

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF MONROE COUNCIL # 1266  
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
 1907-----1957

This book, a history of the past fifty years activities of Monroe Council, is the result of many hours of examining all available records pertaining to the activities of the Council.

The committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the Monroe Evening News and to the personel of the Dorsch Memorial Library for their co-operation and assistance.

Our thanks too, to the living charter members, and others who helped make possible this history.

Joseph A. De Sloover, Historian  
 Edward C. Steiner  
 Arden T. Westover  
 Leo Boudinet

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR CHARTER MEMBERS OF MONROE COUNCIL

Rev. Fr. Michael J. Crowley

|                      |                     |                      |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Joseph M. Antieau    | Walter L. Hoffman   | J. Alex Navarre      |
| Walter P. Baier      | Nathan B. Hubble    | Frank P. Ready       |
| Frank E. Boudinet    | William J. Hubble   | J. Edward Ready      |
| Thomas H. Carroll    | Leo J. Humes        | Gustav Rupp          |
| James R. Carroll     | James J. Kelley Sr. | George Schrauder     |
| William C. Conlisk   | Charles Kern        | Edward M. Schrauder  |
| Benjamin Dansard     | John J. Kiley       | Frank S. Schrauder   |
| Louis J. Dubois      | George C. Kirschner | George J. Schrauder  |
| Anton H. Egle        | Joseph W. Kirschner | George A. Steiner    |
| Edward J. Egle       | Harry E. Lauer      | Harry Steiner        |
| Dr. Adelbert W Evans | Ulrich Leib         | Dr. Victor J. Sisung |
| Joseph R. Forner     | George M. Martin    | Frank S. Sturn       |
| Louis Geierman       | Jacob Martin        | Joseph A. Starn      |
| Ira J. Hackett       | Alfred C. Maurer    | William E. Sturn     |
| John H. Hackett      | Charles A. Maurer   | James A. Vizard      |
| Alfred P. Hickey     | Cormac J. McCormick | Harry A. Weier       |
| Henry D. Hoffman     | Fred C. Nadeau      | Edmund A. Yeager     |
| Joseph S. Hoffman    | Moses J. Nadeau     | Leo J. Navarre       |

The Knights of Columbus, a fraternal benefit society of Catholic men, was organized by Father Michael F. McGivney at New Haven, Conn. March 29, 1882. From this small beginning the order grew rapidly and Monroe Council is now one of over four thousand Councils, with a membership of over a million men, spread throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Phillipines.

MONROE COUNCIL IS BORN

Knowing the sterling qualities of the national organization of the Knights of Columbus, some of the present members of Monroe Council traveled to other cities to be initiated into the mystries of the

Order, and returned, enthusiastic to form a Council in Monroe. Preliminary meetings were held as to the advisability of doing this, and when it was found that there were more members than were necessary to form a new Council, immediate steps were taken.

On Sunday, October 6, 1907, in the presence of six hundred and eighty members who came by special train from Detroit, Toledo, Port Huron, Mount Clemens, Pontiac, and other cities, the charter class was initiated. The Monroe Democrat of October 11, 1907, had this to say of the affair; "The Knights assembled at Munch's Hall and marched in a body to St. Johns Church forming a line three blocks long. They completely filled the Church and sang in unison during the services. The scene was impressive beyond description and one that none of the participants will ever forget."

At 1:20 P.M. the first degree was conferred upon a class of seventy candidates by the Toledo degree staff. (The Supreme Council had placed a limit of fifty members for a charter class but permission was given to confer the degrees on a greater number) The second degree was exemplified by a staff from Pontiac and the third degree by the Lansing Council. Master of the third degree was District Deputy Thomas A. Lawler.

Fifty of the candidates were from Monroe. Comprising the charter class, besides the newly initiated members, were four members who were previously initiated, who belonged to other Councils and transferred to Monroe. They were Father Michael J. Crowley, Thomas H. Carroll, James R. Carroll and Carmac J. McCormick.

Following the initiation<sup>a</sup> banquet was held at the Monroe Armory then located where the Michigan Bell Telephone building now stands. It is reported that the toasts and speeches were many and varied. Thus Monroe Council was born and has grown to its present membership of nine hundred and fifty.

On October 13, 1907, the first business meeting was held, called to order by District Deputy Thomas Lawler. The following charter officers were elected: Dr. Victor J. Sisung, Grand Knight; Henry Hoffman, Deputy Grand Knight; Dr. Adelbert Evans, Chancellor; John McCormick, Recorder; J. Edward Ready, Financial Secretary; Benjamin Dansard, Treasurer; Rev. Fr. Michael Crowley, Lecturer; Jacob Martin, Warden; Joseph Anteau, Inside Guard; Joseph Farner, Outside Guard; L. John Dubois, Fred Nadeau and Charles Maurer, Trustees. Following the election, the officers were formally installed by Deputy Lawler and Monroe Council # 1266 became an established reality.

The second meeting was held on October 18th, with all officers present except Financial Secretary Ready, who was compelled to resign because of illness. His resignation was read and accepted. Father Crowley asked Chancellor Evans to resign his office so that his name be placed in nomination for Financial Secretary. Doctor Evans consented and subsequently elected to the office. J. Edward Ready was then elected Chancellor.

It was announced at this meeting that a new class was now forming and would be initiated before Easter. Enthusiasm was high and the class was expected to be a large one.

Grand Knight Sisung appointed a committee of five to investigate the matter of securing suitable quarters for the Council. It was voted to hold meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

At the third meeting, rules and by-laws were read and adopted. Five hundred copies were ordered printed.

A special meeting was called the following week to act on a proposal for club rooms. One proposal was from August Schmidt and C. William Beck and the second from Erhardt Schrauder. The Schrauder proposal was accepted and read as follows: That the rent of the second and third floors of the Schrauder building would be \$ 150.00 per year with the lease running five years and a privilege of five more years if desired. Mr. Schrauder was to pay \$200.00 toward the re-modeling cost of the two floors which was to be done at the cost of \$696.00. However, reported at the next meeting, these plans proved too expensive and were turned down in favor of a five year lease of the building of the Monroe building company. The details of this proposal are not available but the following excerpt from the Monroe Democrat of January 24, 1908, establishes the fact that it is the same building the Council purchased in 1924 and now owns.

The Monroe Democrat stated; "On Thursday January 16, 1908, the Council formally settled in their new quarters above Blair's Department store. District Deputy Thomas Lawler was on hand for the occasion and spoke briefly. He told the Knights they can be proud of their new home as they have the best quarters in the State of Michigan not even excepting Detroit Council which has 1,000 members. The quarters covers the entire third floor of the new building, 66 by 110, and were built and fitted up especially for them, the last touches of the work being given this week. The main hall is 47 by 80 feet and is suitable for dancing and card parties, being the best floor in the City."

"The Knights of Columbus are certainly starting under a very bright sky. The membership is large, enthusiastic, and fifty new members will be initiated within a few months. It is on solid financial basis having had about \$ 1200.00 in the treasury before the Council was instituted and the dues are of a sufficient amount to easily pay current expenses, yet exceedingly moderate when one considers the advantages given in return."

The hall description continues: "On the Southwest corner of the hall are the parlors- furnished comfortably with a large library table, leather rocker and easy chairs in popular old mission style. Adjoining the parlors to the North and separated by an arch is the billiard room. North again is the banquet room which has an attractive view of the Raisin River. To the East is the kitchen, equipped with every cooking device of a complete facility and three times larger. East of the kitchen is the dressing room with all the modern conveniences normally lacking in public halls. The stairway on the East side opens into a wide hall separating the kitchen and the dressing room, and leading into the billiard room. The quarters are lighted, using the modern beautiful holophotal system of incandescent bulb clusters."

