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CITY LODGE DIRECTORY

A. F. & A. M.
McCook Lodge No. 135, A. F. & A. M., meets every first and third Tuesday of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in Masonic hall.
CHARLES L. FABRNESTOCK, W. M.
LON CONE, Sec.

BOILERMAKERS
McCook Lodge No. 467, B. of B. M. & L. S. B. of A., meets first and third Fridays of each month in Odd Fellows' hall.

DEGREE OF HONOR
McCook Lodge No. 3, D. of H., meets every second and fourth Fridays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall.
Mrs. LAUREA OSBEEN, C. of H.
Mrs. MATTIE G. WELLES, Rec.

EAGLES
McCook Aerie No. 1514, F. O. E., meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. Social meetings on the first and third Wednesdays.
W. H. CUMMINS, W. Pres.
H. P. PETERSON, W. Sec.

EASTERN STAR
Eureka Chapter No. 86, O. E. S., meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in Masonic hall.
Mrs. SARAH E. KAY, W. M.
SYLVESTER CORDEAL, Sec.

G. A. R.
J. K. Barnes Post No. 277, G. A. R., meets on the first Saturday of each month at 2:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall.
J. M. HENDERSON, Comdr.
J. H. YARGER, Adj.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.
McCook Council No. 1135, K. of C., meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Diamond's hall.
FRANK REAL, G. K.

G. R. GALE, F. Sec.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
McCook Lodge No. 42, K. of P., meets every Wednesday, at 8:00 p. m., in Masonic hall.
M. LAWRTTSON, C. C.
J. N. GAARDE, K. R. S.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
St. John Commandery No. 16, K. T., meets on the second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in Masonic hall.
EMERSON HANSON, E. C.
SYLVESTER CORDEAL, Rec.

LADY MACCABEES.
Valley Chapter, H. C. No. 2, L. O. T. M., meets every first and third Thursday evenings of each month in Ganschow's hall.
Mrs. W. B. MILLS, Commander.
HARRIET E. WILLETTS, R. K.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS
McCook Division No. 623, B. of L. E., meets every second and fourth Saturday of each month, at 2:30 in Morris' hall.
WALTER STORES, C. E.
W. D. BURNETT, F. A. E.

LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN.
McCook Lodge No. 569, B. of L. F. & E., meets every Saturday, at 7:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall.
L. D. PENNINGTON, M.
GEO. A. CAMPBELL, Sec.

MACHINISTS
Red Willow Lodge No. 587, I. A. of M., meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, at 8:00 p. m., in Ganschow's hall.
D. O. HEWITT, Pres.
W. H. ANDERSON, Rec. Sec.

MODERN WOODMEN
Noble Camp No. 683, M. W. A., meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall.
JOHN HUNT, V. C.

BARNEY HOPFER, Clerk.

ODD FELLOWS.
McCook Lodge No. 137, I. O. O. F., meets every Monday, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall.
E. H. DOAN, N. G.
SCOTT DOAN, Sec.

P. E. O.
Chapter X, P. E. O., meets the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, at 2:30 p. m., at the homes of the various members.
Mrs. C. W. BRITT, Pres.
Mrs. J. G. SCHOBEL, Cor. Sec.

RAILWAY CONDUCTORS.
Harvey Division No. 95, O. R. C., meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Diamond's hall.
JOE HEGENBERGER, C. Con.
M. O. McCLEURE, Sec.

RAILWAY TRAINMEN
C. W. Bronson Lodge No. 487, B. of R. T., meets every Friday at 8:00 p. m., in Berry's hall.
H. W. CONOVER, M.

F. J. HUSTON, Sec.

WORKMEN
McCook Lodge No. 61, A. O. U. W., meets every Monday, at 8:30 p. m., in Diamond's hall.
WEB. STEPHENS, M. W.
C. B. GRAY, Rec.

R. A. M.
King Cyrus Chapter No. 35, R. A. M., meets every first and third Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in Masonic hall.
CLARENCE B. GRAY, H. P.
CLINTON B. SAWYER, Sec.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS
Noble Camp No. 822, R. N. A., meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month, at 2:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall.
Mrs. MARY WALKER, Orator.
Mrs. AUGUSTA ANTON, Rec.

R. S. M.
Oceano-Box 60 Council No. 16, R. S. M., meets on the last Saturday of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in Masonic hall.
RALPH A. HAGBERG, T. I. M.
SYLVESTER CORDEAL, Sec.

W. O. W.
Meets second and fourth Thursdays at 8 o'clock, in Diamond's hall.
CHAS. F. MARKWAD, C. C.
W. C. MOYER, Clerk.

NOAH'S RAVENS.

