

Testimonial To Climax Half-Century As Organist For Fred F. Gamache

LEOMINSTER—Fifty years ago, a 15-year-old boy became organist of St. Anthony's Church in Worcester without ever taking an organ lesson.

The natural musical talent that made it possible for Fred F. Gamache to become an official church organist at that young age still prevails today.

Now organist and choir director at St. Cecilia's Church and known in the area as an outstanding musician, Mr. Gamache will be honored at a testimonial to be held Sunday, Nov. 26, noting his golden anniversary in the world of music.

The observance will begin with a religious program in the church at 4 p.m., featured by selections by the combined church choirs. At 5 p.m., a buffet supper will be served in the parish school hall followed by entertainment at 5 p.m. The program will be highlighted by selections from musical presentations he directed at various churches and parishes during his long career.

A native of Worcester, the son of Hormidas and Olive, (Goyette) Gamache, the boy began piano lessons at the age of eight and soon

he was a solo pianist and accompanist for school events. He was urged to make music his career by Arthur Rice, former supervisor of music in Worcester public schools. Barely 16 years old, he was in demand for musical shows and he also taught the eye and the ear of Rev. Joseph A. Chicoine, pastor of St. Anthony's parish where the youngest organist in the area was the organ after mass one Sunday. The boy did so—and the following Sunday he became the official parish organist.

He began to take organ lessons the following week with J. Vernon Butler of Worcester. In choir training, he was taught by the pastor, himself the choir director and fine musician.

While at St. Anthony's parish, Mr. Gamache widened his musical interest, directed minstreels, and light musicals as well as sacred programs.

In September 1923, he went to Assumption Church in Millbury as organist and continued to expand his musical activities—presenting a

sacred concert in Town Hall and the first of his light musical traditions—"Cafe Chantant."

He served in World War One with the 301st Infantry band and returned to the Millbury church in August of 1919.

In September 1923, he went to started an 18-year career at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Worcester and began to take serious interest in the developing of young musicians, taking a pride in discovering talent in the parish. This interest has not lagged through the years.

Mr. Gamache was reunited with his old friend and mentor, Rev. Fr. Chicoine, when he came to St. Cecilia's Church here in February, 1939 where the priest was pastor. "I felt privileged to play the beautiful 62-stop Casavant organ here, one of the finest instruments of its kind," he recalled today. He also had charge of the choir of 64 voices and a sanctuary choir of 40 voices.

Mr. Gamache became a master of the Mass-Rose symphonic carillon which was presented to the parish by a parishioner, Mrs. Angeline B. Senay of 52 West street in 1931. He has given many recitals on the carillon, most recently in Bouctouche, New Brunswick, Can.

"My years in Leominster have been happy ones," he stated today. "The church... the parish... the organ... the people and priests have always made me feel at home here." Besides Rev. Fr. Chicoine who died in 1948, Mr. Gamache has served under Msgr. Joseph A. Boutin and the present pastor, Msgr. Arthur A. Gravel.

Mr. Gamache married the former Blanche E. Harpin on Dec. 29, 1919. Mrs. Gamache died in 1959. He has two daughters and three sons, Constantine A., wife of Leo J. Rheault of this city; J. Melvin Gamache of Seattle, Wash.; Jules E. Gamache, wife of Norman J. Messier of Fitchburg; and Roger F. Gamache of Marlboro. There are 23 grandchildren.

His affiliations include American Legion, of which he is a past commander; Franco-American Veterans; St. Jean Society and the League of the Sacred Heart of St. Cecilia's Church. He was a member of the Worcester Music festival for 15 years and also the Worcester Oratorio Society. He also is a past member of the Harmony Club of Worcester.

"Music has been my life," he says. "It is a life well spent as anyone will testify after hearing the splendor of the organ at St. Cecilia's Church."



ON EUROPEAN TRIP—Shown aboard the M/V Vulcania of the Italian Line enroute to Europe for a one-month vacation are Rep. and Mrs. J. Philip Howard of Howard avenue, Westminster. The couple sailed from New York.

