

THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Diocese of Amarillo

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Museum Friday Morning 806-381-9866

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VOLUME FOUR

WINTER

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prograM: meet the saints



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by appointment for any school or
church group**

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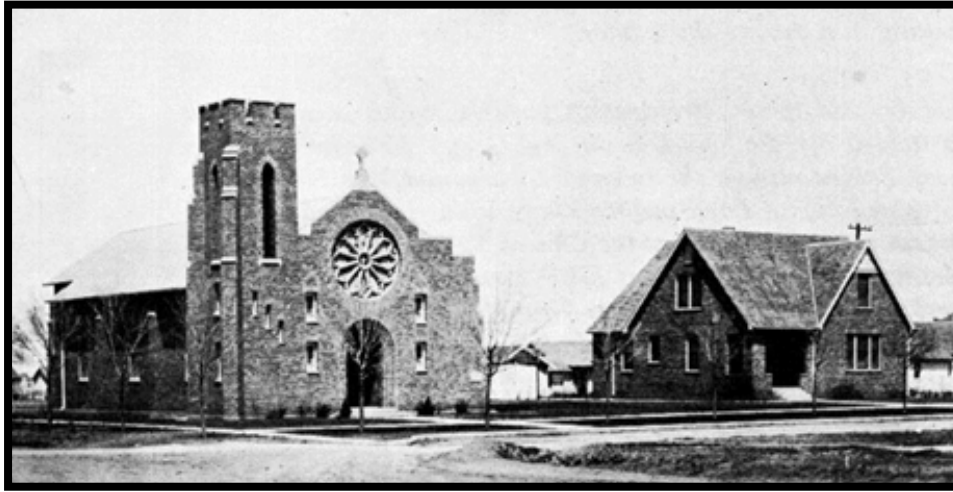
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The Beginning of Holy Souls Catholic Church, Pampa

When oil was discovered south of Pampa in 1926, people from various sections of the country flocked into the little town by the hundreds. Prior to that time the population of the town was 926 and within a few months the reported figure was 5000.

As would be expected some of those attracted by the "black gold" were Catholics. They were not long in learning that the nearest Catholic Church was in White Deer, where Mass was offered once a month.

The late Father J. H. Krukkert, stationed at St. Francis cared for the missions of White Deer and Borger and in September 1926, out of the generosity of his heart, added Pampa to his large territory. Father Krukkert offered Mass in the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Sawyer. There were three Catholic women and their families living in Pampa at the time of the discovery of oil. They were Mrs. Ray Lane who was, according to old timers, the first Catholic resident of the town; Mrs. Sullins, who located in Pampa in 1916, and Mrs. A. R. Sawyer. Living near Pampa was a Catholic widower, Mr. Pat Flaherty, whose wife had died the year before, leaving a large family of young children.

In October, Mass was again offered in the Sawyer residence. The congregation had grown a little and present in addition to those of the month previous were Mrs. Lyn Boyd, Mrs. Howard Myers and two children, Mrs. Malia Walker and Mrs. R. J. Kiser. The joy and gratitude expressed time and again by Mrs. Sullins and Mrs. Sawyer for having the privilege of attending Mass in their own city and for the fact that there were other Catholics living in the community, stand out in my memory as a source of edification.

Aside from the bond of religion, the "first Catholics" had other things in common. Most of them had come to Pampa in search of greener fields, and the majority were from Oklahoma and engaged in some branch of the oil industry.



By the first of the year of 1927, the Catholic population could no longer be accommodated in the Sawyer house for Mass as the number had grown to such an extent that a larger place for services was necessary. However, the year did not end without the congregation and many others attending Mass again in the Sawyer house, the occasion being the funeral Mass for Patricia, the three year old daughter of the Sawyer's. Many non-Catholic neighbors and friends of Dr. and Mrs. Sawyer were present for the funeral that December day and it was the first time some of them had ever seen a priest or attended any Catholic service.

In February, 1927, permission was obtained to have the monthly Mass in the American Legion Hall, which at that time was located on the western half of the block where the City Fire Department building now stands.

Dances were held in the Legion Hall on Saturday nights, so it was necessary for several Catholics to be on hand early on the Sunday morning when Mass would be said, to sweep and clean the place. The floor was covered with dark oil, making it necessary to spread newspapers in front of each chair to protect the clothing of the people kneeling.

A long table in the hall was used for an Altar. Mrs. Boyd obtained a set of vestments from a priest friend in Oklahoma. An ostensorium was also donated by the Sisters of Mercy of Ardmore, Okla. and until recently, was in use at Holy Souls' Church. There was no benediction, however, for want of a choir. A nun, the sister of Martin McGarrity, sent candlesticks from Charity Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and they are still being used in Holy Souls' Church.

In addition to the persons previously mentioned, the congregation included Jack Dolan, I. J. Huval, H. W. Waddell, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hollenbeck, and Mrs. A. B. Zahn, all of whom still reside in Pampa. Others who had moved to Pampa early in 1927 were Martin Muench, Mr. Mooney, Mr. and Mrs. Pat McNamara, Mrs. Mary Ikard and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Odell.



While the congregation waited, as it sometimes had to, for Father Krukkert to arrive, time was usually spent in discussing ways and means of getting a church built. Opinions were many and varied as to the best probable locations for a church. At that stage of growth in Pampa, no one could say with any degree of certainty where the better residences would be located as up to that time most of the residential building that had been done to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding population was of the typical boom-town shack variety. There was one group advocated the belief that both Pampa and Borger would grow so rapidly as to become one continuous city, therefore, according to them, the Church should be built in the Talley addition in the western edge of Pampa. Several members of the congregation bought lots in the Talley addition, hoping that their property would be near the longed for Church. When building got under way in the Talley addition, it developed that there were no restrictions, and it became the site of many "shacks" so that ruled out the possibility of the future Church being located in that part of the town.

Early in 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Boyd invited a group of men and women to an evening meeting in the office of Boyd Lumber Company. Present were I. H. Huval, Jack Dolan, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pohl, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Muench and Mrs. R.J. Kiser. Mrs. Boyd was appointed to serve as a secretary and to solicit funds for the building of the Church.