The furnishing of the clubrooms was arranged by a committee of John H. Hackett, Frank Schrauder, William Conlisk, James R. Carroll, and Gustav Rupp, appointed by the Grand Knight.

On December 21, 1907, the Council witnessed their first initiation

in Toledo, and began working on their own class which was the first since the charter class. This class was the one mentioned in the Democrat and was initiated on May 24, 1908.

At the January 2, 1908 meeting, the Grand Knight read a letter from the Supreme Council announcing a per capita tax of twenty five cents per member had been levied. The first house committee was named at this meeting consisting of Moses J. Nadeau, Benjamin Dansard, and Edward Yeager. They subscribed to several magazines for the reading room and were instructed to place a lock on the door leading to the club rooms and give each member a key.

#### INFANT COUNCIL GROWS

The Council prospered and grew. At the September 24, 1908 meeting it was recorded that the Council was donated a three piece sectional book case by Grand Knight Sisung and James R. Carroll. Lecturer Father Crowley added, if the council filled the three sections with suitable books, he would donate two more sections. Thus the council proceeded to purchase many of the books still available in the cases today. A piano was also purchased at this time, "on suitable payments" from William J. Hubble for eighty-five dollars.

#### SECOND GRAND KNIGHT

On December 10, 1908, from a group of six nominees, John L. Dubois was elected the second Grand Knight. Other officers elected were; Jacob Martin, Deputy Grand Knight; Edward Schrauder, Chancellor; Harry Steiner Recorder; Dr. Adelbert Evans, Financial Secretary; Benjamin Dansard, Treasurer; James J. Kelley, Advocate; Joseph Former, Warden; Alfred Hickey, Inside Guard; William Conlisk, Outside Guard; Frank Brancheau, Trustee. During this term the council gained its' first Chaplain as Father Crowley, who had been Lecturer, was appointed Chaplain. The first council outing was also held this year on Labor Day. The main feature of this outing was the baseball game between the new candidates and the charter class. February 12th Minstral Show was a big success, (the first of many to follow over the years) On May 13, 1909, the council voted to raise a fund of five-hundred dollars as an endowment for the Catholic University of America at Washington, D.C. The entire payment was to be made before the end of the year but was paid off with considerable difficulty over a period of three years. The final payment of \$28.75 reported paid at the meeting of February 13, 1912.

#### THIRD GRAND KNIGHT

Three ballots were necessary to elect the third Grand Knight on December 9, 1909, Dr. Adelbert W. Evans. Jacob Martin was re-elected Deputy Grand Knight; Clayton C. Golden, Chancellor; Harry Steiner, Recorder; Leo J. Navarre, Financial Secretary; Charles Kern, Treasurer; John J. Kiley, Advocate; Ulrich Leib, Warden; Alfred P. Hickey, Inside Guard; Edward L. Cousino, Outside Guard; and William E. Sturn, Trustee. The Grand Knight-elect appointed Harry Lauer, Lecturer and Father Crowley, Chaplain. The officers were installed at the following meeting and it was voted to change the meeting nights from the second and fourth Thursdays to the second and fourth Tuesdays. The initiation fee was raised from fifteen to twenty dollars. Also, the first Delegate Lecturer Harry Lauer was sent to the State Convention. On Columbus Day, 1910, the council received communion in a body at St. Johns Parish at the 5:30 AM Mass.

Many of the "old timers" look back to 1910 as their "good old days". A sample of the bills read at the December 10 meeting were; McMillian Printing, \$1.00; William Comstock, 25¢; Edward Egle, 25¢; William E. Sturn, \$1.00; Charles Diekman, \$ 1.80; and Western Union Telegraph, 41¢.

#### FOURTH GRAND KNIGHT

William E. Sturn was elected from a slate of ten candidates on the third ballot. He served five terms, the years of 1911-12-13, and was elected again in 1922 from twelve candidates and re-elected in 1923. He was also State Council Secretary for twenty-five consecutive years, from 1915 to 1940, the only Monroe Council Knight to ever hold a State office. Victor J. Bertholete became Deputy Grand Knight; Clayton C. Golden, Chancellor; Leo J. Navarre, Financial Secretary; Charles Kern, Treasurer; Harry Steiner, Recorder; John J. Kiley, Advocate; Ulrich Leib, Warden; Alfred P. Hickey, Inside Guard; John P. Verhoeven, Outside Guard; and Edward L. Cousino, Trustee; to fill the office vacated by the New Grand Knight. Gustav Rypp was elected Trustee to fill the three year term. Rev. Fr. Crowley was appointed Chaplain and James J. Kelley Sr. appointed Lecturer.

In March of 1911, the Council dues were raised from \$5.00 to \$6.00 to help meet the Council's mounting debts. That month also second Grand Knight Dubois died. The Council hit a financial slump and lost some of its membership. Leo Navarre resigned as Financial Secretary and John Verhoeven was elected. Despite the financial setbacks, there was much interest in buying a building to locate the Council quarters. A new rule was passed, exempting members of the Clergy from payment of dues. This rule still stands today.

The same officers were elected for the year of 1912 with the exception of Past Grand Knight Sisung, he being elected Deputy Grand Knight and Fr. Crowley was returned to the office of Lecturer and the office of Chaplain was left vacant.

Grand Knight Sturn was re-elected from eight candidates for his third consecutive term on October 15, 1912 for the year of 1913, becoming the first and only Grand Knight so honored for thirty-two years, until Victor Weipert served three consecutive terms in 1947. Taking office with Brother Sturn were; Past Grand Knight Sisung, Deputy Grand Knight: Alfred Gilday, Chancellor; John P. Verhoeven, Financial Secretary; Harry Steiner, Recorder; Walter Hoffman, Treasurer, Clayton C. Golden, Advocate; Ulrich Leib, Warden; Ernest Anteau, Inside Guard; William J. Steiner, Outside Guard; August E. McCormick, Trustee, and Father L.F. Michel, appointed Lecturer.

A friendly rivalry between Monroe and Adrian Councils, which was to last for many years, began in 1913. Both Councils began a drive for new members and the largest membership. Many large classes were held between them. Special trains were chartered, alternate classes were held in both Cities. A first Degree Staff was organized in the Monroe Council and robes purchased March 25, 1913. On May 11, 1913, a class of 100 was initiated in Adrian. Sunday May 22, 1914 was another big day at Adrian, with 150 Monroe Knights attending. Together, with Adrian Council, nearly 400 Knights and candidates took part in a high mass before the initiation. October 16, 1914, brought Adrian Council to Monroe as guests at the Columbus Day Banquet, our club rooms having just been renovated and re-decorated. They were met at the train by

the Italian band of Monroe and escorted to the hall where the Monroe Knights of Columbus orchestra played during and after the banquet.

#### FIFTH GRAND KNIGHT

Victor J. Bertholote was Grand Knight in 1914 election. Serving with him were; Cormac. J. McCormick, Deputy Grand Knight; Ed Conlisk, Recorder; Frank P. Ready, Chancellor; John P. Verhoeven, Financial Secretary; William E. Sturn, Treasurer; Alfred Gilday, Advocate; Ulrich Leib, Warden; Harry Laurer, Inside Guard; Joseph Sturn, Outside Guard; and William J. Hubble, Trustee. Past Grand Knight Evans Died in April 1914.

