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Book I Streets of Rochester

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SB

Rr
OVERSIZE
RVF
Streets
v.1

Brown Court Street.
contributed to Over the Percolator. Do your bit.
An article in Over the Percolator spoke of Brown Street once being named Court street, which could hardly be possible, since the Browns—as any one may see if they will look in "Phelps and Gorham Purchase," were here at the same time as the Rochesters, Carrolls, and other new settlers; and all of that part of the town was called after them—Brown street and Brown square in Frankfort for Francis Brown, Frank street, etc.—Court street was not in existence.—F.

(Perhaps you have in mind the present Court street. The editor of Over the Percolator has seen a copy of the early map and on it was the name "Court Street" in the same large lettering as the other streets and after it in small lettering in parentheses was "Brown street," as changes in other names were indicated on the map.—Editor.)

Frankfort Once Name For Brown's Square And Its Surroundings

Name Given In Honor of Francis Brown; Also Remembered In Name of Frank Street — Territory Surveyed and Mapped in 1812—Brown Operated Famous Mill

"Frankfort" is a name that has little meaning for the present generation of Rochesterians, but there are still older residents who in conversation refer by this name to the territory about Brown's Square.

A map of this territory was made by Benjamin Wright, a surveyor of Rome, in 1812, for Matthew Brown, Jr., Francis Brown, Thomas Mumford and John McKay. It was purchased in October, 1913, by the city from George A. Sherman who obtained it from George W. Riley, son of Ashbel W. Riley one of the early real estate operators in Rochester and the original owner of the triangle now known as Anderson Park at Main street east and University avenue.

The name Frankfort was in honor of Francis Brown, and the name of Frank street, which has not been changed, was also given in his honor. Mr. Wright gave his own name to the street now known as Saratoga avenue. The street now known as Brown street appears on the map as Court street. Jones street was named in honor of Chancellor Jones, who purchased lots 46 and 47, below Frankfort. Harford street, now Lyell avenue, was named in honor of Charles Harford who came to the site of Rochester in 1807 with his family whom he had brought from England. He built a grist mill at the main falls of the Genesee which he operated until 1812 when it was bought by Francis Brown and company who enlarged it and operated it until 1818, when it was consumed by fire. The Phoenix Mills were then built on the site,

bolt, however, had to go constantly, as the science of mill making here had not reached that very important improvement of throwing out of gear such machinery as is not wanted running. This was to me a charming mill. It rumbled and rattled like thunder, and afforded much amusement to the boys who, like myself, formerly assisted in the ponderous operation of 'hoisting the gate'. The gate hoisted with a lever similar to the one that raised the stones: a bag of heavy weights was hung to it and then it was a half hour's job for a man to hoist it alone. When once hoisted it was not shut again until night, the stones being let together to stop the mill between grists."

Harford was one of the original owners of the tract purchased by the Browns, Thomas Mumford and John McKay. Francis Brown is said to have come to the site of Rochester by accident. Having gone west from Massachusetts to Detroit where he was trading with the Indians, he is said to have been shipwrecked in Lake Erie. In a canoe he started from Niagara along the southern shore of Lake Ontario and was blown ashore at the mouth of the Genesee which he followed to the falls. In 1812 the Brown brothers came west again and purchased the property north of the Rochester tract, making the journey by sleigh and bringing with them a millwright. Francis Brown built the mill race which still bears his name and which may be seen on the map above. This race was cut through solid rock for 84 rods and was 30 feet wide and three feet deep. It furnished power to the cotton mill which was incorporated in 1815

Edwin Scramton, a pioneer of Rochester, who played about the Harford mill as a boy has left the following description of it:

The main wheel was a tub-wheel: in the top was inserted a piece of iron called a spindle. The stone that ran rested upon it so that, in raising or lowering the stone to grind coarse or fine, the whole monster wheel, with the stone upon it, had to be raised with the bottom timbers. This was done with a monstrous lever which ran the whole length of the mill, tapering toward the end, which was managed by a leather strap put twice around and fastened to the timbers at one end, while at the other end hung a huge stone. The bolt was carried from a screw made on the shaft under the stone, into which a wooden-cogged wheel was geared in a manner similar to an old pair of swifts. The ground meal, as it ran from the stone, fell upon a wide and ran over a wheel at the far end of the bolt. This strap ran in a box at the upper side, and, as it went over the wheel, the meal was emptied into a spout and carried into the bolt. In grinding corn, this spout was removed and the meal fell into a box for the purpose. The

by Enos Stone, Oliver Culver, S. O. Smith, Mathew Brown, Fisher Bullard, and W. Kempshall, and, in later years its banks became lined with the mills which helped to give Rochester the name of the Flour City.

A granddaughter of Francis Brown, Miss Mary O. Brown, for many years a teacher in Rochester schools, is still living in Rochester and has recently become a member of the Historic Names Society. She is the younger daughter of the eldest son of Francis Brown who was born in 1790 and who died in Rochester in 1824.

Two Decades Have Wrought Great Change in Clinton Avenue South

Quiet Old Residential Street, Once on 'Outskirts,' Lined With Pleasant Mansions and Green Lawns, Transformed Into Thriving Retail District

Whithin two decades Clinton Avenue South has been transformed from one of the city's old and quiet residential streets to a center of retail trading, of smart shops, theaters, and hotels. In 1910, old houses with trim grass plots in front were the distinguishing monuments of the street, and the few modest business blocks offered little challenge to the quiet decorum of the thoroughfare. The Lyceum Theater was already a familiar feature, and the new Temple Theater across the street in 1909 was attracting new visitors.

But when Benjamin Forman erected a modest \$12,000 store in 1909, his critics referred to the enterprise as Forman's Folly. Business associates assured him that the site, the one on which the present enlarged store now stands, was too far from the Main Street trading area. But other business executives appreciated his foresight, and new shops in the immediate neighborhood have increased yearly.

The present site of the Lyceum Theater, erected in 1888, was at one time the home of James Sargent, who was a partner of Major Greenleaf in the firm of Sargent & Greenleaf. For many years they made locks at the northwest corner of Court and Stone Streets.

Alexander McLean, chief of police, lived next door to Moses Adler, also on the present site of the Lyceum. Until the erection of the Temple Theater by James H. Moore in 1909, the homes of William Eastwood, Dr. Charles R. Sumner and Jennie McKay occupied that site.

At the northeast corner of Court and South Clinton Street a white cottage was built in 1840, and was purchased in 1860 by Henry Brewster. This was razed in 1897 for commercial buildings. These gave way in 1927 to the new Rochester Theater.

