

# St. Ann's Home Marks 50 Years

(Continued from Page 10)

his ideas about care for the aged as follows:

"My heart went out in long-ling desire to erect a home that would be noble and comfortable. Those whom we shall shelter are not paupers, they are not the refuse of the world; they are honorable men and women, who, being in need in their old age, have a right to support. Perhaps my own age had something to do with my desire to establish a home for the old who are without means of support."

Following the ceremony at the Fitzhugh Hall, the Bishop and the Mayor went across the town where they repeated their speeches and pushed the button opening Fair booths for parish- es on the east side of the river.

During the Fair both halls were open daily from 10 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Doors opened again at 7 o'clock in the evening and the booths continued their business each night until the crowds went home.

And there were crowds all week long at both halls. Protestants as well as Catholics turned out to enjoy the fun and to help raise funds for the new Home for the Aged.

One Catholic gentleman was impressed to find two of his Protestant friends enthusiastically selling chances at the Fair. They boasted how they had sold a complete book of chances in one half-hour.

Final night of the Fair found booths at both centers cleaned out of all prizes and stock. The big prize of the Fair was the "Horse and Buggy" which was won by Father Hickey, the vicar general and future Bishop of Rochester.

Special prizes were awarded to parish groups for their efforts, in the Fair. A set of furniture was awarded to the Young Men's Society of the Immaculate Conception Church. St. Monica's Church won a chance donated by Colonel James S. Graham and St. Patrick's Cathedral was awarded a library donated by Colonel N. P. Pond.

**EVERYBODY WAS EAGER** of course, to learn the results of the Fair. When Fair treasurer Peter A. Vay, president of Lincoln National Bank, tabulated the final figures Bishop McQuaid announced that the Fairs had netted a total of \$55,272 for the construction of the new Home for the Aged.

This announcement, which surpassed all expectations, was made in a circular letter from the Bishop and read in all Catholic pulpits of the city.

Hailing the "phenomenal success" of the Fairs, the Bishop paid tribute to the devoted role played by the Catholic clergy and faithful;

Neither was he unmindful of the "cheerful reception" which his fund raising appeal had received from non-Catholics and the city press. These kindnesses the Bishop acknowledged in the following words:

"It would be worse than ingratitude to forget the large numbers of non-Catholics who were most liberal and prompt with their contributions and expressions of good will.

"The remarkable success of the Fairs owes much to the press of the city, which without exception, lent the cause the powerful cooperation of their columns.

The Bishop also pledged that he would use the money raised for the Home's construction "to the best possible advantage,

and without any waste or extravagance."

**ABOUT THIS TIME** it was decided to call the new institution St. Ann's Home for the Aged. This was revealed when the old Home for Aged Women on East Main Street applied to the courts to have its name changed to St. Ann's Home for the Aged. This name, it was announced, also would be the name of the new Home soon to be built.

With the coming of good weather in the Spring (May) of 1904, Bishop McQuaid was ready to start construction on the new St. Ann's.

The site selected for the new building was a large tract fronting on what was then called "West Charlotte Boulevard" and today known as Lake Avenue. The tract was about two blocks south of St. Bernard's Seminary and on the opposite side of the road.

Explaining the choice of the site, Bishop McQuaid noted that it was on a splendid roadway leading past Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and to Lake Ontario. With frankness, the Bishop explained that "both the living and the dead—many of them—will go by the Home when it is built.

"I also wanted," he continued, "the living to have occasion to dwell upon the thought that there was a home for aged people and I wanted them to see the glory of its growth till it shall in time become one of the great institutions in Rochester." These words, we can now see, were prophetic of St. Ann's status in the community.

**BISHOP McQUAID** had architects preparing plans for St. Ann's Home long before the Easter Week Fairs. As finally decided upon, the plans called for the erection of a 3-story building, including basement, and a chapel.

In the wings of the building, which was to have 100 feet frontage and 45 feet depth and which is the central part of the present-day Home, there was to be provision for 100 women and 30 men.

Even though the Bishop was forced to modify his plans to meet his limited pocketbook, he was hopeful that the future would see the erection of a separate building for men and a house for aged married couples who wished to live together.

Once construction was underway, the venerable Bishop of Rochester, despite his 80-odd years, was all over the place



Someone is always in the Home's Chapel.

and watching every move. This amused the workmen who recalled their earlier experiences when the Bishop was building St. Bernard's Seminary. Then he was up and down the scaffolding daily giving orders which the workmen dared not disobey.

