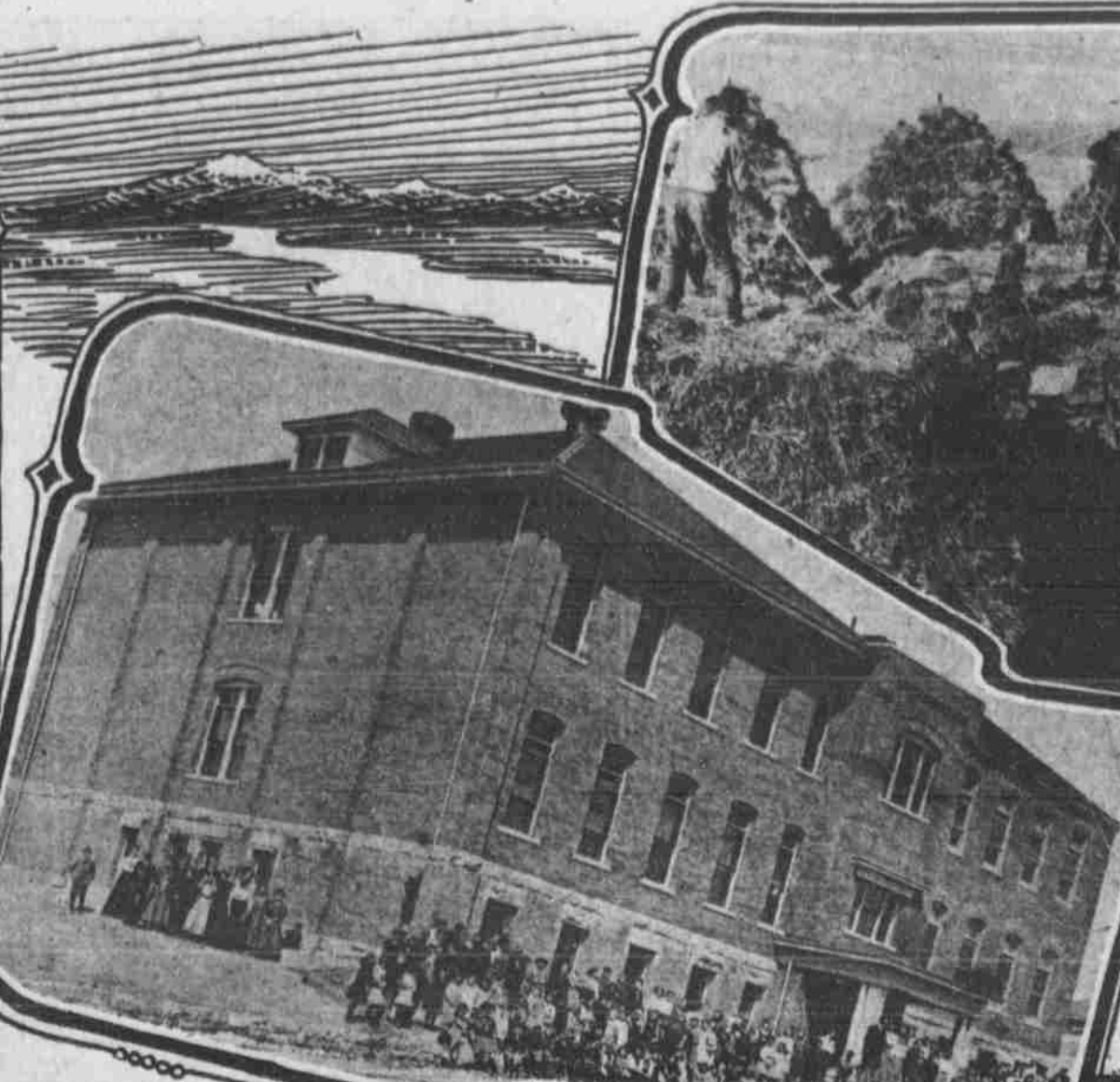


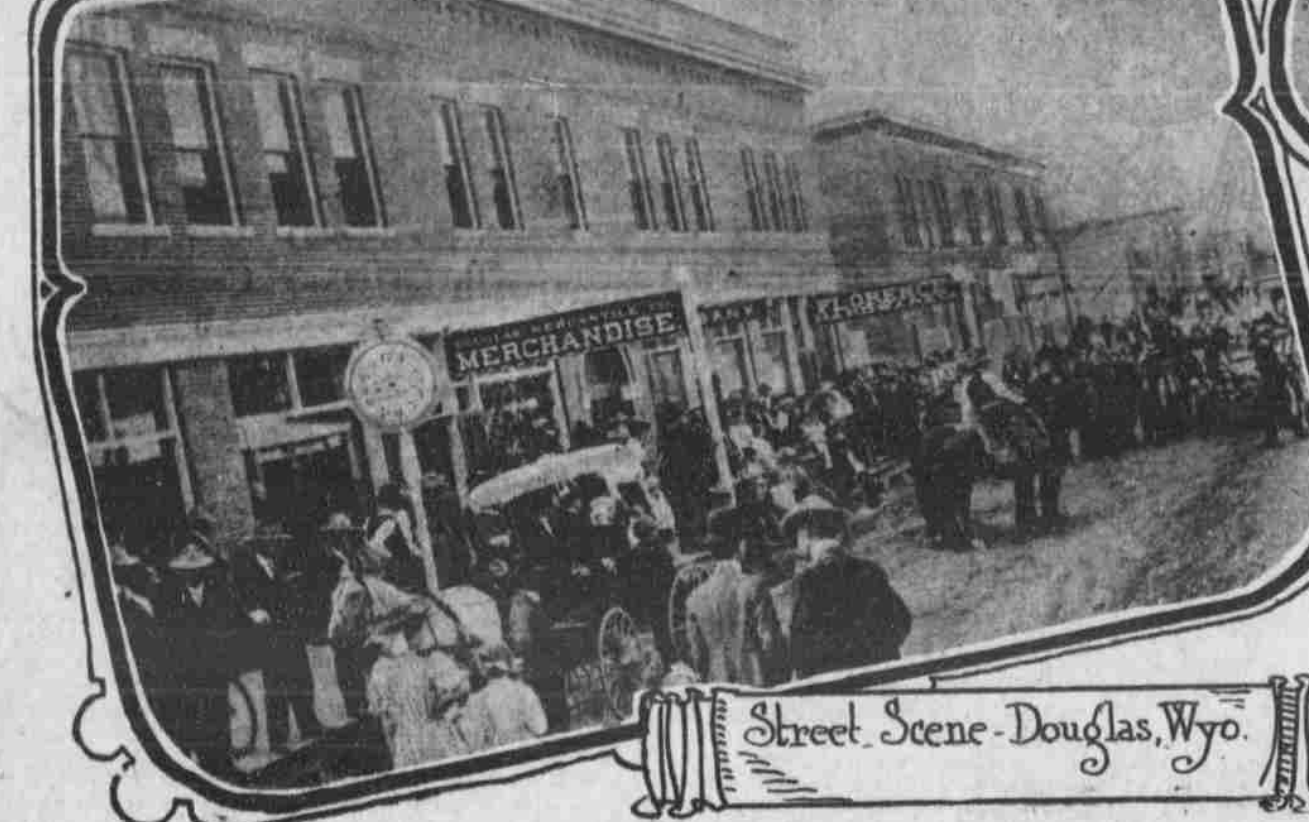
Wyoming, Banner Sheep State of Union; Land of Great Possibilities



Sheep Herder's Home



Oats Letterman Flats



Street Scene - Douglas, Wyo.



Public School Douglas, Wyoming



In the Land of the "Sportsman"

house bonds. The sheepmen have invested their surplus earnings in cattle, horses, farms, ranches, irrigation enterprises, stores, banks and various other enterprises, so that it would be difficult to name an enterprise that has not benefited by the sheep business. Instances could be cited at great length giving names of persons who commenced the business ten to fifteen years ago without a cent who are now men worth all the way from \$50,000 to \$100,000. There is big money in the business at prevailing prices.

A large wool warehouse was built in Douglas by the co-operation of the sheepmen of this locality some years ago. The building is 28x34 feet in dimension, on truckage, and has a storage capacity of 1,000,000 pounds of wool.

