

History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

1925 – 2003

Lyceum Hall

Since the parish now had a debt for purchasing property and a building, the next project to be undertaken was a hall especially for fund raising, but also for meetings and social gatherings. In 1926, men of the parish found an old hotel in Eloise called the Richloom Hotel. This was purchased for \$500.00. Mr. Emry, a construction man recently arrived from Iowa, sawed the building into two or four sections (either would be a feat!), and it was moved to the property next to the church on Avenue K. Part of the lumber was used to construct the hall and the rest was sold.



Whenever the men of the parish could afford the time, they worked together to reconstruct the building, which was named appropriately Lyceum Hall since it would be used for education, social meetings and fund raising projects. (Aristotle taught in a gymnasium in ancient Athens called Lyceum.) A porch was added and the building was covered with stucco. Inside, the walls were covered with wallboard; a stage and a ticket booth were added. The hall served the church for many years and was finally sold in 1972.