

A Look at Labor ACTU and Johnstown

By A. C. Tuohy

Is there one group of workers who have done more for the trade union movement than any other group? At this time of the year politicians, particularly, are stumping the country telling their constituents how much the country owes to them.

It is a city of some 90,000 people, the majority of whom are Catholic. The largest employer is the Bethlehem Steel Company. A majority of the 15,000 union members in this steel region are also Catholic.

Have some workers contributed more to trade unionism than others? This question is not an easy one to answer. The trade union movement is spread all over the United States. Its strength is confined to no particular region.

THE FIRST UNION, worthy of the name, was established in Pennsylvania (1792). The first strike was conducted by the shoemakers of Philadelphia in protest against their low wages and poor working conditions (1806).

In more recent days the three great American labor federations originated within the borders of Pennsylvania. The Knights of Labor grew out of a meeting of seven Philadelphia tailors (1869).

IT IS NOT SURPRISING that trade unionism should prosper in Pennsylvania. A great many of the coal mines and steel mills are located there.

WE SHALL NEVER influence trade unions or society merely by talking vague generalities. That is why the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists could contribute so much toward this end.

Johnstown, Pa. is a good point.

Chinese Artist Studied Life of Christ in Gospels And Painted His Way Into the Catholic Church

Washington — (NC) —

Sixteen paintings fresh from the brush of Luke Chen, foremost master of Chinese Christian art, will be exhibited at the Institute of Chinese Culture early in October.

The Institute already had one of Mr. Chen's favorite black-and-white treatments of the Adoration of the Magi and a few of his earlier compositions were brought to Washington shortly before World War II.

THE COLLECTION just received, however, reveals to greater extent both the genius of this artist and the unique interpretation given traditional Christian subjects under the influence of Oriental social as well as art traditions.

For example, the bride is conspicuous by her absence from the Marriage Feast at Cana, in keeping with Chinese custom; but the Blessed Virgin's presence is essential and therefore accepted, in keeping with Scripture.

Among the paintings included in the collection is an excellent example of Chen's classical "Madonna of the Double Halo," showing the Mother with her conventional aureole embraced by the larger and more luminous halo of her Divine Infant.

Two other Madonnas show a strong Occidental influence, but Christ Blessing Little Children is an enchanting Oriental scene in which each little poll, with or without pigtail, is so exquisitely portrayed, so soft, so round, as to seem to invite a pat of the Saviour's hand.

IN 1928 WHEN the Fu Jen, or Catholic University of Peking, was considering the establishment of an art department under the aegis of Archbishop Costantini, Apostolic Delegate to China, the Vatican diplomat asked, "And who is the foremost Christian artist in Peking?"

The prompt and seemingly final reply was, "Your Excellency, there is none."

Archbishop Costantini then asked a second question which was to have far reaching effects

Christian art subjects, Christ Blessing Little Children and the Marriage Feast at Cana, are treated in Oriental fashion by the noted Chinese artist, Luke Chen (inset). These paintings are part of a collection of sixteen recently received from Peiping and to be exhibited in October, at the Institute of Chinese Culture, Washington.



on the whole status of Christianity in China: "Then who is the foremost non-Christian artist?"

The answer was "Ch'en Hsu," for that was the name of the artist at the time he became head of the University's art department where students soon began to "spread the silk" for a variant development of the ancient art.

For three or four years their master conscientiously studied the Gospels and during that

period, while still a non-believer, produced some of his noblest representations of Christ, tenderest Madonnas, and most ethereal angels. Indeed, so persuasive was his brush that by 1932 he had painted himself into Christianity.

BAPTIZED by Archbishop Costantini in the chapel of the Apostolic Delegation at Peiping, the 30-year-old Ch'en Hsu took the name of the artist among the Apostles, Luke.

As head of the art department of the Catholic University, Luke Chen gathered about him a fervent and gifted group of disciples, including the precocious but hapless Hsu Chi-hua; the Buddhist master, Wang Su-ta, and Lu Hung-nien, famous for his personalizations of inanimate nature and his pious angels. Mr. Chen is also an instructor at the National Art College and at Hwa Pei College in Peiping.

Old Bible Scripts Unearthed In Cave

Jerusalem — (NC) — The story of an unusually important discovery made two years ago has just come to light here. It relates to the findings by Beduin tribesmen of ancient Biblical manuscripts in a cave northwest of the Dead Sea.

FROM THE writings of Josephus Flavius, the Romanized Jewish historian, one learns that this body of cursive Hebrew religious existed a century before his own time, about 100 B. C. The Essenes, who are not mentioned anywhere in the Bible, lived a very strict life in various parts of Palestine.

Their principal settlement apparently was in the area of Ein Gaddi on the shores of the Dead Sea, where between 4,000 and 5,000 Essenes dwelt, occupied in prayer, study, and labor — mostly agricultural.

It was in a cave in this vicinity that the ancient manuscripts were found, stored in earthen jars, carefully sealed with pitch, and thus preserved through 2,000 years.

FOLLOWING the finding of this precious store, the unlettered natives somehow realized the religious character of these sheets of sheep-skin filled with strange writing, and instead of using them for fuel or disposing of them to some antiquities dealer, they took them to the small Syrian Orthodox monastery in Jerusalem, where they were secretly treasured, until very recently an American archaeologist was permitted to see them and later to photograph them page by page.

A set of these photographs has been sent to a noted Palestine scholar in the U. S. for examination and editing, and the ancient originals themselves have been removed "to a safe place" somewhere outside troubled Palestine.

