

## Country Homes Wherein Omaha Business Men Take Pride



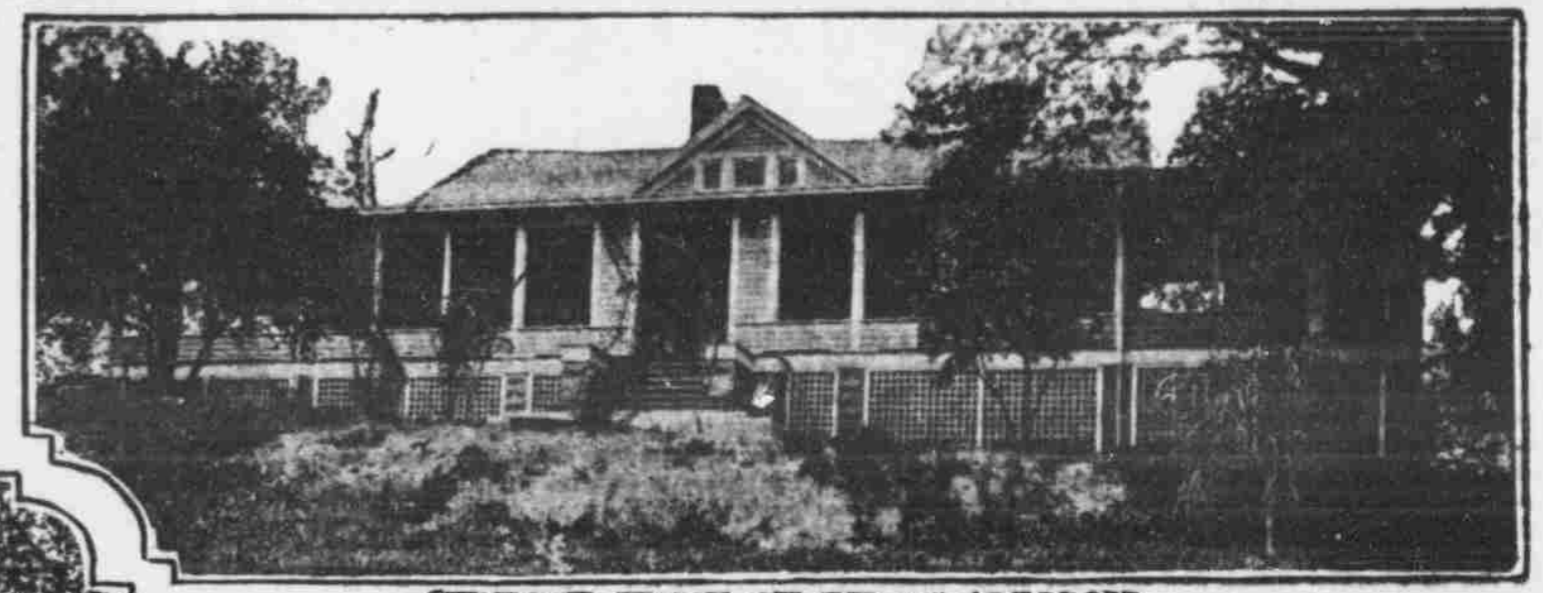
L. C. NASH RESIDENCE  
AT COITMAN



A. D. BRANDEIS'  
SUMMER HOME



HOME OF TYRON D. LEARNED  
NORTH OF FLORENCE



SUMMER HOME OF DR. C. ALLISON

IMPROVEMENT in the character of building in late years has been nowhere so great, perhaps, as in the construction of country homes. This is the result of what someone has called the "arousing of the artistic conscience of the people," accompanied, necessarily, by the financial ability to indulge the demands of this stimulated esthetic sense.

Civic bodies, agitating the city beautiful campaign, have helped materially to stir the desire for better living conditions among all classes. Architects and landscape gardeners, park boards and improvement clubs, have also aided the steady trend toward the ideal—or, at least, toward the most enjoyable and convenient types of homes for individuals and elegantly ornate structures for larger purposes. Schools, theaters and churches have been benefited through the same channel. So far has this movement progressed that a goodly number of cities are now practically "making themselves over."

### Americans Adapt Many Styles.

Americans borrow inspiration from many sources, and it will not be stretching the truth to say that American country homes—Nebraska and Omaha country homes specifically included—reflect many types and typify widely diverse notions of beauty, comfort and retreat from the busy whirlpool of modern city life. Among them will be found the English simplicity, the Swiss picturesque, the Asiatic airiness, the Indian bungalow varied and improved, and some types peculiarly American. Older countries have their traditions to direct or guide them in the making of the country residence; Americans have only their inspired adaptability to lead them aright. Of course, there were the old New England structures, mostly four-square to the whistling winds, and the spacious mansions of the ante-bellum south, but they were developments in the building art, modified to suit peculiar conditions and satisfy finicky temperaments. Their good features have been preserved in many cases, both in city and country; but wide departures are noted on every hand. Originality, that pre-eminently American trait, has been given full play in the pretentious mansion on hilltop or table flat, and in the hillside cabinlike home that conceals from first glance the possession of all modern conveniences.

