

## Hawkeye-St. Francis-1987

[inaudible, cut off]. I am Verna Wilson from Hawkeye and I will be interviewed by my granddaughter Penny Langerman, a high school sophomore. Grandma when was the first mass offered in Hawkeye? The first mass was offered in 1891 by Fr. Mulligan of West Union. He continued to say Mass for 2 years in the home of Michael Riley, a section foreman of the railroad. When was our present church built? It was built in 1893, under the supervision of Fr. Mulligan and funds were raised by donations from all the citizens, irrespective of creed. Three lots were purchased on East Main Street. At this time there were 7 Catholic families in Hawkeye. What were their names? Tanglely, Hubert, and Libby, and Mrs. Mary Riley was the widow of Michael and T.I. McCormick was the editor of the Hawkeye Beacon. Who were the first priests? Fathers Reagan, Fitzgerald, Rooney, and Toomey. They lived in West Union and they drove to Fayette and Hawkeye to say Mass once a month. Did Hawkeye have a Catholic cemetery. No, the burials were in the city cemeteries of West Union and Hawkeye. Does our church still own 3 lots? No, one of them was sold in 1917. Who was the priest that succeeded Fr. Toomey? Fr. James Roach was in West Union from 1937 to 1944 and continued to care for the Fayette and Hawkeye mission churches. The children attended catechism classes in West Union, taught by the ladies of the parish. Fr. Roach supervised the painting of the outside and inside of our church and remodeled the altar and repaired the steeple. Paul Hubert, son of F.E. and Rose Hubert, was our first altar boy. What priest followed Fr. Roach? Fr. Edmund Cooney came next and continued to have Mass once a month at Hawkeye. When was the Hawkeye Rosary Society formed? In 1944 the ladies of the parish decided to organize a Rosary Society to buy needed things for the altar and to meet socially. The first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Rose Hubert, with 16 members and Fr. Cooney present. Who were the first members? The charter members were Rose Hubert, Peggy Campbell, Edna Riley, Alana Hubert, Mary Riley, Minnie Riley, Alice Shoendorf, Anna Mae Mitchell, Joyce Smith, Dorothy Berry, Grace Haye, Mrs. Irvin Holder, and Mrs. Tom Rotherby. The meetings were held once a month in the homes of the members. Money was raised to purchase altar linens and the church tower was repaired and cement steps were added to the front of the church. When did Fr. Mullin come to Hawkeye? In 1946, and for the first time, Mass was offered every Sunday in Hawkeye. 13 hours devotion was held for the first time at Hawkeye on November 18, 1946. Neighboring priests in attendance were Monsignors Thiltgen from Ossian, Rev. Edmund Cooney, from West Union, Rev. Drummy from Waucoma, Rev. O'Hagan from Oelwein, and Fr. Mullin from Hawkeye. When was the first mission held in Hawkeye? From October the 29th to November the 4th in 1951 by Reverend Fr. Donovan, OMI. In October of 1947 Bishop Fitzgerald confirmed the first class in the Hawkeye parish, there were several converts. 15 ladies joined the ACCW in 1945. During the period, the steeple of the church was torn down because it could not be repaired. I imagine the church looked different without the tall steeple grandma, what other interesting events took place during the 8 years that Fr. Mullin was our priest? The Hawkeye parish contributed toward the purchase of a rectory in Fayette. Catechism classes were still held in Fayette. Diane Francen, a 1st grade pupil, won first place in the state poetry contest. And Rose Hubert won first prize in a contest of outdoor nativity scenes, sponsored by the American Legion. What year did Fr. Roskopf come to Fayette and Hawkeye? Fr. Roskopf came in 1954, a reception was held for him at the Legion Hall in Hawkeye. Tom Riley and Lawrence Davis were selected as trustees. It was decided to move the church east and build a basement under it. Fr. Roskopf and the men of the parish did all of the work. New pews and the confessional were donated by the Sisters of Mercy at the

