

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

History of the Local Catholic Church Prepared for The Review by Rev. Fr. Souby.

(Continued from August 17, 1911)

To give an idea of all the sacrifices, acts of devotion and generosity performed at different times by various members of the congregation to raise funds for the building of this church, is a task beyond our capacity. They are all noted down on the church Record, "Lest we forget", but to mention them all would prolong this narrative beyond legitimate bounds. Some of the "Benefits" are insignificant in scope but great in merit. We shall try to group the more interesting ones, according to time, mentioning names, where this is possible and leave the rest to the Recording Angel, whose memory is more to be trusted than even the priceless Church Record from which we copy what follows.

From the very beginning a group of young ladies, anxious to help the new pastor, formed a club and began a monthly house to house collection. This was in 1900. Their names are, Nick Gross, Miss Boudreaux, Amyr Brizzard, Nellie Morgan, Katie Dalton, Gracie Shannon and Ethel Costello. In 1901 these same young ladies decided to form a permanent organization called the Young Ladies Tabernacle Society. They chose for President, Miss Nick Gross; Secretary Miss Addie Vitteman, and added to their list the following names: Misses M. Shannon, Julia Lynch, Clara O'Brien, Fannie Shannon, Ella McClellan, Harriet Shinn, Mamie McGinnis, Clara Picou, Emma Dantin, Edna McHusban, Alzina Terreboune, Noelle Bourgeois, E. Picou, Julia Dalton, Marie Dalton, Maggie Hogan, Nan Hogan, Josephine Carpenter, Julia Masicot, Agnes Ditch, and Mesdames Stella Gouner, Cecile Lynch, and Jennie Dalton. This society faithfully continued in existence for ten long years during which time they paid for a \$300 Memorial Window, the sanctuary carpet and side aisle cocoa runners, besides contributing to the building fund and helping pay notes. All told they raised \$780.

Meanwhile cake walks and vitascope shows, were just the craze. Innumerable such minor entertainments mingled with base ball and euchre games, lawn parties, suppers and "What Nots", were given by the children for a couple of years, even to the soliciting from our good politicians at Democratic rallies: nothing that could catch a penny was left untried. This church was really built with penny parties, as the sequel of our narrative will prove.

It would not be amiss to remark that in those days, the town being small there was scarcely any drain on the public purse, hence everybody regardless of creed spent much more liberally than now at the Catholic fairs. It was not because money was more plentiful. Our Jewish merchants and non-Catholic of all denominations, vied with each other and with their Catholic friends, as to who would gather a bigger stag party to eat gumbo supper, or buy more raffle tickets for dolls and fancy work. This explains why such comparatively large sums were realized, after a few years of experience had taught the ladies how to organize and the public how to spend; where as now the money is not forthcoming, notwithstanding the town has more than doubled in size, and possesses luxuries undreamed of then.

The First Grand Fair given at Whitney Hall July 22 and 23, 1899 under the auspices of Mrs.

Clothilde Ditch helped by her sister Stella and Mme. Dr. Bourgeois and Lynch Sr., realized \$516. November 30, an amateur play "Among the Breakers" directed by the late talented Mrs. A. A. Ozenne and daughters netted \$112. A second fair at Whitney Hall in October of the following year, under Mrs. O. Ditch netted \$385.

In January 1900 a mass meeting of all the men of the town—all felt kindly to the church—was called at the Rectory to solicit voluntary subscriptions. A large number responded. Four pledged \$100 three \$50 of whom one was the late Theo Lehman. Mr. Edgar Bass and Westerling, pledged \$30. Fourteen other prominent gentlemen signed for \$25; five for \$20; twenty-four for \$10 each. And the balance for \$5 or smaller amounts, totaling \$1500 all of which was eventually collected.

Easter 1901 a sacred concert by Mrs. P. S. Winchester, Natili and other talented ladies, at Gray's Hall with the help of Mr. Gray and family netted \$85. In October a base ball game by the Juniors and a double header by the Fat and Lean men, realized \$76. A few weeks later, a third year fair in the Convent grounds directed by Mr. John Dalton Sr., brought \$800.

In 1902 the contributions pledged at the mass meeting were finally all paid in. On a certain day in September that year, some of our most sedate and dignified mothers did not hesitate to blacken their features and sit on the stage for a grand minstrel performance, which, repeated in Berwick, netted \$135. The following month a fourth grand fair, at the New Evangeline Theatre produced \$710.

All these items had by now reached the sum of \$5600. The time to break ground was ripe. The church was accordingly moved nearer the Railroad, the old house a little back to the east and the foundations were laid at a great saving of money, the bricks having been previously bought at a bargain, less than half their value, and transportation furnished by Mr. Chas. Fay of the S. P. at half rate. 'Twas then, that the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone, already mentioned took place.

In March 1905 there assembled the following gentlemen, to wit: Dan Lynch Sr., Adam A. Bourgeois, Lenis J. Guidry, Aug Soumellian, Numa L. Rogers, J. O'Neil Grevenberg, C. C. Duplantis, Ernest F. Boudreaux, (personally) and John F. Hebert, Theophile Senac, Wm. Serville, Thiophite Senac, Wm. Serville, Joseph M. Dyer, and John M. Ditch, (by proxy) to devise ways and means for the continuation of the construction of the church who severally agreed to form a committee of monthly collectors—one dollar being the minimum payable—and returns to be made to Rev. A. Souby. This plan was successfully carried out, and with the addition of a boat ride and a dinner at Grimeaux brick store (where now the P. O. is located) realized \$785.

A grand fair at Gray's Hall soon after reached the enormous sum of \$1010. In this fair beside the ladies of the Altar Society who always sacrificed themselves usual devoted ladies of the Altar Society who always sacrificed at the booths in all other fairs, the following young ladies worked hard; the Misses Noelle Bourgeois, Maud Walker, Julia Tel-

(Continued on page 3)

Another Big Feature Week At



Wednesday

Local Minstrel, benefit Catholic Church

Every Child Over 6 Years of Age Must Have a Ticket.
CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE WILL BE ADMITTED FREE OF CHARGE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY PARENTS.
THESE RULES GO INTO EFFECT AT THE EVANGELINE THURSDAY NIGHT. POSITIVELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

Thursday—RED FEATHER NIGHT

"The Way of the World", with Herbert Bosworth - Dorothy Davenport, and a notable cast. A Clyde Fitch Masterpiece

Friday—TRIANGLE NIGHT

Enough said, did you witness last weeks? If not see this one. Bessie Barriscale and Wm. Desmond "In Sorrows of Love". A Thos. Ince, production.

Saturday—UNIVERSAL

"Double Crossing the Bean"
"Rogue With a Heart"
"The River Goddess"

Sunday—MUTUAL & TRIANGLE

Sixth episode of "The Secret of the Submarine", and a big two-reel Triangle Comedy, "In a Movie Star"
Violet Mersereau and Wm. Garwood in a feature Imp photo-play, "His Picture"

COMING, the Greatest Photo-Play Ever, Monday, Aug. 28th, Annette Keller in "NEPTUNES DAUGHTER". Watch for information on this wonderful photo-play.

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