### Country Homes Growing in Popularity.

Within the life of the present generation of Omahans the building of homes "in the country" has been given its initial impetus. Even the oldest of the local suburban homes is not in the ancient class, but some of them will compare very favorably with similar home spots in any state, and quite a few give promise of a later development that will put them in the "show" class. Country places like those of Arthur Brandeis and Thomas R. Crane, north of the city, are noted for some particular feature. On the Brandeis place almost countless flocks of white poultry are wonderful to behold; at the Crane place great stretches of roses account for the name, Rosemere. There is, too, in both cases, a completeness of equipment about the homes that leaves nothing to be desired.

As about this city are found grand opportunities, so far as landscape is concerned, for the location of country residences. Hill and valley, wooded and rolling land, with wide views and perspectives to enhance the beauty lover, are to be reached easily, by street car in some instances, but more handsily by automobile. The country about Florence holds divided attractions furnished by nature; but within very short distances of Benson, Dundee, and South Omaha are almost equally desirable sites. The perfection of the horseless vehicle—fast, reliable, luxurious to almost any degree money may demand, summer and winter alike—has given a forward impetus to the construction of costly suburban residences in recent years, and this important desideratum, quick transportation, will serve to accelerate the growth of this particular branch of home building.

### Walnut Lodge First in This Section.

Walnut Lodge, the country home of the late Guy Barton, was the pioneer venture of the kind by an



MARTIN REUM'S SUMMER HOME "PAPPIC VIEW"

Omaha citizen. If we except the old home of Dr. George L. Miller, at Seymour lake, which was destroyed by fire a good many years ago. The Barton estate owns a large amount of land surrounding Walnut Lodge, and the house itself is set in grounds that are a good many acres in extent. A small artificial lake was created in the immediate vicinity of the house and shade and ornamental trees in generous number serve to give it a most attractive setting. It is not a costly house, as such things go, but it is very substantial and complete, with its own water and electric light system.

### Tom Crane's Fine Place

Rosemere, the Crane place on the hill north of Florence, was the first pretentious suburban home erected in that beautiful section. Ten acres are comprised in the tract of which the home is the center, and by the skill of the expert gardener, closely advised and superintended by Mr. Crane himself, Rosemere has been brought to the point where it is a delight to the visitor and a constant source of pleasure to its occupants. If the ordinary dining room, for instance, be not favored, breakfast and other meals can be served on a commodious and breezy porch where the fly is excluded and the mosquito cannot enter.

The Arthur Brandeis place, heretofore mentioned, lies on the road running north from Krug park. It was built about five years ago, and Mr. Brandeis, being a practical man as well as an intense lover of artistic surroundings, is making his investment pay. He has a cozy home of no great pretensions at present, but with wide possibilities for improvement in the future. His chicken yards are noted throughout the country among devotees of the rooster and the hen, the egg and the omelet, and he can stake himself or his friends to hen fruit of approved quality, no matter what the market price. Also, when the strain of the business hustle gets on his nerves he has a most inviting retreat on which to fall back for quiet solace in his Douglas county country home.

### F. P. Kirkendall Has Big Plans Made.

"Kirkwood" will one of these days be a word full of meaning to anybody discussing ideal country homes. That is the name selected by F. P. Kirkendall for the estate he is beginning to develop at what was for many years known as Pries lake. Mr. Kirkendall has gone about his task—a pleasant one, without—in a businesslike fashion. Having picked a commanding site for his proposed new house on a hilltop centrally located on the estate, he has laid out winding roads and woodland paths converging on this central feature. A dam has been constructed of concrete a short distance off the river road, to hold the waters of what will be a rather extensive lake or waterway,

with ample provision for taking care of the overflow. Not only will this sheet of water be a thing of beauty attaching to Kirkwood, but it will also furnish facilities for bathing, boating and skating. It is to be spanned by several rustic bridges. Just what amount of money will be spent on this new country estate would be idle to estimate, but the enthusiastic neighbors, clustered on the hillsides all about, are even now cherishing the boast that the Kirkendall country place will be fit when finished to take high rank on the list of show places in and about Omaha. Their anticipations seem to be entirely justified, too, judging by the place as it appears in the rough. Every natural feature is calculated to lend itself to beautification to almost any imaginable degree.

### Broadview Farm, Pride of George West.

Speaking of neighbors to Kirkwood brings us to the point where it is permissible to say that Farmer George West is fast laying the foundation that will make him as well known by that designation as when we now speak of him as George West, the railroad man. He has so many apples hanging on his trees this year that he could not eat them if he lived to be as old as Methuselah. Likewise, Farmer West has grapes that would make wine enough to float a ship of modest dimensions, and apricots, berries, tomatoes, potatoes and salad materials, to say nothing of a healthy family of children. Mr. West's summer home—he insists on modesty, as usual—is just a shack, to hear him tell about it; but when one gets there he wishes he could stay all summer. The entrance is off the river road, and when Mr. West gets to the point where he considers the best view is in sight he says, "I call my place Broadview Farm." It deserves the name, as would any of the many adjoining acres on which homes have been planted. One can see pleasing stretches of hill, meadow and river in every direction, and no prospect can be found that is not a delight to the eye.