It was decided this year to open the club rooms to a group of Catholic young men known as the "Catholic Rangers". Later this privilege was withdrawn and changed to admit young Catholic men fifteen years and older. These privileges were subsequently cancelled altogether.

At the December 8, 1914 meeting a motion was passed to purchase a sixteen volume set of the Catholic Encyclopedia. The cost was \$29.00.

The same officers were elected for 1915 except Doras Soleau was elected Treasurer and Joseph A. Anteau, Warden. The largest initiation in Monroe since the Charter class was held on June 7, 1915. Knights came from many nearby communities as well as from Canada. Five hundred Knights were present and the Knights of Columbus orchestra again played at the banquet.

1915 brought gaiety to the Council chambers as the purchase of a Victrola was made for the sum of \$75.00. August 26th an outing was held at Bob-Lo with two railway cars leaving at 7:00 A.M. and returning at 8:00 P.M. After games and races, a baseball game was played between the "Campbells" and the "Fitimas". It was called off in the fourth inning due to some one discovering a dance hall on the other side of the Island.

Upon a motion by Harry Steiner on November 9, 1915, a High Mass was offered for the deceased of the Council. An annual Memorial Mass has since been offered in connection with the annual Memorial exercises for the Council dead and commemorating especially those who have died during the year.

At Christmass time, 1915, fifty-one baskets were packed and delivered to the needy on Christmas morning. The Knights of Columbus Goodfellow club was formally organized in 1914 but no records are available of the assistance given for that year. In 1911 a group of Monroe citizens organized to raise funds to provide food for needy families at Christmas time. The project was abandoned later and taken up by the Council upon motion by Alfred C. Maurer at the November 23, meeting of 1914. The Goodfellow Club is now one of the major projects of the Council, extending aid to needy families throughout the year. In the depression years of 1933, four-hundred fifty baskets were packed and delivered. In 1932 the Exchange Club of Monroe formed the "Old Newsboys" and each year the club members, at Christmas time, sell a special edition of the Monroe Evening News with one half of the proceeds going to the Goodfellows. In 1956 the Knights also began selling, Frank Sturn was the first Treasurer of the Goodfellows. Harry Steiner was elected Treasurer in 1918 and continued in that capacity until his death in 1956.

#### SIXTH GRAND KNIGHT

The sixth Grand Knight, Cormac John McCormick, served two terms, 1916-17. The dues were raised in 1916 to eight dollars and remained so

for the next thirty years. Sunday, October 29, 1916 was another initiation day at Adrian. One-hundred and forty (140) Knights from Monroe, together with members from other cities, made a total of nearly 800 Knights in attendance.

In 1916 with the draft taking young men, the membership intake was slowed. The Council contributed fifty dollars to a fund being assembled to help pay expences of Company K. (the local National Guard Unit) The K of C on a National scale organized a program of intertainment and furnishing comforts for the troops pverseas and at home, which was acclaimed the world over by Religious and lay leaders. Two volumes of "The Knights of Columbus in Peace and War" were published after the war. Volume # 2 being composed of mames of individual Knights who served in World War one and to which Council the belonged. Monroe Council had sixty-two Knights listed in this volume. As a result of their popularity, many returnig vets were eager to join the Knights of Columbus and large classes were held once more, between Monroe and Adrian Councils. This drive brought Monroe Council to weel over the six hundred mark. Membership droped off during the depression years, then rose again gradually to over eight hundred by 1960. After 1920 initions were held more frequently and classes of that size were never held again.

The officers serving with Grand Knight McCormick were; Frank P. Ready, Deputy Grand Knight; Thomas Smith, Chancellor; Harry Steiner, Recorder; John P. Verhoeven, Financial Secretary; Doras Soleau, Treasurer; Edward M. Schrauder, Advocate; Merrill Anteau, Warden; Moses J. Nadeau, Inside Guard, Oliver Dushane, Outside Guard; William Sturn and John L. Eronson, Trustees. Fr. DeGryse was appointed Chaplain and Frank Sturn was appointed Lecturer.

In 1916 (for 1917) the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight were re-elected. Joseph A. Anteau, Chancellor; Harry McCormick, Recorder; Andrew R. Soleau, Financial Secretary; Doras Soleau, Treasurer; Ed. M. Schrauder, Advocate; Julian Labour, Warden; Benjamin Peltier, Inside Guard; Daniel Nadeau, Outside Guard; Moses C. Nadeau, Trustee and Fr. DeGryse again chosen Chaplain. Sixty baskets were packed and delivered by the Good-fellows in 1916 and Forty were packed in 1917.

#### SEVENTH GRAND KNIGHT

Officers elected for 1918 were; Frank P. Ready, Grand Knight; Joseph A. Anteau, Deputy Grand Knight; Martin Burke, Chancellor; the rest of the officers were elected unanimously from the previous year and Rev. Fr. J. F. Thornton was appointed Chaplain. A motion to raise dues to \$10.00 was defeated this year. An American flag was purchased for Council use. The Council also took an intrest in and endorsed the new boy scout movement and a scout troupe was sponsored later from the spring of 1920 to 1936.

The Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Recorder, Warden and outside Guard were re-elected to a second term to serve in 1919. William Schoell was elected Chancellor; Benjamin J. Poupard, Financial Secretary; John Fix Treasurer; Fred Lambrecht, Inside Guard and Edmund L. Poupard, Trustee. Fr. J.P. Thornton was re-appointed Chaplain and P.G.K. Sisung appointed Lecturer.

The Council suscribed to several Government bonds during the war, respondig generously on each of four drives. The largest amount purchased was \$ 500.00 Liberty bond at the close of the War.

In October a picture of Christopher Columbus was purchased and im

November a move to organize a bowling league was made with Edward C. Steiner as chairman. This was the first evidence found on organized bowling in the City. The Knights of Columbus bowling league is said to be the oldest in the City of Monroe.

#### EIGHTH GRAND KNIGHT

The eighth Grand Knight, Dr. Thomas H. Ryan, was elected for 1920 from six candidates and re-elected in 1921. Doctor Ryan held no other office prior to or after his two terms as Grand Knight. The Deputy Grand Knight, Recorder, Financial Secretary, and Warden of 1919 were re-elected in 1920 with William Schoell elected Chancellor.; Harry Steiner, Advocate; Dan Nadeau moved from Outside to Inside Guard and Moses Cooley was elected Outside Guard; George C. Kirschner, Trustee; and Fr. Thornton appointed to his Fourth term as Chaplain.

Past Grand Knight Berthelote Passed away on May 31, 1920.

The only change in officers for the year 1921 were; Oliver Golden elected Advocate; Isadore Sancreinte, Outside Guard; and William Sturn, Trustee. The Council began receiving communion in a body on a designated Sunday in each quarter of the year 1921. The regular meeting night was changed from the second and fourth Thursdays to the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

The first move to organize a building association was made in December of 1921 and a committee was appointed to take solicitations. In March of 1922 the Council adopted a resolution to purchase 1,000 shares of Beneficial interest in the trust estate of the "Monroe Building Association".

#### NINTH GRAND KNIGHT

William E. Sturn was elected to his fourth term as Grand Knight to serve in 1922. George C. Kirschner was chosen Deputy Grand Knight; William Schoell, Chancellor; Benjamin J. Poupard, Financial Secretary; Andrew R. Soleau, Treasurer; Harry McMormick, Recorder; Julien Lamour, Warden; Daniel Nadeau, Inside Guard; Frank Weilsman, Outside Guard; Oliver Golden, Advocate; Harry Steiner, Trustee for three year term; Leo Hoffman, Trustee for one year term and Walter Hoffman, trustee for two year term. Fr. Thornton was re-appointed Chaplain and Alfred C. Maurer, Lecturer.