In the early days, Clinton Avenue South was a short street in the outskirts of the city, beginning at Main Street and ending at the grove of elms donated to the village of Rochesterville by Elisha Johnson for a public square, now known as Washington Square. It contains the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, unveiled and dedicated in 1802 by President Benjamin Harrison and Governor Roswell P. Flower.

The Universalist Church, which stands today at Court Street and Clinton Avenue South, was first built in 1847 on the site of the present Seneca Hotel. The building was remodeled in 1871, and again in 1901, when it was sold to the Seneca Hotel Corporation, which opened its first unit the following year.

The East Side Savings Bank bought its present site at Main and Clinton from Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church in 1883, for \$50,000. The old church had been built in 1847.

SECTION SITE OF 2 CHURCHES

Two Rochester Churches, Asbury Methodist and the Universalist Church, occupied places of prominence in Clinton Avenue South, prior to its present development as a business and theatrical section.

For thirty-three years since 1847 until the East Side Savings Bank purchased the Asbury Methodist Church property at the corner of Main Street East and Clinton Avenue, worshippers attended services in the corner church.

It was purchased for \$50,000 and the church moved to its present site, East Avenue near Alexander Street.

The same year that the Asbury church was built, Universalists of Rochester erected a place of worship on the site now occupied by the Seneca Hotel. After being remodeled in 1871 and in 1901, it was sold to the hotel company in 1907. The following year, the hotel opened its new building.

Colorful Streets Of Rochester

By Amy H. Croughton
No. 26—S. Clinton Named For Governor

HEREWITH is presented another of the series of articles on the streets of Rochester. In this series, Miss Croughton demonstrates that even the most drab thoroughfare has a background of tradition and history if it can only be discovered.



Roggen house which stood until 1907 at southeast corner of Court and South Clinton Street on site of present Universalist Church.

Clinton Avenue South originally was a short street beginning at Main Street, in the outskirts of the village, and ending at the grove of first-growth elm trees given to the village by Elisha Johnson as a public square. It was a residence street and took its name from DeWitt Clinton, governor of New York State from 1817 to 1822 and again from 1824 to 1828.

It was not until June, 1866, that the Common Council authorized the continuance of the street from Monroe Avenue to Jackson Street (now Capron Street). Later the street was continued along what was then Green Street. The Erie Canal had to be bridged before the street could go further; but this finally was done and Clinton Avenue was continued along what was then Cayuga Street. Thence it took to the open country until it struck the road then known as Pinnacle Street, which was in an entirely different location to that of the present Pinnacle Road. Today, Clinton Avenue South extends beyond the Westfall Road.

Many Fine Residences

Despite the extension of the street it remained a street of residences and churches until the 1890s. Even then it submitted to change very reluctantly, the fine old homes first being taken over as the offices of

physicians and other professional men. Then a few houses grew excrescences in the shape of store fronts while others were torn down and commercial buildings erected in their places. The last of these old houses between Main and Court Street came down only a year or two ago.

In 1842 Asbury Methodist congregation built a church at the southeast corner of Main and South Clinton. This building was remodeled in 1866 and in 1883 was sold for \$50,000 to the East Side Savings Bank which erected its own building and has occupied the site since that time. Stephen Seaman conducted a grocery in the block at the southwest corner of Main and Clinton South for many years.

Along both sides of the street to the south stood fine homes set back in well-kept grounds. There were the residences of Stephen Remington, Henry Brewster, Alvah Strong, Norman Galusha, Abram S. Mann, Alonzo G. Whitcomb, Edmund Ocumpaugh, John E. Morey Sr., William Eastwood, Hobart F. Atkinson, John J. Howe, Nicholas E. Paine and James Sargent.

At the northeast corner of Court and South Clinton there stood until 1897 a white cottage structure built in 1840 and purchased in 1860 by Henry Brewster. Last year the

commercial buildings which had occupied the site since 1897 were razed to make way for the Rochester Theater.

At the northwest corner of Court and Clinton, in the 1840s, was a beautifully wooded knoll on which stood the home of Dr. George Lewis. Later this corner was purchased by David Copeland and the house built there was the home of members of the Copeland family until it was razed to make way for the commercial building which now occupies the site.

Old Roggen House

The house which was razed on the southeast corner of Court and Clinton in 1907 to make way for the new Universalist Church was built some time before 1825 and was bought in that year by Richard Van Kleeck, who came to Rochester from Albany. In 1835 Van Kleeck died during the cholera epidemic and the house passed to Edward Roggen, a wool dealer. From him it passed to William Van Kleeck Lansing in 1863 and Mr. Lansing lived there until 1870 when the house was sold to Norman H. Galusha. Mr. Galusha intended to move the house; but when the attempt was made it was discovered that it had double walls with a space between filled with broken brick. The plan of removal was given up and the house was rented until the death of Mrs. Galusha when it came into the hands of the Van Voorhis family by whom the site was sold to the Universalist Church in 1907.

Washington Square, at the southwest corner of Court and Clinton, has fewer trees than it had when Johnson turned it over to the city; but, otherwise, it is not greatly changed from the days when it was set aside as a village green. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, with its surmounting figure of Abraham Lincoln, which stands in the center was unveiled on May 30, 1892, by President Benjamin Harrison and Governor Roswell P. Flower of New York State. The State Armory, south of the square, had been erected in 1870. Its drill hall was the scene of many a dance and hospital donation and after the building was remodeled as a convention hall with an annex building for exhibits, in 1907, the hall was used for concerts given by practically all the noted musicians and orchestras of the country

who were brought here by James E. Furlong. Since the Eastman Theater opened its doors to Mr. Furlong's artists the hall has been used chiefly for conventions, evangelistic meetings and prize fights, varied by the annual chicken show.

The first building of the Universalist Church on Clinton Avenue was erected in 1847. It was remodeled in 1871 and again in 1901 and six years later the site and that adjoining it, on which the house of James Sargent had stood, were purchased by the Seneca Hotel Corporation which erected the first unit of its hotel and opened it in the following year.

Theaters Replace Homes

The Temple Theater was erected on the site of the residences of William Eastwood, Dr. Charles R. Sumner and Jennie McKay in 1909 by James H. Moore. The Victoria, another theater for the presentation of motion pictures and vaudeville, was erected a few years later.

The Lyceum Theater was erected and opened in 1888, the site formerly having been occupied by the houses of Alexander McLean and Moses Adler. The Lyceum has the distinction of being the only theater in Rochester started as a "legitimate" house for the showing of road productions and stock which has retained its original purpose. Two other legitimate theaters were opened after it; but succumbed to the lure of the movies and burlesque. The roll of actors and actresses who have been seen on its stage at one time or another would make a dependable "Who's Who in the Theater" covering the past 40 years.

