

### Southern Illinois Town Is Home of the White Squirrel

The following article appeared in a recent issue of the "Olney Daily Mail," a newspaper printed in Olney, Illinois:

**Olney's White Squirrels**  
White mice are a more or less common form of pet, nor are white elephants unknown, either in Siam and India where the animals are given royal protection, or in this country where they form the stock of goods at most rummage sales. But white squirrels are extremely rare, it having been estimated that on the average for each million squirrels born only one is pure white. Yet in Olney there are five or six hundred of them to be found in the parks and in the trees of the residential districts.

The origin goes back thirty-five years to a day in 1902 when William Stroup, a farmer, shot into a nest while hunting. Two tiny, frightened snow white animals fell to the ground uninjured. They were the first white squirrels Stroup had ever seen and he carried them to his home. Fed skimmed milk from a spoon the little bundles of white fur thrived and soon became household pets.

One day Stroup took them to Olney to show them to his friends. A saloon keeper, who attracted customers by displaying different forms of wild life in his show windows, persuaded Stroup to loan the squirrels to him to place among his other exhibits.

The squirrels attracted considerable attention as well as protest, from those who objected to the caging of wild animals Stroup then donated them to the city, turning them loose in the city park.

As their numbers increased so did their fame and people from all over the country have stopped in Olney to see them. Each little neighborhood has its two or three squirrels which are fed by the residents and become comparatively tame. They are protected by law but occasionally one is accidentally killed and when this happens the body is taken to a taxidermist and mounted.

It is said that the white squirrels of Olney are not true albinos. However, although pairs have been taken to other nearby towns and even as far away as to Louisiana and the Pacific Coast, they have never been known to reproduce white squirrels after leaving their home environment. Olney, therefore, can lay undisputed claim to the title "Home of the White Squirrel."

Richland county, was formed in 1841 from the west part of Lawrence county and the east part of Clay county. It was named for Richland county, Ohio, which had been the home of Rev. J. H. Reed, who took an active part in organizing the new county.

Olney was incorporated in 1841 and named for Nathan Olney, a Lawrenceville banker. In its early days it was referred to as "the painted town" because the odd New England settlers painted their houses.

Olney's Main street is the old trace leading from Bear Grass now Louisville, Ky., through Vincennes to Cahokia, opposite St. Louis.

Two-horse stages were put on the road in 1824. The stage lines were operated until the Ohio and Mississippi railroad was opened to traffic in 1855.

In 1858 Stephen Douglas made a speech in what was called Lilly's Grove in Olney. Lincoln arrived in town on the same day and asked permission to follow Douglas on the platform. This was refused. Lincoln then returned to the business district and the word was passed around that he would deliver a talk. When a crowd had assembled, Lincoln mounted a dry goods box placed at the corner of Whittle ave. and Main st. (U. S. 50) and delivered his reply to Douglas.

Stringtown, a small settlement in German Township in the northeast part of the county, was so called from the fact that the houses of the first settlers were strung along the edge of the prairie.

Before the construction of the Ohio and Mississippi railroad the business district of Claremont was located on the Vincennes-St. Louis trail where Jacob May operated one of the largest stores in Southern Illinois. A large printed hand bill dated Nov. 21, 1850 listing many of the innumerable articles carried in stock ended with the following paragraph:

"As for prices I can and will sell lower than any other merchant in this or adjoining counties, as I live harder, work harder, sleep less, and expect less profits and can, and will, sell more goods—price or no price—than any other sucker in Southern Illinois."

The Calhoun territory was settled by Hugh Calhoun, a relative of the illustrious John C. Calhoun. Fairview was the original name of the Calhoun post office.

Bonpas Creek and Township were named from the prairie which the early French called Bon Pas, meaning "good walk."

Ernest Z. Bowen, druggist of Olney, has collected a tremendous number of newspaper clippings and photographs relating to the past and present day history of Olney and its residents. These have been

assembled in a large number of scrap books and albums which are kept in his drug store library. Practically all the information on Richland county used in this issue was obtained from these volumes. Mr. Bower donated to Dr. Rigway ten of the original eighteen acres comprising Bird Haven. Incidentally, the Bower Drug store will be able to celebrate in 1945 its 100th year of operation.

### Highland Park Playground Notes

Sammy Rexford and Bunny Bonamarte, cousins, have made a perfect attendance record on the playgrounds this summer; they haven't missed either an afternoon or morning. . . . Billy Peddie has quite a time playing on the baseball team and taking care of his small brother at the same time. . . . Doris Anderson, Shirley Jones, and Angelina Chagois are all smiles; their picture was taken for one of the Chi-

cago papers the other day. . . . Tony Chagois won the badminton tournament at Sunset last week. . . . Charles Hamilton and George Morrison spent an entire day practicing for the races held on Playground Day. . . . Louis Santi and Bob Schwall had trouble staying out of the way of pitched balls the other day, both were hit and got a walk to first base. . . . Ruth Bowden decided that swimming in the pool would be just as much fun with all her clothes on; she did. . . . Jay and Mill Martin and Harold Sheahan hold the toothless championship at the present time. . . . Jimmy Engdahl and Eddie Sheahan have been on the sick list the past week. . . . Elton Johnson has been practicing her tap dancing for the exhibition on Playground day. . . . Artie Dubin is back from his vacation and has joined the Ravinia baseball team. . . . Freddy and Henry Merrill had the judges guessing in the races last week; they came in one two and the judges couldn't tell them apart. . . . Francis Mason and her cousin

Bill Craig are practicing their tennis on the Ravinia volleyball courts. . . . Nine more members of the Ravinia swimming classes have passed their beginners test; they are, Betty Ann Jinkens, Marjorie Pfister, Howard Jacobs, Kenneth Bennett, Jim Thompson, Patricia Goodrich, Bob Lake, Dalora Scheenmaker, and Don Heinrichs. . . . Howard Wilson, Dorothy Chulnus, and Shirley Forest have joined the swimming classes from Lincoln. . . . The Drama club from Lincoln playground under the direction of Billy Carnahan has been entertaining with a series of short plays. . . . The cast included Gertrude Sassdorf, Patsy and Peggy Kedzie, Dickie Baum, Alvin Singer, and Kay Faulkner. . . . This is the last week of the playground season; no more now until next summer.

### EPITAPH

With Violet cuddling in his arms,  
He drove his Ford—poor silly,  
Where once he held his Violet,  
There now is clasped a lily.

### Lake College of Commerce Adds New Equipment

The Lake College of Commerce of Waukegan has purchased new typewriters for the fall opening, September 7. In order to have an equal amount of typewriters of the five major companies, the machines have been purchased from the Underwood, Woodstock, and Royal concerns. In addition to these purchases, every available piece of machinery, such as other typewriters, comptometers, calculators, dictaphones, etc., will be given a thorough readjustment.

The management of the Lake College of Commerce states that the September enrollment has been exceptionally good. With the completion of two additional rooms the school will be able to handle a much larger enrollment than in the past. The Employment Department has had a record-breaking year. The calls for graduates from business

and professional men exceed the supply at the time. There is a persistent demand for young men.

In last week's honor roll tests, the following students made their speed of 60 words or better for 15 minutes on the typewriter: Winifred Hancock of North Chicago, Helen Wolfe and Lois Kutz of Zion, and Elizabeth Iwanski and Dorothy Herick of Wadsworth.

**FULLER BRUSH MAN**  
ARNOLD C. BREMER  
TELEPHONE H. P. 1985

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