

THE TOWN OF ELMWOOD

The Queen City of Western Cass County, Surrounded by the Best Farming Country, With Beautiful Homes

AN ENTERPRISING TOWN

Peopled with Hustling and Progressive Citizens Who are United on Home Institutions—Brief Biographical Sketches

Elmwood is a beautiful growing town located in the western part of Cass county, and right in the heart of the most fertile section of the county. It is situated about twenty miles west of Plattsmouth, the county seat, and about 24 miles southeast of Lincoln, the state capital. From an agricultural point of view the land tributary to Elmwood is unsurpassed and produces abundant crops, which always brings the highest market prices. The farmers are prosperous, and can buy goods for spot cash any old time in the year. The excellent country of which Elmwood is surrounded, in many respects, is due the thrift and prosperity, and up-building the beautiful town. A trip over the town and to view the many palatial homes, with fine well-kept lawns, and beautiful surroundings one instantly is impressed with the residence portion of the town as one in which the owners of these stately mansions, are happy in the thought that there is in reality "no place like home."

Previous to establishing the town of Elmwood the postoffice was called "Stove Creek." There was a general store here, which is said to be the first one in this section of the county, which was owned by Lane & Hogan, then Hogan sold

one excellent hotel, opera house, livery barn, private hospital, under the management of skillful physicians and surgeons, four real estate dealers, Plattsmouth Telephone Exchange building, several milliners and dressmakers, and several confectioners. And last, but not by any means least, a good newspaper (the Leader-Echo) that is in harmony with those who have the true interests of the town and community at heart. It is under the management of Mr. Will Clark, who fully understands the business in which he is engaged, and is giving Elmwood a paper, of which every citizen should be proud. Also one of the finest flouring mills in the state.

To illustrate the energy and enterprise, of which some of the principal business of Elmwood are gifted we will mention that in July, 1906,

regardless of what inducements may be offered by the mail order houses and traveling fakers. Below we give mention of the live, progressive business houses of Elmwood, and recommend them to the people of Cass county, as gentlemen worthy of their confidence, patronage and respect.

Elmwood Chautauqua.

It would be impossible for us to finish this write-up without saying something in behalf of one of the most interesting enterprises in eastern Nebraska. Three years ago the leading citizens of this hustling little city got together and organized a chautauqua, with but little hopes that the first meeting would prove the great success that it did. But with such men backing it as did so, it was hardly possible to expect anything else. They were all hustlers and are still hustlers. The first meeting proved a great success, the second meeting was a bigger success and the third meeting, which runs from August 14 to August 22, this year, will prove still a greater success. Elmwood park, in which the chautauqua is to be held, is one of the most beautiful spots on God's green earth, with plenty of shade and good water, and everything necessary to make one's outing there a pleasant one. The attractions are some of the greatest known in chautauqua circles. The managers leave nothing undone that is calculated to make every one feel at home. Remember the dates—August 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. If you cannot attend all the time, make your arrangements to have your family remain there a portion of the time.

L. F. Langhorst, Merchant.

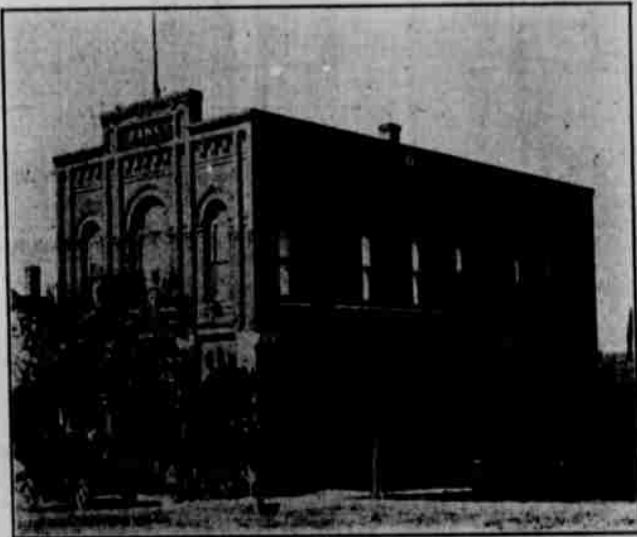
Louis F. Langhorst was born in New Bremen, Auglaize county, O., in 1866. Mr. Langhorst is one of

to Elmwood at the solicitation of Hon. J. H. Arends, where the latter opened a general store in 1886, with whom he remained as a clerk two and a half years. The Farmers' Alliance then opened a store in Elmwood, in which Mr. Langhorst had an interest and was employed as general manager. After a year and a half he sold his interest to the Alliance. It was then that the subject of this sketch began a career which was to eventually terminate in one of the most successful and enterprising merchants in southeastern Nebraska. In 1894, he purchased the stock owned by the Alliance at the old stand of the business in the state, excepting only those of the larger cities such as Omaha and Lincoln.

