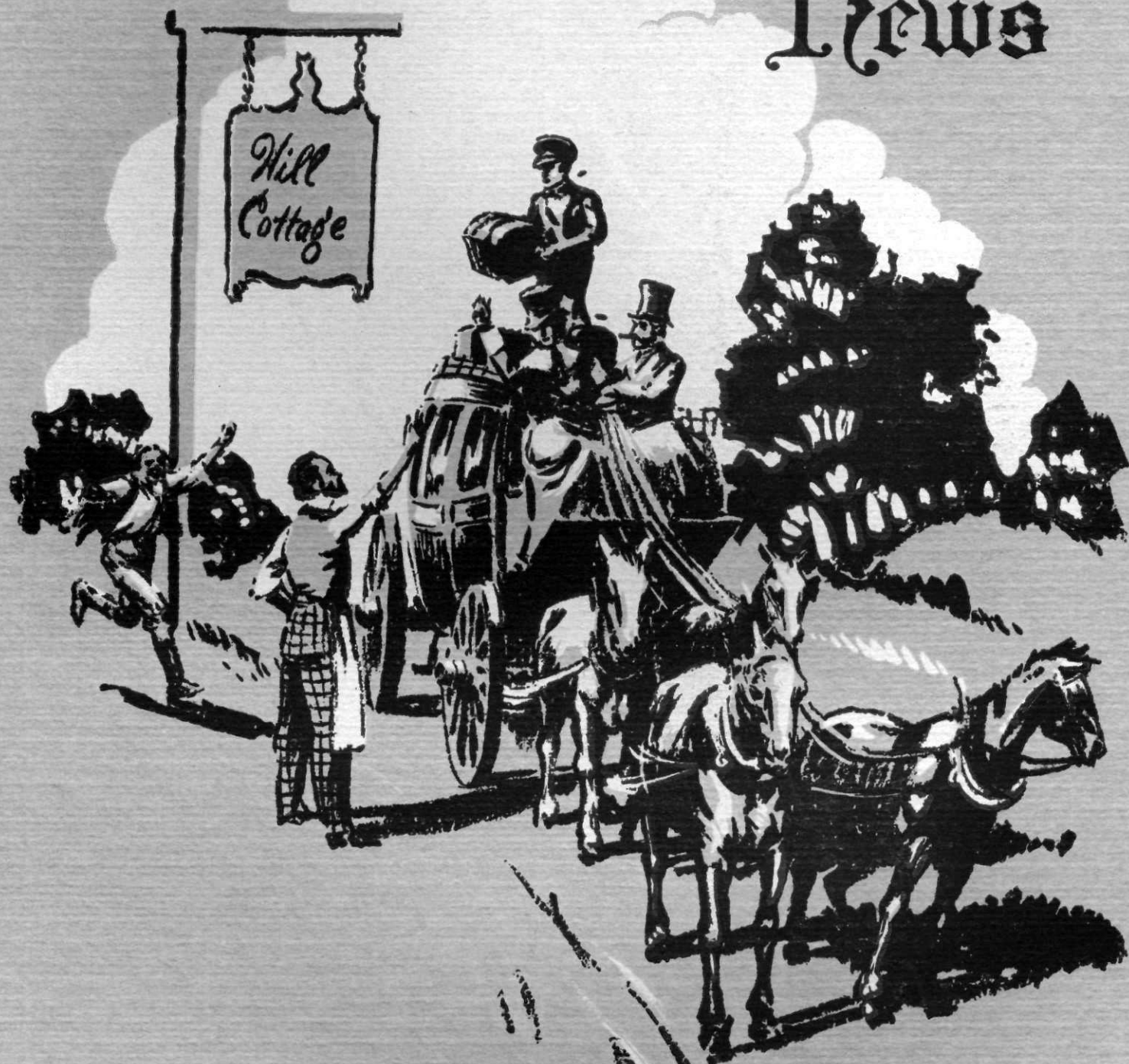


100 Years of Elmhurst News



1836 — 1936

100 Years of Elmhurst News

PUBLISHED BY THE ELMHURST CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Oakley V. Morgan, Howard C. Fischer, Harry Grass, V. M. Ollier, Byron Stevens, Dr. J. C. Bay, Mrs. Frank Thomas, Mrs. Clara Berens, Mrs. Lee Sturges, Miss Florence Rockwood, Miss Ruth Strand, Mrs. E. J. Mather, William Graue, Mrs. Gertrude Sater, Mrs. Gertrude Golden, Miss Florence Marks, Miss Florence Moore
Howard C. Fischer, Editor

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Elmhurst, Illinois, June 3, 1936

50 CENTS A COPY

CITY OBSERVES 100th BIRTHDAY

An Editorial

By DR. J. CHRISTIAN BAY

All mankind feels elated at the thought of a new country opening itself to the conquering efforts of a new culture. It has been stated often and again that after a couple of centuries of continued occupation our eastern provinces took on the character of an old and settled land, from which a younger generation would emigrate in search of new opportunities and new contentment.

We can fully understand that when our forefathers penetrated as far as the western slope of the Alleghenies, or looked out from Cumberland Gap over the western plains and river valleys, they felt the spirit of a new patriotism running through their veins and were imbued with a new spirit of powerful enterprise, in the access of which they went out cheerfully to reconstruct a new frontier.

This continued moving of the frontier, this pushing out into the West of our fundamental forms of life, has been the saving grace of our American civilization. It has protected us from internal unrest and anarchy, and it has furnished many of us with new and surprising views of life and with the principles of action which we are still elaborating.

Illinois is an incident in this development, so is Chicago, and even in a larger measure, so are Elmhurst and DuPage county. From a wider point of view, our state history is but a footnote in the general history of the world, but the world's history would not be complete without this footnote, and the mentality of the present generation would be primitive indeed if its efforts were not directed toward the best possible elucidation of local events, their causes and consequences. After all, the local struggles for progress and development, general and individual, are just as important as our national and original struggles; in fact, our local history is but a reflection of our national history, and our achievements accumulate even locally to the advantage of the nation in general.

I fear that generally a too large proportion of our contemporaries have neglected the opportunity to become historical minded, or perhaps they have lacked the opportunity to take that pride in local history and local force which determines every man's share in his home community. We therefore may view the Centennial of Elmhurst as an opportunity for many of us to renew such a pride and for many others to absorb the enthusiasm that naturally comes with a realization of collective accomplishment.

If persons realize that in the settlement and development of Elmhurst hundreds of good people have contributed their hopes and aspirations, their work, their constructive efforts, unconsciously bettering conditions for themselves as they bettered them for the public welfare and for the coming generations, much will be gained for our future. To perfect a picture of this cumulative effort, is the pleasant privilege of the historian, and your Centennial committee is issuing this book in the sincere hope that after the Centennial has become a memory, many more of our citizens will become historical minded and will devote more constructive thought to the solving of the problems of our community.

In gathering and compiling the stories and the pictures which fill these pages, it has been the Centennial committee's hope that it might reconstruct the little community that centered upon Cottage Hill, with its 49 houses, including the post office and St. Mary's church. But I think we might be perfectly content if the spirit and practices of some of these pioneers may remain with us as an example of patience, high endeavor and contentment, and become exemplified in the younger generation now called upon to share with us the memories of the last 100 years.

Gala 10-Day Program Will Mark the End of A Century of Growth

Ten days of parades, pageantry, sports, music, thrills and entertainment will mark the celebration of the completion of the city of Elmhurst's first 100 years of history from June 3 to 13 this year.

Never in the history of the community has any undertaking so ambitious and so broad in its scope been attempted. Nor is anything quite so grand likely to be repeated in Elmhurst for another 100 years, regardless of how rapid the city's growth and expansion may be in the years to come.

Beginning with the formal opening of a display of antiques and other items of historical significance in the store and shop windows of the city's business section on Wednesday, June 3, something of interest has been planned to entertain residents and visitors every day until the wind-up of the program Saturday, June 13.

Thursday, June 4, will be featured by a show of magic by Dr. Harlan Tarbell, Elmhurst's own nationally known magician, who has arranged a program which will bewilder the wise old sages among the early settlers as well as the alert youngsters of the present generation.

Friday, June 5, will see the beginning of the big three-day program of climactic events which will be the high spot of the centennial celebration. There will be special assembly programs in all of the schools in the morning, the dedication of a bronze tablet marking the original site of the Hill Cottage tavern and a children's parade in the afternoon, and an extraordinary program of street dancing and professional entertainment in the evening.

Saturday, June 6, will begin with unique races for the younger children in the morning and a flower show, baseball game, tennis tournament, band concert and historical pageant in the afternoon and evening.

The flower show will continue Sunday, June 7, and special church services in all of the city's houses of worship, besides a union outdoor service in Wilder park in the evening, will claim the attention of the centennial guests. There will also be a gigantic parade with nearly 100 floats and

(Continued on next page)

THE ELMHURST CENTENNIAL COMMISSION



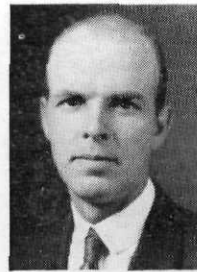
C. L. Van Auken



Dr. J. C. Bay



O. W. Balgemann



A. D. Barnes



Alben F. Bates



H. H. Robillard

Centennial Commission Directs 100th Birthday Plans of City of Elms

If Elmhurst's centennial celebration from June 3 to 13 this year is a success, as it appears it certainly must be, most of the credit will belong to the Elmhurst centennial commission, the body of men which for the past six months or more has been planning, administering and advising various committees, all to one end—that the city's residents and guests may enjoy themselves and be made conscious of the significance of local history.

The centennial commission, appointed about a year ago by Mayor Claude L. Van Auken, who is himself honorary chairman of the body, consists of the following members: Dr. J. C.

Bay, learned librarian of the famed John Crerar library of Chicago, chairman; Otto W. Balgemann, native son and former mayor; A. D. Barnes, civic-minded citizen and Legionnaire; Alben Bates, attorney at law and descendant of Elmhurst's founder, and H. H. Robillard, long time resident and leading mortician.

Under the direction of the centennial commission some 200 persons, members of a score of committees, have been working together to insure the success of the city's birthday celebration, which will be a \$5,000 party. Funds to pay the bills have already been raised in large part through personal contributions and the sale of souvenir centennial stamps, and the remainder will come from the sale of other souvenirs, including "100 Years of Elmhurst News."

Frank J. Maier, former city treasurer and at present treasurer of the

Elmhurst park district, has been entrusted with the handling of the centennial funds, and Mrs. Oakley V. Morgan has been serving as the centennial commission's secretary.

10-DAY PROGRAM ENDS CENTURY OF GROWTH

(Continued from Page 1)

dozens of bands and drum and bugle corps in the afternoon.

Athletic events every day during the following week, besides the presentation of an old-time melodrama by the Elmhurst Community Players at York Community high school Thursday evening, June 11, will bring Elmhurst's 100th birthday party to a close. The final event will be a boxing show Saturday, June 13, during which local youths will win the centennial championships in eight weight classes. The winners will not be called upon to defend their titles until the year 2036, when Elmhurst completes another 100 years of history.

Thousands of out-of-town guests and former residents who no longer make their homes in Elmhurst, are expected to visit the city during the 10-day celebration. Among the old-timers returning there will undoubtedly be many early settlers or their direct descendants, to whom the centennial observance will have a special significance.

Elmhurst residents and businessmen have already caught the spirit of the occasion, many of them contributing both time and money to insure the success of their home town's centenary.

It is said that the first 100 years are the hardest. If that be so, then Elmhurst's growth and development has been doubly remarkable and presages an even greater growth now that the hardest century of its existence belongs to history.

MILES SATER DESIGNED CENTENNIAL STAMPS

Miles W. Sater, Elmhurst artist who made all of the poster stamps for the Panama-Pacific Exposition and the San Diego Fair of 1915, designed the attractive souvenir stamps published by the Elmhurst centennial commission this year.

"PROSIT" IN ELMHURST 50 YEARS AGO



No scene such as this will be seen in Elmhurst during its centennial celebration from June 3 to 13, but many are the old-timers still living who can remember when Chris Blievernicht used to "set them up," at the Cottage Hill House, which stood just north of the North Western tracks on the east side of York street.

GERRY BATES WAS CITY'S FOUNDER

Migrated from Ohio In
1842 and Became First
Community Booster

Gerry Bates, though he was not the first settler here, is generally regarded as the founder of Elmhurst. The families of Nicholas Torode, Elisha Fish, "Uncle John" Talmadge, Jesse Atwater, Edward Eldridge, Zerais Cobb, Sheldon Peck, W. Churchill, John Glos and John Bohlander came to York township in 1836 and 1837, but it was Gerry Bates, who made his way west from Ohio in 1842, who is credited with having brought to the settlement which became known as Cottage Hill its first spark of community consciousness.

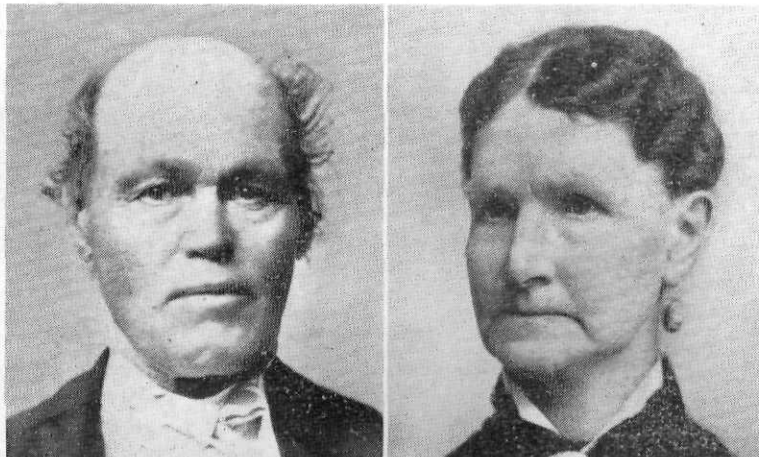
Mr. Bates was twice a pioneer, having been born in Massachusetts in 1800, whence he migrated first to Ohio and then later to Illinois. Upon arriving here in 1842 he found most of the desirable wooded land along Salt creek already claimed, but he purchased from the government the east half of section two of York township, that part of the present city of Elmhurst bounded by North avenue and St. Charles road and by York street and a line a half mile west.

The entire tract was without a tree and no stream ran through it, but Gerry Bates decided it was good land so he bought it and returned to Ohio to settle his affairs there. He returned with his family to make his permanent home here three years later, taking up his residence at Hill Cottage tavern on St. Charles road, built for him two years earlier by his brother-in-law, J. L. Hovey.

Several years later, in 1848, Mr. Bates built another house facing what is now West Park avenue, opposite the railroad station of the Galena and Chicago Union railroad, the forerunner of the North Western line.

It was about this time that Gerry Bates became the leading spirit in the development of Cottage Hill from hamlet to a village which still later became the progressive city of 15,000 inhabitants that Elmhurst is today. Besides being the first general storekeeper, postmaster and station agent, Mr. Bates was instrumental in organizing the first school district here, served as a member of the county board of supervisors, was justice of the peace, determined the location of the station about which Elmhurst has grown by donating a right of way to the railroad, platted the first subdivision and otherwise really started the town on its course of development.

In 1856 Mr. Bates married Miss Georgia Smith, the first school teacher in Cottage Hill, his first wife having died several years earlier. Of his latter marriage three children were born: Dr. Frederick H. Bates, Mrs. Adeline B. Kidder and Charles W.



A hardy pioneer and civic-minded leader, Gerry Bates, and Elmhurst's first public school teacher, Miss Georgia Smith, are pictured above. Miss Smith became Mr. Bates' bride in 1856, and bore him three children, all of whom lived in Elmhurst all their lives and contributed much to its development. One, Charles W. Bates, is still living.

Bates, all of whom have figured prominently in Elmhurst history since the elder Bates' death in July, 1878. Charles W. Bates is the only one of the Bates children surviving today. He lives in retirement in the old house built by his father in 1848, though on another site, the building having been moved to the corner of Adelle and Adelaide streets in 1908. Another generation of the family, however, has come along to follow the example set by their pioneering ancestor. One grandson, Alben F. Bates, son of Dr. Frederick H. Bates, is a member of the centennial commission named by Mayor Claude L. Van Auken to arrange for this year's celebration of Elmhurst's 100th anniversary.

Hill Cottage Tavern Was Built In 1843 by Gerry Bates' Brother-in-Law

Hill Cottage tavern, the first building to be erected on the east half of section 2 of York township, which later became the heart of what is now the city of Elmhurst, was until the coming of the railroad a popular overnight stopping place for travelers on horseback, migrants and early settlers driving wagon-loads of farm produce to the Chicago market.

The tavern was situated on the north side of St. Charles road, just

WHERE PIONEER TRAVELERS STOPPED



When J. L. Hovey came to York township in 1843 to claim the land purchased the year before by his brother-in-law, Gerry Bates, he built Hill Cottage tavern, the north exposure of which is shown in the photograph above, on St. Charles road at Cottage Hill avenue. The house has since been moved to South York street,

east of what is now Cottage Hill avenue and was built in 1843 by John L. Hovey, a brother-in-law of Gerry Bates.

Mr. Bates had purchased the half section of prairie land which surrounded it from the government the year previous, but did not bring his family from Ohio until 1845. Mr. Hovey meanwhile came west, erected Hill Cottage, and served as its tavern keeper, entertaining his frequent guests at his own table and sending them on their way the next morning refreshed in body and mind.

It was from Hill Cottage tavern that the village of Cottage Hill took its name, the name being transposed when a post office was established here in 1845. Gerry Bates and his family continued to occupy it until 1848, when their new home fronting what is now the Chicago and North Western depot grounds was completed.

With the coming of the Chicago and Galena Union railroad in the middle of the 19th century, Hill Cottage ceased to be a tavern, but countless families have since made it their home, both at its original location and at its present site at 413 South York street, where it was moved in 1891 by John R. Case, Jr.

James Lusk occupied the house after it was vacated by Gerry Bates. He bought it in 1851, after which various tenants lived in it until it was purchased by Thomas B. Bryan. G. P. A. Healy, celebrated artist, came to Cottage Hill as the guest of Mr. Bryan in 1857 and purchased the place, renaming it Clover Lawn.

In following years the old tavern was owned by George M. Wheeler, Henry W. King, George F. Rumsey, Mahlon D. Ogden, Owen F. Aldis,

THE HILL COTTAGE TAVERN TODAY



This picture shows Hill Cottage tavern, Elmhurst's oldest house, as it appears today. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Durham, who have made their home beneath its ancient roof for 20 years. The section of the house to the right of the veranda was not a part of the original building but was added by Mahlon D. Ogden, its owner in 1877.

Frank Sturges, John R. Case, Jr., a Mr. Skeele, Francis King, Mrs. Emmons Blaine and, finally, Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Durham, who have made it their home for the past 20 years or more, giving it excellent care and preserving its historical features.

As the house stands today, its appearance is altered somewhat from its earliest condition, a large addition having been added to it by Mahlon

D. Ogden in 1877. When it was moved to South York street by John R. Case, Jr., he changed its name to Orchard House.

Cottage Hill Avenue Elm Trees Were Set Out 69 Years Ago

It was from the towering elm trees on Cottage Hill avenue that Elmhurst took its present name back in 1869, when the name Cottage Hill was discarded because of confusion with other places with similar names such as Cottage Grove and Council Hill.

The Cottage Hill avenue trees were set out in 1867 by Jedediah H. Lathrop, who had a large number of mature elms left over after planting them throughout an eighty acre subdivision, one of whose streets now bears his name, in Oak Park. The trees he had left he set out along Cottage Hill avenue.

In 1869 the young trees were already so stately in appearance that Thomas B. Bryan suggested the name Elmhurst when a name was being sought to replace that by which the village had been known until then.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS WERE NUISANCE HERE IN 1869

Prairie chickens were so numerous in Cottage Hill as late as 1869, when the village became known as Elmhurst, that they were referred to in contempt as "food for newcomers." John R. Case, Jr., who now lives in Chico, California, and is a son of John R. Case, Sr., who planted the cherry trees which made Cherry Farm famous, recalls shooting the birds on the farm when a small lad.

MOST BEAUTIFUL STREET IN THE WORLD



This fine etching of the elm trees on Cottage Hill avenue is the work of Lee Sturges, an Elmhurst resident for over 40 years. Mr. Sturges is an artist of note, his etchings having received wide acclaim in galleries both here and abroad.

STORY OF EARLY YORK SETTLERS TOLD

Elisha Fish Was First To Stake Claim; Settled On Salt Creek In 1833

No compilation of "100 years of Elmhurst news" would be complete without mention of the hardy pioneers who first settled the land which later became incorporated in the city and its environs and who became involved in the growth and development of the community, each contributing his part to the general welfare.

But the records are so lacking in detail and the task of accumulating historical facts under the circumstances is such an arduous and time-consuming one, that a complete account of all who played a part in Elmhurst's history is virtually impossible.

The Elmhurst centennial historical committee, however, has taken great pains and expended much time and effort in compiling what information it could in a limited time with regard to those who settled Elmhurst and whose descendants figured prominently in its growth and development to the city it is today. The result of this committee's work is the following account:

The first settler in York township was Elisha Fish, who settled in 1833 or 1834 on land on the west side of

Salt creek on what is now section 26 (on the old Spring road). He was followed within the next few years by many others who remained and whose names play a part in Elmhurst history.

Among those who arrived with their families in 1834 was Jesse Atwater, who came from Connecticut and settled on section 14, at the present junction of Roosevelt and Butterfield roads. During that same year Frederick Graue, who had emigrated from Hanover, staked a claim close to the Addison line. Many German families later gathered around the Graue grove and founded Addison, while the sons and grandsons of Frederick Graue bought land in Elmhurst and established themselves as business leaders in the community.

In 1835 the sections around the Torode quarry south of Roosevelt and West York road were claimed by the Torodes, Fullers and Bohlanders. John Bohlander settled north of section 24, Jacob Fuller entered a claim on section 27 at Fullersburg and Nicholas Torode, who migrated earlier from the Isle of Guernsey to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, settled at Roosevelt and York roads.

Edward Eldridge came from Albany, New York, and settled on section 14 in 1835 also. He married Rachel Atwater, daughter of the pioneer Atwater, who owned the adjoining quarter section. Oriente Grant, Frederick Gray

and Henry Reader were others who came to York township in 1835.

In 1836 the Talmadge families (David and John) came from New York and settled on sections 23 and 24. Philander Torode also came from Ohio and settled near Nicholas Torode, later operating the quarry on the property, long since abandoned, though still owned by the Torode family. Peter Torode, son of Philander, moved to Elmhurst and built the home at 333 South York street which has since become famous as the home of Carl Sandburg, nationally known poet.

Another early settler was Conrad Fischer, who laid claim to a large tract of land on Grand avenue between Church road and Wooddale road in Addison township in 1836. His son, Frederick John Fischer, laid claim to the northeast corner of Lake and York streets. Four of Frederick John Fischer's granddaughters, the Misses Koch, live today in the Koch homestead at Maple avenue and Second street. Another granddaughter, Mrs. Mary Goebel, lives in the house at 490 South York street, which was occupied for a time by the Baron von Bielenfeld and his family.

Other descendants of Conrad Fischer who have been closely associated with Elmhurst's development were Dr. Frederick J. T. Fischer, a grandson, who was one of the community's earliest and best loved physicians, and Edgar B. Fischer, a great grand-

PATENT OF GOVERNMENT LAND GRANT TO JOHN GLOS, SR.

Presumption **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**
CERTIFICATE
 No. 9836

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas *John Glos Senior of LaSalle County Illinois*
 has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at *Chicago* whereby it appears
 that full payment has been made by the said *John Glos Senior*, according
 to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the East half
 of the North East quarter of Section twelve in fractional Township thirty-nine
 North of Range eleven East in the District of Lands subject to sale at Chicago
 Illinois containing Eighty acres,
 according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said
John Glos Senior,
NOW KNOW YE That the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED,
 and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *John Glos Senior*,
 and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature,
 thereunto belonging, unto the said *John Glos Senior*, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, *John Tyler*
 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *fourth* day of *July* in the year of our Lord one
 thousand eight hundred and *forty-four* and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the *sixty-ninth*

By the President: *William L. Gresham*
William L. Gresham
 RECORDER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

RECORDED, VOL. 24 PAGE 151

son, an attorney who was also president of the former People's Trust and Savings bank here and president of the public library board besides serving for a time as master in chancery of DuPage county. Mrs. Adam S. Glos, Otto A. Fischer, and his son Alonzo G. Fischer, prominent in local banking and real estate circles, are members of another branch of the family.

In 1837 Zerai Cobb, Sheldon Peck and Winslow Churchill were granted claims in York township and John Glos, Sr., brought his family from Bavaria to settle on land acquired for him earlier in the year by his son, John Glos, Jr., in that section of Elmhurst now known as Crescent Park, where he raised his family, the members of which have been closely associated with the development of Elmhurst through most of its century of existence.

Henry L. Glos, a grandson of John Glos, Sr., was Elmhurst's first village attorney and a pioneer in the banking business here. Adam S. Glos opened a hardware store on York street in 1872 and operated the business for over 50 years, besides serving for many years as president of the board of directors of the Elmhurst State bank. Jacob Glos operated a real estate business in Chicago besides serving as postmaster of Elmhurst for four years and president of the board of education for eight years.

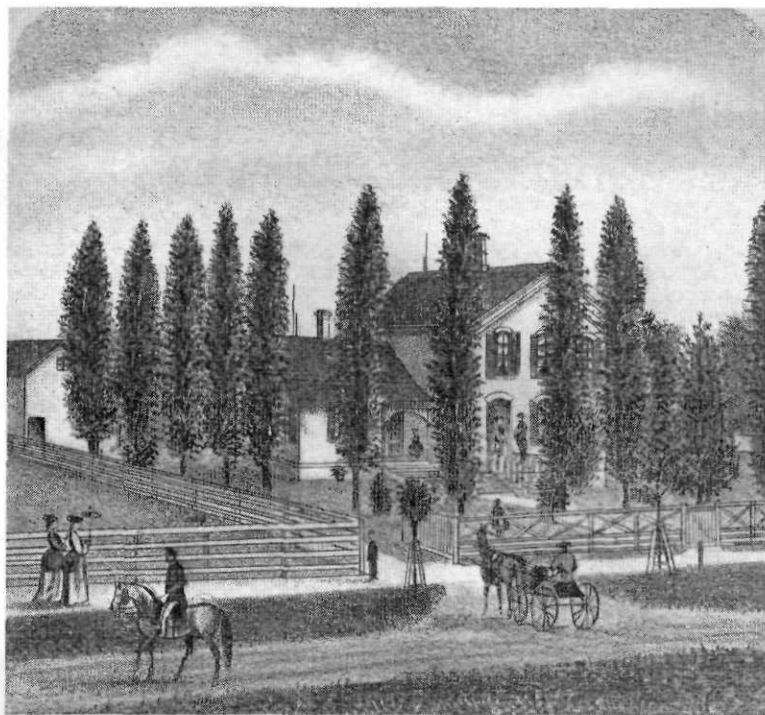
Gerry Bates laid claim to the east half of section 2, now the heart of Elmhurst, in 1842, and in 1848 Henry Buchholz claimed Section 1, a part of which is still in the Buchholz family. Diedrich Struckman, who erected the first Elmhurst college buildings, settled in Addison township in 1844, but later moved to Elmhurst. Squire William Litchfield settled Section 13 of York township in 1846 and later came to Elmhurst, building the house at 258 South York street, now the home of Mrs. William T. Dwelly, in 1865. Squire Litchfield was for many years the justice of the peace and held court in his parlor.

