



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

BULLETIN of the Catholic Record Society-  
Diocese of Columbus

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## The Shepherd Affair -- Catalyst for Catholic Action in 1902

(Concluded, from Vol. XXV, No. 11)

### The Citizen Takes a Stand

*The Catholic Columbian* praised *The Citizen* for an editorial of Monday, February 17, which, according to the Catholic paper, "boldly, fearlessly, and justly espoused the cause of public decency and voiced the sentiment of the great majority of intelligent and well-meaning non-Catholics by denouncing the false, shameless, and disgraceful attack made upon the Catholic institutions of the city and country." The editorial paragraph seems bold only if one reads into it references to Mrs. Shepherd and to the Catholics, neither of whom are even named:

#### **An Indecent Disturber.**

A notorious character, denounced publicly by reputable ministers of different denominations, has been holding forth in a public hall of this city repeatedly for months in vile and indecent tirades against many of the most reputable and respected citizens and taxpayers of this community. The surprise is that a large portion of this community fully abused and slandered as they have been have exercised the patience they have shown. It is a blot on the fair name of the city to have this public indecency continue longer. The officers having the public safety, the good name of the city, its quiet and order in their keeping should be supported in silencing this disturber of the peace and shameless violator of common decency.

Like the other papers, *The Citizen* reported fully on the arrest and subsequent events, but was not criticized for this by *The Columbian*.

### The Protestant Response

Responsible Protestants wanted nothing to do with Mrs. Shepherd; in fact they wanted her ignored at worst or, at best, silenced. About 1892 she had come to Columbus and "sought a hearing before a body of ministers" but evidence was produced against her and she was not admitted to the meeting.

In Canada, Rev. J. A. McDonald's 1893 letter proclaimed, "The worst enemies of Protestantism today are not those that carry the crucifix [the Catholics], but those who hold aloft the Bible they do not obey and flying a flag they disgrace and defile, fire the worst passions and prejudices for personal gain or political power, and shout to an unreasonable mob: 'To hell with the Pope.'" He called for Shepherd's silencing.

In Columbus, as early as February 9, 1902 "some of the Protestant denominations of the city ... protested against the views of Mrs. Shepherd as voicing the sentiments of Protestant Christians relative to the merits of the controversy." They requested, and *The Press* complied, that the 1893 letter of Presbyterian clergyman McDonald be printed, as it had previously appeared in *The Catholic Columbian*. However, the only minister to publicly object to Shepherd was Rev. E. G. Tressel, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church on South Fourth Street, who repudiated her and warned his people not to attend her lectures.

It was not until the affair was over that Rev. John C. Jackson, Jr., pastor of Eastwood Congregational Church, in a letter *The Catholic Columbian* (March 15) expressed his belief that the great majority of the Protestant clergy had no sympathy with "sectarian tirades of her kind." They had not said so through the pulpit or the press because they believed that such actions would only advertise her more effectively. "Protestants know their Catholic neighbors too well to believe that they are evil because of differences in theology or forms of worship."

#### The Official Catholic Response

The attitude of Catholics toward Mrs. Shepherd was expressed in an editorial by *The Catholic Columbian* on March 1. "We are not troubled by the damnable lies belched out against us by a strolling strumpet. But what does hurt us is that thousands of our neighbors believe these atrocious calumnies against us. We have lived amongst them and theirs, generation after generation, since the city was founded. Our lives are an open book to them... They know our clergy and members of our sisterhoods personally. They have seen them at work for years in the sacred cause of God and humanity. Yet, on the say-so of a dirty drab, they believe the foulest abominations that can be imagined against us, our religion and our institutions. This cuts us to the quick." According to Father Meara of the Cathedral, the religious of the city could scarcely appear on the streets, "without being stared at in a manner which indicated to them that the scurrilous attacks...were believed by many with whom they came in contact."

Division No. 2 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians met on Monday, February 17 and passed resolutions thanking the *Columbus Citizen* for its editorial espousing the cause of public decency. (Jerry O'Shaugnessy, William F. McNamara, and John A. Connor were the committee.) The St. Francis commandery of the

Knights of St. John met on the same evening and passed a resolution calling on fair-minded men and women of all denominations and the daily papers to assist the authorities in purging the city forever of the notorious character. (Signed by Frank Oger, president, Randle L. Baker, Charles Martin, and Carl Staiger.)