Protest Road Deadening

Westminster Officials Attend Route 2 Hearing

WESTMINSTER—Chairman of the Selectmen Daniel J. O'Hearn headed a delegation of town officials today at a special meeting at 11 a.m. with State Public Works Com. Jack Ricciardi to protest current plans for the new Route 2 in this town. The purpose of the meeting, Mr. O'Hearn has stated, is twofold—to request that to avoid deadening Sargent road either a bridge be built over the new route at the Sargent road junction or a parallel road be built at this point; secondly to urge that work on the section from the junction of Route 2 and 2A to the West Main street area be speeded up. Until this approximately 1¼-mile link is completed, he points out, through traffic will leave the new section and flow over West Main street to Main street, a road not designed for heavy traffic. This junction, al-

ready hazardous, has been the scene of several accidents. Westminster also will be represented by Selectmen Preston A. Baker and John M. O'Neill, Police Chief Toivo O. Tuominen, Fire Chief Frederick J. Slade, Highway Supt. Wilfred H. Goodridge; Supt. of Schools Levi G. Redfield and Edwin E. Kaarela of the Town Advisory Committee. Several area legislators are also expected to be present.

Earlier this fall, both the Selectmen and the fire chief sent letters of protest to Com. Ricciardi and legislators on the proposed deadening of Sargent road because of the problems involved in fire protection, police protection, school transportation and highway maintenance. Plans call for the new highway to cut Sargent road in two, thus deadening the road on both ends.

Drive Sunday

Jr. Members Of Center To Aid M-D

LEOMINSTER—Twenty junior members of the Leominster Recreation Center have volunteered to take part in the annual Thanksgiving march for muscular dystrophy to be conducted Sunday in the Leominster area starting at 1 p.m. The junior group will assist 322 residents who have volunteered their services.

The campaign is being sponsored by Lt. Gerald J. Barnicle Post 28, Amvets for the fourth year and will be conducted in Fitchburg, Lunenburg, Ashby and Clinton area on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Serving as honorary chairman is Dr. Marshall A. Lamb; general chairman, Anthony Nigro, executive vice-president of Worcester County M.D.; co-chairman, Paul Woolcott; treasurer, Raymond G. Morin, Sr.; and canister chairman Robert M. Schumaker.

The junior group will be headed by John H. Crain, Sr., executive director of the Recreation Center and Edward Johnson, adult advisor. Serving as chairman will be Richard Flanagan. Marchers will include Peter DiPaoli, Joan Cross, Jane VioAmore, Cheryl Buck, Lynn Skinner, Betty Swanson, Edward Grimley, Dave Letters, Richard Barry, Betty Palazzo, Mary Anne Andrews, Diana LeBlanc, Leo Lafrance, Donna Mauro, Frederick Mayo, Donna Bigelow, Donald Erickson, Samuel Maroni and Steven Lanza.

Judges were Mrs. Fred Bourne of Sterling, Frank Stout and City Solicitor Attilio R. Antonioni.

Seven finalists competed for the honor. The finalists were selected at a semi-final contest pitting top students from each home room.

Leominster Briefs

Marriage intentions have been filed at the city clerk's office by Brenda M. McCaffrey of 118 Winter street and Robert B. Gilhooly of 162 Oak street, Gardner; Nancy L. LaViolette of 59 Fourth street and Richard A. Cormier of 192 Spruce street; Aldora Dionne of 14 Rockland street, Fitchburg, and Harold Greenough of 10 Birch street.

Leominster Guild, Holy Family League of Charity, yesterday held its annual Charity bazaar for the benefit of orphaned and underprivileged children. The program in charge of Mrs. Charles Dufort was well attended.