In 1864 John J. Mueller, a wagon maker, came to Elmhurst and purchased four acres on North York street. He was assisted in his work by his son Henry, then 16 years old, who later became the first commissioner of streets and the first police marshal in the village following its incorporation in 1882. Henry Mueller is still living and will celebrate his 88th birthday during the week of the Elmhurst centennial observance.

At the close of the Civil war, Dr. George F. Heidemann, a noted surgeon, came to Elmhurst and was for about 12 years the community's only doctor. He paid personally for the material which went into the first sidewalk on North York street, a one-foot wide wooden walk from York and First streets to his home, which stood just north of W. S. Weller's present residence.

A large number of businessmen, merchants and tradesmen came to Elmhurst during the latter half of the 19th century and most of them

HOME OF ELMHURST'S FIRST DOCTOR



Located on North York street, the house shown in this picture was the first home of Dr. George F. Heidemann, the first resident doctor in the village of Cottage Hill. A larger house, which replaced the original Heidemann homestead, was destroyed by fire nearly 20 years ago.

ELMS ARTIST, FAMOUS IN 1893, STILL LIVING

Among Elmhurst's surviving early settlers perhaps none is quite so familiar a figure, particularly to the commuters on the Chicago and North Western railroad, as Miss Caroline Wade. Miss Wade is said to have been one of the three women artists



Caroline Wade

in the world whose work was exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Although now advanced in years, she still commutes to Chicago daily, to work in her studio at the Chicago Art Institute where she taught for many years.

Miss Wade came to Elmhurst as a small child on St. Patrick's day, 1863. Her father was an early paymaster of the North Western railroad. He rebuilt the old Bonney place, which stood where the Immaculate Conception social center now stands on South York street, and the Wades lived there for many years. Miss Wade now lives in Squire William Litchfield's old residence, now owned by Mrs. W. T. Dwelly.

NATIVE RECALLS EARLY CENTENNIAL EVENT HERE

H. A. Berens, son of Mrs. Clara Berens and the late Rev. August Berens, says Elmhurst's centennial being celebrated this year is not the first event of its kind in the community. When he was a boy five years old another centennial was held here in April, 1889, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the United States constitution.

Mr. Berens still treasures a medal he was given for marching in the local parade on that occasion. Others who he says participated in the event were the Koch sisters, Anthony and Jennie Nelson and Florence Rockwood. The celebration was held on the lawn of Thomas B. Bryan's estate.

SIDEWALKS FLOATED AWAY IN OLD DAYS

Although most of the half section of land acquired by Gerry Bates from the government in 1842 was high prairie, much of it was swampy in wet weather, and until the first sewer was laid in 1893, it was not uncommon for large sections of the village of Elmhurst to be under water. The section from Prospect avenue to Charles street was frequently under from two to five feet of water, and the wooden sidewalks in several sections of town often floated away during heavy rains.

(Continued on Page 16)

Dr. Bates, Son of City's Founder, Was Original Elmhurst Historian

Elmhurst's first historian, and one to whom the editors of this compilation of local historical data are deeply indebted, was Dr. Frederick H. Bates, eldest son of Gerry and Georgia Smith Bates and one of the community's leading physicians until his death in 1920.

Always interested in civic affairs, Dr. Bates gave generously of his time and money to promote worthwhile enterprises in the community. He served as a village trustee, was for many



Dr. Frederick H. Bates

years on the board of education, organized the first public library in 1890 and served as its librarian, took an active part in the organization of the Elmhurst Spring Water company and the Elmhurst Electric Light company, and was the author of a historical booklet entitled "Old Elmhurst," which has been of inestimable value to the Elmhurst centennial commission and its various committees in arranging for the city's centennial observance this year.

First Permanent Du Page Settlement Made In 1830

It is recorded that no permanent settlement was made in DuPage county until 1830, when Stephen J. Scott, who had emigrated from Maryland in 1825, made a claim on the banks of the DuPage river and rapidly gathered around him a settlement, located near the present site of Gros Point.

Previous history states that a trail, running from Chicago across the prairies, through the swamps and over the wooded plains west of the Des Plaines river, was developed by Ninian Edwards previous to this settlement, and that a land grant was made to Governor Edwards in return for his promise to develop this trail into a much-needed highroad. Such a road was developed along the courses of various Indian trails, but we may take it that one hundred years ago the roads were still exceedingly primitive. Scant attention was given to road building until the Civil war made roads necessary, and we may be sure that in 1831, when the Hobsons took up their residence as the first actual settlers on the soil of our county, the approach to our beautiful and fertile lands indeed was difficult. Captain Joseph Naper must have found it so when he arrived with his family and with that of his brother John Naper and settled at what is now Naperville in 1831.

These initial settlers were followed by a larger influx in 1832, when Naper's settlement was called upon to survive a winter so severe that it still remains in vivid memory.

The young settlement was considerably disturbed by the Blackhawk war, which drove quite a number of the women and children of the outlying regions into the relatively more safe locality around Fort Dearborn. Happily, no outrages took place in Du-

Page county, and after the scare was over a powerful influx of immigration turned this way.

Many of the early settlers, coming from densely wooded regions in Ohio and other mid-western states, knew the value of the timbered lands which predominated in DuPage county. It is recorded that before 1835 most of our timbered lands were covered by claims, while the open country, the prairies, were considered relatively worthless.

The county had its share of claim feuds and its infection by land pirates and speculators. It is surprising to learn that even in 1835 some claims were bought and sold for as high as \$10 and \$15 per acre. Some blood was spilled here and there in contests over land claims and those early days produced their share of destructive as well as constructive forces, bona fide settlers as well as claim jumpers.

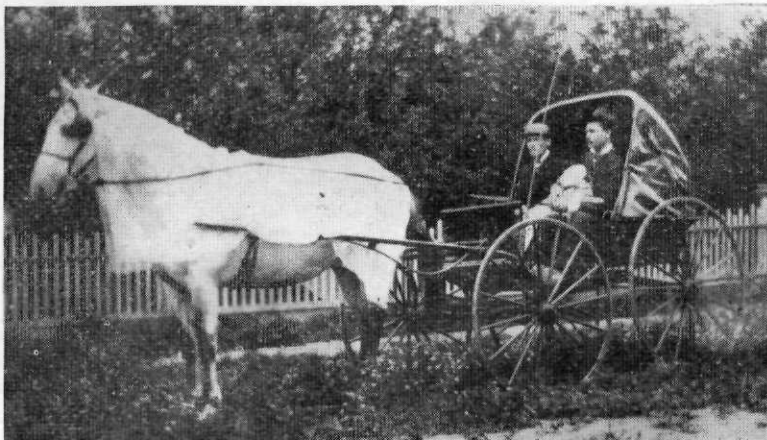
Those were turbulent times, and it would be interesting to find the records of the so-called hogrational council, which decided the validity of claims and seems to have rendered decisions generally acceptable to the early settlers. Among the decisions of this body was the very exhilarating one rendered on the claim of a Mr. Clark, who at last was considered entitled to a piece of land on the DuPage river "commencing at a certain point on the east bank of the said river, and running perpendicular to the horizon straight up."

Dr. Frederick H. Bates, in 1919, summarized the topography and geology of DuPage County, and called attention to the limestone formation intermingling with the clay, also calling attention to the relatively large number of fossils which have been found in the latter formations. Our geological history has been studied time and again, likewise our flora and fauna. During the early part of the last century Robert Kennicott traversed the outlying districts of Chicago and sent from here large collections to the Smithsonian Institute and other centers of learning. The ecology of our entire region has been studied extensively by several of our older botanists, but I predict that to the observant naturalist there are still many revelations in store in the county of DuPage.

The county was organized in 1839, and was settled rapidly, most of the colonists being of a very wholesome mixture of native Americans and emigrated German elements. All the towns were organized in 1850, when the combined population of Addison and York slightly exceeded that of Naperville. In 1855, Addison mustered 1,262 and York 1,342 inhabitants, the total of which was 549 more than Naperville and nearly a thousand more than any other town in the county.

The preponderance of agricultural

THE COUNTRY DOCTOR MAKES HIS ROUNDS



Dr. Frederick H. Bates (right) is shown in his buggy accompanied by Charles Michaels and his pet dog.

pursuits in those early years is evident from the fact that in 1855 our county registered \$876,185 worth of livestock, while the value of manufactured products was only \$161,095. It is very interesting to note that at that time the advance of education, measured by the attendance at the three "academies" then established in the county, was considerable. These academies were attended by no less than 5,770 scholars.

It is needless to say that newspapers were in evidence in DuPage county at an early time. Naperville had its first newspaper in 1849; the first number of the **DuPage County Recorder** was issued in that year on the first of December. The **Recorder** died after nine months and was succeeded by the **Democratic Plaindealer**, which very soon became involved with temperance interests and lead a more or less uncertain existence, until, in 1851, the **DuPage Observer** saw the light. It died after three years and eight months, and several other enterprises were subsequently started, but none of them, unfortunately, continued in existence until the present day. It would be interesting to know just how far these old newspapers of the county have been preserved.

Naperville, the oldest and for many years the most popular city in DuPage county was selected as the first county seat and continued as the capital city of the county until 1857, when the honor passed to the town of Wheaton, which has continued as the county seat ever since.

Statistics as a rule mean nothing

unless they are accompanied by a useful lesson. In 1850 DuPage county numbered 22 inhabitants to the square mile. In 1855 this figure rose to 29. At the present time, this figure is increased tenfold, there now being 270 persons per square mile. It is inevitable that such a growth of population, such a crowding together of persons from many different parts of our own as well as of foreign countries, would create a diversity of opinion, of ideals, such as would make it difficult to perpetuate the historical spirit and make a purposeful development possible. And yet, such are the laws of human concourse, that out of an unorganized mass of human lives an orderly purposeful and constructively directed community will, so to speak, organize itself as time passed.

One of the greatest marvels of history is that each successive generation speaks the same language as was spoken in the past and sees new possibilities in the same light in which the beginners saw theirs; that the world rushes in upon us from every side, and yet we remain one and the same community from the beginning to the present.

While this is true, the incentive for sane and responsible action will grow out of the thoughts and ideals of some persons who take the lead and are given the opportunity of acting and speaking in behalf of their fellow men. In this respect we cannot forget the influence of the Bates, Graue and Glos families in Elmhurst, the Napers of Naperville, the Wheatons, the Warrens, and those who have continued their great work into the present day.

Forgotten God's Acre Recalls Early Elmhurst Settlement That Failed

Elmhurst's centennial celebration this year marks the end of 100 years of steady growth from a small country hamlet, but all who came west to colonize this section of Illinois in the middle 1800's did not prosper with the growing community. Within the present city limits of Elmhurst, in fact, there is evidence of an early colony which was founded on hope, but which failed to live to see the development of Elmhurst to the city it is today.

Mrs. Lee Sturges, reminiscing recently, told the following story of a "forgotten God's acre" in Elmhurst: "When riding over a country road one June day in 1893, my attention was called to a large mass of gay yellow Harrison roses blooming amidst a tangle of shrubs and trees on a sunny knoll not far from the road. I rode to the spot and, dismounting, walked through an old cemetery. It had been laid out with paths, and in many places large beds of Live-Forever and Rosemary were growing, while wild pink prairie roses were blooming all about.

"One stone post was standing, and another broken off just above the ground showed where the gate had been. Stone corner posts were standing and traces of paths were visible.

The names carved in the weather-worn tombstones were of English origin—Witherspoon, Stone, Becker, etc.—the dates on none later than 1861. Almost overgrown by wild roses, I found a pathetic reminder of a mother's sorrow and loss. On a square limestone base stood a beautifully carved white marble marker in the shape of an empty nest, on the side of which hovered a mother bird. The inscription, carved below, read, "Leonel, aged six mo." One headstone of white marble was exquisitely carved with garlands of roses and forget-me-nots. The name and age were plainly marked, but time and frost had obliterated the place of birth, and all that could be deciphered was "Martha Ellen W . . . aged 89." Several had quaint inscriptions or verses from the Bible. One was—

Young folks, as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now you soon must be
So prepare for Death, and follow me.

"I asked many old settlers about this cemetery, and wondered much about its story—who the people resting there had been, where their descendants are, why it was left so neglected and forgotten. In sad comparison I thought of the many carefully tended cemeteries in New England villages where lie their pioneers.

"Long afterward I learned that in the spring of 1850 a group of English families had come from New York state to colonize and build homes on a 520-acre tract of prairie land owned by Mr. Curtius Cable of Oswego, New

(Continued on page 17)

A \$100,000 EARLY ELMHURST MANSION



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sturges in Clover Lawn, a fifteen acre tract on Cottage Hill Avenue, York Street and St. Charles Road, was completed in June, 1893. It was located near the center of the grounds, with stately trees, rare shrubs, winding paths and drive. Mr. Sturges was a great lover of flowers and had a beautiful display of tree roses by the garden path and many varieties of roses in his rose garden. Old apple trees were carefully tended and many fine fruit trees, grape vines and small fruits were planted on the estate.

The house was of grey St. Lawrence marble, cut in the quarries at Rome, New York, and shipped all ready for setting up, each block numbered. The roof was of dark red tile. There were 16 rooms in the house and a large amusement room on the third floor. All of the rooms were finished in hard woods. The house was razed in 1929, after which the estate was subdivided.

John R. Case, Jr., Tells Story of Cherry Farm and Kirschen Pfluecken

A most interesting picture of the Elmhurst of 50 years ago is revealed in the story of Cherry Farm, that part of the city immediately east of York street and south of St. Charles road now known as Cherry Farm Addition to Elmhurst and Case's Addition to South Elmhurst.

In a letter recently received by Mrs. Laura Kendall Thomas from John R. Case, Jr., former owner of the tract now living in California, Mr. Case sets down the history of Cherry Farm as follows:

"The Cherry Farm Addition with Case's Addition to South Elmhurst (the small sub-division south of the present electric road) comprised nearly 160 acres, the west half of which was bought by my father, John R. Case, Sr. in 1851. The east half he bought about the end of the Civil war.

"What the condition of this land was during the time before 1860 I have no means of knowing, but I do know there was a house on the lot where the Porter house now is at 174 East St. Charles road. That house was a tavern used by travelers and teamsters on the St. Charles road, which was a main road to Chicago from the city of Galena on the Mississippi river, and it became our home in 1860, the year I was born and the year my parents moved from Chicago.

"When St. Charles road was laid out I do not know, but it must have been before the prairie was surveyed, for the road does not follow section lines but follows the height of land to avoid the mud as much as possible—which was not very much as the road was at times almost, if not quite, impassable. Nor do I know when the tavern was built.

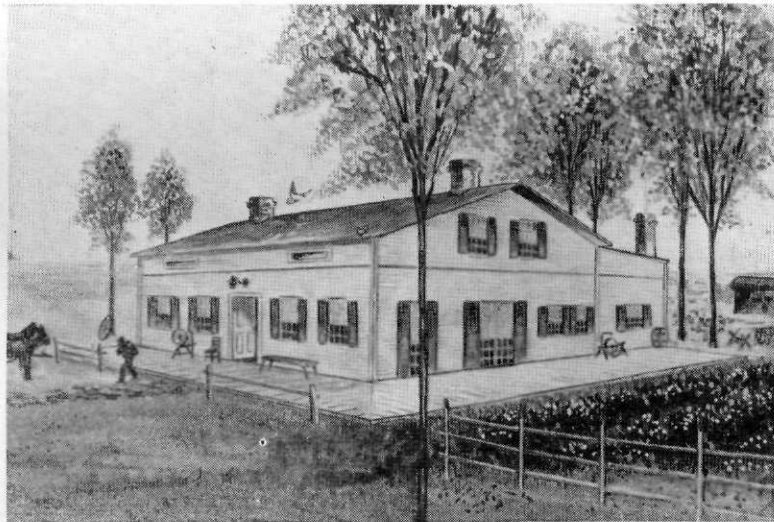
"Except for a small house for our farmer, now standing at 384 Hill avenue, there was no other house but our home on the whole 160 acres, until I set up the Orchard House in 1891."

The Orchard House referred to by Mr. Case was the original Hill Cottage tavern, built in 1843 by J. L. Hovey on St. Charles road at the corner of what is now Cottage Hill avenue. The house was bought by Mr. Case and moved to the Cherry Farm property. Altered somewhat by an addition constructed by M. D. Ogden, the house still stands at 413 South York street. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Durham.

Mr. Case continues his story by saying, "I was too small a child to remember when my father set out the cherry orchard, but I remember he said it consisted of 1,001 trees.

"That orchard covered the section from Arlington avenue to Hill avenue and from a point half way between St. Charles road and Orchard street to a short distance south of May street, and was, I think, the first cherry orchard near Chicago.

FIRST HOUSE AT CHERRY FARM



A recent drawing, made possible by descriptions furnished by John R. Case, Jr., is reproduced above, showing the house at Cherry Farm as it probably appeared when the farm was purchased by John R. Case, Sr., in 1851. The house served as a tavern and later as the Case home for 42 years. Added to in 1888, the old tavern still stood at the turn of the century, when it was razed. The 1888 addition, however, now known as the Porter house, still stands on the old tavern site at 174 East St. Charles road.

"At blossom time it looked like a snow bank. People came from miles to see it. At cherry picking time (Kirschen pfluecken) it was full of German women who came with their children and babies and spent the whole day picking at 50 cents a bushel. All day long the orchard resounded with the German vocabulary. At evening the boxes were loaded on hay racks, sometimes one wagon, sometimes two, and we walked the horses to South Water street, leaving home at midnight and arriving about 5 a. m. in Chicago. This was about 1870 to 1880 when the orchard was in its prime and profitable. But it grew old, stopped bearing and was cut down.

"About the same time (in the early 1860's) my father planted a large

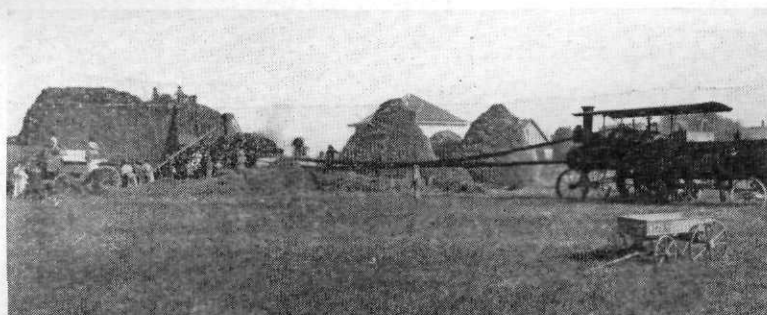
apple orchard of which I think some trees are left. This covered all of the land from York street to Kenilworth avenue and St. Charles road to May street.

"About 1886 the Great Western railroad was put through the farm and later on the electric line.

"My father died in 1877 and my mother in 1892, and in 1902 I left the old home with my family and in 1904 settled in Chico, California, which has been my home since.

"In 1907 I laid out the present Cherry Farm Addition, laying out streets and walks and planting trees along the streets, and a few years later it was all taken into the corporation of Elmhurst."

THRESHING IN ELMHURST 25 YEARS AGO



This scene was a familiar one at North avenue and Addison avenue up until about 25 years ago. The picture shows the threshing operations on Albert D. Graue's farm in 1907. The farm has since been subdivided and is now one of the most closely built up sections of Elmhurst.

W. C. T. U. Cherry Fete Was Outstanding Social Event of 19th Century

There were no woman's clubs, garden clubs or choral clubs in Elmhurst during the first three quarters of a century of its existence, but the village never wanted for lack of colorful social life. Many are the delightful gatherings recalled by the city's older residents, including musicales and lawn parties at White Birch, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. King; lawn parties and a group of plays produced in the garden at Clover Lawn, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sturges; Madame Hagans' frequent delightful gatherings, and music and dancing at the Wilder home.

There were also novel parties at Cherry Farm at which Mrs. John R. Case was hostess; musical events at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Brush on Claremont street and the meetings of an amateur dramatic club, which produced plays in the ball room of the M. W. Murphy home, and the bird study group which hunted in orchards and shrubs for the rare birds found here.

One event in particular, a W. C. T. U. cherry blossom fete on the Hagans' grounds, remains in the memory of many older residents. It was reported in a Chicago newspaper of the day as follows:

"The gymkhana is no longer a stranger to the amusement loving Chicagoan.

"Under the conservative patronage of the white ribboners the pretty entertainment was given its initial introduction to Chicago society Saturday afternoon at 'Hiawatha,' the country seat of Mrs. Lucian Hagans at Elmhurst.

"The world and his wife—or such of his as is left in town—went out to see the bicycle parades and races, where the riders wore cool and summery suits. The wheels were all bedecked with flowers, and the grassy lawn took the place of a track.

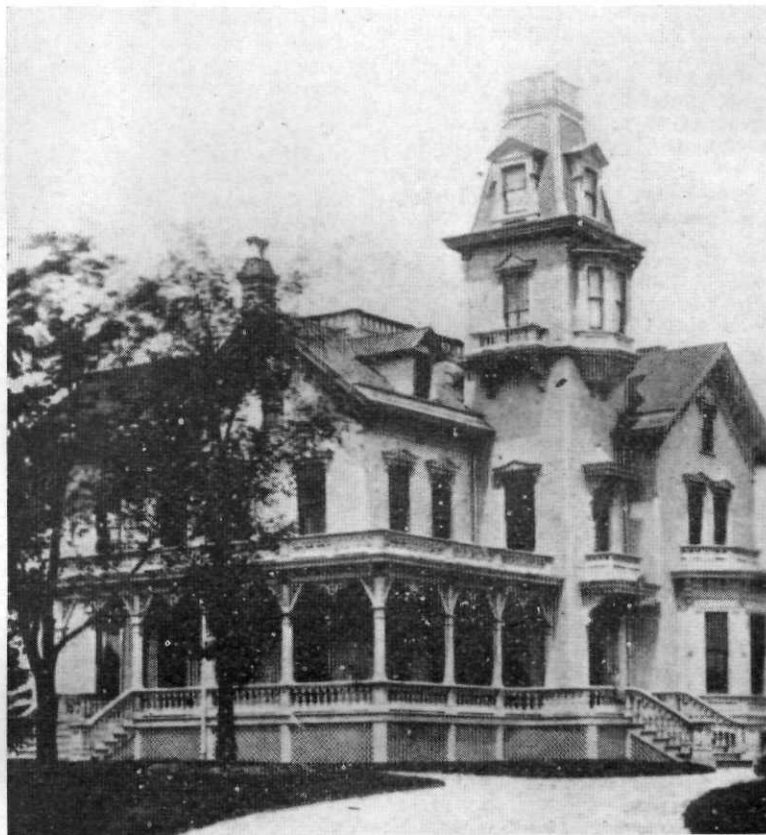
"Twenty people took part in the ride and thirty times as many more distributed themselves about the ground to watch and applaud the skillful maneuvers of the bicyclists. Every girl who rode wore her prettiest lace trimmed frock and every wheelman was in white flannel or duck. The wheels were wound and twisted with wreaths and hung with bunches of flowers.

"A grand parade of all the wheels led by the six tandems composed the first act of the gymkhana. Slow tandem races and one for speed followed the showy drill; also single races, the whole ending with the Maypole quadrille, in which all the riders joined.

"Luncheon followed the reading of the judges' decision and a musicale was given after candlelight."

Mrs. Lee Sturges, in recalling this event, said that it was one of unusual beauty, the cherry trees, crab apples and hawthornes being a mass of blossoms in full glory at the time.

WHERE PRINCE OF WALES WAS GUEST



The beautiful country seat of Lucian Hagans, internationally known diplomat and the friend of presidents and kings, is shown above. The house stood on the north side of St. Charles road west of Prospect avenue and was surrounded by a large, well tended estate which included a race track among other novel features.

Visit of English Prince To Elmhurst Recalled

The recent accession of King Edward VIII to the English throne may recall to the minds of some older residents of Elmhurst the time when his grandfather, Edward VII, visited in this community.

Back in the 1870's, Elmhurst was the center of a gay and brilliant social life that brought many notable figures of the day to this quiet, semi-rural community. A number of prominent families had come out from Chicago and settled on large estates here, building lovely homes and entertaining on a lavish scale. Among these early settlers was Thomas B. Bryan and his family, who had a large estate on St. Charles road, bordering York Street. The L. A. Hagans came here about the same time, their estate being on St. Charles road at Prospect Street.

Notables Visited Here

Both Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hagans were in the United States diplomatic service, and were acquainted with many of the international figures of that day. Through their hospitality, many famous persons visited in Elmhurst.

It was in those halcyon days of the

town's social life that King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, was making a tour of America. The Bryans and Hagans had met him in their travels and so, when he came to Chicago, the Hagans invited him to sojourn in their Elmhurst home. He accepted, and the people of this community as well as many Chicago notables, met the prince here. It was a notable occasion, even as such an event would be today, and Elmhurst basked in the limelight of reflected glory during his stay.

Madame Hagans, whom many still remember, used to tell about the visit with the greatest pride, and in later years she would point out the exact spot where the prince stood when she tendered the reception for him in her home.

Edward VII was the son of Queen Victoria, and he ascended to the British throne in 1901, following her death. His reign lasted but nine years, until 1910, when he was succeeded by his son, George V, whose death was only recently mourned.

Glamorous social history was being written in Elmhurst during the Victorian era, and it was perhaps only fitting that a visit of Queen Victoria's son should have been one of the high points in that romantic and colorful community life.

