



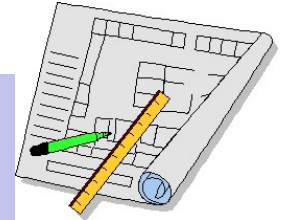
Heritage Happenings

Archives Office
February 2022

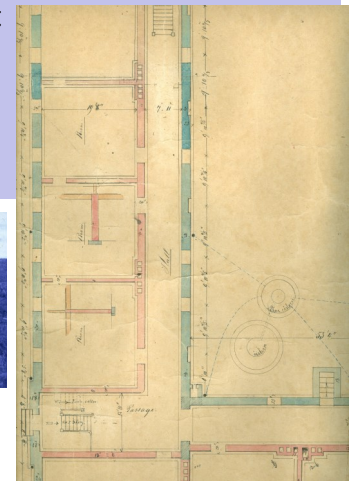
Lest We Forget...

PLANNING THE CONVENT BUILDING

In November, in an attempt to answer how our convent got here, the focus fell on the purchase of the surrounding properties and discovering who Theresa (Fessler) Maurer was. Once the land was purchased, finding someone to design and facilitate the construction was next instituted. In a brief history of our community, our foundress wrote: *"It was decided to have an architect draw up the plans for a plain but substantial building which could be added to as needed... An architect, Adolphus Druiding from Chicago was asked for advice. When he came and looked the place over he was delighted with it. He then was asked to draft a plan."* He was hired in late 1871 or early 1872. Eventually he would also help with the construction of the 1879, and 1890 constructions. It is impossible to take a picture of the original drawing /blueprint of the five stories he planned that included the east, north and west



wings. Here is a sample of the first floor. Note cistern circle, and staircase on lower left leading to "the cellar". Watch for the plans to be displayed in Heritage Display Room. They are fascinating drawings....but not what our building eventually turned out to be.



Adolphus Druiding was born in Hannover, Germany in 1839. Around 1866 he was in the United States as an architect and building superintendent. His specialty was religious architecture, in particular, vertical Gothic style. He was thought to have designed over 400 churches, convents and schools. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay and **St. Mary's Church** in Kaukauna are listed in his works. Druiding died February 19, 1899 in Chicago.



Next month:

BREAKING
Ground

Calling ROME!!!! Help is needed!!!!

Sister Julie Ann forwarded the following email message to the Archives: *I am the Vicar for Evangelization for the Diocese of Phoenix, and I was wondering if you could point me in the right direction regarding learning some more about Fr. Francisco Garces, martyred during the Yuma Uprising of 1781....whether a cause has officially been launched for him at the Vatican.* The Archivist forwarded the message to Sister Marie Kolbe. She emailed: The only way for the Vatican to have opened a case for his canonization was if the Diocese of Tucson had petitioned for his cause to be opened. So the response to his question is in his own backyard. He needs to check jurisdiction Yuma was in at time of the person's death to know where original records would be - - could be California, even Mexico. Email back to Fr. John Nahrgang who was very appreciative of the directive given.



Fr. Francisco Garces. Born 1738— Died 1781. Read his story at History of the Santa Clarita Valley by Jerry Reynolds.

Sleuthing in the Archives—the Remembrances Binders



History does seem to repeat itself! A year ago our Remembrance Binders (that I now call Eulogy Binders) were featured in February 2021. Sister Delia was shown preparing a list of the Sisters who did not have a Remembrance page. During the year Sr. Paula volunteered to start preparing and typing up the missing pages. Beginning with folders of Sisters start with “A”, fifty Sisters have had their histories started. Twenty-five of these are now being worked on to add a photo and/or tombstone to the page. Of these, the following with date of death are complete and are being added to the Eulogy Binders:



whose names are now being six Sisters

1. Sister Aegidia Epple—Feb. 1, 1954
2. Sister Alberta Pallange—Jan. 29, 1912
3. Sister Agnes Dwyer—Nov. 28, 1961
4. Sister Alma Plutz—Dec. 22, 1905
5. Sister Alban Seggelink—Sept. 17, 1965
6. Sister Afra Guisinger—May 26, 1927



1)

2)

3)

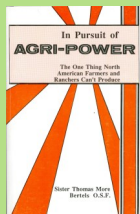
4)

5)

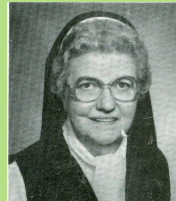
6)



Watch for the new additions: any Sisters who have died before June 8, 1979 when Sister Agnetis Grantonich was the first to have a written record! Finding a photo is the biggest challenge! If you have any information, stories, or photos on Sisters who died before 1979, please share with Archivist.



January 13, 2022 an email message was received from Karen Yost. What a surprise. Almost three years ago on March 15, 2019 Karen had asked for permission to republish Sister Thomas More Bertels book: “In Pursuit of Agri-Power”, originally published by Silver Lake College Press.



American Agri-Women had voiced interest in re-publishing her book. Permission was given by our Administration but it wasn't until now that they were ready to proceed with publication. American Agri-Women are advocates for agriculture since 1974. They are eager to welcome re-publication of her book. Sister Thomas More would be proud!!!



Did you know...

Sr. Lumena had a bird and one day she let it out of its cage...and one of the Sisters stepped backwards in the dining room...and it was no more!

Sr. Christina kept her dog, Teddy (one of three she had over time) in the barn...and would take him out for walks.

Sr. Pelagia's routine Monday recipe was: hot dogs with sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, and pie = apple slices with cheese on top!

November 9, 1987 the tolling of the bell was resumed when the Sister's coffin was brought to and arrived at the Mother-house.



In returning this large Nativity crib to the archives after Christmas, a card was noted attached on the side of the very old crib made from the bark of local trees. The card read: *This is the crib from the first chapel. And is listed in the card catalogue of the museum as number 129.* Removing the card left this white patch behind where brown spray paint



must have been used to pain the crib. Is this REALLY the FIRST CHAPEL CRIB? It was thought to be lost!!! Anyone have any information about this??