Capt. John Joslin, Jr., Chapter D.A.R. will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow afternoon at 2 in the home of Miss Lillian Weatherbee of 16 Walnut street. State Vice-regent Gertrude McPeck will be guest speaker. Hostesses will be Mrs. George O. Tapley, chairman; Miss Ruth Putnam, Mrs. Walter Fraelle, Mrs. F. Harry Cook and Mrs. W. T. Russell. Mrs. Vernon Harris, regent, will preside.

Christ's Ambassadors will meet tonight at 7.30 in the Assembly of God Church. A Bible study and prayer meeting was held last night. Rev. Frank E. Duddy will speak on "Congregationalism" at a meeting of the 5C's Club tonight at 8.30 in the Congregational Church of Christ Hall.

Crescendo Club of St. Mark's Episcopal Church will hold a work party tomorrow night in the parish

'Split' School Bus Bids To Be Received Nov. 27 In Experiment By City

LEOMINSTER—A novel experiment in school bus transportation—division of the 45-route schedule into seven smaller units to "give small contractors a chance"—will be tried here Monday, Nov. 27, when the city receives bids on the transportation contract.

The city will receive bids on both a single, three-year contract, 45-route plans and on seven units comprised of four to eight routes. The experiment is being watched closely since it has been contended that the division of the 45 routes into seven smaller units would be both more expensive and less efficient.

For many years, the entire contract has been put out as a single bid and held by the Fitchburg & Leominster St. Ry. Co.

Bids will be received Nov. 27 at 3 p.m. by the purchasing agent in City Hall on the following contracts:

1. A single bid or all 45 routes on a per-year basis with a three-

year contract.

2. A single bid for the special trainable pupils who cannot be transported in regular buses.

3. Bids on seven units composed of the North Main street area routes; Lancaster street area eight routes, Central street area four routes, Merriam avenue and West street area eight routes, Pleasant street area six routes, Main and Prospect street area eight routes, North and Cushing Hill area five routes.

Routes and units have been compiled by School Supt. Martin L. Moran at the request of the School Committee.

School board voted to seek the divided route bids at the last meeting on the motion of Dwight S. Davis who contended that at present the city gets only one bid

on all 45 routes and from only one bidder so that "smaller contractors" have no opportunity to bid.

School Committee agreed in the division primarily to get some comparative prices and enable it to make an analysis of costs to determine if previous single contracts have been "too expensive."

It is contended by Supt. Moran that the \$70,000 paid last year to transport some 2200 pupils was not exorbitant and that, in fact, only a single carrier could serve the entire city because of the interlocking schedule of routes.

Based on Mr. Moran's report it would appear that transportation per pupil here is about \$32 per year and on a 40-week basis; about 80 cents per pupil for five days of transportation to and from school.

Transportation of special trainable pupils comes under a separate contract since these children are unable to ride in regular buses.

The attempt to allocate the routes among any other possible small bidders could run into one obstacle—it is highly unlikely that some small contractors can be found to service each of the seven units set up by the School Committee.

In that event, only that contract bid which provides for transportation of all pupils under one contract could be accepted. And from past indications, it appears that only the F&L, the local common carrier, can service the city and the bus routes.

But some School Committee members contended that even if only one or two of the seven units are bid on, the city would get some basis to compare costs with the single 45-route contract.

105 Attain High School Honor Roll

LEOMINSTER—First ranking period honor roll at Leominster High School has been attained by 105 students. It was announced today by Prin. Theodore M. Kucharski.

Honor students are: Seniors, high honors, Lance Carluccio, Sheila Salvatore and Hsueh Lee Uong.

Honors, Michael Argano, Dora Arsenault, Prudence Barry, Jane Batstone, Carol Berthiaume, Raymond Bouchard, Karen Byrne, Lois Carr, James Cocci, Susan Craigie, Elaine Frankel, Carol Guinta, Howard Gottesman, Sandra Hembrow, Mary Howe, Betty Kochoorok, Donna Layole, Judith Lowenthal, Barbara Mahan, Joanne Marini, Patricia McGee, Patricia Murphy, Mary O'Toole, Karen Poulney, Barbara Selig, Carolyn Sheldon, Thomas Smith, Patricia Tourigny, Kenneth Tyler, Samuel Valera, Jane Vivo Amore, Steven Weinbaum and Janet Yule.