hospital at Mason City, Iowa. Mike Roskopf, of Marshalltown, gave a generous cash donation. And Fr. Roskopf donated an electric organ, 50 chairs and 6 tables. A new altar was built by Fr. Roskopf and F.E. Huber. Did any Hawkeye ladies join the Catholic Daughters Association in West Union? Yes, there was Edna Riley, Alice Shoedorf, Rose Nabhold, Donna Shawbracht, and Rose Hubert. What year did Fr. Shekleton come to our church? Fr. Shekleton came on November the 29th, 1957, and he stayed 12 years, the longest period of any priest since the founding of our church. The catechism classes started to be taught at our church on Sunday mornings by Bernice Woodson, Claire Bilmeyer, and Mary Richmond. In 1958 the first parish committee appointments were made so that we could work with the ACCW. When was our first church dinner served? We served our first church dinner in 1959. It was successful and the profits were used to pay our fair share in the building of an American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls. What other events happened during the years of 1957 and 1961? Dialogue Mass was instituted, we used the official manual of the Archdiocese, Our Parish Prays and Sings. In 1960 Fr. Shekelton was appointed Deanery Moderator of the ACCW. In August of 1960 the Deanery ACCW meeting was held in Hawkeye. Fr. David Voels, director of the American Martyrs Retreat House, spoke to the ladies about the value of making a retreat. 5 ladies from our parish made the retreat that past year. Mrs. Rose Hubert was named Civil Defense Chairman for 1960 to 1962. Hawkeye and Fayette parish cooperated in running a lunch stand at the Fayette County Fair, the profit was used to paint our church on the outside. The Rosary Society members toured the Fayette County home. We also visited the home of Mrs. Herman Hansebracht, near West Union, to view her outdoor shrine of the Blessed Virgin and 14 stations of the cross. Had our parish grown by 1962? There were now 48 adults and 60 children. The Rosary Society had 12 members. Informally we made hospital gowns, rolled bandages and contributed to the annual clothing drive. When did the Hawkeye parish start youth club? In 1963 it was taught by Clara Belmeyer, and it met once a week. On June the 16, 1963, 4 children received their first communion they were Anne Richmond, Linda Kruse, Michelle Grawlaman, and Jeffrey Gifford. Nine children were confirmed by Bishop Biskup on April the 29th, 1963, and they were Tom Akleman, Mike and Mitchell Grawlaman, Mark Gifford, Lee Berry, Genie Richmond, Darrel and Doris Franzen, and Cathy Woodsen. The Rosary Society sent Mother's Day cards to the mothers of the members. Dale Heiman was selected by the American Legion post to attend Boys Stated and Ft. Des Moines. Fr. Shekleton spoke at the memorial services at the Hawkeye school. Our parish sponsored a record hop. The proceeds of \$100 dollars was given to the park board for a swing set.

Rose Hubert wrote the church history from 1891 to 1963 and Alice Shoedorf, became the church historian on September 1st, 1963. How many families were in St. Francis parish in 1963? There were 28 families now and we had 4 new altar boys, Lee Berry, Dean Mitchell, Norm Nabhold, and Dwayne Mitchell. The Rosary Society has ten members and meets once a month in the church hall, the officers were President Loretta Davis, Vice President Jerry Heinman, Secretary/Treasurer Ethel Wentland. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hubert were given a farewell party. They had been members of St. Francis parish for 24 years. Who were the high school graduates from 1963 from our parish? They were Jan Brady, Don Knowle, and Dale Heinman. On July 16, 1964 four car loads of our parish people went to Dubuque and Fr. Shekleton. We visited the monastery and Catholic cemeteries and so forth. The children had 2 weeks of vacation school at Fayette. Fr. Shekleton and those St. Lucas brothers were the teachers. Who taught the catechism classes in 1964? The teachers were Barbara Woodsen, Donna Franzen, and William Strudorf.