SOME OF ELMHURST'S FAMILIAR LANDMARKS



There are many venerable old houses in Elmhurst which have been familiar landmarks to three, and in some cases, even four generations of natives of the community. Some of them are shown above, while pictures of some of the others are to be found on other pages of this compilation of a century of local news. Of the homes pictured on this page two, the Bryan house and the Lathrop residence, have been razed, but the others are still standing and are serving their present owners as comfortable homes.

The house shown in the upper left corner was built by Dr. Frederick H. Bates at the corner of West Park avenue and South York street. When this picture was taken the building had already been enlarged from its original size. Later, not quite 25 years ago, it was moved to Cottage Hill avenue and Margaret place, where it now houses the residence and office of Dr. L. H. Hills.

The home and garden pictured at the upper left were on the estate of Thomas B. Bryan on the south side of St. Charles road between York street and Cottage Hill avenue. In recent years the house was razed and the estate subdivided.

The other houses, identified by numerals are: 1 The James Lusk residence, which originally stood at the southwest corner of York and First streets but which has long since been moved to Addison avenue, between Second and Third streets; 2. Richard Bourke's residence, still standing at Cottage Hill avenue and Virginia street; 3. York Manor, where Dr. F. J. T. Fischer practiced his profession and which now houses the Crane sanitarium; 4. The present home of George Challembe at Prospect and Elm Park avenues, which formerly housed the Cutter Boarding School for Girls, and 5. The Lathrop residence, more recently the home of Lindlahr's sanitarium until the house was razed several years ago.

ELMHURST'S "SHOPPING CENTER" 35 YEARS AGO



North York street as it looked in the early 1900's from the top of the old Clos building, which stood where the Elmhurst State Bank building now stands. A few years earlier, before the erection of the old First National bank building in the foreground, the street presented an even more deserted appearance.

AND THE WAY IT LOOKS TODAY



Now York street looks like this—if you get up early enough in the morning, for both of these views were photographed in the very early hours, before the thousands of shoppers who daily visit the Elmhurst business district had arisen.

The top picture was taken looking south and shows the Elmhurst State Bank building on the left. The bottom view shows North York street, where most of the retail stores and other business houses in town are located. The one-story building in the left foreground occupies the old National bank site,

Business as Usual In
Elmhurst During Five
Lean Depression Years

There are over 200 places of business in Elmhurst today, a far cry from the days of the last century when 20 or 30 businessmen, most of them blacksmiths, harness makers, saloon keepers and general store keepers, did all the trading in the quiet village known as Cottage Hill. In those days many local residents drove over to Addison to shop.

Today, however, Elmhurst is DuPage county's leading retail shopping center. Retail sales here, as shown by the last Illinois retail census report in 1934, totaled \$3,332,000 in 1933. Over 300 people are now employed in local retail stores and the total payroll runs over \$400,000.

During the depression of the past five years building activities ceased in Elmhurst, as they did elsewhere, but most local stores reported business as usual and a number of new places of business were opened. And while neighboring communities suffered hardships incurred by bank failures, there was no lapse in banking activities in Elmhurst.

Most Elms merchants are progressive in every way and they frequently cooperate to promote sales events which bring buyers from many miles to do their shopping here. Meanwhile more and more local people are finding that they can buy just as economically and from just as wide a selection at home as they can in Chicago's crowded "loop" district.

CITY'S FIRST BRICK BUILDING



The Graue store as it appeared before the addition which doubled its size was erected. Built in 1854, the building was the first of brick construction in Elmhurst. It is still standing at 136 West Park avenue.

From left to right in the picture are William Asche, August and William Graue, Richard Bourke and Tom Hogan.

General Store Account
Ledger Reveals Living
Costs Before Civil War

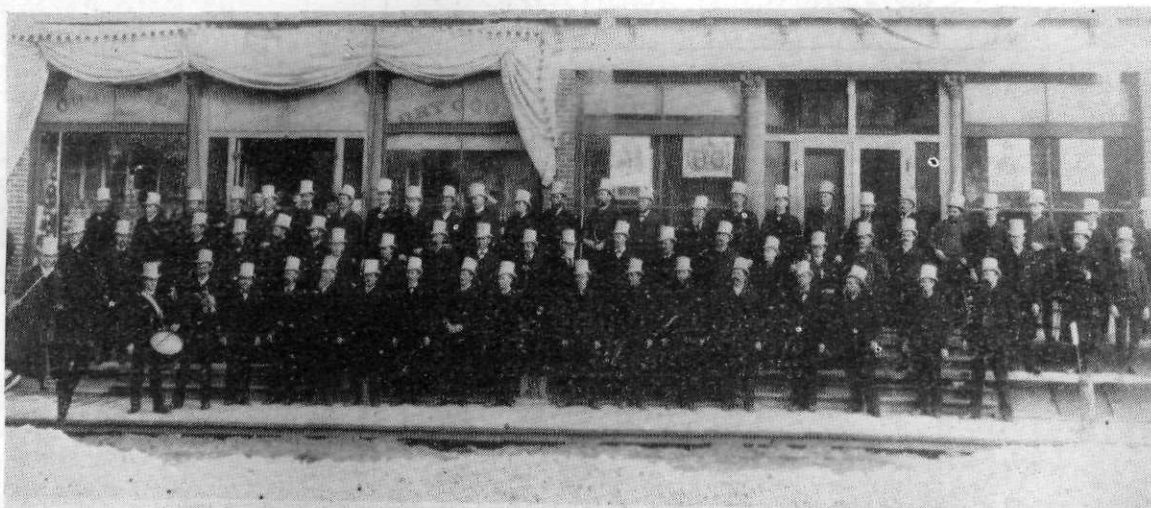
An interesting light is cast upon the social and economic conditions existing in Elmhurst from 80 to 90 years ago by the account books of the first general store here. The books, now in the possession of Charles W. Bates, whose father, Gerry Bates, was the storekeeper, reveal that many of Elmhurst's pioneer families had charge accounts and that it was not uncommon for them to charge their postage stamps along with their week's supply of sugar, salt, bacon and other commodities.

The prices paid for merchandise then were extremely low considered in comparison to present standards. Five quarts of whiskey, for example, cost 32 cents. Lumber for a coffin cost 40 cents.

POSTAL RECEIPTS WERE
\$100 A YEAR IN 1861

The postal receipts of the Cottage Hill post office in the Civil War days averaged about \$100 per year. For the three-month period ending September 30, 1861, the receipts were \$22.79. Small wonder that Congress approved no \$70,000 post office, such as that boasted by Elmhurst today, for the hamlet of Cottage Hill!

THE REPUBLICAN MARCHING CLUB IN 1888



From left to right, rear row: boy, Emil Balgemann; 1. Carl Both; 2. Unidentified; 3. Joachim Westphall; 4. Unidentified; 5. Unidentified; 6. Wm. Boeger; 7. Alex Belikoff; 8. Wm. Barrensche; 9. Wm. Beutjer; 10. Ehlert Ahrens; 11. George Kiefer; 12. Fred Gansberg; 13. John Ireland; 14. William Hammerschmidt; 15. William Kroeger; 16. Carl Bauer; 17. Ernst Balgemann; 18. Wm. Martin; 19. Ernst Ohlerich; 20. Andrew Nelson; 21. Henry Betjeman; 22. Philip Hohmann; 23. Wm. Schaper; 24. Wm. Graue; 25. Adam Glos.

Middle row: 1. Julius Graue; 2. Wm. Brettmann; 3. Henry Gehler; 4. Otto A. Fischer; 5. Gustav Swenson; 6. Fred Wandschneider; 7. Henry Oetting; 8. Wm. Hanebuth; 9. Lorenz Bernhard; 10. Herman Conrad; 11. L. A. Denig; 12. John Scharlau; 13. Adam S. Glos; 14. Louis Balgemann; 15. Albert F. Ohlerich; 16. Rudolph Uhlhorn; 17. Alan S. Ray; 18. Jacob Glos; 19. Gustav Krieter; 20. D. Ben Mische; 21. Geo. Roggenbuck; 22. Geo. Heidemann.

Front row: man on horse, D. W. Thoma; 2. Henry Price; 3. Chas. Fischer; 4. John Barge; 5. Henry Koehne; 6. Albert Stange; 7. Fred Schwass; 8. Fred Bleich; 9. Fred Schroeder; 10. Carl Wandschneider; 11. Wm. Gansberg; 12. August Gaebler; 13. B. H. G. Uhlhorn; 14. C. G. Kircher; 15. Fred H. Rohmeyer; 16. Rudolph Kraemer; 17. Henry L. Glos; 18. Wm. Ohlerich.

Elms Boosters' Club Contributed Much To Put City on the Map

More closely associated with and directly responsible for Elmhurst's greatest period of rapid expansion during the 1920's than any other one organization was the Elmhurst Boosters' club, organized in 1918 in the home of F. O. Stevens with about 60 charter members.

The aim and purpose of the club was to stimulate and unite community interests, to publicize the many advantages of this western suburb as a desirable home site, and to stir business enterprise, so local citizens would find it both convenient and profitable to patronize home town merchants.

With such a fine spirit of co-operation, it is not surprising that this "up and go" organization took an active part in helping to make Elmhurst the cultural, business and social center it is today.

Besides its more serious activities, the club promoted annual summer picnics, when the town closed shop and took a holiday; summer carnivals, at which sedate citizens and dignified officials participated, and Labor Day parades, in which business houses joined in friendly rivalry for the best float, sounding the call for more serious work during the coming year.

Five large electric signs were in-

stalled by the Boosters' club on each of the five main highways leading into Elmhurst at the city limits. The club was also one of the first to beautify the parkway of the Chicago and North Western railroad, that the casual traveler might not misjudge Elmhurst by what he saw from the car window.

The Boosters also organized and financed the Elmhurst band and backed many other worthy undertakings. Funds for its many projects were raised through carnivals, dues, contributions and the presentation of plays and minstrel shows.

One of the most dramatic of Booster activities was the annual holiday drawing of prizes. At this time business houses issued coupons for purchases. Sometimes as high as 140 prizes were offered by Elmhurst merchants, ranging from a pair of roller skates to a gas range, varying in value from one to fifty dollars.

Fun and excitement reigned a few days before Christmas, when the whole town flocked to the prize drawing. But it was not all commercial. The Christmas spirit was evident in the singing of Christmas carols around the great community Christmas tree, with its big, shining star at the top, reminder of "Peace on earth, good will toward all men."

Those who served as presidents of the famous Boosters' club were H. H. Robillard, Paul Koch, Kenneth Van Auken, L. W. Holle, Louis Luetgert, William H. Mahler and Ray Soukup.

In 1926 the club became the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce.

Stone Quarry Begun In 1883 Elmhurst's Biggest Industry Now

Although Elmhurst has always been primarily a resident community jealous of its freedom from the smoke and dirt usually connected with extensive industrial developments, there is one industry, the quarrying of limestone, which has been closely associated with the development of the city for over 60 years and which today ranks as an industry of the greatest importance.

Since 1883 the Elmhurst-Chicago Stone company, founded by Adolph Hammerschmidt and Henry Assman and still owned and operated by members of the Hammerschmidt family has flourished within the city of Elmhurst at its west city limit. So extensively have the company's land holdings been exploited that today the quarry site presents an awe inspiring picture . . . a hole in the ground about 20 acres in extent and averaging about 70 feet deep.



Adolph Hammerschmidt

There is no likelihood of the quarry being exhausted for many more years to come, however, the dolomite limestone deposit, which is free from clay and other impurities, being known to extend to a depth of about 250 feet.

Under the management of the Hammerschmidts, all of whom have proven themselves able businessmen through two generations, the industrial methods employed at the Elmhurst quarry have been constantly improved. Modern buildings have been erected, the latest most efficient machinery installed and a profitable concrete block plant developed, with the result that the Elmhurst-Chicago Stone company was recently referred to in "Pit and Quarry," trade magazine, as one of the most progressive companies in the business.

Some 40 or more men normally find employment at the Elmhurst quarry. The capacity of the plant is more than 300 tons per hour, most of which is used within a 75 mile radius of Elmhurst, being shipped by rail and by truck.

The officers of the Elmhurst-Chicago Stone company today include Richard Hammerschmidt, president; George Hammerschmidt, vice-president; Martin Hammerschmidt, treasurer, and Lydia Hammerschmidt, secretary. Richard and Lydia are a brother and sister of the late William Hammerschmidt, the first vice-president of the company at the time of incorporation in 1893. George is a son of F. W. M. (Max) Hammerschmidt, former secretary and leader in village governmental affairs in past years. Martin is a son of William.

A 63-YEAR-OLD ELMHURST INDUSTRY



The Elmhurst News.

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS AND UNSECTARIAN IN RELIGION.

VOL. 1.

ELMHURST, ILL., SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1894.

NO. 1.

ELMHURST

A VILLAGE OF BEAUTIFUL HOMES
AND PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE.

ITS HISTORIC PAST AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE

Story of the Building and Maintenance of Its
Public Improvements and varied
Private Enterprises.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE LEADING CITIZENS.

Extensive Review of the History of the Schools,
College and Churches.

PEN PAINTING OF PICTURESQUE SCENES.

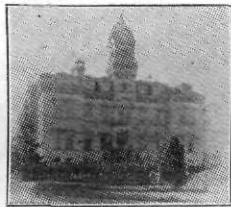
Comprehensive Write-up of the Town, its People and Their Work
From the Time the First Settler opened a Tavern in
1843 Down to the Present Time.

Elmhurst, beautiful Elmhurst—a thirty-five or forty minutes ride through smaller suburbs, and suburbs of finer farms, the business of a ride in the train from the heart of the Northwest—the DuPage county highlands—134 feet above the placid waters of Lake Michigan.

In the primal days when what are now the village avenues were trod only by the occasional foot of the red man as he traveled to old Fort Dearborn for supplies, nothing met the eye from this spot but the rolling prairie ground in every direction.

The pioneers of settlement, however convinced of the advantages of the location, were assuaged by the weary waste of prairie grass, and, soon transformed their surroundings into a veritable lower of foliage by transplanting and growing trees and shrubbery of every size and species.

The work of their hands is the joy of the present residents. The beautiful houses which were erected in the early days are now en-



Elmhurst College.

riched and shaded by magnificent forests of elm, maple, cedar, pine and other trees; and during the sultry days of mid-summer these tree-clad recesses are as inviting as they are picturesque.

CONSIDERED AS A HOME-SITE. These suburban palaces are not purchasable at any price in the city, and it is strange that more of the rent-oppressed and dust-beset denizens of the great metropolis do not take advantage of the great blessings to be derived from a home in lovely Elmhurst.

Boarding the cars on the Great Division of the Northwestern road or the cars of the Illinois Central,

lance of "Bridgeport" and sundry other suburban spots.

The advantages of a suburb like Elmhurst over the best residence portion of Chicago are evident to the most casual observer; but the praises of our village are being sung by those who have made their homes within our limits for some time.

When but one small building stood alone upon the prairie here sixteen miles west of Chicago, what is now the proud village of Elmhurst was known to all the pioneers as Hill Cottage.

That lonely building was a tavern. It was built and owned by

a Mr. J. H. Hovey, who came to this point from Ohio in the year 1843. Mr. Hovey thus acquired the honor of being the founder and first resident of Elmhurst.

When the petition for a post-office at Mr. Hovey's tavern was sent to John Wentworth, then representing this district in Congress, it was suggested by the authorities that the name be changed to Cottage Hill, which was accordingly done. The name of Elmhurst was adopted in 1869.

Soon after the postoffice was established, Heinrich Merg opened a tavern and later turned it into a general store. His building stood where the store of Adam A. Gils now stands.



Elmhurst Public School.

In 1850 the tracks of the Northwestern railroad were laid through Elmhurst, and Gerry Bates, then the first railroad agent of the company at this place.

Since the days of its first inauguration, the steam railway has been considered the forerunner of civilization and improvements. In this case there was no exception, and upon the establishment of the depot, Elmhurst took the air of a village.

A store was opened—the first by Gerry Bates, and it soon became possible to purchase from the home merchants almost anything desired. Many of Chicago's home-loving citizens flocked to this rural district as a store as the first modernity to be found in, or around, Chicago.

Mr. Thomas D. Bryan is given the credit for having made the first decided improvements in the village. In 1858 he erected for himself an elegant country seat. He so improved it by the transplanting of large trees, that his homestead was soon one of the "beauty spots" of the Northwest.

After Mr. Bryan came many other citizens of Chicago's prominent people, among the earliest ones being J. H. Lathrop, Seth Wallman, Lucian Hagans, John R. Chase, George P. Ramsey, B. R. Cutler, Geo. M. Higginson, Mrs. Tibbitts, Gerry Bates, J. R. Shepherd, C. Wake, O. Savin and others.

On May 25, 1854, the town of Elmhurst was platted, the work being done by Mr. Gerry Bates. The exact location of the village is the east half of the northeast quarter of section two, town thirty-nine, range eleven, and the exact height above Lake Michigan is 134 feet.

In 1856, what is now a group of lovely little parks and gardens, as pretty as any in the world, was absolutely treeless and sterile, unless one counted a few cotton-woods and a few willow bushes. A mile to the east was a beautiful grove of large trees; a mile westward, a salt creek, lined with fine oaks, and along the southern horizon, extensive forests of varied growth. Hon. Thomas D. Bryan, then a young business man of Chicago, recently

so prominently connected with the Columbian World's Fair, and to whose efforts, more than any other man, is due the selection of Jackson Park as the World's Fair site, was attracted here by the charming "frontage" and purchased a large tract of land. Finding the completion of a large country house, he showed into a small cottage nearly the same as that of the present village of this point; and, as the chickens were so plentiful, that it was a single drive to, or from, Chicago, it was easy to fill a baggy with game. Thousands of deciduous trees and evergreens were transplanted by Mr. Bryan, and when he moved in, he named his place "Holly's Nest." Holly being the

Shuman, who built the Taylor residence, since moved off the place. "Holly's Nest" is always in perfect order and has in summer an exquisite variety of flowers to gratify the eyes and nostrils of those who pass by. A portion of this place was for six years the residence of the famous artist, G. F. A. Healy, who, like Mr. Bryan, was charmed with the Kent-like scenery and green slopes of these highlands.

Directly opposite to "Holly's Nest" are the beautiful residences of Frederick S. and Frank Backwood, of Rockwood Road, wholesale grocers of Chicago. Mr. G. S. Backwood's place is known as "Holly's Nest" and was covered in the almost incredibly short time of seven years, into a densely wooded park of about eight acres. "Gore Hill" is another of the handsome residences in Elmhurst, belonging to Edward Wilder, who recently moved here from Oak Park. Mr. Wm. H. Emery's residence, on Hawthorn avenue, is one of the most complete modern residences of the village. The palatial summer residence of Henry W. King of Chicago, is situated in the center of an entire square, consisting of seventeen acres opposite "Holly's Nest" and is kept in order as carefully as any of the Chicago parks, by a large force of gardeners. Sloping lawns, brilliant flower beds, fine specimens of every variety of trees suitable to this climate, extensive conservatories and parterres of perennially blooming plants, render them grounds a considerable Eden. One portion of the park is enclosed for deer and an order for several liquid cycles, little money goes. During the winter, charming homes are equally desirable for several liquid cycles, little money goes. During the winter, charming homes are equally desirable for several liquid cycles, little money goes.

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WHERE IS ELMHURST?

Unlike the majority of Chicago's suburban villages, Elmhurst has never been "bloomed." No real estate dealer in Elmhurst "dies" has ever subdivided the newspapers in his own or in the town's interest. Special from excursion trains have never been run to this suburb. Hence, while other places of less attraction and desirability have constantly been kept before the public, Elmhurst, although a village of over 40 years' growth, is not as well-known as many suburbs platted last fall.

The corporation contains 1500 inhabitants and is ten miles from the city limits, directly west of the Court house, on a ridge 134 feet above the level of Lake Michigan, high and dry. Three railroads pass through the village, the Chicago and Northwestern, the Illinois Central and the Chicago and Great Western, all having stations. Trains may be taken in the city at the Wells street depot, The Great Western, at Fifth Ave. and Harrison St., and at the Illinois Central stations on the lake front. Fifty-six trains stop here daily, twenty-three in each direction, to connect with the city, or come to Elmhurst at any time. Twenty-five and fifty ride tickets are sold for twelve cents a ride, and monthly tickets, good for sixty rides, for \$6.20, bringing the fare down to eleven cents. The Northwestern runs but nearly one hundred regular daily trains, and, from 1900, through trains during the day, making the last stop at Elmhurst about toward the city, and the first coming out. The through express leaves Chicago at 12:05 p.m. runs to Elmhurst in 31 minutes and is the most convenient train to take in visiting the town, enabling one to get back, if desired, at 1:47, 3, 4, 6:35, 9 or 10:45 p.m. The train leaving Chicago at 5:15 runs off in 30 minutes, the time of the others is from 22 to 33 minutes.

At Elmhurst is just across the Cook county line in DuPage county, it is not subject to Cook county taxes, and from which those who have ever had any experience with

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A facsimile of the front page of the first issue of the Elmhurst News, the community's first newspaper and predecessor of the Elmhurst Press, is reproduced on this page. The paper carries the date line, January 6, 1894, and its masthead on an inside page reveals that it was published every week by Cushing and Company, Publishers, P. O. Box 315, Elmhurst.

The old publication was discovered in August, 1931, as a part of the supplementary padding in an old chair which belonged to the Theodore Uhlhorn family.

Perusal of the facsimile page above reveals, besides numerous typographical errors and other inaccuracies, much interesting information concerning some of Elmhurst's leading families in the 1890's.

Stories of Settlers And Early Merchants In Elmhurst Are Told

(Continued from Page 6)

played no small part in bringing the Elmhurst business section to its present status as the shopping center for DuPage county.

Among those who established stores here in those early days were Diedrich Mong, tavern keeper; Nick Peters, shoe cobbler and grandfather of Francis Neumann, present city clerk; Fred Rohmeyer, blacksmith whose farm still remains within the city limits on St. Charles road opposite the York high school campus; William Ulrich, saloon keeper, Henry Glos, general store keeper and banker; Chris Blievernicht, keeper of the Cottage Hill House; Frank Boeder, saloon keeper; Frank Remmer, teamster; Adam S. Glos, hardware merchant; Carl Bauer, tinsmith; Peter A. Wolf, harness maker; William Giese, blacksmith; Fred Krieter, shop keeper; Fred Golterman, blacksmith; Charles Most, general storekeeper; William Most, tinsmith; Henry Tedrahn, general storekeeper; Rudolph Kramer, butcher; Edward Dulberg, butcher; L. A. Denig, druggist, and Julius Malone, cobbler, news dealer and dairyman.

By 1871 Elmhurst had grown to the proportions of quite a good sized village centering around the North Western station and the lovely estates of Seth Wadhams, Jedediah Lathrop and Thomas B. Bryan. In that year when the Chicago fire forced residents to flee the metropolis many Elmhurst homes were opened to the fire victims, many of whom found the village a desirable spot and later came here to live.

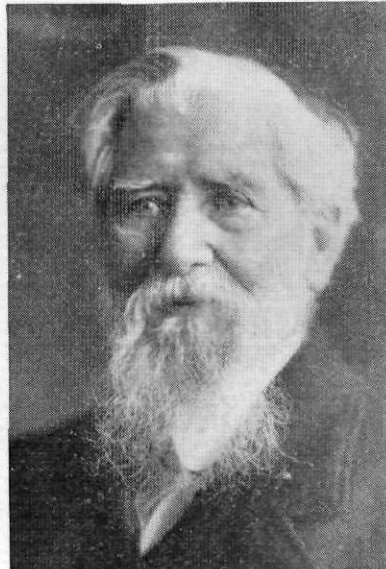
Lucian Hagans, who had come to Elmhurst originally in 1857, returned

Newspaper Office



The first newspaper office in Elmhurst was located in the basement of the two story building at the right in the picture above. The building at the left housed the Illinois Bell Telephone company exchange here for many years. Both structures have been razed within the past 10 years to make way for the modern building on South York street now occupied by the Public Service company of Northern Illinois.

First Village Attorney



A familiar figure in Elmhurst as late as 1928, when he died at the age of 94 years, was Judge George Sawin, early settler, first village attorney and justice of the peace.

Born in Boston in 1834, Judge Sawin migrated to Chicago in 1854 and in 1856 laid out the town of De Soto, Wisconsin. The following year he was left penniless by the panic of 1857 and returned to Chicago to study law. He served with honor in the Union army during the Civil war and came to Elmhurst in 1870.

about this time from Virginia where he was secretary of the commonwealth under Governor Pierpont and had edited a large Wheeling newspaper. Chicago and Elmhurst society was entertained graciously in the Hagans' home which together with the Day place, built for Madame Hagans' niece, stood on the north side of St. Charles road. The Day house, though remodeled, still stands at the northeast corner of St. Charles road and Hagans avenue.

Judge George Sawin who died only a few years ago at an age well past 90 years, was another arrival in Elmhurst about the time of the Chicago fire. He had been a pioneer settler in De Soto, Wisconsin, in 1856, but returned to Chicago, was admitted to the bar, served in the Civil war and then came to Elmhurst where he became the first village attorney.

Daniel L. Egan, Sr., purchased the residence at the northwest corner of Maple avenue and Second street in 1874. He was an enthusiastic gardener and flower grower and planted the tall elm, maple and white birch trees which now shade the home where he lived until his death in 1901. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Irene Egan, and a granddaughter, Miss Mary C. Egan, still live in Elmhurst.

Julian Rumsey, a member of the

Chicago Board of Trade, came here a few years earlier and bought the home which is now occupied by Alexander C. Warren and his family. Francis Hoffman, Jr., first president of the Board of Election Commissioners, Corporation Council of Chicago under Mayor Carter Harrison, and U. S. appraiser under President Grover Cleveland, had a beautiful estate on Lake street where the Elm Lawn cemetery now is; and George M. Higginson, the scholarly president of the Illinois State Microscopic society also settled in Elmhurst during this period, building the home which stands just west of the Virginia apartments on Virginia street.

Henry W. King, who bought White Birches, later called Lancaster Lodge and now the Elmhurst public library, came to Elmhurst and lived at the old Hill Cottage tavern for a time after the Chicago fire. Mr. King was the organizer of Barrett, King and Co., later Browning King and Co., wholesale clothing firm.

In 1885 and 1890 Frank B. and Frederick S. Rockwood, both of whom had served three years in the Civil war, built the homes on Cottage Hill avenue now owned by Frank McNellis and Bert Davis. The Rockwood brothers were the founders of the Rockwood Wholesale Grocery company of Chicago.