Juniors, high honors, Margaret Goetz, Eleanor Hitov and Peter Weinbaum.

Honors, Robert Antonucci, Edla Asikainen, Dennis Baron, Paul Beauregard, Carlo Caviaoli, Grace Ciccone, Carol Ciccone, Carla Cipriotti, Judith Girouard, Pamela Headley, Carol Iannaccone, William LaPrade, Virginia Lalli, Karl Mahonen, Virginia Masciangelo, Martin Moran, Cynthia Perla, Diane H. Pierce, Susan Plastridge, Nancy Rogers, Gary Tater, Marilyn Thomas, Barbara Welsh and Susan Zimmerman.

Sophomores, high honors, Lee Avery, Lee Finkelstein, Karen Magane, Robert Marshall and Lyn Skinner.

Honors, William Appleton, Mary Ashby, Marilyn Bryant, David Caporello, Kathleen Coleman, Ellen Connolly, Mary-Charlotte Cooper, Robert Craigie, Gretchen Damon, Harry Davis, Patricia Donatelli, Patricia Duguey, Barbara Enman, Sandra Faley, James Fish, Kathleen Frattullo, Kevin Gamble, Peter Howe, Marilyn Kemp, Wilma Kibler, Anna Lanciotti, Richard Millette, Susanna Morand, Marcia Nutting, Linda Pellechia, Dorothy Pierce, Kathleen Pierce, Rosemary Pye, Rebecca Reeve, Nancy Salvatore, Chyau Shen, Wallace Sillanpaa, Cheryl Smith, Steven Tharler, Domenica Torcolletti, Nelson Valeri and Elaine Whitney.

Ward I Hearing Held

LEOMINSTER—Election workers from Precinct 1A were questioned and sworn statements taken from candidates by the Board of Registrars of Voters last night as it conducted a closed hearing into charges of election irregularities lodged by candidates for Ward 1 City Council election.

The information was taken under advisement by the board pending a recount of the election next Friday night, it was announced today by City Clerk Arthur G. Kennard and Chairman Frank H. Blackman of the Board of Registrars.

Candidate Edward B. O'Donnell, who lost the election by 129 votes, was lodged official charges allegedly supported by sworn statements that (1) doors at the Ward 1A polling station in the National Guard

armory were locked during early counting of the ballots; (2) that the police officer in charge touched the ballots; and (3) the officer took written notations during the counting of the ballots.

Councilor John W. Mackey has issued counter charges that O'Donnell and his son wore campaign buttons and approached voters within the voting precincts during the Tuesday, Nov. 7 election and that cars bearing O'Donnell stickers drove within the polling bounds.

Ward 1A workers were questioned at the request of Mr. O'Donnell to determine the validity of O'Donnell's charges. It was reported today by Mr. Kennard.

Kennard also reported that no formal action or statement will be forthcoming from the board until after the recount.

Diocesan Transfers Affect Leominster, Other Area Priests

Transfers announced today by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan of the Worcester Roman Catholic Diocese affected a Leominster priest and other priests well known in the area.

Rev. John J. Bagley, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Frank Bagley, 451 Merriam avenue, Leominster, will become assistant at Christ the King parish, Worcester, effective tomorrow. Ordained in July, Rev. Fr. Bagley has been assistant at St. Mary's parish, Uxbridge.

Appointed pastor of Assumption parish, Millbury, will be Rev. Pierre A. Dumas, who is currently pastor of St. Anthony's parish, Worcester. He served Immaculate Conception parish in this city from July of 1958 to July of 1961.

Rev. Robert L. Killon, who served Our Lady of the Lake parish, Leominster, from 1953 to 1954, has been given sick leave. He was assistant at Christ the King parish, Worcester.

