

St. Stanislaus Church, Sobieski

This tape covers the personal backgrounds of Leo Victor Polasek and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lashinski. The History of the church is discussed. Groups within the church, traditional foods, and the parish and country school are discussed.

DATE: August 16, 1978

INTERVIEWER: Mark Stone

SUBJECTS COVERED: Tape 1 Side 1

000 PERSONAL BACKGROUNDS:

005 Leo Victor Polasek was born in Morrison County on December 17, 1909.  
 009 Albert Lashinski was born April, 22, 1892.  
 013 Mrs. Lashinski was born December 2, 1898.  
 019 Mr. Polasek's parents came from Poland.  
 023 His father was in wood working.  
 033 His father homesteaded here in the late 1870's.  
 039 He settled in Chicago for a number of years.  
 047 His father's name is George Sr.  
 050 Mr. Lashinski's parents came to the United States in 1895.  
 064 Mrs. Lashinski's Grandparents came to the U.S. after her father.  
 094 He lived in Little Falls for part of his life.  
 100 She went to a country school with 8 grades.  
 109 It was about 1½ miles that she had to walk,  
 126 No Polish was taught in the schools.  
 129 She learned Polish from her step mother.  
 133 Mr. Polasek went to the school which was associated with the church.  
 135 Basically, it was the same as the country school with 8 grades,  
       but the teachers were nuns.  
 143 He also learned Polish in the home and can still speak it.  
 146 There are very few around the town that still know the Polish  
       speaking language.

154 HISTORY OF THE CHURCH:

154 The church has always been called St. Stanislaus Church.  
 159 The original church was log, and it burned down.  
 180 The new church however, was already built.  
 184 The old church was built in 1896.  
 189 Father Ropoc was responsible for setting up this church.  
 193 It is one of the oldest churches in the diocese.  
 214 Before there was a church, people went to North Prairie.  
 218 The name Stanislaus is Polish, and it is the name of a saint.  
 222 The name Sobieski was a king in Poland.  
 264 Mostly Irish settled in the area after the Civil War.  
 271 Then they died off and the Polish came in.  
 279 Realtors used to sell the land.  
 294 Most of the land around here was bought, rather than homesteaded.

- 310 The congregation at the church is mostly rural.  
322 The congregation is mixed up with ethnic backgrounds.  
330 St. Stanislaus has a daughter church close by.  
335 It was started at least in the later 40's.  
344 They split off because it was closer for people to go to church.  
393 Everybody pitched in to help build the church.  
399 The stained glass windows were put in with the original church.  
406 There has been no vandalism, other than the parish house being broken into.  
420 St. Stanislaus always had its own priest.  
459 The church membership has always been stable as far as he can remember.  
483 The diocese set up the smaller churches around.

#### GROUPS IN THE CHURCH:

- 493 There hasn't been any active woman's group then, as there are now.  
497 There was a Rosary society.  
510 This society buys things that are needed for the church each year.  
523 The young people are quite active today.  
534 There isn't actually a youth group here.

#### 000 SUBJECTS COVERED: Tape 1 Side 2

- 000 Some young people however, do move away to go to school.  
011 There is one Fund raiser a year in the fall.  
019 This has been around for quite a while.  
021 There is a law that if there <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ more than two fund raisers a year you have to pay a tax.  
027 The foods have been mostly chicken and pork. All home cooked.  
036 Pirogi and Kluski, are traditional Polish foods and are explained in further detail.  
080 Today there are 135 families in the parish ( 350 people approximately).  
086 The cemetery was donated by Mr. Polasek's father 50 years ago.

#### 104 CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED:

- 104 The services have been in Polish for many years.  
114 It was a gradual change to the English language, sometime in the 1930's,  
117 Gave the Sermon in English and many times gave explanations in Polish so the older people could understand it.  
125 Because the kids were learning English, it was probably the reason why the sermons started to be said in English  
133 A lot of people had mixed emotions when the ~~Vatican Council~~ <sup>Council</sup> changed the mass from Latin to English.  
136 No one understood Latin mass, however you could follow the mass easily.  
142 They liked the changing of the language but as far as the traditions, they went a bit too far.  
147 The change was too fast for the older members of the church.

#### 155 THE COUNTRY AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

- 155 Mr. Polasek went to a parochial school rather than the country school.

- 171 The reason for attending it rather than the country school was because of the distance.
- 175 Either one you attended, the parents supported it through the church.
- 211 The school today has not been operating since the 1960's.
- 215 It was closed because of financial reasons.
- 224 There was a big difference in the way things were taught in the parochial and country school.
- 235 The Franciscans, in Little Falls, teach just as well as the ~~Benedictans~~ *Benedictines*.
- 248 The ~~Benedictans~~ came all the way over here to teach.
- 252 They are two different orders, but the bishop preferred the ~~Benedictans~~ to come and teach here.
- 280 The towers on the church were rotting, therefore had to be torn down.
- 282 From the towers down, the original church still stands.
- 286 The old ones were prettier and a form of European design.
- 292 The old parish house was torn down in 1952.