Today the north end of Clinton Avenue South is one of the sections to which one goes for new clothes, new drama, new automobiles and new wrinkles in food and hotel accommodation. At the southern end of the street, where all was forest when Rochester was a village, there have sprung up new residential sections which are among the most attractive in the city so that Clinton Avenue South, despite its annexation by commerce, has not at all resigned its claims as a residential street.

Theaters of Section Play History Roles

The next time you enter the Lyceum or Temple Theaters to see your favorite stage or screen star "emote," give a thought to the historic significance of these two buildings in the growth of Rochester.

What a shock some of the forefathers would have if they could see such palaces of amusement erected on the grounds, where they formerly lived with their families.

On the spot where the Lyceum now stands, lived at one time the late James Sargent, a partner of Mayor Greenleaf, former general and congressman, who later organized the firm of Sargent & Greenleaf.

For many years, these two men made locks at the northwest corner of Court and Stone Street until increased business made expansion imperative.

Neighbors to Mr. Sargent were Alexander McLean, chief of police, and Moses Adler. The houses were torn down in 1888, when the theater was built.

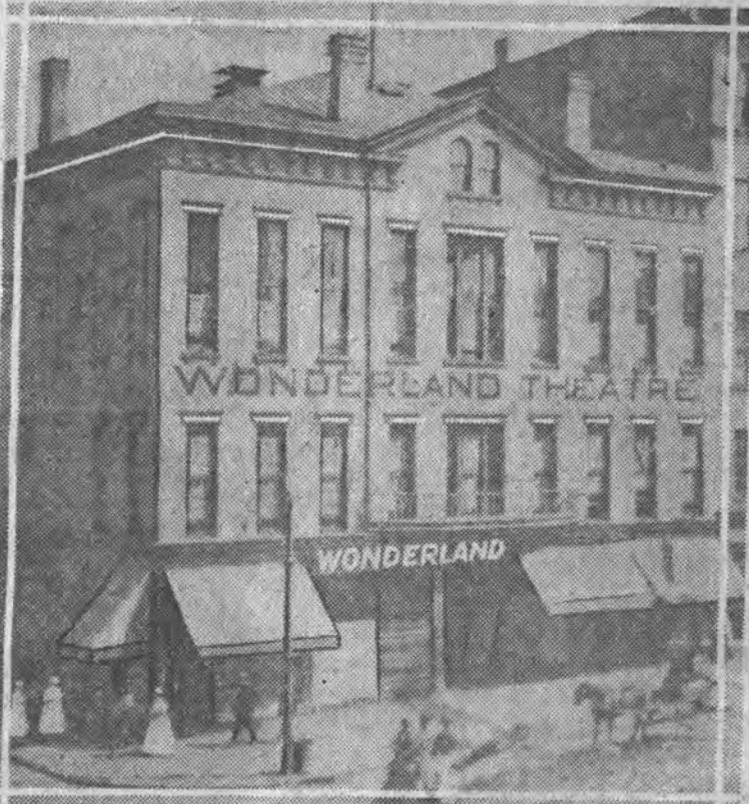
Across the street, lived William Eastwood, Dr. Charles R. Sumner and Jennie McKay, until 1909, when the Temple Theater was built.



Colorful Streets
Of Rochester

By Amy H. Croughton

Rochester Public Library
54 Court St.
No. 27 Clinton Avenue North



Wonderland Theater at Clinton North and Main East on site of present Sibley store.

The East Side Savings Bank began business in the Washington Hall block in 1869 and did not move to its present site at the southeast corner of South Clinton and Main until 1884. The Cooper Drug Store was also in the Washington block and Dr. George Peer, who lived in the fourth house north of the block, which formerly had been the home of Dr. Robinson and of Hiram Sibley, also had his office in the block.

Indian Camp Site

On the west side of Clinton Avenue North in 1868 there was a business block and then a succession of residences among which was that of Mortimer H. Green which he had purchased in the previous year from Mrs. Tilpha Benson and which was said to cover the site of an early camping ground of the Indians. At the corner of Clinton and Division Streets was the shoe store of Leete and Ellison where many a Rochester debutante purchased her first pair of party slippers. At Clinton and Andrews streets was the Salmon Grocery

HEREWITH is presented another of the series of articles on the streets of Rochester. In this series, Miss Croughton demonstrates that even the most drab thoroughfare has a background of tradition and history if it can only be discovered.

COMFORTABLE residences look down upon the street from high lawns, not conventionally terraced; but sloping with the natural rise of the ground. A spreading locust tree shades one lawn, and in the center of a vacant lot which has been retained by the occupant of the adjoining house to insure his home adequate "breathing space," is an elaborate stone fountain whose water gushes from a spring at which the Indians used to camp before Rochester was even a settlement.

The street is Clinton Avenue North and the section just described is that between Main Street and Andrews Street as it was in 1868 and for a decade or two thereafter. Today the old homes have disappeared and the hills on which they stood have been excavated to provide basements and sub-basements for commercial buildings. The locust tree has gone, too. According to tradition its wood was used to provide clubs for the Rochester police. The springs and wells have been diverted, though in some instances their sources have defied efforts at control and occasionally bubble up in sub-cellars.

Had Church at Corner

One of the first things one hears about Clinton Avenue North is that Third Presbyterian Church held its organization meeting in a school house at Clinton Avenue and Mortimer Street on Jan. 15, 1827. Fifteen days later the trustees purchased from Enos Stone a lot at the northeast corner of Main and North Clinton and erected a temporary building for worship. A permanent building was dedicated Aug. 21, 1828, but was sold to the Second Baptist Church in 1834 and was burned on Dec. 10, 1839. About a year later Washington Hall was built on the site. This was the scene of many early Rochester amusements until it was burned down in 1867. It was rebuilt as the Empire Theater and thereafter the site was occupied by theatrical ventures of the Barnum type under the names of Robinson's Musee Theater, and Wonderland. In 1903 the property and that adjoining it was acquired by the Sibley, Lindsay and Curr Company whose store was then in the Granite building at St. Paul and Main streets. The firm expected to erect its new store at its leisure, but the fire which swept through the Granite building on Feb. 26, 1904, caused immediate removal to the new site where the buildings were gradually razed and the nucleus of the present structure was built while "business as usual" was the slogan.

which served the surrounding residential section including the aristocratic homesteads on Franklin Square. Just north of Mortimer Street where the Masonic Temple now stands was the home of Don Alonzo Watson with its extensive garden and fountain.

