

FAMOUS EVENTS GIVEN BIRTH IN COMMERCE CLUB

Short Review of Achievements of Omaha Chamber of Commerce in 25 Years of Existence.

A history of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, covering the 25 years of its existence, is a romantic narrative of unstinting endeavor and great achievements. The following is a short review of some of the many things the Chamber of Commerce has done for Omaha, with a few words about its organization and advancement:

The Transmississippi Exposition was born in the rooms of the old Commercial club, its board of directors being selected from the ranks of club workers.

This organization was actively instrumental in the organization of the Omaha Grain exchange.

This chamber co-operated in bringing the Chicago Great Western and Illinois Central railroads to Omaha. The tornado relief was organized and conducted through this organization in the spring of 1913.

The Commercial club in 1915 gave this community a Greater Omaha. Consolidation of Omaha with South Omaha, Dundee, Benson and Florence was effected through the agency of this chamber, and Omaha was raised to the 200,000 class.

River navigation was revived in 1915 through the efforts of this chamber.

The Federal Land bank, serving Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, was secured for Omaha. The headquarters for the fifth district under the federal aid road act was secured for Omaha.

The Omaha Hay exchange was organized by the chamber.

The George Washington National highway, bisecting the country from southeast to northwest, was conceived and organized in this chamber.

Through this chamber more than 200,000 grape vines were sold at cost to replace winter killed vines.

Organized in 1898. The Commercial club of Omaha was organized June 15, 1898 with 200 members.

The object of the organization as set forth in the original articles was to promote the commercial, industrial and public interests and welfare of Omaha.

The first president was Herman Kountze. The first chairman of the executive committee was W. A. L. Gibson, and the first secretary and commissioner was J. E. Utt.

The original home of the Commercial club was the top floor of the Board of Trade building, on the present site of the First National bank building, at Sixteenth and Farnam streets. Here the organization thrived until the fall of 1912, more than 19 years, removing at that time to its present quarters, seventeenth and eighteenth floors of the new Woodmen of the World building.

First Activities. The major activities of the organization in the first few years of its existence was a determined and successful fight against discriminatory freight rates. The club devoted itself with zeal to the upbuilding of the Omaha market. The slogan, "Omaha, the Market Town" became favorably known in an ever-widening zone and Omaha's spectacular rise as a wholesale market may be said to date from this time, when constructive co-operation took the place of industrial effort.

A Merchant's bureau was organized in the earlier days, its function being to pay the fares of merchants in Omaha's trade territory to and from the "Market Town."

Trade trips were developed in the nineties and were regarded as major club activities until 1913, when the organization of "Merchants' Spring and Fall Market Weeks" supplanted them in favor.

The name of the organization was changed on February 11, 1918 from Commercial Club of Omaha to Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

Since the date of its birth this chamber has never experienced a year when its members declined or its activity faltered. It has always followed its charted course forward.

Graduates of St. John's High School



PHOTOGRAPH BY RINEHART-STEFFENS

Upper row, left to right: Katherine Murphy, Mary Burns, Agnes Morton, Marie Carr.

Lower row: Mary Lavelle, Helen Foley, Mary Williams.

St. John's high school will graduate seven young women Monday evening, the commencement exercises to be held in Creighton auditorium. They are the Misses Helen Foley, Katherine Murphy, Mary Burns, Agnes Morton, Mary Williams, Helen Lavelle and Marie Carr.

No idlers are among these fair graduates. On account of war-time needs each girl graduate will take her place in the business or professional world, several of them having completed the normal course for teachers.

Some Achievements of Chamber of Commerce in the Years Past

The Omaha Chamber of Commerce is one of the strongest and most efficient commercial bodies in the United States. Scarcely a dozen clubs have a larger membership, and few, if any, show such a variety of genuine achievements at the end of each year.

The main purpose of the Omaha Chamber is to stimulate, foster and protect the commercial and industrial activities of Omaha, through co-operation on the part of its citizens. Subjects such as civic, social betterment and welfare work are considered only as far as they are related to the commercial and industrial situation. In short, the function of this club is to find out the things needed to build up Omaha and to get these things done.

The club is designed to give its industrial members as much voice in the conduct of the club's affairs as they may choose to exert. The membership is made up of business and professional men. Each member pays the same initiation and the same dues and each member has one vote. The governing body is a board of directors of 75, selected once a year from the membership at large. The board of directors elects a president, secretary and treasurer and an executive committee of 24 members. To this executive committee the board of directors delegates its powers.

In order that the board of directors and the executive committee may be thoroughly representative in character, precautions have been taken to insure proper representation of the different groups of business men who comprise the club. At each election members of the board of directors are elected from the following groups: bankers, financial, grain dealers, professions, manufacturers, railroad and public service corporations, real estate, retail trade, stock yards, and commission. Each of these 10 groups is represented on the directorate in proportion to the number of club members which each group contains. The same proportion holds good in the election of the executive committee, but in every case each one of these 10 groups must have at least one member on the board of directors and on member on the executive committee. In this way it is impossible for any interest or group of interests to control an election and it is impossible for the directorate to be nominated by any one or two groups.

The traffic bureau is affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce, but is separately financed by the large shippers of Omaha, who profit most by the activities of this bureau. This branch of the club devotes itself to problems of transportation, looking after the interests of the business men of Omaha in their relations with railroads.

The Bureau of Publicity and Industrial bureau are also operated under direction of the chamber.

WEST AMBLER

Dusen, when she will join her husband in their new home at Kearney, Neb.

