone in his life on March 19, 1909, his golden ordination. The celebration began in the early afternoon with the firing of a small cannon. At six o'clock, the church bells rang out for one hour and people from all surrounding parishes gathered in a parade to the parsonage where Mr. F. H. Goldkamp and Mr. John Hanley spoke in the name of the parishioners whom Father had guided for thirty-three years. This priest of fifty years must have been deeply touched at this display of affection and respect.

A year later on March 21, 1910, Father Brockhagen died. This great man of sterling character was merciful to those miserable in body or soul but stern and stubborn against the strong if they abused their power.

Father A. A. Jasper was assigned to the Assumption parish on June 28, 1910. His first attention was directed to the parochial school which had grown from 22 pupils in 1871 to 116 by 1913. The old building was razed in 1914 and the present grade school erected. This school was four large classrooms, a suitable upstairs auditorium and a full basement for parish uses. In 1923, he establish-



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ed the first accredited two-year high school in St. Charles County which continued until 1930.

The most important activity of Father Jasper was the start of a building fund for a new and larger church. In five years, he had accumulated \$14,000 towards this fund.

On September 13, 1921, the parish celebrated its golden jubilee with festive joy, the entire neighborhood taking part. The honored guests were the remaining two of the original parish group, James and Angela Gentemann. The oldest members of the parish today are: Mrs. Mathilda Pieper, Mr. George Swinnen, Mr. J. C. Gentemann and Mrs. Mary (Krekel) Westhoff. After the religious services, a gala parade formed. The climax of the occasion was a picnic at the parish park.

Rev. Jasper's genuine interest in the youth of the parish was shown in the organization of his "Little Symphony" composed of the following men: George Ahrens; Henry, Frank and Clem Kemper; Ted, Anton and William Sondern; William Baerlotzer; Frank A. Goldkamp; William Westhoff; Edmund Meinert; Leonard Sattler; Sebastian Salfen; Clarence, Carl and Jacob Schaeffer; Alphonse E. Westhoff; Edwin Debrecht; Ben Luetkenhaus; Rt. Rev. M. B. Hellriegel. He also organized the Marquette Dramatic Club and worked on the development of the Junior High School.

Father Jasper was reserved, never aggressive. In matters of faith and morals, he was uncompromising and fearless. Further, he was a studious man interested in the liturgy of the Church. On Friday, June 26, 1925, Father Jasper completed his earthly stewardship.

Rev. Martin B. Hellriegel, Chaplain of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, took over the administration of the parish for a period of five months. He, too, was interested in the training of youth and in this short time developed a children's choir of great ability. By census, Rev. Hellriegel numbered the parish at 155 families.

Father John Waeltermann, the new pastor, served from October 1, 1925 until May 1, 1927 when he was transferred. He augmented the church fund by some

\$2,900, swelling the building fund to \$17,000.

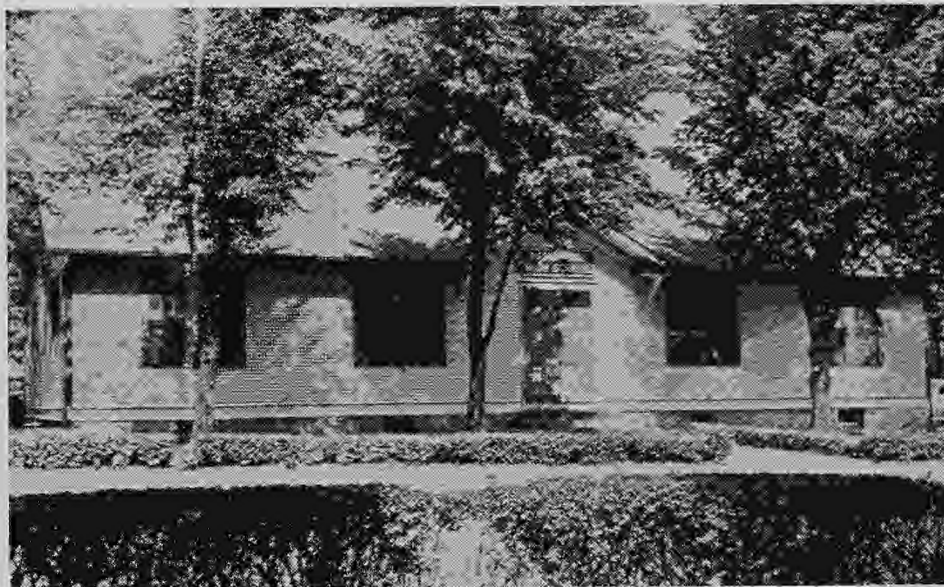
Rev. C. Moenig took over on June 12, 1927, staying until his death on August 21, 1929. Father Moenig was a man of many talents and diversified interests, devoted to hard work.

Father Moenig plunged into the work begun by his predecessors. He was determined to quarry his own rock. The J. C. Genteman farm had the required and in November of 1927 clearing the ground for that purpose was begun. The pastor chose Adam Westhoff as supervisor of the operation and charged him the maintenance of the machinery, which cost \$1,150. The first load of rock was brought in, August 30, 1928, by Nick Loeffler. Beset by mechanical difficulties and the arduous labor of such a task, the idea of quarrying was abandoned and the machinery sold, in 1929.

A joyful day was celebrated in the parish on June 17, 1928 when Rev. Alphonse E. Westhoff, the second parish youth to be elevated to the priesthood, celebrated his first Solemn High Mass.

In 1929, Father Moenig received notice from Archbishop Glennon stating his desire to have a senior high school built in O'Fallon. Despite illness, the pastor set about the task of appointing the first school board, members of which were: Ed. Debrecht, Joseph Roeper, Joseph Sigmund, William E. Menne and H. B. Gentemann. The board was invested with the entire responsibility of construction. A parish meeting was held and the wish of the archbishop explained. The meeting closed with sixteen people subscribing \$800 of the \$2,000 needed. There was some opposition to this new projection. But realizing the drastic necessity for more classrooms, the new school was approved. The availability of eminently qualified teachers from the Precious Blood convent insured full state accreditation for the proposed high school.

It was left to Rev. Peter Kurtenbach, pastor from September 11, 1929 to August 28, 1937, to realize the dreams of his three predecessors, a new church and a new high school.



Assumption High School marked its official opening as an accredited high school in 1933. From its inception until 1929, the school operated on a junior high basis. However, because of the increase in the number of pupils and the need of higher Catholic education, it expanded into a complete four year high school in 1930.

On September 22, 1929, the four-year high school was erected, a frame building with three classrooms and a typing room and science room. This building was calculated to last ten years. Twenty-six years later, it is still being used for classrooms.

At a meeting on September 29, 1929, the beautifying and expansion of the cemetery was considered and carried out.

Construction of the new church was of paramount importance. To enlarge the building fund begun by Father Jasper, Father Kurtenbach inaugurated the envelope collection. This proved to be so successful that steps could be taken to complete the dream begun in 1925.

In April 1930, a monthly pastoral publication, concerned with parish and community interests, was started. The publication was discontinued a short two years later.

Also in April of 1930, the first general meeting of the parish was called. The vote to build was unanimous and enthusiastic. 1,700 yards of rock were ordered. The pastor was directed to select his building committee. On May 11, 1930, the composite board was announced and approved. These men were: Louis Sattler, Anton Westhoff, Joseph Zerr, Louis Schaeffer, Joseph F. Sigmund, Dr. L. H. Glosemeyer (President), H. B. Gentemann, Joseph Saali, Jr., Bernard J. Wilke, Albinus L. Salfen, Edward F. Illy, E. F. Debrecht (Secretary). At this writing, the last three named are still living.

At a third meeting on May 25, 1930, Architect Henry P. Hess was engaged to prepare specifications for the new church preparatory to the letting of contracts.

September of 1930 was a busy month for the Parish of the Assumption. On September 7th, the people voted on a motion of Joseph Zerr, seconded by H. B. Gentemann, to build if money could be subscribed. In ten days the money was pledged. The ground breaking ceremony took place on September 21st, the clergy, the president

of the board and the presidents of parish organizations taking part. The last remaining charter member of the parish, Mrs. Angela Gentemann, age 93, was an honored participant.

The wrecking of the old church began on September 22nd and was completed in three weeks. Volunteer workers from the parish, including school children, did all the work.

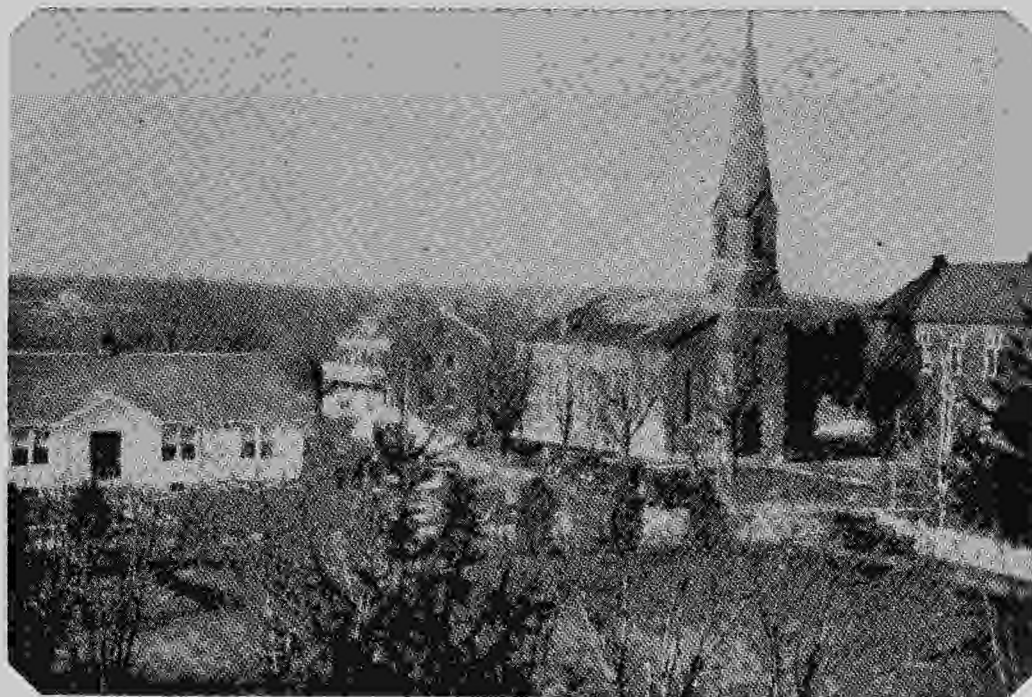
Seven weeks after breaking ground, the cornerstone was laid, November 16, 1930, at a ceremony attended by 2,500 persons. The contents of the copper box were itemized by the pastor. (These and those of the new high school can be found in parish archives.) Amazing progress put the new structure under roof at the end of March, 1931. An incidental figure sets the weight of steel and roof at some forty tons.

The date of dedication for the edifice was set for July 4, 1931. The church was considered "an architectural gem; its beauty and charm will pervade the surrounding country; in essence it will instill new and greater zeal, hope and ambition."

On the eve of the dedication, the three cherished bells, after ten months of silence, again rang out the Angelus, but from the tower of the new church, and continued to ring for an hour. The day of dedication was a grand occasion, graced with the presence of a future prince of the Church, the late John Cardinal Glennon. The Archbishop expresses his satisfaction with the new building, commented that "the beauty and harmony of design of this edifice extols the harmony and the union of purpose existing between pastor and laity."

The next effort of the pastor was to dignify the new church in meaning and in action with the organization of an Ushers' Guild on August 2, 1931. The Guild's charter members included: S. J. Salfen, Al. S. Ahrens, A. J. Orf, Oscar Orf, Albinus Salfen, H. G. Molitor, Wm. C. Meyer, Albert Sattler, S. H. Prize, John Knoll, Fred Westhoff,

(Continued on Page 30)



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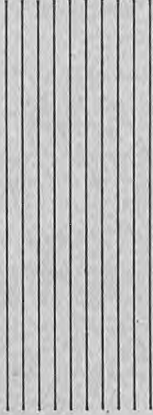
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THE NEW CHURCH

(Continued from Page 28)

Greg B. Orf, Anton H. Westhoff, Louis J. Schaeffer, Joseph Zerr, and E. F. Debrecht. All but seven of the above men are still active after twenty-five years of service.

The three first rites conducted in the new church were performed in behalf of the young; the burial of Mary Margaret, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Menne, July 13, 1931; the baptism of Alice Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Goelner, July 21, 1931; the wedding of Louis G. Schaeffer and Miss Flora Kasmeier, October 7, 1931.

The present C. Y. O. of the St. Charles Deanery had its inception at St. Peters, Mo., April 26, 1931, when eighty sodalists from ten different parishes met to organize a district league for the benefit and promotion of youth organization, now known as the C. Y. C., still encompasses the same ten parishes but numbers some 400 members. Their purpose is to aid and encourage the spiritual, social and educational development of the youth of the deanery.

Again on August 21, 1937, Father Martin B. Hellriegel was called on to administer to the needs of the parish following the death of its pastor, Father Peter Kurtenbach. This well loved priest left a lasting monument of his pastoral efforts in the completion of the church, in his spiritual consolations and in his educational and social accomplishments.

Rev. George Haukap was appointed pastor, September 19, 1937. The greatest problem facing him was the payment of the debt on the church. He was ideally suited to this task; payment was completed in 9 short years in 1946. This zealous priest was devoted to the people of his parish, having particular influence upon the youth of the congregation. He promoted their welfare at every opportunity. He provided the site and put into order (at the cost of over \$3,000) a modern regulation baseball diamond. His greatest effect was felt in the grade and

high school classrooms. A member of the faculties of both schools, his classes were anticipated with eagerness and closely attended. During Father Haukap's pastorate, it became evident that the high school constructed in 1929 to accommodate sixty pupils was sadly inadequate. The enrollment had grown to three times that number, with still more requests for admission coming from other parishes. To stem the tide, Father Haukap made a temporary addition of two rooms to the frame high school building. Meanwhile, discussions of construction of a new and more permanent high school took root and developed to the point of readiness to undertake this obligation.

On October 11, 1953, Father Haukap sadly announced to a shocked congregation that he was being transferred to a city parish. In the spirit of obedience, he assented to the direction of his superior. A grateful congregation met him informally on the night of October 18th, to bid him farewell. In a small way, the parishioners tried to show him their affection with the presentation of a purse, Mr. N. B. Schwendemahn acting in name of the parish.

Father Raymond F. Diermann was installed as pastor on October 21, 1953. The new pastor was welcomed by his new parish in a public ceremony, which he received with humble graciousness. A vigorous priest, he set to the task at hand and, in a general parish meeting on April 20, 1954, discussed plans for the new high school. Discussion then was directed to the possibility of getting a much needed assistant for the pastor; the request was made and three years later became a reality.

Father Diermann's immediate project was the re-decorating of the church. The job was finished by February of 1954. New linoleum tile floors were laid; walls and ceiling repainted in parish-selected colors; pews were refinished; the fresco of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, part of the original plans for the church, was placed in the dome of the sanctuary.

In the next two months, improvements on the rectory and grade school were completed. He had the exterior of the parsonage renovated. Sorely needed rest-room facilities were added to both the grade and high schools. The grade school basement was improved to provide additional classrooms and meeting rooms for the parish.

Father Theodore Brug, newly ordained in the spring of 1956, became Assumption Parish's first assistant priest. Though a newcomer among the congregation, his genial personality and ability had made him an especial friend of the young people.

The Assumption high school was officially opened as an accredited institution in 1923 on a junior high school level. Then, in 1930, it operated on a three year curricula. In 1931, it became a fully accredited four-year high school. From its beginning, the school has been under the careful and capable supervision of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. The enrollment in 1931 was forty-two students. The first graduates are the charter members of the Alumni Association which was organized in May of 1931. The class of '31 was composed of the following: Angeline Brockhaus, Norbert Burkemper, Elmer Gentemann, Henry Goellner, Anastasia Hanley, Leo McMenemy, Eugene Meinert, Sister M. Clement Salfen, Rosemary Sigmund and Rev. Aloysius Wilmes.

Since 1931, the high school has seen an epoch of success and expansion. One of the first public achievements of the student body was the winning of an elimination debating contest by Lucille Meinert, class of '34 and Alphonse Brunne, '33. The first trophy was won on this occasion. Since that year, volunteer coaches have directed the winning of many more trophies, demonstrating the school's sound athletic program in spite of inadequate equipment. The students and the volunteer alumni coaches overcame many hardships to add to the reputation and glory of their school. So the old gives the new a challenge.

By 1953, the high school's enrollment was 132 students. Eight teachers and a coach of physical education comprised the faculty. In 1954, the enrollment was 175 students. The inadequacy of the frame building became alarmingly obvious. At such a rate of growth, enrollments will reach to over 300 students by 1958.

The pressure mounted. In order to maintain state accreditation and to take care of greater enrollments, the school would have to include a standard library, science, home economics and commercial rooms, plus an administrative office, a gymnasium and a cafeteria.

