

### Downers Grove 37 Years Ago

Wm. J. Herring first located in this vicinity some three years ago, and during this time has erected several fine and imposing structures, besides doing considerable other kinds of work. In all he has done we understand he has been faithful in the performance of his contracts, and given entire satisfaction in the quality of his work. Many years' experience on a varied kind of buildings in Chicago before coming here, has brought him to a high standard of excellence as a contractor and builder, to whom our citizens extend liberal patronage.

Beideman Brothers, which firm consists of Wm. J. and Alexander F. Beideman, are the two popular and leading mason builders of Downers Grove and vicinity. The former has resided in Du Page county since 1846, and the latter was born herein sometime thereafter, having had 26 and 11 years' experience at the trade respectively. They are called on to do the principal work of this locality in their line, and the many foundations and other kinds of work to be seen hereabout will prove the skill they have acquired as builders.

E. J. Miller, the florist, has one of the largest, most select and varied stocks of house and bedding out plants of any florist in any village of equal size to this we know of. She has a fine and growing trade, which has been secured by a thorough, systematic and laborious devotion to the business for which she has a passion and is master of.

Mrs. E. C. Bates, the lady who represents the millinery part of the village has resided here many years and has been in business a long time. She has exhibited much taste, skill and judgment in her selections, and while her stock is not as immense as those in large cities yet is particularly complete. She is a reliable and painstaking lady and merits the large patronage extended.

J. M. Barr, the ex-postmaster, has resided here since 1857, except during his absence in the 33rd Ill. infantry during the war, and has been engaged in insurance all the time. He is now agent for the Home Insurance Co., of New York, a company which can be confidently recommended.

Israel L. Blackburn has been in our midst since 1866 and owns some 3 1/2 acres of as fine woodland and garden ground as there is in the country. He is engaged in teaming and the raising of garden truck, especially celery, in the growth of which he is remarkably successful.

Israel P. Blodgett, one of the very oldest settlers of this part of the

country, having located here in 1836, is now engaged in manufacturing all kinds of brooms. For many years he was a successful farmer but retired therefrom some time ago, and for recreation and in order to keep busy continued his broom factory, which he established in 1865. He owns and occupies valuable property near the depot in the village, and has the reputation of making brooms of all kinds and sizes equal to the very best and superior to many that are found in the market merely for the purpose of sale. He is a brother of Judge H. W. Blodgett and Major E. A. Blodgett of Chicago, and C. B. Blodgett of Downers Grove.

Austin & Co. consists of A. B. Austin and A. E. Crittenden, owners of extensive nurseries here known as "Downers Grove Nurseries." They have been established many years and rank among the best stocked of any in the state. Their stock is particularly full and varied, and embraces every variety of shade, ornamental and fruit tree and shrub, while they have acquired a name for fair

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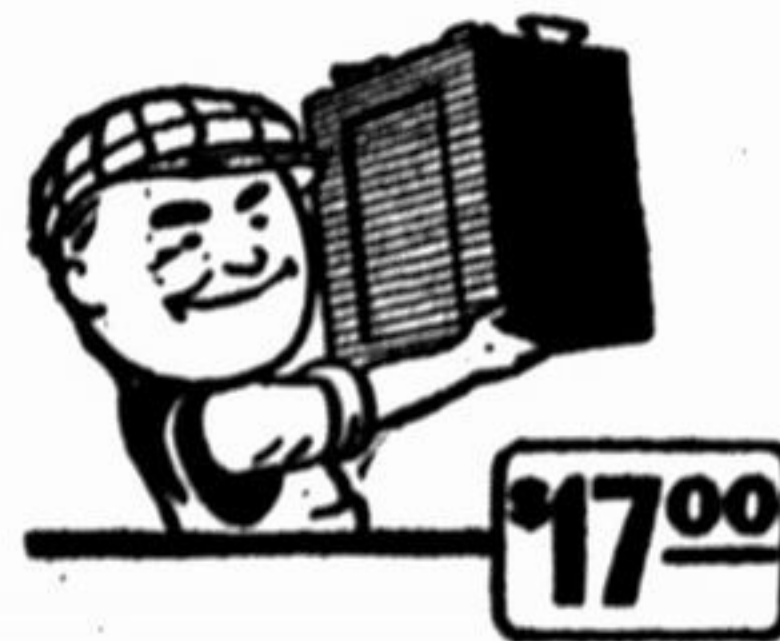
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