In 1857 there was absolutely nothing but rabbits and rattlesnakes on the present site of Douglas, but C. H. King had pitched a tent at the mouth of Antelope creek, just north of town, and was occupying it as a store, and besides it was another owned by a surveyor named Watters, and a small shack in which two enterprising cowpunchers named Blaisdell and Mosley had opened a saloon. In July, 1858, Douglas proper was platted and surveyed. The railroad people, however, refused to allow even a tent stake to be driven on the new townsite and announced that no lots would be sold until the rails were laid to Douglas.

The railroad reached Douglas on Saturday, August 22, and on Monday the rails

were laid to a point west of the stock yards, which was the terminus for about a year. E. M. Tyler was the first agent, who was succeeded in March of the following year by C. C. Pardee. Lots in the permanent town of Douglas of today were sold at auction, beginning September 30 and continuing through four days. The first day's sales exceeded \$30,000, and in all 212 lots were sold for a total of \$70,000. The first week of railroad service brought in train load after train load of lumber, and any man who could drive a nail was paid \$5 a day. The sound of hammer and saw was heard everywhere, day and night.

Douglas, it is said, was the first town in the state to make the matter of planting and caring for trees on the streets, a strictly municipal function. The first trees were planted by the town. There are now many trees maintained by the town on the streets as are to be found in all the residence lots. From one end of the town to the other the streets are lined with thick shade trees, all planted under supervision and watered and otherwise cared for at town expense.

The value of water is only beginning to be realized by the people of Wyoming. In reality, it is in some ways the most important material problem of their immediate future.

The wealth of romantic and picturesque incident and adventure surrounding the earlier chapters of the history of Wyoming must always be fascinating and entertaining. But the history likely to be of enduring interest to the practical American mind is found in the period of solid material advancement, in the local aspect of industrial development which began simultaneously with the beginning of irrigation projects here and with the discovery by a large portion of Wyoming people, that the state contained something more than a few fertile river valleys surrounded by unlimited range for sheep and cattle.

Up to that time the impression of Wyoming carried in the minds of a vast majority of people was a land chiefly useful as a route for railroads leading to more favored lands to east and west, and to have been avoided had avoidance been possible. Tales of the last Indians and worse white men were common through the eastern papers. Some of the stories were true; most of them were not.

But a new day has come in Wyoming. The awakening, at first partial and local, became complete and general five years ago. Since that time Wyoming's industrial development has been moving forward by leaps and bounds until today there is no man so blind as not to see the brilliant promise of the future. Cities and towns are growing, railroads are reaching out in all directions, new industries are being established, the forests and mines are being exploited, and last and most important of all the possibilities of the land are being discovered and made known; for it is in agriculture that this recent development has been most remarkable and it is to the land that Wyoming must look for its greatest development in the future.

The home-making instinct is a well developed trait in Wyoming character. The pioneers who have done much to conquer the wilderness and drive back the frontier, and the earlier pioneers who crossed the plains were impelled by this instinct, more than by the love of adventure or the lure of gold to wander forth into strange lands.

The pioneer of Wyoming was the cattleman. He farmed but little and from the nature of his business and the methods of operation, as a rule, wanted no neighbors. The real home-builder, who undertook to subdue the plains and the valleys to agriculture, encountered many difficulties. Irrigation has not kept pace with the progress of settlement and civilization in Wyoming. It is clear that the agricultural resources of this state are measured by the water supply. The power of the soil is beyond question. People are beginning to understand that to control the water is to insure the harvest. Floods and draughts which annually visit the trusting farmer will in time be unknown.

WYOMING cattlemen, once proud herons of the range, hold haughtily head above the lowly sheepmen for many years, while sombrero-topped cowboys made humble herders dance. But out of time's paradoxical evolution there has come a shifting of position—the sheep is ahead of the steer, the former cattle baron is now a sheep raiser himself and the picturesque cowboy has exchanged a lariat for shepherd's crook.

The phenomenal gains of the sheep industry in Wyoming must not be construed to mean that the cattle business has been entirely abandoned—Wyoming is still a cattle state and will remain so, but there is more of the Holstein, more of the Short-horn and less of the nondescript. Herds are not so large as they formerly were, but they are catalogued in a different class.

