

# Old Omaha Landmark that is Passing Away

After almost half a century of service, the old frame building on the southwest corner of Dodge and Twelfth streets is to be torn down. It will be replaced by a new one-story brick building, to be erected by Edward Bexten and occupied by him as a drug store. The new building will be 40x100 feet and will be built strong enough to carry additional stories later on.

A. D. Jones, the first postmaster of Omaha, conducted Uncle Sam's mail business in this structure in the early days. "I was surprised one day by a visit from a woman," said Mr. Bexten. "She came in quietly and I went to wait on her. She told me she wanted nothing, but had just come in to take a look over the place. She was a niece of A. D. Jones, and told me she used to live here with her uncle when he was postmaster, the living room being in the back part at that time. She had many interesting incidents to relate, but I have forgotten the particulars. The building has been used as a drug store for almost forty years, and before that it was occupied as a grocery store by William Gentlemen and Edward Fearon, both well-known old settlers."

The original material is still in the building, the lumber having been cut at a sawmill in Florence and hauled to Omaha, one load a day. No foundation was dug, the structure being erected flat on the ground. Afterward Gentlemen & Fearon had a small cellar dug about the middle, in which to store vegetables. No change was made in the interior arrangement over a long period of years, until a partition was put in running east and west down the center, with living rooms on the south side. When he became the owner of the property Mr. Bexten had this partition torn out, at the same time closing a door formerly opening onto Dodge street.

"When we came to remodeling the old building a few years ago," said Mr. Bexten, "we found that it was innocent of plaster, except in the chimney. The old boards on the inside walls were as good almost as when first put on, and when they were several layers of wall. New floors had been laid on top of the old ones as necessity required.



GLADISH PHARMACY AT TWELFTH AND DODGE STREETS.

and now there are four thicknesses of flooring. The ceiling is also boarded, but I put in a steel ceiling. An old carpenter told us, at the time of remodeling, we would find cottonwood joists, and we did. To saw through them, after they had been seasoned for nearly half a century, was like sawing through iron. The saws had to be sharpened every few minutes. Those joists would apparently last for ever if left in place."

Jack Nugent had a theater, the St. Elmo, on the lot south of the old drug store, for a good many years. This play

house was famous all over the land in its day, and as one old-timer put it, "Got so hot it couldn't stand itself," so it burnt down to cool off. The drug store weathered the fire, and Mr. Bexten believes it was because the cottonwood boards wouldn't burn. The scorched boards still remain on the south wall, and one of the steel truss rods of the St. Elmo gallery is now holding together the front of this relic of old Omaha.

## BABIES GIVEN AWAY HERE

Thirty-Eight Arrive from New York for Western Homes.

## ONE YOUNGSTER LOSES SELF

But After Const Search is Made and He is Found Asleep Under the Seat of the Railroad Car.

Yesterday was the day they gave babies away at the Union station. When the morning train over the Illinois Central arrived, attached was an extra coach in which there were thirty-eight New Yorkers, ranging from 2 to 6 years of age. They were in charge of six attendants and were met by Manager McPheeley, who has charge of the central western work of the New York Foundling institute, a Catholic institution that looks after the placing of children in suitable homes.

While the Illinois Central train made its stop at Council Bluffs, eight children were disposed of there and the others brought on to this city. Here, six were given away and the remainder sent to Fremont, Schuyler, Columbus and Grand Island, where homes have been provided for them.

At the Union station, after the youngsters had been taken out of the coach and herded up in the station waiting room, considerable conversation was caused by the fact that No. 28 was missing. The records showed that No. 28 was with the others, but just the same, No. 28 was not visible when the count was made.

Again the youngsters were counted, but there was no No. 28 among them. An attendant hurried back to the coach, and there, under one of the seats, No. 28 was found, fast asleep.

With one exception the children sent out from New York at this time are all white. This exception is a colored girl, about 4 years of age. She was consigned to Grand Island, where she is to be adopted into a well-to-do colored family.