Robert F. Bacon of the McCord-Brady company last year purchased a country place adjoining the Kirkendall tract. He moved there with his family and they all liked it so well Mr. Bacon has concluded to make it his permanent home. Being a man who needs little or no sleep, "Bob" Bacon has no objection to getting up with the lark in order to be in the city before 8 o'clock every morning.

### Learned and Wyman Are Neighbors.

Myron Learned's summer home, close to the West place, is so situated that there is more than ordinary basis for his claim that he is master of the most beautiful view in Douglas county. Mr. Learned claims he can take in the whole country from Manawa to Missouri Valley, and after standing before his ram-

bling, but very enticing, bungalow one is quite willing to commend the admirable taste of Mrs. Learned in selecting the site for her country home. Good taste is evident in the construction work already done on the Learned place—as, indeed, it is evident on the other places all about. The owners may be working slowly, but they are certain of the ends aimed at, and when the plans made or incubating are all perfected these hills north of the city of Florence will be classed as an adornment of the general landscape hard to equal anywhere.

Henry Wyman has a home adjoining the Learned place, and after going into raptures over the first, one glances with misgiving at his opinion as he takes in the view from the second. Working with Learned for company, Mr. Wyman has roughly hewed out paths through the woods that lead to continual exposures of admirable vistas. He calls his place Woodney, very appropriately, for it is prolific of the hardwood growths scattered so plentifully over the face of this particular section. Wholesome simplicity is to be the distinguishing characteristic of Woodney, both in house and grounds, and the same characterization will apply to the other homes scattered about the hilltop, according to their owners.

### Ringwalt Brothers Have Nice Retreats.

"Decorative kichshaws, as such, do not make much of an appeal to me," says Theodore L. Ringwalt, who has a tidy little place alongside Wyman. Which does not mean that Mr. Ringwalt has no eye for beauty, rather the contrary. A main feature of his grounds is a pergola that promises to be popular as a lounging spot later on, from which it will be judged he has a liking for expensive, solid beauty that is at once decorative and useful. Holcroft is the name of this place.

John R. Ringwalt also has a country home in this neighborhood. It is perched on an elevation from which one could apparently jump into the Missouri river, flowing below. Like most of the other summer homes hereabout, Oak Ridge (as Mr. Ringwalt calls his place) has about it an air of restfulness and peace that catches the fancy at once. A great, big porch serves as a living room, and this feature is to be found very strongly in evidence at all the homes mentioned. Meals are served on the porches, all tightly screened, and they also are used as sleeping quarters when the nights are extra warm.

### Fine Places Little Farther Out.

Louis C. Nash is one of the Omahans who has gone a considerable distance from the city to establish his summer home. It is built on the hill west of

Coffman, and combines the pastoral features of farm life with the modern accoutrements of convenience. Mr. Nash and his family and guests can watch the lambskins gambol when they feel like it, or eat the sweet, raw turnip fresh from the ground.

Martin F. Reum has christened his country home Pappic View. It is located on West Dodge street and is one of the best types of suburban residence to be found in the vicinity of Omaha. A garage in keeping with the character of the house is located in the rear, and in the basement of the residence Mr. Reum has a bowling alley, where he can take regular exercise to enable him to shoulder a beef without much difficulty. Miss Lucy Harding, secretary of the Board of Trade building, makes chickens, pigeons, eggs and garden truck the main features of her place, Seven Oaks, on the hill west of Florence. By combining business with pleasure at her country place Miss Harding finds good living comes easy.

E. Porter Peck erected a very fine country home some years ago at Calhoun. It is occupied by Lyman Peck, and a wealth of magnificent shrubbery is the main landscape feature. Mr. Peck takes exceeding pride in the high grade of his hogs, breeding a great many classy animals from one of the best strains.

C. W. Partridge has a handsome suburban residence a short distance north of Florence and is fast bringing his grounds into first-class condition. Charles Ady has a nice place close by.

### Move Countryward is Steady.

This list by no means covers all of the summer home builders, but it will serve to indicate the scope of the spreading-out movement that has caught the fancy of Omaha men and women who have the means to gratify their taste in this direction. A great many folks in various walks of life have in recent years bought suburban property and are dwelling in serene comfort and happiness in modest homes they have erected thereon. They cultivate gardens and devote a good deal of attention to poultry and other light branches of agriculture, as well as cultivating vineyards, orchards, flower beds, shrubs and vines. A surprising number of these homes of the main traveled routes are lighted by electricity and boast water systems of their own. A drive through the sections indicated will prove a decided pleasure to any person having the time and inclination to make the trip. Rural architecture is to be seen on every hand in a tasteful demonstration, and the immediate surroundings of the houses, large and small, are kept in a high state of cultivation and adornment.