

## NO. 6 IN CHRONICLE POLL

## Battle Creek Lesson Inspires Brotherhood

By JERRY DAVIDSON

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — What had seemed to be a nightmare in the Catholic incident at Battle Creek, has caused brethren to be more intensely concerned about God's living Word.

"All things work together for good to them that love God", and "I God be for helped the Battle Creek brethren withstood persecution.

On Thursday evening, July 31, the speaking engagement of O. C. Lambert at the West Michigan Ave. Church of Christ in Battle Creek was prematurely dismissed due to the actions of three Catholic priests and 30 or 40 followers.

Their heckling of the speaker created so much confusion that the brethren were forced to call the local township police to restore order. The inter-

formed the assembly that they "didn't know of anything that they could do."

Both priests and parishers used ugly means to agitate and show disrespect for the service. One priest entered the building smoking a cigarette; another priest arrived with the odor of liquor on his breath. The Catholic parishers yelled and made slanderous remarks about Lambert. An off-duty Battle Creek police lieutenant was among the agitators.

Lambert and other brethren tried to suppress the confusion, but the Catholic refused to listen.

As Lambert was to speak the following evening at the 29th. St. church the brethren sought legal advice from the Governor's office. They were told to bring the matter before vening law officers only in-



**KEEP TALLY**—Battle Creek secretary Jack McMahan (left) and treasurer Frank Bazel, go over the mail received from over a thousand brethren from 44 states and elsewhere. They had received over \$10,000 by November and still need some \$5,000 to reach their goal—then the Battle Creek church will match that amount toward the construction of a new building.

the State Police. The meeting was held as scheduled.

Even though the event suffered radio and press censorship, news has spread throughout the country. In protest to this unconstitutional incident, the church wrote letters to men holding local, state, and federal offices. An extra 500 copies of the Chronicle that carried the story were ordered and distributed by the Battle Creek church. Special bulletins were printed and placed in the hands of several hundred people. Leamon Flatt of Lansing wrote a tract entitled "I Visited Italy," which has had a wide circula-

tion.

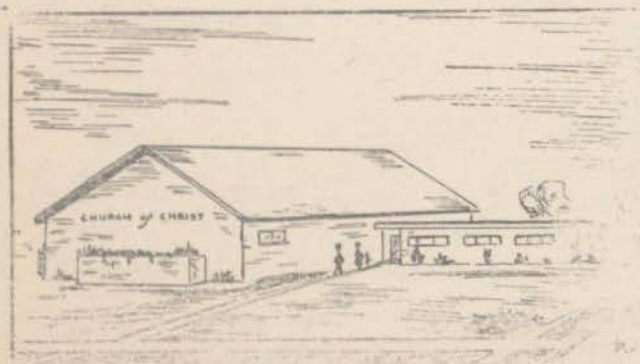
I have lectured to congregations in Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee, relating the incident and pointing out the need for a new meeting place. Letters were sent out on the Chronicle mailing list and so far over \$10,000 has been received which is helping to reach the goal of \$25,000. An additional \$25,000 will be raised by congregation. The brethren are presently meeting in a remodeled barn.

The publicity of the Catholic incident has focused much attention on the Church of Christ. Individuals have called and at-

tended the services, desiring to know more about the church. Catholics from other cities were shocked over the incident and have come to doubt the teachings of the hierarchy.

Due to the Catholic action the brethren were prompted to have me work full time for the church. The Catholics are trying to suppress the brethren at Battle Creek, but this makes them more determined than ever.

It is better to say a good thing about a bad fellow than to say a bad thing about a good fellow.



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF PROPOSED BATTLE CREEK BUILDING