In February Mrs. Boyd invited ladies to her recently completed apartment where an organization was formed for the purpose of raising funds with which to furnish the altar and sanctuary in the hoped for church. The group was called an "Altar Society" and they elected officers: president Mrs. Pohl, vice-president, and Mrs. Sawyer, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Kiser were appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the new organization.

On St. Patrick's Day, the first fund raising project to benefit the new Altar Society was undertaken, when Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Odell, and Mrs. Kiser gave a bridge party in the home of Mrs. Sawyer. Ten or twelve ladies attended the affair and the proceeds totaled about fifteen dollars.

The group then decided to extend their efforts to raise money. It was finally decided that more non-Catholics could be reached if they had a raffle of some sort and plans were rapidly made to "give away" a cedar chest filled with household linens. The ladies worked all spring and summer of 1927 making articles for the chest. Late in the Fall, at the theatre, the drawing was held, and, incidentally the winner happened to be a Catholic man who had come to Pampa from California in search of a location. He was Mr. H.F. Martin, now deceased. Mrs. Martin and their five children settled in Pampa, and Mrs. Martin still resides in the city. The hope chest netted around three hundred and fifty dollars.

The Legion Hall was available for Mass for only two or three times, until some of the Legionaries decided it should not be used by the Catholics for church services. The Congregation then went to the Grand Theatre for Mass, which was located at the end of the 500 block on South Cuyler Street.

The theatre served nicely as a Church and was an improvement over the Legion Hall. The elevated stage was suitable for the Altar, one of the dressing rooms served as a confessional, and the other for a place for Father to vest. The seats were stationary, doing away with the necessity of setting up chairs before Mass. However, Mass was offered in the theatre only a few times. about the third Sunday morning as members approached the "church", they were dismayed to see the charred ruins of the theatre which had burned in the night. As the group waited, wondering what we could do next, Father Krukkert arrived, but there was no Mass that Sunday.



Dedication November 29, 1928
Thanksgiving Day

The Catholic group next obtained permission from the Chamber of Commerce to use the large ground floor room they occupied which was located in the White Deer Land Building in the downtown area of the town. The premises were sufficiently large to accommodate the congregation. The floor was like that in the Legion Hall, covered with black oil, and it was a common sight to see several arrive for Mass carrying bundles of newspapers. Care was taken to place the papers upside down on the floor in front of the chairs, lest wandering eyes stray from prayer books to sensational headlines or funny papers. The congregation bought a \$100 membership/subscription in the Chamber of Commerce. The building was available for Mass for the next year, or until the present Church was built.



When the Diocese of Amarillo was established, Pampa became a mission of White Deer, and Father French became pastor. While Father Krukkert was caring for Pampa, two lots were purchased, Father Krukkert having personally loaned the money with which to purchase them from the White Deer land Company. Construction on the Church began early in 1928, and by late spring Mass was said in the Church for the first time. The Extension Society donated \$5,000 toward building the Church, and named it "Holy Souls." the church was dedicated by the Most Rev. Rudolph Gerken, Bishop of Amarillo on Thanksgiving Day, 1928. Mrs. R. J. Kiser

The History of A Catholic Parish on the High Plains

In rapid succession, three events or conditions were to take place which would forever alter the destiny of the Panhandle area, either for good or for ill. The first of these was the flood of refugees from Mexico who entered the United States as a result of an extended period of revolution in their own country. From 1910 until 1927 conditions were so unsettled in that country that no stable government could be formed. This period ended tragically by pitting one faction of the government against the Church. As a result of this, thousands of Mexican Catholics were forced to flee to the United States. This large group of Catholics simply added to the number of people who must be ministered to by the already beleaguered and over-burdened clergy of the Diocese of Dallas and San Antonio. It was at once evident that no amount of effort on their part could even begin to cope with this new El Paso was erected, thus relieving the pressure for a time. But the influx continued unabated, with many of the Mexicans settling in the Panhandle area outside the new Diocese of El Paso.

The second event, World War I and its unfortunate aftermath of disruption of all ordinary life merely caused a short period of diversion of the efforts of the citizens of the Panhandle to build their economy and social institutions, and none at all in the incoming flow of refugees.

The third was the discovery of oil and natural gas in the Panhandle and the resulting boom. Natural gas was discovered in 1917, and oil in 1921. Incidentally, irrigated farming had begun around Hereford in 1911. Helium was discov



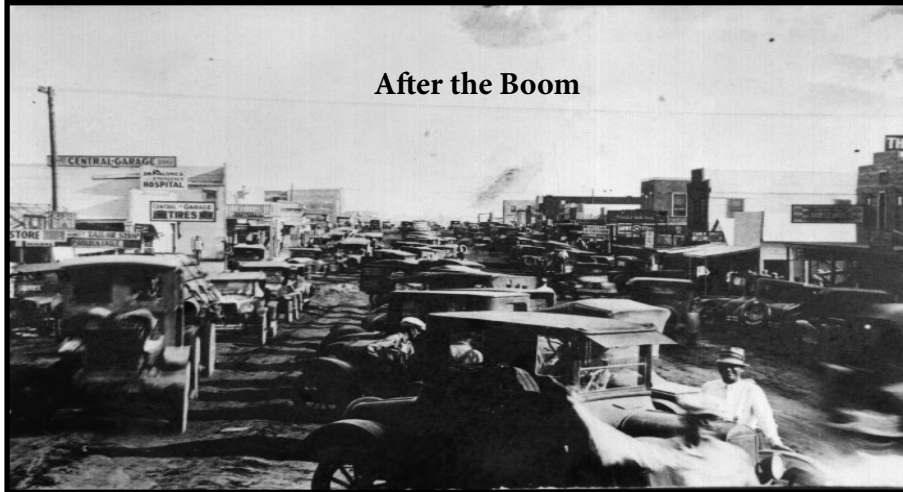
ered in 1920, and the production of oil began the following year. Population growth in the 70 counties which now comprise the Diocese of Amarillo doubled during the decade of the nineteen twenties. Towns doubled and tripled in size and new ones sprang up overnight. Money draws people and business wherever it is to be found. The oil boom and the resulting growth of population brought

Before the Boom



Street Scene Pampa Tex.