The manuscripts, which are written in the ancient Aramaic tongue on parchment, are still well preserved and legible. The collection consists of various books of the Old Testament, among them the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. This particular manuscript dates back, according to some scholars, to the second century B. C.

Lawmakers Drop Bingo Measure

Trenton, N.J. — (NC) — Proposals to legalize bingo playing in New Jersey to eliminate fear of raids and charges of gambling being preferred upon those in attendance at such games, have been abandoned by the New Jersey legislature.

Assemblyman Reuben H. Beatin of Paterson, announced he would not seek further action on his measure. The measure would have explicitly authorized such games to be held under the auspices of charitable, fraternal and religious organizations, provided a referendum vote of the people authorized such action.

At a Republican assembly caucus late today, Assemblyman Beatin failed to get much support for his bingo legislation after presenting a list of amendments which would require State Athletic Commissioner Abe J. Green of Paterson to approve all games held in the State, would prohibit anyone under 21 years of age from participating in the game of chance, and would impose a ten per cent tax.

Pilgrimage to Guadalupe

Guadalupe, Chihuahua, Mex. — (NC) — Nearly 300 pilgrims from Oklahoma and Texas are expected to travel to Mexico City in a special Santa Fe train leaving here October 4 to participate in the Mexican National Eucharistic Congress and visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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Rochester's Care For Civil War Wounded Recalled In 'Life Of Mother Hieronymo'

By MARY CAREY

The story of Mother Hieronymo, venerated founder of St. Mary's Hospital, which has been recently published in booklet form, recalls the stirring role of Rochester's first hospital amid Civil War disease and strife.

Compiled by Gerald Kelly, Nazareth College professor of history, the pamphlet has just been printed in Rochester by the Christopher Press.

Chronicled in the work are the forty years of Mother Hieronymo's selfless devotion to the poor and sick, the orphans and unfortunates of Rochester. Part of this lifetime of social service was given to wounded soldiers during the war between the states.

MORE THAN 3,000 fighting men were treated at St. Mary's Hospital with such results that out of 1,254 admitted in one year only thirteen died. Some of the most colorful stories connected with the life of Mother Hieronymo revolve about these feverishly active war years, when soldiers saluted their sister nurse with the same respect accorded a superior officer.

When at the height of this war time burden an epidemic of smallpox broke out in the hospital the nun fell on her knees praying, "St. Patrick, if you did for Ireland all they say you did, banish the smallpox from this institution."

Remonstrating with the permanent hospital, the first year Mother Hieronymo later, Bishop John Timon of Buffalo said "I wonder, that St. Patrick heard pallies on the floor in a rattle-fested building Principal item of



MOTHER HIERONYMO

word if to her. Born in Washington, D. C. April 13, 1819 sister M. Hieronymo Urbans' team to the title "Mother" was by virtue of her character and her work.

At the age of 22 she entered the community of the Sisters of Charity at Emmitsburg, Md. Before coming to Rochester to found St. Mary's Hospital, she was assigned in Pittsburgh, New York City, Norfolk, Va. and Buffalo.

SHE CAME to Rochester in 1857 and on September 8 of that year opened the city's first permanent hospital. The first year was one of severe hardship for the Sisters who slept on straw pallets on the floor in a rattle-fested building Principal item of

diet consisted of water thickened with flour.

Through war and hard times, Mother Hieronymo guided the affairs of St. Mary's until the hospital was well on the way to firm establishment. She went to New Orleans for a rest in 1870 and, returning to Rochester six months later, joined the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Assigned as supervisor of St. Patrick's Girl's Asylum, she established the House of Industry there in 1872. The institution, which later became known as the Home of Industry, provided for girls who were too old for the orphanage but too young to be put on their own. All kinds of home-making crafts were plied there, even the fine art of lace-making as taught by lace makers from Grammat, Belgium.

THE HOME WAS first located on Edinburg Street and later transferred to 136 South St. Paul St. This property was purchased by Bernard Klem, pioneer Rochester Catholic, who gave the Sisters their own time to pay for it by keeping up the interest on it. In 1888, Mother Hieronymo moved the Home of Industry to East Main Street, on the property adjacent to Corpus Christi Church where the present St. Agnes Institute now stands.

At Mother Hieronymo's golden jubilee as a nun, Bishop Bernard McQuaid paid tribute to her "life of quiet, unselfish faithfulness to duty, relieving the suffer-

India Catholics Protest School Laws

Madras, India — (NC) — Catholics throughout the province of Madras are alarmed at an increasing governmental offensive against private educational institutions. Madras province appears to be intent upon stamping out all denominational schools by demanding a \$50,000 bond from every private school manager before a high school can be opened, and a proposed law which would permit requisitioning of buildings, hostels, libraries and laboratories.

ing poor and sick." He continued: "It has been a blessing that God sent such a woman among us."

The same evening, at a meeting of citizens held to plan ways of raising funds to repair damage done to St. Mary's Hospital in a fire the previous night, the name of Mother Hieronymo was invoked by speakers to lend impetus to the rebuilding campaign.

The whole city mourned the loss of the great nurse and benefactor of the poor when on January 30, 1898, Mother Hieronymo finally relinquished the reins of her lifetime works. Soldiers' memories were stirred at her death, and the Committee of the E. G. Marshall Post, G. A. R. adopted resolutions commemorating "the career of the noble woman whose great heart impelled the building of St. Mary's Hospital. . . . A brave and noble woman, true to every duty, her name will be held in veneration by every comrade until the last man is mustered out."

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