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Rediscovering ILLINOIS by LBSTEE COLBY

Only when we chance upon some unexpected close-up of the rather shadowy past do we begin to realize what our pioneer forbears went through in settling the raw lands of Illinois. I came upon a paragraph or two the other day in an old book in Nashville that serves to illustrate.

This book, a sort of history, was published forty-eight years ago. In it I learned that one of the primary reasons why the early settlers built their homes in the woodlands was this:

Ferocious Fly

A large and ferocious green-headed fly, myriad in numbers, inhabited the open prairies. These flies made life miserable for man and beast alike and actually killed horses. Old-timers tell me that the bite of one of these flies would drive a horse to frenzy with pain and where they bit large drops of blood would well out and trickle down. The habitat of these flies was out in the open country where the "pampas grass" grew so rank that a horse or cow, walking into it, would vanish from sight.

Another peril was the prairie fire. In the fall this grass would die and dry out. Fires sprang up and swept with such speed that no one could outrun it. All this is apart from the fevers, typhoid, malaria, ague and kindred ills that pursued the settler.

Pioneer Problems

We will move a little closer. Nashville is in Washington county. It's approximately fifty miles southeast of St. Louis. I ran across some figures revealing the problems and conditions of fifty years ago. It is recorded that in 1877 in Washington county, 10,115 hogs died of cholera. That same year 2,127 hogs were marketed. Practically five hogs lost by disease to one hog sold!

There are figures, too, on sheep. That same year 462 sheep were killed by dogs and 536 sheep were sold. And the assessor in 1878 recorded that he found "moneys of banks, a banker or stock jobber, totaling the amazing figure of \$4,020 and "others moneys" totaling \$43,785.

He valued the county's 5,194 horses at an average of \$31.02 each; 7,810 cattle, \$10.91 average; 2,142 mules, \$31.42; 4,064 sheep, \$1.02 each; 10,290 hogs, \$1.11 each.

Money in Milk

Washington county's milk money today is running about \$1,200,000 a year. Hogs, and cholera is about as near gone as typhoid, malaria and ague, are a big item. Poultrying is in a prosperous condition. The prairies are in grain. The Meyer Milling Co. grinds about 1,200 barrels of flour a day and the Huegley Milling Co. another 800 barrels.

A milk company operates glass-lined thermos trucks to St. Louis over concrete roads. Farmers bringing milk to Nashville, only one of the county's concentration points, cash milk checks totaling \$20,000 a month.

Milk cattle are now being tuberculin tested, which means higher prices for the milk and better health for the people. It was told that the two banks in Nashville carried deposits of more than \$1,500,000. Livery stables have been turned into garages and nearly every farmer has a motor car or two. Much money, I was told on good authority, has been sent out of the county for investment.

Countryside Complains

Yet the countryside complains quite a bit. I was told, of hard times and low prices for this and that. I wonder if the little close-ups of the past will perhaps cheer them somewhat.

In the beginning Nashville was named New Nashville. That was because the first settlers came from Tennessee. Some descendants remain. A great change in the type of citizenry has come, however, in the last seventy-five years.

Following the German rebellion of

1849 there came a great influx of Teutons. The earliest settlers were somewhat restless and migrant by nature. Many of them sold their lands to the German immigrants and moved away. Today Washington county is almost 90 per cent German in ancestry. The remainder are mostly descendants of the original settlers from Tennessee though there is a colony of Poles in one district. In these later years there has been considerable intermarriages between the descendants of the Germans and the Tennesseans.

Slavery Practiced

In the beginning slavery was practiced in this part of Illinois. Records show that slaves were taxed at \$1 each in 1818 and horses at fifty cents. At that time many charges were fixed by law. The law provided that a tavern keeper charge 37½ cents a meal; 18.3-4 cents for feeding a horse and 12½ cents for a pint of whiskey.

When there was talk of laying out a town at Nashville and making it the county seat, which was done in 1830, the promoters learned that some one would have to buy the site. The purchase price was put at \$100.

A committee waited on David Pulliam, who was the only man in the vicinity whose financial standing was recognized as strong enough so that he could raise \$100 in cash. It is legend that he was annoyed and throwing his old gray hat on the floor cried:

"I wouldn't give \$100 for all the town you'll ever be able to build there."

Here's something else. Written history has it that the Widow Smith brought the first wagon with spokes and iron tires into the county in 1828. The prosperous widow and her wagon no doubt were much sought for by the unmarried men of the county who saw in them opportunity.

Every year now a Farmers' Institute is held in Nashville. It brings about 10,000 people to town for from three to five days. Farm exhibits are on display. Last year a poultry show was added. Speakers do their stuff at the courthouse. It is usually held in October.

Annual Home Coming

A three-day homecoming is held every summer. One of the three days is arranged to fall on the Fourth of July. These have been worked up by the chamber of commerce which has also recently organized a Farm Bureau. The Nashville Woman's club sponsors a Christmas celebration each year. It also holds occasional dinners. They are good "parties" with merry entertainment, largely of local talent. I know. I attended one of them recently.

Nashville has no vast amount of industrial employment. Outside of the flour milling industry there is a knitting mill which works from 100 to 125 girls and a coal mine employing 125 men. The mine reaches good coal at 400 feet and the Louisville and Nashville railroad takes its entire output.

No Water for Sewer System

In one thing Nashville is extremely laggard. It has no water and sewer system. It is one of the largest towns in Illinois still clinging to the archaic well-and-pump method and crude and unsanitary disposal. Until it gets these things it can have no great industrial development and property values will remain restricted.

The proposition of changing portions of the Lake Bluff village zoning ordinance to permit the erection of a large apartment building by C. A. Sankiewicz, druggist there, was brought before the village appeal board at a meeting Wednesday and taken under advisement for several days.

Approximately 125 residents of the village were on hand to voice their opinions for and against the proposal. A number were of the opinion that the land owned by Sandwicz, east of the village hall on the corner of Oak and Center streets, should be commercially zoned instead of residentially, in order to permit growth in the village business district.

ARROW RUINS SIGHT OF LAKE BLUFF BOY

Shot In Play by Companion, It Accidentally Hits Howard Roth In Eye

An arrow shot from the bow held by a youthful companion, last week resulted in the loss of an eye to nine-year-old Howard Roth of 659 Mawman avenue, Lake Bluff, while he and a number of children were playing at the Bowman home in Waukegan.

The arrow pierced the eyeball of the right eye and will cause the loss of sight in that member according to Dr. E. L. Ross, eye specialist at the Lake County clinic. The boy was taken to the Victory Memorial hospital but an operation on the injured eye was unnecessary, as the sight had already been impaired. The eyeball will be saved it was reported at the hospital.

The accident occurred as the children were playing out-of-doors. They had made an improvised bow and arrow and were testing their marksmanship at the time. It is not known which youth shot the arrow, but in some manner Howard got within its range and was accidentally hit.



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