A Knotty Question Answered by a Blacksmith Preacher.
Many years ago there lived in one of the mountain counties of Tennessee a blacksmith who to his reputation for honest work during the week added that of being a powerful exhorter on Sundays. Held in high esteem by his neighbors, possessed of a sufficiency of this world's goods for that primitive community, he seemed to have solved the question of terrestrial happiness, but the "thorn in the flesh" is indigenous to all climes and conditions, and for the blacksmith it grew in the person of one Tom Bradley, a tall, lank mountaineer, who was the wit and wag of the neighborhood and who also occupied the unenviable position of skeptic in that orthodox community. Tom delighted to prod the smith with certain inexplicable Biblical statements, and these encounters sometimes resulted disastrously for the exhorter, causing him much humiliation and making him, as he said, "wrasse in prayer and cry to the Lord and spare not."
Once at the yearly camp meeting the old man was giving his "experience" in the tone and manner that were considered devotional in those parts. "My brethren, ah," he said, "as I was a-standin' in my shop an' gittin' ready to shoe Billy Hite's old gray mare, ah, 'long come that son of a gun Tom Bradley, ah. He ast me if I believed everything in the Bible, ah. I said ever' thing from river to river, ah. 'Believe that yarn about Noah bein' shet up in the ark with all them different sort of critters, ah? sezze. 'Si I done swallered Jonah an' the whale, ah, ah! I wa'n't a-goin' to gag at Noah, ah.' 'Well,' sezze, ah, 'ef that raven Noah sent out got lost, ah, where did all these here ravens come frum, ah?' Brethren, I thought for a minute, ah, that old Satan had got the underholt on me, ah, an' was about to thoe me, ah; but, thank the Lord, ah, I jest floed back my head, ah, an' the sperrit of knowledge plum filled me, ah, an' I sezze, sezze, 'It was the old he raven, ah, that got lost, ah, the old she raven was a-settin' on five eggs in the nest, ah, an' that's where these here ravens come frum, ah.'"

THE OPERA.
It Appears to Have Originated in Italy in the Year 1600.
The way Stretefeld, author of "The Opera," traces the development of opera through the centuries is most clear and concise and leaves you with the impression that upon the matter of history, at any rate, he is master of his subject. Opera, it is shown, was the result of an attempt made by some Florentine amateurs to revive the lost glories of Greek tragedy. They failed to get back to the conditions of Athenian drama, but in failing they unconsciously laid the foundations of a new art form which soon worked itself into the affections of the people. The beginnings of opera might be said to date from the year 1600, when a public performance was given in Florence of Peri's "Euridice" in honor of the marriage of Maria de' Medici and Henry IV. of France. This work consists almost entirely of accompanied recitative, which was the invention of these Florentine reformers, and the voices were accompanied by a "violin, chitarone (a large guitar), lira grande, linto grosso and gravicembalo or harpsichord, which filled in the harmonies indicated by the figured bass." It is interesting to know that in this very primitive work the composer tried to follow as closely as possible in his music the ordinary inflections of the speaking voice. Monteverde, who was a contemporary of Peri, but whose first opera was produced some seven years after "Euridice," made a similar effort to reconcile music with speech, and many years after Gluck and still later Wagner tried to do so, and it is amusing when one knows how far in other directions music as an art and opera as a convention have progressed since 1600 to think that old Peri was probably closer to the Debussys and Reynaldo Habus of our day than all the great men who have come between.—New Age of London.

A Big Mistake.
A fool, a barber and a bald-headed man were traveling together. Losing their way, they were obliged to sleep in the open air, and to avert danger it was agreed to watch by turns. The first lot fell on the barber, who for amusement shaved the poor fool's head while he was sleeping. He then woke him, and the fool, raising his hand to scratch his head, exclaimed: "Here's a pretty mistake. You have awakened the bald-headed man instead of me!"—Liverpool Mercury.

Getting Closer.
"When I first knew that man," said the observant waiter, "he couldn't have been making more than \$1,000 a year. I'll bet it's \$10,000 now."
"How do you know?" asked the other.
"He used to give a fifty cent tip, but now he only gives me a nickel."—Philadelphia Press.

A Model Cookbook.
"What! You have written a new cookbook for your wife? How did you do it?"
"Easy enough. I wrote the name of each dish and underneath it the restaurant where it can be had best."—Fliegende Blätter.

The watched pot never boils. A gas motor is different.—Washington Times.

Be wise today. 'Tis madness to defer.—Young.