The Lee Sturges family came to Elmhurst about the time of the World Columbian exposition and built their lovely home on Cottage Hill avenue near St. Charles road. Mr. Sturges' father also came here about this time, building the great stone mansion at Clover Lawn which was razed in 1928 when the estate was subdivided.

Many others had made Elmhurst their home by this time, but space limitations in this publication of local historical data prohibit mentioning all of them.

Bandit Rendezvous

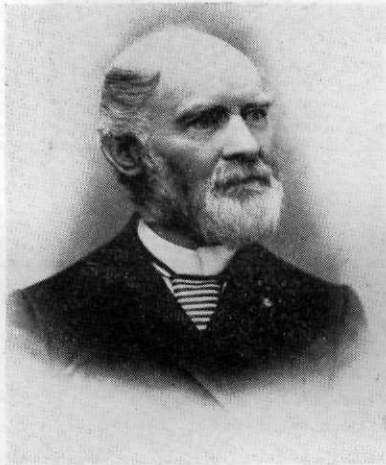


The Charles Wade residence, built in 1863 and razed in 1923 to make way for the Immaculate Conception social center, is shown above. The Wade house stood on the foundation of the old Bonney place, said to have been the rendezvous of the "bandit of the prairies," hero of an early penny novel. G. P. A. Healy, celebrated portrait painter of the 1850's, is also said to have lived there.

Chicago World's Fair Vice-President Was Early Resident Here

Notable among the early citizens of Elmhurst was Thomas B. Bryan, who built Bryan hall, famous early concert hall in Chicago, founded the Fidelity Safe Deposit company and was vice president of the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.

The Bryan estate, which was located at the south end of Cottage Hill avenue on St. Charles road, was one of the show places of Elmhurst for



Thomas B. Bryan

many years. The place was named Byrd's Nest to honor his wife, who was a member of the Virginia Byrd family which has produced a colonial and modern governor and an antarctic explorer.

It is also said, however, that the name was appropriate for another reason, namely, that Mr. Bryan was an enthusiastic lover of birds. He protected his feathered friends and at one time his estate was practically haunted by a flock of wild cranes, whose wierd cries could be heard as far away as the railroad station.

FORGOTTEN GOD'S ACRE RECALLED BY RESIDENT

(Continued from page 8)

York. One was a rector and teacher, one a builder, one a blacksmith, one a dairyman, and the remainder were farmers. After several years of hardship and discouragement in an unfamiliar environment, they one by one abandoned the project and moved away; though several of their houses were standing at the turn of the century. Several years ago the grave-stones were removed, and now little remains to prove that this sad reminder of an early Elmhurst community ever existed. The cemetery was located north of St. Charles road, west of West avenue. The new Tri-State Highway passes just west of where it was located on its quiet, sunny knoll."

Byrd's Nest Chapel Was Scene of Important Events

To many of Elmhurst's Episcopalians, and surviving members of other old-time Elmhurst families as well, mention of Byrd's Nest chapel brings back pleasant memories of the days when life in the village was essentially rural in tempo and it was only through the generosity and sacrifice of some of the town's leading citizens that it was possible to conduct regular church services. The spirit of fellowship which pervaded the worship in Byrd's Nest chapel reminds one of the stories told of Sunday meetings for "preaching and prayer" held in the homes of America's earliest colonial settlers.

The first regular protestant services in Cottage Hill were held in October, 1862, in the bowling alley at Byrd's Nest, the estate of Thomas B. Bryan on St. Charles road at what was then the foot of Cottage Hill avenue. Some of Elmhurst's oldest natives still recall going to church school in this improvised chapel, which adjoined the Bryans' garden.

Mr. Bryan himself, writing in the chapel register in those early days during the Civil war, tells us that it was his observation that a church was being converted into a bowling alley in Chicago that prompted him to turn his own private bowling alley into a place of worship for the protestant families in Elmhurst. He was licensed as a lay reader by the bishop of the Episcopal church and for many years he and others of the congregation read morning or evening prayers in the chapel when it was impossible to get members of the Episcopal clergy to visit the little church.

New Chapel Built

After two years, however, Mr. Bryan determined to erect a more pretentious house of worship, and Byrd's Nest chapel, which served until 1914, was built at a cost of about \$3,000. It was a small frame structure, 18 feet 6 inches by 36 feet 10 inches, with hand frescoed interior walls, pews furnished by J. H. Lathrop and a carpet furnished by the congregation. Mr. Bryan bore the entire expense of erecting the new building.

The first services in the new chapel were conducted Sunday, April 23, 1865, Mr. Bryan officiating. Fifty residents of the village were present at the meeting, at which remarks were made on the assassination of President Lincoln nine days earlier. A month later announcement was made to the people of Cottage Hill from the pulpit of the chapel concerning the capture of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate states.

Scene of Important Events

Up until the turn of the century Byrd's Nest chapel had a romantic and illustrious history, being the scene of baptisms, marriages and funerals of many of Elmhurst's, and even

the nation's outstanding individuals, Thomas Nelson Page, American novelist and diplomat, was married there to Florence Lathrop Field June 6, 1893. Chief Justice Drake of the United States Court of Claims officiated from time to time as a lay reader in the days following the Civil war. Mrs. Jennie Byrd Bryan, wife of Thomas B. Bryan, and for whom Byrd's Nest was named, was buried from the chapel in 1899, as was Peter Torode, early settler, at the age of 99 years in 1900.

Perusal of the baptismal records of the chapel reveals that the children of many of Elmhurst's first families were baptized there. Among these were the children of Peter Torode, Morton S. Marks, Dudley T. Higginson, Gerry Bates, Albert Ullman, William Coney, Henry Field and Cyrenius Litchfield.

Thomas B. Bryan died in Washington, D. C., January 26, 1906, but although the little Episcopal congregation thereby lost its most faithful sponsor and friend, services continued to be held in Byrd's Nest chapel until it was closed January 25, 1914, by Mrs. John Barton Payne, Mr. Bryan's sister, when she moved to Washington, D. C.

Early Settlers Worshipped Here



This is the way Thomas B. Bryan's Byrd's Nest chapel looked when early Elmhurst residents gathered there for prayer meetings on Sunday afternoons. The building was still standing about 20 years ago.

Elmhurst Golf Club, Founded In 1900, Has Developed With City

An interesting history, closely linked with the early social life of Elmhurst, lies back of the Elmhurst Country club, until recently known as the Elmhurst Golf club. The club is, in point of years, quite an old and settled institution. It was founded in 1900 by T. E. Wilder, F. B. Rockwood, Lee Sturges, E. H. Brush, T. S. Blair, Walter Griffin and Harvey Rockwood.

Its first officers were William H. Emery, Sr., president; T. Edward Wilder, vice-president; Lee Sturges, secretary, and E. H. Brush, treasurer.

Lee Sturges, T. S. Blair and Gilbert Porter personally laid out the links, deciding each hole, placing pits and bunkers, and mapping out a nine hole course that for twenty years gave much pleasure to Elmhurst men, women and children, and a few from outside. It was a golf and country club, primarily for Elmhurst people, and the situation, within what is now the town limits, added accessibility to its other advantages.

The clubhouse stood at what is now the corner of Elm Park and Grace avenues, and the grounds extended from there to Alexander boulevard, west to the Quarry road and south taking in the land the high school occupies.

The house was of the simplest plan and construction, but provided all that was needed for golf and a social gathering place. It even housed a

WHERE ELMHURST PLAYED IN 1900



An afternoon gathering on the veranda of the Elmhurst Golf Club's first modest clubhouse is shown in the above picture. The clubhouse and the nine-hole course which adjoined it were abandoned 10 years ago.

resident chef. Dinners, luncheons, Hallowe'en parties and Fourth of July fireworks added to golf tournaments and every day play made it a central gathering place for young and old from spring until late fall, a place to golf, to eat, to play cards, or just to sit on the broad west porch and idly watch the sun go down.

About a dozen years ago the rapid growth of the city toward the golf club forced the club to abandon its original course. A new 18-hole course, one of the sportiest in the Chicago

area, was subsequently laid out north of Addison on Wooddale road.

A beautiful and completely appointed clubhouse was also erected.

Many who played the old course and joined in the parties at the old clubhouse still are members of the new and larger club, but they still delight in recalling the pleasure that was theirs at the small and modest club which for over 20 years was the center of so much of the social life of Elmhurst.

CLUB TODAY BOASTS MODEL LINKS AND CLUBHOUSE



The Elmhurst Golf Club's new clubhouse, erected in 1927, is shown in the above picture. The club moved from its original home to its present model 18-hole course on Wooddale road north of Addison in 1926. Now known as the Elmhurst Country Club, its affairs are administered by the following officers: M. G. Kudlick, president; Lynn S. Broadus, vice-president; L. Borgeson, secretary and treasurer, and Lester Nelson, assistant secretary.

Various committee chairmen and other members of the board of directors include G. C. Babcock, Walter R. Youngberg, A. Van Gorkom, E. V. Bertolini, F. Schultz, E. J. Nikodem, E. Frent, Dr. E. F. Dombrowski, Dr. L. E. A. Hein, E. C. Richard and Earl Thompson.

FIRST WOMAN'S CLUB PRESIDENT



Mrs. George W. Griffin

SADDLE CLUB PROMOTED
HORSEMANSHIP IN 1900

Equestrian activities were prominent in the social life of Elmhurst residents at the turn of the century, and to provide an organization to promote horsemanship among the villagers and their friends from Chicago and other suburbs, the Elmhurst Saddle club was founded about 1900.

Every Saturday afternoon some 20 or more members of the club and their guests gathered at an appointed spot. Giving two of their number a five minute start to lay a trail of bits of paper, they followed over fields and roads until the fastest horse or the keenest eyed rider arrived at the rendezvous. The other riders straggled in and a supper and dance at the home of one of the members would round out the evening.

The high light of the Saddle season was a Gymkhana, which consisted of races and contests on the Hagan race track situated south of St. Charles road where Mitchell avenue is now.

M. W. Murphy was the founder of the club and became its first president. Miss Lucy Sturges, a sister of Lee Sturges, was the club secretary.

ELMS RESIDENTS WERE
PIONEERS IN AVIATION

Areoplanes, taken for granted by the present generation of Elmhurst residents, were still regarded by many as fools' playthings in 1912, but there were some pioneers in aviation here. In that year, Thomas E. Wilder arranged to have Max Lily, a well known pilot of the day, bring a plane to the Elmhurst Golf club. Miss Florence Rockwood and Mr. Wilder both flew with Mr. Lily, thus earning the distinction of probably being the first Elms residents to fly.

OTHER GROUPS FOUNDED
BY ELMS WOMAN'S CLUB

Both the Elmhurst Women's Choral club and the Elmhurst Garden club originated as departments of the Woman's club. The public library is the direct result of efforts of the Woman's club to have the necessary tax paid to the city. The club has maintained an infant welfare station for many years, and an active Junior Woman's club is affiliated with it.

Community Benefited
In Many Ways By The
Elmhurst Woman's Club

One bright May day in 1913, the Rev. William E. Danforth, then pastor of Christ church, approached Mrs. H. L. Breitenbach with the suggestion that it was time for Elmhurst to have a woman's club. He further suggested that she speak to Mrs. George W. Griffin, a member of the Nineteenth Century club of Oak Park who had long been interested in the civic and social problems of Elmhurst, about forming one.

The first meeting for the purpose of organizing the Elmhurst Woman's club was held in Mrs. Griffin's home about the middle of May, and the following October the first regular meeting of the club, then numbering about 50, was held at the home of Mrs. Emerson H. Brush. Twice a month thereafter, it continued to meet at members' homes, until the completion of the Community house of Christ church in February, 1914.

It continued to meet there until an active bowling league, meeting there at the same time, was found to be so disturbing that the Woman's club moved to the parish house of the Episcopal church. In a few years it outgrew the parish house and moved to the Masonic temple, which it in turn outgrew and returned to its first meeting place, the Community house, where it still meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from October to May.

Presidents Listed

During the past 23 years the organization has worked for and sponsored many of the most important developments of Elmhurst under the leadership of many fine presidents, beginning with Mrs. Griffin, who presided for two years. Other presidents have been Mrs. C. S. Williston, 1915-1916; Mrs. C. G. Stanger, 1916-1917; Mrs. W. W. Birkin, 1917-1918; Mrs. Lee Sturges, 1918-1920; Mrs. Otto Heper, 1920-1921; Mrs. Helmut Berens, 1921-1922; Mrs. Daniel Wikoff, 1922-1924; Mrs. A. H. C. Finnemore, 1924-1926; Mrs. Grantley Graue, 1926-1928; Mrs. Frank B. Avery, 1928-1930; Mrs. Ervin Wilson, 1930-1932; Mrs. Kenneth L. Van Auken, 1932-1934, and Mrs. John H. Watson, 1934-1936. Mrs. Margaret Shattuck was recently elected president and will serve during the coming term.

From the early membership of 50 to its peak membership of about 350 from 1928 to 1930, and its subsequent fall to a membership of about 200 during the worst of the depression years with a gradual rise to about 275 the past year, the club has held unwaveringly to its course, namely that "the object of the club shall be the intellectual advancement of its members and the promotion of higher social, educational, and moral conditions of the community."

Elmhurst Public Library 20 Years Old This Year; To Modernize Building

So well established now in the life of this community is the Elmhurst Public Library and so accustomed are many of us to thinking of it as a necessary part of life that we are likely to lose sight of the fact that the library has come to its present status from a very humble beginning.

A single small room in the old Glos building which stood on the present site of the Elmhurst State bank served the library for five years from the date of its founding March 22, 1916. Only about 800 volumes were on the shelves and the library was open only two afternoons a week. Mrs. H. L. Breitenbach, who, together with the first library board appointed by Mayor F. W. M. Hammerschmidt and the Elmhurst Woman's club, did so much to bring about the establishment of the library, was the first librarian.

In 1922 a happy circumstance gave the library a unique and handsome new home. The beautiful Thomas Edward Wilder estate was acquired by the Elmhurst Park District from Mr. Wilder's widow for \$45,000 plus unpaid taxes and assessments. To help finance the undertaking and to provide the library with much needed larger space, the library board bought the home and the ground immediately surrounding it from the park board. After the necessary changes were made the library was installed in the former Wilder home and opened three afternoons and evenings each week. Increased interest and patronage immediately followed the opening of the new library, and there was also a renewed interest in the fine old building.

After ten years of devoted service, which will be a permanent re-

AS PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL LOOK



Shown above is an architect's drawing of what the Elmhurst Public Library will look like when this year's modernization activities are completed. The building will be enlarged, but its interior charm, a reminder of the days when it was the residence of some of Elmhurst's leading families, is to be preserved.

as librarian Mrs. Breitenbach resigned, and in March, 1926, Miss Grace M. Murray became librarian. The second decade of the library's existence began auspiciously with a radical change in its hours of activity. Since March, 1926, the library has been open all day and every day, except Sundays and holidays, and its usefulness has increased accordingly. Today there are over 16,000 volumes on its shelves and about 8,000 people have borrowers' cards.

As its share in celebrating Elmhurst's Centennial year which also marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of the public library, the library board has undertaken the enlargement and remodeling of the li-

brary, which will be a permanent re-

minder and monument of the city's celebration. It was originally planned to have the work entirely finished by June 1, so that the completed structure might formally be presented as the library board's contribution to the Centennial. However, the preliminary work involved much more time and labor on the part of the board and the architect than was anticipated, so that the actual construction was just started the latter part of May. A brief ceremony which will include the laying of the cornerstone in the new southeast wall will be part of the Centennial program of June 6.

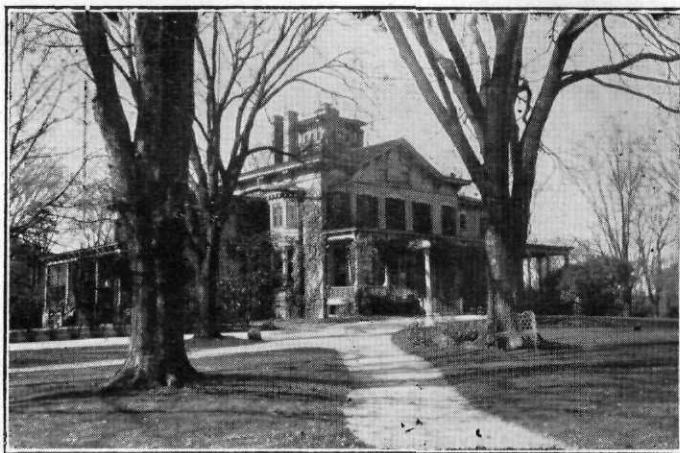
The new plans retain most of the present interior unchanged so that the friendly, hospitable atmosphere will be preserved. Unavoidable changes are to be made in the exterior, but they will only add to the beauty of the building.

The modernization program will entail no bond issue or other indebtedness, since the library board has had for several years a building fund invested at interest which now is large enough to pay for the remodeling of the building.

The present library staff consists of Miss Grace M. Murray, librarian; Miss Ruth Strand, Miss Jean Birkin, Henry Meitz and Herbert Bosworth. The caretakers are Mrs. Sophie Irion and her mother, Mrs. Peter Heggeland.

Those who have served as library board members include George Sorrick, George E. Challacombe, Alonzo Fischer, Paul Dolle, Arthur M. Nielsen, W. B. Cadwell, W. J. Keimel, A. I. Ullmann, Dr. F. H. Bates, Edgar B. Fischer, E. L. Trube and Mrs. Benjamin Williger and the following who are at present serving on the board: Mrs. H. A. Berens, president; N. H. Kendall, vice-president; P. N. Crusius, secretary; Henry Schumacher, treasurer; Mrs. Paul J. McGary, A. J. Strand, L. E. Eaton, W. F. Entorf, and H. L. Olsson.

AS PUBLIC LIBRARY LOOKS TODAY



This is the way the public library looks today. The building was built about 1877 by Seth Wadhams, and has since been the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. King, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gordon Selfridge and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edward Wilder.

ELMHURST'S PARK COMMISSIONERS



Standing, left to right: Charles Ruebling, Gertrude Golden, Hoyt Paxton, Louis Kronig, park board members; Oakley V. Morgan, superintendent, and Frank J. Maier, treasurer. Seated: George Bright, Jr., president, and Caroline Hohmann, secretary.

Wilder Park, Elmhurst's Prettiest Garden Spot, To Be Pageant Setting

Wilder park, a garden spot as beautiful as any in the middle west, will provide the background for the mammoth historical pageant which will be a climactic feature of Elmhurst's centennial celebration this June. Towering elms, over 100 years old, carefully groomed lawns, flowers of hundreds of different species, well planned walks and drives . . . that is the picture centennial visitors will see today, a startling contrast to the barren prairie described by Dr. F. H. Bates in his book "Old Elmhurst."

But a barren prairie is exactly what Wilder park was 100 years ago. It is

interesting to trace its history down through the century of Elmhurst's existence as a hamlet, village and city, but the space limitations of this booklet prohibit a detailed history of its many owners.

The title to the property which passed into the hands of the Elmhurst Park District in 1921 lists many names prominent in early Elmhurst history, among them being George Scofield, John Warner, Almon Hovey, Augustus C. Lamb, Josiah Hovey, Adaline Bates, Gerry Bates, James Lusk, Dyer Burnham, Seth Wadhams, William Walter and Thomas B. Bryan.

It was not until 1877, when Seth Wadhams owned it, that the land included in Wilder park was improved in any way. Mr. Wadhams built the home which has since become Elmhurst's public library and scoured the

Elms Park District Will Observe 16th Birthday During City's Centenary

The Elmhurst Park District was organized June 5, 1920 with Thomas W. Claridge, Winfield S. Day, Gertrude A. Golden, Otto Heper and William J. Keimel as commissioners. In the following year Wilder park was acquired and since that time the district has continued to expand until now it includes four parks.

The most recent acquisition, a piece of property in the southeast section of the city on Butterfield road, has not been developed to date, but play fields and recreational facilities are being planned for this site.

Salt Creek park, west of West avenue, was acquired in 1927 and has been developed for picnics and play fields. The park was publicly dedicated July 4, 1928, a tree-planting ceremony by the Elmhurst Girl Scouts featuring the dedication.

Another park, not yet fully developed, was later purchased at the east city limits. It consists of an 18 acre plot formerly a part of the Albert Bucholz farm. Plans for its development call for the construction of a swimming pool, a play field, a recreation house and tennis courts. A bird sanctuary has already been started there in memory of Joyce Warren, a Junior Garden Club member.

At the present time the members of the park district board of commissioners include Gertrude Golden, George Bright, Jr., Charles Ruebling, Louis H. Kronig and Hoyt F. Paxton, who was appointed last January to fill the unexpired term of the late William J. Keimel. Mrs. Golden is the only member of the original park board still serving.

In 1931 the board secured the services of Oakley V. Morgan, Elmhurst resident and national president of the Men's Garden Club of America, as park superintendent. Miss Caroline Hohmann, a descendant of one of Elmhurst's early families has been secretary to the board since its organization and Paul Dolle, C. J. Hartley and Frank J. Maier have served as treasurer, Mr. Maier being in office at the present time. Charles M. Haft and Charles S. Williston have served as attorneys for the board, Mr. Williston still acting in that capacity.

country for elm trees, which still lend to Wilder Park a dignity which few public parks anywhere can boast.

White Birches, as Mr. Wadhams named the place, later passed into the hands of Mrs. Aurelia King, who passed away in 1901. The property was conveyed to Mrs. Harry Gordon Selfridge of London, England, by the trustees of Mrs. King's estate in 1905. Mrs. Selfridge, in turn, conveyed it to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edward Wilder.

After Mr. Wilder died, Mrs. Wilder offered to give the city of Elmhurst

(Continued on page 34)



The Old Water Tank's Farewell To Elmhurst

By L. A. DENIG

Farewell to Elmhurst, ye citizens farewell;
Forty years have I stood here over this well,
Supplying water to the engines that pass
With a generous flow right up to the last.

When first I was built the country was new,
And scarcely a house was then within view,
A few farmers were here on government land
Raising horses and cattle, tilling by hand.
Before you were Elmhurst, or Cottage Hill,
I was located here with my tank well filled.

Like a sentinel I've watched your progress and growth,
From hamlet to village you now can boast.
With a college of students, three hundred or more,
And churches and schoolhouse covering you o'er,
Almost to a city in size you have grown,
With parks, fine houses, and palaces of stone.
Your streets are improved, with macadamized road,
Sufficient to carry the heaviest load.
With drainage and sewerage to the river inclined,
And a splendid new depot looking so fine.

Well I remember tho' a long time ago,
The old settlers here, who some of you know,
The first agent, in station, was Gerry Bates.
Had charge of the office, tickets and freights,
He lived in the homestead just a little bit east
Was Postmaster too, and Justice of the Peace.
Next Palmer, then Trull, followed in line,
Who stayed in office and held it some time.
In succession then came, A. S. Brownell,
Who kept it so long and filled it so well.
The baggageman then, who did up the work
Was Irish by birth, 'twas Richard Bourke.
First in the morning and last there at night.
Sweeping and cleaning, keeping depot so bright.

The Bryans and Lathrops and Hagans I knew,
Who live at the end of your fine avenue.
When they laid out their park and set out their trees
And built their fine houses, living at ease.
The old tavern that stood on the St. Charles road,
Where teamsters stopped with their wagon and load.
Many a night 'twas full to the brim,
Drinking the wine, their whiskey and gin.
The Glos's and Torodes, Litchfields and Grays,
Old settlers here in those by-gone days.

Improvements have come and I must give way,
For a handsomer tank that's come to stay.
To oblivion I sink, where, no one can tell,
For they buried me deep in my own, old well.

Goodbye to the boys who used to drink beer,
For many a can have I seen them drink here.
On week days and Sunday morning and night,
The can or the keg was always in sight.
They made me a convenience for every call,
To talk about games of the bat and the ball.
How Jimmy Olane got hit on the chin,
And Andy, the catcher, got an eye knocked in.
And the big mouthed umpire with only one leg,
Was sure to make Lombard set up the keg.
I saw them when kids, and knew them well then,
But now they've forsaken me since they've grown men.

Farewell, old depot, where tickets were sold,
Too small are you now your passengers to hold.
And the tool house that stood by your side,
You moved up the track, there to abide.
The agent and clerk and baggageman too,
All you good fellows, I bid you adieu.
Farewell to the brakeman, conductor and all,
And the engineer too, so frequent to call.
And last but not least, the pumper, goodbye,
For while he was there I never went dry.
His name, William Smith, my friend 'tis said,
Faithful to his duty, poor fellow, he's dead.



L. A. Denig

FIRST RAILROAD CHARTERED IN 1836

All Trains Stopped In Cottage Hill For Water and Wood In Old Days

Thursday, January 16, 1936, marked the 100th anniversary of the chartering of the Galena and Chicago Union railroad, the road that was destined to become the first in Chicago and the first to operate trains through Elmhurst, which is also celebrating its centennial this year after 100 years of development which has closely paralleled that of the railroad.

The Galena and Chicago Union, since become a part of the Chicago and North Western system, was incorporated and given a charter by the state of Illinois, January 16, 1836, with "authority to build a railroad out into the prairie country and on towards, if not to, the Mississippi river, near the lead mines of Dubuque, Iowa, and Galena, Illinois."

Turnpike Authorized

One peculiarity of the charter, proving the infancy of the railroad industry at that time, was that the directors were authorized to build a turnpike road on any portion of the route of the railroad with toll gates if they deemed it necessary. When sleighs were used in the winter, the toll was to be half the summer charge.

Surveys of the proposed route were made by James Seymour from the foot of North Dearborn street as far as the Des Plaines river but the financial panic of 1837 put a stop to the construction of this and many other roads in the United States. At one early stage, in 1839, piles were driven along what is now Madison street and stringers placed upon them.

The actual survey for the railroad was begun by Richard P. Morgan (late engineer on the Hudson River railroad) as engineer in charge, at a salary of \$2.50 per day in September, 1847, near Chicago, "on the half-section line corresponding with the center of Kinzie street, on which course it continues for 13 miles, crossing the Des Plaines river a little south of the St. Charles road." This "St. Charles road" was the eastern part of "the stage road" from Chicago to Dixon and Rock Island, and on it Frink & Walker ran stages for many years until they were forced off by the completion of "The Galena" and other railroads.

Issues Prospectus

After his preliminary survey Mr. Morgan issued a "Prospectus" in which he said that the probable earnings for the first year of the road would be about \$393,000 (the average yearly gross earnings for the North Western in the last ten years have been almost 300 times that or \$100,000,000). In his prospectus he advocated building the road eastward of Chicago to

connect with the Michigan Central railroad at New Buffalo on the state line between Michigan and Indiana. This was never done.

