

GENESIS OF THE BEE--Early Struggle for Existence and

The history of The Bee is a panorama of stirring events and thrilling incidents. It is the history of a mighty struggle against adverse circumstances, formidable opposition, and obstacles which, during infancy, seemed almost insurmountable. It is a history of years of ceaseless toil, crowned with popular approval and support. Its success is not due to mere accident or good luck, but is the result of years of hard labor and untiring exertion.

The Daily Bee made its first appearance on the 19th of June, 1871. It was a two-page, 12x18 sheet, five columns to a page and had the appearance of a theater program. In fact, the program of the Academy of Music filled all but two columns of the first page. Five hundred copies were struck off at Redfield Brothers' job office, of which about 300 were laid upon the seats of the Academy of Music, and the remainder were distributed free in the stores and hotels.

The name of H. Gerald appeared at the head of the column of paragraphs as editor and publisher, but the real publisher and founder was Edward Rosewater, who was at that time manager of the Atlantic and Pacific telegraph lines and withheld his name to avoid disagreeable notoriety in connection with what he then regarded as a venture that would not survive sixty days. No prospectus was issued, but the following brief announcement was made in the first number:

First Notice to the Public.

"Attention is directed to the special telegraphic dispatches of The Omaha Bee, containing the latest intelligence up to the hour of going to press. Thoroughly condensed, the telegraph news of The Bee will, it is to be hoped, afford some evidence, in addition to the other novelties, that the editor of this journal is determined to deserve success in a hitherto untrodden field of journalistic effort. To the Omaha public, ever prompt to recognize enterprise, is thus presented, free of charge, what may, without exaggeration, be called the rectified essence of diurnal history."

The "essence," so called, consisted of two-thirds of a column of telegraph from home and foreign points, equal to one-third of a column of the present Bee.

The Bee became a four-page paper on the 3d day of July, after printing twelve numbers. The four-page edition was 8x12, with four columns to the page. On the 11th of July the paper was still running under the heading "H. Gerald, Editor and Publisher," and in the editorial columns appears the following paragraph:

"We would fain direct attention to the commination of Hon. Edward Rosewater on the all important topic here--the high school question. The communication needs no eulogy at our hands. It speaks for itself."

Mr. Rosewater's contributions continued to take the form largely of signed communications until July 17, when the following announcement was given to the public:

Editor, Discloses His Identity.

"The popular favor accorded The Omaha Bee as a gratuitous advertising medium and the general desire expressed by a large number of our citizens for its enlargement as an evening journal, warrant the hope of its future success as a thoroughly fearless and independent exponent of public opinion. Mr. Harry Gerald will continue as editor-in-chief, assisted by gentlemen of journalistic experience. It will be the aim of the publisher, from the outset, to make The Bee a newspaper in the true meaning of the word."

"EDWARD ROSEWATER,
"Publisher and Proprietor."

On July 27, 1871, a second enlargement took place, making The Bee four pages, 10x20, of five columns each, twelve ems wide. The third enlargement came August 28, 1871, when it comprised four pages, 12x24 inches, six columns to the page. The price of subscription was 12 1/2 cents per week, or 50 cents per month. On September 12, 1871, notice appeared as follows:

"NOTICE--Mr. Robert Anderson is no longer connected in any capacity with this paper and no responsibilities incurred by him will be recognized by me."
"E. ROSEWATER, Proprietor."

On September 6 of the same year The Weekly Bee was established, later transformed into The Twentieth Century Farmer.

As marking the successful completion of the first year, the youthful Bee indulged in these optimistic reflections, taken from its editorial columns of December 30, 1871, under the caption, "The First Year:"

Completion of the First Year.

"In closing a most eventful year and entering upon a yet unknown future, pregnant no doubt with many changes to our city and state, we desire to express our heartfelt appreciation of the support and friendship of the patrons of The Bee. It is especially gratifying to us that our independent course in discussing fearlessly and impartially all questions of public policy has been rewarded by a constantly increasing subscription list and advertising patronage. Of humble and unpretending origin, The Bee, typical of industry and perseverance, has gradually enlarged its sphere of action, and we hope will be able to continue to labor for and with the people for many years yet. We have no desire to flaunt our flag defiantly in the breeze, although we have in an unequal and bitter contest with competing contemporaries succeeded, notwithstanding their repeated predictions of failure. Our circulation in Omaha is today equal, if not larger than that of any newspaper in the city, and the people of this state are gradually but surely advancing The Bee to the front rank as the organ of the people of Nebraska. Our patrons may rest assured that we shall spare no effort to show practically our appreciation of their encouragement by unwavering fidelity to principle and undaunted and vigorous exposure of corruption in public places. Identified personally with Omaha and Nebraska for the last nine years, having shared in its early and continued struggles, we shall continue in our efforts to advance our city and state on the high road toward prosperity and civilization. In this we need the co-operation of our friends, and if their past support is a criterion, we have no fears for the future. We, therefore, look forward to 1872 with calmness and confidence. It is, we hope, to be an era of universal reform, of the downfall of intolerance and bigotry, of commercial progress and prosperity not only in Omaha and Nebraska, but in the whole Union."