Manager McPheeley has headquarters in Omaha and travels over Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and portions of Kansas. Thus he gets in communication with families where children are welcomed. When a man and his wife make application for a child, Manager McPheeley begins an investigation. He visits the home and looks into the conditions. He satisfies himself that the applicants are people of good moral character, able to take care of a child and provide it a good home. The applicants designate the kind of a child they want, deciding upon the sex, age, color of hair and eyes. This having been done, Manager McPheeley gives them a certain number and the application is sent on to New York. There is a list on file until a shipment of children is made. When this occurs, one answering the description of the applicants, as near as possible, is given a number and so to speak, laid aside.

When the consignment reaches Omaha, applicant No. 28, for instance, is at the Union station, where a child bearing a corresponding number is ready for delivery. The adoption papers having been previously prepared and signed, No. 28 is turned over to its foster parents.

## Salvation Army Will Feed the Poor

The Salvation Army is laying plans for the distribution of 1,000 Christmas dinners. Catherine Thomas, adjutant of the army, has issued a circular, appealing to the people of the city, asking them to send their contributions to corps headquarters, 1211 Davenport street. From this point the dinners will be sent out in baskets to the needy ones.

## Hellwig Swanson Has a Good Chance

The condition of Hellwig Swanson, who was injured in an automobile wreck near Ekshorn, Neb., last Friday night, is reported to have been slightly improved. He is slowly recovering from his injuries and the physician attending him says he now will in all probability recover entirely.

## Kellar Pleads Not Guilty to Stealing a Five-Cent Piece

On a charge of stealing 5 cents Thomas J. Kellar was arraigned in the criminal division of the district court. He pleaded not guilty. If convicted he will be sentenced to the penitentiary for one to ten years. Kellar is the man who is said to have snatched a handful of change from the pocket of Maurice Carroll, a street car conductor, the night of November 24. Larceny from the person is the statutory charge against him. No one knows just how much money the pickpocket got, so in preparing the information against Kellar the county attorney's office named the smallest amount that could have been taken from the conductor's pocket. He had no pennies. The amount stolen is immaterial in a larceny from the person case.

## Robbers Disarrange Geo. Wilcox Home

The residence of George A. Wilcox at 121 South Thirty-third street was entered by burglars Friday afternoon. Nothing of value was stolen, as it is the custom of Mr. Wilcox to keep his valuables in a safety deposit vault. Entrance was gained through a window in the rear of the house. The burglary occurred between 2 and 5 o'clock while Mrs. Wilcox was down town shopping. Fifteen or twenty drawers were turned upside down in the house.

## Armour & Co. Buy Up All the Fat Sheep

All the prize-winning stock in the fat classes at the Sheep show has been bought by Armour & Co., who will decorate the carcasses and exhibit them.

## U. P. GIVES EMPLOYEES SOME CHRISTMAS MONEY

Pay day with the Union Pacific employees is on the first of each month, but this month there will be two pay days. The company officers realizing that the employees of the road have a desire to buy Christmas presents gave them a pleasant surprise yesterday by paying off for the first half of the present month. Almost 1,000 Union Pacific clerks yesterday drew salaries for the half of December that has expired. The sums ranged from \$20 up.

Key to the Situation—See Want Ads.

## BRIEF CITY NEWS

Have Root Fright? Omaha General Hospital, Doug. 855. Egyptian Chocolates, 20c. Myers' Dillon Gas, Elec. Mixtures, Burgess-Granden Silver Mixing, Oak. Plating Co. D-2385. Keep Your Money and Valuables in the American Safe Deposit vaults in the Bee building. Boxes rent for \$1 per year. Vernon in Critical Condition—Frank Vernon of Gidon, Okl., the tramp who received a broken back in a lumber car when four Union Pacific freight cars were derailed near Lane Cut-off, is still living. He is at St. Joseph's hospital and it is reported that he cannot live much longer.

Commissioners Do Not Meet—Because there was no important business to transact the Board of County Commissioners did not hold their regular Saturday meeting. Commissioners Elsas and Pickard are in Colorado, trying to end the delays in shipment of marble for the new county building. The board passed the salary sheets Friday, so the county employes could get their half month's pay.