On Dec. 12, 1881, a number of Jewish residents purchased the Barton residence in Clinton Avenue near Andrews Street as the home of the Eureka Club. A new building was erected on the site and was opened on Aug. 12, 1893. This building was sold to the Rochester Lodge of Elks in 1908 and was further remodeled, being dedicated to its new uses Jan. 4, 1909.

Land for the Gordon Theater which occupied the site where the Keith-Albee Palace was recently opened, was purchased in January 1909 and the theater was erected in the Spring, being devoted to motion pictures and vaudeville. After the erection of the Piccadilly Theater in 1912 the Gordon Theater

was abandoned save for occasional entertainments and meetings. It stood vacant for some years before the site was purchased by the Keith-Albee interests.

The Masonic Temple was erected in 1902, concentrating all Masonic activities in Rochester at the north corner of Clinton North and Mortimer Street. In the same year the Rochester Athletic Club erected its present building on the east side of Clinton.

The Y. W. C. A. building on Clinton Avenue was erected in 1897 on the site of a house which he association had occupied for some time. Opposite the site of the Y. W. C. A. was old School 10 on the site of the present Stacy Candy Factory and south of the school were the drug store and home of the father of Dr. Louis Weigel who was later to bring fame to Rochester by his experimentation with the X-ray — experiments which finally caused his death.

Old House Remains

There is still standing, near the Y. W. C. A. building, a house which was built on Clinton Avenue in the 1840s by Charles J. Howland. It is now occupied by a Chinese laundry and is, exteriorly, somewhat dilapidated; but its framework is sound and staunch. Charles Howland was a carpenter and cabinet maker who was employed on ear finishing in the New York Central shops. His granddaughter, Miss Hattie L. Webber, recalls the family tradition that Mr. Howland, after first building a shop on the rear of the lot in which he and his wife found shelter for the time being, did much of the work of building the house in the evenings, his wife holding a kerosene lamp to illuminate his work.

Much of the property on both sides of Clinton Avenue at the corner of Clinton Place and in the rear of Salem Church was owned by the Kuichling family. The Wiles and the Garsons also had homes on Clinton near School 10.

First Jewish Service

On Oct. 7, 1848, on the Day of Atonement, the first Jewish service held in Rochester took place in an upstairs room at the corner of Clinton Avenue North and Cumberland Street. In the succeeding quarter of a century many members of the Jewish race settled on Clinton Avenue North and adjoining streets and some of the first clothing factories were established by them on this street.

Central Station Built 1914

The erection of the present New York Central Station at Clinton Avenue North and Central Avenue in 1914 was arrived at only after years of controversy paralleling that between the city and the company in the years before the second station was building and the tracks elevated. A plan for beautifying the late 1850s shows the north end banks with promenades from Main Street leading to a New York Central station erected over the river bed at Central Avenue was at last relinquished because of the cost involved and in 1909 it was first announced that the station would be erected on its present site.

nounced that the station would be erected on its present site.

A house map of the city made in the late 1850s show the north end of Clinton Avenue as farm property with only an occasional house, though there was a small settlement on a level with Carthage. Even in 1874 when the first building of St. Michael's Church was dedicated, the street was but sparsely settled beyond it. Now the city line crosses Clinton Avenue North at No. 2,041 and the whole street is closely built up.

AVENUE PLANS ORGANIZATION

Merchants, property owners and business men of Clinton Avenue South are planning to form an association which would centralize efforts of the section in staging events, such as holiday decoration, street improvements and civic enterprises.

A meeting was held last week at the Seneca Hotel, with John Roche, advertising manager of the B. Forman Company as chairman. Assisting him are Fred Odenbach, John Connors, John Wegman, Walter Hart and Samuel Guggenheim.

COTTAGE STOOD ON LOEW'S SITE

Still another theater in Clinton Avenue South, Loew's Rochester, at the corner of Clinton and Court Streets, had its beginning like the Lyceum and Temple Theaters.

In 1860, Henry Brewster, one of the early settlers, purchased a small white cottage on the present site of the theater.

This was razed in 1897 and commercial buildings were erected, giving way in 1927 to the present theater. It was formerly controlled by a local and Buffalo enterprise, but is now a member of the nation-wide Loew chain system.

SALES VALUES

BECKON TO BUYERS

Street's Advance Since B. Forman Pioneered in 1910 Amazes City.

By ESTHER TOBIN

Clinton Avenue South merchants will join hands and rally around a mythical birthday celebration the last three days this week. Mr. and Mrs. Rochester and the kiddies have been invited to attend the celebration of the street's progress as a progressive business center.

And what surprises are in store for everyone. Though there won't be any white birthday cake and no pink candles, there'll be plenty of favors in the form of special merchandising events, to make up for the usual birthday party goodies.

Store fronts, windows and show cases will glisten with new merchandise. Merchants will vie with each other in dressing their establishments, for they are anxious to show Rochester what two decades growth has done to Clinton Avenue, a little known residential section, back in 1910.

GREAT CHANGES MADE

That section of Clinton Avenue, between Main Street and Monroe Avenue, Rochester's "42nd Stret," bears but slight resemblance to its early days when cottages stood where thriving businesses are now holding forth.

Clinton Avenue South was originally a short street in the outskirts of Rochester, beginning at Main Street and ending at the grove of elms donated to the village of Rochester by Elisa Johnson for a public square, now known as Washington Square.

But a street, like a city, has its pioneers of foresight and courage and to B. Forman, head of the company bearing his name, should go much of the credit for settling first on that street and believing in it.

Twenty Years of Progress

D.J. May 21, 30



No other street in Rochester's bustling business section has shown such rapid strides in development over a period of twenty years as has Clinton Avenue South—a more or less unimportant thoroughfare in the downtown residential district in 1910; today, the very heart of the metropolitan shopping area. The view above was taken from Main Street East, looking toward Court Street.

Another important item in the history of Rochester and the avenue itself is the fact that the first white man's cabin of record was built by Enos Stone in the rear of No. 29 Elm Street, close to the present home of the B. Forman Company.

Within the past few years, the avenue has rapidly forged ahead until its merchants have established in one block in Clinton Avenue, Rochester's largest hotel, coffee shop, furniture store, grocery

and delicatessen, theater, and women's specialty shop, in addition to housing the city's only legitimate theater, built in 1888 and still playing to capacity houses.

SOME OF THE SHOPS

There are besides smaller women's apparel stores, florists' shops, restaurants, parking stations, optical shops, jewelry stores and hair dressing establishments, catering to the most diversified needs of

shoppers, within a few steps of each other.

Evidence of the increased value of Clinton Avenue property in the block bounded on the north by Main Street, and on the south by Court Street, is shown in the present valuation of \$9,114,740, as compared with its valuation of 1910 of \$1,594,700.

