

Omaha Woman, Pioneer, Reminisces On Days When Fashionable Residences Stood Where Factories Now Thrive

Recalls When She Fled From Indian Into the Home of Mrs. James Van Ostrand At Ninth and Douglas Streets—Two Street Cars Quit Running at 9 P. M.—Churches Gradually Crowded Into Suburbs by Increasing Business Section.

By BELLVIEW.

Omaha's remarkable growth from early days is one of the comforts of pioneers of the city, who have lived here from the time when Omaha was little more than a quaint little village on the bank of the Missouri river, when its industrial section was concentrated in a small group, and the residences of the prominent citizens were much nearer the "Big Muddy" than those of the present day.

In a communication to The Bee, one of Omaha's pioneer women, reminisces a bit, and recalls the early days before the residence districts stretched to the far sections of the city, before it took the greater part of an hour to reach the heart of the throbbing business life from one's home.

A business transaction that made it necessary to visit Omaha's wholesale district brought reminiscences of days when the present busy site was the residential district of the city's prominent citizens and if one had not really lived in pioneer days it would be hard to convince the present generation that such a change could be possible.

Extensive Garden Grounds.
The Lee Coit Andreesen Hard ware Co. is now located on ground where in early days Peter Windheim had a residence, a comfortable frame building, with large grounds for garden purposes.

Mrs. Windheim was very proud of the number and variety of flowers she cultivated and also the poultry she raised, particularly the turkeys which were a terror to the children of the neighborhood if they were dressed with a garment with too much of red coloring.

A log barn was used by the children for a playhouse or for any kind of amusement. The walls were decorated with numerous samples of paper from the shop of Peter Windheim.

St. Marys, one of the first Catholic churches in Nebraska, was on Eighth and Harney, a small brick edifice which soon proved too small for the growing congregation and it was necessary to build St. Philomena's where the John Deere Plow company now have their building.

"Many of the old children" will remember the runs we had around the foundation while the church was building. To the south of St. Marys, now the Burlington freight depot, was the home of the late Herman Kountze, a gothic frame building with grounds designed by a landscape gardener with miniature lakes and terraces sloping to the east.

"Many natural trees and shrubs provided plenty of shade and the grounds would do justice to a home of today. The substantial brick house of Thomas Davis occupied the corner on which Byrne & Hammer have their factory.

Remembers Davis Parties.
"Many mothers and some grandmothers will remember with pleasure the entertainment provided for the Davis boys, Fred, 'Late' and Charlie. The Davis mill was in the vicinity now occupied by the Union and freight depots of the Union Pacific, and frequent visits were made to the mill for wheat to make our chewing gum.

"It was great fun to visit the sawmill nearby and ride on the huge logs that were being sawed, and a dare would be made to anyone who could ride nearest the saw. I doubt very much if the mothers were aware of the dangerous deeds that were done by the young westerners.

"The southwest corner of Ninth and Farnam streets surrounded by locust trees was where Trinity church welcomed its parishioners. It was a small brick structure and often it was used as a school. Before it was demolished it was known as the 'Tivoli Garden'.

Beautiful Picnic Grove.
"Can the present inhabitant imagine a grove in the vicinity of Ninth street from Dodge to Capitol avenue? This was the picnic ground for Omaha's population. Farther to the north in the grove was the home of Judge Gant and in the same neighborhood was the Shull residence. A large swing proved an attraction for the children in that vicinity and other parts of the town.

"Yankee Robinson's circus tents were pitched on Ninth and Farnam, now occupied by the addition to Lee Coit Andreesen. As it was a one-ring show and few animals and side show attractions, not much ground space was required.

"Omaha's prominent hotel 'The Herndon,' with a few additions made by the Union Pacific when used for their offices, is still standing on Ninth and Farnam. Many guests from all over the world have inscribed their names on the register of that hostelry.

Many Judges' Homes.
"Ezra Millard's family home was on Eleventh and Harney and in the same block were the home of the Wymans (parents of Mrs. George Hoagland), Judges Lake and Doane had residences on Twelfth and Harney. Augustus Kountze and William Kuth had homes near.

"One cannot realize that a fine residence and well kept grounds ever could be where the Burkle Printing company and other firms now are doing business, but the location was formerly the home of Judge Woolworth. In this vicinity were the homes of the Stephens, Wilcox, Keesters, Demarest and others I cannot recall.

"As the town expanded, homes were built further west towards Fifteenth and Sixteenth on Farnam and Harney streets. The Lowes, Turners, Withnell, Redick, Goodrich, were all in the vicinity of the last named, where the Securities building now stands, with the court house opposite the site of the Paxton block.