After the Boom



about the final step in changing the lonely, isolated, thinly settled Panhandle from a mission area with a few hard-pressed priests desperately struggling to cover its great distances to a flourishing region with many persons of the Catholic Faith. The frantic growth of population forced the Bishop of Dallas to redouble his already zealous efforts to send priests and religious to the workers and merchants swarming into the boom towns and oil camps. Of all the dedicated servants of God who came to this new field to labor here, none was to have a greater effect than the of the Rev. John H. Krukkert, the "Priest-Builder" of what was shortly to become the Diocese of Amarillo.

Father Krukkert was born in Enschede, Holland, in 1890. He was educated for the priesthood in Switzerland and was ordained there in 1920 for the Diocese of Dallas in the United States. In the next year he arrived in Dallas and was assigned as an assistant in a parish there. When he arrived he had no knowledge of the English language, although he was fluent in many others. He immediately set to work to learn this new language, and rapidly acquired a speaking knowledge of it. But even his most admiring and devoted follower will freely admit that he never mastered it, but that he picked up American slang expressions instead of formal speech. This was to remain with him throughout his life of service. In 1923 Father Krukkert was sent as Pastor to the parish of St. Francis in Panhandle, and here he found his life work.

He saw here a mission field of great promise and he devoted all his life to its development. He began his work by bringing his ministry to the community of panhandle, which had no church, to White Deer, where there was an established parish but no priest, and to Pampa where efforts were just beginning to organize a parish. With his parish of St. Francis, this gave him five communities to serve. In spite of distances involved, he managed to offer Mass once or twice a month in the four missions. As Father made these trips he was busy every minute baptizing, validating civil marriages, giving instructions, hearing confessions. The personal friends of this dedicated man often wondered how he accepted the contrast between the established Church of his native Holland and the conditions in the oil boom towns of West Texas. During the later part of his service in the local area, Sacred Heart Parish

of White Deer was given a resident pastor and Holy Souls of Pampa became its mission. Father Krukkert continued to serve Panhandle and Borger as missions until the fall of 1927.

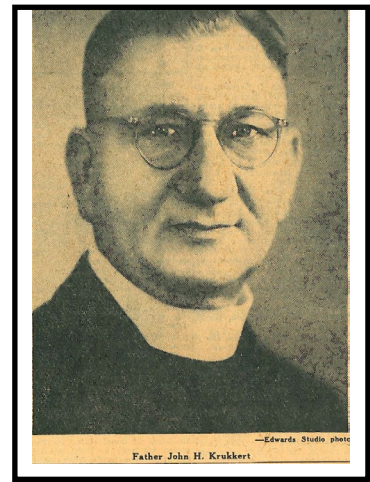
In 1927 Father was transferred to Plainview, and for the remainder of his amazing career as a builder of Churches, rectories, and parishes he served in the southern part of the Diocese of Amarillo. Before leaving this immediate area, he built a new Church at St. Francis, built St. Teresa's Panhandle, the famous "tar paper Church" in Borger, had plans underway to build St. John's there and most importantly of all for the purposes of this account, had purchased two lots in Pampa at the corner of Browning and Ward Streets, with an option to purchase four more. On this property the first Church in Pampa, named Holy Souls, with its rectory, school and parish hall were to be built.

The almost incredible career of service achieved by Father Krukkert was certainly greatly helped by the fortunate coincidence of

and the consecration and installation of such a dynamic and effective Bishop as the Rev. Rudolph A. Gerken. The young priest was sent to the oil boom town of Ranger, Texas, to establish a church. He succeeded so well that when the Holy Father and the Bishops of Dallas, El Paso and San Antonio decided to erect the new Diocese of Amarillo, Father was their choice for its first Bishop. Bishop Gerken began his efforts to build the new Diocese at once, recruiting priests, missionaries and the religious, and continually promoting the building of new missions, churches, schools and hospitals. This vigorous support greatly enhanced the growth of the new diocese.

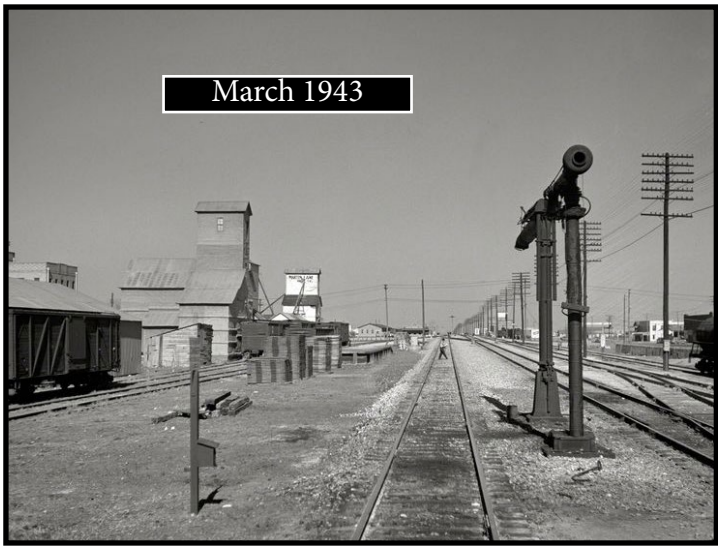
From this point the steady march of events toward the growth of the parish at Pampa moved forward without interruption and with few delays. The numbers of Catholic people among the new residents associated with the oilfields made the formation of a parish a necessity clearly recognized by all the community. The vigorous work done by Father Krukkert was continued by the faithful in Pampa, and by his successors among the Clergy

The Catholic people soon reached sufficient numbers to make saying Mass in private homes inconvenient. Arrangements were then made to use the American Legion Hall. When this was no longer available, Masses were said in the Grand Theater. When the theater burned down a short while later, permission was obtained to use the Chamber of Commerce rooms in the White Deer Land Company building. In 1926 Father Krukkert finished building the rectory at White Deer, and Pampa was made a mission of that Church. When Father was transferred to Plainview in the spring of 1927, the Rev. M. G. French took up residence at White Deer and the service of Pampa. Father French continued the drive for funds to build a church here, with the zealous and dedicated help of the Catholics of Pampa. One of the earliest meetings to discuss plans for this drive was called by Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Boyd, and was held in the office of the Sykes, Rast and Boyd Lumber Company. With the funds raised locally and with a donation of \$5,000 from the Extension Society, plans were drawn and construction begun on the lots obtained by Father Krukkert.