Confronted with this problem, Father Diermann took the first step to its solution and called a general meeting on April 20, 1954. The parish expressed approval of the proposed project and left the selection of a school board to the pastor. This board of seven is composed of Fred A. Gentemann, President; Joseph Mudd, Vice-President; Francis E. Saali, Secretary; Emil Rau, Elmer Gentemann, Antoine Prinster and Herbert A. Westhoff. The board decided to build in accordance with the archdiocesan plan, pending approval of the archdiocesan building committee. At the May 23rd meeting, it was disclosed that the ambitious plan for fifteen rooms had been cut to eight, allowing for future additions when feasible. Approval for the building came June 12th, the cost not to exceed \$250,000.

The drive for subscription of funds began on Sunday 25th. Prior to that date, a campaign news sheet was



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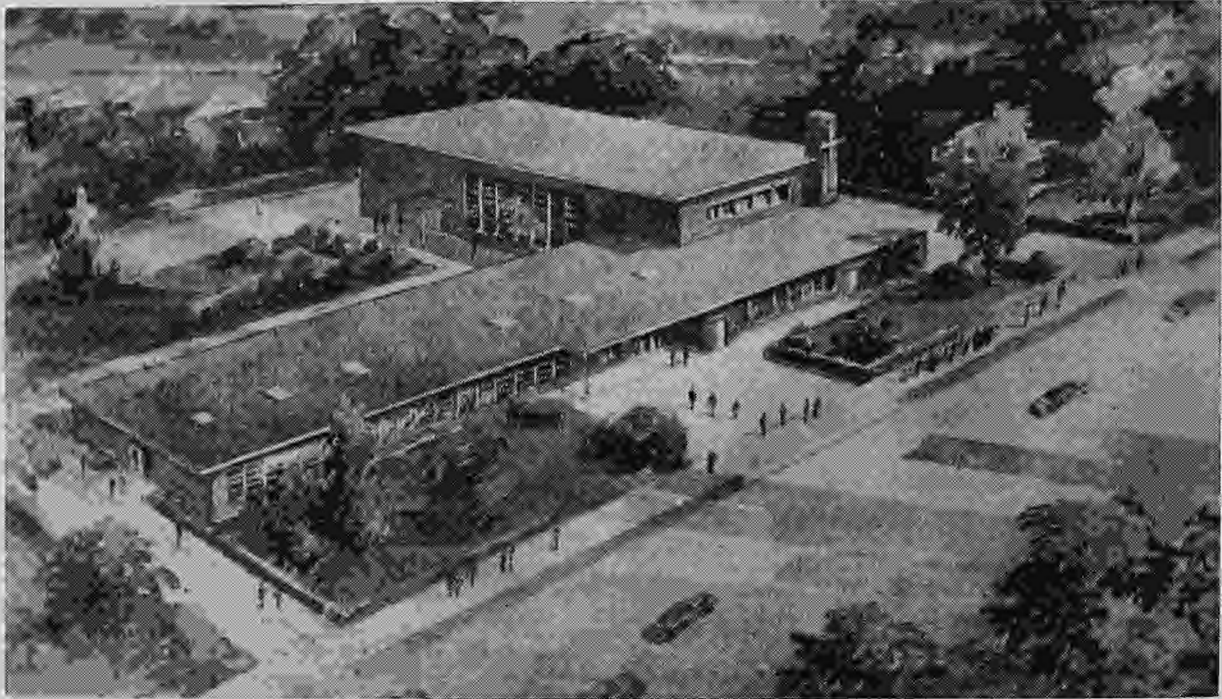


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given to each parish member, specially noting the increase in costs of building materials and labor. In these times of prosperity, it would take twice as many families (278) to pay a debt of \$250,000 whereas in the trying days of the depression, 139 families were indebted for \$120,000 and paid that debt in fourteen years. The pledges amounted to nearly \$90,000.

With the usual business of signing and letting contracts out of the way, archdiocesan permission was given on October 15th, 1954 to proceed with ground breaking ceremonies. In a very simple fashion, Sunday, October 31, 1954, the project was put under way. Building remained on schedule and the next step toward realization was the laying of the cornerstone on Sunday, November 13, 1955. The contents of the cornerstone are recorded in parish archives.

Another Milestone in the history of education in this community was reached on Dedication Day, December 8, 1955, when Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter blessed the new school.

The Assumption High School has often been aided and abetted by the efforts of its Alumni Association.

At the Organizational Alumni meeting on May 29, 1931, eleven charter members formed the nucleus of the new Association. In accordance with its by-laws, the pastor was to be Honorary President, at that time Father Peter Kurtenbach. The regular officers of that first group were: Elmer Gentemann, President; Eugene Meindert, Vice-President; Rosemary Sigmund, Secretary, and Anastasia Hanley, Treasurer. The Association thrived until national stability was regained.

A re-organization meeting was called on July 1,

1951. To the newly-elected president, J. Orville Maher, fell the job of revitalizing the Association. With the cooperation and support of the organization a new set of by-laws were enacted. An annual Communion Breakfast was instituted; husbands and wives of members were to be invited to all social functions; an annual fund drive by means of a card social was set up to help the high school financially and also to maintain a four-year scholarship fund. This scholarship is awarded yearly to the ranking senior on the basis of a competitive exam.

As a result of this ambitious program, the two basketball teams have been uniformed and an automatic mimeograph machine given to the high school.

The scholarship winners are, in order: Genevieve Douglas, 1952; Judy Obrecht, 1953; Marilyn Loeffler, 1954; Judy Gentemann and Geraldine Vehege, 1955, and Mary Feldeworth, 1956.

The charter members of the Association celebrated their silver anniversary this June at the first meeting in the new high school. By happy coincidence, the charter president of 1931, Elmer Gentemann, was again president at the jubilee meeting.

The organizations which made the realization of the new high school possible are the Sodalities of the young people, numbering, 128; the married ladies, 215; the married men, 157. All organized in October of 1871, these groups have been the life blood of this parish through their diverse and energetic activities.

The Knights of Columbus Council No. 2269 was instituted May 8, 1921. The Marquette Dramatic Club was organized in 1921. Legion of Mary started in the Spring of 1956.

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A HISTORY OF ST. MARY'S INSTITUTE

To write a sketch of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Adoration of the Most Precious Blood is to enter the golden page in the history of O'Fallon. One feels a certain ineptitude when confronted with the telling of their story. Facts are easily stated, but the intangible effects of their influence can only be told by those who have been entrusted to their care.

Europe, in the middle of the nineteenth century, was beset by political vicissitudes and religious persecutions. Statesmen had discarded the forms of religion and were blindly following the "freedom" of secularism. The work of the Church, both religious and laic, was fettered in this age of "enlightenment." The story of the courage and fortitude of this Congregation can best be unfurled by retracing our steps one hundred and eleven years.

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood was organized on June 20, 1845 at Steinerberg, Switzerland. The community, which was composed of a small group of deeply devout German women, chose the Reverend Karl Rolfus as its spiritual director. The order dedicated primarily to the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, was formally established on September 8, 1845.

On October 11, 1845, Mother Mary Theresa Weber became the first elected Mother General of the Congregation. In November of the same year, the Most Reverend Kaspar von Karl, Bishop of Chur, approved the community's rule. On December 12, 1845, the small group of twelve women began its primary purpose of perpetual adoration.

Amid organizational hardships, political travisties added to the Sister's difficulties. In the Swiss canton of Schwyz, the first attempts were made in February of 1846 to suppress and expell the community, as were also the Jesuits and other Religious Teaching Communities.

Though originally a contemplative order, a secondary work was started. Father Rolfus inaugurated a teaching apostolate designed to sustain the Sisters in their efforts to serve both God and mankind. To warrant recognition for such work, proof of success had to be presented to the proper authority in Rome. With this in mind, the Sisters opened their first school in Steinerberg, August 3, 1846. A second, equally successful, was established at Seelsberg, September of the same year. Teachers' exams were taken at Schwyz, the capitol city of the Canton Schwyz.

Father Rolfus then sought security for the teaching community by applying for, and receiving, the Diploma of Affiliation of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood in Rome, Sept. 8, 1847. In addition, the same year Cardinal Fransoni became the first Cardinal Protector of the Congregation.

On May 9, 1848, the Sisters were expelled by the Swiss government. Thus the exodus began. A new home was sought and established in Ottmarsheim, Alsace, France. With the aid of the pastor, Father Behe, a suitable house was secured. The pioneer efforts in Switzerland were not in vain, however, since the community was augmented by more and more new members and resulted in the establishment of three houses in Steinerberg and Steinen in the Canton of Schwyz and Seelsberg in the Canton of Uri.

Not being harassed enough by political strife, this intrepid pioneer band lost its Mother General on August

28, 1848. Mother Theresa died at Sattel, Switzerland, enroute to their home in Alsace. The Sisters, endowed with an indomitable spirit, wisely chose as second Mother General, Sister M. Celestine. Now re-established at Ottmarsheim, the Sisters carried on the austere beginning made at Steinerberg. Religious persecution continued.

Again in 1857, the Sisters faced the problem of providing an income for the community. A partial answer lay in the call of Father H. Kessler of Gurtweil in Baden, Germany. Here they undertook the work of furnishing a home for orphans and neglected children, caring for their spiritual, physical and educational needs. The adopted Roman Rule designated the teaching of girls as the Congregation's particular work in the church.

As a result of the Congregation's dual activities — contemplative prayer and the teaching of girls—a grave problem presented itself. Which was to be the Congregation's primary purpose? The entire community had to remain contemplative or become teaching Sisters or else the Congregation must be split.

After a consultation with the Superiors in Rome, it was decided that the Sisters who preferred the contemplative life would remain at Ottmarsheim. Those who wished a more active life in the educational field were to remain at Gurtweil, under the direction of the Mother General, Sister M. Casparine. In addition to teaching, the Gurtweil group was given charge of maintaining a church embroidery department. Suffice it to say that the inspired leadership of Mother Casparine had given the teaching Congregation both national and international recognition in the field of liturgical art. This department, now located in the Mother House in O'Fallon, Missouri, supplies vestments and accessories for the Divine Service of the Church. From a most humble beginning in 1865, world-wide acclaim has been achieved.

The new militant teaching congregation at Gurtweil was again tormented by the anti-Catholic laws of the Kulturkampf and, hoping to avoid further political trouble, obtained independence from the Roman Congregation. Expulsion came, however, with the infamous May-Laws of 1872, whereby the Iron Chancellor Bismarck assumed the authority to seize Catholic charitable and educational institutions.

The New World offered an avenue of escape. Mother General M. Augusta looked to America in these anxious days, hoping that here she might find a haven for her band, a second time made homeless outcasts because of political chicanery. In 1867, Bishop Junker of Alton, Illinois had invited the Sisters to come to his diocese. A van guard left Europe, February 2, 1870, for what was to be their first American home, Belle Prairie, Illinois. The Sisters immediately began teaching in the diocese of Alton and the archdiocese of St. Louis.

Upon the advice of the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Muehlsiepen, the Sisters of the Precious Blood settled in St. Louis at St. Agatha's Parish. By September, 1873, the Sisters had established schools in eight different cities, one of which was at O'Fallon, Missouri.

In O'Fallon, two teaching Sisters Camilla and Blanche resided in a little log house, along with others who supervised the building of their permanent home. By June, 1875, the first convent building in O'Fallon was completed. The people of the new Assumption Parish were pleased and grateful to have the Mother House of the



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Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in their midst. In 1875, Reverend Henry Brockhagen was appointed pastor at O'Fallon. With his knowledge of agriculture, Father Brockhagen greatly assisted the Sisters in exploiting the benefits of the rich land. In return for the kindnesses of Father and his parishioners, the Sisters have furnished the parish church with an organist "gratis" for the past 81 years.

By 1878, the community, secure in its home, chartered the institution as a teaching body with the right of succession, under its existing title, St. Mary's Institute. The boarding school for girls, originally established in O'Fallon, was moved to St. Louis, 1882 and became known as St. Elizabeth's Institute (Academy).

Sophia Krekel, daughter of the founder of O'Fallon, entered the convent in 1885 and took the name of Sr. M. Raymunda. Margaret Hoester of O'Fallon also entered and became Sr. M. Eusebia. More than twenty young women from O'Fallon have followed these two.

1885-1920 was a period of building and expansion for the growing community. Additions were made to the original Mother House. A laundry and guest house were constructed. Ground to the north of the convent was purchased, along with a large lake which has since been drained to create a sunken garden and a shrine to Christ the King. In 1921, the present Grotto was erected.

In November, 1922, an artesian well was struck on the Convent grounds at 839 ft. At this time, the Sisters made one of three different offers to the town for a water supply. Similar to other offers, theirs too was refused. On October 18, 1936, a second and deeper well for security sake was drilled on the Sisters Property. The water tower, 130 feet high, weighing twenty-seven ton and with a capacity of 39,000 gallons, was moved intact some three hundred yards to its present site June 6, 1949, quite an engineering feat, to say the least.

In June 1925, the Congregation's new chapel was begun. A building of extraordinary Gothic grandeur, it was dedicated by the late Cardinal Glennon on July 22, 1926. The beauty of the interior was enhanced by the frescos of Godfried Schiller in 1928.

(Continued on Page 41)

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Left to Right: MISSES ANN GENTEMANN, CLARA STORKSON, BETTY LOU STRUNK, MARLENE PAUK (QUEEN), ANN PRINSTER, JERETTA FAIRCHILD. (Not Shown — JUDY OBRECHT.)

PROGRAM

FRIDAY — Ladies Day

- 1:00 P.M. Fish Fry. Music and Acts.
- 5:30 P.M. Judging of Cakes.
- 6:30 P.M. Act of Destruction (Roy Queen, Master of Ceremonies.)
- 8:00 P.M. Square Dance.
- 9:00 P.M. Modern Dance (Al Fridley 14 piece orchestra.)
- 10:30 P.M. Crowning of Queen (Ed Wilson, Master of Ceremonies.)
- 11:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. Dancing.

SATURDAY — Kids Day

- 10:00 A.M. Serving of Meals.
- 1:00 P.M. Contests for 8 to 80.
- 3:30 P.M. Dog Act of Obedience — Daperon.
- 4:00 P.M. Acrobatic Dance — Lois Jean Adams.
- 4:30 P.M. O'Fallon Band.
- 5:00 P.M. Music.
- 8:00 P.M. Pageant.
- 9:00 P.M. Modern Dance (Jackson Hall Orchestra)
- 9:00 P.M. Square Dance.

SUNDAY — Firemen's Day

- 10:00 A.M. Meals Served.
- 1:00 P.M. Parade.
- 4:00 P.M. Dance Act — Miss Adams and Mr. Gronefeld.
- 4:30 P.M. Judging of Beards.
- 5:00 P.M. Recognition of Visiting Firemen.
- 5:30 P.M. Dog Act of Obedience — Daperon.
- 6:00 P.M. Miss Carol Moorhead's Dancing School.
- 8:00 P.M. Pageant.
- 9:00 P.M. Modern Dance (Ralph Abitello Orchestra.)
- 9:00 P.M. Square Dance.

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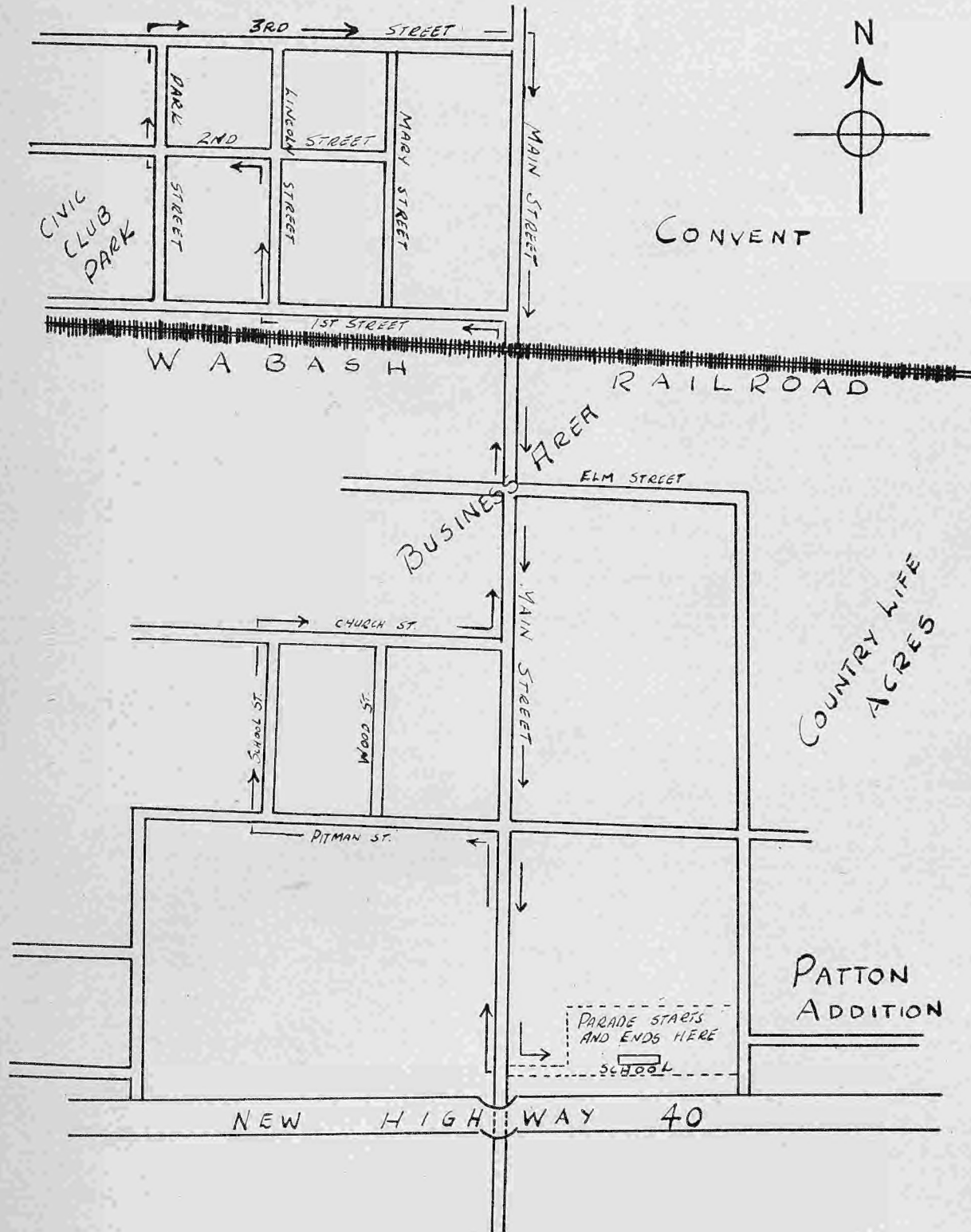
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MAP OF PARADE ROUTE

CENTENNIAL PAGEANT

FEATURING

THE DRAMATIC HISTORICAL PAGEANT

OF

O'FALLON, MISSOURI

EPISODES

- I. Grand Opening
- II. Fort Zumwalt — 1796 to 1956
- III. The Railroad and Starting of the Town — 1855 to 1860
- IV. Business Houses and Schools — 1860 to 1900
- V. Later Municipal and Churches Achievements — 1900 to 1930
- VI. Our Wars, Our Youth, and Final History — 1930 to 1956

EPISODE I — Grand Opening

- Scene 1. Raising of the American Flag.
Scene 2. Grandpa and Grandma Look to the Past.

