

Masons Provide Fine Home for Girls Who Work

Action Helps Solve Troublesome Housing Problem for Young Business Women in Omaha.

With the coming of the war Omaha, in common with other large centers of life in America, found one phase of the housing situation suddenly and acutely thrust into prominence. This was the lack of care of the girls and young women who were caught up into industry, where they were called to take the places of men who had been drafted into the army. Thousands of these young females were called away from their homes, to make a life for themselves in strange places and under conditions entirely novel to them, and for which their training had poorly fitted them. Established agencies, such as the W. C. A., soon found their facilities overtaxed, and were sorely perplexed as to how to meet the problem. Even the boarding houses were nonplussed, while the girls themselves were very often compelled to endure not only inconvenience but real privation, and frequently were subjected to extortionate charges in addition to unwholesome surroundings.

This situation was brought before the Scottish Rite Masons of Omaha at one of their business sessions early in the spring of 1918, and after considerable discussion a committee was named to proceed with the establishment of a home for working girls. The committee was given a "white card," being empowered to purchase, construct, remodel or otherwise provide the needed equipment, and no limit was set as to the amount to be expended on the project. Frank C. Patton, 33d sovereign grand inspector general in Nebraska, was made chairman of the committee. With him were associated Arthur C. Paucoast, Tingley L. Combs, George W. Platner, William E. Rhoades, J. R. Cain, jr., and T. W. McCullough.

What Was Contemplated.
This committee set about its work. It had a definite idea as to requirements and a hazy notion as to how those requirements were to be met. While it was considering the matter of site, it took up the important details of just what is involved in the establishment, the maintenance and the operation of such a home; finding out that what seemed somewhat simple at the outset became not a little complex as it developed around the central thought. First of all, it was determined that the home when it was set up should be a home; that it should have nothing of the institutional atmosphere about it, and that it should be also removed from the boarding house activities. While it would be nonsectarian, it would contain those elements that make a Christian home the exemplar of those virtues of which the life of the nation safely rests, and without which "home" becomes a mockery. It should be self-sustaining, for the offering of charity to the working girl was foreign to the idea, and it should be open to any girl who earns her own living and who has no other home in Omaha.

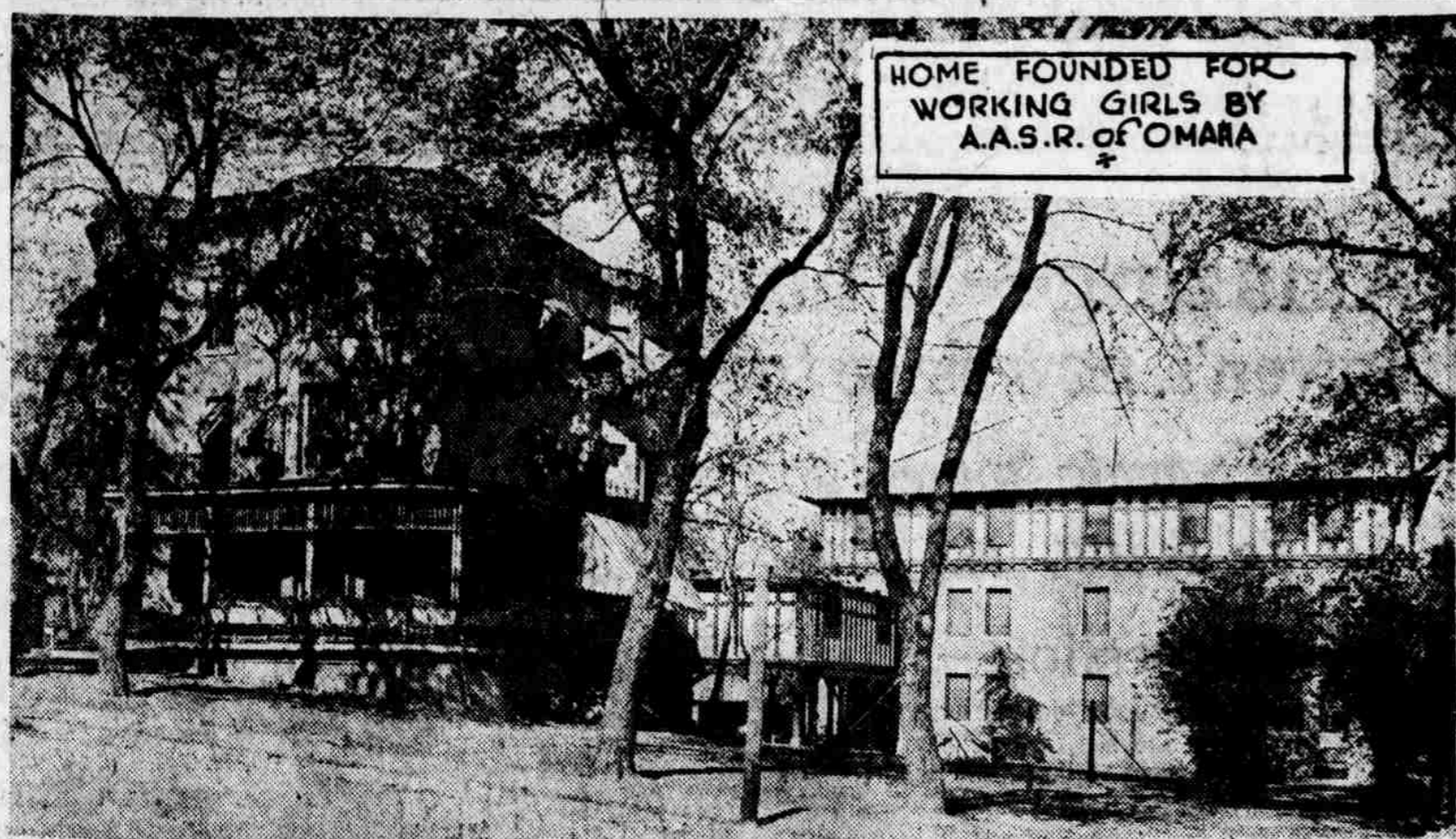
Beautiful Home Purchased.
With this settled, the committee debated another detail. The home to be of service to those for whom it was intended should be within easy access of the business district and yet in thoroughly respectable surroundings. Suitable buildings were not many in number, but several were inspected and prices secured, negotiations culminating in the purchase of the Mary Hayden home at Twenty-first and Cass streets. This is a very substantially built, three-story modern residence, spaciouly designed and finely finished, having been erected as a residence into which was incorporated evidence of good taste and subdued luxury, such as culture suggested and wealth made possible. A beautiful plot of ground, 200 feet on Cass street and 132 on Twenty-first, surrounds the residence. This will permit further enlargement of the residence at some future time.