At the suggestion of the Federation of Catholic Societies, the clergy of the city were called together consider the propriety of taking some action, by means of a circular letter signed by Fathers F. X. Specht, M. M. Meara, C. R. Rhode, and D. A. Clarke. The priests, with Bishop Moeller, met in the baptistry of the Cathedral on Friday afternoon, February 21. At first it was decided to hold a "monster" mass meeting, but due to the lack of a large enough hall, it was deemed best to call parish meetings. Bishop Moeller sent this note to the city's pastors:

Rev. dear Father:-

The enclosed resolutions were adopted at a meeting of the Priests of the City, this afternoon. I request you to call a meeting of the male members of your parish on Sunday, February 23rd, after High Mass or at any other convenient time for their ratification.

It was also resolved at the same meeting that each Pastor as soon as possible select some member of the Federation of Catholic Societies to represent his congregation in cases affecting Catholic honor and interests.

Sincerely yours in Xto.

The proposed resolutions were:

WHEREAS, our Church, its people and its institutions have lately been vilely slandered in this city by a notorious lecturer, the feelings of many non-catholic citizens embittered against us, and our hitherto friendly relations endangered, and

WHEREAS, A certain portion of the press of this city, whose duty it is to reflect public opinion and defend morality, has by its unfriendly silence or exaggerated reports in this connection given countenance to the

lecturer's slanderous assertions, and

WHEREAS, The sacredness of Christian Faith and the preservation of Christian Morals demand that we break the patient silence which Holy Church generally prefers for her insulted and persecuted children, be it

*Resolved*, By the members of this congregation, in union with all the Catholics of the City, that we deeply deplore the necessity of even noticing such foul and unjust slander; be it

*Resolved*, That we denounce as false, slanderous, malicious and vile the utterances, and the literature of this disreputable person, and deprecate their corrupting influence upon the young and misinformed in this community; be it

*Resolved*, That we vigorously condemn the indefensible conduct of the lessees of the hall, and the cowardice of certain newspapers of this City which, even when so requested, have refused to recognize our claim to American fair-play; be it

*Resolved*, That we hereby express our kindly remembrance of those papers which championed the cause of morality and voiced honest public opinion; be it

*Resolved*, That the grateful support of every Catholic in this country is due THE CATHOLIC COLUMBIAN for its fearless advocacy of the cause of religion and morals on this and similar occasions; be it

*Resolved*, That we demand from the city authorities the protection to which as citizens we are entitled for our honor, and for the sacred honor of our mothers, wives and daughters. And be it furthermore

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be engrossed and preserved in the Archives of each Parish of this City and published in THE CATHOLIC COLUMBIAN and other proper publications.

The meeting announcements were made at all the Masses in all the parishes on Sunday and the meetings were held either after the final Mass or after evening vespers. The largest meeting was at the Cathedral, where some 1,800 who attended vespers remained for the discussion. After adopting the resolutions, George Bruck, "one of the most prominent members of the cathedral as well as one of the oldest inhabitants of the city," was chosen to represent the parish in

the matter of strengthening the county Federation of Catholic Societies. (George "Bruck" was George Burck, son of Bernhard Burck the brewer. See the *Bulletin* of November, 1980.) At St. Patrick Parish, some 800 men were present after vespers. John L. Lawler was selected as the parish delegate to the Federation of Catholic Societies. Each parish meeting endorsed the proposed resolutions.

The Knights of Columbus also held one of the largest meetings in their local history on the same Sunday. The resolutions were presented and discussed and a committee consisting of D. C. Meehan, M. S. Connors, John L. Lawler, J. M. Howard, and J. W. Koos was appointed to assist in forwarding any movement that might come up in the future for the suppression of the work of Mrs. Shepherd or any of her kind. The committee also was empowered to draw up a circular covering all the work done in Columbus by the Federation in connection with this situation and to forward a copy to every council in the country.

The *Columbian* on March 1 dared the "brazen strumpet" or her defender, Judge Pugh, to hale it into court for publicly branding her as a person of criminal career, for it was prepared to make the details of her crimes a matter of public record.