Strap rail was used on the first construction between Chicago and the Des Plaines river because of the extraordinary and ruinous financial difficulties of Great Britain which tightened the money market in the United States and prevented the company from getting iron and engines from the east and from purchasing edge-rail for the road.

On October 24, 1848, the "Pioneer," the first locomotive to run on any railroad out of Chicago, was placed on the road. It had been delivered to Chicago by boat from the east.

Elmhurst Important Station

Elmhurst, known as Cottage Hill until 1869, was the most important station on the line between Chicago and Turner Junction, now West Chicago, for nowhere else was water and wood furnished for the wood-burning Pioneer and its early successors.

The late Dr. Frederick H. Bates, in his booklet, "Old Elmhurst," tells us that "along where the present station is, and including the parks on the north side of the railroad, were huge piles of cord-wood for the locomotives, and a dozen or more men were employed here by the company, loading, unloading, sawing and piling wood. A circular-saw run by a horse tread mill, was in use constantly."

Up until less than 20 years ago trains still stopped at Elmhurst to take on water, which was pumped from a large well at the west end of the station grounds in the early days and was later furnished by the Elmhurst Spring Water company.

Right of Way Gratis

An idea of land values in Elmhurst prior to the Civil war can be gained

by considering the terms under which the Chicago and Galena Union acquired its right of way through what was then a tiny pioneer settlement. Gerry Bates, owner of the east half of section two, gave the railroad a strip of ground through his land for the privilege of having the station erected in the center of his tract. He later sold the land on the south side of the tracks where the station now stands to the road for a carload of wood.

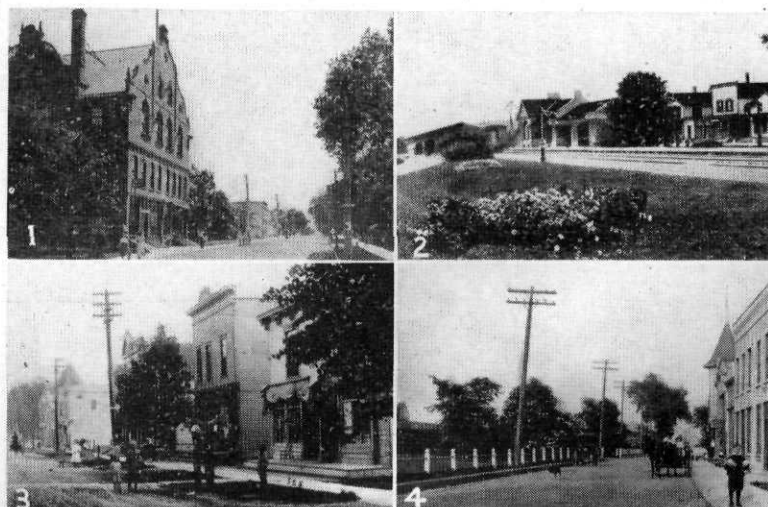
The present station site remained under discussion for many years and it was not until the turn of the century that the depot location was definitely settled. A movement was under foot to move the station east of York street, but Dr. Bates has written that it was through his personal efforts that it was built where it now stands.

Officials Lived Here

It is interesting to note that Louis Graves, chief surveyor for the North Western during the War of the Rebellion; William Williams, superintendent of the road during the same time and nearly all of the officials of this division of the system during its early history made their homes in Elmhurst.

Elmhurst has grown since then, and so has the Chicago and North Western railway. The system today comprises more than 10,000 miles of road in the nine states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Wyoming. The system is a result of a series of constructions, consolidations, and purchases of railroads under various corporate names and during a long series of years. The Galena and Chicago Union railroad was the first of the many corporations that went to make up the present North Western system.

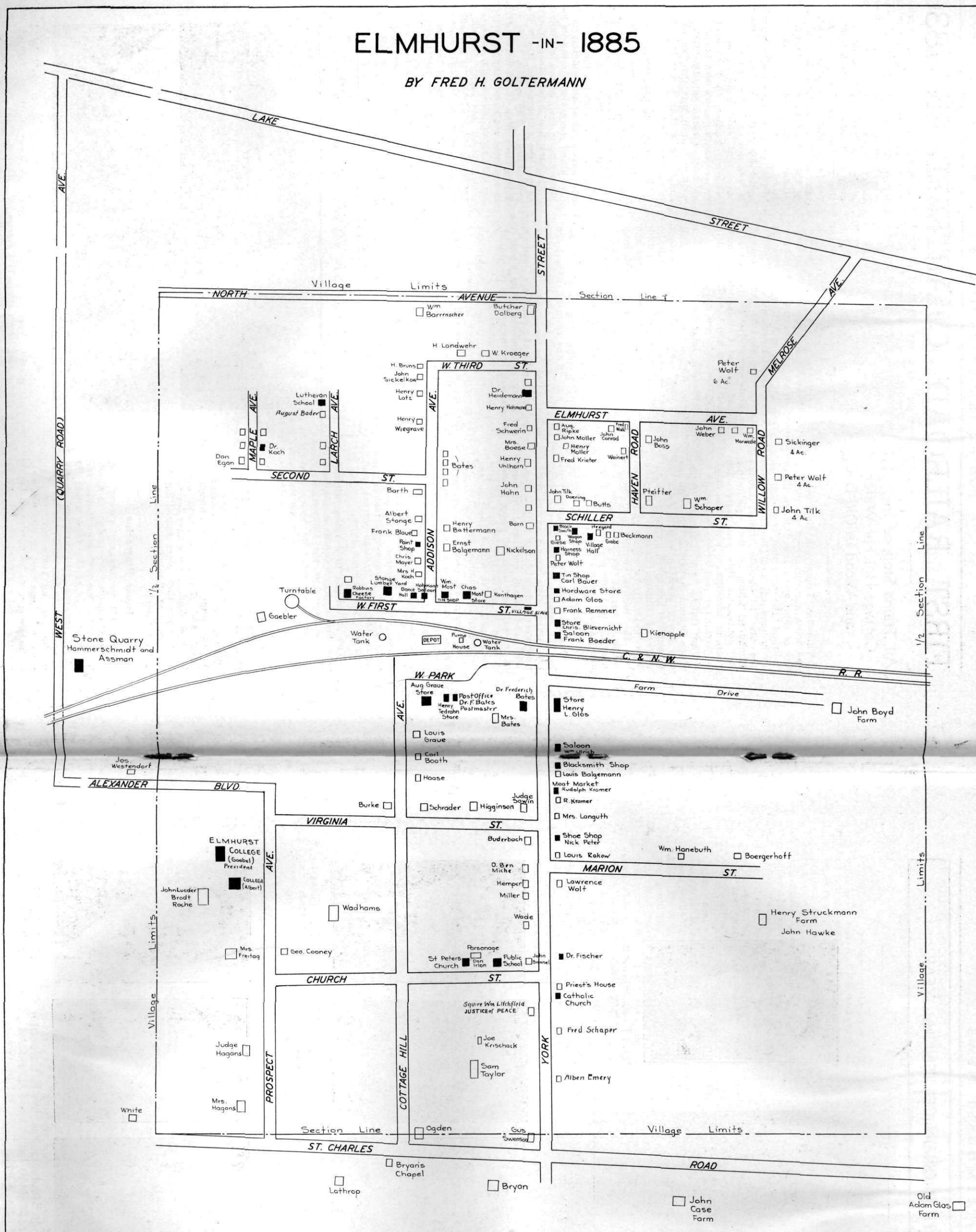
ELMHURST VIEWS ABOUT 1900



1. York street south from Park avenue; 2. The new C. & N. W. station and early stores on West First street; 3. North York street at Schiller Court; 4. West Park avenue east from Cottage Hill avenue.

ELMHURST -IN- 1885

BY FRED H. GOLTERMANN



A Newcomer 50 Years Ago Gives Impressions of City

Though the first white settler came to Elmhurst 100 years ago, the history of the community during the first half of its century of existence is very hazy and not easily verified, since it belongs to a generation of which there are no longer many survivors.

Most of the city's development, however, began with the beginning of the last half a century, and first hand information is available on all sides. Mrs. Clara Berens, widow of the Rev. August Berens, pastor of St. Peter's church from 1887 to 1906, came to Elmhurst as a stranger when her husband accepted his ministerial charge here, and has written regarding the impression she received of the town

when she arrived here, just 49 years ago, as follows:

"A stranger coming here 50 years ago found, besides a half dozen large estates of wealthy owners, and an equal number of larger residences of Chicago business men, a village of approximately 300 inhabitants, which the tracks of the North Western railroad had cut in two. Only a few streets were laid out and wagon roads and cow paths were the main thoroughfares on the north side leading to and from isolated cottage homes among corn fields or on the prairie, only lately built by emigrants from the old country, mostly northern Germany. However, it was a time of rapid influx

and these small homes soon multiplied.

"Besides having all the large estates, schools, churches and college grounds on the south side, all the developments of the village such as graded streets and narrow plank sidewalks were on the south side of the railroad track. The elms planted on both sides of Cottage Hill avenue down to the railroad station were in the first stages of vigorous growth and even at that early date gave to the place a distinctive appearance.

"On Park avenue, across from the station was Graue's general store, now being used by the relief station. Some distance eastward on an incline, was the Gerry Bates residence, and still further east on a knoll higher up from the street with a stairway leading up to the terrace, Dr. Bates' office and residence.

"Across the railroad track on the north side the corner was occupied by

a well developed grove of pines and cedars surrounding Dr. Cushing's residence. Going west again towards the station one came to a general grocery-dry-goods-and-everything store, a barber shop, a saloon, and a lumber yard.

"On Cottage Hill avenue leading to the Bryan estate, there were houses only in the first block, Burke's on the right hand (still standing), and a number of cottages and what is now William Graue's home on the left. A zig-zagging wagon road separated this block from the next and a high mock orange and arbor vitae hedge enclosed the estate now called Wilder park on the right hand side.

"To the left was a prairie and cornfields. Although a plank sidewalk existed, a much trodden cow path cutting diagonally across the prairie led towards the schoolhouses and the

(Continued on page 34)

CITY OF ELMS ADMINISTRATION IN CENTENNIAL YEAR



Francis N. Neumann
CITY CLERK



Claude L. Van Auken
MAYOR



John F. X. Hennessy
CITY TREASURER



R. C. Hickey
ALDERMAN
First Ward



John Vogel
ALDERMAN
First Ward



Hugo H. Brodt
ALDERMAN
Second Ward



W. S. Fellows
ALDERMAN
Second Ward



James L. Glass
ALDERMAN
Third Ward



E. F. Wilson
ALDERMAN
Third Ward



Geo. L. Meister
ALDERMAN
Fourth Ward



A. J. Breuhaus
ALDERMAN
Fourth Ward



W. R. Carpenter
ALDERMAN
Fifth Ward



H. A. Webb
ALDERMAN
Fifth Ward

Elmhurst Incorporated As a Village In 1881; Became City In 1910

Elmhurst, known as Cottage Hill until 1869, remained an unincorporated village lacking all of the present improvements such as sidewalks, paving, sewers, water and street lights until 1881 when the community was finally incorporated as a village. Since that memorable year many of the town's leading and most influential citizens have served for the civic betterment of the community as village presidents and mayors, trustees and aldermen.

The first village president was Henry L. Glos, born in 1857 on the farm settled by his grandfather, John Glos, Sr. A successful school teacher, merchant and banker, Henry L. Glos was also patriotic and far-seeing. It was only natural for the newly organized village to elect a man of his calibre as its first village president, an office he held from 1882 to 1887 and again from 1888 to 1902. During his 20 years in office new streets were laid out, reforms brought about, a sewerage system established, street lighting provided and the first part of Elmhurst's successful transition from a hamlet to a city was accomplished.

Peter A. Wolf, one of the four democrats said to have lived here in the 1880's, became the second village president in 1887 and served one term, relinquishing the office back to Henry L. Glos the following year. He was held in high esteem by his neighbors and served for 20 years as president of the school board, for three years as commissioner of highways and for nine years as a village trustee.

The third president of the village was Edwin F. Heidemann, son of Dr. George F. Heidemann, the city's first doctor. He was elected in 1902 and served until 1905, when he was succeeded by Henry C. Schumacher, who had been village clerk from 1895 to 1905.

C. J. Albert, professor of English at Elmhurst college from 1883 until his retirement, was the fifth and last village president, holding office during the term preceding the change to the city form of government in 1910. Mr. Albert, now 85 years old, is still living, although he is no longer a resident of Elmhurst, having moved to Kenilworth on the north shore in 1920.

The first mayor under the city council form of government in Elmhurst was Henry C. Schumacher, who had served as village clerk and village president earlier in his career of usefulness as a public spirited Elmhurst citizen. He came to Elmhurst as a young man and after working as night telegraph operator for the railroad and bookkeeper for the Elmhurst-Chicago Stone company, he became the first cashier in Henry L. Glos'

ELMHURST'S PAST PRESIDENTS AND MAYORS



1. Henry L. Glos, village president 1882-1887 and 1888-1902; 2. Peter A. Wolf, village president 1887-1888; 3. Edwin F. Heidemann, village president 1902-1905; 4. Henry C. Schumacher, village president 1905-1908 and mayor 1910-1912; 5. C. J. Albert, village president 1908-1910; 6. F. W. M. Hammerschmidt, mayor 1912-1919; 7. Edward H. Blatter, mayor 1931-1933; 8. Otto W. Balgemann, mayor 1919-1931.

bank. He continued as cashier of the bank after its reorganization as the Elmhurst State bank in 1903, and in 1926 he became its president, an office which he held until his recent resignation in 1935.

Mr. Schumacher was succeeded as mayor of Elmhurst by F. W. M. Hammerschmidt in 1912. Mr. Hammerschmidt, who was born in Naperville and came to Elmhurst about 1890 was interested in both the Elmhurst-Chicago Stone company and the Hammerschmidt & Franzen feed and lumber business, acquired from E. W. Fischer and company. The latter business was originally located on the site of Schram's garage on West First

street until about 15 years ago, when it was destroyed by fire.

The long administration of Otto W. Balgemann, third mayor of Elmhurst, from 1919 to 1931, was perhaps more productive of constructive good for the city than any other single president's or mayor's administration. During this period the city enjoyed its most rapid growth, increasing from 4,000 to nearly 14,000 inhabitants, and heavy demands were placed upon the city government to keep pace with this expansion.

Under Mr. Balgemann's able generalship, however, streets were paved, the sewer and water systems were ex-

VOLUNTEERS MAKE SHORT WORK OF FIRES IN ELMHURST



This picture, taken recently, shows the members of the Elmhurst volunteer fire department in front of the Schiller street station. Reading from left to right: Albert Westendorf, Wallace Chisley, Anton Ladwig, Otto Graube, Ernest Weber, Fred Fiebrandt, Alfred Knicker, Henry Brinkman, Otto Nemitz, Ed Fiebrandt, G. F. Weber (chief), Al Sorenson, William Hanebuth (assistant chief), Edward Hohman, August Fiebrandt, Gus Balgemann, Ben Schneeagen, Arthur Boergerhoff, A. Vesley, Albert Long, Ralph Busch, Jim Fox, G. Harkless. Not in picture: Joe Holloway and Al White.

panded to fill growing needs and ornamental street lighting was installed throughout the city.

Mr. Balgemann, besides being occupied with the manifold duties of a busy administration, was also active the entire while in his real estate, mortgage and insurance business, which he still conducts at 111 South York street. Prior to his election as mayor he served as village treasurer from 1903 to 1904 and as postmaster from 1906 to 1914. He was also an assistant supervisor on the county board for 10 years. He is one of Elmhurst's native sons, having been born here in 1874, a son of Louis Balgemann, Sr., the village smithy in the early days.

Edward H. Blatter was mayor from 1931 to 1933. An undertaker in business in Forest Park until 1928, Mr. Blatter retired in 1928 and moved to Elmhurst. He was born in Olney, Illinois, in 1880 but was taken to Chicago to live by his parents when he was yet a child. He graduated from the International School of Sanitary Service.

Mr. Blatter's term of office was ended in 1933 with the election of Claude L. Van Auken, Elmhurst's present mayor. Born in Delaware County, Ohio, in 1886, educated in the public schools of Clinton, Iowa, and at the University of Wisconsin, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1910, Mr. Van Auken has since made a name for himself throughout the country, being listed in "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who in Advertising," "Who's Who in Engineering" and "Who's Who in Chicago." He has, since becoming a resident of Elmhurst, been active in civic and political affairs here. At present he is the president of the Kenfield-Davis Publishing company.

In 1910 Fires Burned Themselves Out; Now Firemen Put Them Out

About 10 o'clock in the morning on the 27th day of July, 1910, fire broke out in the Wandschneider barn, a North York street landmark. For several hours the blaze raged spreading to several adjoining buildings and doing much damage before it finally burned itself out.

In a letter to the city council under date of August 15, 1910, Louis F. Koenig, a member of the Elmhurst volunteer fire department, explained the reason for the rapid spread of the destructive fire. Asserting that the department answered the alarm promptly he continued as follows:

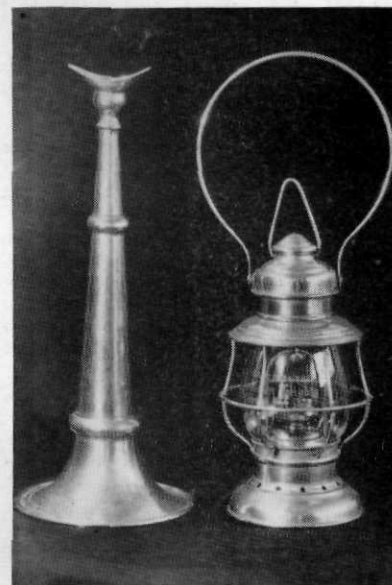
"Our apparatus was at once put into service and hose connections made with two fire plugs, but no water was to be had from either plug. At no time during the fire was there sufficient water pressure to raise the water above five feet from the surface of the ground, thus making all our efforts at the salvation of adjoining barns useless."

Such difficulties handicapped the local volunteer fire department from the time of its organization in 1893 down to the time a municipally owned water plant with deep wells was established within the past 20 years. Lack of water pressure was largely responsible for the destruction by fire of the Stark house at Prospect and Church streets, the old Hawthorne school, Dr. George Heidemann's large home on North York street next to W. S. Weller's residence, not to mention numerous other conflagrations.

In recent years, however, adequate water pressure has enabled the ever efficient Elmhurst volunteer firemen to establish an enviable record, their

fine work having made it possible for local residents today to obtain fire insurance at the lowest rates obtainable anywhere for a community of this size.

There are 25 men in the department today, ten of whom are members of the south side department established in recent years at South York street and the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin railroad. The department is equipped with three trucks and all the necessary ladders, hose and chemicals. Two of the trucks are stationed at the Schiller street station adjoining the police station, and the third at South York street.



Trophies won by the Elmhurst fire department at Arlington Heights in 1894.

PRESERVERS OF LAW AND ORDER



The Elmhurst police department boasts an excellent record, thanks to the conscientious devotion to duty possessed by the men in this picture.

Reading from left to right, front row: Captain George Kummerow, Lieutenant John Martens and Sergeant Frank A. Williams.

Middle row: Officers Albert Nelson, Ted Hubert, Daniel Warkentien and Ralph Robbins.

Top row: Desk Sergeant John Krause, Officers Howard Brown and Victor Trenn and Desk Sergeant William Hanebuth.

Radio To Aid Police In Handling Traffic During Centennial

The efficient handling of traffic and providing adequate police protection is the mammoth job which confronts the Elmhurst police department during the Elmhurst centennial. Captain of Police George Kummerow expects to have a police squad car equipped with a radio transmitter during the 100th birthday celebration to enable patrolling officers to communicate with the station, thus speeding up the handling of calls, and a large number of deputies have been appointed to assist the department in handling the large number of out-of-town cars expected to visit the city.

A two-way radio communication system has been used experimentally by the department in the past, and is expected to materially increase the efficiency of the broadcasting system which has been in use since 1934.

CITY OF ELMS HAD ITS CURFEW ORDINANCE TOO

The curfew rings no more, but there are yet many of Elmhurst residents of today who recall having to be indoors by nine in the evening when they were children because the village board of trustees decreed they must be.

When Henry L. Glos was village president in 1901, a curfew ordinance was passed by the board requiring all children under 15 years of age to be off the streets from 9 p. m. to 6 a. m. unless accompanied by an adult. The fire bell which hung in the hose tower of the fire house rang nine times at the stated time each evening, and the youngsters scampered from their play to their homes when the bell sounded.

The bell, which still hangs in the water tower structure at the rear of the police station, was also used then and as late as the World war days to notify the policemen and firemen whenever an emergency arose.

Elms Police Department Organized In 1925; Was One Man Job Until Then

As Elmhurst has grown in the past century, so has its police department grown and developed, keeping pace with the city, protecting its citizens and businessmen and preserving law and order within its limits.

From the days of the last century, when Squire Litchfield was justice of the peace and held court in the living room of his residence (the house now owned by Mrs. William T. Dwelly at 258 South York street), to today's police force of 11 men and one extra man governed by a board of fire and police commissioners, the record of the Elmhurst police has been an enviable one.

Up until 1925, however, there was no organized police department in the true sense of the word, and up until the incorporation of Elmhurst as a village in 1882 the only officers were the county sheriff and the town constable. From 1882 to 1925 the city had its own police marshall, however, the office being held in succession by Dick Schmidt, Otto Remmer, August Wirkus, Herman Schmidt, Ed Benson, Henry Uhlhorn, Herman Trenn, Henry Hohman, Harry Magers, Frank Lloyd, Ed Flynn and Henry Wolf.

Henry Wolf became the first chief of police in Elmhurst and was assisted by William Trenn, who was appointed as a motorcycle policeman. Trenn was later disabled by the loss of his leg and was succeeded by Charles Fuller. Two additional policemen were appointed January 1, 1925, namely John Martens, the present Lieutenant, and Albert Nelson, present patrolman. George Kummerow, present Captain of Police, was appointed as a patrolman March 2, 1925.

It was in 1925 that the local police were first equipped with uniforms, their only identification until then being their badge of authority. Also in that year the city council authorized the installation of a fifty trunk switchboard and twenty-five call boxes, the first step toward speeding up the handling of police calls.

The police station was housed in three rooms in the fire station until 1927, when the city offices were moved from the present police station to 132 Addison avenue. In 1926 a squad car and ambulance patrol wagon supplemented the motorcycle equipment in use up to that time, and by 1929 the personnel of the force had been increased to 10 men.

In the spring of 1934 some 1,800 voters petitioned for the creation of a board of fire and police commissioners, and the question, when presented to the voters at the polls, was carried by a large majority. Consequently the Elmhurst police department is now under the supervision of the board of commissioners, which consists of three members, no more than two of whom belong to the same political party. The commissioners are ap-

(Continued on next page)

Finger Prints of Over 300 Persons In Files Of Police Department

Some 300 finger prints of persons who have been arrested in Elmhurst or who have served time in the city's bastille, are in the files of the police department.

The department has maintained a department of identification since 1928, and since that time all persons charged with disorderly conduct or major crimes, and over-night lodgers, have been finger printed. Copies are sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington and to the Chicago police department, besides being filed in the local archives.

The number of hardened criminals apprehended in Elmhurst, however, has been small, a tribute to the peacefulness of the city and the quality of its citizens. At the present time, four men arrested here are in the state penitentiary, and the total number sentenced during the history of the Elmhurst police department does not exceed 15.

On the other hand, police departments from San Francisco to New York, and from Texas to Canada, have found the Elmhurst department of invaluable aid in submitting information which led to the apprehension of persons wanted for crimes ranging from auto theft to murder.

ELMS OFFICER KILLED WHILE ON DUTY IN 1920

Harry F. Magers, city marshal of Elmhurst in the years following the world war, was the only police officer in the city to lose his life in the line of duty. Answering a call from St. Charles road and York street October 30, 1920, Magers was about to dismount from his motorcycle when he was shot in the abdomen. He was taken to West Suburban hospital, Oak Park, but died November 2 at the age of 28 years from the effects of his wound. He was brave and fearless and well liked by all who knew him, being a particular favorite among children of Elmhurst, who regarded him with great respect.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZED IN 1925

(Continued from page 29)

pointed by the mayor for one, two and three year terms.

Police officers are appointed by the board upon the basis of periodic physical and mental examinations, and can be discharged only upon the filing of written charges of misconduct or incompetency. In the event of a dismissal, the discharged officer has the right to appeal to the circuit court for a re-hearing of his case, the decision of the circuit judge to be final. In short, regardless of his political affiliation, the policeman's position is secure as long as his conduct and fulfillment of his duties is not questioned.

OLD BARN HAS UNUSUAL CLAIM TO DISTINCTION

The barn on the Albert Bucholz farm at the northeast corner of Elmhurst, besides being over 80 years old, has another and even more valid claim to distinction, for its girder timbers, some of which are 40 feet long, are the very same upon which the strap rails of the Galena and Chicago Union railroad were laid.

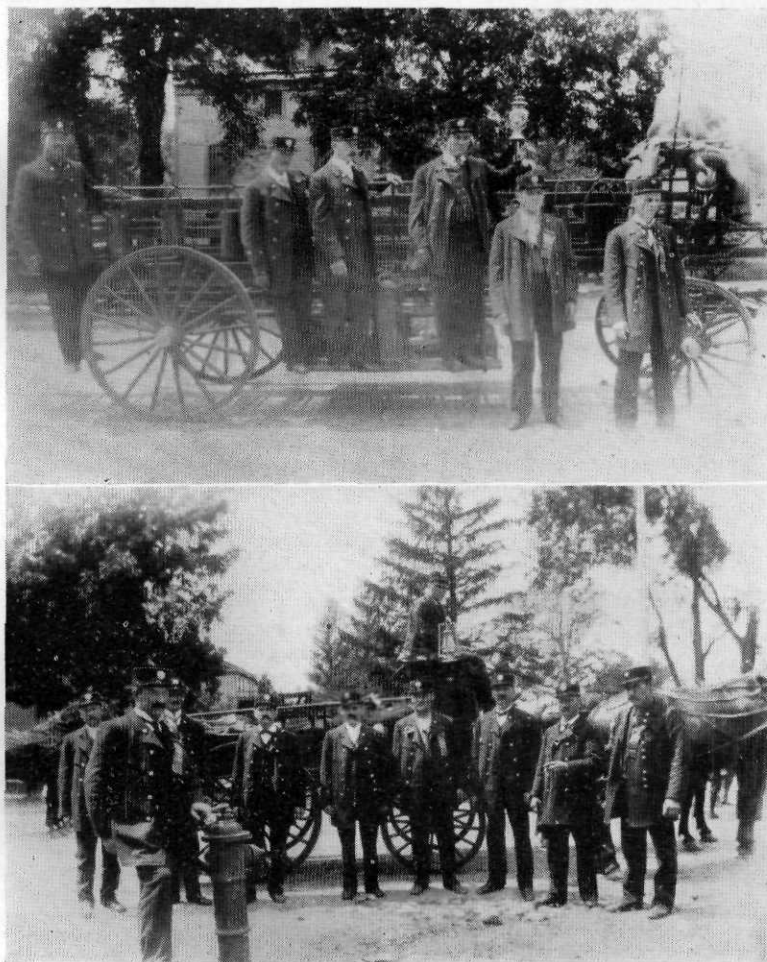
Edge rails were not yet in common use when the railroad was built to Elmhurst from Chicago. Instead, hand hewn oak timbers, topped by strips of strap iron spiked to the wood, were used. The marks of the strap iron are still clearly visible in the girders of the Bucholz barn.