The cornerstone for the building was laid by Bishop Gerken in April, 1928. The name "Holy Souls" was chosen for the Parish in honor both of the souls in Purgatory and of the Departed in whose memory funds had been donated to the building of the Church. A small metal box with a number of commemorative items was placed in the cornerstone and this box was later transferred to the same position in the new St. Vincent de Paul Church. In July of 1928 Rev. Joseph Wonderly succeeded Father French as Pastor at White Deer. Holy Souls Church was completed in the same year, and the building was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1928, by Bishop Gerken. Father Wonderly began a drive for funds to build a rectory here. The drive was successful, and the rectory was constructed in the late summer and fall of 1930. In October of 1930 Father Wonderly was transferred to Pampa as first resident Pastor of Holy Souls Church.

Events were not only moving at a steady pace toward the establishment of permanent Church installations on the High Plains, but were doing so at a great rate of speed. In the thirty years from 1870 to 1900 the Plains were changed from a desolate region inhabited by a few soldiers, buffalo hunters and ranchers and visited by an occasional missionary Priest to a land with ready transportation in the form of railroads and in which towns and settlements were growing rapidly. In two short decades from 1900 to 1920 the area enjoyed a great expansion of farms and trading centers due to intensive land development promotions. However, all this growth was to be surpassed within ten short years from 1920 to 1930, due to the oil boom. In this decade the Diocese of Amarillo was established in what had been a mission territory, and Pampa as well as a number of other communities became a parish complete with church, rectory and resident Pastor. In the



next decade there occurred a set of events and conditions that might have wiped out all this progress except for the Providence of God and the dedication of the lay people of this community.

The conditions referred to were the worst depression of modern time~ and the most severe drought in the history of the United States. Those were years of terrible suffering in the regions of the Panhandle in which farming was the only source of income, and of greatly reduced trade and business throughout the country. Conditions in the Amarillo Diocese were desperate. The economic crash and Dust Bowl struck just as the new Diocese was



I nvolved in a program of extensive building and expansion, and debts had been contracted with the expectation that prosperity would continue. The records of Bishops Gerken and Lucey are filled with heart-rending accounts of the plight of the people of the Diocese and of the difficulties of Church administration and financing. During this period support for priests declined, three churches in the Diocese burned, and funds from the Extension Society dwindled. Bishop Gerken organized the Catholic Charities of Amarillo in 1932, made appeals throughout the Diocese for donations, opened a clinic for Mexican Americans in Amarillo, and had free meals, dispensed from St. Anthony's Hospital. The only bright spot in the Diocese was the support and development of Price College in Amarillo. But as noted, a kind providence and zeal of the parishioners in the towns of Pampa and Borger made it possible for them to continue the reduction of the parish debts, and in Pampa to add a parochial school to the installations here. In 1937 Holy Souls Parish opened a school



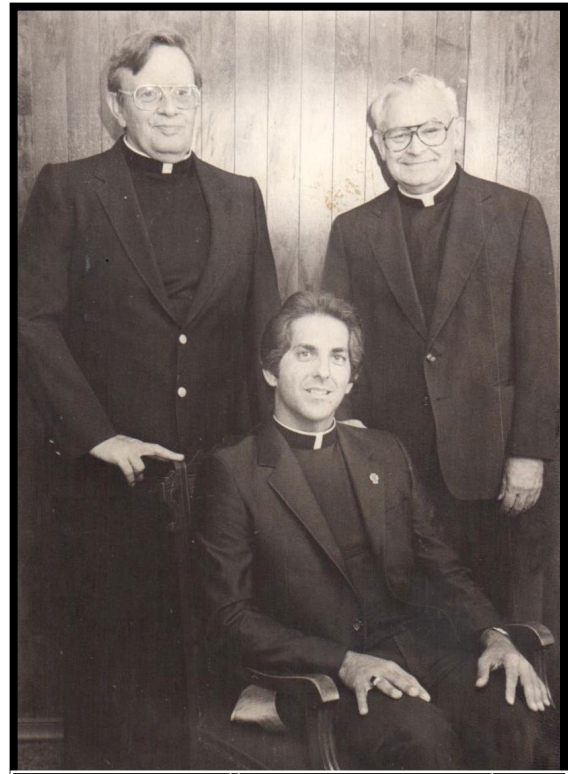


staffed by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. The building of the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes on the grounds on May 20, 1946, and the purchase of a building from the former Pampa Air Force Base in 1949 completed the physical plant of Holy Souls Church in its original location at Ward and Browning.

This period of tribulation and difficulties ended in 1940 with improved rainfall and increased business resulting from the demands of nations arming for World War II. In that year another important event occurred in the history of the Holy Souls Parish at Pampa. Father Wonderly was transferred, and the Vincentian Fathers took over the care of the Parish. Since that time this Order has supplied all Priests serving the Parish, the first Vincentian pastor being Father William Stack, C.M. The members of the Parish are deeply grateful for the faithful and dedicated work done by the Priests of this Order in their service to this community.

From the beginning of the decade of the forties until the present time events have resulted in the establishment of stable industrial and commercial enterprises on the High Plains which have replaced the oil boom with prosperous economic development. Many areas in the United States have experienced booms - mining, timber, shipping, military and defense installations - but few of them have survived the ending of their particular bonanza to become areas of flourishing economic growth. It is remarkable that this has happened in the Panhandle and the Plains.

During the years of World War II the industries and installations of the Plains worked around the clock at a frantic pace to supply first our Allies and then our own military forces with the strategic materials needed for our eventual victory. Every drop of petroleum products, every pound of carbon black, every gun barrel, every pound of beef and every bushel of wheat was desperately needed. The Cabot Companies expanded their facilities and enlarged their operations. Phillips Petroleum Company in Borger went into production with synthetic rubber, in addition to their other products. When the war ended, the tremendous demand for housing, automobiles, furniture, appliances and services of all kinds generated by the establishment of new households by returning servicemen carried on the increase in trade. This was followed by continued



Rev. Oscar J. Miller C.M., Rev Joseph Stabile C.M. (pastor), Rev. Richard McCarthy

expansion in the commercial development of the natural resources of this region and of the industrial processes related to these materials. The Celanese Corporation located a synthetic fiber raw materials plant here and Pantex in Amarillo continued in operation. Irrigated farming was mechanized and developed into a tremendous enterprise. New natural gas fields were discovered in the eastern Panhandle. Meat packing plants, feedlots, and other plants connected with agribusiness sprang up over the Plains. With this commercial growth permanent residents of the Catholic faith settled here to establish their homes and careers, with the resulting expansion of demands for larger church facilities, schools, and other services.