Mr. Langhorst has been, and as long as he remains in business in Elmwood, will be of great benefit to the farmers of the territory tributary to that city, as he furnishes a ready market for all the farm products that they have to dispose of, for which they receive the very highest market prices. Mr. Langhorst is the oldest merchant in Elmwood, and is always alive to the best interests of the town and community.

The American Exchange Bank.

The American Exchange Bank, of Elmwood was organized in Septem-



AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK

ber, 1889, and has had a continuous existence since that time. Mr. Edgar A. Stopher was the founder and first president of the bank and remained its chief executive officer until August, 1908. W. S. Waters was the bank's first cashier and continued in that position for ten years when he was succeeded by John G. Stark who has had the active management of the bank since that time.

The bank was organized with a capital of \$15,000.00 which was subsequently raised to \$25,000.00, at which figure it now stands. The average deposits of the bank are about \$150,000 but at certain periods have been as high as \$195,000.

In March of this year John P. Cobb and C. S. Aldrich purchased a controlling interest in the bank and at a stockholder's meeting held the first of April, John P. Cobb was elected president and C. S. Aldrich,



INTERIOR VIEW OF LANGHORST'S DEPARTMENT STORE

years, where he has built up for himself as well as the company a statewide reputation for manufacturing the finest brands of flour. Their choicest brands are "Golden Gate," and "Calla Lily," and these are of the most excellent qualities and find ready sale in all towns and cities in Eastern Nebraska. The Elmwood people stand by this very important enterprise, and no other flour, to speak of, is sold in the town. And we can say no flour gives such universal satisfaction. These mills are doing a splendid business, and will continue to do so under the able supervision of Mr. Olsen. Being a first-class miller, and withal a most excellent business man and gentleman, we cannot see how it could be otherwise.

Stirtz & Lorenz.

Phillip Stirtz was born in Lee County, Illinois, and passed his early life in that state. He came to Elmwood three years ago and bought his present business and conducted it under the firm name of Stirtz Brothers until January 1st, 1908. At that time Mr. Frank W. Lorenz bought the interest of D. J. Stirtz and from that time the firm has been known as Stirtz & Lorenz. Mr. Lorenz was born in Harrison County,



STREET SCENE—ELMWOOD



STREET SCENE—ELMWOOD

his interest to S. C. Greenslate. After which Lane sold his interest to C. D. Clapp, which made the firm name of Clapp & Greenslate, who continued in the business several years. The town was laid out in 1885, soon after the Lincoln branch of the Missouri Pacific railway was surveyed through this section. The railroad company laid out the town, and received half of the original townsite and certain right-of-ways as their part. The land was originally owned by C. D. Clapp and three others, whose farms, as it seems, covered where the new town was to be located. The railroad came in 1886, which brought with it the foundation of this modern little city of 1,000 people, whom all delight in claiming as their home.

The first bank (now the First National) was instituted on November 16, 1886, with Edwin Jeary, as president and W. S. Waters, cashier, which is today one of the leading financial institutions of Cass county, with Edwin Jeary, president, Floyd L. Woolcott, vice president, and Edward J. Jeary, cashier. The bank was first organized as a state bank, and remained as such until seven years ago when it was re-organized under its present system on April 5, 1901.

From the very start Elmwood gave great promise of being one of the principal commercial centers of this section of Nebraska, and she has always been fortunate in possessing within her borders a class of business men and citizens who always strive for that which is of interest to all who dwell with them. And it is due to their labors that today Elmwood is the proud possessor of many improvements that would be creditable to cities of five times its population. Here will be found a light plant, water works, and the finest sidewalks of any town in the state. These live, progressive and contented people are always alert to the interests of town-building. Being located on the Lincoln branch of the Missouri Pacific railroad, she has excellent train service, good shipping facilities, and is destined to always prosper.

Elmwood today boasts of two of the most solid financial institutions in the country—the First National bank and American Exchange bank, who by their conservative and excellent business management have withstood the trying days when money was not to be had in the large financial centers. The American Exchange Bank was organized on the 9th day of September, 1889, with T. E. Stevens, president; Ed. Stevens, vice president, and W. S. Waters, cashier. The bank is now under the able management of the following officials: John P. Cobb, president; C. S. Aldrich, vice president and John Gerry Stark, cashier. This bank has had and held a continuous organized since 1889. The town can also boast of four well-equipped and up-to-date general stores and department stores, one grocery store, two drug stores, two hardware stores, two harness shops, two implement dealers, two grain elevators, two pool halls, two general blacksmiths, two barber shops, one jeweler, one photographer, two attorneys, two physicians, one dentist, two meat markets,