#### Aftermath

By the time of the above, of course, Shepherd had left Columbus, but the effort was not without effect. According to the *Columbian* of March 7:

We Catholics are growing stronger in the persuasion that we did the right thing, at the right time, in the right way. A public spirit has been infused into our ranks that was never there before. There is a solidarity of ideas now, as there is a community of interests. The need of union, the feeling of brotherhood, the sense of strength are growing.

From all sides testimony has poured in to us that the

best element among our Protestant neighbors sympathized with us in our recent trials. They have told us that they were with us. They were ashamed that an infamous street-walker should be taken up as the champion of Protestantism. They were and are opposed to her foul abuse of us, our clergy and our nuns. They see the degradation of the prostituted press. They are as indignant as we are that the police authorities should have let libel flourish and obscenity go free. They have been drawn to us by their sense of decency, their sense of the public welfare, their sense of fair play. They think more of us than ever before and are our friends for all time.

Strong, therefore, in our knowledge of the justice of our cause and strengthened by the sympathy of these thousands of warm-hearted and high-minded neighbors, we see how Divine Providence has drawn good out of the evil that was designed to overwhelm us and we are duly and humbly grateful.

The actions of the Catholics of Columbus were commended by newspapers throughout the country and Canada. Among those within the diocese were the *Perry County Herald*, the three city papers of Dennison, and the *Hocking Sentinel*. Farther afield, favorable comment appeared in the *Cincinnati Telegraph*, the *Montreal True Witness*, the *Pittsburgh Observer* [Catholic], the *Cleveland Universe* [Catholic], the *Minneapolis Standard*, the *Buffalo Union and Times* [Catholic], and the *Sacred Heart Review* of Boston.

The *Montreal True Witness* included in its remarks, "But Mrs. Shepherd found it no hardship to leave the place. She had lectured there for four weeks, and had exhausted all her chances of revenue. But now she will go to some other town. It will be in order for the authorities of her next stopping place to expel her before she has time to do any harm." The actions taken in Columbus helped other cities to guard against her slanders. After leaving Columbus she arranged lectures in Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee. During the second week of March the *Columbian* received inquiries from Memphis

as to her history and how she had been dealt with here. A number of copies of the *Columbian* containing her history and the character of her lectures were sent, with the result that a committee of prominent Catholic gentlemen called on the Mayor and gave him the information, upon which he revoked her license and she was obliged to leave town. She did not appear in Nashville, where she was next scheduled, "her experience in Memphis doubtless causing her to change her program."

It is noteworthy that this spirited response, with *Catholic Columbian* headlines trumpeting, "They Rise in their Might!" and "...30,000 Catholics of Columbus Against Injustice"... was entirely after the fact. Shepherd had been gone from Columbus for two or three days, having promised not to return, when the public action was begun. It was instigated by the local Federation of Catholic Societies. This group appeared elsewhere in the pages of *The Columbus Press* that January of 1902. On January 25 it was reported,

Definite action was finally taken Friday evening by the local federation of Catholic societies in connection with the long-contemplated plan of erecting a building to serve as a permanent home for the different societies. A committee consisting of James T. Carroll, John Kuster, Charles Buschmann, E. A. Moriarity, George Burck and Thomas F. Walsh was appointed to investigate the desirable sites and inquire into the financial practicability of the project.

A stock company will probably be formed, and the shares offered in small denominations so that members of all the societies could purchase them. The committee is to report on February 14.

The federation will be represented in the state convention by the following delegates: James A. Mulligan, John Kuster, James Farley, J. J. Gordon and Charles Buschmann.

There were corresponding Ohio and National federations of Catholic societies. The Press of



January 27 reported on the Ohio Federation's second annual convention, held in Columbus on the 26th, which opened with an address by Bishop Moeller. The convention decided to make Columbus its permanent meeting place. The officers (re-elected) were President T. B. Minahan of Columbus, Vice President R. P. Burkhardt of Dayton, Secretary Anthony Matre of Cincinnati, and Treasurer W. A. Manning of Cleveland. (Thomas B. Minahan also was president of the six month old National Federation, whose officers met in Columbus the same day. The national group selected Cincinnati as its permanent headquarters.)

John Kuster, prominent in the local Federation, was editor of *The Catholic Columbian*, which was very vocal in its opposition to Shepherd and in its support of the Federation. It would be interesting to learn what mix of motives went into the instigation of the priests to break their silence and make a public protest against Margaret Shepherd. This action was a natural outcome of the formation and growth of the local Federation. However, mixed in may have been a desire to call attention to the Federation, whose role in having Shepherd arrested had been barely mentioned in the papers. This group was brought to the favorable attention of the Catholic community by the "indignation meetings" and must have profited thereby.