EPISODE II — Fort Zumwalt, 1796 to 1956

- Scene 1. Early Days at Fort Zumwalt.
Scene 2. Pioneer Refugees and Indian War.
Scene 3. Circuit Riders.

EPISODE III — Beginning of the Railroad and O'Fallon

- Scene 1. Arnold Krekel and John O'Fallon.
Scene 2. Railroad Construction Crew.
Scene 3. New Settlers Arrive.
Scene 4. Arrival of Krekels.
Scene 5. Post Office and Store.
Scene 6. Mail Carrier.

EPISODE IV — Commerce and Education

- Scene 1. Smithy.
Scene 2. First Doctor.
Scene 3. Public School.
Scene 4. Assumption School and Church.
Scene 5. St. Mary's Institute.
Scene 6. Barber Shop.
Scene 7. Beauty Parade.

EPISODE V

Later Municipal and Church Achievements, 1900 to 1930

- Scene 1. 1916 German Band.
Scene 2. 1916 Volunteer Fire Department.
Scene 3. A Man in a Tub.

EPISODE VI

Our Wars—Our Youth—Our Recent History, 1930-56

- Scene 1. World War I.
Scene 2. World War II.
Scene 3. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
Scene 4. Grand Finale.

FLOAT COMMITTEES

- Flag Raising — Raleigh Jessup.
Fort Zumwalt — William Steiner, Sr. and William Steiner, Jr.
First Train — Terminal Train Station, St. Louis.
Flat Car for Train —
Painted Sign of "O'Fallon" — Halley Barebo.

- Post Office and Store — Francis Saali and Greg Orf.
Mail Rig — Bushnell Farms, St. Peters.
First Blacksmith — Geo. Elginfritz.
First Physician — Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Prinster.
First Public School — Ft. Zumwalt Grade School
Teachers — Mrs. Laurie, Chairman,
First Catholic School — Assumption Parish.
First Barber Shop — Geo. Elginfritz.
City Water — Raleigh Jessup.
First Fire Department — Mr. and Mrs. Harry Becker.
Flanders Field and Iwo Jima — V.F.W. Post 5077.
Girl Scouts — Mrs. Albert Dubach.
Boy Scouts — Tom Ginnever.
Grand Finale — Mrs. Don Bader.

CAST

- (In Order of Appearance)
- | |
|-----------------------|
| Eugene Wilke |
| Maxine Loeffler |
| Norb Rothermich |
| John Eichorn |
| Raleigh Jessup |
| Mrs. Ralph Prinster |
| Mike Wilke |
| Marilyn Herren |
| Vera Blum |
| Janet Bussinger |
| Donald Saali |
| Therlow Herren |
| Bud Denningham |
| Eddie Gross |
| Virginia Gentemann |
| Mr. Tom Young |
| Mrs. Tom Young |
| Susan Herren |
| Clem Kleeschulte |
| Mrs. Clem Kleeschulte |
| Mr. Cline Lovelette |
| Mrs. Cline Lovelette |
| Tom Ginnever, Jr. |
| Ted Starkson |
| Fred Stutman |
| Bro. Don H. Bader |
| Ivan Phillips |
| Francis Saali |
| Glennon Prinster |
| Vincent Obrecht |
| Severin Prize |
| Mr. Lowell Hagen |
| Mrs. Lowell Hagen |
| Mrs. Stella Wadicka |
| Mrs. Vincent Obrecht |
| Mrs. Dunham |
| James Schaeffer |
| Pat Griesenauer |
| Hubert Molitor |
| John Pund |
| Mr. Clayton Brown |
| Mrs. Clayton Brown |
| Ralph Prinster |
| Mr. Clinton Prinster |
| Mrs. Clinton Prinster |
| Charlotte Mackey |
| Joseph Mudd |
| R. II Teachers |
| Ann Gentemann |
| Joan Elginfritz |
| Mrs. Bob Hertz |
| Wm. Steiner, Jr. |
| Albert Prinster, Jr. |
| Roland Fisher |
| V. F. W. Men |
| Boy Scouts |
| Girl Scouts |
| Claudine Orrick |
| Bernard Hamley |

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& DIRECTOR**

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Mrs. E. A. Keithly
Mrs. Ella Carpenter
Miss Marcia Williams
Mr. Raleigh Jessup
Mrs. Raleigh Jessup

NARRATOR

Mr. George E. Allred

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Bro. Donald Bader

PIANIST

Mrs. Richard Rodemeier

BAND LEADER

Mr. Wm. Basset

COSTUME & MAKE-UP

Miss Peggy McGee, Chairman
Mrs. Evelyn Knapp
Mrs. Berniece Ginnever
Mrs. Lowell Hagen
Mrs. Calvin Moorhead

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Mrs. Rose Moorhead
Mr. Ralph Prinster

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Bro. Donald Bader
Mr. Cline Lovelette
Mr. Eddie Gross
Mr. Chas. Williams
Mr. Chas. McKinney
Mr. Tom Ginnever
Mr. Gilbert Prize

PROMPTERS

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Mrs. Lowell Hagen
Mrs. Rose Moorhead
Mrs. Lucile Schneider
Mrs. Harry Becker
Mrs. Berneice Ginnever

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Our Clubs and Organizations



LEFT TO RIGHT (REAR); RICHARD SAALI; IVAN PHILLIPS, DRIVER; PAUL WESTHOFF; JAMES HUNN; ELMER GENTEMANN; BILL STEINER, CHIEF; CLINTON PRINSTER; RICHARD HILPERT; RALPH PRINSTER; JOHN PHILLIPS; ADOLPH HAAS; RALPH PIEPER, STANDING FRONT.

O'FALLON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

An organized Fire Department for the Community of O'Fallon was first formed in the year 1906. Equipment from the first hand operated equipment to the two trucks which the department now has was supplied by citizens of the O'Fallon area through donations and subscriptions.

The first fire chief was William Westhoff and he was succeeded by Edward Griesenauer, Gregory B. Orf, A. W. Westhoff and the present Chief, Wm. Steiner, Jr.

Public spirited citizens, interested in protecting lives and property, have formed the membership of this department since its beginning 50 years ago.

On May 19, 1948, the O'Fallon Volunteer Fire Dept. added a new truck to its equipment and mounted it on a new Chevrolet chassis. It was outfitted with new ladders, hose and extinguishers. The members mounted a bed from an old truck on the new chassis. The department also boasts a 500-gallon pumper mounted on a GMC truck which was purchased in 1941.

V. F. W.

At the instigation of William Salfen and a few interested servicemen of World War II, an exploratory meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was held on November 25, 1945. Mr. Salfen was chairman of the meeting, and twelve accepted membership. The present membership is 124.

Upon receiving a charter early in 1946, Post 5077 held its initial election. The first officers of the organization were: Dr. O. N. Hibbeler, Commander; Louis Henke, Senior Vice-Commander; Leroy Sattler, Junior Vice-Commander; Harland Stroud, Quartermaster; Omar Griesenauer, Chaplain; George Stiefvater, Post Advocate; Elmer Siesennop, Adjutant; William Salfen, Trustee.

First order of business was to find a V. F. W. Home. This task fell to Commander Hibbeler and a building committee who arranged the purchase of the former Talleur's Hall. Various artisans in the post renovated the building, making it an attractive meeting place.

The election of 1947 returned Dr. Hibbeler as Post Commander by acclamation. The Auxiliary was formed on February 4, 1947.

In 1948, the post established a completely outfitted

drill team. On January 6, 1949, the post inaugurated Khoury League baseball in O'Fallon. This group sponsored all teams for several years with amazing results, as a look at the trophy case will prove. Responsibility for the teams was given to a man experienced in local baseball circles, Mr. Elroy Haislip. The handicaps of a small budget, inadequate facilities and equipment plus transportation problems seemed insurmountable but the determination to provide organized recreation for the youth of O'Fallon prevailed.

Other socio-civic activities of the post are: to aid in the Red Cross Blood Donor Drive; to perform flag raising ceremonies opening the baseball season; to formally commemorate Veterans Day; and to participate at military funerals. The post has also suggested the formation of a school boy patrol.

After paying for the refurbished V. F. W. Hall, this organization purchased a park site as a recreational area for members and for annual outdoor affairs.

Past Post Commanders include: Dr. Hibbeler, Elmer Siesennop, Arthur Schwane, Elmer Loeffeler, Harland Stroud, Howard Mort, Louis Korman and C. F. Stopke.

This group has every qualification of a substantial military-fraternal organization, bound together for a common cause — civic improvement and welfare of its members.

BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS

The Boy Scout movement in O'Fallon had its inception under the leadership of Mr. M. B. Orlowski in July, 1929. It was, however, under the sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus that the present troop was organized on March 15, 1946. In association with the sponsoring group, Mr. Thomas Ginnever was the first Scout Master, assisted by Joe Masonic, Joe Mudd, Cal Otto, Marshall Gillette and Gerald Westhoff.

Mr. Ginnever has devoted inestimable time and effort, often at personal sacrifice, to this laudable work. It must be genuinely satisfying to know that much of the accomplishments of these boys is the result of his guidance and leadership. Therein must lie the recognition for his endeavors.

The Scouts, Cubs as well as Girl Scouts, make a pledge of loyalty to God, country and community. Their projects are commensurate with their ages and abilities, such as: the cleaning and painting of fire plugs and paper drives. These lads assist the toddlers at the Easter Egg Hunt and distribute gifts when Santa Claus makes his annual visit to town.

The membership is small, only twenty-six boys, but they enjoy an active, industrious program of camping, hobbies and handi-crafts. The moral and civic training which is an integral part of the Boy Scout Movement helps these youngsters fulfill their future positions as competent and principled adult citizens of community and country.

The Lane Girl Scout and Brownie Troops first met in November, 1953, as part of the Boone Trail Council. At that time there was one Brownie troop and one Girl Scout Troop with a total membership of 35 girls. As of this date, there are three Brownie Troops and five Girl Scout Troops with 71 girls registered.

KHOURY LEAGUE

In 1953, St. Charles and Lincoln Counties were interested in the introduction of Khoury League baseball in their areas. Russell Emge was appointed commissioner and a meeting was called, with enthusiastic response.

The local Khoury League has grown from 23 teams in 1953 to 66 teams in 1956. The program is geared to family supervised activities. Games are played in the early evenings so the parents can be with their boys.

In 1954, a local radio station, Station KWRE, broadcasted the games to the interested public.

Commissioner Emge is gratified by the results of the Khoury League program and the cooperation of parents, sponsors and managers.

THE O'FALLON CIVIC CLUB

The O'Fallon Civic Club was organized by local businessmen, farmers and civic-minded citizens on October 6, 1938.

Their stated purpose is to promote and advance ideas that will make O'Fallon a better and more progressive city in which to live.

No money is sent out of O'Fallon Civic Club's treasury to organizational heads in distant cities under any guise, whatsoever, not even for magazine subscriptions.

The Civic Club has secured for the people of O'Fallon a picnic grounds and parking lot, a soft ball park and have erected an honor roll to the veterans of World War II. They have also sponsored various soft ball teams and have carried to fruition many noteworthy projects thru the years. The president of the Civic Club at the present time is J. C. Hunn.

THE BETTER HOMES CLUB

The Better Homes Club is one of the oldest active clubs still in existence in O'Fallon. It was organized about 1930 by Miss Susie Keithly with five charter members. The club is still in existence as the Home Economics Extension Club. It now has twenty-one active members who hold regular monthly meetings.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Incorporated O'Fallon Community Athletic Association was inaugurated by Hubert Molitor and Antoine Prinster. A primary aim was to purchase ground for an amusement park. The first meeting, March 17, 1954, was attended by twenty-two interested citizens. All agreed to form this corporate organization and strike out for additional members at \$2.00 per capita.

Sixty-two new members elected as their officers: President, James Hunn; Vice-President, Joe Mudd; Secretary, Hadley Whitset; Treasurer, Lawrence Huber; and Directors — Russell Emge, Elroy Meyer, William Orf, Fred Gentemann, Jr., and Hubert Molitor. The present officers, led by Russ Emge, are attempting to locate property for a ball park.

This club has been interested in Khoury League activities. Through persistent efforts, the Civic Club Park lights, long unused, were moved to the present baseball diamond.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On April 4, 1930, a group of twenty-five civic minded business men met to form an organization of their own. Their purpose was to unite for much needed civic improvement and advancement in order to keep pace with established institutions that graced the town and added to its prestige.

Their objective was admirable and in great part successful. The Chamber annually sponsored, in days gone by, an organized fireworks display and band concert. These efforts were well attended and generally appreciated.

This original Chamber of Commerce faded into oblivion, but was again revived by Mr. George Haller, the editor of the "Community News" in 1953.

The new Chamber of Commerce filed a request for charter on September 15, 1953. On October 9, 1953, a Certificate of Incorporation was issued. Its first officers were: Thomas E. Ginnever, President; George M. Haller, Secretary; and Robert Schneider, Treasurer. Other charter members were: E. A. Keithly, Ivan Phillips, Glenmon Schulte, N. B. Schwendemann, Wilfred Westhoff, Adolph Haas, Elroy Meyer and Joseph Saali.

The purpose of this second Chamber of Commerce is to advance the commercial, business, industrial, civic and general interests of the City of O'Fallon, Missouri, and the surrounding community.

Application was made by the Chamber of Commerce for the provision of bus service through the city, February 7, 1955. The Public Service Commission at Jefferson City, Missouri, approved the application on April 9, 1955. Bus service became a reality on April 20, 1955 when the Louisiana Motor Coaches began regular scheduled runs through the city of O'Fallon.

LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club of O'Fallon first met at the Methodist Church on December 1, 1955. One hundred and nine people were present, prospective members and their wives. The meeting was called to order by Toastmaster Dr. Harry F. C. Meyer, and the invocation was given by Rev. Kermit H. Jones of the Methodist Church. The actual organizational activities were preceded by a delicious turkey dinner, served by the Women's Society of Christian Service.

After the dinner, Mr. Wm. J. Goellner, President of the Old Monroe Lions Club, gave the welcome address and presented the first president, B. J. Hamley, with an official bronze gong and gavel set. Dr. Meyer, toastmaster, introduced the honored guests. Father Raymond Diermann of the Assumption Catholic Church gave a brief history of O'Fallon. Mr. Alan Radford, exchange teacher from Yorkshire, England was the speaker.

His interesting talk sketched the good will existing between the United States and his own country. Dr. Howard E. Schilling of House Springs, Missouri, presented the Charter to Lion President, B. J. Hamley. Rev. Donald H. Bader of the Christian Church gave the benediction at the conclusion of the meeting.

The first board of the O'Fallon Lions Club were — B. J. Hamley, President; Howard Mort, Vice President; Joseph Mudd, Secretary; and George Allred, Treasurer.

The purpose of the Lions Club of O'Fallon is to combine good fellowship with active participation in civic affairs and improvements.

D. A. R.

The O'Fallon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in April of 1910. The first Regent was Ethel Williams.

Their purpose is to perpetuate the memory and the spirit of the gallant, fearless men and women who achieved our sacred heritage of independence, thereby releasing America from the shackles of foreign rule.

It further intends to cherish and maintain our national institutions, in fostering true patriotism, and extending the blessings of liberty. One of its functions is to give aid to private schools.

This particular group put on a pageant, on July 5, 1915, commemorating fifty years history of O'Fallon. The pageant was admission free and reportedly a great success.

Though the D. A. R. is dwindling in numbers, its members are very active and adhere to the tenets of their purpose.