Among the most recent developments in the section is the opening of the new Wegman store and additions to the B. Forman shop, the seventh since the Forman shop was opened in 1910.

When Mr. Forman secured a permit to build a modest specialty shop at an estimated cost of \$12,000, there were many who scoffed at the venture. At that time, he had sixteen persons on his payroll as compared with 400 workers at the present time.

Year after year, saw larger space taken over by the Forman shop, until merchants on Main Street and in other shopping centers of Rochester looked with real interest on the Clinton Avenue venture.

In 1911, the shop was enlarged and again in 1912, in 1914, in 1919, 1923, 1928 and now the largest expansion of all in 1930, when several hundred additional feet of display will be open to customers with completion of the present building program.

HOWE & ROGERS 73 YEARS OLD

D.J. May 21, 30
The Howe & Rogers Company, No. 89 Clinton Avenue South, opened its present store in 1916, moving to the Clinton Avenue site from State Street, where it became known as one of the most reliable floor covering companies in Western New York.

With the opening of the new store, several new departments were established, until now furniture, stoves, radios and household equipment are sold on the various floors of the large establishment. It has been in business seventy-three years.

Speeding Bikes Peel of 'Good Old Days'

Fast pedaling bicyclists as they rounded Main Street into Clinton Avenue South caused pedestrians to scurry for safety in the days when Edward E. Arrington, president of the Empire Optical Company, opened his first shop thirty-three years ago.

In those days—to be exact, the Spring of 1897—there were no blue-coated traffic cops with whistles ready to halt meandering jay walkers.

It was a case of every man for himself when three, four and five rows of bicycles approached Clinton Avenue between 5 and 6 p. m. each day, with the more skilled riders staging races with their neighbors.

Mr. Arrington, who is a veteran optician, and the oldest Clinton Avenue business man in length of service on the street, came to Rochester from Boston and opened a small office at No. 15 Clinton Avenue South, in what is now the southern half of Odenbach Coffee Shop.

LUXURY AT \$35 PER

He lived at the Whitcomb House and for \$35.00 per month was able to get luxurious quarters—a spacious bedroom and bath—and three meals per day.

In the building in which his office was located, there was also a livery stable, where farmers from outlying towns hitched their horses while they did trading.

The only other business buildings on the street at that time between Main and Court Streets was the Hayward Building, now a part of the Hotel Hayward and the Lyceum Theater. On both sides of the street were beautiful trees and private homes, with carefully cut lawns enclosed by iron fences.

FARMERS BY SCORE

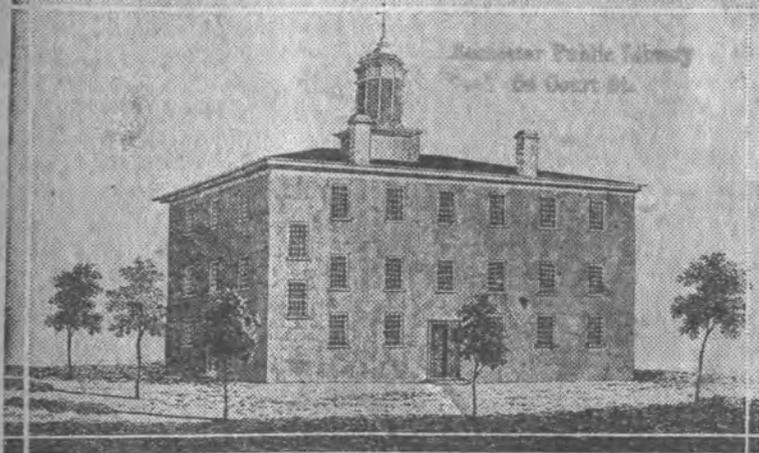
Previous to taking over the building by the Empire Optical Company, the office and adjoining storeroom were used by the Uneda Biscuit Company. On the site in still earlier days was a broken down shanty used for a veterinary and livery office.

Farmer's wagons with vegetables and fruit products lined both sides of the curb every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings until 10 a. m. and from improvised stands, sold their products.

Colorful Streets Of Rochester

By Amy H. Croughton

No. 20—Cortland Street Much Changed



Rochester High School in 1838

For many years the Unitarian Church on Cortland Street remained hidden away in the shadow of tall buildings which had sprung up around it. Today, because of the razing of these buildings to make way for parking stations, the buildings of the church and parish house, their gray stone mellowed with years and softened by masses of clinging vines, stand exposed to the passer-by on Clinton Avenue South and Chestnut Street much as Rochester's first high school building erected on the same site in 1827 must have done. So by a freak of circumstances, a modern invention has restored a condition existing a century ago when anyone who talked of such a thing as a horseless carriage would have been regarded with kindly but cautious sympathy.

The Rochester High School was incorporated March 15, 1827, and the building, 85 by 85 feet; three stories high, and of stone, was erected in the same year on Cortland Street, then called Lancaster. It faced a lane running from Clinton Avenue and its site is known to have included that of the present Unitarian Church, although historians differ as to the actual site of the building which was burned in 1852. The "lane" was undoubtedly an unofficial extension of Court Street which on the maps of Rochester in 1820 is shown stopping at what is now Washington Square.

menacing from the house owned by Samuel Price and running to the northeast corner of McBride's lot on the west side so as to leave the street two rods wide."

Used By Church

In 1834 the Third Presbyterian Church, which had fallen into financial difficulties and had been forced to sell its building at the northeast corner of Clinton and Main Street to the Second Baptist Church, transferred its services to the High School building. The Third Church erected another building on Main Street just south of Stone Street and when this was destroyed by fire on Aug. 17, 1858, the congregation purchased the High School site for \$3,000. Temple Street was cut through from Lancaster Street to Chestnut in this year, dividing the lot into two small parts. The church building still standing on the south side of Temple Street was erected in 1859. The chapel was erected on the north side of the street and, in 1883, the Unitarian Church, which had sold its building and site at North Fitzhugh and Church streets to the federal government for \$20,000 paid that sum to the Third Presbyterian congregation for its two buildings, the Third Church then moving to its present site at East Avenue and Meigs Street.

The name Lancaster was changed to Cortland by an ordinance of the Common Council adopted Dec. 1, 1885.

In the days of the old high school Lancaster Street was a street of handsome, substantial residences,

some of which persisted to recent years though they had fallen from their first estate and had become tenements where the poor and aged huddled.

