

REMINISCENCES OF EARLY DOWNERS GROVE DAYS

(Continued from Page 1)

on the Carpenter homestead where his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene W. Farrar, still reside. (Maple avenue and Carpenter streets).

About this time Mr. Alonzo Beldin built the first blacksmith shop which I think stood on the southeast corner of the Carpenter homestead. I will here state that from documents that I have in my possession I believe that the first public business of any kind in the township was a blacksmith shop conducted by a man named Chapin. The shop was located a little north east of where my house stands in the farm on the Plank Road. This man boarded at the Pierce Downer home. This was in the year 1834. Of the log cabins in which almost every one lived and of the terrible road conditions which prevailed up to the building of the Plank road, my memory is still fresh.

Eli Curtis, it was, I think, who was the first postmaster in this section.

The first church erected in this vicinity was the Congregational church and stood just across the road from the old depot at Belmont. This was erected in the year 1836 and the Rev. Orange Lyman, grandfather of Walter Lyman of Downers Grove, was the first pastor. Mr. Lyman still has in his possession some of the sermons preached by this pioneer minister of the Gospel.

The church building was sold to the Evangelical Church Society later, was twice moved, the last time to West Maple avenue, and since that time has been rebuilt as a dwelling house and is still in use. This church was the first one erected east of Naperville.

The first school house built in what is now the village of Downers Grove stood on what was the Marshall Field estate, just west of where the house stands where Walter Scott Bryan lived for so many years. This was the first school I attended and this was in the year 1846. A man by the name of O. P. Hathaway was the first school teacher.

My brothers, T. S. (Capt.) and J. W. (Warren) Rogers both taught in this school later which was in use up to the year 1867. In this year a new brick school, containing two rooms was built on the present school site on Maple avenue.

The first hotel, on what was then known as the South road, which is now Maple Avenue, as I have before stated, was located on the hill west of the Ducat estate. At that time it was a busy place, being on the stage route from Chicago to Ottawa. At that time all hotels kept a bar at which liquor was sold. I do not remember what was charged per drink but if you had your own jug with you, it was filled for 25 cents per gallon.

It was in 1850 that there arrived here three brothers, musicians, who taught dancing. Nearly all the young folk of the vicinity attended these dances, during that winter which were held at the Aldrich tavern. The names of the brothers were, Bert, Elery and Frank Walker and the good times of the young people stirred the ire of the reformers of that day who tried hard to put a stop to them. I think all who attended these dances passed away long ago with the exception of Mrs. Labun Stanley of Saratoga avenue, who recently passed away.

At this time this part of the country was a hunter's paradise, as game of all kinds abounded. There were deer, wolves, prairie chickens, quail, plover, pigeons and ducks and geese by the thousands.

At that time the sloughs, which have now been tiled out and are under cultivation, were small lakes. We always figured on a June freshet which kept these sloughs filled the year around and they were the cause of much sickness as very few escaped "the shakes" as the fever and ague was known in those days.

The creek which runs through the village was in those days quite a sizable stream and was known as the St. Joe river. The boys had built a dam across it just above where the Heartt building now stands and the water was deep enough for good swimming. This was then the Curtis pasture and it was here that the boys played ball on Saturday afternoons.

We had, at that period, a mail once a week, which came in Saturday afternoon from Lemont, then called Athens. The mail was delivered to this village from there up until the time of the building of the Alton railroad. Sometimes the mail man had a hard time getting through as the roads were impassible except when frozen in the winter months and when dried off in the middle of the summer.

Farming was the only occupation and prices were so low that folks did not get rich very fast. Wheat was worth only 40 cents per bushel and oats and corn hardly paid hauling to market. To offset this land was very cheap, from six to twelve dollars per acre.

The next event of importance to Downers Grove township was the building of the Plank road from Chicago to Naperville in 1850. As this road is now to be State Aid road No. 2 and to be hard surfaced, they can thank the old Plank Road Corporation for much work on the highway. They straightened it out in several places, building it through sloughs which will be a great help at this time. The company spent thousands of dollars building it through the Dixon slough as the old road ran around close to where the Dixon house now stands.

Everything went along in the same old way until the year 1849 when the news spread over the country of the discovery of gold in California. Of course, this news quickened the blood of the young men of the community, who had listened to the tales of their elders of coming west in the old days and everyone was at a fever heat to be off. Among those who made up their minds to join the rush to the gold fields from this place were the following: Charles Curtis, I. P. Blodgett, Dexter and L. Stanley, Albert and Amos Adams and and E. Root.

At this time crossing the plains was a huge undertaking with ox teams. The country was occupied by thousands of hostile Indians and only by traveling in big parties were the argonauts able to get through, but I think all the boys who went from Downers Grove arrived safely and were successful in getting their share of the yellow metal and all safely returned, with the exception of Albert and Amos Adams who remained the rest of their lives and were highly honored by their adopted state, California.

In my next article I will tell of the building of the Plank road and other incidents of the early days.

SELLS MOVIE OUT-FIT TO FAR-AWAY INDIA GOVERNMENT

H. S. Dum Gets Order From Agricultural Department of an Interior Province.

That at least one of the provinces of far-away India will teach the natives what the world is doing via the moving picture route is attested to in an order received Monday by H. S. Dum.

Mr. Dum is selling moving picture machines and outfits by mail to many different organizations. These are to be used mostly in an educational way by schools, colleges and other agencies having to do with the enlightenment of the masses of the people.