ROAD WORK IN MAINE

Paul D. Sargent Tells of the State Highway Building.
PROGRESS MADE EACH YEAR.
Twenty-four Hundred Miles of Road Already Laid Out—Gravel Generally Used For Surfacing—How the Work is Done.
Paul D. Sargent, state highway commissioner of Maine, in a recent address before the good roads and legislative convention of the Automobile club of Springfield, Mass., spoke as follows about road work in Maine:
The construction of state roads in Maine presents a little different problem from that in any other of the New England states. This is partly an account of our large area which is sparsely settled and our low valuation. For example, our area is within 300 square miles of equaling that of all the other New England states. Our population is about 50 per cent more than that of the city of Boston and our valuation about one-tenth that of Massachusetts. In the matter of valuations I might say that we have only sixty-three cities and towns in the state which have a valuation of \$1,000,000. We have 222 towns with a valuation less than \$250,000 each, and three-fourths of all our towns are less than \$500,000 in valuation. In many of our towns, especially the smaller ones, highway taxes alone run from 1 to 3 cents, so you see when these towns make appropriations for good roads they are really struggling to improve their condition.
We have, however, made a start in the matter of state road building and are making progress every year. In 1901 a state road law was passed which was general in its application—that is, it provided that every town in the state might have state aid in complying with certain conditions. The amount which any town could expend under this original law was only \$200 per year, and the maximum state aid allowed on account of such expenditure was \$100. Succeeding legislatures raised the amount until at present \$900 is the maximum amount a town may expend and be reimbursed by the state for half its expenditure.
The first year of the law only twelve towns took advantage of its provisions, while last year, the sixth year of its operation, 322 towns built their state roads and received state aid. This year 356 towns are building sections of state road.
Our law provides that when a town makes appropriation and declares its intention to build state road the county commissioners shall designate in that town the main traveled thoroughfare, which shall thereafter be known as the state road, and that said appropriation shall be expended in improving some section of this road. Under this provision for designating state roads about 2,400 miles of road have already been laid out.
Up to the close of last year about \$450,000 had been expended by the towns and the state in this reconstruction work, and nearly 300 miles of road had been worked upon. The work consists mainly in cutting down excessive grades, raising roads in swamps and low places, straightening crooked roads, taking out sharp curves and underdraining quagmires.
In general our surfacing material consists of gravel, but in many cases only the natural soil is used for this purpose, especially if gravel cannot be obtained within two miles of the location of the work. Probably in forty towns in the state the surfacing material is crushed stone.
The work up to the present time has been under the direct supervision of the various boards of county commissioners. As the law provides for inspection of the work after it is completed and the commissioners have not in general insisted on one standard of work, there have been quite a good many variations in the completed roads, but progress is being made each year, and we are gradually approaching something in the line of uniformity. The standard which we ask to have maintained is for a road twenty-one feet wide which shall have at least twelve feet of hardened track, with earth shoulders to make up the remaining width.
Our general specification is for surfacing material to be eight inches thick in the center and six inches thick on the shoulders, to be screened into sizes and deposited in layers and rolled wherever possible. We find that such work where it is carefully and well done averages in cost from 35 to 50 cents per lineal foot.

A GAME OF CHECKERS.

The Move One Player Made and His Subsequent Soliloquy.
"It's your move," she smiled.
He smiled back at her, his hand hovering above the checkerboard.
"Really?" he asked, looking at her in a witty sort of way.
"Huh-huh," she softly answered.
"Really?" he asked again.
"Huh-huh," she breathed and demurely dropped her eyes.
His success began to intoxicate him, and he felt that never before had he been in such strong form, never had his wit been so keen or his manner so engaging. His spirit soared, and he looked upon his opponent with a kindling eye.
"There!" he said, making his move at last.
"There?" she asked, giving his ejaculation the appearance of having been conceived in subtle humor. "There?"
"There!" he repeated.
They made eyes at each other, and she moved one of her men. He briskly moved one of his.
"No, no," she faintly murmured. "You must take me."
"I must what?" he cried, making a motion.
"Take me!" she whispered.
"Take you?"
She nodded her head without looking up, and the next moment he had taken her and two hearts beat as one.
"And will you always think of me?" she asked as he was bidding her goodbye after he had measured her finger for the ring.
"How could I help it?" he asked.
"Always?" she insisted.
"Always!" he repeated.
"Will you think of me as you go home tonight?"
"Every step of the way."
They parted at last.
"He loves me!" she whispered to herself. "Oh, he loves me! I knew it from the first. Maybe this won't make some of them jealous! And I'm the first girl he ever loved, and it's to be a diamond hand! Oh, oh!"
And as she walked home he turned a troubled face up to the moon, halted suddenly and addressed the night:
"When she began that funny business about taking her I ought to have sat tight and kept my fool mouth shut; that's what I ought to have done!"—Kansas City Independent.

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