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(Continued from Page 38)

Another new building, the Novitiate, was started in 1930 and dedicated on April 21, 1931. Here, young women who aspire to the religious life are trained spiritually and professionally to become teaching Sisters.

In November of 1931, the Sisters of the Precious Blood were requested by the late Cardinal Glennon to open a home for Italian orphans. St. Dominic's Orphan Home for Italian Children was accordingly established in St. Louis, where it continues to provide educational and spiritual guidance as well as physical care for these children.

In June 1937, the Sisters were called upon to enter the foreign mission field in Scandinavia. They took charge of the Catholic Children's Home in Helsinki, Finland, in 1939. Four years later, they were given charge of the English School, which had a meager enrollment of eighteen. Today, the English School has a new and necessarily larger building to accommodate the astounding enrollment of four hundred and seventy students.

September 12, 1945, marked a great day in the life of the community — the commemoration of their centennial. The present body paid homage to their courageous founders. In connection with this celebration, Bishop Geo. Donnelly consecrated the present chapel, dedicated to St. Joseph. A booklet entitled, "Commemorating A Hundred Years of Service to the Eternal High Priest 1845-1945," is preserved in the community archives.

In the spring of 1949, an annex to the original Motherhouse was begun. It is composed of an infirmary chapel for the sick and aged Sisters, a modern kitchen, dining room, and recreation facilities for Sisters. Another building, housing a new laundry and gymnasium was completed and dedicated on May 31, 1955. The additions to the physical plant and the beauty of the grounds is a dedicated duty of a dedicated man, the Superintendent of Buildings, Maintenance and Grounds, Mr. Richard Hilpert. Mr. Hilpert has been devoting his energies in his capacity to the interest of the community for the past twenty-five years.

These Sisters, dedicated to the education of Catholic youth, have under their care 12,915 children in sixty-two grade schools in nine different dioceses, in seven different states and one foreign country. In addition to this, they conduct eight high schools in three dioceses, students numbering 2,841.

A junior college is conducted at the Motherhouse at O'Fallon. The college was affiliated with the University of Missouri in 1921. It became a Corporate College of St. Louis University in 1927. College instruction is begun here in O'Fallon and is completed at the University so that each young woman receives both a teaching certificate and a college degree. It is presently intended that each teaching Sister work toward an advanced degree and that a select few continue to study for doctorates.

The abilities of the teachers from this Congregation are amply proved by demand for their services. There are four archdiocesan grade school supervisors, one of which, by special request of the Archbishop J. E. Ritter, is a Precious Blood Sister from O'Fallon. In 1954, another Sister of the Community was requested by The Archbishop to serve as a general consultant in the Archdiocesan High Schools. The Congregation again by request of



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the Archbishop, administers the Bishop Du Bourg High School, built in 1950, which has an enrollment of 1500 (1955-1956) and a potential of 2500 students. Specialized teachers are requested for the teaching of handicapped and atypical children. At present, the Sisters are conducting three clinics for the handicapped. There are almost prohibitive demands for additional teachers with such qualifications.

Little did the Sisters of Gurtweil in the year of 1860 dream that a century's passing would find their community of such great importance. Let us take a look at the calendar of names of those who have guided this community from a group of twelve to a membership of five hundred eighteen women.

MOTHER GENERALS

Mother M. Theresa	1845—1848
Mother M. Celestine	1848—1860
Mother M. Casparine	1860—1865
Mother M. Augusta	1865—1884
Mother M. Armella	1884—1902
Mother M. Beata	1902—1920
Mother M. Wilhelmine	1920—1938
Mother M. Ancilla	1938—1944
Mother M. Borgia	1944—1956
Mother M. Lorenza	1956—

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

Rev. Karl Roifus (co-founder)	1845—1848
Rev. F. X. Behe	1848—1857
Rev. B. H. Kessler	1857—1869
Rev. A. Fraessle	1869—1872
Rt. Rev. Henry Meuhlsiepen	1872—1904
Rt. Rev. F. X. Wilmes	1904—1941

(Continued on Page 43)



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Rev. J. A. Stroombergen	1882—1890
Rev. Hy. Moorbrink	1890—1891
Rev. Alex. Mathaushek	1892—
Rev. F. Hundhausen	1893—
Rev. Sebastian Sennerich	1893—1897
Rev. Joseph Wentker	1897—
Rev. Bernard Schlatthoelter	1897—1904
Rev. Hy. Mueller	1904—1918
Rt. Rev. M. B. Hellriegel	1918—1940
Rev. Chas. Schmitt	1940—1949
Rev. G. Poelker	1949—1952
Rev. R. Zimmer	1952—
Rev. Chris. Martin	1952—

Obviously impressive are the magnificent buildings and the far-flung schools of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. But far more important is the actual work the Congregation has done over the last century. From a meager and troubled beginning, these Sisters have become a society whose influence in religion, education and liturgical art is felt over the span of two continents.

These women, blessed with a self-denying love for God and all His children, have given us the best in moral training and academic learning. For their intense desire to serve and for the fruits of their labors, an expression of gratitude for their being with us is next to impossible to find.

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The O'Fallon Christian Church belongs to a denomination known as the "Disciples of Christ." Alexander Campbell, the leader in establishing this religious body, was born in County Antrim, Ireland in 1788. Educated chiefly in the school run by his father, a Presbyterian, he spent one year at the University of Glasgow. While there, he became dissatisfied with conditions in the Seceder Presbyterian Church. In 1809, he followed his father to southwestern Pennsylvania and soon took a leading role in the reform movement started by his father. He urged all followers of Christ to unite in "primitive Christianity." A prolific religious writer and a widely-traveled disciple, he was a respected statesman and an acclaimed orator. He established Bethany College, West Virginia, in 1841 and was president for twenty years. He was president of the American Christian Missionary Society for seventeen years. At his death in 1866, the "Disciples of Christ" numbered about 300,000.

The history of the Christian Church in O'Fallon began on October 27, 1953 when Bro. Dale V. Wilhoit of the Greater St. Louis Evangelizing Mission came here and opened a four week revival meeting. No members were received into the Church until all had opportunity to hear its traditional religious position. At the close of the revival, sixteen people were enrolled.

Four Brothers from the above Mission led in purchasing the building located on the corner of Church and Wood Streets and held services until March, 1954, when Brother Max Whited was engaged as the first permanent minister. On the Church's Dedication Day, April 4, 1954, Don Earl Boatmann, president of the Ozark Bible College, was speaker. At a basket dinner and afternoon dedication service, some 300 persons attended. At the close of the service, \$2,000.00 was raised by the congregation and friends to apply on the building loan.

Sunday School was organized two months after church establishment. The first youth meeting took place April 11, 1954 under Bro. Whited. The first Daily Vacation Bible School was begun on June 7, 1954. There have been three weddings and no funerals in the history of the Church thus far. The Church has 60 acres of ground, at High Hill, Missouri, to be used as a camp for its young people, complete with some fine buildings for eating and sleeping purposes and a large 2 acre lake.

Brother Whited resigned on September 12, 1954, to accept a call as minister to the Lansdowne Church of Christ in East St. Louis, Illinois. Brother Donald H. Bader was engaged as the new minister on October 24, but it was not until December 5 that he moved to the church parsonage located across from the Church.

Several important steps of the Church have been culminated recently: The adoption of by-laws, the election of the first church officers, and the final incorporation of the church. A new and different Christian Youth Hour has been formed this year, with an average attendance of 30 young people.

On February 13, 1955, the people of the congregation voted to build a basement annex; ground breaking started on February 21. Despite mud, slime and freezing rain, workers kept faith, courage and determination. Practically all the labor was done by the men of the church under the supervision of Mr. Charles Williams, building chairman. The new basement was officially used by the Greater St. Louis Men's Fellowship on May 17, 1955. In June, the Daily Vacation Bible School met there.

"The Church that started on faith, prayer and love has emerged into a glorious victory for our Lord." Church membership as of July 1, 1956 stands at 116 members and is looking forward to bigger and better things in the future.

"The Church with a heart in the heart of O'Fallon" holds four services on the Lord's Day. A Bible Study class meets on Wednesday evenings.

The lay leaders of the Christian Church are: Tom McGee, Chairman of the Church Board; Milton L. Boaz, Bible Superintendent; Charles Williams, Building Chairman; and Mrs. Wilber Deaver, President of the Ladies' Organizations. The Church Elders are: Tom McGee, Milo Terry, Tom Young, Milton Boaz, Donald Qualls and William Bassett. Church Deacons are: Clayton Brown, Robert Archer, Charles Boaz, John Carlew, Wilber Deaver, Ralph Jenson, Cline Lovelette, Harold Rienwald, Charles Williams and Lawrence Watson.

ST. CHARLES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-2

The school location has been changed twice since 1869 when the district was formed. First to the site now occupied by the Methodist Church. Then to its present location when the O'Fallon Public School District became a part of Reorganized School District 2 in August, 1949.

School District R-2 is the largest in St. Charles County. It includes the urban communities of Flint Hill, Josephville, St. Paul, O'Fallon, St. Peters, Peruque and Carmel Wood.

Joseph L. Mudd was employed as the first superintendent in July of 1951 and is now serving in that capacity. There are eight teachers, three cooks, and a custodian in the district. The assessed valuation is \$7,205,000.

There is an expected three hundred plus enrollment during the 1956-57 term and five additional rooms are planned for 1957 with the expectation of a new high school sometime in the near future.

A hot lunch program, started in December of 1951, began with 60 lunches. Paul Schneider and Herb Guter-muth donated and installed a bottle gas stove and refrigerator.

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THE RAILROAD

The present sites of most towns are due to the location of railroads, waterways or other transportation systems. O'Fallon was no exception. In fact, the railroad was the most important aspect of progress in Missouri during the 1850's.

Notwithstanding aid granted by the state legislature, the actual construction of railroads was very slow and more expensive than had been expected. Many people did not believe the railroad was practicable for long distance transportation. Records state that when Colonel Benton once said that the railroad would one day cross the plains and the mountains to the Pacific Coast, the wife of General Bingham replied, "Colonel Benton, with all due deference to you as a prophet, your prediction is as visionary as a trip to the moon."

The first railroad convention held in Missouri met in St. Louis on April 30, 1836; however, the panic of 1837 caused a temporary cessation of interest.

The drama of the building of the railroads for steam type locomotives began in 1851 with the granting of state aid to the Pacific, now the Missouri Pacific, and to the Hannibal and St. Joseph, now the Burlington Railroads.

On July 4, 1851, ground was broken for the first steam railroad out of St. Louis, west of the Mississippi. This line, now called the Wabash, went from St. Louis to the Missouri-Iowa State line. It was to comprise three divisions: The first from St. Louis to St. Charles, 19.38 miles; the second, 148 miles, from St. Charles to Hudson, Mo. (now Macon) at which point it would intersect the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad; and the third from Hudson, Mo., to the Missouri-Iowa State Line, 61.4 miles. Actual construction commenced on the first division in May of 1854 and on the second in 1855. The first division between St. Louis and St. Charles was open for traffic on August 20, 1855, and the entire second division from St. Charles through O'Fallon to Macon, Mo., was completed on February 16, 1859.

In general, railroads were a boon to O'Fallon and its prosperous farming community. These bands of steel became a new artery of trade. Farmers could now produce a surplus, assured that it would reach market without too much delay. People could be certain of scheduled passenger services as well. So with the coming of the railroad, the community began to pass from an advanced pioneer stage to a very early modern one.

However, overland roads were still poor and used mostly in summer. During heavy rains they became almost impassable, and during spring thaws, totally so. So to get to the town of O'Fallon, people often had to walk, and then, when the weather was at its worst, the lack of good roads tended to weld the people of the community more closely. With this community cooperation ties became almost too close. Neighbor married neighbor, and most of the people of the community were related. Family ties were deeply ingrained, and outsiders were viewed with apprehension. This was not peculiar to O'Fallon alone. It was a condition that existed in any small community during the days of poor transportation.

Railroad construction grew rapidly in 1858 and 1859 but not much railroad construction was done after 1860.

During the Civil War period, many difficulties were encountered by the North Missouri Railroad, one of which was the order of the southern General Sterling

Price to Captain "Bill" Anderson that the North Missouri be destroyed. This order was partially carried out in June and July, 1861, and on December 20 of that year every bridge and culvert in 100 miles of railroad was burned, depots, cars and engines were destroyed, the track torn up, and the iron rails bent.

In September and October of 1864, by order of the same General Price, two trains of cars and seven stations were burned. More than 80 of the 120 men, who, with their Commanding Officer, Major Johnson, lost their lives in combating the activities of Bill Anderson in this territory, were buried along the right-of-way near Centralia in Boone County.

Captain Anderson died while attempting to carry out his last special order to "permanently destroy the North Missouri Railroad, going as far east as practicable."

After the disrupting elements were dispersed, a great effort was made to restore the railroads but conditions were far from satisfactory.

Until 1864, it was necessary to unload all freight and passengers on the east bank of the Missouri River, ferry the people and the goods across, and reload on the opposite side. In 1864, a car ferry arrangement was effected which eliminated the necessity for unloading and reloading on the west bank.

Despite these difficulties the road continued its development of the resources of the State, improving its property, equipment and service.

In 1867 the extension of the railroads began to assume large proportions. The population increased tremendously and made Missouri one of the most rapidly developing states in the nation. Construction on a bridge across the Missouri River was started in 1868 and the bridge was completed and opened for traffic on May 29, 1871.

On February 6, 1872, the line was reorganized and the name was changed to the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern Railway Company.

In 1879, the Wabash Railway Company operating east of the Mississippi and the St. Louis Kansas City and Northern (successor to the North Missouri Railroad Company) operating west of the Mississippi, were merged into the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railway Company.



In 1889, both the lines east and west of the Mississippi River were again reorganized, this time as The Wabash Railroad Company.

Unfortunately, O'Fallon railroad happenings range from the tragic to the comic. Amongst the tragedies are the death of Henry and Walter Cottle, aged 16 and 13 years, who were killed by a fast moving mail train when their horses bolted while pulling their carriage on Saturday, November 7, 1891. Another tragedy occurred on April 27, 1907 when Wabash Engine No. 847 exploded one mile west of O'Fallon, killing the fireman and brakeman. The noise of the explosion was heard in St. Paul, five miles away.

On Sunday, October 20 of the same year, during the agency of Jacob Wooley, the O'Fallon Depot burned to the ground. It was started by a spark from the switching engines. Firemen worked diligently and saved the mill; however, several years later the mill was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin.

Another tragedy was that of Conrad Griesenauer, a retired farmer, who was killed in a train accident while enroute from O'Fallon to St. Charles, Missouri.

A less serious happening was the loss of Emma (last name unknown) who missed the 12 o'clock special on O'Fallon's Day at the St. Louis World Fair on October 11, 1904.

During World War II, it was not possible to secure either materials or labor for making outstanding additions or improvements to the property. Post-war, however, the Wabash has invested more than one hundred million dollars in new facilities of all kinds, in order to serve even more efficiently the shipping and traveling public. In addition to communication facilities and signaling devices, the Wabash has also greatly improved its passenger train equipment and other services being 100% dieselized.

Since the history of O'Fallon is so closely linked to that of the Wabash Railroad, we hope to see them both reaching together for new horizons.

Some of the Wabash Agents worthy of mention are: Glen Samek, C. E. Hackthorn, O. E. Lewis, Frank Brown, W. R. Endsley, L. P. Henry, Dave Cleveland, Tom Cleveland, E. P. Marion, Milton Sears, Jacob Wooley, Walter Grist, Nick Krekel, Frank Bessenberger.

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THE GERMAN IMMIGRATION

In 1824 an educated German, Gottfried Duden, came to America and traveled extensively over our country. He spent nearly a year in the region of St. Charles County.

He was highly pleased with the country and the people whom he found here. Upon his return to Germany, he wrote and published a book, giving a complete history of our laws and form of government, with a thorough description of the portions of the country that he had visited.

In a few years, the effect of his writings began to be manifest by the arrival of German immigrants. Each family had a copy of Duden's book, and, so accurate were his descriptions of places and names, they knew the farms and the names of their owners as they came to them.

The settlers brought with them money to buy lands and proved to be honest, industrious, thrifty citizens. They also introduced the mechanical arts of an older country and manufactured many useful articles that had before been unknown to the Americans.

JUDGE ARNOLD KREKEL

Many of the descendants of the early German families have become influential men, in politics, letters, the sciences, arts and commerce. Among these may be mentioned the children of Francis Krekel, several of whom have played a prominent part in the history of O'Fallon, the most noteworthy being Judge Arnold Krekel, of the United States District Court, whose fame is nation-wide.

When one considers the difficulties that he overcame, one cannot do otherwise than accord him an unusual degree of recognition.

He came over from Prussia when he was sixteen years old and arrived in Missouri, with his father who newly mourned a wife that had died of cholera enroute thru America. He worked as a farm hand and made rails at 25 cents per 100, until he obtained money enough to pay his expenses at school. He became a student in St. Charles College and studied surveying. Following this, he was elected county surveyor and also held the office of United States Deputy Surveyor. He then studied law and began the practice in 1844. Later, he held the offices of city attorney of St. Charles and county attorney, and in 1850 he established "The St. Charles Democrat," a newspaper which he edited for a number of years. In 1852 he was elected a member of the Legislature and was quite active in railroad legislation. He was an ardent advocate of internal improvements, particularly by the State. Just preceding the war he was unquestionably one of the foremost Democrats, if not in fact the Democratic leader, of this county. But when it came to the question of breaking up the Union and destroying the government, he left the Democratic party and identified himself with the loyal element of the State. Indeed, he had never had any sympathy with the pro-slavery tendencies and antecedents of his party, and on that account would undoubtedly have left it, if for no other cause.