F. D. Hodges is moving his family this week to their new farm home near Calhoun, Neb.

Miss Catherine Simmons, assistant librarian at Central High school, left Saturday for Iowa City, where she will specialize in library work.

The graduating class of Beals school held their class picnic at Krug park on Wednesday.

Mrs. Lester Darnell, formerly Miss Hazel Toy, arrived Tuesday from Cleveland, O., to spend the month with her mother.

Mrs. Ida Miller was very much pleased to receive a letter from her nephew Raymond Simon, who is in the medical department of the hospital corps "Somewhere in France," not having heard from him since Christmas when he was at Fort Clark, Tex.

The young ladies' Sunday school classes of Mesdames T. C. Jensen and Hans Nielsen met at the home of Miss Bertha Hensman on Friday evening and organized a waplalo club and will do Red Cross work in the future each week.

West Side Royal Neighbors gave their monthly birthday club at the home of Mrs. Frank Wagner Wednesday.

Mr. Arthur King and daughter, Miss Violet, returned Friday from Superior, Neb.

Miss Marie Carlsen left Monday for Missouri Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Roinson motored in from Grand Island to spend the week-end with their aunt, Mrs. J. Long.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Long of Seattle, Wash., are guests this week of his sisters, Mrs. Frank Wellman and Elizabeth Long.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Randall have had as their guests the past week his nephew, Virgil Snyder and wife. He is professor of mathematics in Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. They left Saturday for Los Angeles, Cal., to spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Heusman returned from Creighton, Neb.

P. L. Van Meter of Hamburg, Ia., was the guest this week of his daughter, Mrs. J. J. Fulmer and husband.

P. C. Rasmussen of Winside, Neb., is the guest of Mrs. E. C. Campbell and daughter, Mrs. B. Davis.

Mrs. L. Dorn and small son are spending the month of June with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Van

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DUNDEE

Mr. Murray Thomas has been called to New Orleans by the government. Mrs. Thomas will stay for the present with her father in Terre Haute.

Mrs. J. J. Dodds and daughter, Dorothy, left during the week for Lake Levis, Minnesota.

Mr. James W. Hamilton has returned from a short visit in Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Beardsley have returned from Birmingham, Ala. Mr. Beardsley is recuperating from an operation for appendicitis.

Mrs. W. O. Perry and son, Robert, have returned from a three months in the Ozark mountains. Mr. Perry met them in St. Louis, where they attended the exercises of Principia college, which their sons, Richard and Osmond, attend.

Mr. and Mrs. John Redick have returned from their trip to White Sulphur Springs, Va.

Captain and Mrs. H. B. Lemere left Tuesday for Camp Meade, Maryland, where the doctor is to be stationed for temporary service until he goes to France. Several social affairs were given in their honor for several consecutive evenings prior to their departure.

Mrs. E. O. Hamilton is visiting her son, Lieutenant Warren Hamilton, at Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C. Miss Ruth Hamilton joined them there from Dana Hall.

Philip Thomas will return from Yale next week.

Sidney R. Burr is visiting in Akron, Ohio.

In honor of Capt. and Mrs. H. B. Lemere, a beautifully appointed dinner was given Monday evening at the

Everyone—But Mother

Sunday, at our house, we
Have all sorts of romps—
Father an' the twins an' me
Ist go trompin'—trompin'—
Berrin' an' gettin' posies,
Hackberries an' these wild roses—
Yes, an' chase each other!—
Ist the basest time there be,
Everyone—but mother.

Non comes dinner time, we
Ist all eat untill it
Sprises father—he can't see
How we never spill it!
Ist pieplant an' berry pie,
Jelly tarts an' such—O my,
We ist race each other,
Eatin' till we most can't see,
Everyone—but mother.

Non, when dinner's done, we
All go off a-sleepin'
Underneath the maple tree,
Where they's shadows creepin'
'Cross our faces—one that's near,
When we wake is over here,
An' they ist chase each other!
Non we're rested as can be,
Everyone—but mother.

When comes night, we set
All around the table,
Pickin' at the bones we et
Long as we are able;
Non, we set on mother's knee—
'Story time,' that is, and she
Tells one after t' other,
'Till we're 'sleep an' ist forget
Everyone—but mother.

—John D. Wells in the Pittsburgh Leader.

BENSON

Jas. Horton returned Thursday from Primrose, Neb., where he visited friends for several days.

Mrs. George Iredale went to Beatrice Thursday to attend the wedding of her cousin.

C. H. Farris and family left Saturday for a two weeks visit with his parents at Carrollton, Mo.

Mrs. William Butler entertained at dinner Thursday for Mrs. Ella Brooks of Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. Elizabeth Dean of Central City, Mrs. Ben Morton and Mrs. Earl Dean.

Mrs. F. E. Young entertained the W. Farnam Kensington club at 1 o'clock luncheon Wednesday.

Andrew Morton will enter the radio school at Lincoln Monday for two months, preparatory to service for Uncle Sam.

Miss Sarah Robinson went to Central City Saturday for a visit with her brother and family.

A patriotic play, The Hope of the World, by Miss Mary Oaks, was presented at the high school auditorium by the 8th grade class Wednesday evening, after which Miss Reap presented the diplomas.

F. H. McVicker and family have moved to their new home, recently purchased at 2522 North 64th.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dean and Miss Margaret are visiting at the home of Earl Dean.

The Baptist choir, under direction of Prof. Lee G. Kratz, will give a patriotic song service Sunday evening at the church. An exceptionally good program has been arranged.

A Sore Spot.
"Why do you say Harold is of an ungenerous nature?"
"Because he is the only man I was ever engaged to who insisted on getting back his ring."—Baltimore American.