Chicken pieces that have been marinated should be lifted out of the marinade and patted dry before they are browned in butter or oil (or a mixture of the two) in a skillet.



ORGANIST TO BE FETED—Fred F. Gamache, organist and choir director of St. Cecilia's parish will reach the climax of his 50-year career when he is honored at a testimonial on Sunday, Nov. 26. He is shown with the Casavant organ in the choir loft of the church.

Public Library Is Painsstaking In Selecting Children's Books

LEOMINSTER—Purchase of children's books at the Leominster Public Library is not a haphazard, catch-as-catch-can affair.

These books children take home from the main and North Leominster branch libraries have been carefully selected with a purpose in mind, it was noted today by Librarian Richard E. Morrill as part of the National Book Week observance and public education program.

Selection of books, however, is both "a pleasure and a problem" because of the ever-increasing number of books being published each year for children.

How does the Library make its selections?

First, Mrs. Marjorie Hemingway, acting children's librarian, attends regularly scheduled meetings of the Eastern Massachusetts

Children's book review committee to which Miss Hope B. Brown, a specialist in library services for children and youth groups, acts as advisor.

Sessions are open to participating members who review the books, as well as a staff member of any Massachusetts school or library. In reviewing the books, special attention is given to the general content, usefulness, reading level, relative importance and weak points for each age grouping. Books are selected and displayed at the library in accordance with the recommended reading group. "See for yourself," Mr. Morrill stated today. "Selected books for children are on display all week—and all year for that matter—in honor of National Children's Book Week."

Thrasher Hearing Being Conducted

LEOMINSTER—A public hearing into the five-day suspension of Police Ptl. Oscar P. Thrasher, Jr., charged with failing to report for work on Oct. 31, was started at 1 p.m. today by Mayor Laurie J. Cormier in City Council chambers.

Thrasher has been suspended and charged by Chief George H. Smith with wilfully failing to report for work on Halloween night when all police officers were placed on duty and all reported but Thrasher.

Atty. William P. DeCarolis of Worcester is representing Thrasher at the hearing. City Solicitor Attilio R. Antonioni represents the city.

Police Probing Assault On Girl

LEOMINSTER—Attempted assault on a 15-year-old girl on Spruce street at about 6.30 last night is being investigated today by police.

The girl told Ptl. Harold J. Senee that she had been walking along Spruce street when she heard someone following her. She ran, but the assailant seized her about the neck from behind and threw her to the pavement. He ran off when she struggled and screamed.

The girl suffered a bruised knee and elbow.

She described her assailant as being about 5 feet, 7 inches tall; medium build, dark complexion, wearing a red checkered shirt.

Leominster Births

A son to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Begnoche (Agnes Hebert) of 150 Fourth street.

Church Fair Ends Tonight

LEOMINSTER—A Civil War Centennial Fair which started yesterday will come to a successful completion tonight at the Congregational Church of Christ Hall.

Activities today include an afternoon tea and snack bar which closes at 7 p.m. A supper featured yesterday's program. Booths for the sale of food, Christmas gifts, handicrafts and numerous other articles are being maintained all day.

Committee chairmen have been: candy cupboard, Mrs. Maud Bangs; commissary, Mrs. Mildred Wallace and Mrs. Bert Neilson; apron big, Mrs. Alice Willard; corner cupboard, Mrs. Charles Kimball; gift shop, Mrs. Leroy Wyman; small fry hollow, Mrs. Alvin Olson; Christmas furlough, Miss Elea-

Auxiliary Lists Delegates, Committees

LEOMINSTER—Delegates to the Worcester County Council in Worcester and standing committees for the year have been named by President Myrtle Balcom of Leominster Post, American Legion Auxiliary.

Delegates are Mrs. Balcom, Miss Rosa Thibodeau, Mrs. Mildred Johnson, Mrs. Cecily Crowley, Mrs. Helen Farr, Alternates are Mrs. Elizabeth Carey, Mrs. Myra Hayford and Mrs. Marie Fay.