It was soon realized that the Holy Souls Church building was unsound and far too small, and that the School was inadequate for the growing number of Catholics here. Early in the decade of the fifties a project was started to build a school, convent and rectory, and eventually a Church at a new site. A tract of land, 16 acres in all, was purchased on the northern boundary of the City of Pampa lying north of 23rd Street and west of the Perryton highway. This is the present site of the fine physical plant of St. Vincent de Paul Church, and its facilities. As is always the case, the first need was for fund raising. Several drives were held, with donations and pledges being secured



The original finance and building committee was composed of Fred J. Neslage, Chairman; E. J. Dunigan, Jr., Vice-Chairman; James B. Massa, and the late Roy E. McKernan, who together with his wife Julia were very generous benefactors to the Parish. The first phase of the building program included the school - gymnasium, cafeteria, building, the rectory and the convent. The school complex building contains a ten-classroom school with library, cafeteria, kitchen and other facilities, and a gymnasium large enough to hold a full size basketball court, with room for bleachers and a stage. The first phase also included an eleven room convent and an eight room two-story rectory for the Vincentian Fathers. The gymnasium was used for Church services for some nine years before the Church was constructed.

The first phase was completed in 1959, and blessed and dedicated on September 27 of that year by Most Reverend John L. Morkovsky, Bishop of Amarillo. It was dedicated under the name of St. Vincent de Paul although the Parish had been known as Holy Souls since its inception. The school was under the direction of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who also staff St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo, as well as St. Mary's Academy there.

In 1967 the final phase of the million-dollar building program lasting for 15 years was completed with the new Church. The church was built of the same white brick-steel framework construction and in the same architectural style as the earlier buildings. The building and finance committee for this work consisted of Fred J. Neslage, Chairman; E. J. Dunigan, Jr., Vice Chairman, James Massa, J.J. O'Connor and John Sweeney. Many other committees were formed for special tasks and performed splendid, dedicated work. The general contractor of the building project was Allen Ritter Construction company, and the architect was Charles L. Monnet, Jr. of Oklahoma City

The building seats approximately 600 persons, and has off-street parking for 250 cars. It contains a 75' bell tower at the northeast corner of the Church, with the baptistery on the ground floor of the tower. Also included are a sound-proof, glass enclosed "cry" room, a bride's room, and a spacious organ loft, with a number of beautiful stained glass windows in the structure. It contains year-around air conditioning and a completely carpeted interior. It was completed under the tenure of Vincentian Pastor Rev. William Brennan, and was dedicated by Bishop Lawrence DeFalco of Amarillo on October 27, 1968.

The Vincentian Pastors who have served the Parish following Father William Tack, C.M. are: Fathers Otto Meyer, C.M., Myle Moynihan, C.M., Otto Meyer, C.M. for a second term, Edward Cashman, C.M., William Brennan, C.M., Francis Hynes, C.M., Wendelin Dunker, C.M., Frederick Marsch, C.M., and Francis Hynes, C.M. also for a second term.

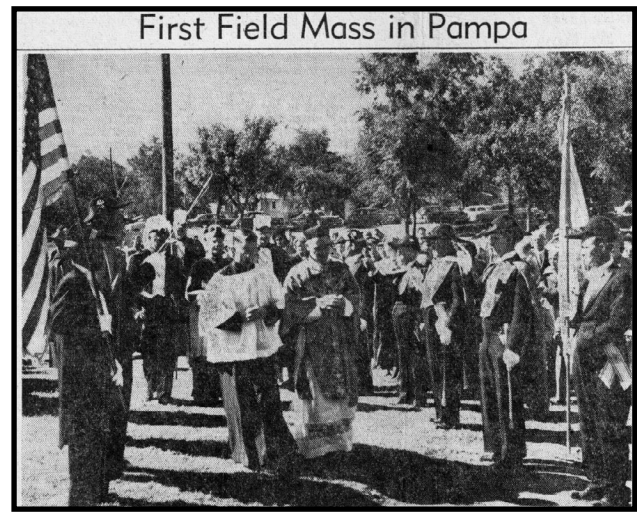
The following Vincentian Fathers also have served as assistants to the Parish, with some of them probably serving as temporary Pastors: Vincent Winn (D), John Casey, Francis Lynn, Robert McWilliams (D), Harold Guyott (D), Leo Moore, Allen DeWitt, Robert Brennan (D), Frank Kunz, William Stein, James McDonald, Anthony Soklich, Ignatius Weiczarek, Richard Lang (D), Vincent Walsh (D), John Clark, Phillip LeFevre, Jan Jankowski, William Horan, Robert Corcoran (D), Edward Whooley, John Roche, Ronald Ransom, Jerome Calcagno, Charles Welter, Francis Hynes, Wendelin Dunker, Martin Culligan and Joseph Gregor.



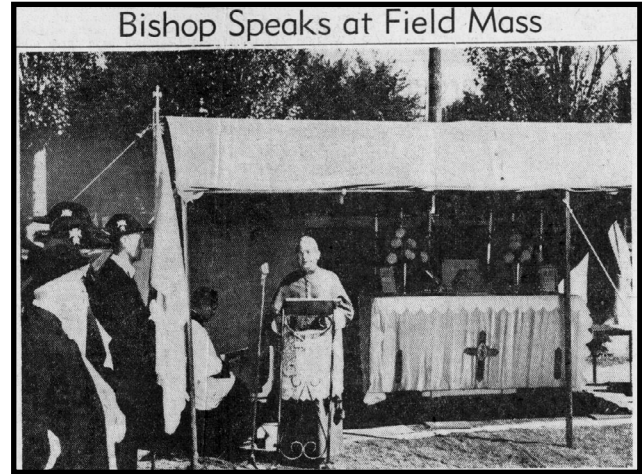
First resident pastor of Holy Souls

The original facilities at the Holy Souls location have been disposed of in the following manner: the Church structure was demolished, the rectory later deeded to the Genesis House for Boys, the parish hall purchased and used by Frank Keim Council No. 2767 of the Knights of Columbus, and the school building is used as a Community Day Care Center. Having served their purposes for the Church, these buildings continue to be of use to other organizations. Meanwhile all the activities of the Parish are concentrated in the beautiful new plant of St. Vincent de Paul, which is a joy to the Faithful of Pampa and a source of much worthwhile service to the entire community.