City Jail Had Loose Stone In Wall, Says Fred Wandschneider

An amusing story is told of Fred Wandschneider, who built the Elmhurst city bastille in 1882. The wall of the jail, which still stands at the rear of the fire house on Schiller street, was built of 20-inch thick limestone blocks, and Fred was once heard to remark that he placed one of the stones on rollers so he would be able to make his escape in the event he should ever be locked up.

The small lock-up is no longer used, but during its 46 years of service it incarcerated persons held for murder, auto theft, burglary and larceny.

ELMHURST'S FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT

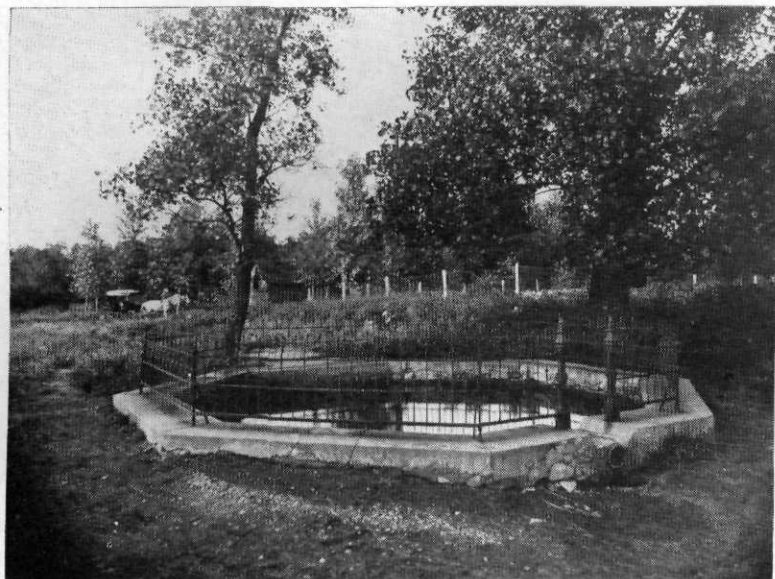


These pictures of the first Elmhurst fire department were taken at the corner of York street and Park avenue 40 years ago, just three or four years after the organization of the department. Dr. F. H. Bates' home, since moved to Cottage Hill and Margaret place and now occupied by Dr. L. H. Hills, can be seen in the background of the top picture, and the Gerry Bates house is visible in the lower photograph.

Left to right, top picture: Fred Poetker, Charles Schreiber, John Keck, Otto Remmer, Fred Colterman, Fred Sievert.

Bottom picture: August Wirkus, Louis Beil (at fire plug), Dick Rotermund, William Keokow, Albert Fischer, Henry Gailer, Fred Schroeder, Herman Overkamp (fire chief).

FIRST SOURCE OF RUNNING WATER MAMMOTH SPRING WAS CITY'S



One night, in the year 1861, a great explosion rocked the George Talmadge farm about three and one half miles south of the village of Cottage Hill. Members of the Talmadge family were awakened and feared that it might be the rebels "a-comin'," but the following morning they found that a clear sparkling spring, which they named Mammoth Spring, had burst forth on their property.

That is the manner in which Elmhurst's original source of a general water supply came into being, although it was not until nearly 30 years later that the water was piped to the village to be used for other than irrigation and drinking purposes on the Talmadge farm.

It was in 1889 that a number of local residents, including Frank Sturges and William Emery, Sr., recognized the practicability of furnishing running water to Elmhurst residents. Accordingly, Mr. Sturges and Mr. Emery bought Mammoth Spring from Thomas B. Bryan and Wilbur Hagans, who owned it at that time. They next organized a stock company which became known as the Elmhurst Spring Water company and then issued \$20,000 worth of bonds to build a water tower, lay pipe and construct a pumping plant.

Wooden mains six inches in diameter piped the water from the spring uphill to the tower, which stood on the east side of York street near the former site of the Immaculate Conception church.

Elmhurst soon became noted for its fine drinking water, the analysis of which was similar to that of the famed Waukesha water. But the town grew, and before the Elmhurst Spring Water company's 30-year franchise expired the 150 gallons per minute obtainable from Mammoth Spring was no longer adequate to supply the city.

In 1915 the spring was supplemented by a drilled well at the site of the old South York street water tower. But even then there was not suitable pressure for fire protection purposes, and many times it was impossible to get water in the second stories of residences, so in 1916 the city drilled a well and built a pumping station, ground reservoir and elevated tank on Schiller street, just east of York street. This source was connected to the mains of the Elmhurst Spring Water company and shortly afterwards the city assumed responsibility for the community's water supply.

Additional wells, varying in depth from 1,397 feet to 2,210 feet, were drilled from 1918 to 1927, and Mammoth Spring was abandoned. Today the city of Elmhurst is adequately supplied by four deep wells, two of which are located on the city property on Schiller street, one on Larch avenue near First street, and the fourth at Scott street and St. Charles road.

The pumping stations at the various wells are equipped to discharge 4,000 gallons of water per minute into the mains continuously, with a possibility of increasing the discharge to 6,000 gallons per minute for a 12 to 15 hour period in case of a large fire or other emergency. Moreover, a 1,000,000 gallon underground reservoir was constructed with federal aid near the Schiller street wells in 1934, and an auxiliary reservoir of 200,000 gallons capacity has been built near the Scott street well.

The daily pumping of water in Elmhurst today varies from 800,000 gallons per day in winter to a peak of 1,900,000 gallons on the hottest summer days. The normal pressure is 40 pounds, ample to carry water to the top of the tallest buildings in the city, with plenty of reserve pressure.

First Elmhurst Sewers Laid In 1893; Solution of Recent Problem Near

The year 1936, the 100th year of Elmhurst's existence as a civilized community, is destined to go down in the city's history as a memorable one for other reasons, not the least of which is the fact that it will mark the end, at least for some time to come, of Elmhurst's responsibility for the pollution of Salt creek, a thorn in the side of the community for many years.

Work has already begun with federal aid on a system of intercepting sewers, which together with the construction of a new sewage disposal plant and treatment works, will relieve the long over-taxed intercepting sewer and convert the city's wastes into a harmless effluent which will no longer be offensive to residents southward along the creek.

The local sewer problem, although a natural one and recognized at an early date by many who foresaw Elmhurst's rapid development as a desirable suburban community of homes, has been one of the most persistent and vexing dilemmas with which successive city councils have had to deal.

Salt Creek Outlet

Because of the convenient proximity to the creek and the natural drain in that direction from a large area of the city, the first sewer system laid out here carried Elmhurst's waste and storm water into Salt creek. It was not until 1893, or 57 years after the coming of the first permanent white settlers, however, that any sewers were laid in Elmhurst's streets. Up until that time residents of the community, including the many prominent families connected with the village's early history, were dependent upon primitive means of sewage disposal or, at best, had private semi-sanitary disposal systems.

In September of 1893 the village board, of which Henry L. Glos was then president, passed the first sewage ordinance "constituting the village of Elmhurst Main Drainage district and providing a main sewer therefor." The ordinance called for the construction of a brick sewer embracing virtually the complete town, or that part of the present city bounded roughly by North avenue and St. Charles road on the north and south and from several blocks east of York street to Villa avenue on the west.

No additional sewers were added until over 20 years later, in 1916, when the North Elmhurst pipes were laid at a cost of approximately \$103,000. And it was not until 1919 that the city made its first step toward eliminating the dumping of raw sewage into Salt creek by constructing a sewage disposal plant at Rex and Central boulevards. The plant, which cost over \$75,000, was believed to be adequate to insure sanitary disposal of the city's wastes for many years.

Add To System

Additional sewers have been laid in newer subdivisions from time to time since 1920, including two which drain

to the east through a plant at North avenue and the Cook county line. But despite the extensive efforts of various city administrations to keep from polluting the creek by pouring improperly treated sewage into it, the growth of the community was too rapid and development of the city's sewage system did not keep pace with it.

Engineers were called in from time to time to make a study of the situation and to make recommendations as to how to remedy the over-taxed condition of the disposal plants, which were never designed to carry the load forced upon them by the city's growing population. During the past decade the sewage pollution issue became one of the most controversial chapters in Elmhurst's century of history. The organization of the Salt creek sanitary district, the referendum on bond issues, and the subsequent withdrawal of Elmhurst, Addison and considerable rural area from the district until now it consists only of the village of Villa Park, all figure in that story.

Postponed Solution

Throughout all the controversy that attended the sewage disposal question, however, there was a growing conviction that eventually the problem would have to be settled and that the only way to eliminate the complaints of downstream riparian interests caused by continued pollution of Salt creek would be to build a new disposal plant, which would be adequate to handle the entire sewage load of the city for a number of years to come.

When the Federal Public Works administration offered to pay 45 per cent of the cost of the new plant after a citizen's committee had made a careful study of the sewage situation, and had presented an unbiased, non-political report of its findings, the city council felt obliged to avail itself of the extraordinary opportunity.

On Old Site

The new plant is to be constructed on the site of Plants 1 and 2, the first built in Elmhurst, and is to be of the modified activated sludge type, adjudged by leading engineers to be the most practical and economical to operate, and the least objectionable to residents living nearby. It is anticipated that upon its completion, the new plant will completely solve the local sewage problem except for the usual conditions arising in extreme rainy weather, when storm water will inevitably carry some of the lighter untreated wastes into the creek.

Work is now well under way on the intercepting sewers necessary to divert the sewage of the entire city to the proposed new plant, and it is expected that before the end of 1936, Elmhurst's centennial year, the sewage disposal question will be out of the way for many years to come.

Village's First Health Ordinance Was Passed In World's Fair Year

The first ordinance approved and passed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases was written in 1893, and read as follows:

"Be it ordained by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Elmhurst—

"Section 1. It shall be the duty of all physicians practicing in the Corporation of Elmhurst to notify the Village Clerk immediately on taking charge of every case of scarlet fever, diphtheria, or smallpox occurring within the corporate limits, such notice to include the names of persons affected and residence.

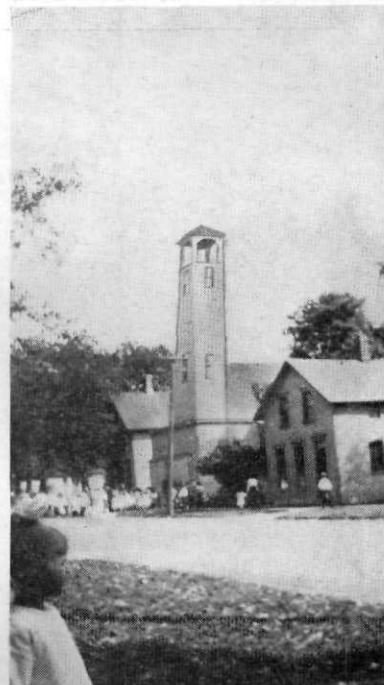
Section 2. On the receipt of such notification the Village Clerk shall cause a printed placard notifying the public of presence of the disease to be posted by an officer on the front door of the infected building or buildings, such placards to remain until removed by order of the Village Clerk.

"Section 3. Any person or persons willfully or maliciously removing a posted notice shall be liable to a fine of five dollars.

"Section 4. At the expiration of the time of infection and after the premises have been thoroughly disinfected under the direction of the attending physician who shall certify in writing to the fact, permission will be given to remove the placard.

"Section 5. A fine of five dollars will be imposed on any physician

The Curfew Tower



The old curfew tower and fire station, with the old village hall in the background are shown above.

violating the provisions of this ordinance.

"Section 6. This ordinance shall be in force from and after its passage.

Henry L. Glos, President.

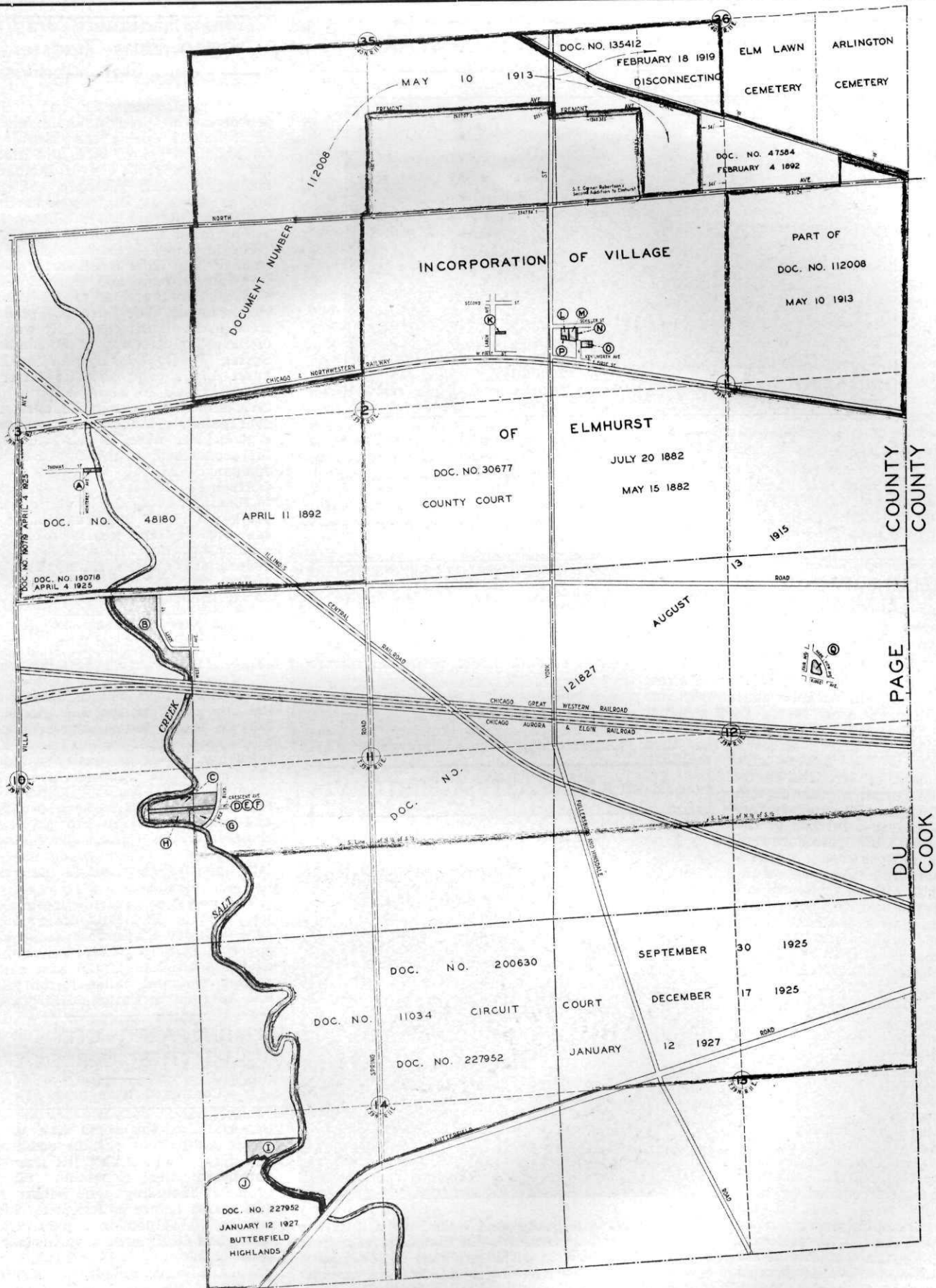
Passed November 9, 1893.

Aug. Baeder, Village Clerk."

ALL SET FOR THE PARADE

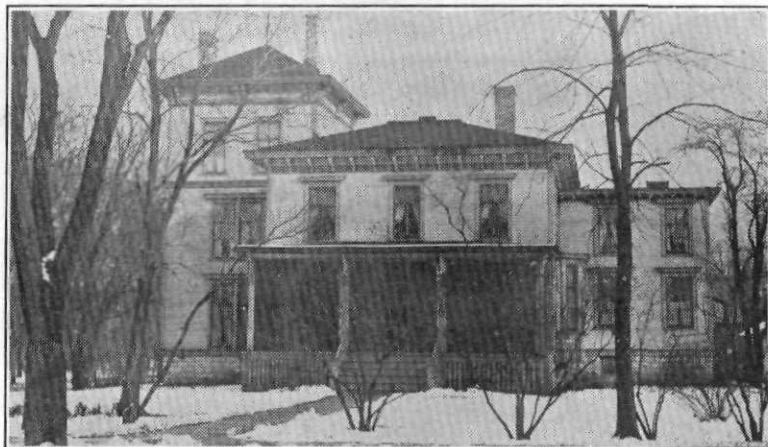


Henry C. Schumacher, when he was village president, is shown in front of the village hall, now the fire station. With him is his son Arthur.



Map Showing the Incorporation of, Annexation to, and Property Owned by the
CITY OF ELMHURST

A LANDMARK SINCE THE CIVIL WAR



Built in Civil War days in the center of what later became the Frank Sturges estate, this house now located at 313 South York street, has an interesting history. It was built by a Mr. Schuman, then editor of the Chicago Evening Journal, and has since been owned by Robert Rand, George F. Rumsey, Samuel Taylor, Frank Sturges and Alben F. Emery. Mr. Emery moved it across York street to its present site in 1894. His daughter, Mrs. A. C. Warren, her husband and family now occupy the old house, charming in its antiquity.

TELLS IMPRESSIONS OF ELMHURST 50 YEARS AGO

(Continued from page 25)

churches. The public school house and St. Peter's church faced Church street and the old Catholic church was one half block away facing York street.

"The only houses on Cottage Hill south of Church street at that time were the newly built homes of Mr. Rosche on the corner of Church and Cottage Hill, and diagonally across further to the south, the residences of the Rockwood brothers both of whom served in the Chicago Board of Trade battery in the Civil war. After another stretch of cornfield on the left, one came to the Taylor estate and the Hill Cottage tavern.

"From Church street north on York street, which boasted wooden sidewalks four feet wide on both sides of the street, there were a number of older homes, including the Brownell cottage, the Struckman residence, the Wade home (now the site of the Catholic Community Center), the Bohlander home surrounded by high pine trees, and set far back among evergreen arbors, the Sawin residence.

"On the east side of the street were Heinemann's butcher shop and Balgemann's blacksmith shop. Where the State bank now proudly overlooks a

city of 15,000, there stood the general store which included also the post office and the embryo banking business of Henry Glos. Everything east of York street, where there were no cornfields, was still the original prairie in 1887. Across the railroad track the northeast corner was known as the Weinrebe property and was later occupied by a store and saloon.

A HOUSE WITH A HISTORY



A historical background which marks it as one of the outstanding landmarks in Elmhurst belongs to this residence, built in 1856 by Peter Torode, son of one of York township's earliest settlers. Its summer kitchen was the first public school in Elmhurst and for a number of years recently it was the home of Carl Sandburg, famous poet. When this picture was taken in the 1880's, Alben F. Emery owned the place.

William H. Emery Was Early Elms Booster; Laid Out Subdivision

William H. Emery, Sr., one of three brothers who brought their families to Elmhurst during the 1880's, was for about 15 years, up to the time of his death in 1903, one of Elmhurst's leading citizens, probably contributing as much to the development of the village during his residence here as any other single person.

He developed practically all of the tract of land from Kenilworth avenue to Poplar avenue and from north of Church street almost to St. Charles road, laying out streets, planting trees, and building homes. He was one of the organizers of both the Elmhurst Spring Water company and the Elmhurst Light company, the latter of which is said to have been the only civic-minded project in Elmhurst that ever paid dividends. It also brought a good price when it was sold out to the predecessor of the Public Service company.

Alben F. and James H. Emery came to Elmhurst about the same time their brother did and each contributed his share of time and wealth to the community's welfare. Members of two generations of the Emery clan are still prominent in the city's civic and social life.

"ORIGINAL COTTAGE HILL" WAS PLATTED IN 1854

The first subdivision in what is now the city of Elmhurst was platted in 1854 by Gerry Bates, who bought all of the east half of section two of York township, 640 acres, from the federal government for \$1.25 an acre. The subdivision, known as "Original Cottage Hill," proved to be a profitable undertaking, for the growth of the community was quite rapid following the coming of the railroad. The first lot, opposite the station, was sold to Louis Graue.

The northwest quarter of his claim was sold by Mr. Bates for \$125 an acre, just 100 times what he paid the government for it. Later he subdivided the south half of the east half of section two and called it the "Summit Addition to Cottage Hill."

WILDER PARK IS CITY'S PRETTIEST GARDEN SPOT

(Continued from page 21)

a portion of the north half of the estate subject to certain conditions. The city accepted the gift and then purchased the remainder of the grounds, including the Wilder residence, now known as Lancaster Lodge for \$45,000, subject to unpaid general taxes and installments on special assessments.

A little later the city of Elmhurst purchased the house and about one acre of ground surrounding it for \$14,000 and the old residence was converted into a public library.

City Health Department Was Organized In 1896; Commissioners Listed

The first board of health, formed in 1896, consisted of the following members: President, George F. Heide-man, M. D.; secretary, George W. Griffin, and commissioner, F. H. Bates, M. D.

No record of any change in ordinance or board of health can be found until June 5, 1911, when Elmhurst was reorganized as a city. The ordinance then drawn up for the health department is found in Section 34 to 49, inclusive. The board of health con-



Dr. Frank D. Leahy

sisted of Mayor Henry C. Schumacher, president, Dr. F. H. Bates and L. Marks to serve for one year, and Dr. E. W. Marquardt and F. W. Sandiland to serve for two years.

No record can be found of any other board until 1923, when the board consisted of Dr. L. H. Hills, health commissioner, and Mrs. Ruby Seivers, school nurse for both public and parochial schools.

In 1928 Dr. Hills, president, with Dr. Leahy as assistant and Mr. Sandiland as health officer, and another nurse, Miss Margaret Piggott, employed to take care of north side schools, composed the health board.

In 1929, Dr. Leahy became health commissioner with Dr. Hills as assistant and Mr. Sandiland as health officer, and in July, 1930, the school board decided to employ its own nurse.

Mary C. Creighton, R. N., was employed as the first city nurse July 1, 1930. In 1931 the first birth certificate was also issued and the first welfare organization was formed following a meeting held in Dr. Leahy's office to get various private organizations, whose work in caring for the needy was overlapping, joined in one organization.

In 1931 the complete city organization was changed and the board of health consisted of Mayor Edward H. Blatter, Dr. Franklin T. James, Dr. Harold Hogue, Fred H. Gerberding, one alderman and City Nurse Mary Creighton, who served one year under Dr. James. Miss Volle became city nurse June 1, 1932.

In 1933 another complete change of city organization took place and

the board of health was composed of Mayor Claude L. Van Auken, president; Dr. A. L. Mathis, commissioner; Dr. E. S. Watson, assistant; Fred Runge, health officer, and Mary Creighton, city nurse.

In 1935 Dr. Frank D. Leahy was again appointed health commissioner; Fred Runge, health officer, Dr. H. L. Schultz, assistant, and Mary Creighton city nurse.

During the winter of 1935 and spring of 1936, a more complete health program was put in practice and the prevalence of disease has been cut to a much lower rate than previously, in fact, approximately 75 per cent. Birth certificates were changed in color and an average of 30 per month were issued.

Protection against smallpox has been encouraged and been successfully carried out, as there have been no cases in Elmhurst recently. Records and files have been added to the department, which make it possible to check any school child or employee in food stores, milk drivers and

dairies. Surveys are now made of all school children's eyes and ears.

The Elmhurst health department is proud to have the distinction of being the only city health department in DuPage county to have its record of contagion published weekly by the state health department.

Elmhurst Hospital, Built In 1926, Fills Long Felt Need in the Community

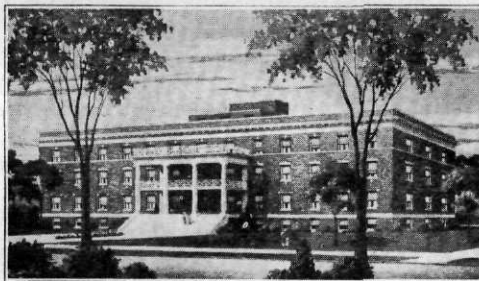
The construction of Elmhurst Community hospital in 1926 marked the end of a long felt need for such an institution in Elmhurst and the beginning of a decade of useful service to the community which stands as a monument to the men whose efforts made the project possible.

First conceived in 1921, the hospital became an accomplished fact during the succeeding years largely through the untiring efforts of Dr. E. W. Marquardt, who had become inspired with the idea of a hospital for Elmhurst long before the project was actually planned. It was he who started the work of early promotion.

The hospital building, located at Avon road and Schiller street, was begun in November, 1925, and was dedicated October 10, 1926, in an impressive service held on the great front steps of the building and surrounding grounds which was attended by several hundred citizens.

Elmhurst Community hospital, celebrating its 10th birthday while the city observes its 100th anniversary, is a non-sectarian and non-political institution which has been of great service to the community.