a mass meeting of the citizens was called and a Park Association formed. This was the foundation of the Elmwood Chautauqua, which in 1907 held its first session. The park was leased from Mr. C. D. Clapp and arranged in a manner most beautiful for such occasions. The first chautauqua in 1907, was a grand success in every particular, and the best talent secured. Last year it was somewhat of a greater success, and this year it will far surpass that of any other year. The officers of this association are: John Gerry Stark, president; Charles D. Clapp, vice president; Floyd L. Woolcott, secretary, and Edward J. Jeary, treasurer. The board of managers constitute the following well-known citizens: John Gerry Stark, Floyd L. Woolcott, Louis F. Langhorst, Herman Dettman, Chas. D. Clapp. These gentlemen are a power within themselves, and with their indomitable grit and energy have made a success with this laudable movement where towns and cities of much more pretensions have failed. The program for this season will include some of the most noted attractions in the country, both as to lectures and musical numbers, and every citizen of Elmwood should put his shoulder to the wheel and help boost the Great Elmwood Chautauqua to the top of the hill, to stay there as one of the greatest in the nation.

Elmwood is also blessed with its share of churches and secret and fraternal orders. Here will be found five churches—Methodist, Catholic, German Lutheran, Christian and Evangelical, all of which are well supported by large memberships. There are eleven secret and fraternal orders here, as follows: Masonic, Odd Fellows, A. O. U. W., K. of P., M. W. A., American Order of Protection, D. of H., Eastern Star, Pythian Sisters, Rebekahs, and Royal Neighbors of America. With these benevolent institutions added to the churches and schools, which are among the best in the state, afford every advantage to the spiritual welfare of man, with every advantage along educational lines for the child of tender years and the youth and maiden for the high school, or preparatory course.

The business men of Elmwood deserve every dollar's worth of patronage they receive, and a great deal more. The success and prosperity of a town lies in the hands of its citizens and those tributary thereto. It behoves them to support every business institution in the town, re-

louis, and came to Elmwood January 1st, 1908, when he took up his interest in the store. The firm deals in hardware, tinware, stoves, yard and field fence, paints, seeds, furniture, sewing machines, cream separators, buggies, wagons and farm implements of all kinds. In cream separators the firm handles the best made—the Sharples and Blue Bell.

They have recently taken up the sale of automobiles and have already taken several orders for modern machines.

They have also put in a line of carpets and rugs and have the best stock in those lines in Elmwood. They take infinite pains that only the most recent carpet and rug patterns are in stock and the result is of the most satisfactory kind to the many customers of the house in this department. Messrs. Stirtz & Lorenz are steadily growing in influence and trade and are well thought of by all classes.

First National Bank.

This institution was organized in April 1901, with a capital of \$25,000. The first officers were Edwin Jeary, president, Samuel S. Johnson, vice president and Floyd L. Woolcott, cashier. Mr. Johnson died during the summer of 1908 and was succeeded in the vice presidency by Floyd L. Woolcott, who at present occupies that important position. Mr. Edward J. Jeary was at this time elected to the position of cashier.

The First National was a success from the start and its business and influence in Elmwood has steadily grown. The capital still remains at \$25,000 but there has accumulated a surplus fund of \$5,000. Deposits are \$120,000. The bank owns \$25,000 United States bonds, has a bank note circulation of \$25,000, has loans and discounts of \$120,000 and carries cash in eight exchanges of \$30,000—a fine exhibit for a town the size of Elmwood. The First National's business is constantly growing and extends over the country tributary to Elmwood. The bank engages in general banking in all its branches. It also represents the best line of insurance companies in the country.

J. H. Green.

The late J. H. Green of Elmwood, was born in Florida, New York. He emigrated at an early age to Des Moines, Iowa, where for many years he was foreman in the Rock Island railroad shops at that town. After a time he removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, still in the employ of the Rock Island. Forty years ago he quit the services of the Rock Island, and moving to Plattsmouth, went to work for the Burlington. Quitting railroad work he went to Factoryville and opened a blacksmith shop on his own account. After a few years he moved to Syracuse, in Otoe county and embarked in the drug business. From there he went to Elmwood and opened a drug store in that place, continuing in it until the time of his death in 1893.

Mr. Green had the leading store of the kind in Elmwood and it has since continued to hold first place. After his death, Mrs. Green, the widow, with the help of clerks con-

vice-president of the institution, John Gerry Stark being retained as cashier. These gentlemen are all business men with a large experience. Mr. Cobb is a native of Iowa and for twenty-five years has been engaged in the wholesale drug business, having been assistant manager in charge of the sales department of Park Davis & Co. of Kansas City, and later, vice-president and general manager of the Neldon, Judson Drug Co. of Salt Lake City. Mr. Cobb is principal owner of a 4,000 acre cattle ranch in the Black Hills of South Dakota. C. S. Aldrich was born at Tipton, Iowa, where his father was a well known farmer and stockman. Mr. Aldrich is a practical banker and was cashier of a bank at Tipton prior to coming to Cass county. These gentlemen have moved their families to Elmwood and become permanent residents of that