The same officers were re-elected the following year except that Frank D. Weber was elected Inside Guard; Martin Byrne, Outside Guard, and Martin D. May, Trustee.

#### MONTHLY COUNCIL BULLETIN

Early in 1923, upon action by Alfred C. Maurer, a committee was appointed to look into the possibility of publishing a monthly Council newspaper. This committee of Frank N. Maurer, Julian Lamour, Andrew R. Soleau and Martin D. May, established the paper and the first issue was printed in February 1923. The first three issues were under the name of "The Monroe Casey". Objections were made and "The Monroe Kay See" was chosen and submitted to the Supreme Council for approval. The reply from Supreme was that the name would be "The Monroe K of C". Not much is available on how many issues were published and only one copy of the fourth edition has been located in a collection kept by Past Grand Knight Leo Baudinet. In 1953 under Grand Knight Joseph A. De Sloover, a move was made to re-establish the paper, but unsuccessful.



### TENTH GRAND KNIGHT

The fall election of 1923 moved George C. Kirschner to Grand Knight. Frank N Maurer, Deputy Grand Knight; William Schoell, re-elected Chancellor, Leo Boudinet, Recorder; Benjamin J. Puopard, Financial Secretary; Fred Fischer, Treasurer; John Delisle, Warden; Michael Perrini, Inside Guard; George Ballor, Outside Guard; Oliver Golden, Advocate; Leo Hoffman, Trustee; Father Thornton, Chaplain and Frank Sturn, Lecturer.

### HOME ASSOCIATION FORMED

The building Association came to attention again in December of 1923 when the building committee composed of John C. Lehr, Dr. Jules Siffer, Edward M. Schrauder, Merrill Lamb, Oliver J. Golden and Martin D. May, reported on the condition of the building the Council occupied. A motion was made by Oliver Golden, supported by Dr. Siffer that the building be bought at a price not to exceed \$45,000.00. A discussion followed, a secret ballot taken, and the result was, 35 yes, 11 no. It was moved to make the ballot unanimous. The following month a payment of \$5,500 was made to hold an option on the building. A meeting was called on February 18, 1924 of all those interested in subscribing to stock purchased in the building association. At this meeting formal incorporation of this association was adopted with by-laws and election of directors. William E. Sturn, Gabriel Dusseau, John P. Faucher, John P. Verhoeven, Frank S. Sturn, Frank E. Boudinet, Andrew R. Soleau, Clarence Wehrung, and Frank Hoffman were elected to the first board of directors. A week later the following members started the subscriptions with \$ 500.00 each; Rev. Fr. Henry DeGryse, Frank E. Boudinet, John Brancheau, John L. Bronson, J. Emery Conlisk, Gabriel Dusseau, Frank Gessner, Oliver J. Golden, Frank Heck, Aloysius Heil, Walter L. Hoffman, Bert Manausso, George M. Martin, Alfred C. Maurer, George J. Schrauder, Jules J. Siffer, Frank S. Sturn, George P. Sturn, Herbert A. Sturn, William E. Sturn and Edmund A. Yaeger. Approximately 120 other Knights were subscribers and this group made up the "Monroe Knights of Columbus Home Association." The adoption of this name was made at this meeting and the first officers were elected as follows; William E. Sturn, Chairman; Gabriel Dusseau, Vice Chairman; John P. Faucher, Secretary; and Andrew R. Soleau, Treasurer. A total of 5580 shares of stock were sold. The Council was to have first choice to buy the stock of a deceased stockholder. If no funds were available, then the stock could only be sold to another Council member. The Council acquired 3,160 shares of stock over the next twenty-five years.

In 1924 Rev. Fr. Alphense Bertele was appointed Chaplain when Fr. Thornton was transferred to an out of town parish.

The October election of officers retained the same except Andrew R. Cain chosen Deputy Grand Knight; John Miller, Inside Guard and Edward Burke, Outside Guard; Harry Steiner, Trustee; Frank Sturn Re-appointed Lecturer and Fr. Bertele re-appointed Chaplain, A motion to raise the dues to \$10.00 was defeated at the same meeting by a vote of 140 to 16.

In January of 1925, a committee of three, Frank E. Sturn, Andrew R. Soleau and Vincent Schnarberger, was appointed to take charge of a "boys night" every Friday. This developed onto a motion by Frank Sturn the following month, to take an active part in the boy scout movement. This was the beginning of the K of C scout troop which lasted eleven years.

### ELEVENTH GRAND KNIGHT

In the fall, 1925, election Frank N. Maurer Was elected Grand Knight. Thomas J. Rabbit, Deputy Grand Knight; Orion P. Barron, Chancellor; Leo

Boudinet, Recorder; Fred O. Fischer, Financial Secretary; Doras Soleau Treasurer; Oliver J. Golden, Advocate; John DeLisle, Warden; John P. Verhoeven, Inside Guard; Edward Burke, Outside Guard; Vallie Dussia, Trustee; Frank Sturn re-appointed Lecturer and Fr. Bertele re-appointed Chaplain.

The pool tables were repaired and a tournament was held over the winter months. Grand Knight Maurer presented a cup to the winner.

The State Council established a paper and asked for Council news. Alfred C. Maurer was publicity chairman and was given permission to have a picture of the Cousino family, a father and six sons all members of the Council, sent to the State news.

A donation of \$ 150.00 was made to the Mexican Relief fund, one of the many donations made by the Council thru the years for worthy causes. At the September 8, 1926 meeting a letter was read from the Supreme Council advising that in the future the Financial Secretary would be appointed by the Supreme Council on recommendation of the Grand Knight rather than by Council election as in the past.

#### TWELFTH GRAND KNIGHT

At the above meeting, Benjamin J. Poupard was elected Grand Knight. The contest this year was for Deputy Grand Knight, Vallie W. Dussia winning on the fourth ballot of five candidates. John C. Lehr was chosen Chancellor; Martin Burke, Recorder; Doras Soleau, Treasurer; Oliver Golden, Advocate; John DeLisle, Warden; Joseph Champagne, Inside Guard; John Miller, Outside Guard; Andrew R. Soleau, Trustee; to fill the vacancy of the new D.E.K. and Thomas Rabbitt was elected Trustee for the three year term. The Grand Knight appointed Tracy Soleau Financial Secretary, Fred Fischer, Lecturer and Fr. Michael J. O'Riely, Chaplain.

John C. Lehr later resigned the office of Chancellor and Joseph Anteau was appointed to fill the Office. An Easter Monday car give away party netted the Council \$928.00 this year. Andrew Soleau was chairman.

All officers were re-elected for the year 1928 except the warden. Joseph Champagne was elected to this office. Daniel Livernois was elected Inside Guard; Andrew R. Cain, Trustee for the three year term and Edward C. Steiner, Trustee to fill the vacancy of Thomas Rabbitt, who resigned. A motion was passed at this meeting to pay the Warden's dues and later changed to a flat fee of \$10.00 salary.

Another car was given away at the Easter Monday party in 1928. Vallie W. Dussia was chairman of the affair. Information on the proceeds is not available. In June a motion was passed to raise \$ 1,000.00 for the Hospital fund of the new Mercy Hospital.