Home of John McCormick.
"To the north on Douglas, J. J. Brown, James and Samuel McGeath, the last living in a house painted white with green blinds, white picket fence, on the busy corner of the Fry Shoe company. The home of John McCormick seemed to be off from the others, a large square brick

and was only recently razed for the new El Beudor apartments. "As this mansion was perhaps the most pretentious all select functions were held there. The homes of the Kennards, Meredith, Sutphen, Hanscom, Schneider, Cuming, O. F. Davis, Horbaeh, Campbell, Burns, Byrne, Reed, Cahn, etc., were in this neighborhood.

"When Mrs. Parmelee, who lived where now is the Hotel Loyal, predicted business in the vicinity of Sixteenth and Capitol avenue, we thought her predictions would never materialize.

Two Street Cars.
"The street car service during the coal shortage prolonged only two hours more than when Omaha boasted of car service with two cars which turned in at 9 p. m. and were run into an open shed on Fifteenth street between Dodge and Capitol avenue. It was such an event when the cars began their runs everyone was entitled to a free ride.

"The distance in early days compared to now seems amusing. What is now an easy walking distance from the city years ago required a horse and vehicle to cover the same space. My father had occasion to visit Colonel Gilmore, who lived in a house that was formerly the governor's mansion, and was located on Twenty-second and Webster, but a "rig" had to be procured from the livery barn before the long journey could be undertaken.

"The barn for the mansion was remodeled and today is a small brick cottage on Twenty-second street between Webster and Burt and has more than 50 years to its credit.

"Many of the early settlers had their stables. Dr. Peck, Reuben Ward and Judge Redick were all admirers of the horseflesh, particularly those of the racing kind. One "rig" I will remember was a large old-fashioned carriage and a pair of white horses. They were driven through the town by Dr. Lowe.

"Harney street could boast of three hotels in close proximity between Twelfth and Fifteenth, the St. Charles, Douglas and Farnam. The proprietor of the last named was the father of Beecher Higby.

"The heating proposition today must remind a few of Omaha's early settlers of the time when wood was all that was available and principally green cottonwood. I cannot conceive how we kept warm, unless more and heavier clothing was worn. I am sure the winters were more severe and the snowfall we are having this year is like the 'old-fashioned' winter when drifts were as high as the top rails of a fence and frozen hard enough to walk on.

Business Crowded Churches.
"The churches of Omaha have had to change locations frequently as business made it necessary. The Lutheran, afterward called Kountze Memorial, was first located where the Millard hotel stands. Being too much in the business district, a new church was built on Sixteenth and Harney and the congregation thought they had moved far away from a commercial locality, but they were soon crowded out and erected the present church on Twenty-sixth and Farnam, but business is still following them and it looks as if they will be compelled to make another change.

"The First Methodists had their place of worship on Thirteenth street, the site of the old Omaha National bank. Being too near the business center a church was built on Seventeenth near Dodge, but the government selected that block for the Postoffice and the church

on Twentieth and Davenport is their home. "Hayden's Douglas street store occupies the place of the German Catholic church which now is still in the business circuit on Nineteenth and Dodge. The First Congregational in former days had their church where McCrorey's store is located. They built a frame church on Nineteenth and Chicago and from there moved to their present location, but will soon be in their beautiful structure on Thirty-sixth and Harney.

Residence District Spreads.
"The First Presbyterians retained their location until too near business and made quite an ascent to Thirty-fourth and Farnam. The First Baptists at one time held services in a church which was located on Fifteenth and Davenport. What is now a club house on Seventeenth and Cass was the Unitarian church.

"Trinity cathedral has made but one change since leaving Ninth and Farnam streets. The land west and north of the city, which a few years ago was being cultivated by the farmers, is fast being improved with beautiful homes and the once fashionable residence district is rapidly disappearing to be replaced by large factories and business houses.

Anyone who has seen the city build almost from the Missouri, cannot help but take great interest and feel very proud of Omaha, which has made such progress, for it is rapidly nearing a climax which will make it be recognized as one of the prominent cities of the United States.

May Eliminate Town Jail; Can't Catch Thieves
Denance, O., Jan. 24.—The "Jailless City" is the name that may be applied soon to Denance.

The city solicitor has been requested by the city council to draft a proposed ordinance providing for elimination of the city jail. Not only has activities at the jail been at the zero mark for a long time, but there does not seem to be any likelihood that business will pick up.

Although more robberies took place during the past 12 months than for many years, the thieves have been successful in making their getaway.

Petrified Cats Found Under an Old Floor
Poughkeepsie, Jan. 24.—While repairing the floor of the Academy of Music of Beacon carpenters found the bodies of two cats that had become thoroughly petrified. Fifty years ago, at the time the floor was laid, the cats must have run under it.