Judge Arnold Krekel's father was a devout Catholic but Arnold embraced liberal views in religious matters at a very early age. He professed belief in the natural and scientific theory of the creation of man.

In 1854 Judge Arnold Krekel gave the North Missouri Railroad, now the Wabash, a right of way thru his property; and in 1855 he laid out the original town of O'Fallon, or as it was designated in those days, "The Krekel Addition."

When O'Fallon was first settled, there were no public roads leading to or from the town. They were simply private or by-roads and the railroad was the only sure means of transportation.

John O'Fallon, one of the directors of the railroad, gave the honor of naming the depot stop to his friend, Judge Arnold Krekel. Krekel reciprocated the courtesy by naming it O'Fallon.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the Germans of the county were active in organizing for the Union cause, with Judge Arnold Krekel as leader in preparing them for holding St. Charles County.

Soon after the Fall of Camp Jackson, a company of Home Guards for the Union service was formed composed almost exclusively of Germans. It grew to a regiment of 12 companies, aggregating over 1,300 men. Judge Arnold Krekel was elected colonel of the regiment; F. W. Gatzweiler, Major; and Edward F. Gut, Quartermaster.

The regiment went into camp near Cottleville, at what was named Camp Krekel, where they remained for some time engaged in drilling and home guard duty. It was known as the St. Charles County Regiment of Home Guards and was armed from the government arsenal at St. Louis by order of Gen. Lyon. It was not regularly accepted into service, however, until July, 1861.

This regiment did valuable service for the Union cause in the early part of the war by holding St. Charles County, not only preventing the enlistment of Southern volunteers here, but keeping down Southern organizations and enlistments further north. "Krekel's Dutch," as they were called, stood a dreaded menace to the active Southern element in all this part of the country, and gave loyal men the assurance of protection and encouragement.

It was commonly recognized that Judge Arnold Krekel's prompt action and activities, during the Civil War, had saved all this region of the State north of the Missouri for the Union. Perhaps this fact contributed in 1865 to his being elected a member of the State constitutional convention, of which he was made President. As President, he signed the ordinance for the emancipation of the Negroes. While a member of the convention, he was appointed United States District Judge by President Lincoln.

Judge Arnold Krekel's place in the history of education began, when, with R. E. Foster, he founded the Lincoln Institute for Negroes in Jefferson City in 1866. He was a part time member of the faculty and a member of the board of trustees for twenty years.

His name appears on the Barnes-Krekel Hall of Lincoln Institute in memory of his fund raising activities on behalf of the Institute.

Krekel was also a lecturer on the "Jurisdiction of the Federal Courts" at Missouri University for three years.

As a member of the Missouri Legislature in 1853 he established a precedent by which one-fourth more of the general revenue was set aside for public schools.

Judge Arnold Krekel died in 1888 and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Charles County, Missouri.

NICHOLAS KREKEL

Nicholas Krekel, the subject of this sketch, was born at Berghausen, Prussia, August 30, 1825. He is the second of two members of the Krekel family who played such a prominent part in the settling of O'Fallon. The first, Judge Arnold Krekel assumed greater prominence, but Nicholas set the deeper roots.

The following portion of Nicholas Krekel's life is taken from his revised diary of 1907. "In the fall of the year 1832 we sailed from Bremen for America. It took about three months. We landed at New York and went up the Hudson River to Albany. From Albany we went to Erie by canoe intending to go to Cleveland, Ohio and from there to Missouri. On arriving at Erie there was so much ice in the lake that we went overland to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, a distance of 160 miles. Mother, my sister, Katherine (11 years old) and myself, (Nicholas Krekel, 7 years old) rode in the wagon. Father and my three oldest brothers, Godfred, Arnold, Frank and sister, Margaret, walked. On this overland trip my mother took cold which continued to get worse while coming down the Ohio River. We landed at Louisville, Kentucky to get medical assistance and religious consolation. She died there on December 14, 1832 and was also buried there."

Nicholas Krekel remained on his father's farm in St. Charles County until he was a young man at which time he went to St. Louis where he was associated with the manufacture of shot at the shot-tower in that city, for some seven years. In the meantime, the Mexican War broke out, and he enlisted under General Price and served with conspicuous courage and fidelity until the triumphant close of that struggle. In 1856, still a young man, he located at O'Fallon, Mo., and built the first house on the site, now the home of Mrs. Mary J. Westhoff.

In 1857, he was appointed postmaster of O'Fallon, Mo., and continued to hold that office for 32 years. The same year he was appointed station agent on the railway at O'Fallon, the duties of which position he discharged until his resignation in 1861. During the Civil War, Mr. Krekel rendered valuable service to the Union as a home guard and militia man. On September 15, 1857, he was married to Miss Wilhelmina Moritz, a daughter of Casper Moritz, a substantial settler and citizen of Florissant, Mo.

Nicholas died on February 6, 1910. His grave is in the Assumption Parish Cemetery.

Of the many children born of this union, only Mrs. Mary J. Westhoff, daughter of the founder, remains as a symbol of O'Fallon's pioneer era.

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Physically rather slight and wiry, his calm eyes belie his restless energy. A sensitive but humble man, he is fast in repartee on occasion but usually remains so inconspicuous in a crowd, as to be almost unnoticed.

O'Fallon has been his lifetime home, and he was born in the house now occupied by Elmer Gentemann. He married Irene Griesenauer and has five children, three boys and two girls. His sons have served honorably in the army, navy and air corps.

Mr. Westhoff has served a total of fourteen years as Mayor of O'Fallon. He was president of the Civic Club when that group purchased the park for community affairs. He is a charter member of the City Voluntary Fire Department, has a twenty-five year membership in the Knights of Columbus, and is a member of The Moose.

Among the highlights of his career are the installation of the city's sanitary system, the modernizing and enlarging of the fire department equipment and the expansion of the city limits.

He has been employed at the Chevrolet Plant, St. Louis, Missouri, for fifteen years.

The newest citizen of O'Fallon is expected to be Mayor Westhoff's grandchild, the second child of Earl and Joyce Westhoff Hunn.

Congratulations to O'Fallon

ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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City of O'Fallon

The actual history of the city of O'Fallon begins with the circulation of a petition for a charter of incorporation as a 4th class city. 107 householders added their signatures to the petition which was submitted, Sept. 12, 1912, to Judge Sanford of the County Courthouse. The charter was issued on September 25, 1912. As near as can be ascertained only twenty of the original signers survive.

SIGNERS OF O'FALLON CITY CHARTER

W. F. Westhoff	Mrs. Agnes Riley
Ora A. Keithly	James Ackley
Frank G. Westhoff	**John A. Werner
Alex Westhoff	M. Werner
John H. Phillips	A. Werner
Mrs. N. Alchelpohl	A. A. Jasper
**H. H. Goldkamp	Sophia Kochner
Ernst Talleur	Val. A. Kochner
**Joseph Emonts	Mary Wuerz
**E. A. Keithly	Mrs. Celia Stratmann
T. S. Cleveland	Mrs. C. Ziegemeir
Charles M. Dixon	**Mrs. Lucy White
**J. E. Shinstock	Mrs. R. Gamble
Joseph L. Salfen	Fritz Schmidt
**S. J. Salfen	Louisa Hillenkamp
F. H. Gentemann	W. W. Campbell
**Harry Rothe	Mrs. C. B. Keithly
Judge Williams	Dr. L. H. Glosemeyer
Oscar McCluer	Alphonse Griesenauer
Francis McCluer	Mrs. Susie Johnson
J. C. Edwards	F. A. Goldkamp
**Geo. Muschany	J. M. Woods
Kate E. Edwards	C. A. Griesenauer
Anna Lee McCluer	S. A. Lusby
Frank E. Talleur	George McLaughlin
Mrs. Caroline Talleur	Alice Miller
Joseph Saali	L. M. Abington
**Frank Hanley	M. F. Dunlap
H. B. Gentemann	Mrs. Katie Siemann
Charles Busche	J. P. Wildberger
L. C. Ahrens	Mrs. Emilie Kennedy
Geo. H. Ahrens	Elisabeth Brown
**L. J. Kessler	Fred Ottomier
**R. A. Dixon	Fred Jacoby
**Tom Williams	John M. Keithly
Frank Krampe	Louis Menne
**Henry Westhoff	Henry Schneider
Hy. Pieper	**Albinus Salfen
Caivin Riley	Wm. Baierlotzer
John Raferty	Jas. Owens
**George Shinstock	**Henry Fischer
Charles Rodenhofer	**John H. Gentemann
**Fred Kieeschulte	**Wm. Zeyen
Daniel Miller	Geo. Vetch
George Admire	Frank Schoene
C. W. Castlio	Peter Erdmann
Jim Edwards	Peter Berkman
James Tritley	F. H. Goldkamp
William Barbo	Margareta Yahn
C. W. Riley	J. C. Williams
Maria Vanderbos	Dan Frost
Mrs. Mary Fierling	C. L. Uht
Mrs. Lizzie Price	C. E. Dixon
	Annie Gamble

**Twenty surviving

At this point, let us view the activities and the progress of the City Council in its forty-four years of existence.

The first appointed and elected officers of the city were: Fred Jacoby, Mayor; Aldermen E. A. Keithly, Frank Hanley, Joseph Emonts, F. H. Gentemann; J. C. Williams, Clerk; Henry Rothe, Treasurer; Joseph F. Sigmund, Collector; Henry Fischer, Marshal; Al Kramer, Street Commissioner. Following is a list of actions taken by the Board for evaluation by the present citizens of O'Fallon.

- 7-9-13 — Signs placed at city limits to restrict car speeds to 8 m.p.h.
- 10-15-13 — Mrs. Caroline Talleur offered to rent (V.F.W.) hall basement as meeting room.
- 2-2-14 — Meeting room rented at \$50 per year. Talleur's Hall.
- 5-14-14 — Slaughterhouse of Frank Goldkamp ordered to operate between November 1st and April 1st.
- 7-6-14 — The marshal ordered on duty each Saturday from 6:00 p.m. until all businesses closed.
- 8-4-14 — Ordinance No. 16: All property owners ordered to build sidewalks.
- 4-12-15 — Salary of mayor and aldermen set at \$1.00 per meeting.
- 2-8-16 — Westhoff Light and Power Co. petitioned for franchise.
- 5-25-16 — Above petition ratified for a 20 year term.
- 10-10-18 — Area from Bank of O'Fallon to Westhoff Mercantile Co. roped off for band concert by Great Lakes Naval Band and the sale of Liberty Bonds by "Liberty Belles." (During the selling of bonds, an indiscreet bystander loudly quipped, "I'll invest my money wiser and safer in other ways!" The sailors almost lynched him.)
- 12-1-19 — "The Leader," published by William F. Westhoff, carried first public statement of city's financial status.
- 4-5-20 — Board considered taking over a voluntary fire department.
- 9-8-24 — "Blue Goose" bus line received franchise to operate in town. (Its depot was located at the Jasper Hotel, which burned in 1928; the site is now occupied by the Clete Orf family.)
- 10-7-24 — Ora Keithly appointed first Police Judge.
- 4-6-26 — Ora Keithly appointed first City Attorney.
- 8-6-26 — Personal property tax rate set at 15¢ per \$100 evaluation.
- 12-5-32 — Bill for street lights not paid because of insufficient funds.
- 2-6-33 — Ordinance No. 67 proposed city tax on cars and trucks to increase city revenue. Ineffectual at that time.
- 6-14-33 — Main Street became Highway "M."
- 8-12-33 — The Council minutes carry grateful recognition of a public servant who had spent some 15 years as city clerk, deceased Mr. Al S. Ahrens.
- 12-4-33 — Ordinance suggested to regulate closing time of business houses.
- 3-15-34 — Ordinance drawn to regulate sale of liquor.
- 2-4-35 — City council informed Hugh Miller of the Civil Works Administration it was not interested in any public works project. (Pg. 141 — Minutes of the Council.)
- 7-1-36 — "No meeting because of No Business." (the only such entry.)

9-22-36 — A 5¢ tax rate increase to raise funds for fire department.

4-5-37 — Raise in mayor's salary from \$1 to \$4 voted down. Citizen's petition persuaded the mayor to accept office.

1-10-38 — Businessmen asked Board to investigate W. P. A. project for sanitary system.

8-24-37 — City Council appointed following committee to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Federal Constitution: E. A. Keithly, Susie Keithly, Wilfred and Virginia Westhoff, Leo Fierling, Joseph Saali, Wade Admire. (All businesses closed for the occasion. A parade formed and marched to the picnic grounds for a card social, games and dancing. \$156.64 was netted for the Fire Department.)

1-10-38 — Committee appointed by Mayor to explore feasibility of W. P. A. sponsored water system. Members were E. A. Keithly, Joseph Saali, Henry Pieper.

3-22-39 — Mayor Westhoff (at his first meeting) cast decisive vote to provide city with water and sewer system. His vote broke the deadlock, the only tie vote in council's history settled in such a manner. After the landslide vote of the people favoring a sanitary system for the city, the board was thereafter unanimous on all pertinent decisions. This administration launched an era of progress and expansion. Up to this date, because of other obligations thought to be more important, bill for street lights was paid Westhoff Light & Power Co. on installment basis. The new administration of 1939 found the city with a meager balance of less than \$50.00. Today July 16, 1956 these funds, as in the past, include General fund \$4,826.54; fire department \$3,422.78; a total of \$8,249.32. The difference being a doubling of population but still the same tax rate.

10-29-40 — Extended franchise for Westhoff L. & P. Co. passed, 196 to 2.

3-23-43 — Oddity at a mass meeting. A man nominated himself for alderman. He lost the election.

11-28-45 — O'Fallon Gas Co. granted permission by ordinance to establish a propane-gas supply tank.

3-7-47 — A council member suggested purchase of Westhoff L. & P. Co. and/or investigation of rates and possibility to levy taxes on company's gross receipts.

8-3-49 — Highest personal property tax set at 45¢ per \$100.

12-5-51 — Missouri Edison Company petitioned for 20 year power franchise.

5-7-52 — Possibility of city tax on public utilities' gross receipts considered by City Council. Ordinance assessed a 3% tax on gross receipts of Missouri Edison Co., augmented by an additional 1% January 1956. This assessment on the Missouri Edison Corporation provides enough revenue for the city to pay for street lighting.

1953-56 — New subdivisions incorporated into city: Dames, Pallardy, Forst, Country Life Acres, Patton, Griesenauer, and Emge subdivisions.

3-1-54 — "Whiteway" street lighting, first suggested by E. A. Keithly in 1929, proposed in Council.

6-2-54 — Parallel parking was ordered.

10-12-54 — Ordinance No. 115 Missouri Edison given 20 year Franchise, at the same 3% rate as prescribed by No. 104, 1952.

11-1-54 — Emil Ohmes, succeeding Theo. Schamma, hired as city's Superintendent of Maintenance.

11-3-54 — Vote of the people made new "Whiteway" lighting a reality.

4-5-55 — President of Chamber of Commerce requested ordinance for Louisiana Bus Co. to operate through city.

5-4-55 — Mayor appointed his "Planning and Development Committee:" Wilfred L. Westhoff, William Steiner, Jr., Elmer Gentemann, Ray Sigmund, Jerry Heil.

6-25-56 — Last meeting of City Council before this printing granted written permission to historians for use of all city records in compiling foregoing data. City census taken from existing records to show population of 1,327 persons.

MAYORS OF THE CITY OF O'FALLON, MO.

Fred Jacoby	1912-17
Joseph Sigmund	1917-23
William F. Westhoff	1923-29
Elroy A. Keithly	1929-31
Sebastian J. Salfen	1931-35
Joseph F. Saali	1935-37
Simon Henke	1938-39
Paul A. Westhoff, Jr.	1939-45
Gregory B. Orf	1945-47
Paul A. Westhoff, Sr.	1947-53
Ivan Phillips	1953-55
Paul A. Westhoff, Sr.	1955-57

Present city officials are as follows:

Mayor — Paul A. Westhoff; Aldermen: (Ward 2) — Hilary Pieper & Ray Sigmund, (Ward 1) — John Molitor & Glennon Obrecht; City Clerk — Francis Saali; City Collector & Treasurer — Richard E. Saali; Marshal — Edward Hausdorf; Police Judge — Ralph Pieper.



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WATER WORKS

O'Fallon did not have to wait until 1938 to have a water system. On August 1, 1921, Alderman Fred Meinert presented a proposition from the Wabash Line for a city water supply in conjunction with the railroad's plans for a reservoir west of town. The Precious Blood Convent offered facilities when their first well was dug in 1923. Westhoff's Light and Power Company made a similar offer in 1932. Another opportunity was presented in 1934 under the auspices of P. W. A. Mayor Salfen submitted the proposal at a city mass meeting. The meeting voted it down. All four proposals were rejected.