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One of the Columbus papers announced the intention of Mrs. Shepherd to go to St. Louis. Another said that she intended to go to Australia. It seems certain that in time she did go "down under," for W. M. Madgwick of Sydney sometime after 1901 published one of the tracts that she typically sold at her lectures.

Lizzie Sullivan, the Catholic young lady who wrote the letters to *The Press*, spent the next twenty years quietly in Columbus. She lived with her sisters in various rented houses while working as a bookkeeper. For a time she was a

public stenographer with an office in the basement of the Huntington Bank Building. About 1922 she moved to New York City and lived on Britton Avenue in Elmhurst, Queens, where she was a member of St. Bartholomew Parish. She died in 1927 and now lies in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Columbus, with her father, brother, and sisters.

#### SOURCES

M. J. Brady, *A Fraud Unmasked: the Career of Margaret L. Shepherd...Her Own Confessions*; Woodstock: 1893. The author was the Catholic pastor of Woodstock, Ontario. This book obviously is the source of much of Shepherd's personal history as published in the *Columbian*. It can be viewed on [www.canadiana.org](http://www.canadiana.org).

*The Catholic Columbian*, March 9, 1901; Feb. 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, 1902 (courtesy of *The Catholic Times*)

*The Citizen*, February 17, 18, 19, 1902. *The Columbus Evening Press*, January 25, 26, 27, February 2, 3, 9, 17, 18, 19, 24, 1902. *The Ohio State Journal*, February 16, 17, 18, 24, 1902 (courtesy of the Columbus Metropolitan Library)

Description of a four-page leaflet promoting Shepherd's appearance in Harrisburgh, Pa., for sale through [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com)

The diocesan archives holds copies of the letters calling the priests' meeting and calling for the parish meetings, along with the resolutions.

We express our thanks to Carol Welch of the Library of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnewood, Pa., for sending the picture of Mrs. Shepherd; and to Kate Schlegel of Brooklyn for learning what could be found of Miss Sullivan there; and to Jan Gerst of St. Joseph Cemetery for locating the Sullivan graves.

## St. John the Evangelist Church, Zanesville: Baptisms, 1828-1842

(Continued, from Vol. XXV, No.10)

1840, continued

same day [Sept. 12] Rebecca, a few days old, daughter of John Gaspar and Ann Wangler; spon. John Harrich and Catherine Harrich.

same day John, born September 10, at 5 a.m., son of Michael Kilbride and Bridget Salmon; spon. Timothy Roack [Roark] and Mary Berky. Fr. Joseph S. Alemany O.S.D.

September 20 Thomas, son of Henry Ornfo[r]ff and Catherine Harkins; spon. Peter Rogers and Mary Seares. JSA

same day on the day of birth, William, son of Patrick Kennedy and Rose Ward; spon. John and Mary Patterson. Fr. A. J. Wilson, O.S.D.

same day Elizabeth, a few days old, daughter of Michael O'Conner and Ann Croford; spon. Dennis Berden and Catherine Farry. JSA

October 4 William Lindsey, in the 78th year of his age, son of John [Lindsey] and Barbara Gardiner; spon. James and Mary Victor.

same day Elizabeth Catherine, born in 1826, daughter of Alexander [Wilson] and Margaret Boice; spon. John Spaulding and Mary Montgomery.

same day Mary Elizabeth, aged 19 years, daughter of Alexander Wilson and Margaret Boice; spon. John Cassilly and Ann Lynch.

same day Emily E., aged nine, daughter of [same]; spon. Peter Rogers and Hannah McCormack.

same day David Augustine, age 11 years, son of [same]; spon. William Thomas Hughs and Mary McCormick. AJW

October 4 Lucy Ann, daughter of Abel Hall and Cecilia Roberts; spon. Peter Rogers and Susan Fouch. JSA

October 5 William, born today, son of Thomas McCoy and Ca. [page torn]; spon. Bridget Lairancy. JSA

October 11 Adam, son of George Powel and Margaret Sc. [page torn]; spon. Adam Hadman and Elizabeth Ronor. JSA

October 25 John James, born April 3, son of Conrad Emmer and Eva Maria Young; spon. John and Catherine Keller. Fr. Jacobus Clark...

