

Leonard Street, N.E.

4-6	01/15/76	5022	Cross <i>Commercial and apartments.</i>
7	12/17/75	5002	Urban Renewal--Cross
9			
17	06/04/73	4392	Cannon Coal yard office.
56			
62	02/14/61	228	Morris Alpher
160	03/01/65	1895	George Hamel
222			

224 Leonard N.E. Creston Protestant Reformed Church.

350 Leonard N.E. East Leonard School. Photo in GRPL 125, Robinson / Capitol collection.

385 Leonard N.E. St. John's Home. It was on August 25, 1889, that St. John's Home, for the homeless, neglected, and dependent children of the Grand Rapids diocese, was



dedicated and opened under the direction of Mother Mary Aquinata, of the Dominican Sisters. The opening of the institution had been made possible by the generosity of John T. Clancy, pioneer lumberman, who made a donation of \$60,000 to Bp. Henry J. Richter, for a children's orphanage. Named for Mr. Clancy's patron saint, the institution served the dual purpose of motherhouse for the Dominican Sisters and for the care of children until 1922,

when Marywood was completed and dedicated for the Sisters. (Mr. Clancy's mansion still stands at 401 Leonard St., N.E., across North Avenue from the site of the Home.)

In charge of children's services at the opening of the orphanage was Sister Mary Adelaide, who remained as superior for 14 years. As is the history of children's institutions, the Sisters for many years directed the program alone. Later a social service department, staffed by lay persons, was opened to intensify the boarding home and the adoptive placement programs. Nursery care for children too young to be placed at St. John's was rendered through St. Mary's Hospital, as it continued into the 1950's.

Superiors of the Sisters at the Home since Sister Mary Adelaide were: Sister Mary Genevieve; Sister Thomas Margaret, later of Marywood; and in 1949, at the 60th anniversary of the Home, Sister Mary Martin.



In 1946 the reorganization of the social welfare program in the diocese brought about the detachment of the social services department from the Home to form a separate agency, the Diocesan Catholic Service Bureau. The Bureau, originally located at 329 Monroe Ave., N.W., in the Catholic Information Center building, investigated all requests for placement of children in the Home and

made the placements as well as recommending discharges.

Longest record of service in the Home among the Sisters was that of Sister Mary Matthia, who served as treasurer from 1895 into the 1950's, except for a short interval. Superintendent of the Home in 1949 was Fr. Joseph C. Walen, and the chaplain was Fr. Charles A. Salatka.

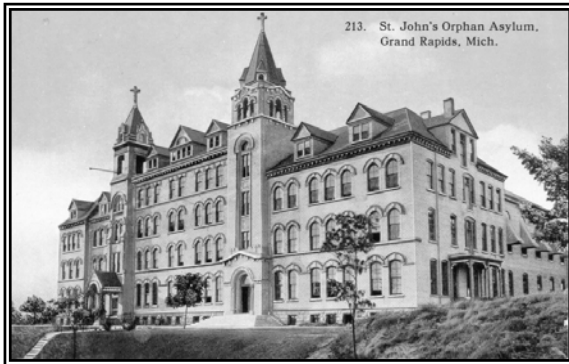
There were, in the late 1940's, still some old residents of Grand Rapids who remembered the occasion. Some saved the silk ribbon badges that were distributed. Among those treasuring such a keepsake was Arthur O'Brien, of St. Alphonsus parish, who lived in the neighborhood and who kept the badge his mother gave him many years previously. Like any diocesan children's institution, St. John's was woven deeply into

the tradition of the city and the diocese. It grew to be synonymous with charity, and was known as the haven for the needy child to Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

Well remembered by old Grand Rapids residents were the annual suppers conducted to raise funds for the operation of the orphanage. Until the federation of welfare fund drives was accepted by the community after the end of World War I, revenue derived from the suppers constituted an important part of the budget for the Home.

No statistics were ever compiled to show the total number of children who found a home at St. John's over the years. In the late 1940's, the number of children cared for each year at St. John's grew smaller with increased emphasis on foster home placement. The division of the diocese in 1938 likewise resulted in a reduction of children admitted to care.