Named For Educator

Lancaster Street took its name from the educator, Lancaster, who had outlined a plan of higher education which was followed by the high school. The first trustees, who brought the high school into being were Levi Ward Jr., Obadiah Bush, Davis C. West, Ashley Sampson, Peckham Barker, Elisha Johnson, Enos Stone, Elisha Ely, Abner Wakelee, Isaac Marsh, William Atkinson and Samuel Schofield. The first principal of the school was S. D. Moore. Dr. Chester Dewey, who was called from Williams College in New England to become principal of the high school in 1836, built the school up until it was one of the most notable in the state at the time of its abandonment after the destruction of the building by fire. Dr. Dewey then joined the faculty of the University of Rochester with which he was connected until his death.

The school site consisted of an acre and a half of land purchased from Enos Stone. It was meadow land surrounded by trees, when the school first was built, so that the students had abundant space for recreation. In Sept., 1836, the Common Council ordered that Lancaster Street be curved near its junction with Monroe Avenue "com-

Rochester in Pictures



EAST AVENUE AT MAIN STREET EAST

THIS busy downtown intersection has changed a bit in 123 years! It was in 1805 that five men, with the help of \$50 appropriated by the town of Northfield, cut the road two rods wide from Orringh Stone's home near what is now Clover Street to the river. It was known in those days as the River Road.

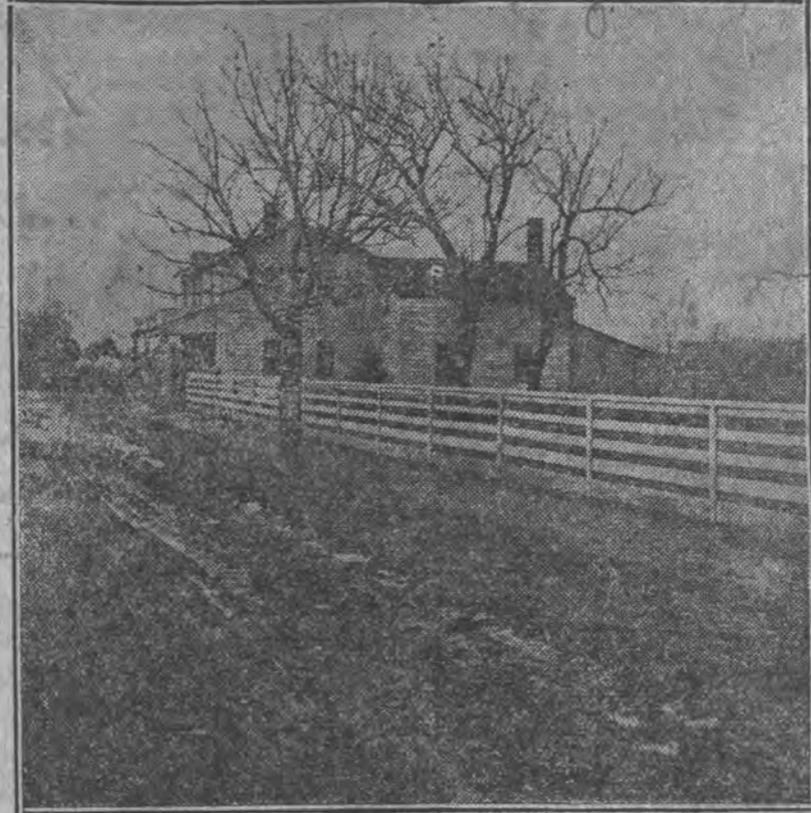
The thoroughfare was later called Main Street. In the thirties an almost unbroken forest stretched beyond Chestnut Street, and beyond that lay a swamp filled with cattails and deep water, hazardous to cross.

The present Main Street East having been named, Josiah W. Bissell tried in the late forties to induce the Common Council to change the name of what was then Main Street to East Avenue. Failing, he, with characteristic audacity, changed it himself by affixing signs with the desired name on every corner out to the city line at Goodman Street.

He also set out a full line of shade trees on either side of East Avenue and secured passage of an ordinance for its paving and grading, establishing on it a line of omnibuses, the first public conveyance in the city.

NOT A BIT LIKE EAST AVENUE TODAY
BUT AS IT LOOKED 50 YEARS AGO

Rochester Herald Aug 9 - 1917



The tavern shown above stood where is now the corner of East Avenue and Vick Park A. The photograph was taken looking east on East Avenue.

gardens of peonies and other flowers which became the show-place of the city and in 1870 he decided to turn the old race course into a residence park. Many persons ridiculed the idea that the enterprise could be made to pay, scouting the idea that anyone would be persuaded to buy or rent homes "away out in the country." Mr. Vick persevered, however; the old tavern was torn down, lots were laid out along the race track, and the whole property was improved. Gradually the city began to extend eastward and long before Mr. Vick's death he saw his "country street" become the center of the most fashionable residence district of the city.

It was some years, however, before Park Avenue was cut through past Vick Park, and when it was extended, the surveyor saved himself trouble by following the curve of the park, which had one time been the curve of the upper end of the old Union Race Course, so that when the car line was also extended the rails had to be laid in sweeping lines which were not quite so noticeable in the old horse-car days as they are today when a "submarine" jerks around them to the misery of the passengers. For some time after the laying out of Vick Park, however, it was most easily reached by means of the old East Avenue Stage Coach which ran from Main Street to a point some distance beyond the Vick homestead. There are many prominent business men of Rochester who can recall traveling on the old stage in their boyhood days, and who especially remember the thrill which was theirs when they were allowed to blow the horn which announced the progress of the coach. Still older men remember the coach as the place where all the good stories of the day were retailed by the passengers jogging home from their offices, so that the usual introduction to a story told elsewhere came to be, "Have you heard the good one that Frank or John, or Charles or James told in the coach the other night?"

Mrs. White recently discovered among her possessions a ticket entitling the owner to "One Passage on the East Avenue Stage Coach," and prizes it as a souvenir of her childhood days spent in the home in East Avenue. For 20 years she has made her home in Brooklyn, and when she recently returned to this city she found the growth of East Avenue east of Culver Road almost as amazing as that which she had witnessed in her girlhood along that part of East Avenue between Goodman and Barrington Streets. Whether another 20 years will see East Avenue lined with houses all the way to Pittsford, is something

which no one cares either to prophesy or to deny.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

T.V. Memo. 1-14-1922
Old Union Race Course Tavern;
Mecca For Horsemen In 1861-5



Did you ever ride out in the East Avenue stage coach to the tavern and race track on East Avenue, at the present site of Vick Park A, to see the famous horse, "George M. Patchin" or Field's "Royal George" break their records?