By 1938, it became more than apparent that the city's future growth depended upon the construction of a water system. Mayor Simon Henke called a special meeting of the city council to discuss such a project under the W. P. A. auspices. The council voted 3 to 1 in favor. The project was publicly presented at a city mass meeting on July 15, 1938. Eighty per cent of the cost would be borne by the Federal Government; twenty per cent, by the city of O'Fallon. In October, some effort was made to buy property at \$300 for a water tower. Little more was done until after the elections of 1939 which brought the present mayor into office.

It took indomitable courage to forge ahead during this time of depression. Mayor Paul Westhoff had but 50% support from the council and it took his vote to break a deadlock and take on the water project. The estimated cost of the water system in 1939 amounted to more than \$150,000 of which only \$40,000 was to be paid by the city.

A decisive mass meeting was called on February 8, 1940. The problem was quickly resolved when Richard Hilpert, acting as representative of the Sisters of St. Mary's Institute, made an outright donation of \$5,000 to the project. The impact of this donation gave confidence and enthusiasm to the citizens of O'Fallon. Mayor Westhoff lost no time in presenting this approval to the city council. Their vote, though a tie, held little importance. Knowing he had the support of the entire city, the mayor cast the deciding vote. Ordinance 78 is an announcement worthy of remembering.

On March 12, 1940, a public vote of 4 to 1 approved water \$23,000 and sewer \$12,000; bonds against an assessed property valuation of \$347,537; the 1956 valuation is in excess of \$800,000. The results of the vote were presented to the City Council composed of Cleve Orf, A. W. Westhoff, Charles and John Gentemann. These aldermen unanimously accepted the people's vote on this proposition. At this meeting, bonds were bid in by the Mississippi Valley Trust Co. at 3 1/4%. To put the project on a legal basis, the mayor employed Bonding Attorneys Charles and Trouernecht to draw up an ordinance authorizing the sale of bonds. He then made immediate contact with Congressman Cannon who assured him that the project would be acted upon in thirty days.

On August 23, 1940, ground was broken for the project at the site of the present water tower by Mayor P. A. Westhoff. The well was drilled to a depth of 833 feet (formation St. Peters Sand) with a capacity of 60 gallons per minute. A disposal plant site was given to the city on property of Assumption Parish per deed of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. At a meeting on February 5, 1941, a facet of the Mayor's character was written into the

council minutes (pg. 77) as follows: "The Council authorized the Mayor to buy used lumber in St. Louis, exercising his own good judgment, which he has plenty of."

The new water system was completed in 1941 and put into operation the same year. A four-inch valve was installed which joined the Convent and Municipal water systems for mutual protection. The city used the convent system for about a month in 1951 when the city pump was undergoing extensive repair and improvement.

In 1943, the sewer project received a jolt. The Federal Works Administration cancelled all projects for the duration. At this date, the sewer extended along Main Street from the lumber yard, north, to the city limits. In 1945, Mayor Westhoff called in Engineer W. A. Fuller to estimate the cost of completing the sewer project begun in 1940. His figure was \$28,000. On March 24, 1947, an election was held to vote on a \$31,500 bond issue to finish the system. The vote passed by the even greater margin of 8 to 1. Also in 1947, a lift station was built at the foot of Elm Street augmenting the regular sewer system. By 1949, the highest tax on water and sewer assessments in the city's history was set at \$1.30. O'Fallon finally settled down to the peaceful existence of paying its debt.

In 1953, Mayor Phillips and his council agreed that greater water facilities were needed to accommodate a growing population. A bond issue election on November 17, 1953 approved a \$33,000 expansion. The new well was begun March 1, 1954 and finally accepted by the city council in 1955, when contract specifications were met. In 1954, at an additional expense of \$3,500, the well shaft was sunk to a depth of 1420 feet, Roubidoux formation. It now produces 135-140 gallons per minute.

Again, in 1956, it became evident to Mayor Westhoff, just returned to office, that with additional subdivisions being absorbed into the city further expansion was necessary. A bond issue in amount of \$80,000 (\$50,000 obligation, \$30,000 revenue) was passed and floated. In July of 1956, this last improvement was begun and is expected to be completed by October 9, 1956. It is worthy of note that the frightening indebtedness incurred in 1940 is being more than satisfactorily resolved. The first bond issue due for retirement in 1960 is being paid in 1957. Bonded indebtedness remaining will be \$134,500.00.

Without a doubt, and with whatever courtesy is deserved by all others concerned, it is Mayor Paul A. Westhoff to whom the city should extend appreciation for its present sanitary system. His determined efforts to give O'Fallon such direly needed civic equipment should assure the realization of his dreams for the city's future.

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Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events Pertinent to the City of O'Fallon

- 1855 — Arnold Krekel sold right of way to North Missouri R. R.
- 1856 — Nicholas Krekel arrives, opens a store, names area O'Fallon.
- 1858 — First train passes through, as far west as Peruque bridge. (Peruque was so named because a French settler caught his wig or peruque in a tree and lost it crossing the stream.) Nicholas Krekel was ticket and freight agent for railroad.
- 1859 — Nicholas Krekel appointed first postmaster of village. John Parker was first mail carrier. A slave, McIntosh by name, opened first blacksmith shop.
- 1860 — Dr. Woods became first resident physician. Joseph Boegel opened saloon and boarding house.
- 1862 — First railroad mail car passed through O'Fallon.
- 1865 — Second physician, Dr. W. C. Williams, established practice here.
- 1869 — First public district school opened, May 12. (This school was located across from Assumption Parish Church in what is now the convent park. Its first teacher was Mr. Julius Riechenstein who died in October 1869 and is supposedly the first person buried in the Catholic cemetery.)
- 1874 — Rev. Mother Augusta brought Sister of the Most Precious Blood to O'Fallon; was first Mother Superior in America.
- 1875 — Anton Mispagel built three story brick flour mill and coopershop. (At this time, there were 17 houses in town limits; today there are 350.) Present Midtown Tavern was built. Lot of Arnold Krekel was sold at public auction.
- 1877 — Peter Saali bought dwelling of Frank and Henry Wilmes, adjacent to Farmers' Elevator; operated it as saloon and boarding house until 1916. F. A. Goldkamp built a store for Charles Denker on site of frame high school building; property sold in 1906 to Assumption Parish.
- 1884 — Printing press brought into community to publish first newspaper, the "Hausfreund."
- 1887 — First Trotting and Fair Association held at Besenberger's Park.
- 1888 — Mr. Schlosser was first wagon maker in O'Fallon; shop attached to old blacksmith shop.
- 1889 — Large barn on Henry Ahrens property used to house sulky racing horses. (At this barn in 1892, there was a slight disagreement between two men over the races. The argument was settled when one man shot the other.)
- 1890 — Jasper Hotel opened; burned down on Feb. 27, 1928.
- 1891 — Alex Westhoff and J. H. Gentemann were agents for North British and Mercantile Insurance Co.
- 1895 — Hatcher-Bates library operated as a public library by the Watson family to whom it had been bequeathed.
- 1896 — Peter Kleeschulte, local stone mason, laid foundation of St. Paul and Dardenne churches. St. Charles County telephone system installed.
- 1899 — Westhoff Grain & Merc. Co. have first Santa Claus visit for town children. Woods & Dunlap installed new, steam-powered mill equipment.
- 1900 — First telephone service in O'Fallon began by Fred Jacoby. Equipment and lines bought at auction by Dr. Currier; Mr. Jacoby became his partner. Harry Rothe was first operator. O'Fallon Park, do-



MAIN STREET OF O'FALLON — 1906

- nated by Arnold Krekel to the city, was sold to Assumption Parish, later resold to Civic Club for \$1.00.
- 1901 — The following anecdote was told about Dr. George Schwoerer, who was not above having his glass of schnapps. One day, while imbibing freely, he was handed the receiver of a newly installed phone. The patient using the phone spoke German and there hangs the tale. Dr. Schwoerer looked at his steel with amazement, tossing both receiver and stem in the air with the exclamation, "Mein Gott! it talks German!"
- 1902 — Dr. L. H. Glosemeyer began practicing in O'Fallon, serving the community for 35 years. Presbyterian Church built by August Tritley on Pitman St. Walter Hensel built steeple. Lot donated by Dr. Kinneson. Mr. Penetion was first minister. Building razed in Nov., 1938.
- 1904 — Rev. Romanus Roeper ordained in the Order of St. Benedict, June 2.
- 1905 — O'Fallon Volunteer Fire Department organized. Fire bell bought in May.
- 1906 — First fire fought by new department at home of Mollie Abington, June 29. New bell not yet mounted so Alphonse Saal tolled the bell to summon firemen.
- 1907 — Earthquake occurred on Sept. 27 at 4:45 A.M. Three distinct shocks were felt.
- 1908 — Talleurs opened a bakery. German-American Bank founded in Westhoff Store building.
- 1910 — Woods & Dunlap elevator burned, July 8.
- 1911 — O'Fallon listed as being 536 feet above sea level.
- 1912 — A monumental year! O'Fallon became a 4th class city. (Mass meeting held, June 17. Committee of Jos. Sigmund, E. A. Keithly, Wm. F. Westhoff, Geo. Ahrens drew up petition for incorporation; townspeople voted in favor 57 to 4; petition submitted to County Court and returned by Judge Sanford ordering that O'Fallon should henceforth be an incorporated, 4th class city. Date was June 25, 1912.)
- 1913 — J. W. Williams, Confederate Cavalryman under Col. Robt. E. Lee, returned to Gettysburg, Penn., where he had fought, for a reunion.
- 1914 — Talleur's Hall (now V. F. W. hall) opened with full dress ball, has served many uses, including as the city hall.
- 1914 — Salfen Bros. take over blacksmith shop. ("Boss" or S. J. Salfen captured a runaway, riding his mount in such fast pursuit that lunch could have been served on his flying coattails.) An auto and truck factory would locate here if community donated land and building. (A reaction was voiced thusly — "If we had a 'hot air factory' to blow bubbles the size of a balloon, our city would expand wonderfully in imaginary dimensions. But why should we worry? Our city will soon be in the suburbs of St. Peters and all our dreams of factories supplied.")
- 2-18-15 — First sewing circle of Assumption Parish Ladies' Sodality. First real estate office opened by F. H. Gentemann.
- 7-5-15 — D. A. R. staged a pageant, "The Founding of O'Fallon," in Mrs. Susie Johnson's pasture, with cast of 200. 1,000 persons from St. Charles and St. Louis (via train) came.
- 7-7-15 — At 3:25 P. M., a cyclone struck Gilmore, O'Fallon, St. Peters and St. Charles. Houses of Tom McCluer, Isaac Madding, Frank Krampe, John Meinert and Woodlawn school were completely or partially destroyed. Perique railroad bridge was blown out.
- Mrs. John Meinert and her 3 year old daughter lost their lives.
- 6-29-16 — Community parade sponsored by proprietor of O'Fallon Canteen, Al. Schwoerer. Prize of \$25 loving cup won by E. A. Keithly for best decorated car. Two days later, he learned he had won the bill for the cup, too.
- 10-17-16 — Champ Clark, Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington, D. C., spoke for one hour on the accomplishments of Congress.
- 4-6-17 — Exodus of O'Fallon men to military service in World War I.
- 6-15-17 — Wheat brought \$3.25 a bushel.
- 6-28-17 — Red Cross chapter organized with Mrs. E. A. Keithly as president.
- 10-15-17 — Henry Seisennop robbed of a wild horse, buggy and harness.
- 4-15-18 — German-American bank patriotically changed name to Commercial Bank.
- 6-1-18 — A white oak flag pole of 58 ft. was raised in front of present Assumption grade school. (In the process of putting it up, Henry Schneider's glasses fell into the hole. Albert Westhoff was let down, head first, to recover the glasses.) Roeper family opened millinery store.
- 11-11-18 — Armistice is signed.
- 12-24-18 — First word received of death of Peter Westhoff, first military casualty in O'Fallon. The 19th Amendment had passed and 21 women voted, for the first time, in the first city election.
- 9-2-20 — Commercial Bank moved to Henry Ahrens' building (now City Club Tavern.)
- 4-7-21 — American Legion Post No. 347 organized under title of Peter A. Westhoff Post. E. F. Debrecht was first Commander. Post had 32 charter members.
- 1-19-22 — Standard Oil Co. built a bulk station northwest of the depot.
- 9-19-22 — The Booster Club was for a Cross-State Highway. A committee was selected to support the enterprise to include: H. H. Ermeling, F. A. Gentemann, G. W. Pallardy and Fred Meinert.
- 11-23-22 — Henry Pieper's farm was used as an airport. Two planes took up passengers.
- 1-30-23 — The American Legion Post No. 347 took over Talleur's Hall.
- 9-28-23 — Beginning of Highway No. 40 past O'Fallon.
- 10-14-25 — O'Fallon Community Fair.
- 4-24-26 — O'Fallon Community Club broadcast over KMOX.
- 6-2-26 — Grafmann Dairy Co. had a bulk milk station.
- 3-16-27 — O'Fallon Band was formed, disbanded 1931.
- 4-20-27 — Hilary (Alderman) Pieper opens first electric shoe shop.
- 4-15-27 — James Edwards, the last known slave, owned by J. Y. Trevy dies.
- 8-31-29 — First electric fire siren was bought and set up on top of Westhoff's store.
- 2-28-31 — Cafer Bros., "Blue Goose" Bus makes last run.
- 5-13-31 — Huber's Station opens.
- 10-7-31 — Carondelet News thought of establishing a newspaper.
- 1-31-32 — Assumption Hall has first "talkie" movie, "Sky Spider."
- 8-24-32 — Commercial Bank closes its doors.
- 9-19-32 — Mayor Salfen declares 20-day bank holiday.

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- 5-3-33 — Mr. F. Westhoff, the first fire chief resigns after 27 years of service, succeeded by Ed. Griesenauer.
- 1-1-34 — Federal Deposit Insurance at Bank of O'Fallon on savings deposits. The Production Credit Association formed, Mr. F. A. Gentemann, first Secretary-Treasurer.
- 12-19-34 — Mike Eggering opens a cleaning and tailor shop.
- 1-19-35 — The first edition of "The O'Fallon Observer." The editor, W. T. Baker; Political policy — Democratic. Our aid: Meredith Butcher, barber — hair cut 25 cents, shaves 15 cents.
- 2-23-36 — Dr. Nicholas Honich establishes a practice in O'Fallon.
- 6-6-37 — Rev. Henry Ahrens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al. Ahrens, ordained to the priesthood.
- 2-9-38 — Booster Club formulated. 230 attended.
- 10-6-38 — The above became known as the Civic Club.
- 12-25-40 — Death of Bertha Krekel, daughter of the city's founder. Miss Bertha's records, letters, clippings and correspondence in the Cosmos-Monitor were a great source of information in composing this history. Without these notes, this could never have been accomplished.
- 7-13-42 — Dr. S. A. Lusby, the first practicing dentist, died.
- 12-14-42 — O'Fallon has a practice blackout. It attracted coverage in the Globe and Post newspapers of St. Louis, Mo. The fire siren sounded the alert, set off by Mayor P. A. Westhoff, Sr., at 7:45 P. M. All clear at 8:19 P. M. Blackout was total. The effectiveness of this operation was further security for the Weldon Spring Ordinance Plant.
- 11-3-44 — P. F. C. Raymond Hinkle killed in action.
- 11-13-44 — Cpl. C. A. Kleeschulte, Jr., killed in action in France.
- 12-5-44 — Pvt. Allen Dierker was killed in Italy.
- 1-5-48 — Glen Goellner, formerly of O'Fallon, becomes City Editor of the Cosmos-Monitor. Mr. Goellner and his editor, Mr. Darby Tally, were most helpful and cooperative in furnishing the files of their paper for this compilation.
- 9-11-49 — O'Fallon V. F. W. team won their one and only county league pennant under the management of George Orbenoerfer.
- 1-18-50 — Bizelli Realty Co. opens a cave on the Al Henis' property.
- 9-12-51 — An old land mark is torn down. The Goldkamp Meat Market and Ice Plant were removed.
- 10-17-51 — Mother's club organized at Assumption School.
- 11-16-51 — The first edition of O'Fallon, "The Community News," is published by its editor-in-chief and owner, Mr. George Haller. Mr. Haller "plans to take an independent and impartial attitude toward political matters." The paper covers a classified want ad service, a publicity space for non-profit organizations and carries notes of community interest and editorials on pertinent issues.
- 1-26-52 — Conservation Club formed.
- 1952 — The Council for Community Improvement was organized. Its purpose to get the city in readiness for the Centennial.
- 2-21-53 — Dr. George R. Sasaki, M. D., was born at Hilo, Hawaii on December 5, 1903 and died in St. Joseph Hospital on February 21, 1953. Dr. Sasaki is a symbol of the spirit of tolerance and brotherhood that

is possible amongst men of diverse nationalities and background. Over 2,000 people paid their respect to Dr. Sasaki as he lay in state in Keithly's Parlors. It is said to have been the greatest display of respect for anyone of prominence in the history of O'Fallon.