#### THIRTEENTH GRAND KNIGHT

In September Judge John P. Faucher was elected Grand Knight with John J. DeLisle, Deputy Grand Knight; Leo Boudinet, Chancellor; Martin Burke, Recorder; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Oliver Golden, Advocate; Doras Soleau, Treasurer; Daniel Livernois, Inside Guard; John Miller, Outside Guard; Dr. C.L. Golinvaux, Trustee; Rev. Fr. O'Riely was re-appointed Chaplain; Tracy Soleau remained Financial Secretary and Vincent Schnorberger was appointed Lecturer.

The Council meeting in May of 1929 was held in Carleton, the first of several held in different locations in Monroe County during the summer months. A very successful pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation was held as was another in 1931. Vallie Dussia was chairman. A great success, also, was a minstrel show in 1929, called Tokio Rose, played before a capacity crowd of over 1000 and was repeated a second night with an equally large attendance.

A bang-up Halloween frolic was held October 30-31. Leo Boudinet was Chairman and reported a profit of \$711.70.

By order of the Supreme Council, the election of officers was changed from the fall of the year to June. The same Officers were held over to June 1930. From this point on the new Officers were elected at the first meeting in June and took office July 1st.

#### FOURTEENTH GRAND KNIGHT

In June 1930 Vallie Dussia was elected the Fourteenth Grand Knight. John DeLisle was re-elected Deputy Grand Knight; Joseph Anteau, Chancellor; Martin Burke, Recorder; Doras Soleau, Treasurer; Oliver Golden, Advocate; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Daniel Livernois, Inside Guard; John Althaver, Outside Guard; John Verhoeven, Trustee; Fr. O'Rielly was re-appointed Chaplain; Vincent Schnorberger re-appointed Lecturer and George C. Kirschner was appointed Financial Secretary and remained in the office for the next eighteen years.

In the fall of this year the Manreasa retreat movement was first mentioned with a motion by William Sturn, supported by Gilbert Diekman, that the Council sponsor a retreat (history found elsewhere in this book) The Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight were re-elected in June 1931 with almost a complete new slate of officers. Francis T. Ready, Chancellor; Leo McMullen, Recorder; Fred Fischer, Treasurer; Oliver

Golden, Advocate; Robert Burroughs, Warden; John Brancheau, Inside Guard; Robert Malburg, Outside Guard; Henry Barron, Trustee; Fr. O' Reilly was re-appointed Chaplain and Leo Boudinet appointed Lecturer. The new Lecturer was given \$ 100.00 to finance the Council's inter-tainment and report once a month on the balance.

The initiation fee was lowered to \$15.00 from \$20.00 this year and in November "Boyology" Institute, conducted by the Supreme Council Boys Life Bureau, held a week of daily lectures, This course was well attended by the Knights and the Scout Troop. Leo Boudinet was in charge of this affair.

The Council marked the Supreme Council's Golden Anniversary on March 29, 1932, with a banquet on Easter Monday, March 28. This was a grand affair with many speeches, Attorney Francis Gallagher, from Toledo, was the principal speaker.

Past Grand Knight Cormac J. McCormick died in May, 1932.

#### FIFTEENTH GRAND KNIGHT

Leo R. Boudinet was elected Grand Knight in June 1932. Robert Burroughs, Deputy Grand Knight; Francis T. Ready re-elected Chancellor; Leo McMullen, re-elected Recorder; John B. Fix, Treasurer; Joseph A. Navarre Jr., Advocate; John Hoffman, Warden; John Althaver, Inside Guard; Robert Malburg, Outside Guard; Rálp Wehrung, Trustee; Fr. O' Reilly was re-appointed Chaplain and Harold Clark appointed Lecturer.

The Council's Silver Jubilee Banquet was held in October on the 13th. The principal speaker was Frank Devine, District Deputy. Mayor Jacob Martin, the Council's first Warden, gave a brief history of the Twenty-five years and expressed his desire to be present at the Golden Jubilee Banquet and said that he expected to be here. (Mayor Martin passed away two months later on December 14th) Guests of honor were the surviving Charter members. Rev. Fr. Michael J. Crowley, the first Council Chaplain, responded for them. Twenty-five of the Fifty-five Charter members were living then, and today (as this history is printed) there are Six.

#### SIXTEENTH GRAND KNIGHT

June, 1933 Francis T. Ready was elected the sixteenth Grand Knight with Fred Fischer chosen Deputy Grand Knight; Clarence Neilsen, Chancellor; Charles Dunigan, Recorder; John Fix, Treasurer; Fred Lemerand, Warden; Bernard Heil, Trustee; Re-elected were Joseph Althaver, Inside Guard; Robert Malburg, Outside Guard and re-appointed were Fr. O'Reilly Chaplain and Harold Clark, Lecturer. These same Officers were again elected in June of 1934, with Earl Snyder, Trustee and John C. Hoffman was appointed Lecturer. Chaplain Fr. O'Reilly was transferred in 1934 and Rev. Fr. D. Edmund Perrin appointed Chaplain.

In the wake of the depression, the Council began a re-construction program in early 1935 as the first class in Four years was initiated in Minroe.

#### SEVENTEENTH GRAND KNIGHT

June, 1935 election brought forth the 17th, and youngest, Grand Knight ever to hold office. John C. Hoffman was elected; with him were, John

Althaver, Deputy Grand Knight; Joseph A. Anteau, Chancellor; Brnjamin J. Poupard, Recorder; John B. Fix, Treasurer; Francis T. Ready, Advocate; Leo Leibold, Warden; Clement Boes, Inside Guard; Walter Wess, Outside Guard; Henry Barron, Trustee; Fr. Perrin re-appointed Chaplain and Fred Lemerand, Lecturer.

The initiation fees were lowered again to \$10.00 in the hopes of rebuilding the membership. In June of 1936, a discussion of having a permanent sick committee chairman resulted in the appointment of the Deputy Grand Knight. This appointment was carried as part of the duties of that office for sixteen years.

#### EIGHTEENTH GRAND KNIGHT

In June the 18th Grand Knight elected was Frank N. Maurer who had previously served one term ten years before. Re-elected were Deputy Grand Knight John Althaver; Treasurer, John B. Fix; Advocate, Francis T. Ready; Inside Guard Clement Boes, and Trustee Edward C Steiner. Wesley Cox was elected Chancellor; Robert G. Brown, Recorder; Arthur Scheick, Warden; Rev. Fr. George J. Cairns was appointed Chaplain, Frank Sturn and Fred Fischer appointed Lecturers.

A movement to organize the Columbian Squires began this year by the Knights active in the Boy Scout movement. The K OF C Scout Troop was transferred to the Hall of Devine Child. Fr. Cairns proceeded with vigor on the Columbian Squires program and succeeded in gaining much support in 1937 when a motion was made by John P, Verhoeven, supported by Edmund L. Poupard to organize a Squire Circle. THE SQUIRES HISTORY WILL BE FOUND ELSWHERE IN THIS BOOK.

A purse was collected and presented to Past Chaplain Fr. DeGryse on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee to the Priesthood.

#### NINETEENTH GRAND KNIGHT

In June of 1937 Edward C. Steiner was elected Grand Knight; John Althaver, Deputy Grand Knight; Wesley Cox, Chancellor; Robert Brown, Recorder; Clarence Scheick, Warden; John Fix, Treasurer; Francis T. Ready, Advocate; Joseph Schmidt, Inside Guard, Gilbert Diekman, Outside Guard; Albert Rappold, Trustee; to fill the vanancy of the new G.K.; John Verhoeven, Trustee for three year term; Fr. Cairns was re-appointed Chaplain and Leo Boudinet appointed Lecturer.