And on November the 22nd we had a farewell party for George Richmond family who moved to Fayette. On October 17th we had a rummage and a bake sale and we gathered clothing for the Thanksgiving Community Drive. The new officers for the Rosary Society are President Jerry Heinman, Vice President Claire Billmeyer, and Secretary/Treasurer Janet Brady. When was the English liturgy started? It was started the first Sunday of Advent, November the 27th. And on March the 22nd 6 children were confirmed with Archbishop James Byrne officiating, they were Debbie Wentlend, Norm Nabhold, Dwayne Mitchell, Ted Kruse, Jean Gifford, and Michelle Grawlaman. On May the 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Shekleton, parents of Fr. Shekleton celebrated their golden anniversary at Greene. Father offered the high Mass for them. On May the 23rd, 1965 four members of our parish graduated from North High. They were Donna Franzen, Sue Mitchell, David Moore, and Dick Woodsen. On June the 27th, 10 families attended the parish picnic at Howitz Memorial Park. When were the cement steps put in? On July 10th the men of the parish put in the cement steps at the front of our church. And on August the 2nd, the summer religion classes were held for a week in Hawkeye. Fr. Shekleton and the brothers were the teachers. On August the 8th David Strudorf, Dale Franze, and Theresa Berry made their first communion. How many days did Hawkeye people work at the fair stand? Hawkeye ran it one day and Fayette the rest of the week. Catechism classes were started October the 3rd with Ethel Wentland, Bernice Woodsen, Mary Jo Nabhold and Bill Strudorf as teachers. Claire Billmeyer taught the high school students. The Rosary Society gave \$50 toward the purchase of a new altar carpet and aisle runner. We have a new altar now and Fr. faces the people during the Mass. On March the 27th, 1966 English was used in all Catholic churches. Bernice Woodsen and Aileen Lee joined the CDA. In May the 3rd three ladies made a retreat at Cedar Falls. Who received their first communion this year? There were Doug Franzen, Dale Langry, Paul Strudorf, and Debbie Zell. We sat 8 boxes of clothing for the Thanksgiving Drive. The Rosary Society members had a bridal shower for Jan Brady on December 10th. Anthony Wier plays the organ at our church. Did anyone move from the parish in 1967? The Larry Berry family moved to Fayette and Nabholz's moved to a farm near West Union. When was the new church in Fayette finished? The St. Francis of Assisi held an open house for their new church and rectory on May the 21st, 1967, and on June 4th, the summer catechism classes were held in Fayette for a week. On June the 25th John Riley died suddenly, and on July the 2nd we had a farewell potluck supper in the park for Laurence and Loretta Davis. They moved to Oelwein. Some of the Rosary members drove to Lawler to see their new church. Who was confirmed on November 1st, 1967? They were David Strudort, Donald Lee, Dale Franzen, and Linda Kruse, and one adult, Dean Reginald. Archbishop Byrne officiated. On December 21st, some of the Rosary members went to the Good Samaritan Home in West Union and led the singing of Christmas carols and served lunch. Members of our parish took part in the World Day of Prayer at the Lutheran church. At our April Rosary meeting Bernice Woodsen shows slides that her son Bob had taken in Europe. Who was in the first communion class of 1968? They were Gary and Dennis Burns, Steve Franzen, Carol Ann Krick, Marvin Lee, Jolene Younger, and two adults, Iva Bumgartner, and Marilyn Burns. The Rosary Society had a breakfast to honor the communicants and everyone in the parish was invited. Devotions were held on Wednesday during Lent. The World Day of Prayer was held in the Methodist church on March the 7th, 6 ladies were present from our parish. Mr. and Mrs. Jungers have moved to Iowa City. On March the 17th we started our own communion wafer in the chalice which was on a table in the aisle. On May the 15th a severe tornado hit Charles City, Oelwein and Maynard. Four of our ladies helped serve dinner to the homeless and the national guard. On September the 29th catechism classes were started at the Hawkeye church on Saturday

mornings. There were 24 pupils. The high school pupils went to Fayette on Wednesday evenings. February the 27th some of the ladies painted the ceiling of the basement. On March the 20th there was a shower for Marsha Heinman, and on April the 4th Dorothy Appleman was married to Nicholas Thinelogy in the Fayette church. Were the ladies of St. Francis parish active in the ACCW? Yes, every month some of the Rosary Society members would attend the meetings and give a report to those who couldn't attend. On May the 4th a bridal shower was given for Barbara Woodsen, and on June the 2nd Earl Woodsen died suddenly of a heart attack. His funeral was June the 4th at our church. On May the 7th was Barbara Woodsen's wedding, because her fiancé Richard Langerman was on furlough from the Army. On June the 8th Keith Franzen, Randy Langfrick received their first communion. June the 19th, some of our ladies toured the retreat house in Cedar Falls. When did Fr. Shekleton leave? Fr. Shekleton was transferred to St. Mary's parish in Guttenburg July of 1969. Who was the new priest and when did he come? Fr. Eugene Kutch from Loras College came July the 20th, 1969. An installation ceremony was held in the Fayette church with a reception afterwards. The members of the Hawkeye parish were saddened at the death of Howard Youngers. On August the 5th the ACCW meeting was held in Decorah. Dr. Dobberman spoke on teenagers and alcoholism. Anthony Weird passed away on September the 2nd, 1969. Who were confirmed on October 26th, 1969? The members of the class were Paul Strudorf, Douglas Franzen, Dale Langfreit, Delbert Lee, Debbie Zale, and Gary Burns. One adult was Mrs. Larry Burns. The ACCW meeting was held October 30th at Fayette. Fr. Lang talked about CCD programs. Our first home Mass was at Bernice Woodsen's on November the 18th, 1969. The Rosary Society had their meeting and Christmas party December 16th. The new officers are President Janet Brady, Vice President Ethel Wentlend, and Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Heinman. Has Hawkeye ever had an evening Mass? Yes, on February 1st, 1970 Fr. Kutsch started having a Mass on the 1st Saturday evening of each month. So he could have Mass for the college students. The Rosary Society sponsored a card party once a month in the church basement on Sunday night. Who was appointed on the first church board to take care of the church business? Those appointed by Fr. Kutsch and the parish were President Kenneth Rentland, Vice President John Berry, Secretary Clem Bodensteiner also Harold Lubber, Dale Strudorf, Bernice Woodsen, and Janet Brady. Our new moderator of the Ossian Deanery Council of Catholic Women is Father Cletus J. Hawes. Pastor of St. Bridget church in Postville. When was the confessional moved to the back of the church? On February 26th, and a new carpeting was installed. The statues of Mary and Joseph were put up on small shelves. On March the 6th we had World Day of Prayer at our church. Rev. Kass gave the talk. We had Mass Thursday evening during Lent. Who are the altar boys now? We had some new boys in 1970, they were Douglas Franzen, Dale Langfry, Paul Strudorf, Dale Franzen, and David Strodorf. The members of the parish take turns carrying the wine and communion wafers up to the altar. Our organists are Debbie Wentland and Janet Brady. The CCD classes are held after class every Sunday, the teachers are Marge Strudorf, Leona Bodensteiner, Aileen Lee, Bernice Woodsen, and Marilyn Burns. The high school classes are held in Fayette every Wednesday evening. Tom Appleman is our graduate in the 1970 class. Who received the first communion on June 7th? Those in this class were Kim Strudorf, Joan Bodensteiner, Scott ???, Chrissie Wilbur, and Scott Franzen. Did the St. Francis parish take part in the Hawkeye centennial of June 23rd and 24th? Yes, our parish had a float in the parade. It was a small replica of our church on a wagon pulled by a small tractor. We had fun making it. We also had an eating stand on Main Street. We made \$263.66. On July the 13th six of our ladies went to Guttenberg to visit Fr. Shekleton. He gave the women a tour of the island and St. Mary church. A picnic dinner was