First Illustrations.

The first number of The Bee for 1872 had upon its front page a cartoon of a peaceable citizen going by mail to the Omaha postoffice. It represented a man armed with about a dozen firearms, several knives, a mountain howitzer drawn by an ironclad dog, and a revolver in his mouth. This was the first pictorial newspaper work done in Omaha.

On Monday, April 15, 1872, C. B. Thomas, who had severed his connection with the Tribune and

Subsequent Success Over Many Obstacles



An Early Circulation Certificate Appreciation Expressed by Met

Omaha Post Office,
C. B. THOMAS, P. M.

Omaha, Neb., March 8, 1872

To whom it may concern
This is to certify that the
Omaha Bee mails more
newspapers through this office
both daily & weekly than any
mailed by any of the other
Omaha dailies

Respectfully
Samuel H. Orchard
Sub. P. M.



Omaha Neb., April 29, 1906.

Hon. Edward Rosewater,
Editor Omaha Bee,
I desire to express to you my appreciation of the generous treatment accorded me by the Bee in the report of the Thursday night dinner. It was a good piece of work from a newspaper standpoint, while to me personally it was an act of kindness which I highly appreciate. Permit me also to express to you my gratitude for your presence on the occasion referred to, and the generous words you spoke. Will you permit me to bid you a cordial good-bye and to express the hope that you may retain your health and vigor for many many years to come.

Yours truly,
Richard L. Metzger

The editorial announcement of the fire calamity was:

"Our present quarters are at Redfield's job office, into which all of their material was moved back after the fire and at once put in order for the energetic boys of The Bee to go to work and get out this evening's paper, thus publishing the first account of their misfortune. The fire has not killed The Bee, but has only burnt up its hive and scorched its stinger. In two weeks The Bee will be itself again, appearing in an entirely new outfit, and with renewed life and energy, buzzing around as lively as ever."

From June 11, 1872, until June 24, The Bee was published as a two-page sheet, 18x24, when it resumed its full four-page makeup in a new dress, purged by the fire, with the following proclamation:

"The Bee once more appears to its readers in full dress, with its banner flying. Even before the ex-

Republican as its editor, made a temporary engagement as associate editor of The Bee. This engagement terminated, however, a few days after the establishment was destroyed by fire June 11, 1872.

On May 6, 1872, The Bee was again enlarged, this time to double its size, and the publication office removed to 510 (old number) Twelfth street, two doors south of the original office. The proprietor had purchased a new dress of type, but the press work was done in the Redfield building on a Cincinnati drum cylinder press, operated by hand.

Burned by Incendiarists.

Early on the morning of June 11, 1872, The Bee office was destroyed by the torch of an incendiary, and the first announcement of the fire was made by The Bee on the afternoon of the same day. The detailed account of how the fire was discovered and extinguished concluded with this reference to its origin and the parties implicated in the crime:

"The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary, as the flames when first discovered were breaking forth from the basement and first story of The Bee office in the rear, and were running up the outside of the building on the south. There has been no fire in the building for nearly a month past. From these circumstances it was concluded by nearly everybody that it was the devilish work of an incendiary. For various reasons the finger of suspicion was almost universally pointed to a Robert Anderson, who has been employed for some months past as the book-keeper of The Bee. Last week he got drunk and neglected his business and was accordingly discharged. To give the public notice that he was no longer connected with this establishment in any manner whatever, it became necessary to insert a notice to that effect in the paper. This, of course, greatly angered Anderson at The Bee establishment, and his conversation has turned more or less toward it. Yesterday he talked to the Redfields of buying out or running this establishment. This, of course, was absurd, as he has not a cent in the world. He asked Charles Redfield how much the three of them were making. He was told about \$40 per week. He then said that if they accepted his proposition and bound themselves not to do any work they should have \$100 a week, and if they did not accept it they should never do another job of work in this town. He wanted to clean out The Bee. Last evening between 9 and 10 o'clock a negro woman saw a man going down Dodge street, and whom she thinks was Anderson.

"Anderson roomed in the upper story of Redfield's building. This morning he was up at a very early hour. When Mr. George Brewster, an employe of The Bee who roomed near Anderson, was awakened by L. C. Redfield, he opened his door into the hall and saw Anderson passing into his room. He was

not seen at the fire at all, and his unnatural absence only strengthened the suspicion. Instructions were accordingly given to have him arrested on sight. Marshal Kimball commenced the search for him and ran across him on Tenth street, while he was rapidly going north. When arrested he said, among other things, that he had been re-engaged by Mr. Rosewater and was to have gone to work again today. This we know to be a lie. Another suspicious circumstance is that all his traps had been removed from his room to a house on Eighteenth street, a long distance from the fire. Anderson is now in jail and will undergo a strong examination, and it is thought that enough circumstantial evidence can be gathered to prove that he is the villain who set fire to The Bee office."