Two Past Grand Knights died in 1938. Judge Faucher on April 28th and Frank Ready in June.

In June the same officers were re-elected for 1938-39 with exception of Arthur Scheick, being elected Chancellor.

#### TWENTIETH GRAND KNIGHT

The officers elected in June for 1939-40 were; Bernard J. Heil, Grand Knight; Clarence G. Scheick, Deputy Grand Knight; Edmund L. Poupard, Chancellor; Earl Miller, Recorder; Fred Fischer, Treasurer; Orion Barron, Advocate; Roy C. Hale, Warden; Allen Kronbach, Inside Guard; Fr. John Vanadia was appointed Chaplain and Andrew R. Soleau appointed Lecturer;

Francis T. Ready, Catholic Activities Chairman, announced that the

Knights of Columbus corporate communion Sunday, would be in the months having five Sundays, on the fifth Sunday. The first was held on Sunday, October 29, 1939 at St. Joseph's, Monroe.

The kitchen and Council club rooms were re-decorated this year and a \$ 100.00 donation made to the building fund of St. Joseph's school. During lent in 1940, public lenten services were sponsored by the Council and held at the Lincoln school auditorium. A Council Blood bank was started with Arthur Scheich as chairman.

An outing was held at Bob-lo Island on July 16, 1940. This was the first excursion out of Monroe Port. 1465 tickets were sold and profited the Council \$ 113.00.

All Officers were unanimously re-elected for 1940-41 including John Verhoeven, Trustee for three year term. Rev. Fr. Lambert Lavoy was appointed Chaplain and Andrew R. Soleau re-appointed Lecturer with Albert Rappold assisting him.

The "William E. Sturn testimonial banquet" was held on October 23 in honor of his twenty-five years as State Secretary. Many of the State Officers were present and the principal speaker was State Deputy John Babcock from Detroit. A ring, set with a ruby and two diamonds was presented to "Bill" in recognition of his services to the Council and the State.

Christmas cartons of cigarettes were sent to the Knights in service in 1940. This was the beginning of the Council's participation in the "Cigarettes For Yanks" movement that became City wide. Chairman of this project was Urban Hoffman. A list of all Council members in service was made and a High Mass was offered each Month for their intentions.

A weekly benefit party was begun in January, 1941, the proceeds going into the Council improvement fund. Another Bob-lo excursion was held on July 23, 1941 with a profit of \$ 108.84 reported.

#### TWENTY FIRST GRAND KNIGHT

At the June election, Edmund L Poupard was chosen Grand Knight; Harold Maurice, Deputy Grand Knight; Orrion P, Barron, Chancellor; Earl Miller, Recorder; Fred Fischer, Treasurer; Edward J. McCormick, Advocate; Clement Boes, Warden; Donald Steinman, Inside Guard; Chester Masserant, Outside Guard; Earl Snider, Trustee; Fr. LaVoy re-appointed Chaplain and Andrew Soleau, re-appointed Lecturer.

In the Spring of 1942, the Columbian Squires disbanded because of lack of leadership due to the Armed Forces Draft.

#### TWENTY SECOND GRAND KNIGHT

Clarence G. Scheick was elected at the June Meeting. Earl Miller elected Deputy Grand Knight; Earl Althaver, Chancellor; Roy Hale, Recorder; Fred Fischer, Treasurer; Edward J. McCormick, Advocate; Lester Hagerman, Warden; Carl Masserant, Inside Guard; Charles Kronspenger, Outside Guard; and Albert Rappold, Trustee; re-appointed were, Fr. LaVoy, Chaplain and Andrew Soleau, Lecturer.

On September 11, 1942, the Council was dinner host to fifty-six Marines from Toledo, who marched in a Bond rally parade and a War

bond drive was conducted among the Council membership.

A class of sixty-nine was initiated in June of 1943 bringing the Council membership to 450 members. The same officers were unanimously re-elected for the year of 1943-44.

An "Honor Roll" plaque was purchased and the names of twenty Council service men were placed upon it. Six hundred and ninety-four boxes of cigarettes were packed by the Knights on November 28, 1942 and sent to service men. Seven hundred and twenty-one boxes packed and sent on Dec. 8th. Each box contained four packs of cigarettes.

#### TWENTY THIRD GRAND KNIGHT

June 1944 election--Edward J. McCormick was elected Grand Knight; Earl Althaver, Deputy Grand Knight; Robert Burroughs, Chancellor; Arden T. Westover, Recorder; Fred Fischer, Treasurer; Francis T. Ready, Advocate; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Lawrence Steinman, Inside Guard; Joseph Yench, Outside Guard; and John Verhoven, Trustee. Rev. Fr. Fred McNamara was appointed Chaplain and Andrew Soleau re-appointed Lecturer.

For the first time in the Council's history, an "Honorary Degree" was conferred on fifty members of the Council. Thirteen became Honorary Life Members, having reached the age of seventy-five, and thirty-seven became Honorary Members, having reached the age of sixty-five, all having been members at least twenty-five years.

The Supreme Council set up an educational fund for sons and daughters of members killed in World War II and the Council responded with a donation of \$ 125.00. Thirty Council members were reported in the armed forces and their dues were waived for the year of 1945.

The amount of \$ 817.61 was raised and donated to the new Catholic Central High School building fund.

#### TWENTY FOURTH GRAND KNIGHT

June 13, 1945 election--Earl Althaver, Grand Knight; Robert Burroughs Deputy Grand Knight; Arden T. Westover, Chancellor; Edward Long, Recorder; Fred Fischer, Treasurer; Francis T. Ready, Advocate; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Lawrence Steinman, Inside Guard; Joseph Yench, Outside Guard; and Clarence Scheick, Trustee. Re-appointed were Chaplain Fr. McNamara and Lecturer Andrew Soleau.

The "Knights of Columbus Benefit Fund" was established from the "Charity Fund", which had a balance of \$ 736.34. Rules and regulations governing the new fund were set up and the Trustees elected to administer the fund were; Frank Maurer, Three year term; Francis T. Ready, two year term; Deputy Grand Knight Burroughs, one year term.

\$ 3000.00 was raised for Catholic Central High School with \$500.00 coming from the Home Association.

All Officers were re-elected to a second term in June of 1946.

The pool tables in the club room were repaired at the cost of \$175.00.

A spring festival was held in 1947 for the benefit of Boysville and Catholic Central High School.

## TWENTY FIFTH GRAND KNIGHT

The June, 1947 election was the first real contest since the early "20's" as Victor H. Weipert was elected Grand Knight from 4 candidates on the third ballot. Arden T. Westover became Deputy Grand Knight; Gerald Windels, Chancellor; Lawrence Leibold, Recorder; Leo Meyer, Inside Guard; Joseph A. De Sloover, Outside Guard; re-elected were, Treasurer Fred Fischer; Advocate Francis T. Ready; Warden Joseph Champagne; and Trustee Clarence Scheick. Chaplain Fr. McNamara was re-appointed and Eli Allore was appointed Lecturer.

In the spring of 1948 the State Council took over the maintenance of Boysville and assessed each Council \$2.00 per year per member. Monroe Council's share was paid by sponsoring a summer festival on September 10-11-12, together with the Catholic Central Booster Club. Victor Fleure was chairman. A total profit of \$7,700.00 was reported.

March 24, 1948, Past Grand Knight William Sturn Died. Three months later the same officers were re-elected for a second term, with the exception of Leo Boudinet being elected Treasurer. Fr. Lawrence Rochon was appointed Chaplain.