The present Parish of St. Vincent de Paul in Pampa, with all its fine facilities, represents the culmination of a long and interesting period of history, and of the Blessings of Almighty God and the dedication of many people. Our Lord has been indeed Kind and Merciful in His Loving Care for those who yearned for the Blessings of our Holy Faith to be made available to them as they carved out homes and communities in this land. Our Lord has preserved the people here through many hardships and trials, and has sent His faithful Servants with their visions of growth and development to be made by the Holy Mother Church in this once lonely and desolate area. He has also sent many dedicated and zealous parishioners to work for the Church throughout the entire Panhandle, and through their generosity and effective service has made possible the accomplishments which are evident today. The Clergy and parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Parish, give thanks to God for His Mercies, our deepest gratitude to all those whose unselfish dedication has built this Church and its facilities, and look forward with abiding Faith and perfect Confidence to the future under the Divine Love and Protection of a Just and Merciful God.
Sr. Nellie Roonie



First Field Mass in Pampa



Bishop Speaks at Field Mass



Mrs. Couley's Party



Katina Thomas, left, a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Church Pampa, was crowned Miss Amarillo Area 1997 by her predecessor Darcy Rushing Nov. 9 at the Amarillo Civic Center. Thomas, a sophomore at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, is the daughter of Steve and Bobby Thomas of Pampa and the sister of Miami Dolphin linebacker Zach Thomas. (WTC Photo courtesy of Henry Bargas, Amarillo Globe-News)



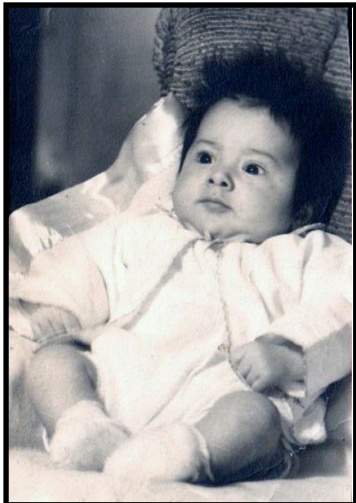
Postcard Picture



Holy Souls 50th Anniversary



1950 Graduation



Do you recognize this baby?
Answer on last page.



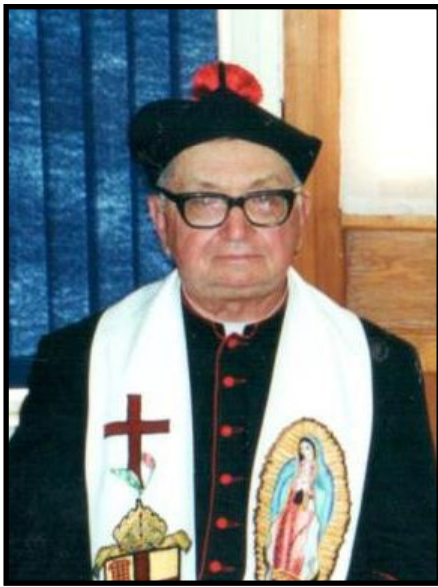
1953 Choir Members



1933



Mrs. Mae Pillinon,
Rectory housekeeper



HAPPY FARMER AND PRIEST LOVED HIS WORK

Mario Stortz was born Jan. 25, 1923, in Issime, Aosta, Italy, the last of seven children born to Giuseppe and Goyet Maria Stortz. He emigrated to the United States in 1938, where he attended college in Newton, N.J., until 1942 and studied at seminaries in Newton from 1945 to 1948.

Monsignor Stortz was ordained to the priesthood on July 3, 1949, in Turin, Italy, for the Salesians of St. John Bosco. After his ordination, he taught boys farming in Italy until the Order discontinued this work. Monsignor Stortz came to the United States under the sponsorship of then-Bishop Lawrence M. DeFalco in 1965, with the intention of finding a place where he could combine his priestly ministry with farming. He entered the Diocese of Amarillo on Sept. 10, 1965, and was incardinated into the diocese on Feb. 10, 1972. Monsignor Stortz served as pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church in Happy from Sept. 13, 1965 to Jan. 5, 1984.

Monsignor Mario Stortz, 91, died Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2014 and funeral Mass was in his own parish church of the Holy Name of Jesus in Happy with Bishop Patrick Zurek and the priests of the Diocese officiating. Burial was in Happy Cemetery.

Among the numerous items the Museum received from his estate were his chalice & paten, a large crucifix, his Bishop Gerken Award Plaque and medal, books (religious and other), a prier-dieu, brass candle holders, many beautiful vestments, and his small home altar which was the original altar for Holy Name Church of Jesus, Happy. Our thanks to Tom Wilhelm and Helen Ruffini for delivering these articles to our collection.

Sorry about the label mishap last newsletter. We didn't notice the honorifics error until the labels were affixed to the letters. We decided not to waste the money and time involved to replace 800 of them.

OUR THANKS TO ----

Catherine & Philip Wedding for a copy of the 40th Reunion Booklet of the Price College Class of 1960.

Msgr. Norbert Kuehler for the donation of a Virgin of Guadalupe tapestry and a hand-made quilt.

Minni Salinas for a copy of the 1976 "Catholic Register".

Jerry Gerber Family, Umbarger for a copy of "Iefende von den lieben Heiligen Gottes vonGeorg-off".

Msgr. Calvin Stalter for a brass censor.