After the location had been settled came the question of operation. The directors of the Young Women's Christian association were engaged in a somewhat similar quest, and were rather baffled, because on them fell the great problem of housing the transient, the casual, or the incoming permanent resident detached young woman; and they were finding their own facilities far too small with no prospect of relief. These were quietly approached, and one night in the summer of 1918 at an informal meeting of the Scottish Rite committee and the Y. W. C. A. directors, the matter was broached, the proposition made, and the women after they had recovered from their surprise, and consulted together, agreed to accept the operating charge of the residence on terms mutually satisfactory.

Problem of Housing Girls.
The committee had learned something about the housing of girls and the operation of boarding houses in the course of its inquiries, and among other things had discovered that the successful carrying on of a home such as it had in view presented the novel feature that its membership should be limited to something around 100, as the incidental cost of management and the difficulties of communication increased in direct ratio to the number of girls resident, and that feature of the problem determined the committee to restrict the number to be accommodated to not more than 75 for the present. Survey of the house showed that room was available for 24 girls, the matron and the needed help. To provide for the others additional construction was at once necessary. On this the committee encountered its first serious snag.

Architects and contractors were consulted, and finally plans were adopted for a detached dormitory building, to be connected with the main structure by a covered passage way, and which would provide sleeping for 31 girls, with the necessary bath, toilet, laundry and boiler rooms. Contracts were let and everything was ready to proceed, when or some inexplicable reason the War Utilities board at Washington refused permission for the work,

Scottish Rite Masons Provide Comfortable Home for Girls



LIVING ROOM IN WORKING GIRLS' HOME

holding it to be nonsectarian. As soon as the committee had recovered from the shock of this announcement, it set about to secure rechartering, and finally succeeded in getting the case reopened. With the assistance of Mrs. William E. Rockefeller, and some other influential persons at Washington, the committee convinced the War Utilities board that the housing of working girls really was essential construction, and got the necessary permission to proceed. This came just after the armistice was signed in November, 1918, and the change that came over the spirit of the building industry was marvelous. Before work could be commenced the spring of 1919 had far advanced, all contracts had been abrogated, and prices had soared until the dormitory finally cost just a little over twice as much as the original estimate. Vexatious delays in the construction ensued, due to difficulty in securing material, labor and the like, but eventually the dormitory was finished and ready for occupancy.

Opened Two Years Ago.
The Y. W. C. A. directory took over the residence in November, 1918, under a 10-year lease at a rental of \$1 per year. Certain provisions are written in the lease which provide for the maintenance of the home on the basis originally intended, allowing the representatives of the Scottish Rite bodies access for inspection at all reasonable times, and protect all parties. In the two years of its operation the experience has justified everything that was expected. On Monday night last the dormitory was formally opened, and now there are 55 girls resident at the home, which is on a self-sustaining basis.