The Fortieth Anniversary class sixty-two, one of the largest classes in years, was initiated in June of 1948 bringing the Council to well over 600 members. State Deputy Russell Lawler, son of District Deputy Timothy Lawler who was in charge of the Charter Class, was the principal speaker.

Financial Secretary George Kirschner resigned this year and Arden T. Westover was appointed Financial Secretary. Edward Steiner was elected Deputy Grand Knight to fill the term of Westover.

March 1, 1949, the Council sponsored a concert by the University of Detroit Choral Society, which was a great success.

The "Father Rochon Class" in honor of the Chaplain, was initiated after Easter and brought the membership to the 700 mark.

A move to purchase the Home Association stock by the Council was begun, and because of this activity, the Officers were held over for another year by a unanimous vote. Thus Victor H. Weipert became the second Grand Knight in the History of the Council to serve three consecutive terms.

In the fall of 1949 a television set was purchased for the club rooms. A children's Christmas party was held by the Lecturer, which became an annual event.

It was announced at the December 14, 1949 meeting that 5580 shares of Home Association stock were issued and the Council owns all but 2420 shares, these were held by eighty stock holders who were willing to sell. A motion was made by George Kirschner, supported by George Quell, That the Grand Knight and committee borrow the necessary amount of \$10,000 to \$12,000 to complete the transfer. This motion was unanimously carried. All stock was reported bought at the February 8, 1950 meeting. The new proposed non-profit corporation will be called "The Monroe Council K of C Building Association" and if ever dissolved, the proceeds will go to the Catholic Central High School. The Grand Knight proposed nine directors for the corporation. The three Council Trustees would automatically become members of the board. The



remaining six would be split into three groups with one, two and three year terms from July 1950. He proposed for the one year term, Vallie Bussiau and Leo Boudinet; two year term, Arden T. Westover and Edward McCormick; three year term, George Kirschner and Victor H. Weipert. It was moved by brother Kirschner and supported by Gerald Windels to form the new corporation as proposed.

#### TWENTY SIXTH GRAND KNIGHT

On June 14, 1950, Arden T. Westover was chosen as Grand Knight; Joseph N. LaHood, Deputy Grand Knight; Leo Meyer, Chancellor; Victor Kane, Recorder; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Thomas V. Manor, Treasurer; Francis T. Ready, Advocate; Robert Boudrie, Inside Guard; Herbert Thoma, Outside Guard and Clarence Scheick, Trustee. Lawrence Leibold was appointed Financial Secretary by the Supreme Council. Fr. John Kiernan was appointed Chaplain and Joseph A. De Sloover appointed Lecturer. Former Chaplain Fr. Rochon was transferred to another parish and presented with a gift for his services to the Council.

#### HOME ASSOCIATION BANQUET

The Home Association was formally dissolved at a banquet on Sunday, November 19, 1950 when the deed of the building was turned over to the Officers of the new K of C building association by the stock holders of the old Home Association. The stock holders and their wives were guests at the banquet. George C. Kirschner, who was Grand Knight when the Home Association was formed and Association Treasurer for eighteen years, remarked, "The Monroe Council Knights of Columbus owes an unpayable debt to the untiring efforts of the directors of the Home Association, for their efficient and capable method of handling the building!"

A family style picnic under the direction of Lecturer De Sloover and his committee was held at Huron River Park.

A festival held October 29-30 netted a profit of \$1,800.00. \$1,350.00 of this amount went to Boysville and \$200.00 to Catholic Central High School, for their library.

In the Spring of 1951, Outside Guard Herbert Thoma and Treasurer Thomas Manor joined the armed services. Elected to fill these offices were; Clarence Steinle, Guard and Eli Allore, Treasurer. Albert Emerick was elected Chancellor, replacing Leo Meyer, who resigned.

In April Deputy Grand Knight LaHood proposed that the Council donate a five foot statue of Our Lady to Boysville for their grotto. Voluntary donations produced the necessary funds for this cause. It was learned that such a statue was already donated and a statue of St. Joseph was substituted, which was placed at the entrance of the new dormitory named Saint Joseph's Hall.

The only change in officers at the June election was Joseph A. De Sloover elected Deputy Grand Knight and Victor Weipert, Advocate. Louis Brancheau was appointed Lecturer.

Extensive remodeling and renovating was completed in 1951 and 1952. A portion of the hall, extending its length, provided storage space on the East side. Modern lavatories were installed. To pay for the cost of improvements and to raise money for Boysville, a car was given away at the annual picnic. A profit of \$4,720.00 was realized. This affair was under the direction of Francis Sanglier.

The Council dues were raised from \$8.00 to \$10.00 to help meet the continual increasing cost of the Council's operating expenses.

## TWENTY SEVENTH GRAND KNIGHT

In June of 1952 the 27th Grand Knight, Joseph A. De Sloover was elected. Eli Allore was elected Deputy Grand Knight; Clarence Steinle, Chancellor; James Knowles, Recorder; Francis Sanglier, Treasurer; Victor Weipert, Advocate; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Robert Boudrie, Inside Guard; Anthony Mignano, Outside Guard; and Arden Westover, Trustee. Appointed were, Rev. Father Stanley Fedewa, Chaplain and Francis Sanglier, Lecturer.

Two Crucifixs were purchased this year for the hall and club rooms.

The only changes in the June 1953 election of Officers was Richard Bronson, Recorder; Herbert Thoma, Treasurer; and Bernard Hammer, Inside Guard; Rev. Fr. Edmund L. Battersby was appointed Chaplain and Francis Sanglier re-appointed Lecturer. Former Chaplain Fr. Kiernan was transferred in July and presented with a gift. The recorder resigned in August and Robert S. Boudrie was elected to succeed him.

## FIRST PAST GRAND KNIGHTS' BANQUET HELD

The first Past Grand Knights' Banquet in the Council's 47 year history was held on Columbus Day 1953. The Past Grand Knights and their wives were honored guests, also a relative couple of each of the nine deceased Past Grand Knights. Pictures of all the Past Grand Knights were obtained and unvieled during the ceremonies and a breif history of each term of Office was given by Grand Knight De Sloover, and he presented each with a Past Grand Knight certificate from Supreme Council. State Deputy Thomas M. Kavanaugh was the principal speaker.

Chaplain Fr. Battersby was transferred in January 1954 and Rev. Fr. John Hardy was appointed to the Office.

Monroe Local Assembly, Fourth Degree, was organized in April 1954.

## TWENTY EIGHTH GRAND KNIGHT

At the June 1954 election Andrew R. Soleau was elected Grand Knight; Leo Leibold, Deputy Grand Knight; William Braumlich Jr., Chancellor; Robert Baudrie, Recorder; Robert Lamour, Treasurer; Victor Weipert, Advocate; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Anthony Mignano, Inside Guard; Charles Rouleau, Outside Guard; and Albert Rappold, Trustee. Rev. Fr. Lawrence Rochon was appointed Chaplain and Eli Allore appointed Lecturer.

Council and American flags and standards were purchased at a cost of \$ 150.75. The major achievmnt this year was the purchase of property by the building committee, along River Raisin on Roessler St., for the future Council home. The Council turned \$2000.00 over to the building committee towards the purchase of this property. The entire second floor of the K C building was vacated by Bell Telephone Co., was completely renovated and remodeled into office space.

The June 1955 election retained the same Officers except Anthony Mignano was chosen Chancellor and Ellis Flotte, Inside Guard. Clarence Scheick was re-elected Trustee. Re-appointed were Chaplain Fr. Rochon and Lecturer Eli Allore.