But to return to the chief topic, which is sheep. There was in the early days of the west a prejudice against sheep raising, because it was classed as a "tame" occupation. The cowboy was a picturesque, lightly-armed figure. The sheepherder was a mollycoddle in public estimation. Cowboys were prone to become bibulous and make targets of towns. Sheepherders, if they imbibed at all, slunk off into solitude and had their bout with Bacchus entirely free from gunpowder extraneous.

Wyoming is now the banner sheep raising state of the union, eclipsing Texas, which formerly stood first; Montana, another strong rival; Utah, the natural home of the sheep; Oregon and other states from whence came the mutton chops and the wool clips of the world.

The introduction of sheep into Wyoming dates from the year 1873 when Jim Davis herded a small band near Muskrat canyon at Rawhide Buttes. In about the year 1889 John Morton and J. J. Hurd and others came up from the Union Pacific country with bands of sheep. In the year 1892 the Platte Valley Sheep company was organized. The introduction of the sheep business met with decided opposition. Ranchmen and cattlemen objected to anyone invading what they considered their preserve—the free use of the public range. About 1893 a number of sheep outfits were visited by armed bodies of ranchmen and cattlemen, who were called "gunysackers" on account of being disguised with a gunny sack over their heads, and who marked off deadlines on the range. Sheep wagons were burned, sheep shot and clubbed to death and herders shot at and mistreated.

The sheepmen at this time, with few exceptions, were without fixed habitations and were content to start the herders out with bands of 2,000 sheep and a sheep wagon, and in some instances with a pack outfit. The increase in prices from \$1.25 and \$2.00 for grown ewes to \$4 gave the industry an impetus in 1895, and people engaged in the business to such an extent that it has rapidly increased in volume and extent up to the present time. It speedily became apparent that the business had come to stay, and men who had been the most bitter "gunysackers" engaged in it and are today wealthy men.

Sheepmen began to see the need of fixed habitation and secured permanent quarters and built land and ranges, and at the present time no sheepman thinks of engaging in the business without having at least one-fifth of his capital invested in land and range. The present plan of managing the business is on much safer lines than it was in the past. Now nearly every sheepman provides grain and hay in large quantities.

last sixteen years has been marvelous and if all were told would read like a fairy tale.