November 8 Robert Harkins, son of Oliver Barrett and Margaret Harkins, six days old; spon. Robert Harkins & wife Catherine. AJW

November 11 John, born September 24, son of Owen FitzPatrick and Bridget Shanon; spon. Margaret O'Neil.

same day Bernard, born September 24, son of Owen FitzPatrick and Bridget Shanon; spon. Thomas Handley.

same day Michael, son of Michael Haier and Margaret; spon. Master and Hadeyot Gape.

same day John, age 3 years, son of Joseph Wise and Margaret Berievine[?]; spon. Edward Host and Barbara Martyr.

same day Margaret, daughter of Patrick Crauley and Mary Manning[?]; spon. John Kelley and Catherine Collopey.

same day Teresa, daughter of Laurence Yeher and Barbara Craise; spon. Michael Wesenberger and Teresa Wesenberger.

same day Rachael, daughter of Cegandicher and Britendicher; spon. Britendicher and Rachael Britendicher.

same day Elizabeth, daughter of Michael Crawley and Ann [page torn]; spon. Thomas Collopy and his wife; born in September.

same day James, con of Croniceret and Barbara Shoe; spon. Michael Haser and Catherine Clive; age 4 months.

same day Elizabeth, daughter of Maurice Traynor and Catherine Smith; spon. Sarah Lennen; age 5 months. AJW

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November 11 Margaret, daughter of John Linnen and Sarah Tanney; spon. Catherine Trayner. Fr. A. J. Wilson, O.S.D.

November 12 Bridget, daughter of Edward Barret and Catherine Dorsey; spon. John Moore and Mary Regain. AJW

November 15 Catherine, daughter of Anthony Berkey and Anna Maria Huff, born October 24.; spon. Anthony and Magdalen Huff. F. Joseph S. Alemany, O.S.D.

November 29 Andrew, age two months, son of Adam Fall and Eve Kleinzaintz; spon. Andrew Kimmel. JSA

December 3 Elizabeth Ellen, born November 16, daughter of Henry Musselman and Lydia Mart; spon. Ellen Coakley. JSA

December 6 William, born November 22, son of Gregory Ractliff [sic] and Susan Seems; spon. John and Ann Cassilly. JSA

December 13 Joseph, born November 9, son of Francis L. Fix and Priscina Freeman; spon. Ann Fix. JSA

same day Mary Ann, daughter of Martin Freeman and Mary Williams, born November 26; spon. Francis Fix and Regina Freeman.

same day Valentine, born October 25, son of Joseph Keiner and Catherine Shrumb; spon. Francis Rink and Margaret A. his wife. JSA

December 20 Charles, born February 2, 1832, son of Charles Waters and Teresa Murphy; spon. Alice Waters.

same day James, born May 2, 1834, son of Charles Waters and Teresa Murphy; spon. Peter Joseph and Josephine Waters. JSA

December 25 Abel Hall, age 36, son of Nathan Hall and Catherine Harklerail; spon. John Cassilly and Ann Rogers.

21(?) December Anthony Biss was baptized by a Catholic boy named Anthony; the name of the father is Anthony Bess. GAJW