The above picture, the original of which was loaned to The Times-Union by Charles H. Vick of this city, shows the tavern and its surroundings as they were in the early '60s. The race track, stretching back from East Avenue for a quarter of a mile, was built by Joseph Hall, a manufacturer of agricultural implements on Water street, and Thomas Fletcher, in the year 1861. The tavern is of still earlier origin. It was not until the breaking out of the Civil War that the name "Union" was adopted.

In 1866 the tavern and course were purchased from Mr. Hall by James Vick, Rochester's pioneer florist whose home was in East Avenue on the present site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Mr. Vick planted the tract with flowers and shrubbery which were the talk of the town and during the summer months the old omnibus carried as many persons out East Avenue to see the floral display as formerly had gone for the races.

In 1873, in the face of dissuasion and

even ridicule on the part of his friends and business associates, Mr. Vick divided the tract into building lots, bringing the north ends of the race track into East Avenue at right angles and calling the new streets "Avenue A and Avenue B, Vick Park." The curve at the south end of the course was retained, but Mr. Vick added a gravelled road to the east and west, telling his friends that in time the Park Avenue car line would be extended to serve his new streets and thence on to Culver road in Brighton, a prophecy which, in due time, he saw fulfilled. Nor has the street car company ever found any means of eliminating the curve which had its origin in the old Union Race Course.

**ON STAGE
EACH RAN ON
EAST AVENUE**

*Rochester Public Library
64 Court St.*
Interesting Reminiscences of
Early Days of City's
"First Street."

Few persons will recognize East Avenue in the accompanying picture but, nevertheless, the roomy, comfortable old house shown, once stood where is now the corner of Avenue A, Vick Park, and was one of the most famous hotels in the county. The Old Union Tavern and the Union Race Course was the Mecca not only of local horsemen, but of racing men from many parts of the state and some of the famous pacers and trotters established records on the track which occupied practically the site of the two Vick Parks, A and B.

The photograph of the tavern from which the above picture was made is probably the only one now in existence and was loaned to the Times by Mr. Charles Vick and Mrs. Clarice White, children of Mr. James Vick, the pioneer nurseryman of Rochester, who in 1866 purchased the Union Race Course and the Union Tavern from Joseph Hall. Mr. Vick continued to rent the tavern to the man who had been conducting it for some years.

Mr. Vick and his family occupied a house on what is now the site of St. Paul's Church and Mrs. White well remembers that there were no houses between their home and Goodman street save those of the Butts, the Lockers and Joseph Hall, Jr. The only street east of Goodman Street on East Avenue was Bowen Street, now Barrington Street. On the south side of Avenue Mr. Vick laid out great

Colorful Streets Of Rochester...

HEREWITH there is presented one of a series of articles on the streets of Rochester. In this series, Miss Croughton demonstrates that even the most drab thoroughfare has a background of tradition and history if it can only be discovered.

By Amy H. Croughton

R.O.F. - Puch - *W. H. C. Rochester June 1916*
 No. 11—Ely St. Was Cradle Of Rochester's Churches



Century-old building in Ely Street which was razed last year after having served as a concert hall, church, theater, blacksmith's shop and storage house.

Ely Street, like Johnson Street, today offers little to halt the searcher for Rochesteriana who is unfortified by knowledge of historical tradition. Yet it was on this street that three churches had their beginnings and that one of the early theaters of the city flourished.

The street takes its name from Elisha Ely who came to the Village of Rochester in 1813 and purchased the land, then forest, on the east side of what is now South Avenue. Ely built his house at what is now the corner of Ely Street and South Avenue and his farm extended back to what is now Stone Street. There is no doubt that Ely Street originally was merely a lane extending east into the forest. Elisha Ely's house was later the home of John Mastick, Rochester's first lawyer.

Ely Hall Built in 1827

In 1827 the population of the village had grown to nearly 5,000, and in this year the corner-stone of a very substantial building was laid at the southeast corner of Ely Street and Minerva Place. This building remained as a landmark for a full century, being torn down last year to make way for the store and warehouse of George B. Hart, wholesale florist, by whom the property had been acquired some years before.

Few buildings in Rochester have had a more varied experience than this hall. It was used, in succession, for public meetings; for concerts; for the meeting of a colored congregation; for the services of a congregation of German Roman

Catholics; for the services of a congregation of French Roman Catholics and for theatrical performances which varied all the way from melodrama to the cheapest sort of variety show. Following all this, the lower part of the building, with an addition on the Ely Street front, was utilized as a blacksmith's shop, and the upper floor for storage purposes. In the early years of the present century the cheerful clang of the blacksmith's hammer still rang through the street and the open doors gave a view of a flaming forge which threw queer shadows over the old walls and shone on the sleek sides of the big dray horses which stood to be shod.

Hall Used By Churches

The German Catholic congregation, later known as St. Joseph's Parish, occupied the hall as early as 1836, and early records state that the building so occupied had been "The Negroes' Church on Ely

Street." In 1844, St. Joseph's congregation removed to a new church in Franklin Street. In 1847 the French Catholic congregation, now known as the Church of Our Lady of Victory, began its services in the Ely Street hall, remaining there until 1867 when it removed to its new church in Pleasant Street.

The Ely Street hall had a plainly marked corner-stone bearing the date of 1827 and when the building was razed, last year, Mr. Hart presented this stone to St. Joseph's parish as a relic of the building in which the congregation had held its early services.

In 1868 the hall was again taken over for theatrical performances under the impressive title of "The Ely Street Opera House." Its career was a short and sharp decline, however, for it could not compete with the larger halls and theaters that had been erected and it soon was given over to commercial purposes.

Today it is difficult to picture Ely Street even as it was in the '40s and '50s—a residence street between two other residence streets, South Avenue and Stone Street, its dirt roadway lined with trees and its houses surrounded by pleasant gardens.

Old Exchange Street — The 'Main Stem'

First in Trolley Cars and Big Stores,
Early Day Thoroughfare Also Is First
In the Lives of First Rochesterians
Who Built the City in Wilderness

By Marion Weir

Rochester, N. Y.
54 Court St.

May 5, 1935

WIVES of the members of Rochester's first club never worried about the hour their husbands came home at night. Their husbands did not come home—they stayed all night.

The first clubhouse was a flour mill and about the only qualification for membership was a bag of wheat, although some did not even bring that. For in those old red mill era days, going to mill was the only thing that broke the loneliness of pioneer life, and besides the farmers who came with their wheat, there usually were several residents of Rochester who added their presence to the meetings.

About sundown the farmer and his sons would appear with their grists of wheat to be ground. Presence of bears and other wild animals offered an alibi for an all night stay that many a modern club member might envy. There are some who would even hint that the farmers came more often than was absolutely necessary, but the gregarious tendencies of the pioneers seem justified in view of the loneliness of their lives.