A Community Institution



Elmhurst Community Hospital

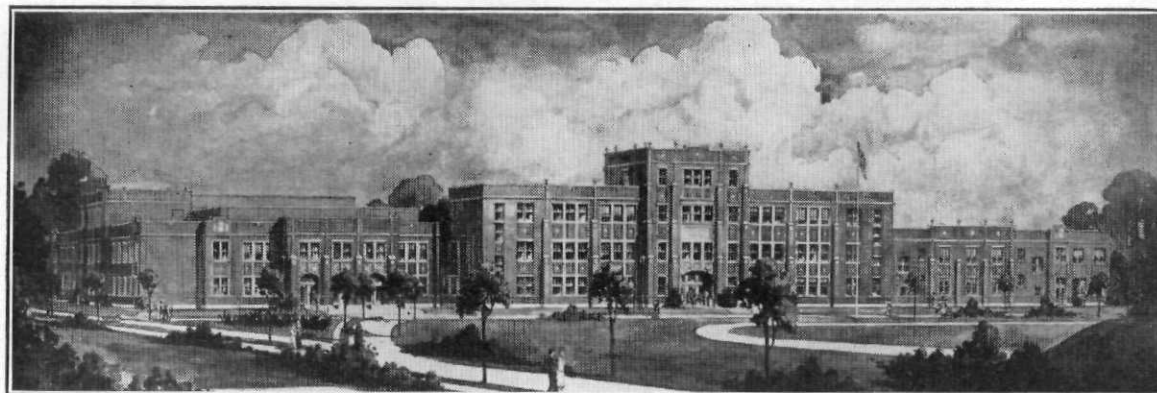
STILL BEAUTIFUL AFTER 44 YEARS



The beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Sturges, son and daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sturges, is shown above as it appears today. The house, which stands on the west side of Cottage Hill avenue opposite the site of the Frank Sturges residence, was built in 1892. Surrounded by trees and flowers, it has been one of the prettiest of Elmhurst's beauty spots for over 40 years.

Lee Sturges has produced many lovely etchings which have been exhibited in galleries in America and abroad. One of them, of Cottage Hill Avenue, is reproduced elsewhere in this book.

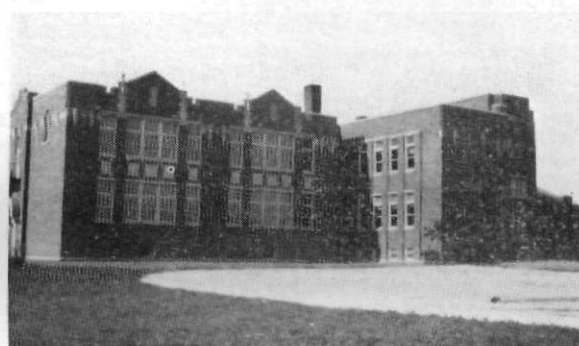
ELMS SCHOOLS ARE SOURCE OF PRIDE



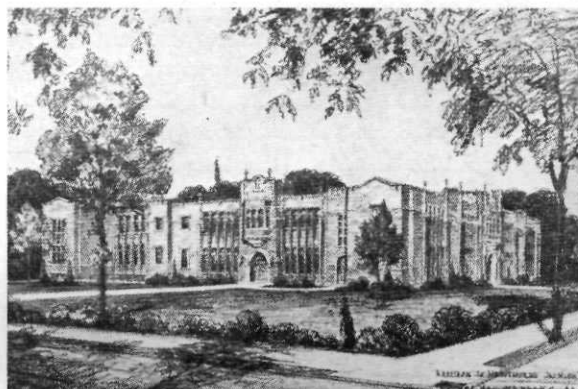
York Community High School



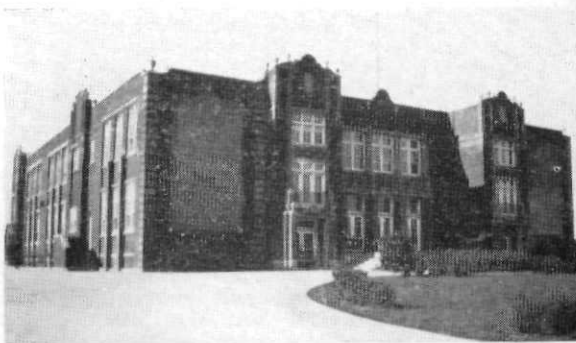
Old Field School



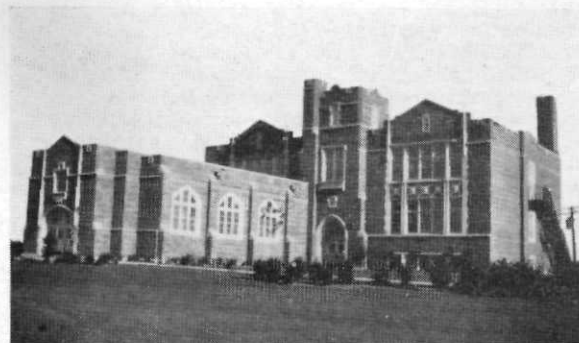
Lincoln School



Hawthorne Junior High School



Roosevelt School



Washington School

LOG CABIN WAS FIRST SCHOOL HERE

Original Public School
District Was Organized
In 1850 by Gerry Bates

PIONEER SCHOOLHOUSE STILL STANDING

Elmhurst began to go to school when it was two years old. For in 1838 school was held in a little log cabin that had been the home of Elias Brown. Miss Fuller was the teacher. The second school was in the home of John Talmadge and was taught by Miss C. Barnes. Both of these schools were situated south of Elmhurst near the old French woods.

In 1850 public school district No. 1 was organized in Gerry Bates' back parlor. The first public school was on St. Charles road, west of Cottage Hill avenue on land then owned by Elisha Hagans. One of its early teachers was Miss Georgia Smith, who later became the second wife of Gerry Bates and the mother of Dr. Frederick Bates, Charles W. Bates and Mrs. Adeline B. Kidder.

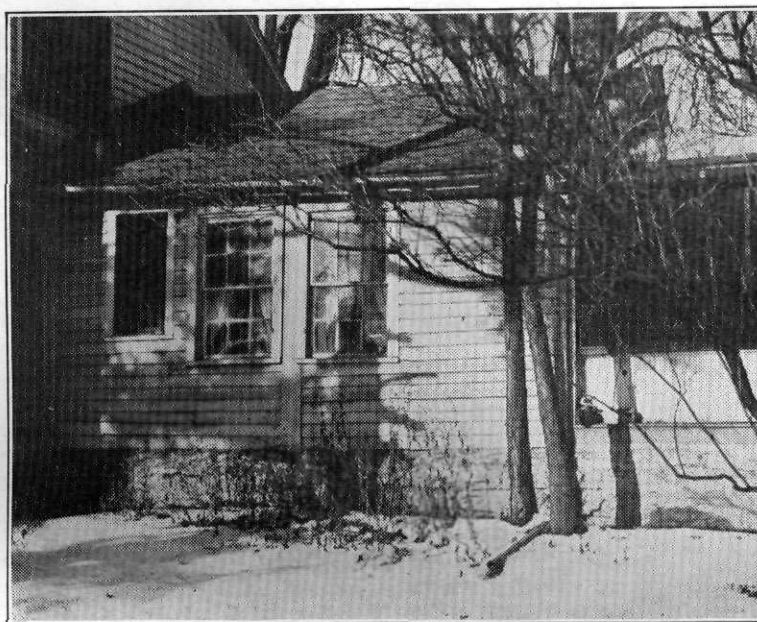
In 1857 this little 20 by 24 foot building was moved to South York street and attached to the rear of the home of Peter Torode, which was later the home of Alben F. Emery, the father of the young lady who was married in it in 1885 to Dr. Frederick H. Bates. Later it was the home of A. E. Stone; and it was in this house that Carl Sandburg lived at the time he completed his biography of Lincoln. The house is still standing at 333 South York street, and the little school building even now retains something of its original character.

The second public school, built in 1857, was a two-story building facing south on Church street. The grounds included the present site of St. Peter's parsonage.

Although considered a great credit to the district, the school's maintenance problem could only be solved by inserting by pen into the teacher's contract a clause requiring him to sweep his own room and kindle his own fire.

In 1866 Miss Elvira Bates, Dr. Frederick Bates' half sister, taught in this school and in 1870 Henry L. Glos was engaged to teach at \$50.00 a month. The 42 townsmen present at the annual meeting of 1870 voted to extend the school term to eleven months, have German taught as well as English and build a sidewalk from the school house steps to the street. The school directors for this year were James L. Snow, Peter Wolf and M. Hoelscher. Items on their expense account included one pound of candles, three candle sticks, a lightning rod, fire wood, a lamp and eleven stove pipes.

At the annual meeting of 1871 it was voted to hire two teachers for the winter school term and have the school graded. Although it was also voted that "no female teachers be hired," the next fall Miss Samantha Morey was engaged at \$30.00 a month.



The first public school in Elmhurst, which was built about 1850 on St. Charles road, where it served as the only school in York township for about seven years, is pictured above as it appears today, a summer kitchen attached to the rear of the old Peter Torode house at 333 South York street.

Having German taught in the school was stressed at annual meetings as late as 1887. Some of the school directors of these early days were: Dietrich Struckman, Charles Wade, A. S. Brownell and Dr. George F. Heidemann.

In 1888 the old Hawthorne school was built on Cottage Hill avenue and Arthur streets, and the schoolhouse built in 1857 was moved to Schiller street. It is now the home of August Fiebrandt.

The old Hawthorne school was a two story brick structure with large light basement. Its site was purchased of Thomas B. Bryan for \$3,300.00, \$300.00 of which was contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan. The assessed valuation of the property in the school district was not large enough to bear a tax levy sufficient to finance the project, but Henry L. Glos solved the problem by offering to supply the required money. Fifty property owners signed notes aggregating \$10,000, which were paid out of tax levies during the next five years. John A. Seaman, William Ohlerich, and George F. Heidemann were the school directors during the construction of the building.

Many of the parents of today's school children began school in this building. Miss Elizabeth Ott, who had been a teacher in the older school, became the primary teacher here, and so long was her term of service that two generations of Elmhurst children learned their letters under her guidance. Miss Bertha Engel, who later became the wife of Professor G. A.

Sorrick of Elmhurst college, was another teacher whom two generations of Elmhurst natives lovingly remember.

The grounds of the old Hawthorne school were kept full of flowers by Fred Frega, janitor of the school for twenty years. In the winter he filled the basement windows with little potted plants and every spring he set out great flower beds and long borders. Down in his own basement room he had a stone wheel upon which he ground the points of the children's pencils during recesses and noon hours.

By 1895 the school board had increased to seven: C. G. Kircher, president; W. H. Emery, John Lueder, Dr. F. H. Bates, August Timke, Charles G. Schreiber and Henry Moeller, members. There were five grade teachers at this time and a principal who supervised the work of the grades and taught classes in the two-year high school course which had been started the year before.

By 1904 old Hawthorne school had become so overcrowded that a special election was held to vote upon an addition. The proposition failed to carry however, and it was not until 1905 that a four-room addition was built. During the school year of 1906-1907 a physics laboratory was equipped, manual training classes were held and a little high school paper, "The Elms," was published. The high school course now consisted of the standard four years and graduates were admitted to normal schools and most colleges without examination. In 1910 twenty-

seven children were graduated from the eighth grade, and the addition to the Hawthorne no longer sufficed to accommodate the rapidly increasing enrollment.

The cornerstone was laid for the old Eugene Field school on January 5, 1911, ending 64 years during which there had been but one public school in Elmhurst. The first unit of the Lincoln school was built in 1916, and in the early winter of 1917 the old Hawthorne school burned. The fire started about half past seven in the evening, and in a short while it was apparent that the destruction would be complete. For several years thereafter high school classes were held in the Community house and grammar school classes in private homes.

The first unit of the new Hawthorne school was completed in 1920 under the administration of an elementary board of education of which Mrs. George Griffin and Mrs. Anton Nelson were members, the first women to hold office on an Elmhurst school board. Two more units have since been added to the school, the last in 1932.

Since 1922 the growth of the public graded school system has been rapid indeed. The Roosevelt school was built in 1922, the Washington school in 1928 and the new Field school in 1930. Additions were made to the Roosevelt school in 1929 and the Lincoln school in 1932 to care for the increased enrollment, which in the last 10 years has grown from 650 to over 2,000.

Under the direction of Vernon L. Beggs, superintendent since 1929, the elementary schools have been divided into six grades and a junior high school, and a department in charge of a trained director has been created for children with special needs and disabilities.

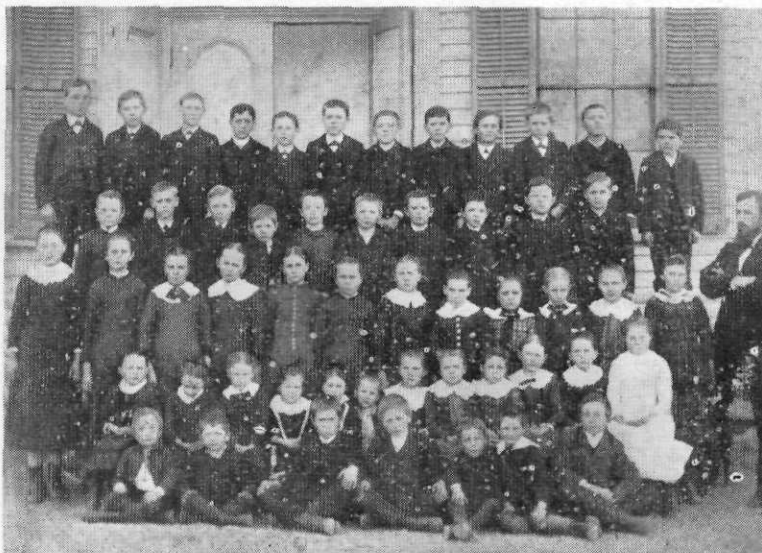
Elms Parochial Schools Have Interesting History

Although a grade school education in public tax-supported schools has been available to the children of Elmhurst residents for the past 86 years of the community's 100 years of history, a parochial education has been no less accessible and many hundreds of local parents have sent their children to church-maintained schools, that their children might receive religious as well as secular instruction.

The first parochial school in Elmhurst was maintained by St. Peter's Evangelical church. Built in 1876, the school faced the alley between Church and Arthur streets back of the present church site. About 1890 it was replaced by a newer and larger building which fronted on Church street and the original school house was moved to Schiller street where it still serves as a residence adjoining the city pumping plant.

Among the early teachers at St. Peter's were E. Kuntze, C. Koetitz and O. Sperber. In 1895, after completing his studies at Elmhurst college, Peter Gerdes became the in-

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOLARS OF 1888



The children in attendance at the Immanuel Lutheran school in the year 1888 are shown in this picture. Otto W. Balgemann, Elmhurst's fourth mayor and a member of the city's centennial commission, has identified those appearing in the top two rows as follows:

Left to right, top row—Ernst Balgemann, Herman Plagge, Otto W. Balgemann, Charles Klemm, George W. Thoma, Herman Hahn, Henry Krueger, Ed Kahle, Henry Licht, Gustav Meyer, William Krueger and August Asche.

Second row—Charles Laatz, Emil Balgemann, Karl Plagge, Edward Asche, Henry Laatz, Louis Meyer, Frank Kahle, Walter Rohmeyer, Herman Heinemann and William Hanebuth.

The teacher is August Baeder, who was also the first village clerk in Elmhurst. Mr. Balgemann was unable to identify the other children.

structor of the one room school, and he held the position until 1921, when the school was closed.

Only a few years after the opening of St. Peter's school a Lutheran school was founded in 1879 by Frederick Rohmeyer, Louis Balgemann, Ernst Balgemann, Edward Graue, Wilhelm Gaedke, William Hanebuth, August Graue, Henry Plagge and William Asche. The founding of the school occurred 13 years before the establishment of a Lutheran church in Elmhurst and in its earliest years the school house served as a meeting place for both children and adults, who gathered for religious discussions which were encouraged by the weekly visits of the pastor of the Lutheran church at Churchville.

August Baeder was the first teacher of the Lutheran school, which originally stood on Larch avenue, near Third street. He taught until 1894, receiving \$200 for his year's services.

In 1901 the school was moved to Michigan street, adjoining the newly constructed Immanuel Lutheran church, and another frame school-house was erected to supplement the old one. In 1914 the present brick building, which accommodates a current enrollment of some 200 students, was built. Four teachers are now on the faculty of the school, of which the Rev. Carl Abel is religious superintendent.

The first Catholic school in Elmhurst was founded by Father John Zilla, who is this year celebrating the golden jubilee of his ordination and who devoted himself for 24 years to the spiritual needs of Elmhurst Catholics. A little one room school was built by Father Zilla in 1899 and the Sisters of St. Agnes of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, were brought to Elmhurst to instruct the children of Catholic parents in the three R's and the faith of their fathers.

In 1902 the little Catholic school became overcrowded and a new two story addition was built, the original building being converted into a convent for the nuns who taught the school. Another new school, the present parish social center at York and Arthur streets, was built in 1922, and in 1929 more recently the adjoining beautiful building, which now houses both school and church, was erected at a cost of \$150,000.

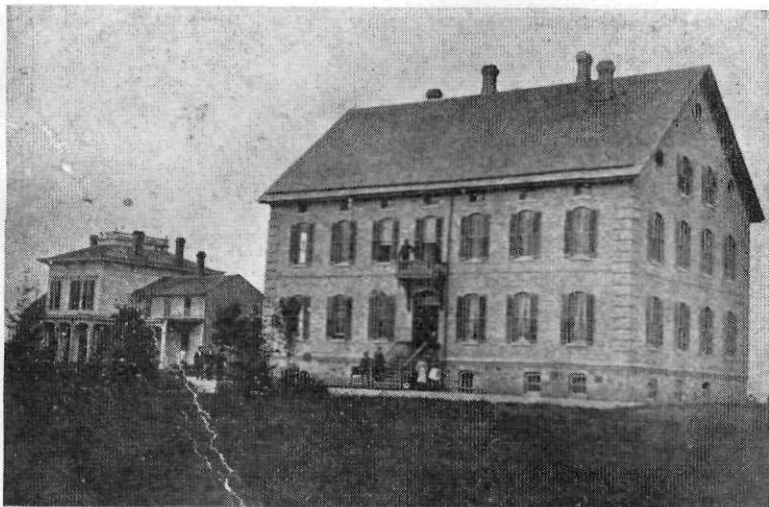
With 370 students now enrolled in the graded school, the Immaculate Conception parish has recently felt the need of a Catholic high school in the community. Accordingly, the Rev. Father William J. Plunkett, present pastor of the church, this year founded the Immaculate Conception high school, remodeling several rooms in the social center to accommodate the 30 or more students already enrolled.

ELMHURST COLLEGE FOUNDED IN 1871

CAMPUS VIEWS THEN AND NOW



In startling contrast to the Elmhurst campus of 60 years ago is the beautiful park which now surrounds Old Main, pictured above.



This is how the Elmhurst college campus looked after the completion of the Music house in 1873. The building at the left is Melancthon house, which housed the college classes from 1871, when the school was moved here from Evansville, Indiana.

School Was Originally
a "Proseminar;" Has
Enjoyed Steady Growth

"Activity and eager co-operation calculated to call forth initiative and self control, and an appreciation of, and consideration for others. That is what we mean by a liberal education."—Elmhurst College Bulletin.

An institution built upon an ideal so broadly constructive and clearly defined as the foregoing is blessed with an inherent power to grow. In 1871 Elmhurst college had one instructor, one building and fourteen students. Today it has a faculty of 27, eight buildings and 236 students. In 1918 it was classed as a preparatory school; in 1934 it was accredited as a four year liberal arts college by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and recognized as a grade "A" institution by the University of Illinois. And plans are already definitely formed for a greater Elmhurst college with 18 buildings and facilities for 750 students.

Although Elmhurst college was chartered in 1871 and in that year took root in Elmhurst, it had its beginning in a normal school organized in Cincinnati in 1867. In 1870 this school was moved to Evansville, Indiana, reorganized as a preparatory and normal school and called the "Proseminar of the Deutsche Evangelische Synode des Westens." Its opening exercises were held in Evansville on January 17, 1871, at which time Reverend Carl F. Kranz was installed as instructor and president. He took for the text of his first official address to his little group of nine students the stirring, courageous old Psalm: "Through God we shall do valiantly."

Two years before this, in 1869, the Melancthon seminary of the same religious denomination had been moved from Lake Zurich, Illinois, to Elmhurst. At that time the present Elmhurst campus was called the "old Bliss place." It consisted of a large house and 30 acres of ground. Twenty acres and the house were bought by the seminary and 10 acres were presented to it by Thomas B. Bryan. The house which had been built some years before 1863 (at which time it was the temporary home of C. D. Wade), became the home of the seminary and was called Melancthon House.

It was agreed at a meeting held here on August 30, 1871, to transfer the seminary students to the larger seminary at Marthasville, Missouri, and to bring the proseminary students from Evansville, Indiana, to Elmhurst. Accordingly, on December 6, 1871, President Kranz arrived at the Melancthon House with a group of 14 students. The school year was completed in June, 1872, with two students, Reverend J. H. Dinkmeier and

W. F. Gieselmann, being graduated as teachers.

The Melanchthon House stood on the site of the present dining hall or commons. Its front room was the class room where the students recited and studied at tables placed in front of long benches. The lower floor of the right wing was the students' study room; the left wing was the dining room and kitchen. The front rooms of the second floor were the apartments of President Kranz and his wife. The attic was the students' dormitory.

The Music House, oldest building still standing on the campus, was built in 1873. At that time there were 34 students, a dozen of whom had lived for a year in temporary quarters of their own construction.

Old Main was built in 1878 during the administration of the second President, Rev. Phillip F. Meusch. In 1880, when Rev. Peter Goebel became president there were 85 students. About this time the old Melanchthon House was abandoned for school use, and in the late eighties was occupied by Professor Rahn, Professor Lueder and Professor Brodt and their families. Some of the happy recollections of Professor Brodt's daughter, Mrs. Peter Gerdes, are the Christmas holidays when the doors which connected the three parts of the building were thrown open and the three families celebrated the season as one.

In 1896, when the dining hall was erected, one wing of the Melanchthon House and the center portion were moved to Alexander boulevard to become homes for faculty members. The other wing remained on the campus as a contagious hospital. The center portion is now the home of Professor Homer L. Helmick and the wing a part of the home of Professor Stanger. The wing left on the campus was torn down many years ago.

Daniel Irion, D. D., was made president in 1887 and remained in office until 1919. In 1906 there began a period of steady growth, and in 1919 the school was reorganized as the "Elmhurst Academy and Junior College," and Rev. J. H. Schick became president. He was succeeded by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr in 1924, during whose administration the third and fourth years of the Liberal Arts course were added.

Since 1928 Dr. Timothy Lehmann has been president and during his term of office a million dollar endowment has been pledged and the college has become co-educational besides becoming recognized as an approved senior college by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

New buildings, including Irion hall, South hall, Memorial Library and the gymnasium have been completed within the past 25 years, and Irion hall and Old Main have more recently been remodeled and modernized, so that now the Elmhurst college campus is a source of pride to the community, for its beauty as well as its high educational standards.

College Prexy



Dr. Timothy Lehmann

SCRIPTURES WERE READ IN EARLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Interesting to note in the minutes of the meeting of the Elmhurst board of education held August 30, 1895, is a resolution "to allow permission to the teachers to open school by scripture reading and the Lord's prayer," which was approved and passed by a unanimous vote. Members of the board which passed the resolution were C. G. Kircher, president; W. H. Emery, John Lueder, Dr. F. H. Bates, August Timke, C. G. Schreiber and Henry Moeller.

SCHOOL COSTS TODAY REFLECT CITY'S GROWTH

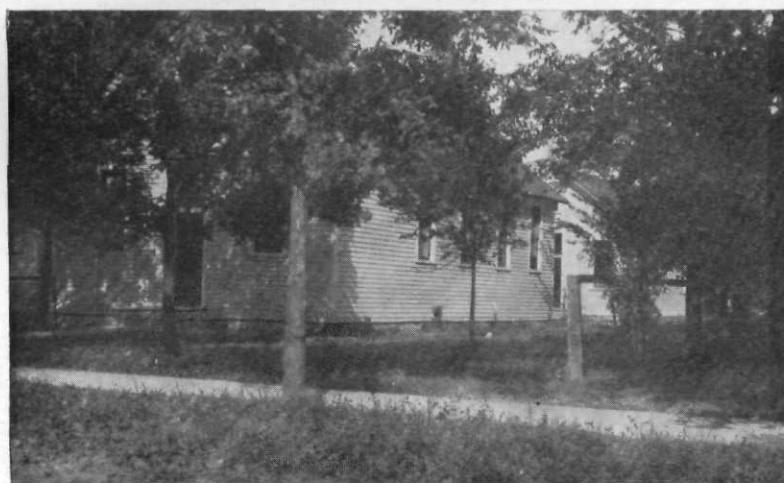
The contrast between Elmhurst's present school system and that of nearly 100 years ago, or even that of only 30 or 40 years ago is interesting and accurately reflects the growth of the community. In the period about 1900 there was one schoolhouse and only seven teachers. The total enrollment was less than 300. Today there are six public graded schools and a separate high school. In the high school alone there are 47 teachers, exclusive of the principal and office force, and 1,409 young people were attending classes daily at the end of December, 1935. The total grade school enrollment is 2,044 pupils and there are 74 teachers in the employ of the board of education.

Comparing the tax levy of 1935 with that of 1900, we find that it has increased almost 5,000 per cent in 35 years. At the turn of the century \$5,800 was levied for educational purposes, whereas last year the York Community high school levy totalled \$135,821.80, exclusive of the taxes spread to pay the interest and retire the principals on the building bonds, and the grade school levy was \$150,559.53.

NORTH SIDE CHILDREN USED TO PAY TUITION

As late as 1901 those residents of Elmhurst living north of North avenue in Addison township were not privileged to send their children to the Elmhurst school without paying tuition, and many were forced to send their children to the Churchville school three miles north of Elmhurst. In 1901, however, the voters of the district voted to annex North Elmhurst to District No. 1, which became No. 46 the next year.

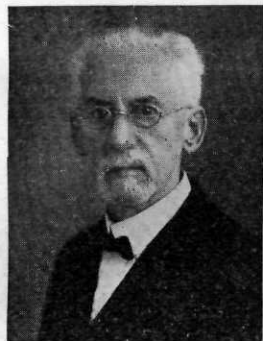
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS IN 1901



The first Lutheran school in Elmhurst, built in 1879, appears in the background of the photo reproduced above, while a later structure, erected in 1901, occupies the foreground. Both schools at the time this picture was taken stood on Michigan street south of the Immanuel church parsonage, the older building having been moved earlier from its original site on Larch avenue.

Dr. Daniel Irion Was "Grand Old Man" To Elms Collegians for 32 Years

To thousands of Elmhurst college graduates who have gone forth from this community in the past few decades, thoughts of the days they spent



Dr. Daniel Irion

in Elmhurst center upon an educator who played an important role in the history of Elmhurst college—Dr. Daniel Irion.