25 December John Hiet, son of Joseph Hiet and Margaret; spon. Peter Joseph. AJW

27 December Mary Eve, born December 24, daughter of Adolf Host and Ann Ruff; spon. Bernard Ruff and Hildegrand Gape. AJW

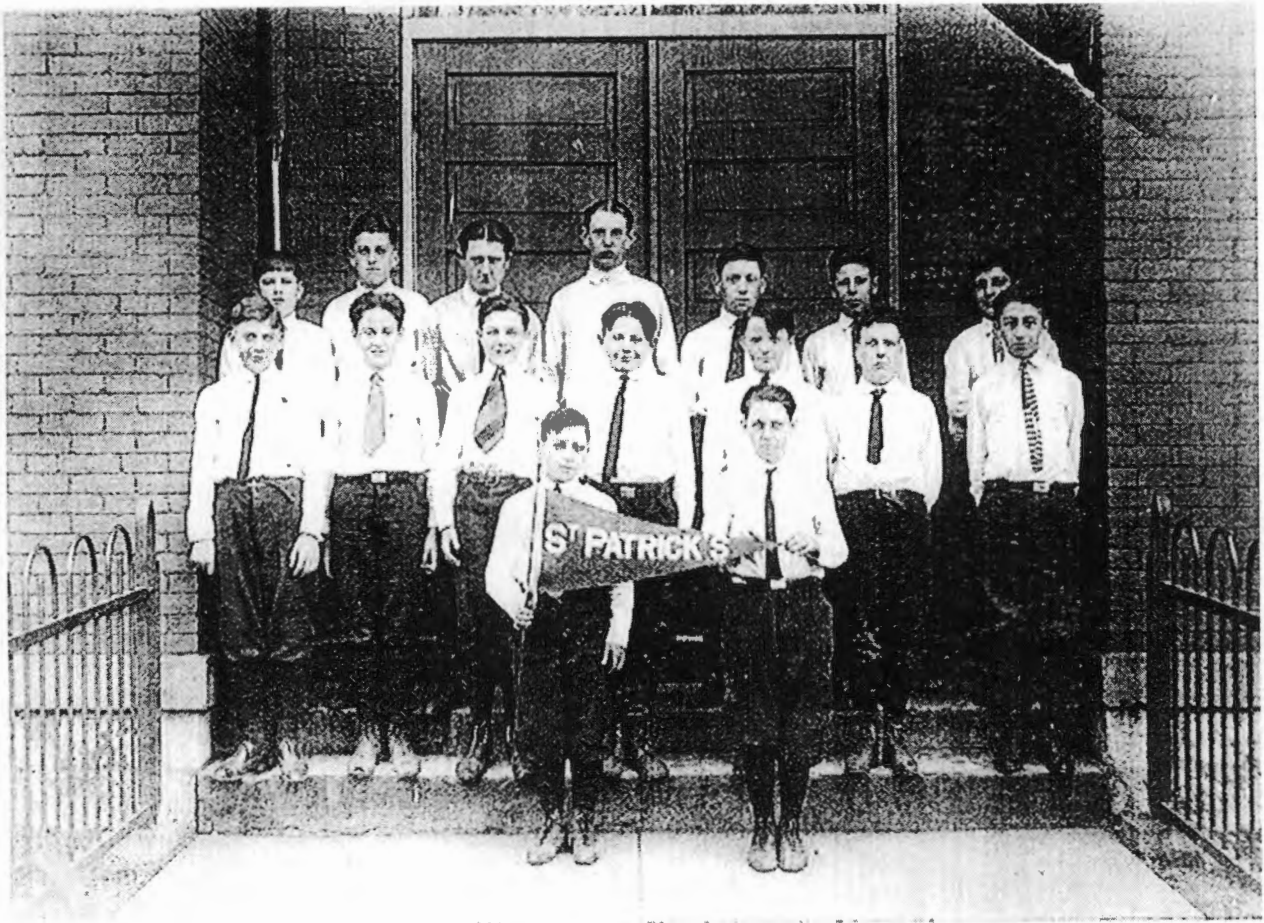
December 28 Margaret, age 18 months, daughter of James M'Murry and Ellen Dauherty; spon. Mary Smith. AJW

#### 1841

January 6 William, on the day of his birth, son of Charles Murphy and Ann Campbell; spon. John Cassilly and Rose Ann Kennedy. AJW

January 19 Bridget, born January 15, daughter of John Laley and Bridget Mulonny; spon. James Hoppins and Mary Walsh. JSA

(To be continued)



The above photograph, found in a garage sale and donated by Theresa Overholser, has the names of the boys written on the reverse: Top Row: A. Fasone, A. Richards, F. Gorman, B. Frikie, W. Himmelspach, H. Carey; 2nd Row: R. Leonard, J. Enright, A. Crist, C. Brush, G. McCaffrey, J. Casserly, S. Ventola; Bottom Row: J. Flesh, W. Noon. Under the names is the note, "N.B. F. Gorman has on a crepe paper collar from May Altar. May 3, 1922." It is quite apparent that this group was the eighth grade boys of Columbus St. Patrick School, for of the fifteen, six graduated from Aquinas High School in 1926, namely Cornelius Curran, William Himmelspach, Raymond Leonard, Jerome F. Enright, John Casserly, and Walter Noon. We thank Mrs. O. for this precious gift.

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Donald M. Schlegel, editor

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