Last fall some of the literature advertising his line was sent to India and this week an order was received for a complete outfit from Robert L. Pendleton, Official Director of Agriculture of the Gwalior Government of Central India. The machine will be used in teaching the natives the modern way of farming from planting to harvest time. It will also bring to them scenes and peoples of remote corners of the world in a way which has been impossible before because of a lack of education among the great mass of the people.

Through Life's Pilgrimage

And thus ever, by day and night, under the sun and under the stars, climbing the dusty hills and toiling along the weary plains, journeying by land and journeying by sea, coming and going so strangely—to meet, and meet on one another, move we restless travelers through the pilgrimage of life.—Charles Dickens, in "Little Dorrit."

First Printed Book.

A Latin Bible, printed by Gutenberg and Fust at Mentz in 1455, is the earliest known printed book. A copy of this book is now in the British museum at London.

LULA LORRAINE POE

Little Lula Lorraine, the eleven months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Poe of East Grove, passed away at her home Tuesday, February 8th.

Funeral services were held at her home Thursday, the Rev. Calvin Campbell of the Christian Church of Chicago, officiating. Burial was made in the West Side cemetery.

Lula Lorraine was born in East Grove February 18th, 1920. She is survived by her father and mother and brothers, Ernest, and Marion Fenner and Thomas Poe, Jr., and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Woodson.

To Bore a Conical Hole Through Wood.

When you have a conical hole to bore, such as for a handle hole in a wooden maul or other similar place, leave the cutter of an expensive auger bit a trifle loose and begin boring at the side where the smaller end of the hole is wanted. The inner edge of the cutter lip being angular, the cutter will gradually draw itself out from the body of the bit, making the hole larger as the bit goes into the wood.—Popular Science Monthly.



"You Can't Beat That Route for Scenery"

said a much-traveled man, referring to the Burlington, Denver & Rio Grande and Western Pacific—that great central, scenic highway through Colorado and Salt Lake to California.

Folks just naturally want to see all they can when they travel. This service offers the biggest possible travel treat. The schedule was planned so that all the best scenery is passed in daylight. It takes a little longer, but it costs no more. It is the ideal route—going, returning or both.

J. L. REMMERS, Ticket Agent

HIGH "Y" CLUB GAVE VALENTINE PARTY MONDAY

Over Fifty Pupils of High School Entertained—Regular Meeting Next Monday.

The High Y Club gave a Valentine party in the parlors of the Congregational Church Monday night, which was attended by over fifty of the pupils of the High School.

The program was in charge of John Lehman and Richard Drees, and the

entire evening was spent in playing games.

The High Y Club is to meet regularly in the Congregational church parlors. The next meeting will be held next Monday at which time regular business will be transacted. After a short parliamentary drill, the time will be spent in "self analysis for vocational guidance."

Derivation of Word "Gipsy."

The name "gipsy" is probably derived from "Egyptian," by which term the gipsies were known in the English statutes.

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Lenten Specials

SARDINES

- RICHELIEU PACIFIC COAST— In Tomato Sauce or Mustard, large can 25c
PLAZANET IMPORTED— Skinned, Boneless, in Olive Oil, per can 32c
GOLDEN NET IMPORTED— In Olive Oil, per can 26c
THE BOSS— In Cottonseed Oil, per can 12c
HOME RUN— In Cottonseed Oil, 3 cans for 25c
MALLARD OR MOTHER GOOSE— In Mustard, per can 26c

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Only the Very Best Red Salmon

The Corner Grocery

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LACES AND EMBROIDERIES

Special Lot No. 1—Embroidery Insertions, yard .5c
Special Lot No. 2—Lace Insertions worth up to 20c a yard, Special Price .4c

BLANKETS

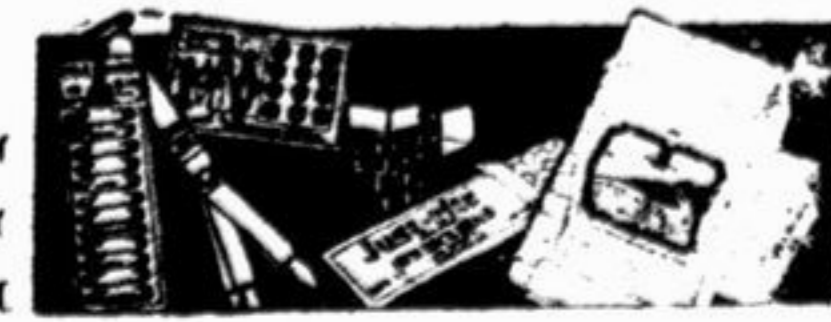
We still have a number of cotton blankets that we are selling at very low reduced prices.
\$4.95 Grades @ \$3.19 \$3.89 Grades @ \$2.99
\$4.15 Grades @ \$2.95

COTTON BATTS SPECIAL

4 pound fine cotton stitched batt, full comforter size, well worth \$2.75 or \$3.00, Special Price \$1.75

NOTIONS

Buttons that sold for 10, 12, 15 & 20c per card @ 5c
10c Men's Brown 40 inch Shoe Laces @ per pair 6c
Justright Hair Net, 2 for 25c



Aprons

A \$2.50 value ladie's aprons in kimona style, dark & light colors @ \$1.65

Calicos Special

Only 200 yards left of Calicos, light and dark patterns, while they last, at per yard 14c

Muslins

36 inch bleached muslin. A grade that sold for 35 to 40c at 19c

Ribbons

Pretty ribbons in fancy patterns and plains for hair bows, fancy work girdles, etc., \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.00 widths at per yard .50 to 69c



Baby Flannel

26 inch pink, blue and grey plain baby flannels, yard 16c

Lehmann & Michel's Store