Loved and respected by students and townspeople alike, Dr. Irion passed the major part of his life here. He became pastor of St. Peter's Evangelical church in 1885. After two years in this capacity, he was invited to become president of Elmhurst college, and for 32 years he remained at the helm of the local educational institution. During his administration, some 2,600 students passed through the college. In 1919 advancing years led him to retire from the presidency, but he continued as professor of Greek until 1933, when he withdrew from classroom duties. He died last October, at the ripe old age of 80.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS WERE TAUGHT HERE UNTIL 1900

Though Elmhurst enjoyed the advantages of a public, tax-supported school as early as 1850, small private schools came into existence here from time to time as late as the turn of the century. One of these was a little school which was built on the present site of Hawthorne school about 1865. Among its teachers were William Litchfield, Electra Snow and Eva Tibbits. After being used a few years for a school the building was bought by a Mr. Whittaker, who moved it a short distance southward, remodeled it and named it "Hope Cottage." In 1876 it became the first parsonage of St. Peter's church.

About 1875 the house which is now the residence of the George Challacombe family, at the corner of Elm Park and Prospect avenues, was known as the Cutter boarding and day school for young ladies.

Later, in 1900, Miss Matilda Cree, sister of Britton I. Budd's first wife, taught a little private school in a house on York street south of St. Charles road, and later in the house at the corner of York and Church streets. Among her pupils were the children of Lee Sturges, Thomas Blair and Gilbert Porter.

ELMHURST GRADE SCHOOL BAND WINS STATE HONORS

The Elmhurst grade school band, under the direction of P. M. Keast, won the Illinois state band championship this spring, thus bringing new laurels to Elmhurst and spreading the fame of this 100-year-old Chicago suburban community to all parts of the state.

York Community High School Was Founded In 1918; Has Grown Rapidly

As early as the year of the World Columbian exposition in Chicago high school classes were taught in Elmhurst, but it is a far cry from the high school of that day to the modern plant which now serves the teen-age children of Elmhurst residents.

There were three students in the first Elmhurst high school graduating class in 1896. They were Eleda Heide-man, Edward Most and Hildur Swenson. This year York Community high school is graduating nearly 250 students.

In 1918, after the old Hawthorne school had burned, high school classes were taught in the Community house of the First Congregational church, then known as Christ church. The York Community high school district including Villa Park and part of Lombard, was organized in that year and the enrollment mounted to 118 students.

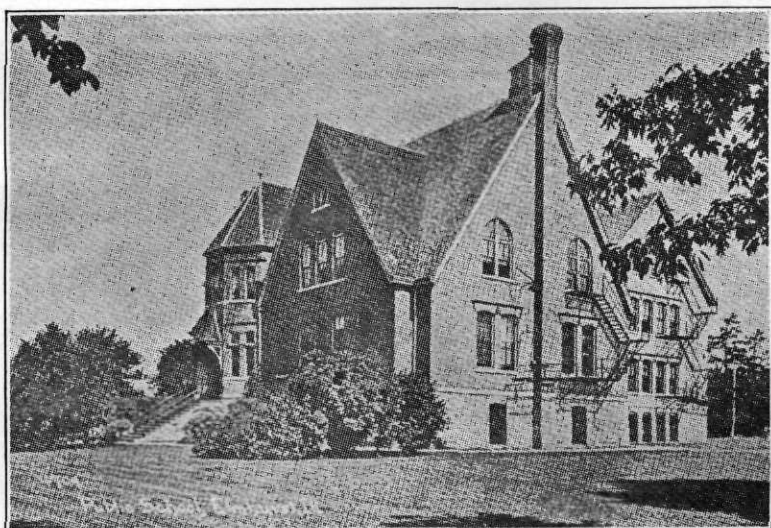
The present 23-acre site of the school, known as the old Lathrop property, was purchased by the first York board, which consisted of Roscoe E. Little, George H. Miller, Dr. E. W. Marquardt, Ira A. Stone and William S. Weller, in the fall of 1918. The following year the first unit of the present large building threw open its doors, opening a new era of development in high school educational facilities in this community.

At the present time York Community high school is housed in a building which cost nearly \$1,000,000. The enrollment has increased to 1,447 and the faculty today number 48 competent, well-trained instructors, as against six in 1918. George L. Letts has been principal of the school since 1924, having succeeded J. H. Crann, the first principal.

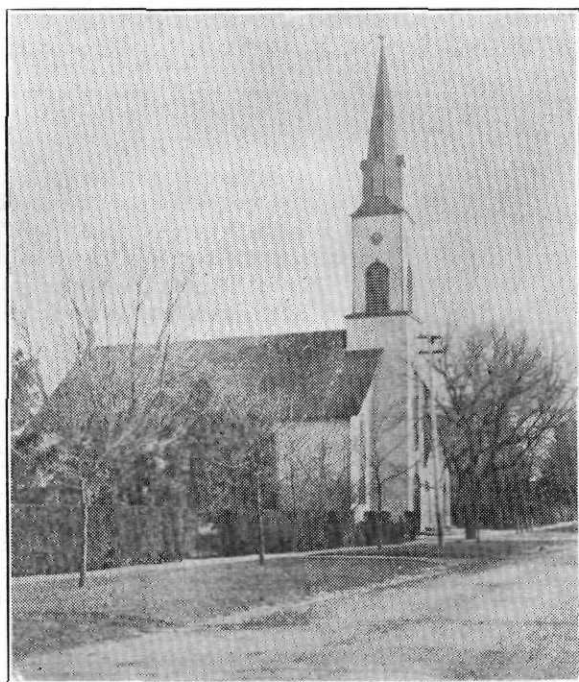
Throughout its history, York has enjoyed an enviable reputation for its high scholastic standards and its prowess in athletics and other competitive fields. Just this year, the school's track team, coached by Clarence D. East, won the Illinois state championship by an easy margin at the University of Illinois. The most amazing feature of the York boys' performance was the record breaking half-mile relay run by James Monahan, Robert Linard, Ray Kopitke and Phil Darmstadt. Their time was one minute, 29.8 seconds, two-tenths of a second faster than the state record set the year before by another quartet of York boys.

In scholarship, music, dramatics and other fields the York students are no less proficient. Several years ago, under the direction of John C. Minnema, the Treble Clef, girls' glee club, became famous, and York graduates each year make their mark in leading colleges and universities.

"AHEAD OF ITS TIME" IN 1888



This school, built in 1888 on the site of the present Hawthorne school, was said to be "ahead of its time," but it soon became overcrowded. It burned in 1917, bringing about a crisis in the local school housing problem.



Old St. Peter's Evangelical Church



First Congregational Church



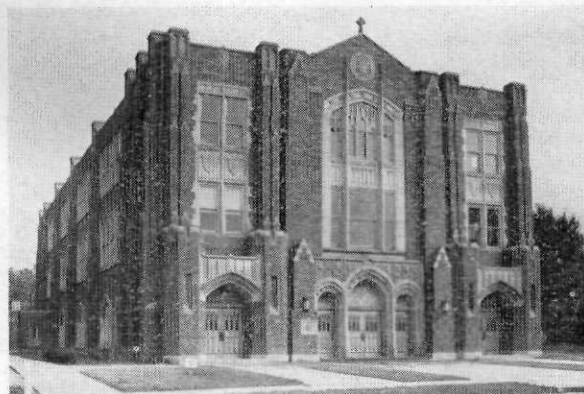
New St. Peter's Evangelical Church



Community House and Old Christ Church



First Evangelical Church



Immaculate Conception Church and School

STORY OF ELMHURST'S CHURCHES

First Church Here Was Built by Catholics In 1862; Others Followed

In the years prior to 1860, when settlers were scattered and few and of various religious denominations, there was no church within a radius of several miles of what is now Elmhurst. As usual in pioneer settlements, however, family devotions were held and now and then a service was conducted by an itinerant priest or preacher who ministered to the spiritual needs of whoever would attend.

But by 1860 a group of the Catholic faith organized to build a small mission church in the southwest part of York township. Two years later a half acre of land was purchased in

the village then called Cottage Hill and the first Catholic church was erected at the corner of York and Church streets. This building, after serving a slowly growing congregation for 38 years, was destroyed by fire in 1898.

Father John Zilla, pastor of the parish at the time and who is this year celebrating his golden jubilee in California, set about to build a new church, schoolhouse and parsonage one half block further south facing York street. By 1920 the congregation had outgrown both church and school facilities, and a new site was chosen at the corner of York and Arthur streets for a new school.

A three story combined church and school edifice, facing Arthur street, has since been erected by the parish and the building adjoining it has been converted into a spacious community center. Father William J. Plunkett

and two assistants now serve the parish.

In 1862 the protestants of Episcopalian faith found their first regular place of worship in a chapel built by Thomas B. Bryan on an easily accessible corner of his estate, called Byrd's Nest. In consequence, this place of worship was called Byrd's Nest chapel as long as it existed. In 1914, after Mr. Bryan had passed away and his children had left Elmhurst, Byrd's Nest was empty, but there were sufficient Episcopalians to organize and build a place of worship of their own. On a centrally located property on Church and Kenilworth streets a parish house was built to serve temporary needs, and a resident priest now conducts regular services in the Church of Our Saviour, the offspring of Byrd's Nest chapel.

Up to 1876, the nearest places of worship for the many German protestants here were two churches within a stone's throw of each other which reared their steeples high above the treeless prairie, visible for miles around, at a place three miles from Elmhurst now known as Churchville. Services in both churches—one Evangelical Lutheran, the other Missouri Lutheran—were conducted in the German language. Folks had to rise early for a walk to church in those days. Even the students from Elmhurst college, established in 1871, marched in procession three miles across country to church. Attendance was obligatory.

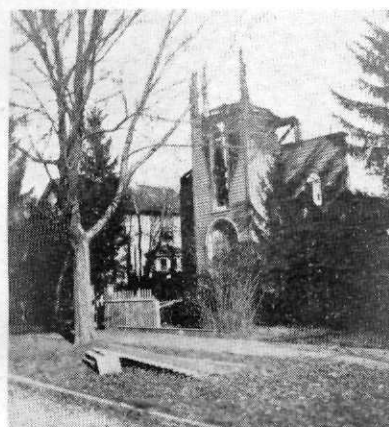
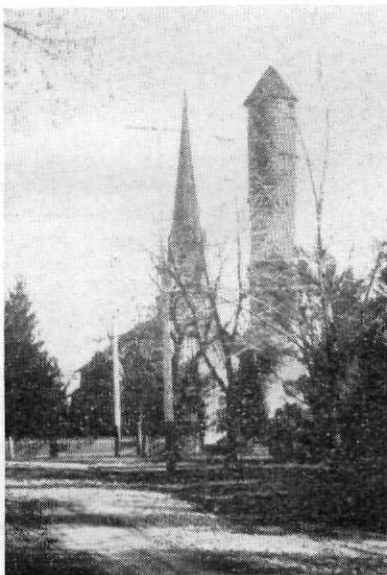
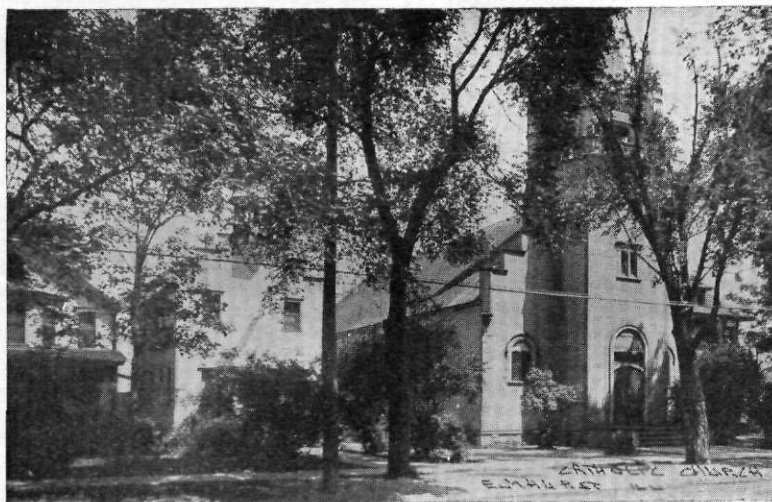
By 1876, however, the growing number of residents in Elmhurst and York township seemed sufficient to undertake the building of a church within the village of Elmhurst. The lot chosen in the block between Cottage Hill avenue and York street had on it a residence suitable for parsonage. A small school house, which had already done service as a parochial school, was transferred to a corner of the lot, and by September of the same year, a church building sufficiently large to accommodate the college students besides a steadily growing congregation was dedicated as St. Peter's Evangelical church.

This first building served the congregation for a period of almost fifty years, and was replaced in 1925 by the present one with modern requirements of space for sanctuary, parish hall, society and Sunday school rooms, etc.

For many years prior to 1890 the need for an organized Christian church, whose worship should be conducted in English, was keenly felt by a large number of persons of various religious denominations. This need finally resulted in the organization and erection of the inter-denominational Christ church. For 38 years the little brown church on the corner of Kenilworth avenue and Church street served an ever-growing number. In 1928 the present large house of worship of the First Congregational church supplanted the old Christ church.

Lutherans in Elmhurst continued to form a part of the Missouri Lutheran

OLD ST. MARY'S AND ITS SUCCESSOR



At the left, St. Mary's Catholic church and the old Elmhurst water tower. Lower right, after the fire in 1898. Above, the school and church built by Father Zilla and only recently razed.

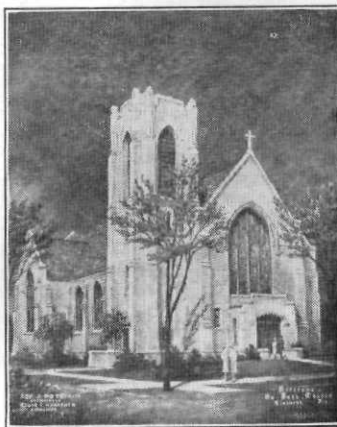
church in Churchville until 1892, when they were sufficiently strong in number to build a church in Elmhurst. They selected a location on the north side of Elmhurst and built Immanuel church at Michigan and Third streets. About 1926 the language question arose, and those preferring services in the English language exclusively left the church to establish Redeemer Lutheran church on the other side of the city, at Kenilworth avenue and St. Charles road. Both churches have, in the past eight years, erected new houses of worship that are a credit to the community.

As Elmhurst grew other denominations felt the necessity of establishing churches here. The First Evangelical church at North avenue and North York street was founded in 1911 and the church building dedicated in 1914. Also in 1914 the Methodists organized a church here and built a house of worship at York and Arthur streets, only to disband later. Since then they have re-organized and now hold regular services in the York theatre auditorium. Their former home became the Masonic temple and for a number of years it has also

served as a meeting place for the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Other churches organized in comparatively recent years include the First Baptist church, Elmhurst English Lutheran church, Epiphany Lutheran church, Grace church and Central Baptist church.

Redeemer Lutheran Church



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH TODAY



Community House Serves To Perpetuate Memory of Former Elms Pastor

Probably no other building in Elmhurst has housed so much of the social life and community activities of the growing city of Elmhurst in the past 25 years as the Community house of the First Congregational church, known until a few years ago as Christ church. Built by the Rev. Dr. William G. Danforth, who was pastor of Christ church from 1900 to 1915, the Community house still serves to perpetuate the memory of the man whose fertile brain conceived the ideas for which it stands.

Besides providing a stage for dramatic entertainments and kitchen facilities for public and church banquets and dinners, the building originally included billiard rooms and bowling alleys in its basement, where men of the community found a welcome respite from business obligations and worries on old winter evenings for many years.

Dr. Danforth, besides working tirelessly for the social welfare of the community, was beloved by his congregation as a spiritual adviser and counselor. So forceful and significant were his messages from the pulpit that many years after his resignation in 1915 and his death in Indianapolis in 1917 those who counted themselves among Christ church's members recalled in awe the utterances of this distinguished divine. Of him the late Dr. Frederick H. Bates wrote, "No man, with the possible exception of Thomas B. Bryan or Dr. Frederick J. T. Fischer, has ever had so firm a hold on the affections of the community as Dr. Danforth had."

Old Immanuel Church



Fred H. Mahler Was One of City's First Merchant Tailors

Elmhurst's only merchant tailor for many years was Fred H. Mahler, who came here in 1893 with his wife and two children, Frieda and William, and started a tailor shop in the old Bauer building at 117 North York street, where the Albert D. Graue real estate firm is now located.

Twice Mr. Mahler sought a new location for his business, erecting a new building at 119 East First street in 1897 and then building the present Mahler block on West Park avenue in 1902.

Many of Elmhurst's early settlers and prominent figures who made their homes here at the turn of the century wore clothes tailored by Mr. Mahler. Among his patrons were Thomas Page Bryan, Thomas B. Bryan, the Wilders, Kings, Bentleys, Emerys, Rockwoods, Frank and Lee Sturges, Adam and Henry Glos and others.

Besides devoting most of his time to his business, Mr. Mahler served the village as trustee and treasurer in different years.

Fred Mahler's son, William H. Mahler, and his daughter, Frieda Mahler, are both in business in Elmhurst at the present time.

A PERFECT GENTLEMAN WAS THOMAS B. BRYAN

It is said of Thomas B. Bryan, probably the most famous of Elmhurst's earliest settlers, that he would stop his carriage to offer a ride to the apron clad washwoman or grimy la-

THE HEINEMANN MEAT MARKET



The L. H. Heinemann meat market, shown as it appeared early in the 20th century, is still standing on South York street, but none would recognize it, for it has acquired a modern brick front. It now houses the Heinemann Food Shop, an up-to-date delicatessen store.

In contrast to meat distribution methods employed by local merchants today, note the carcasses hanging in Mr. Heinemann's window. He bought beef on the hoof from nearby farmers and did his own butchering.

Fred Rohmeyer Farm, Settled In 1867, Is Still Elms Landmark

Situated on St. Charles road at the Illinois Central railroad, across the street from York Community high school and well within the built-up portion of Elmhurst, is a farm that retains its rural character despite the urbanization of its environs. It was settled by Frederick H. Rohmeyer in 1867 and has changed but little since that time.

Mr. Rohmeyer was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America in 1857. After 10 years he located in Elmhurst and became one of its early blacksmiths, doing business at the location where Louis Balgemann's blacksmith shop now is. He passed away about five years ago at the age of 93 years, but his widow still survives him and makes her home with their two sons, Walter and Alfred, on the original family homestead. Mrs. Rohmeyer recently observed her 84th birthday.

Had Turn-Table Here

A turn-table at the corner of Maple avenue and West First street used to turn the noon train on the Galena and Chicago Union railroad around for its return trip to Chicago in the old days.

GRAUE BROS.—DEALERS IN GROCERIES



The interior of the Graue Bros. grocery store at 136 West Park avenue, for many years the leading food store in the community. From left to right, the men in the picture are William Graue, an Italian fruit and vegetable wholesaler whose name is not known, Julius Graue and Harvey Krieter.

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ELMHURST CENTENNIAL PROGRAM**Wednesday, June 3-13**

Exhibition of antiques in store windows.

Wednesday evening, June 3

Softball, Elmhurst Softball Field, Walter street.
Music—Immanuel Lutheran Band, William F. Bertram,
Director.

Thursday, June 4

8 P. M.—Dr. Harlan Tarbell in Magic Show at York
Community High School. (Admission—Elmhurst Cen-
tennial Souvenir Badge.)

Friday, June 5

9 A. M.—Reveille—Salvo of bombs, blowing of city
whistles, ringing of all church bells.
9 A. M. to 9:30 P. M.—Elmhurst Elementary Schools—
Visiting Day. Assemblies at New and Old Field,
Roosevelt, Lincoln, Washington, Hawthorne.
2 P. M.—Unveiling of bronze tablet... Original site of
Tavern, N. E. corner Cottage Hill avenue and St.
Charles Road.
Martha Ibbetson Chapter D. A. R., in charge.
Acceptance: Mayor Claude L. Van Auken.
3 P. M.—Children's Parade.
Joe Coyle's Clowns.
8 P. M.—Assembly—Hawthorne School.
8:30 to 9:30 P. M.—Extraordinary entertainment—Addi-
son, between First and Second.
The Cardovas, five people.
The Kimawa Japs, five people.
The Gyrols, roller skating, three people.
Dale and Meyers, two people.
Joe Madden, juggler.
Kadet Kozak.
9:30 to 12 P. M.—Street Dance, Addison, between First
and Second—Jimmy Henshel's Orchestra.

Saturday, June 6

9:30 A. M.—Kiddies' Athletics, Addison avenue.
Scooter races.
Roller skating.
Tricycle races.
12 to 10 P. M.—Flower Show, Hawthorne School.
2:30 P. M.—Garden Program—Colored movies of World's
Fair Gardens, Hawthorne School.
2 P. M.—Tennis—Men. Elmhurst College vs. Elmhurst
Tennis Club at Elmhurst College.
2 P. M.—Tennis—Women, at Wilder Park.
2 P. M.—Baseball—Old-Timers vs. Arrows, Lake street
field.
2:30 P. M.—Laying of wreath at mausoleum of Henry
L. Glos, first village president.
Otto W. Balgemann, Chairman.
Speaker: Judge Win G. Knoch, Naperville.
3:30 P. M.—Band Concert, Wilder Park, Elmhurst Boy
Scout Band. P. M. Keast, Director.
4 P. M.—Centennial Meeting. Chairman: Alben F. Bates.
Presentation of members of Commission: Mayor Van
Auken.
Introduction of Old Settlers.
Music—Elmhurst Women's Choral Club—Miss Helen
Leefelt, Director.
Cornerstone laying of addition to Public Library. Mrs.
H. A. Berens, Chairman, Library Board, in charge.
Introduction of Speaker by Dr. Timothy Lehmann.
Address—The Honorable Charles W. Hadley, Wheaton.
8:30 P. M.—Band Concert, Immanuel Lutheran Band.
William F. Bertram, Director.
9 P. M.—Pageant—Jack Rohr, Director.
Episode 1—Scene 1—Indian Summer. (McCutcheon)
Scene 2—The Original Settler. Indians,
Friendship Dance, Bonnet Dance,
Gift Dance, Gohominy Dance.
Episode 2—Scene 1—The First White Settler.
Scene 2—A Pioneer Play Party.

(Continued on next page)

ELMHURST CENTENNIAL PROGRAM CONTINUED

Episode 3—Scene 1—The First School.
Scene 2—Schools of Today.

Episode 4—Scene 1—The First Church.
Scene 2—The Church of Today.

Episode 5—Scene 1—Elmhurst the Patriot.
Scene 2—To Our Country.

Episode 6—The Chicago Fire.

Episode 7—A Colonial Party.

Episode 8—Madam Hagan's Garden Party.

F i n a l e.

Sunday, June 7

10:30 A. M.—Church services in all local churches.

10:30 A. M. to 10 P. M.—Flower Show, Hawthorne School. Music—Chuck Earll's Orchestra.

2 P. M.—Parade—Reviewing stand on Second street—Admission by ticket only.

7:30 P. M.—Sacred Band Concert, Elmhurst Boy Scout Band. P. M. Keast, Director.

8 P. M.—Open Air Service at Wilder Park.
Speakers: Dr. Albert Palmer, President, Theological Seminary, Chicago, "The Church of Tomorrow."
Rev. Fred Harrison, Elmhurst, "The Church of Yesterday."

Monday, June 8

3 P. M.—Boys' Track Meet, College Field.
7:30 P. M.—Horseshoe Pitching, Willow road at First street.

Tuesday, June 9

7:30 P. M.—Water Fight—Walter street, Elmhurst Fire Department.
9 P. M.—Softball, Elmhurst Softball Field, Walter street.

Wednesday, June 10

9 P. M.—Softball, Elmhurst Softball Field.

Thursday, June 11

8:30 P. M.—Community Players present "Gold in the Hills," or "The Dead Sister's Secret." Joseph R. Murray, Director.
9 P. M.—Softball, Elmhurst Softball Field.

Friday, June 12

7 P. M.—Band Concert and Girls' Softball.
9 P. M.—Major League Softball, Elmhurst Softball Field.

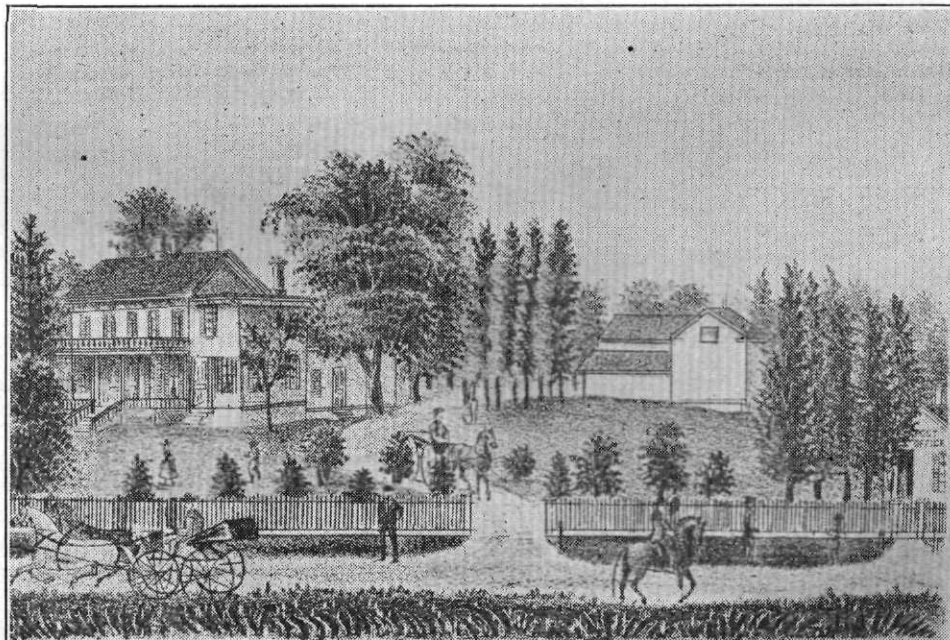
Saturday, June 13

7:30 P. M.—Boy Scout Band, Elmhurst Softball Field.
8 P. M.—Boxing—Elmhurst Softball Field; Crowning of Centennial Champions.

Sunday, June 14

2 P. M.—Golf exhibition by noted professionals, Elmhurst Country Club.

THE VIEW FROM THE STATION IN 1850



The Gerry Bates residence during the middle 1800's. The house is now owned by Gerry Bates' son, Charles W. Bates, who moved it to its present location at Adelaide and Adelle streets.