St. Mary's Cathedral for Bishop FitzSimon's desk, chairs; Pope Pius XII memorial plate; Fr. Francis Smyer and Fr. Bill Brashears Price College & St. George Seminary memorabilia, vestments; and other miscellaneous paintings & pictures.



Merely Anecdotal

The character of the accomplishments of the Church in West Texas reflected the character and energy of its founding bishop. The founding of the Diocese of Amarillo was Gerken's accomplishment, and its history stands as a tribute to him. Bishop Gerken was our bishop until 1932 when he was elevated to become the Archbishop of Santa Fe. When Bishop Gerken first came to Amarillo he was excited about getting to teach Indians, not realizing that they had been moved to the reservations in Ok. When he was made archbishop in Santa Fe he finally got to be with Indians.

Bishop Gerken always tried to attend all their feasts. One time the priests and Archbishop Gerken went out to baptize and confirm the Indians. There was a little chapel out in the wilderness where bishop Gerken kept his vestments, and an Indian acted as sacistrin. Unknown to the archbishop, the Indian liked to dress up in the vestments and play Mass. On this particular occasion the bishop got dressed and went out into the hot afternoon sun where he spent many hours. When the occasion finally came to an end the archbishop was so glad to return to his home and a hot bath for you see, the vestments had been infested with fleas.



We Need Your Help

Is there anyone out there who has a background, in some capacity, of working in a Museum (cataloging, exhibits, sign making, interns, photography, art, etc.) who would like to **donate** their time to the new museum, happening in the near future, contact Susan Garner, Archivist, President of the Catholic Historical Society at 383-2243 ext 120



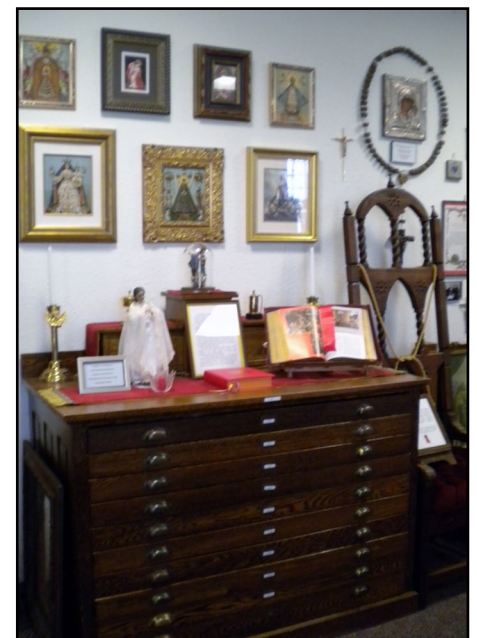
Great News for the Museum

We have recently commissioned Joshua Sorenson of *Joshua Sorenson Fine Art* to do a mural, at the entrance of the new museum, depicting Padre Juan Padilla in this area in 1541. We have also commissioned Josh to do a painting of St. Lucien's Chapel. There are very few pictures of the early St. Lucien's Chapel and we are very excited at the prospect of Joshua's work. We will be selling prints. The Chapel will be celebrating it's 75th anniversary in March of 2016.

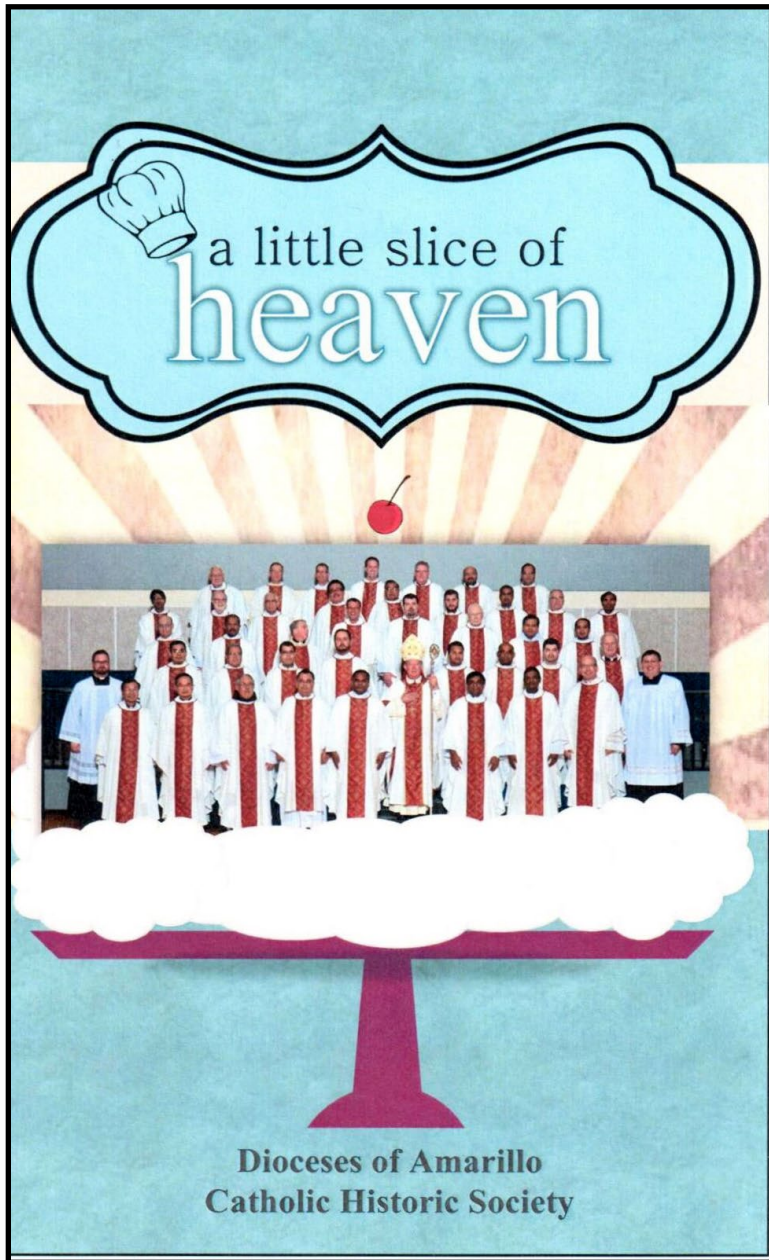
We can hardly begin to tell you how excited we are that Joshua has accepted our proposals.