Bankruptcy Petition Filed—A petition has been filed in the office of the clerk of the federal district court by Herman Cohen, Abe Perstein, Simpson Levor, Sam Arnhoff, Myser Edelman and Sam Edelman, asking that Joseph Friedman, a cloak dealer on South Sixteenth street, be adjudged bankrupt. The petitioners state that Friedman is indebted to them to the extent of several thousand dollars and that he is insolvent. All of the parties live in Omaha.

## Afternoon Callers Carry Away Plunder

The residence of J. P. Byrne, 311 North Thirty-first street, was ransacked by a sneak thief Friday afternoon and all the silverware and jewelry in the house were stolen. The value of the goods is estimated at \$300. Mrs. F. W. Wallace, a neighbor, saw a man go to the house at 1 o'clock Friday afternoon and ring the door bell. When he did not receive an answer, he went away and returned in a short while to repeat the performance. When Mrs. Byrne returned from a shopping tour at 4 o'clock she found the house in a topsy turvy condition.

Bert Sorenson reported to the police that his home at 344 Davenport street was entered by burglars Friday afternoon and over \$100 worth of jewelry and silverware taken. No one saw the burglar enter the house, but a clock on the floor stopped at 2:46, and it is thought the burglar did his work about that time. As in the Byrne home the contents of all the drawers and desks were scattered over the floor.

## DIDN'T CALL CONNELL RASCAL

W. F. Dummeier Cross-Examined in Tighe Alienation Suit.

YEISER HINTS AT CONTEMPT Defendant Kemp Recites that He Found Mrs. Tighe Crying on the Street and that He Provided for Her.

Admission of William F. Dummeier on the witness stand that he urged Mrs. W. R. Garvan "not to get mixed up" in the Tighe-Kemp alienation suit, and the corroborative testimony of Mrs. Garvan that he urged her to avoid testifying in the suit, indicates that Dummeier has been in contempt of court, according to John O. Yeiser, attorney for William Tighe. Dummeier on cross-examination said he told Mrs. Garvan that if she took the witness stand for Tighe she would get into more trouble than she did when she was a witness for Tighe in the Tighe divorce suit.

"Didn't you know she would be liable to get into trouble if she tried to avoid testifying?" asked Raft; and "Didn't you know you were liable to get into trouble for trying to keep her out of it?" "No," was the answer. "I was a friend of hers and didn't want her to get in trouble. I advised her for her own good." Dummeier emphatically branded as false Mrs. Garvan's testimony that he told her W. J. Connell of counsel for Kemp was a rascal. "I never said anything of the kind," he said. "I simply told her you were one of the best lawyers in town, and probably would get her bailed up worse in this lawsuit than you did in the divorce case."

Defendant on Stand. Kemp, the defendant, took the witness stand to recite that in the spring of 1910 he found Mrs. Tighe crying on the street, and she told him her husband had not been home in several days and had cut off her grocery supply. He said he told the grocery store proprietor to furnish her groceries and stood good for them, and then apprised the county attorney's office of the situation.

A deposition of Miss Naomi Kenniston of Cleveland, O., formerly a stenographer for Kemp, related that Miss Kenniston witnessed a quarrel between Tighe and a man named Middleton, the latter accusing the former of breaking up his home.

Growing Christmas trees in pots, imported from Germany, can be transplanted; on sale Tuesday evening at 10c each. BRANDEIS STORES.

Building Permits. N. H. Nelson, 305 Pacific street, frame warehouse, \$4,000.

THE SCHMOLLER & MUELLER PIANO CO.'S FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL XMAS PIANO SALE

This sale begins Monday morning, December 18, at 8 o'clock, and will continue until the 470 pianos that are offered are all sold, and at the prices they are marked they will sell fast, because we are selling them at terms as low as \$1.00 a week—and will guarantee every piano to be in first class condition.