In January 1956, a committee was appointed to determine possibility of raising enough funds for a new building. Eli Allore was appointed Chairman. New building plans were drawn up and sent to each member.

Past Grand Knight George Kirschner died March 5 , 1956. At the April 25th meeting the Council's honorary and 25 year members were presented with lapel pins. There were 37 honorary and 20-25 year members present.

## TWENTY NINTH GRAND KNIGHT

In June 1956, Leo Leibold was chosen the twenty ninth Grand Knight. Eli Allore, Deputy Grand Knight; Hazen Duvall, Chancellor; Robert S. Boudrie, Recorder; Robert Lamour, Treasurer; Victor Weipert, Advocate; Joseph Champagne, Warden; Gilbert Burke, Inside Guard; Charles Rouleau, Outside Guard; and Arden T. Westover, Trustee. Fr. Rochon was re-appointed Chaplain, and Robert Reau appointed Lecturer.

On December 1, 1956, Chaplain Fr. Rochon died and Rev. Fr. John Hardy was appointed Chaplain.

The Council's second Past Grand Knights' Banquet was held on May 19, 1957. Andrew Soleau and Joseph A. De Sloover were presented with P.G.K. certificates.

June 19th election of Officers retained the same slate including Albert Rappold, re-elected trustee for three years. These were the "Golden Year Officers".

### COMMENTS

Throughout the Council's fifty years of existence, there were many activities held annually, such as Columbus Day Banquets, Easter Monday Dances, Father and Son Banquets, Pre-lenten Parties, Halloween Parties, Picnics and Outings, etc.-- We have tried to record these events which we feel are of the most interest to the members. Space does not permit our listing these activities in detail.

*Joseph A. De Sloover P.G.K.*  
Joseph A. De Sloover P.G.K.

Council Historian

## THE FOURTH DEGREE- KofC

In the earliest years of the Knights of Columbus, suggestions were repeatedly made for the creation of a new degree and finally, the board of directors, selecting the best suggestions of hundreds offered, accepted a ritual having patriotism as its' theme and awarded it the dignity of the "Fourth Degree", Each degree was intended to teach a lesson, and it was fitting that the lessons taught in the first, second and third degrees of the order should be crowned with the lesson of the fourth degree-- PATRIOTISM.

At the beginning it was necessary to make an arbitrary selection of candidates. About fourteen hundred members were chosen for the first grand exemplification of the fourth degree, which was held in New York on February 22, 1900. The members receiving this degree returned to their Councils to form Assemblies of the fourth degree, with the right thereafter to choose other members.

Upon receiving the fourth degree a member is equipped with a sword, baldric of red, white and blue, and the emblem of the fourth degree. The emblem is the representation of a dove carrying the cross to the new world. The fourth degree is known everywhere as constituting, in its Local Assembly, the willing supporter of Priest and Bishop in all their public movements. In many places no public reception of Priest or Bishop, and no procession of religious character within or without the Church, seems to be complete without the attendance of the men in the uniformed members of the fourth degree.

### MONROE LOCAL ASSEMBLY # 1266

For many years there had been a desire, among fourth degree members in Monroe, to establish an Assembly with a uniformed group. The first fourth degree members in Monroe were initiated in Detroit on October 19, 1915. They were; Benjiman Dansard, Carmac J. McCormick, Alfred C. Maurer, Leo J. Maurer, Thomas A. Smith, Leo H. Sturn and J. Edward Ready. The ranks slowly but steadily grew and with the initiation of a good class on February 23, 1931, the desire to form an Assembly was intensified. In the class were: Rev. Fr. Henry DeGryse, Judge John P. Fauser, Leo F. Hoffman, John Hoffman, Walter Diehl, Daniel Dasseau, Frank Handler, Floyd McCourt, William LaPrad, Levi Sancrainte and Vallie Dussia.

A meeting of fourth degree members was held in November of 1931 with local members being supported by 100 visiting knights from Toledo and Detroit, but no positive action was taken toward forming an Assembly.

With the passing of the years came repeated attempts to form an Assembly and finally in the fall of 1953 a petition, properly signed by 15 Sir Knights, was presented to the Master of the 4th degree, Vincent T. O'Meara, who called a meeting on February 10, 1954 and appointed Clarence Steinle, chairman. From this meeting came a special meeting on March 18th for the purpose of electing Officers. This meeting was attended by 14 Sir Knights and the following charter officers were elected: Faithful Navigator, Clarence Steinle; Faithful Captain,

Eli Allore; Faithful Admiral, Theadore R. Koss; Faithful Pilot, John J. Swiderski; Faithful Comptroller, Joseph A. De Sloover; Faithful Inside Sentinal, Joseph J. Germani; Faithful Outside Sentinal, Robert A. Germani, Rev. Fr. John Vanadia was later appointed Faithful Friar. The Officers were breifly instructed in their duties and installed by the Master and Monroe Local Assembly had become a reality.

The dues were set at \$5.00 per year and the Assembly began to purchase the necessary equiptment for its'operation. The charter members were;

|                      |                     |                       |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Eli Allore           | John C. Hoffman     | Harold Maurice        |
| Louis J. Allore      | James J. Kelly Jr.  | Edward M. Nolan       |
| Leo R. Boudinet      | George C. Kirschner | Charles E. Raney      |
| Joseph A. De Sloover | Theadore R. Koss    | Francis T. Ready      |
| Vallie W. Dussia     | Joseph N. LaHood    | Levi Sancreainte      |
| Joseph J. Germani    | William H. Lajiness | Doras A. Soleau       |
| Robert A. Germani    | Alfred C. Maurer    | Clarence Steinle      |
| Bernard J. Heil      | Frank N. Maurer     | John J. Swiderski     |
|                      |                     | Rev. Fr. John Vanadia |
|                      |                     | Victor H. Weipert     |

### SECOND FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR

The second slate of Officers was elected in June of 1955. John J. Swiderski became Faithful Navigator; Joseph N. LaHood, Faithful Captain; Clarence Steinle, Faithful Admiral; William Lajiness, Faithful Pilot; Joseph A. De Sloover, Faithful Comptroller; Joseph Germani, Faithful Inside Sentinal; and Harold Schafer, Faithful Outside Sentinal; Fr. John Vanadia was re-appointed Faithful Friar.

The uniformed Honor Guard was formed in June with 12 members. Joseph Germani was chosen Captain of the Honor Guard and Joseph A. De Sloover was chosen Lieutenant. The only changes in officers in June 1956 were: Richard Bronson, Faithful Pilot; and Lawrence Boylan, Faithful Outside Sentinal. Rev. Fr. Lambert M. LaVoy was appointed Faithful Friar.

### THIRD FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR

At the June 26, 1957 election the third Faithful Navigator, Joseph A. De Sloover was chosen. Faithful Captain, Joseph N. LaHood; Faithful Admiral, John J. Swiderski; Faithful Pilot, James J. Kelly Jr.; Faithful Comptroller, Joseph J. Germani; Faithful Inside Sentinal, Andrew Parzych; Faithful Outside Sentinal, Eugene Dussia; Fr. LaVoy was re-appointed Faithful Friar.

Although the Assembly is but an infant compared to the third degree Council, there were 4th degree members in Monroe almost as long as there were 3rd degree members. And, so, the Assembly and Honor Guard move slowly and ever forward fullfilling the dreams of those first Sir Knights of 40 years ago---

*Joseph A. De Sloover*  
Joseph A. De Sloover  
Historian  
Color Corps Commander