It is proper to note here that Anderson was later prosecuted for arson, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, where he served a term of three years.

The Original Advertising Patrons of The Bee

The advertising pages of the early Bee were an accurate directory of the business interests of the young city. Every business house of importance was represented. Looking backward over these trade announcements evokes a flood of recollections of the men conspicuous in the commercial activities of the town. Many have been called to that "bourne whence no traveler returns," a majority have either retired from business or sought other fields of action. How few remain! Out of over 100 advertisers, representatives of the city's commercial life, but three or four are in business today.

The vicissitudes of business life long ago extinguished many of them and even before that made changes in the firm names, as well as in locations, but the early titles will be readily recognized. When The Bee celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary nineteen of these establishments were still active, as follows:

- Dewey, Trimble & Co., dealers in furniture.
- Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine company.
- Henry Hornberger, "JXL fresh, cool lager."
- John Baumer, practical watchmaker.
- William N. Whitney, boots and shoes.
- Milton Rogers, dealer in stoves, hollow ware and castings.
- G. H. & J. S. Collins, harness and leather.
- Frederick, the hatter.
- John Fruehauf, newspapers, periodicals and magazines.
- W. T. Seaman, dealer in stationery.
- Kessler's summer garden.
- Homan's livery stable.

Sanders & Co., groceries and provisions.
Charles Shilverick, manufacturer and dealer in furniture.

First National bank.
Omaha National bank.
Caldwell, Hamilton & Co., bankers.
A. B. Huberman, practical watchmaker.
James Stephenson, livery stable.

Other firms represented in the advertising columns of the first issue of The Bee were as follows:
Derby, the hatter.
Julius Meyer, Indian wigwam.
M. J. Lourants, chimney cleaner.
Drs. Charles & Paul, dentists.
Alfred D. Jones, dry goods and shoes.
Eaton, the photographer.
The Grover & Baker Sewing Machine company.
Richard Tizard, ice cream parlor.
Oscar Stenberg, sign painter.
M. J. McKelligan, importer of wines, liquors and cigars.

Charles S. Goodrich, flags, fireworks and Chinese lanterns.
John Ahmanson, dealer in groceries and provisions.
L. Schwartz, dealer in cigars.
M. Hellman & Co., clothing and furnishing goods.
Martin G. Griffin, general fire, life and marine insurance.

The Turner Summer Garden.
A. Droste, bookbinder.
M. V. Mackey, grocer.
Lately's Ice Cream Parlor.
John Rath, dealer in groceries.

ploration of the two weeks which it was anticipated would be required for our restoration and resurrection, we greet the public with renewed vigor. We have demonstrated that, like salamanders and Hering safes, good newspapers are indestructible. To those unacquainted with the great labor and sacrifice required for the accomplishment of such a feat will perhaps seem child's play. For eight days we traveled almost incessantly, endeavoring to find the necessary supplies and secure their prompt shipment by express. The express charges alone on material thus far received amounts to over \$150. In a new and commodious location, with facilities and machinery second to none in the west, we expect in due time to convince the public that we are in earnest in our desire to establish a permanent first-class journal. It will, however, require time and encouragement for us to recover from our pecuniary losses and continue our labors. We therefore apply to our friends and patrons to give us a helping hand on our journey over the thorny path of journalism. Excelsior will hereafter, as heretofore, be our motto."

First Anniversary.

All this in one eventful year. Little wonder, then, that The Bee, July 22, 1872, should give way to this little exultation:

"It is but twelve months ago since The Bee first fluttered into our western press with its undeveloped wings. We have the first copy before us. It is a single sheet of paper, measuring just 12x18 inches, divided into five columns. It was then simply an humble little advertising sheet, seeking an introduction into the community as a free medium of wit and humor sandwiched between facts and figures. The Bee as a newspaper is not yet twelve months old. It is hardly weaned. To be sure it has had the measles, the whooping cough and several other diseases that little Bees are heir to, but in the world of newspapers it will hardly be regarded as past its babyhood. Only a few weeks ago it burned its clothes and little limbs in a scorching incendiary fire, but has already recovered from this disaster, and now it comes out on dress parade among the other great newspapers in full dress. Today it adds another column to each wing and is actually foolish enough to think of comparing circulation with some very old drones that have lived long among us and accomplished very little. In making this addition to its flying capacity The Bee proposes to add nothing to the subscribers' bills. On the contrary, The Bee adds a new feature to its bill of fare in the shape of a carefully prepared commercial report, which branch of news it proposes to cultivate just as much as any honey producing flower. It will also be its aim to add to the general news department and introduce other new features in journalism as time progresses. The Bee may now be found at the supper table of the humblest laborer and mechanic, as well as the tea table of the most dainty devotee of fashion. It is read by everybody, is not afraid boldly to sting where and when it pleases, and intends to make life sweeter to those whose industry, like its own, merits recognition and reward."