Today, when we read that the construction of St. Ann's Home (the main building and chapel), cost only \$10,000, less furnishings, we are tempted to be incredulous. This is true even though we allow for the difference in costs between today's wages and materials and those of 1904.

The apparently low cost of constructing St. Ann's is explained by Bishop McQuaid's own ingenuity in the undertaking. The stone, for example, he drew from his own quarry, which he had acquired when St. Bernard's Seminary was being erected. The sand needed for St. Ann's construction was supplied from a pit developed on the new Home's building site.

These measures together with the Bishop's personal supervision of the work explain the low cost of St. Ann's, even for 1904.

It was hoped that St. Ann's would be finished by Easter of 1905, a year after the Fair. However, holdups on delivery of materials and a severe winter, construction hazards then

as now, delayed completion until November when public inspection was held.

**FORMAL DEDICATION** of the new St. Ann's Home and Chapel was conducted on Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, January 6, 1906, with Bishop McQuaid officiating. Attending the dedicatory Mass in the Chapel were city pastors and lay persons who had played a leading role during the fund-raising Fairs. They heard Bishop McQuaid express his happiness with the new St. Ann's as follows:

"On this happy morning I may be permitted to express my thanks for and appreciation of, the generosity on the part of Catholics and non-Catholics of Rochester who have made possible this magnificent charity. You have shown a humane and kindly spirit to the old and helpless who need your assistance, and who are apt to be considered as useless and undeserving of consideration. But you have taught the public to consider that the old are those who reared the young of today, thoughtfully, tenderly and often at great cost.

"Reverence for the old," the Bishop continued, "is an essential element in true Christianity. Our hearts should go out to the old, not only for what they are, but for what they have been. God only knows the com-

plete life of man. You do not know what charities this old man or that old woman may have practiced in his or her youth or to what extent they were led to good deeds."

In the mind of the old Bishop the new St. Ann's Home was a civic and religious expression of Rochester's concern for the aged. "We are here today," he explained, "to rejoice at the spontaneous spirit of love for the old which was manifested when the home was proposed under the auspices of religion. It was a glorious outburst from the entire community. Our anticipations have been more than realized. Today we have a home for the aged for which we thank Almighty God."

Because of the presence of the Chapel in the Home and "the opportunity near at hand to practice religion," the Bishop also expressed the hope that "many old people will choose to spend their last days here rather than with friends and relatives."

With the completion of St. Ann's Bishop McQuaid transferred the aged residents of the Home for the Aged on East Main Street to the new institution on Lake Avenue or West Charlotte Boulevard as it was then called. This first year at St. Ann's saw the resident enrollment total almost 100 including the widow of a Methodist minister.

Sister Eusebius came from the old East Main Street Home to take over the post as first administrator of St. Ann's.

She found things still a bit unsettled in the new building. Lanterns were the only means of night time illumination and a barn door provided a makeshift protection while the building waited construction of its main door. For a time, even food and water were carried into St. Ann's from nearby St. Bernard's Seminary.

**FIVE YEARS AFTER** its opening St. Ann's Home faced the need of expansion in order to care for the long list of waiting applicants. To care for these deserving poor and aged, plans were prepared early in 1911 for the erection of the north wing or annex.

The problem of financing the cost of the addition was the concern of Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, who had succeeded Bishop McQuaid at the latter's death in 1909. Accordingly, he called together a meeting of parish lay leaders on Sunday, April 30, 1911 in St. Ann's Home. The Bishop appealed to the assembled lay group to join him in a special effort to raise funds for the much needed addition.

As a result of the Bishop's appeal, the men who were present formed an organization called "The St. Ann's Home Extension Society" with the following officers:

President, J. A. Kreag; first vice-president, W. C. Barry; 2nd vice-president, Philip E. Yawman; secretary, Michael Shea; treasurer, Peter A. Vay, and chairman of the executive committee, Joseph Quigley.

This group of men, all prominent laymen, decided to solicit funds from the business public. The ladies present at the Bishop's meeting planned a separate fund venture in behalf of the new annex for the Home. This was a supper in convention Hall for the entire city.

The twin efforts of the men and women were climaxed on St. Ann's Home annual "Donation Day" in June. Once again Rochesterians of all creeds responded generously to this 1911 appeal which raised more than \$18,000. During 1912, \$6,500 more was received in donations bringing the fund for the annex close to \$25,000.

Total cost of the addition was \$36,000. A loan, therefore,

(Continued on Page 12)



Craft classes keep minds, hands busy.