The carpenters, unknowingly, had walked them in. They evidently had attacked each other, as one had an ear chewed off. The bodies are as hard as flint, but lifelike, and no parts are missing except the chewed ear.

When His Aerial Sled Would Not Rise Inventor Gets Bath
Clinton, Ia., Jan. 24.—Charles Runyan, who placed his faith in an aerial sled invented by himself, received a rude jolt here the other day when the wings of the sled failed to lift him over an airhole in the ice-covered Mississippi river, and sled, driver and all went into the icy water.

Runyan was rescued, but the sled disappeared.

Silk Hat Returning To Favor In London

London, Jan. 24.—The silk hat, which in days gone by was the conventional and inevitable headgear of the business man of any standing at all, is creeping back. But London revolts against prewar conventions in another direction. Dinner jackets actually have been seen, a half dozen or more of them, at social functions in such exclusive places as Londonderry house. A few years ago men might well have been turned back from any society door as improperly dressed if they came attired in anything but dress suits.

High School Boys Form League to Combat H. C. L.

Mitchell, S. D., Jan. 24.—A league to combat the high cost of living has been organized here by 200 high school boys. Expensive shoes, clothing and cravats are under ban. Flannel shirts with plain black ties and army shoes are expected to be worn uniformly by the league members.

The girls of the school are also understood to be planning to place expensive waists with middy blouses.

Camera Shows How Coal Is Mined

THE United States bureau of mines, Washington, D. C., is conducting a nationwide motion picture educational campaign to make the American people better acquainted with one of this country's leading industries—coal mining.

Bureau representatives are now exhibiting in various parts of the country a motion picture entitled, "The Story of Coal," which is considered the most remarkable coal mining film ever produced. These pictures are being shown in schools, colleges, churches, etc. The bureau will accompany the pictures with lectures.

The picture first shows the birth of a coal mine, the sinking of the shaft, the erection of buildings on the surface and the installation of machinery.

Miners of the day shift are beginning to arrive. About a score of them step onto the cage that is to lower them about 600 feet below the sunshine. The movie camera slips aboard the cage, determined to see everything that there is to see. A miniature railway train drawn

Enumerators Got Age Of Woman From Tombstone

Steuernville, O., Jan. 24.—A foxy census enumerator learned a woman's age against her will. This enumerator is working in one of the rural districts in eastern Ohio.

All the information that a certain woman would give this enumerator relative to her age was that she was two years younger than her oldest sister.

"After arguing with her in vain I remembered that her sister was dead," said the enumerator. "So I went to the nearby cemetery and found the age of the dead sister on a tombstone.

"Then I subtracted two and put the woman down as 60 years, which is 20 years older than she looks," explained the enumerator.

Young Ladies Are Now Taking to "African Golf"
Bucyrus, O., Jan. 24.—That he has more lady customers than men who buy dice is the claim made by a local dealer in dice, poker checks and playing cards.

One innocent-looking, demure miss stated: "I know lots of girls who carry dice, and they shoot craps, too." They generally shoot for pennies.

Baby Shoe Prices Advance
Boston, Jan. 24.—New samples of shoes on exhibit will retail from \$1.75 to \$7.50 a pair, the exhibitors say. Hand embroidered and gold leaf shoes for baby are among those shown.

Anthrax Case Due To Cut Made by Barber
New York, Jan. 24.—Joseph Cook, 48 years old, a longshoreman, walked into Bellevue hospital recently with a cut on his right cheek, which he said was made by a downtown barber and which had swollen.

The physicians pronounced Cook's illness to be anthrax. He will recover. This is the seventeenth case of anthrax reported at Bellevue hospital in four years.

Clearance Sale

Exceptional Values in Men's Wear At Reduced Prices

All Suits and Overcoats Must Go at 40% Less

We are forced to make room for new shipments, now on the way. We are overstocked and must sacrifice this stock at prices that cannot be duplicated.

Sale starts Monday. The assortment is sufficiently large so that you will find just the style, color and material desired.

This Sale Will Continue All Week.

Men's Suits	Overcoats
\$70.00 Suits.....\$42.50	\$70.00 Overcoats.....\$42.00
\$60.00 Suits.....\$36.00	\$60.00 Overcoats.....\$36.00
\$55.00 Suits.....\$33.00	\$30.00 Overcoats.....\$18.00
\$30.00 Suits.....\$18.00	

Large variety of Silk Shirts, \$6.00 to \$15.00, Monday at 25% OFF.

Flannel Shirts, \$2.50 to \$5.50, 25% OFF.

\$1.50 Work Shirts.....\$1.00

All-Wool Union Suits —\$4.50— Monday only —25% OFF.

Neckwear, 75c to \$5.00 —25% OFF.

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