eaten at the park. When did the men of our parish have their first chili and oyster soup supper? They had it on November the 14th because it was the first day of pheasant hunting. The 9th graders went to the home of Bill Strudorf every Wednesday evening for catechism. We sent in 1,045 coffee strips for Christmas toys. The Christmas program was held after Mass on December the 20th. The CCD pupils sang songs and spoke poems. Christmas evening Mass was at 9:00 pm and Mass on Christmas Day was at 9:00 am. Several gifts have been donated to the parish through this year. Florence Franzen gave four chairs for the altar. Joe Brady a schraff for the chalice. Bernice Woodsen and Janet Brady made Father green vestments, Aileen Lee made the white vestments, and Alice Strudorf donated the coat and hat rack in the entryway. Bernice Woodsen the sign on the front of the church with the name of the church and the time of Mass in memory of her husband Earl. John Berry's the shells in the sanctuary entry and also the communion platter. What time is the Sunday Mass in Hawkeye. For many years now it has been at 9:00 am. Debbie Wentland was married in the Fayette church to Charles Kimball on February 13th. The senior citizens met at our church on March the 8th for a potluck dinner. Fr. Kutsch gave a talk. Veronica Overman of Decorah explained what the senior citizen clubs in other towns are doing. This was the beginning of the Hawkeye club. On March the 12th a bridal shower was given for Annette Bomber, she married Don Highland. Who was confirmed on May 5th, 1971? Bishop Byrne confirmed Bruce and Brent Mitchell, Allen Lancrick, Teresa Wilbur, Stacy Sanhagen, and Joe Franzen. When did Father Kutsch leave our parish? Father left July of 1971 and went to Waterloo and Evansdale parishes. On June the 27th we had a farewell picnic int he park for Father and also for the Bodensteiners who were moving to Maquoketa. On September 15th there was an ACCW meeting at Calmar, there were 250 layettes taken in. Who was our new priest? Father Richard Kuhn. He made several pilgrimages to Washington, D.C. with a bus load of people. Fr. Tracy, a retired priest would say masses for Fr. Kuhn while he was gone on his pilgrimages. The men had their oyster and chili supper December the 4th. The roads were slippery so the crowds were small. Margaret Taylor's funeral was December 6th from our church. Our Christmas party was on December the 9th and Janet Brady's. We had midnight Mass, the children sang songs. Who were the Rosary Society officers elected on January 20th, 1972? They were President, Ethel Wentland, Vice President, Aileen Lee, Secretary/Treasurer, Elaine Begalsky. A photographer from St. Charles came to take our picture for a parish book. The World Day of Prayer was at the Advent Church on March the 3rd. Bridal showers were given for Linda Dryden-Hyman, and Patty Woodsen-Blessal. Who were the CCD teachers in 1972? The teachers were 1st grade Jerry Heinman, 2nd and 3rd grade Mary Wilbur, 4th grade Linda Kruse, 5th and 6th grade Elaine Begalsky, 7th grade Aileen Lee, and 8th grade Bernice Woodsen. The high school students, Bill Strudort. Five of our Rosary Society members drove to Dickeyville, Wisconsin to see the Grotto, it is very beautiful. On August the 12th the Rosary Society had a lunch counter at Hoyt's sale. We made \$83.00 clear. When did Kenneth Wentland leave our parish? Mister and Mrs. Kenneth Wentland moved to Oelwein in August. And on August the 27th our parish had a farewell party for the Wentland's in the Hawkeye Park. Edna Riley passed away on October the 7th. The funeral was in the Fayette church. We had midnight Mass at Christmas [end of side 1]

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