George H. Peterson, cigars and tobacco.
Dr. Stoddard, specialist in woman's diseases.
National hotel, Josiah Morrison, proprietor.
F. Court, boot and shoe dealer.
C. M. Kendall, ice cream and soda water stand.
The City Hotel, E. F. Page, proprietor.
Mrs. C. Wood, fashionable milliner.
A. Israel, tailoring.
Wilson & Weber, dealers in Singer sewing machines.

Jones & Davis, upholsterers.
H. Berthold & Co., junk store.
Elgutter's loan office.
Omaha Soap Works, Powell & Co., proprietors.
C. F. Goodman, soda and mineral water factory.
Jones House, M. Donovan, proprietor.
William Sexauer, wholesale and retail dealer in furniture.

S. Rothschild, dealer in clothing.
Dr. Marwin, specialist.
Wyman & Eberhardt, dealers in baby buggies.
F. L. Ruff, furnishing goods and tailoring.
Vincent Burley, clothing and gents' furnishing goods.

Grady & Bros., groceries and provisions.
T. C. Brunner, groceries.
Sprague & Co., livery.
M. Adamsky, slipper maker.
The Tivoli Garden, Dryer & Blangefeldt.
P. Cassilly, wholesale liquor dealer.
Elam Clark, manufacturer and dealer in flour, meal and feed.

McFadden, stoves, tin, copper and ironware.
C. L. Pigman, Empire bakery.
Evans & Durnall, teas and groceries.
Dr. S. N. Witting.
Fitch, second-hand furniture.
J. H. Stein's tailoring establishment.
Stratton & Schneider, horse shoeing.
G. H. Matterson, broom factory.
Edward Kuehl, boot and shoe maker.
A. Pollock, clothier.

Pier & Richards, wholesale and retail liquors.
Thomas Keyes, tailor.
A. E. Simpson, cigars and tobacco.
Wyman & Gulou, boots and shoes.
John Libb, manufacturing jeweler.
G. A. Boekhoff, steam dyeing.
A. Moyer, manufacturer of sash, doors and blinds.
Sheeley Bros., meat market.
J. P. Croft, musical depot.
A. Manning & Co., practical horse shoeing.
Urlau & Bros., bakery.
James Anderson, practical tailor.

L. Woodworth, carriages and buggies.
W. Forbes & Co., dealers in wood.
J. J. Mulford, second-hand furniture.
Sargent's cutlery, combs, brushes, etc.
Newell & Pullen, photographers.
The American House.
John Cane, Washington market.
G. W. Gray, steam job printer.
H. W. Cremer, crockery, china and glassware.
Henry Dohle, boot and shoe maker.
M. Cummings, groceries.
J. C. Moodie, horse shoeing.
Columbian brewery.
Hertzman's Elysees Garden.
Otto Helfrich, druggist.
Redick's Opera House.
State Savings bank.

THE CAREFUL INSECT.
The careful insect midat the works I view,
Now from the flowers exhaust the fragrant dew,
With golden treasures load his little thighs,
And steers his distant journey through the skies;
Some against hostile drones the hive defends,
Others with sweets the waxen cells divide,
Each in the toil his destin'd office bears,
And in the little bulk a mighty soul appears.

Paddock's Characteristic Note

United States Senate Chamber,
Washington, May 27, 1880

My Dear Graham
Please treat me
as you would me
if I am to you on business
and charge country to
my account to help
catch opportunity for myself.
W. R. is editor of
the Omaha Bee which gives me
a - ll sometimes, but he is
subscribing and his paper is
influential
Fairly to
Paddock

Thanks from Letter Carriers

Omaha Post Office,
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER

Omaha, Douglas Co., Neb., July 2nd, 1906

At the Annual Convention of the Nebraska State Association of Letter Carriers held at South Omaha May 30th 1906, The following resolution was unanimously adopted: Whereas the Hon. Edward Rosewater has always proven himself a good friend of the Post Office employes in general and of the letter carriers in particular and Whereas, We wish him to know that we appreciate his efforts in the past and hope to retain his friendship in the future Therefore be it Resolved, That the Nebraska State Association of Letter Carriers in Convention assembled tender him a vote of thanks. Also be it Resolved, That the Secretary spread the same upon the minutes of the Association and a copy be presented to Mr. Rosewater
Geo. J. Cleffner President
C. B. Newton Secy