It is just what its name implies, a home; not an institution, and not a boarding house, but a place where home surroundings are found, where a home atmosphere prevails, and where the girls are one big family,

HOME FOUNDED FOR WORKING GIRLS BY A.A.S.R. OF OMAHA

is maintained, so that the girls can take care of the dainty bits of wearing apparel they do not care to risk sending to the laundries, and this without cost to them. Each room has an outside window, and the corner rooms have two. Ventilation is perfect, the rooms are heated by steam, and are as comfortable as can be made, devoid of any touch of the barracks and speaking of home. Trunks are stored in a specially equipped room in the basement, where everything is dry and safe. The building is fireproof, being of brick, steel and concrete construction, but finished for the utmost of comfort. It connects with the main building by a covered corridor that leads directly to the dining room. When a girl enters the front door on the Cass street side, she is at home, no matter if her own room be at the farther end.

Has a Real Home Maker.
The greatest problem the Y. W. C. A. women had to solve was that of the matron, but the solution was happily found in the person of Mrs. Alice E. Mason, whose motherly sympathy and patience, tact and consideration, has endeared her to all the girls, because she understands them, and they know that she wants to help them. And she does help them, as only a good woman can help a girl who needs advice or comfort, who must be cheered now and then when she is homesick or depressed, counseled at times when she is perplexed, and rejoiced with when she is happy.

Pre-Holiday Sale of Jewelry

With the exception of a very few contract goods, our entire stock of diamonds, watches, jewelry, clocks, cut glass and ivory, is offered at a discount of from 10 to 50 per cent.

The gifts offered in this sale represent the best obtainable quality merchandise, bought from houses known the world over, and the discounts quoted are taken from the marvelously low prices for which our shop is known.

John Henrickson
Established 1882 JEWELER 16th at Capitol

Chiropractic Health Service

THERE has always been more or less superstition connected with disease and its CAUSE. This is because of ignorance of the body and its functions, so even up to the present day the majority of people do not know what disease really means.

OUR great success in handling Acute and Chronic ailments is due to the fact that we find the cause of your trouble and then adjust the cause instead of treating the effects.

DR. BURHORN invites anyone who is ailing to call and see what Chiropractic adjustments will do for your case. It is a pleasure for him to tell you what we have done for others and what can be done for you.

REMEMBER, consultation is absolutely free. If we can not help you, we will not accept your case.

OUR "HOME ADJUSTMENT SERVICE" will take care of your case at the home.

OFFICE equipped with twelve private adjusting rooms and complete Spino-graphical laboratory for X-Ray analysis. Office hours 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.

ADJUSTMENTS are given with scientific precision in all diseases affecting the following organs:

- Brain
- Eyes
- Ears
- Nose
- Throat
- Arms
- Hands
- Small Bowel
- Large Bowel
- Genital Organs
- Thighs and Legs
- Lungs
- Liver
- Stomach
- Pancreas
- Spleen
- Kidneys

Office Adjustments Are 12 for \$10 or 30 for \$25

DR. FRANK F. BURHORN
Graduate of the Palmer School of Chiropractic
Suite 414-20-23-26 Securities Bldg., Corner 16th and Farnam Sts. Phone Doug. 5347. Lady Attendants

There! You Had Forgotten Again!

Wasn't it only yesterday that you said:

"I simply MUST send these Clothes to Dresher's to be cleaned."

Call Tyler 0345 and have Dresher send a man—if the line is busy tear this ad out and pin it up near the phone. That will remind you.

DRESHER BROTHERS
Cleaners--Dyers
2211-17 Farnam Street

Make This a Victrola Christmas

If you want to make a real gift—one that will be appreciated and give lasting pleasure, then make it a GENUINE VICTROLA from MICKEL'S. No other gift will give so much joy to so many people.

Mickel's Victrola Outfit No. 10

Mickel's outfit No. 10 includes latest model Victrola 10-A, mahogany, oak or walnut, and ten 10-inch 85c double-face records of your own choice. Twenty selections. The Mickel's Payment Plan if desired. A small deposit will hold one for \$133.50 Christmas delivery.



Mickel's Victrola Outfit No. 11

Mickel's Outfit No. 11 consists of latest model Victrola 11A, mahogany, oak or walnut and ten 10-inch 85c double-face Victor records. Twenty selections, of your own choice. Terms if desired. A small deposit will hold one for Christmas \$158.50



Mickel's Victrola Outfit No. 14

Mickel's Outfit No. 14 includes latest model Victrola 14, mahogany, walnut or fumed oak, and ten 10-inch, 85c, double-face Victor records of your own choice—twenty selections. The Mickel Payment Plan allows a year \$233.50 to pay.



Select Your Victrola NOW for Christmas Delivery

Francis Bacon Grand

The Perfect Christmas Gift



Only \$795.00

Most people are under the impression that it is necessary to pay a thousand dollars or more for a grand piano. We are showing one of the finest ever built at a nominal price and extend to you a cordial invitation to come in to see, hear and try this beautiful Francis Bacon instrument.

Will "Music" Mickel extend a special invitation to every Victrola owner to come and inspect our new Victor Record Department—the largest in the west, and without a question of a doubt the finest one you have ever seen. It's a real pleasure to select records in such a department and we trust you will make it a point to visit this department tomorrow.



MICKEL'S
"The House of Pleasant Dealings"
Fifteenth and Harney Streets.
Douglas 1973.