- 9-10-53 — The Assumption Church sets up an automatic bell system.
8-12-53 — Bank of O'Fallon is remodeled.
8-6-54 — Bessie's Dress Shop opened, closed in 1956.
9-20-54 — Mrs. Robert Mitchell opens the "Humpty Dumpty Kindergarten."
8-18-55 — Fire destroys Farmer's Elevator in O'Fallon, loss set at \$100,000.
1-18-56 — Centennial Mass Meeting called by Mayor Paul A. Westhoff. Mr. Wm. Steiner, Jr., elected chairman of the Centennial.
3-23-56 — Jet Airport proposed. Project — Opposed.
6-18-56 — Wooden money was put into circulation.
6-19-56 — A form centennial letter was printed for distribution.
7-29-56 — At 4:57 A. M. History of the City of O'Fallon was completed.
8-6-56 — O'Fallon, Mo., is one hundred years old.
8-24,25,26-56 — O'Fallon celebrates its centennial.

— ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS —

A history of this type, written for a three-day commemorative ceremony is obviously not a profound, highly detailed historical treatise. The authors were prevented from giving every waking moment to the task by personal economic considerations, since such a history is a labor of love, without personal remuneration. The authors have, however, given as much time and effort as possible and have tried to separate myth from fact.

Some material has been deleted from the history of the city because of duplications in the history of the various organizations.

There has been no elaborate documentation because of the restrictions imposed by space limitations. However, we wish to credit the following source materials: **The Missouri Historical Review**, **The History of Northeast Missouri** by Walter Williams, **The History of St. Charles County** by Holmes (1885), **The History of Pioneer Families in Missouri** by Brian and Rose, "The Cosmos-Monitor" from 1900 to 1956, the O'Fallon "Community News" files and **The History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis** by Rothensteiner (1928.) Some primary source information was made available by the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, the Assumption Parish, the City of O'Fallon and the Wabash Railroad.

The authors are thankful to Mrs. Mary J. Westhoff for the letters, documents, diary and other papers of her father, Nicholas Krekel; to Mr. E. A. Keithly for personal family papers; to Mr. Edwin Debrecht for the files of the defunct "O'Fallon Observer" and the "Assumption Parish Messenger;" and to Mrs. Edith Turner and Mrs. Albert Cleveland for the use of family histories.

Pictures were made available by the following: Miss Marcia Williams, Mrs. Myrtle Scott, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, Rev. Raymond Diermann, Mr.

Congratulations on your Centennial and your Progress in recent years. We have also Progressed and would appreciate an opportunity to serve you with such Lines as, Roper, Philco, Hausgas, Speed Queen, Siegler, Armstrong, Brothers, Janitrol, Empire, Duo-Therm, and many other well known Lines of merchandise.

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Richard Hilpert, Mr. William Steiner, Jr. and Mr. P. Ted Markham.

We are indebted to the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood for reading the section on St. Mary's Institute, to Mr. E. A. Keithly for reading the section on the Methodist Church, to Rev. Raymond Diermann for reading the section on the Assumption Parish and Schools and to Dr. O. N. Hibbeler for information furnished.

Misses Mary Lou Blechle, Lois Burkemper, Janet Hoester, Judy and Dorothy Obrecht, Judy Gentemann, Gloria Ohmes, Karen Phillips and Ann Prinster assisted in the research at the Cosmos-Monitor, under the direction of the editor, Mr. Darby Talley, and the city editor, Mr. Glennon Goellner.

The following typists gave their services: Mrs. Herbert Westhoff, Mrs. George Allred, Mrs. Calvin Otto, Miss Mary Lou Blechle and Miss Lucille Meinert.

History Committee —

Herb Westhoff, Chairman
George Allred



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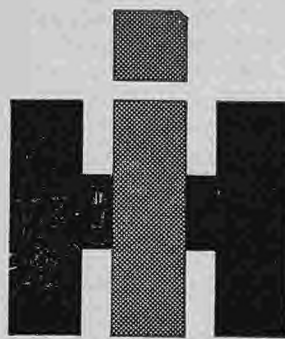


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THE BANK OF O'FALLON

The Bank of O'Fallon, Missouri, was organized in 1903 with a Board of Directors consisting of the following men: M. F. Dunlap, who was President from 1903 to 1912; John H. Orf; Arthur McCluer; and Charles Hillenkamp. The bank began operations with a capital of \$10,000. Mr. W. C. Barron was the first cashier. His position was taken over by Frank H. Gentemann in 1916. Leonard H. Orf served in this capacity until 1920 and was, in turn, succeeded by E. F. Debrecht until 1929.

Today, Mr. E. A. Keithly is President of the Bank of O'Fallon. The current cashier is N. B. Schwendemann, whose capable assistant cashiers are Richard Saali, Kathleen Phillips and J. Orville Maher.

The bank has a humble beginning in one small room of the building housing Goldkamp's Meat Market, where it remained until 1906 when the present building was constructed.

This reliable financial institution has successfully withstood the trials of time — the dark days of depression and the pressure of a forced moratorium in 1933. At a public meeting, the depositors stated their faith in the bank. It reopened and, on January 1, 1934, adopted the Federal Government's Deposit Insurance Plan.

A crisis of civic concern was precipitated on February 17, 1920 at 1:30 A.M., when the safety deposit boxes were robbed. The safe, oddly enough, was not troubled. Of quite recent occurrence was the daring daylight robbery, March 26, 1955 at 10:30 A. M., when \$11,507.96 was taken. This crime was planned and executed by two brothers, Robert and Trent Boyes, who were captured some weeks later, July 13, 1955, in Canutillo, Texas. Marked \$1.00 bills from the Bank of O'Fallon were found in their possession. The bank personnel and a customer, A. J. Leffeler, suffered some anxious moments on being ordered about at gun point. The strange twist to the story is that the getaway car was stolen from the home of the Assistant Cashier, Mr. Maher. An alert passer-by, Edward Stolle, caught the license number of the robbery car as it sped away. This was the first substantial clue in the F. B. I.'s search for the criminals.

The golden jubilee of the bank was celebrated October 1, 1953 — first, by increasing the capital stock to \$50,000 out of income and surplus and secondly, by issuing a new share of stock to the current holders for each certificate held. The following year, the cashier, Mr. Nick Schwendemann, after twenty-five years of constant and loyal service, was presented with a gold watch.

The bank currently has active foreign accounts from Finland and Indo-China; others from the states of California and Colorado.

In fifty-three years of existence, the bank has had only three presidents. The second president was Mr. J. M. Keithly. The current president, Mr. E. A. Keithly, has held this position for thirty-five years.

Mr. Keithly has spent his life in service to his community. He is a tradition in the town, a peer in his church and a dignity in his family. In 1929, when he was elected mayor of the city, he inaugurated an active program for the city's acquiescence. In this, as in many other endeavors, he was farsighted and pictured the city much as it is today with its many facilities for the good life. It has taken as long as twenty-five years for some of his suggestions to be acted upon. For example, in 1929, speaking as Mayor, Mr. Keithly, suggested the White Way lighting for Main Street. In 1954, new lights were installed.

His steadfast character was developed by a hardy pioneer Christian mother from Vermont. His father, a fixture in the town from 1879, began a furniture store on Elm Street, a building now used by Mr. and Mrs. Willard Melton as a residence. The son succeeded the elder Mr. Keithly in 1901 and operates the business today from its location on Main Street. Mr. Keithly began his services as a funeral director in 1903 and in 1908, erected the present building which houses both the furniture store and the funeral home.

To evaluate a man and his accomplishments, one must judge his willingness to serve humanity with both good faith and good counsel. Mr. Keithly has given both and is consequently held in high opinion by his fellow townspeople. The game of finance has been his temporal interest in life, in which field his astute ability has often been displayed.

Not too many men reach as many milestones in life as has Mr. Keithly. But, to him, above all other achievements was the happy attainment of a golden wedding anniversary. With his wife, Mable, he had the great satisfaction of sharing the celebration with their children, Lyman and Helen, and grandchild, Kay Markham.

FARMERS CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATOR ASSOCIATION OF O'FALLON

The history of the elevator at O'Fallon reaches back many years. On April 27, 1875, Henry Wilmes conveyed title (free and gratis) to Anton Mispagel to a lot (now occupied by the new elevator) on condition that Mr. Mispagel would erect a flour mill thereon, which it was expected would benefit the grantor. Subsequently, a brick and stone building was constructed.

At the same time, a cooper shop was built to make barrels used in shipping the flour. This cooper shop was operated by a German craftsman, Mr. Andrew Baierlotzer. (This information was given by Mr. Andrew Werner and corroborated by Mrs. Mathilda Pieper, the oldest permanent resident of the city.)

The milling business was conducted by Anton Mispagel and Company until September 20, 1879 when it was sold to Captain John M. Woods. On August 21, 1882, Captain Woods conveyed title to his son and daughter, Ed. W. Woods and Sarah E. Dunlap, respectively. The

firm became known as the Woods and Dunlap Milling Company. The brick mill and adjoining frame elevator were destroyed by fire about the year 1908. A new frame elevator building was constructed shortly after the fire for the handling of grain and feed.

On April 23, 1914, Woods and Dunlap sold the elevator and business to a group of local farmers who incorporated under the name of the Farmers Elevator Company. These men continued to operate the elevator under that name until January 29, 1921, when a new charter was obtained, the capital increased, and the name changed to the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Association of O'Fallon.

The frame elevator building was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin in May, 1955. This was a severe blow to the Association but the membership rallied and decided to rebuild. Plans were drawn and contracts let for the construction of the new, modern concrete and steel building, with the latest improved facilities and machinery.

The first business to be handled in the new elevator was the load of wheat received of Barney Feise on June 22, 1956. The building, of which the community can be justly proud, will be complete with full equipment on July 28, 1956.

GENTEMANN MERCANTILE CO.

The firm of Gentemann Mercantile Co. had its inception in 1903 when Frank H. Gentemann and son, Henry B. Gentemann purchased the interest of Henry Schneider in the general merchandise firm of Keiser & Schneider, then occupying the frame building which is now the Mid-Town Tavern. The firm then became known as Keiser & Gentemann Mercantile Co. Subsequently, Ed Keithly purchased the interest of John Keiser and the name of the firm was changed to Gentemann & Keithly Mercantile Co., occupying the same building until the fall of 1906, when the store was moved to its present location.

In March of 1906, the firm purchased a lot from the Bank of O'Fallon which had purchased, in turn, a larger original tract from the Westhoff Grain and Mercantile Co. The brick building which the firm now occupies was built on this lot in the summer of 1906 by Frank J. Bull, a St. Charles contractor.

The firm was formally incorporated under the Laws of Missouri as the Gentemann-Keithly Mercantile Co. on Jan. 28, 1907, for a term of 49 years. On Jan. 11, 1909, Ed Keithly sold his interest in the store to other members of the firm, after which the charter was amended, the capital increased and the name changed to the Gentemann Mercantile Co.

When the company moved into its new store, it had in its employ an energetic young man, in the person of Joseph F. Saali, Jr., who later became its manager and continued to serve in that capacity for more than 40 years, until his death in 1955. Mr. Saali was a printer for the "Hausfreund" and also a millwright.

The original founder of this mercantile business was Warren Cottle, who established the store about the year 1885. The order of succession of ownership, according to information received from an esteemed elder citizen of the community, Mr. Henry Ermeling, follows: About the year 1890, C. E. (Dick) McCluer became an associate of Warren Cottle, and the partnership became known as

Cottle & McCluer. Later, McCluer sold his interest to Henry Griesbauer, and ownership was in the name of Cottle & Griesbauer. Several years later, Cottle & Griesbauer sold full interest in the store to John Keiser and Henry Schneider who conducted the business until 1903.

WESTHOFF MERCANTILE CO.

Frederick Westhoff, an emigrant tailor from Neuenkirchen, Germany, came to O'Fallon in 1862 and set up shop next door to the Denker & Brinkman General Store on Main St. In 1871, Mr. Anton Mispagel, Sr., and Mr. Westhoff bought Mr. Brinkman's share and the store took the name of Westhoff-Denker & Co. In 1873, when Mr. Denker withdrew, the firm became Westhoff & Mispagel, the latter leaving the firm in 1878. F. Westhoff Co. remained the firm's name for a number of years.

One by one, the five Westhoff sons, Alex, William, Anton, Adam and Frank entered the business. One of the two daughters, now Mrs. Mary Tenholder of Beaumont, Texas, worked in the store for several years. About 1896, a grain elevator was erected adjacent to the mercantile store. In May, 1897, the firm was incorporated under Missouri State laws as the Westhoff Grain & Mercantile Co. Despite painful illness, Frederick Westhoff remained the active head of the firm until his death in 1898.

William F. Westhoff became manager in 1898, holding that position for 35 years. He printed and published, on the premises, the "Leader," a monthly news and ad sheet and also printed the "O'Fallon Hausfreund," a community newspaper.

Alex Westhoff was active in the grain market and established an insurance agency which his daughter, Miss Hilda Westhoff, has today.

Anton Westhoff was a stabilizing force in the firm, respected and consulted by his brothers. His talent in woodworking was much used in the repair of church and school equipment.

The youngest of the brothers, Adam and Frank, had charge of the elevator and light plant.

Upon the death of Frank G. Westhoff in 1923, his son Wilfred, at the age of 17, began clerking in the store, gaining business acumen that only some 30 years of experience could give. After World War II, he and his brother, Herbert, grandsons of Frederick Westhoff and of Louis Sattler, a prominent local farmer, bought the business from the rest of the family. Adam Westhoff and the other sister, Elizabeth (now Mrs. Gerhard Sonderer) had previously sold their shares back to the firm. The present partnership was contracted in November of 1946, under the name of Westhoff Mercantile Co.

At present, the business is operated by W. L. Westhoff, a past and present member of many civic and church organizations, and his wife Virginia, with the capable assistance of Miss Irene Westhoff, daughter of Anton, who has been with the firm since 1920. H. A. Westhoff has been teaching in the St. Louis Public School System for the past five years.

The original building was constructed about 1860, was expanded in the 1890's and again in 1905. The Fred Ottomier Saddle Shop and the German-American Bank were located in the space now occupied by Elmer Siesonop's Barber Shop. This is one of the two oldest family-owned businesses in O'Fallon.

ART'S DRUG STORE

Art Montgomery, the first registered pharmacist and owner of Art's Drug Store — the former operator of two drug stores in St. Louis, chose O'Fallon for his business location. He and Mrs. Montgomery had lived here eight years prior to the establishment of Art's Drug Store.

The humblest patient is infinitely better off today than were the most powerful people in the land, just a few years ago. For half a day's pay, the laborer of today can buy the precious antibiotic sulfa and other wonder drugs that the Lincolns, Coolidges, and others could not obtain at any price.

THE O'FALLON MEAT MARKET

The O'Fallon Meat Market of Frank A. Goldkamp, was originally located on the sight of the former Westhoff Light & Power Co. Mr. Goldkamp moved it to the corner of Main and Elm Street.

The Goldkamp's had the first motor truck in town, a two-cylinder International. Goldkamp built an artificial ice plant in 1908. The water was taken from the old mill pond and distilled before usage. Goldkamp sold the business to Fred Dickherber in 1922; sold to Albinus Griesenauer in 1927. In 1928-1946 it was owned and operated by Leo Feirling. Mr. Feirling brought in the first refrigerated display case. He dismantled the ice house. On February 1, 1946, Mr. Feirling sold the business to William Orf and Ivan Phillips. The present new building was occupied December 9, 1951.

EAST MO. ARTIFICIAL BREEDING FARM

The East Missouri Artificial Breeding Association was incorporated on June 24, 1946 with the issuing of a certificate by the Honorable Wilson Bell, then Secretary of State. The Association was authorized to buy the land of F. A. Gentemann, located one mile southwest of O'Fallon. Its purpose being to pool information on the improvement of the process known as the artificial insemination of cattle. The process was developed from experimental work into a large business in 1946. The farm handles annually some 15,000 inseminations and employs some twenty-two specialized technicians, all trained at the farm.

So successful has been this process that foreign countries send their students on field trips to the breeding farm. Likewise, service has been limited to the eastern third of the state because of excess business. Their publication, "Proceedings," is the basic text-book used in agricultural colleges of land-grant universities in the United States.

Each year, the personnel arrange an "open house" for all technicians and the interested public. The affair is planned as a family picnic, with speeches, demonstrations and exhibits. Each year, at least 1,000 visitors attend this event. Lowell Donnell is the capable farm manager.

A quotation summarizes the farm's role — "The greatest scientific discovery ever to be used by the dairy industry, certainly a marvel of the 20th century."

WESTHOFF LIGHT AND POWER CO.

In 1899, the Westhoff Grain and Mercantile Co. began generating electric current, primarily for its own use, using a 10 volt dynamo located in the store's elevator.

The Light and Power Co. was organized in 1913 when a 9 H.P. was installed, with wet cell batteries for night service. Frank Westhoff, the youngest of five brothers, was first engineer until 1923, when Adam Westhoff took the position. Frank's eldest son had the trying job of plant manager and emergency-repair man from 1937 to 1952. William Steiner, Sr. and his son were engineers when the plant was sold in 1952.

At the insistence of Rev. A. Jasper, Pastor of the Assumption Catholic Church, electric lines were extended to all the parish buildings. Current was furnished gratis to church buildings for 25 years in appreciation for Father Jasper's sage encouragement to expand service.

Even before the light plant was built, the business men of O'Fallon felt the pressing need for current. George Vetch's Saloon (now the Town and County Cafe) was the first consumer. Further expansion became necessary and a new electric plant was constructed in 1916.