Committee chairmen are: auxiliary, Mrs. Johnson; Americanism, Mrs. Hayford; child welfare, Mrs. Farr; Christmas gift shop, Mrs. Farr and Mrs. Balcom; civil defense, Mrs. Mary Bryant; community service, Mrs. Johnson; cou-

No. 6 Center Plans For Square Dance

LEOMINSTER—An exhibition by the Brad Eisner Square Dance Group will feature the monthly meeting of the No. 6 Community Center next Tuesday night at 8 in the center.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Bailey are program co-chairmen, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Wiles, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Woodsmall, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Eisner, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cocci, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Howe, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cocci and Mrs. Carey Witt.

Girls state, Mrs. Claire Love; legislation, Mrs. Balcom; membership, Miss Thibodeau; popples, Mrs. Mabel McAllister; press, Mrs. Johnson; national security, Mrs. Fay; radio, Mrs. Farr and Miss Thibodeau; rehabilitation, Mrs. Crowley; sick, Mrs. Farr; junior, Mrs. Margaret Morse and Mrs. Elizabeth Carey.

A children's Christmas party for children of veterans will be held Saturday, Dec. 16. Local members will work at the Christmas gift shop at Rutland Veterans Hospital Dec. 4-5. Next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 11.

Dr. Marshall A. Lamb; general chairman, Anthony Nigro, executive vice-president of Worcester County M.D.; co-chairman, Paul Woolcott; treasurer, Raymond G. Morin, Sr.; and canister chairman Robert M. Schumaker.

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Lunenburg Apparatus Most Modern In Area New Fire Truck On Display Monday

LUNENBURG—This town's fire department will show off its latest and most modern piece of fire equipment to members of the Mid-State Mutual Aid Assn. towns-officials and the general public on Monday night from 7 to 9 at the fire station.

The newest addition to the department equipment, a \$21,690 750-gallon-per-minute pumper, is modern in design in all respects. It is an FWD truck with a forward cab, capable of seating five men, all enclosed. It also carries a 500-gallon tank of water, 2000 feet of 2½ inch hose and 500 feet of 1½ inch hose. The truck is also equipped with a 28-foot aluminum extension ladder and a 14-foot aluminum roof ladder. Painted white like all other equipment in the department, it is the most modern designed fire truck in this entire section.

The truck replaces a 26-year-old Mack that has given the town much

service during that period and increases the efficiency of the department in time of fire.

Fire Chief Roger G. Bigelow and members of the department will be host for the visiting firefighters from surrounding communities as well as the general public during the two-hour inspection period.

The department's equipment currently consists of a high pressure fog truck, a pumper-tanker with 1200 gallon capacity and a four wheel drive forest fire truck.

The latest piece of apparatus was approved by voters at town meeting and has been several months in construction. It is an FWD chassis with a "Fairall built body" constructed to specifications set up by the local department to best meet its needs.

Because of its forward-cab type of chassis it is one of the newer types of equipment in use by fire departments throughout this entire section. The truck was recently commissioned into service in the

department following its delivery with equipment with other items normally used for firefighting purposes.

Julie School Assn. Views Art Display

LEOMINSTER—An art program by students of Sister Imelda's classes featured the monthly meeting of Julie Country Day School Parents' Assn. last night in the school.

Parents met with Sisters of Notre Dame in the classrooms after the business meeting conducted by Mrs. James Driscoll, president.

Mrs. Joseph Barry and Mrs. Clarence Allan assisted by mothers of third grade students were tea hostesses. Mrs. Anthony DiGerolamo and Mrs. Joseph DiGerolamo were the pourers. Mrs. Francis J. Perreault and Mrs. Anthony Angelini were the chairmen.



EIGHTH GRADE OFFICERS at North Middlesex Regional High School are: left to right, David Bailey, vice-president; Marsha Bommila, treasurer; Brian Tracey, president, and Deborah Thurlow, secretary.