**WE HAVE CUT THE PRICES ON THESE 470 HIGH GRADE PIANOS**

This is the time of the year when piano stores reap a harvest and never advertise bargains, etc., but every house has its own way of doing business—

**The Schmoller & Mueller Way Is Dollar For Dollar; Full Value, 365 Days in the Year.**

We must have the floor space for our 1912 stock, which is here, and in order to show them to the proper advantage we have picked 470 high grade, slightly used pianos, all standard makes, and have marked them down to actual cost.

**A PIANO IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT OF ALL** Come in and see them, "seeing is believing." Don't let anything switch you in your determination to see and examine these pianos. You will find such well known makes as

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Also a Complete line of AEOLIAN PLAYER PIANOS, including WEBER, WHEELOCK, STECK, STUVESANT and the TECHNOLA PIANO—also our own SCHMOLLER & MUELLER PLAYER PIANO.

**30 DAYS' FREE TRIAL — NO MONEY DOWN**

Free Stool—Free Scarf—Free Life Insurance—25-Year Guarantee. If you can't call, write us for full particulars and complete price list. Open Evenings Until Christmas.

**Schmoller & Mueller Piano Co.** Manufacturers—Wholesalers—Retailers. 1311-1313 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.

**GOOD FOR \$50** Bring this Coupon with you and we will accept same as first payment on any New Piano or Player Piano in our warehouses, if presented on or before January 1, 1912.

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**The Outdoor Life at Galveston**

is a source of never-ending delight to lovers of sport. You can fill your game bag without half trying—you can be sure of a day's "catch" of a dozen different kinds of fish in the waters about Galveston—tarpon fishing, the sport of kings, is at its best here—quail and ducks in abundance.

Best of all, you can spend every day out in the open under sunny skies, breathing the pure, fresh salt sea air. You can take a plunge in the surf, you can sail or drive, motor along miles of smooth Gulf roads, play golf, tennis or enjoy the beach promenade in a roller chair. Afterwards, you will look back to days of rare delight spent at Galveston.

For comfort there's the new million-dollar Hotel Galvez, the crowning glory of this delightful city, commodious, inviting, as superbly equipped as any eastern hotel—a place that will add to your personal comfort and enjoyment while in Galveston.

Let me send you a handsome book in colors descriptive of Hotel Galvez. Address **JOHN F. LETTON, Manager, Hotel Galvez, GALVESTON, TEXAS.**

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For fares, berth reservations or any information in regard to the journey, address **MKT** W. S. St. George, Gen. Passenger Agent, M. K. & T. Ry. Wainwright Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

Store Open Evenings Until Christmas

**The Berg Clothing Co.**

24 Windows Filled With Christmas Novelties

**WHAT shall I buy Him for Christmas is the remark made by nearly everyone—you only have 6 more days and the stores will all be crowded. Everybody will be in a hurry and there is bound to be confusion. The Berg store has made special preparations for the immense crowd that will shop here. Extra salesmen, extra wrappers, extra cashiers. You will not be delayed here. A mammoth Xmas Booth beautifully decorated with thousands of useful Xmas gifts was built to give the public quick service. We have on display the largest assortment of Men's and Boys' Holiday gifts in Omaha. 24 large windows filled with novelties of every description and just the article is here that would please him best.**

- Neckwear, 25c to \$2
- Handkerchiefs, silk plain and Initial, 25c to \$2
- Combination Sets—Ties, 50c to \$2
- Hats, silk opera, velour and soft, \$2 to \$12
- Fur Caps, \$1.50 to \$18
- Fancy Suspenders, 50c to \$2
- Mufflers, Silk Knit or Full Dress, 50c to \$6.50
- Fancy or Full Dress Vests, \$2.00 to \$5.00
- Novelty Tie Rings, 75c to \$2.50
- Laundry Bags, Toilet Sets, \$2.50 to \$6.50
- Umbrellas, plain or folding, \$1.00 to \$6.00
- House Coats, Lounging Robes, Bath Robes \$2.75 up to \$45

**The Thing To Do** If you lose your pocketbook, umbrella, watch or some other article of value, the thing to do is to follow the example of many other people and advertise without delay in the Lost and Found column of The Bee. That is what most people do when they lose articles of value. Telephone us and tell your loss to all Omaha in a single afternoon. **Put It In The Bee**