The Westhoff Light and Power Company, throughout its long existence, has taken a stand against pressure applied by the monopolistic Samuel Insull Industries and weathered storms of criticism from various quarters. No meter was ever taken out in spite of bills long overdue. This power company operated — as do the present owners — within the limit rates set by the Missouri Public Service Commission to which all public utilities must submit.

Transitional changes included the installation at various times of diesel and gasoline engines, totaling 120 H.P. In 1941, in the interest of giving the best service to an expanding community, the entire system was rebuilt and changed from direct to alternating current. A 175 H.P. diesel engine was added and a complete new switch and distribution system provided.

By 1951, it became apparent that the growing drain on existing facilities would entail drastic measures. In the face of rising costs and the prohibitive amount of borrowed capital that would be required, further expansion was impossible and it was decided to sell the plant. The family-owned corporation was interested in finding a buyer who would continue to give the conscientious service in the traditions of the past. After much deliberation, the Westhoff Light and Power Co. was sold to the Missouri Edison Company on December 16, 1951. The old company engines stopped January 31, 1952.

The Missouri Edison Company has proved itself worthy of its trust. In four short years of operating in O'Fallon, this company, with main offices at Louisiana, Missouri, has greatly expanded electrical facilities. A new franchise was given by the city in September, 1954. A "Whiteway" street lighting system was installed the same year and a 34,500 volt transmission line with 4,160 volt distribution was erected. These improvements have amounted to \$76,000.00 above purchase price. An additional \$50,000.00 will be spent to bring a second 34,500 volt line to O'Fallon.

No doubt, Frank and Adam Westhoff, pioneers of the original light and power plant, and their brothers, Alex, William and Anton, would approve the present services given to this city.

O'FALLON GARAGE

The O'Fallon Garage was organized in 1919 with the advent of the automobile in the O'Fallon vicinity. It is one of the oldest businesses in O'Fallon beginning as a partnership between Edward Griesenauer, Adam Westhoff, Joe Griesenauer, Fred Meinert and Ben Griesenauer. It was originally located on the east side of Main Street in the building now known as the Midtown Tavern. After several years at its original location, it was moved to its present location and a stock company was formed. In 1929, all outstanding stock was purchased by Ed Griesenauer and Simon Henke and a partnership was formed.

In 1936, Ed Griesenauer bought Simon Henke's interest thus acquiring all the Corporation's stock. At the same time the building, housing the garage, was completely remodeled. In 1948, another building was built on the lot which was formerly the old Mill Pond. Then in 1949, the garage building on Main Street was completely torn down and replaced by the present concrete block structure. After the death of Mr. Griesenauer the business became a family corporation with Glennon Griesenauer as its president.

The Garage has added the latest in farm equipment as manufactured by Massey-Harris Corporation. It has the Automobile Association of America's contract for wrecker service.

DR. O. N. HIBBELER

Dr. O. N. Hibbeler is the senior in O'Fallon from the point of professional service. He began his dental practice here in 1932. An active reservist in the U. S. Army, he was called to duty in 1942. He served with the 90th Infantry Division, assigned to the Dental Corps, for three years, including one and a half years in the European theater. He was separated from the Army in 1945, with the rank of Major.

Dr. Hibbeler and his wife, Edna, have eight children. All five of their sons have served in the armed forces.

DR. HAROLD MANGOLD

Unassuming, considerate and conscientious, Dr. Harold Mangold graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery in 1949. He interned at the College Hospital until 1953 when he established practice in O'Fallon, Missouri, November 1953.

DR. RENE DuMONTIER

Dr. Rene DuMontier was born in 1919 at Honolulu, Hawaii. Upon completing pre-medical studies at the University of Hawaii in June of 1941, he entered the Army. He was in Hawaii, stationed near Pearl Harbor at the time of its attack December 7, 1941. World War II altered plans and study. He fought in five major European campaigns. He obtained his release from the army in 1949, at which time he was supervisor of all ROTC affairs in the Territory of Hawaii with the rank of Major.

He graduated, June 1953, from the St. Louis University School of Medicine and served his internship at Brooke Army General Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. He established his practice in O'Fallon in August, 1954.

Six small children and the doctor's mother comprise the household of Dr. and Mrs. DuMontier.

THE ROEPER NURSING HOME

The Roeper Nursing Home for Women was built in 1952 on a four-acre plot off Woodlawn Avenue. It was, in dedication, built by the Paul Roeper family when their daughter, Helen, was stricken with multiple sclerosis.

Many difficulties were encountered before the state requirements for a nursing home were met.

The first patients to enter the home on December 8, 1952 were Miss Agnes Mintert, Miss Ida Mintert, Miss Julia Brandes and Helen Roeper. Miss Helen Roeper, the immediate cause for building the home, died eighteen days later on December 26.

The Roeper Nursing Home for Women is now a 23-bed institution staffed by seven permanent members. Its administered by Miss Alberta Roeper who is a nurse, and is continuing her pre-med work part time at Kirksville and Lindenwood College.

FRED M. MEINERT, REALTOR

"The Judge" is a title affectionately bestowed on Mr. Meinert by several generations of the citizens of O'Fallon. This kindly "elder statesman" of O'Fallon has been a Justice of the Peace for thirteen years, an alderman for four years, and a real estate broker for the past twelve years. He is a Notary Public, a member of the St. Charles County Welfare Commission, Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce, the Republican Committeeman for Dardenne Township, and delegate to the Republican State Convention. He is a past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, a former President of the Civic Club and a member of The National Association of Real Estate Boards. He is the oldest living member of the volunteer fire department, having been a member since 1915.

Mr. Meinert has his office located in his home where he sells real estate and insurance. He also issues hunting, fishing and driver licenses.

Part time salesmen of the Meinert Agency are — George E. Allred, Clarence Kleeschulte, and Howard Mort.

HAMLEY INSURANCE AGENCY

B. J. Hamley, local real estate and insurance agent, first represented the United Farm Agency of Kansas City, Mo., from October 1951 to March 1953. At that time, Mr. Hamley severed the above connections and joined the large staff of The Floyd Davis Realty Company of St. Louis, Mo. Mr. Hamley is their Branch Manager in the O'Fallon office.

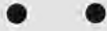
He also represents the following companies: The Fire and Life Insurance Company's National Union of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the Springfield Group of Springfield, Mass.; the Western Casualty and Surety Company of Fort Scott, Kansas; the National Fidelity Life Insurance Co. of Kansas City, Mo., and the Missouri Union Corp. of St. Louis, Mo.

The Hamley office is located at the junction of old Highway 40 and "K" Road, one-half mile south of O'Fallon.

(Continued on Page 73)



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ST. CHARLES, MO.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

(Continued from Page 64)

DEBRECHT AND ORF INSURANCE CO.

Debrecht & Orf Insurance Co. was organized in 1915. When Mr. E. F. Debrecht went into service, Oscar Orf carried on the business.

Mr. Debrecht has been an influence in city government, a banker and employee of Federal Government Tax Division. In 1956, Mr. Debrecht was made office manager of the Central Bureau of the Catholic Central Verein.

THE RURAL ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

The Rural Electric and Gas Company has served the O'Fallon Community since 1937. The first location was at the intersection of Highway K and U. S. 40 but was transferred to the more favorable location (now Art's Drug Store) in 1939. In 1945, the present building was erected.

Mr. Tom Ginnever has a background in electronics since 1927 and served as a Signal Corps instructor during World War II.

THE O'FALLON GAS CO.

It was originated by Dan Soutee, Louis Bussinger, and Norbert Westhoff in the side room of the old meat market, February 27, 1951. It was reorganized January 1, 1952, forming a corporation including Dan Soutee, Glennon Schulte, Hilary Dickherber and Ed Willerding.

This company provides plumbing and heating installations, a repair service, besides providing a bulk propane gas service.

O'FALLON SUNDRIES

Until Clarence Kleeschulte opened it as the O'Fallon Sundries in 1953, this concern had been known as the O'Fallon Drug Store. The history of the O'Fallon Drug Store dates back to 1899 when Fred Jacoby built the first store on what is now the vacant lot between the Keithly Building and Terry's Barber Shop.

The next owner was Bellow and Fulkerson. Dr. John Kelly was the owner when it burned down in 1938. Seven years later in 1945, the O'Fallon Drug Store was reopened by Nick Westhoff at the present location of the O'Fallon Gas Company building.

Other successive owners were Leo Feirling, who built the present building, Clarence Moyer and Clarence Kleeschulte.

EMGE BROS., INC.

Emge Bros., local Minneapolis-Moline dealers, was organized in 1949 with three brothers, Delmar, Eugene and Russell Emge, as partners. This corporation has sold some \$1,000,000.00 worth of farm machinery.

As of January 1, 1956, Russell bought out the shares of his two brothers. This company carries just about every conceivable type of farm machinery and has been a welcome addition to the business houses of the city.

GUTERMUTH APPLIANCE COMPANY

Mr. Herb Gutermuth has the oldest gas service business in the vicinity of O'Fallon. He started a Shell Gas service station on September 12, 1924 at his present location on the old Highway 40, southeast of O'Fallon. At this time, he also operated a five-cabin tourist court which was discontinued in 1932, when he became associated with the Servel Corporation selling kerosene refrigerators.

Mr. Gutermuth is proud of his pioneering work with the Servel refrigerator and, as he explained, it gave him a great deal of personal satisfaction to be able to bring bottle gas refrigeration in 1934 to many homes not then being serviced by electricity.

In 1936, he added the Shellane products and in 1946 brought his nephew, Paul Schneider, into the organization.

Mr. Gutermuth has continued to expand his facilities and has lately acquired an immense storage tank near Wentzville which he hopes will continue their thirty-two years of planned progress.

Mr. Gutermuth has cooperated with many school and church organizations in this vicinity by donating cooking facilities for picnics and charitable affairs. He is well known for his conservation work being past president of the St. Charles County Conservation Club and is at present on the State Conservation Executive Board.

An interesting sidelight is a bob white quail kept by Mr. Gutermuth that is ten years old and still active.

THE O'FALLON FOOD LOCKER

On July 26, 1947, the O'Fallon Food Locker opened on the site of the old blacksmith shop. It was credited by Joseph T. Stakes, Director of the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture, as being among the very best in the state — both as regarding construction and methods of operation.

Stock pens in the rear of the building were enlarged to accommodate more stock. The processing includes slaughtering, cooling, aging, cutting, curing, freezing meat and rendering of lard. There is a cooling room for the handling of fresh meat, and an aging room where meat can be stored.

Mr. and Mrs. Clem Obrecht, the original owners, sold the locker to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Briscoe on January 19, 1955. Since that time, it has received the Missouri Frozen Food Locker Association's Award for achievement.

HARRIS LUMBER COMPANY

The first lumber yard in O'Fallon was started by S. C. Tucker in 1875 on Elm Street and was sold to J. C. Williams a few years later. It was operated briefly by the E. C. Robinson Lumber Co. before being acquired by Frank Gentemann who purchased it on September 8, 1914.

The lumber yard was moved to its present location and operated successfully for over thirty years after being sold to H. B. Gentemann.

It was purchased by C. J. Harris in 1942 and at the present time is run by its president, Jack Harris. It is managed locally by Adolph Haas.

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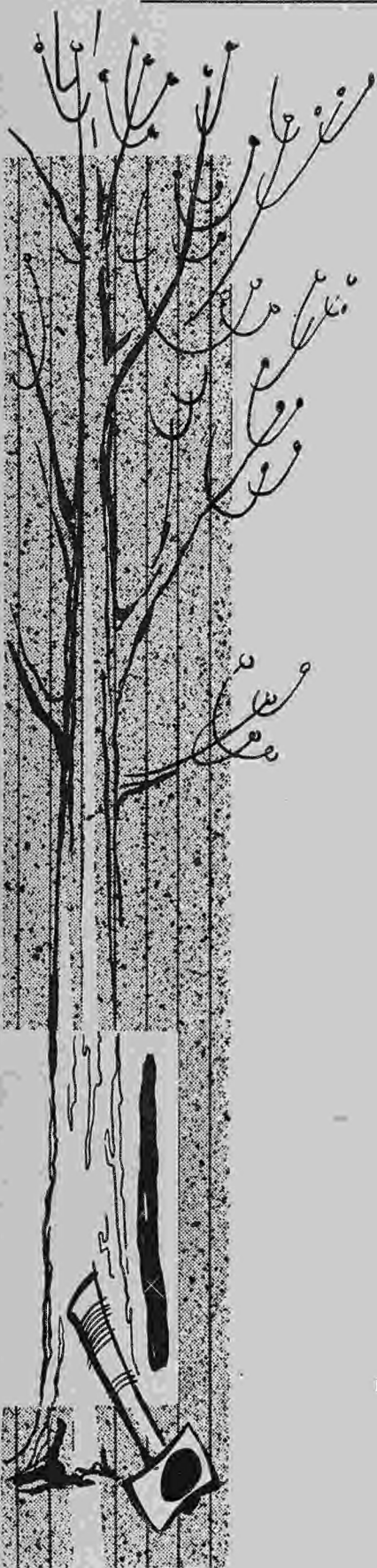
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ESTIMATES FREELY GIVEN
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FOR PLUMBING

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

(Continued from Page 73)

O'FALLON BRAKE BONDERS, INC.

The O'Fallon Brake Bonders, Inc., began on October 1, 1954. An additional building was completed a year later. The company has approximately \$10,000.00 in machinery and equipment. The home office is located on West 2nd street in O'Fallon and has a warehouse at 3457 So. Kingshighway, St. Louis, Missouri.

The owners express their gratitude to the citizens of O'Fallon and the neighboring communities whose patronage has helped their rapid expansion. An invitation is extended to all those interested to visit the plant and inspect the entire operation.

MORT'S SPORTING GOODS

Howard Mort has a complete line of hunting and fishing equipment, and issues licenses for both sports.

Thirty years' experience in the retail field has insured the success of the present location on Main Street begun November 10, 1953.

Mort is a World War I Veteran who fought in the Argonne Forest and at Verdun. He is a Past Post Commander of the V. F. W.

THE O'FALLON BEAUTY SHOP

The O'Fallon Beauty Shop was opened in May of 1944 by its owner and operator, Lorene Rogers.

The shop specializes in hair dyeing, bleaching and cutting; also permanents, cold waves and eye brow arching. The shop has three dryers and one permanent wave machine.

O'FALLON PLUMBING & EXCAVATING

The O'Fallon Plumbing & Excavating Co. was started in February of 1955, by the owner, Chester L. Sommerkamp, with three employees. A new ditching machine is the newest apparatus of its kind.

The company's first job for the City of O'Fallon was begun on July 21, 1955. 480 feet of 2 in. water main pipes were laid in two days. This company gives the city a complete plumbing service, including water main and sewerage work.

LEO SCHNEIDER AND SONS

Mr. Leo Schneider came to O'Fallon forty-one years ago and established a saw mill and threshing business on property purchased from Mrs. Louise Mispagel.

The purchase of three threshing machines expanded his facilities to a point where he was able to serve practically everyone in the Dardenne Valley and much of the surrounding territory.

Mr. Leo Schneider and his sons have built up a large implement business now serving St. Charles and Lincoln Counties, having procured the Sales and Service Agency for Oliver Farm Implements. The present owners and operators are Robert, Richard and Julius Schneider.

OTHER BUSINESSMEN

Other businessmen to be mentioned are:

Edward Pfaff, Master Auto Mechanic; Service Stations: Steiners, Fort Zumwalt, Ralph Fisher and McDonald; Truckers: Ben Leutkenhaus, Roland Fisher; O'Fallon Mfg. Co.; Charles Mackey's Auto Body Shop; Dove's News Stand; Faerber's Jewelry Shop.

Builders and Contractors: Herman Sommer, Pieper and Kleeschulte, O'Fallon Builders, J & R Builders, Ralph Prinster; Clarence Schneider, Electrical Service; Delmar Emge, Real Estate.

MEN TO REMEMBER

Men to remember who have and are giving service to O'Fallon, Mo:

Postmasters: Nicholas Krekel, Warren Cottle, Peter Wildberger, Fred Jacoby, Maude Barker, E. A. Keithly, Fred Meinert, Edwin Debrecht, Harry Rothe, Elmer Gentemann, and Harland Strand.

Doctors: Woods, Edwards, Schworer, Ahrens, Werner, Glosmeyer, Williams, Freeman, Kineson, Honich, Behan, Kreiger, Cramblett, Sasaki, Lusby and Kelly.

Barbers: Ilig, McMenemy, Wilcox, Salfen, Hughes, Maher, Plummer, Turnbull, Werner, McCoy, Forbeck, and presently Milo Terry and Elmer Siesennop.

CONCLUSIONS

The city of O'Fallon offers many opportunities for family and personal development, while its rich arable lands are easily accessible to the markets of the cities. Its location further provides for an abundance of wholesome rural environment without sacrificing urban accommodations.

The people of O'Fallon have organized many social and civic groups and can look with pride on their established religious, educational and commercial institutions.

Goals for future consideration include a theater, library, play area for smaller children, and other socio-cultural stimuli.

Past and present mayors have done a remarkable job of combining a sense of civic duty with the necessity of earning a living in another capacity.

Various groups have sometimes conflicted because of overlapping efforts but greater concerted impetus to specific objectives should make these goals a reality.

O'Fallon, "A Good Place To Live," can still grow and become "A Better Place To Live."

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