It pains me to continually ask for donations however; The Catholic Historical Society and the Museum are completely run by your donations...so, I have no other avenue than to ask you to please give if you can.

Every \$5.00 helps.



“ A Little Slice of Heaven”



We proudly present the new Catholic Historical Society Cookbook.

A compilation of the recipes of Bishop Zurek and the Priests and Religious of the Diocese of Amarillo.

Over 125 recipes for only \$17.50.

A perfect Christmas gift!

Get your copy while they last.

All Proceeds to benefit the Museum.

Please Send me _____ Copies of the Cookbook. I am enclosing \$17.50 for each cookbook and \$3.00 shipping for one or \$5.00 shipping for 2 or more cookbooks. I am making my check payable to The Catholic Historical Society Cookbook Project or CHS Cookbook project. I am sending my check and this sheet in the enclosed envelope or in another envelope to The CHS Cookbook Project, P.O. Box 5644, Amarillo, Texas 79117-5644 (Projected delivery sometime in November)

OUR THANKS TO ----

FATHER JOHN DALTON for his outstanding program on "The Gospel of John" given to the Catholic Historical Society on Sunday, June 14th.

RICHARD & LILIAN FRIMEL of Umbarger for 3 patens, a bowl used by the Pope in San Antonio, 2 candle sticks, a scapular, and Christian Mother Medals

EDDIE & GWEN GABEL for recovering the kneelers in St. Lucien's Chapel -- great job!

DR. JOHN ALPAR for a brass sensor and bells from the original St. Mary's Church in Amarillo.

HELEN RUFFINI, TOM WILHELM of Canyon for altar vestments, a chalice, small altar & miscellaneous items from the estate of Rev. Msgr. Mario Stortz.

CAROLYN RAPSTINE & Sacred Heart Parish, White Deer, for a copy of their history "Roots of Faith -- 100th Anniversary".

St. Lucien Chapel Project

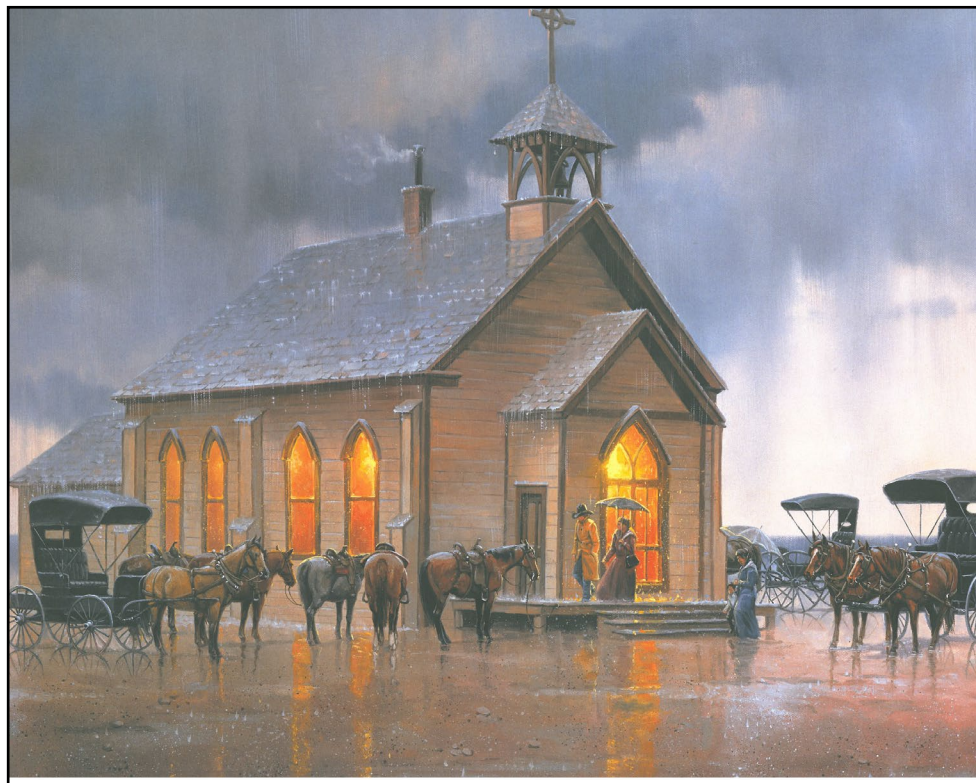
In Memory

Frances and Joe Lineman Sr.
by Joe and Gracie Lineman 1000

**Museum/Archives
Building Fund**

Mr. & Mrs. James P. Arend	100
Mrs. Loraine Beckman	50
Mary E. Blaylock	25
Mr. & Mrs. Don Glen	15
Mrs. Alice Kuehler	100
Msgr. Norbert Kuehler	100
Mr. & Mrs. Archie Looten	100
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Lineman	50
Sharon Moylan	20
Rev. Ed Sweeney	50
Tony and Barbara Kline	25
Bob and Mary Jane Sloan	25
Maida Villasenor	25
Total	685

Answered Prayer



"Answered Prayer" numbered prints from a painting donated by artist Jack Sorenson are \$75.00. The painting is of St. Mary's in Clarendon, the first church in the Diocese of Amarillo. These prints were originally sold to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Amarillo. There are only 40 of these prints available. Please make checks payable to: St. Lucien's Project and send to P. O. Box 5644, Amarillo, TX 79117-



This is a painting executed by Fr. Stanley Crocchiola. It was donated to the museum by Sr. Mary Michale Huseman. It hung above her couch when she was growing up and was given to her by her mother.



P.O. Box 5644
Amarillo, TX 79117-5644

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when moving
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SO WE MAY UPDATE
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AMARILLO, TX

Please Help Us Grow



Gates of the Sacred Heart Communion Rail and Bishop Fitzsimon's Coat of Arms which we will be able to exhibit in the new, larger museum..

The Museum is going from 1500 feet to 5000 feet!

We are in need of donations for display cases, shelving, mannequins, information cards and everything that goes into setting up a new or larger museum. If you are interested in purchasing a display case (\$2000) an engraved brass plate will be installed on it with your family name or in memory of. We can't do it without your continued generosity.