Harry L. Mead, Grand Rapids architect, a member of the advisory board of the Home for many years, noted that the building itself was erected in three sections. The



first or west end of the Home was constructed and opened in 1889. The second and center section was built a year later, with the third or east section erected in 1909. (Margaret Milanowski's article in the *Western Michigan Catholic* in August, 1949, gave alternate dates: "An addition to the original building at the orphanage was made in 1899, and a third section was added in 1913.") Elevated on a hill at Leonard Street and Lafayette Avenue, the building with its two towers

became something of a landmark in the northeastern section of Grand Rapids. The tower, built in 1889, 98 feet in height, was in need of much repair by 1949, and the Home was told that it had to be reinforced or removed. The entire building was razed in December, 1960, to be replaced with a modern, more compact facility which is now used as the Creston Ridge home of the HOPE Network. (Photos: Morrow postcard collection; 1) before 1909; 2) and 3) after 1913.)

402

404

457 09/04/69 3123 Stadt Builders

459 07/17/69 3079 E. DeVries & Sons

509 09/25/2001 9117 Pitsch

525 Leonard N.E. Fire on Tuesday, June 18, 1963, at 12:33 a.m. did \$3,240.00 damage to this vacant 1½-story frame dwelling. John Dirkse, owner. Cause unknown.

835

836

840 *Gas station, s.w. corner of Leonard & Emerald.*

841 was 845.

844 10/19/72 4020 S. Vitale

849 03/10/69 2997 K & R Associates

877 was 921.

881 was 923.

913 was 935.

914 was 934.

919 was 941.

920 was 940.

924 was 944.

927 was 947.

930 was 950.

1078 10/18/76 5157 Cannon

1109 04/12/66 2158 *Diamond Salvage & Wrecking*

1120 03/02/70 3396 South Kent

1124-26-28 01/29/70 3374 *Cooke*

Brick stores.

1134	12/10/69	3301	Kesler & Karkau (736 Clark St., Lansing) Gas station. Reuse this sewer line or 1147 Fuller N.E.
1201	05/16/79	5740	Courtad To reuse sewer line.
1206	07/21/71	3932	Cooke
1210			
1213			
1216	10/20/92	8300	Courtad Formerly Ma's Kitchen (restaurant).
	07/27/99	8916	Nyko Excavating Spad's Pizza.
1222	06/23/66	2193	Gerrit Wildeboer To reuse sewer line.
1225	Leonard N.E. Family Fare Supermarket. The store was built in 1970 by Sy VanderKooy as Daane's Supermarket. In 1986 the store was renamed simply Sy's Market. Family Fare acquired the store in July, 1995.		
1228	03/23/2004	9300	Courtade
1230	10/14/93	8366	Courtade
1240	10/14/93	8367	Courtade
1241			
1245			
1246	07/08/94	8421	Valentine Excavating
1249	10/30/73	4489	Gerrit Wildeboer
1258	07/08/94	8422	Valentine Excavating
1259	04/14/65	1912	Leonard Fuller Land Co.
1259	Leonard N.E. An old barn on this property, used for paint storage, was totally destroyed by fire on Monday, August 2, 1965, at 2:12 p.m. Garret Wildeboer, owner. \$700.00 loss.		
1264			
1278			

1303	09/18/63	1650	Staggs
1309	10/30/73	4478	Capitol
1404	10/01/90 Boiler room.	8089	Riverside
1450	10/10/85	7439	Katerberg
1533	07/13/61 07/30/84 No cutoff.	402 7298	Capitol Pitsch
1537	07/13/61	403	Capitol
1540	01/10/2001	9055	Pitsch
1547	07/13/61	409	Kent County
1702	03/29/2004 Old HCR Manor house.	9301	J & I
1750	07/01/68	2771	K & R Associates
1930	04/16/64 No sewer.	1759	Pitsch

2451	01/02/67 No sewer.	2341	O & W Thum Co.
2525	02/12/78 No cutoff.	5460	Pitsch
2650	05/28/76	5093	Pitsch
2660	05/07/87	7626	
2737	06/06/2003	9228	Melching
2761	06/06/2003	9227	Melching
2965	05/10/2004 Already removed by May 11, 2004.	9317	Specialized
3111	06/10/85	7393	Pitsch
3120	Leonard N.E. The building now housing the Adult and Continuing Education (A.C.E.) facilities of Cornerstone University was built in 1970.		
3136	01/08/69	2919	Dykema Excavators