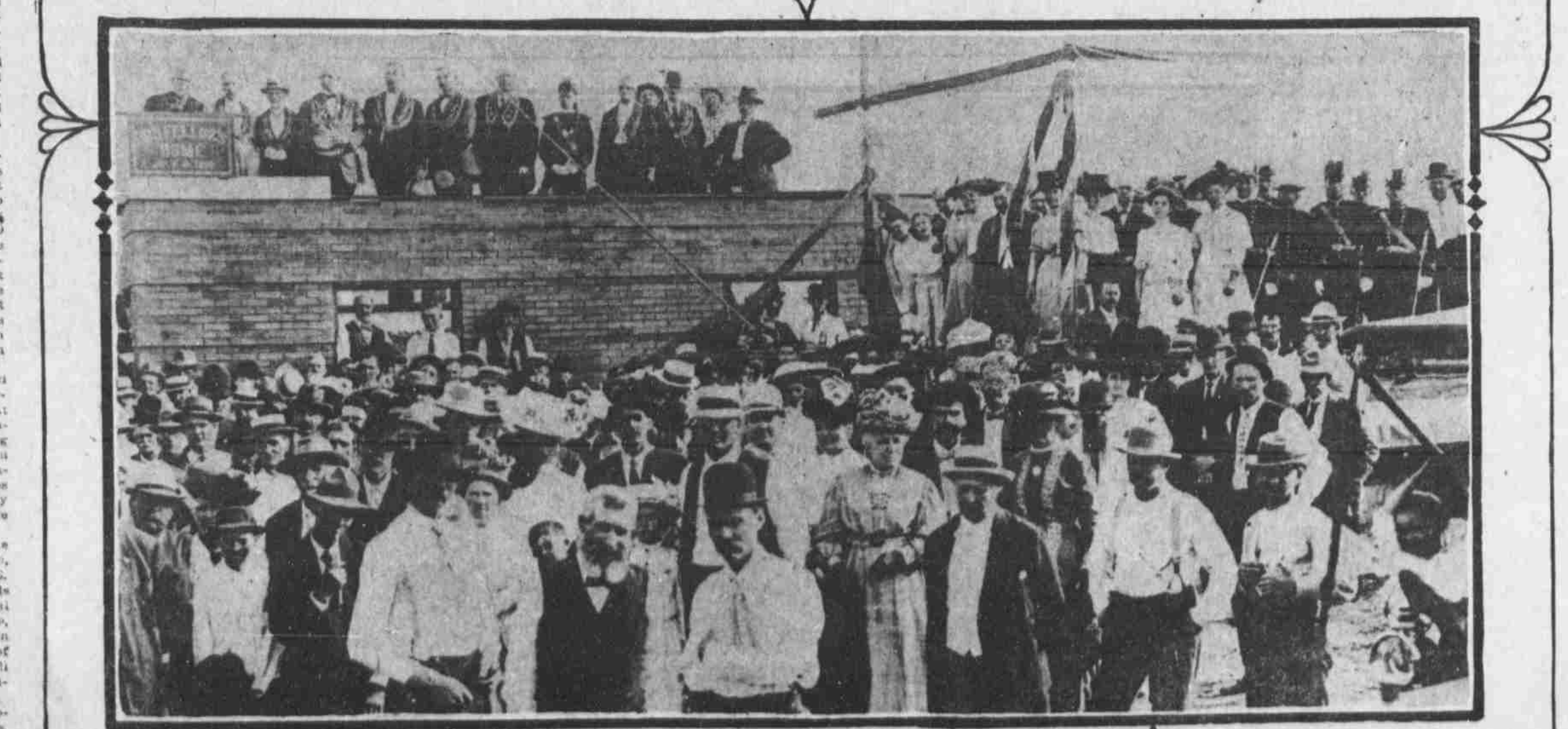
Wyoming wool will continue upward in price. The consumption in the United States each year is 550,000,000 pounds. For this reason there is an era of almost unbroken prosperity for Wyoming flockmasters, and the central portion of the state, with its great sections of grazing land, is in a position to maintain its supremacy as a wool-producing country.

In 1886, Texas, California, Ohio, New Mexico, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Michigan were ahead of Wyoming in the sheep industry in the order named. The fact that Wyoming is now the banner sheep and wool state of the union is an accomplishment of which all citizens of that state may well feel proud. The number and valuation of sheep in the state January 1, 1905, was 3,311,182 sheep at \$25,000,739.

The sheepmen usually locate in the towns and many a sprightly city owes its origin to the sheep industry. Douglas, Converse county, is a fair example, for it is due largely to the sheep business that Douglas was resurrected from a "busted boomlet" in 1888 with 25 poverty-stricken people to a wealthy, thriving, prosperous, modern improved city of perhaps 2,000 population in 1910, and the sheep business contributed very materially in elevating Converse county from an insignificant county of the fourth class, with poor credit and a debt of \$125,000, to a strong county of the second class on a cash basis with its debt reduced to \$40,000, including the new court

Kelly and wife. Photograph of O. O. Snyder and his lodge history. Photograph of locating committee, 1900, and 1901 trustees. Photograph of first shovel of dirt at breaking of sod for new building. 1906 proceedings of grand lodge, grand encampment, Rebekah assembly and department council. Copy of the constitution of each of the four branches of the order. Bible, the gift of Grand Secretary J. P. Gage. Complete history of Home enterprise from its first conception to the laying of the cornerstone July 4, 1910. Program of the day's exercises. Copy of Nebraska Odd Fellow. Gold coin, \$2.50, date 1908. Silver coin, \$1, date 1904. Silver coin, 25 cents, date 1905. Silver coin, 10 cents, date 1909. Nickel coin, 5 cents, date 1907. Copper coin, 1 cent, date 1910. Two Lincoln pennies. Three souvenir spoons. Copy of The Omaha Bee, Sunday issue, July 3, 1910, giving a description of the Home building and the program for the exercises of the day.

Photograph of Grand Master J. W.



Laying the Corner Stone - Odd Fellows Home - July 4th