Wit and repartee, tall tales, stories of starvation and fights with animals were the entertainment of those old pioneers and they were not lacking in original material for their stories. A ferocious bear tearing at a weak frame house and climbing to the roof and peering down the chimney while the farmer hovered inside with no protection but a frightened dog was the usual beginning of one of these old blood curdling stories. Just how that story ended might vary each time it was told, but it never failed to be thrilling.

Then there was the famous old Scotch miller—Commodore Rogers he was called—who always could keep up his part of the conversation. Rats seem to have been his particular forte and he could make them formidable. Apparently the variety that played tag around his mill was not to be trifled with, being, as history records for us, "the most long-tailed, long-whiskered, gray and grizzly variety of that pestiferous family." Shouts and laughter mingled with the noise of the mill and the roar of the river and when those pioneers started off down Main Street in the morning they were looking forward to their next trip "in."

Those were the days when the magic of the Genesee was just beginning to be apparent. There was a bridge across the river at Main Street, but that was not because Rochester was such a thriving town that the state felt it was needed. The people might have still been fording the river, occasionally being swept over the falls and thus being "hurried into eternity," as they described those events, if the bridge had not been needed to get travelers to Fort Niagara. About the only citizens of Rochester who would use the bridge, said those stormy orators of the Legislature, would be muskrats. But the bridge had been built and the magnificence of Main Street was begun. But it was to be many years before Main Street, then called Buffalo Street, was to gain its present prominence.

In those early days it was the river that was the center of all activity. It was the streets that bordered on it that were both the first centers of commerce and the first residential centers.

Rochester's first labor problem began

about 1815 and it was one of over-employment rather than unemployment. Such a rush of activity had begun in the little community that there were not enough people to do the work. After the fears of the War of 1812 had faded Rochester seemed well established as a thriving little village. New flour mills were being built, private houses were being started and the saw mills could not keep up with the demand for lumber. They were running day and night and the flour mills, too, were keeping hours that NRA codes would frown upon.

There was about 1,000 resident in the village then. New arrivals had to wait for lumber and in the meantime camped in their covered wagons. The tavern was overcrowded. Many newcomers might have been in a quandry if the private residents had not risen to the occasion

and taken them to board in their homes. Just how courageous that act was can be appreciated only when it is considered that the scandlemongers would be sure to say that they were "obliged to keep boarders."

Rochester was firmly established as a wheat center by that time. Farmers came to market not only from the whole valley of the Genesee, but from all the surrounding countries. And as soon as the flour trade became established all sorts of commercial enterprises found customers here. Stories did a flourishing business. The mill races, which still carry their water under some of Rochester's busy buildings, were built and in 1817 Elisha Johnson had built the dam in the river above Court Street bridge. The daring youngsters of that decade found walking across the dam, which incidentally involved risking their lives, their most thrilling sport.

In this early village of Rochester Exchange Street became The Street. It's appearance when the first settlers arrived hardly seemed to warrant that rise to fame. In the middle of it was a huge rock and under that, when it was at last blasted away, was found a den of rattlesnakes. So many skeletons of old serpents were found that it gave rise to a debate as to whether it had been a snake hospital or a snake burying ground. Whichever it was, the discovery tended to give the street a bad name at first and one man left with his family. But in spite of the reputation, the street became prosperous.

When the street was first opened, according to one of the old records, it was not "opened." That was due to the fact that an inconvenient ledge of rock was in the way, half way between the canal and Main Street. But in spite of this handicap, later years were to witness the first street car of the city in that thoroughfare.

The first store of Rochester was built on Exchange Street in 1813. This street, which was to be first in so many things, also boasted the first barber shop. It was perched on the top of the ledge and to reach it one had to struggle up the steep steps. Apparently that little inconvenience did not bother its patrons, for the barber prospered in spite of the fact that the wits of the village made fun of the lazy luxury of being shaved. A glance at old photographs showing the luxurious beards the early settlers boasted makes that struggling barber's success appear all the more remarkable.

The street soon changed. Besides the mills, which brought so much business to the merchants of the street, there was another event that helped it in its rise to fame. In 1823 a group of gray clad convicts from Auburn Prison arrived in Rochester to begin work on the aqueduct of the Erie Canal. When that was completed the added business it brought to Rochester insured the success of Exchange Street.

The era that began then was the beginning of the palmy days of Exchange Street. A visit to the city in those days would have shown it to be one of the most flourishing between New York and the West and Exchange Street was the business center. Had you been a visitor then you probably would be swept up to the city with the flourish and grandeur that can attend only a packet boat. No modern observation train gives the magnificent and comprehensive view of an approaching destination that mode of travel did. As you approached the packet office in Exchange Street you would see first the curious citizens crowded on the bridge watching your arrival. Loafers' Bridge it was called, but the sight of one of those packet boats arriving would have repaid anyone for thus spending a few minutes. When the boat passed under the bridge the crowd moved down to the dock to greet the arrivals.

It would be a mistake to think the arrival was less exciting than that of a train at a modern station. There were not only porters trying to claim the attention of the arriving guests, but there were agents of hotels, cabmen and hackmen who added to the general confusion. There were no flat rates for anything. All prices were decided upon only after bickerings and brisk arguments. And in the midst of all there were greetings, handkerchief waving and excited exclamations about the size of the city. If travelers were staying at a hotel there was the imposing Rochester House,

standing in sight of the packet house, and was likely to be their choice. The new Times-Union Building now occupies that site.

The Rochester House was built in 1827. It had a long line of illustrious landlords, though none of them made it profitable. In fact most of them lost money. Aside from that minor economic difficulty, the Rochester House had a glorious history. Joseph and Maltby Strong, two of the millers who later built their pretentious homes in Spring Street, lived there when they first came to the city. So did that other famous miller, Ebenezer Beach, called the "most extensive miller in the world." He was considered a Beau Brummell by the women. None of them ever captured him (but apparently most of them made the effort) and he lived his days in bachelor bliss at the Rochester House. Members of Congress, the State Legislature, the first Mayor, a presidential candidate and other celebrities the old hotel boasted as its guests. Political speeches were made from its balcony and in later years the ministers of the city preached there Sunday afternoons to canal men.

Beside the canal the old basin of the river, called Child's Basin, was for years a favorite recreation spot of the community. In the early days of the village loiters went there to spend their Sunday afternoons. That was before a certain strict churchman moved into the vicinity. He broke up the Sunday gatherings. But later it became a favorite spot. Boys skipped stones on its waters and floated rafts on it (with occasional narrow escapes from being carried over the falls). It also became a bathing resort. In those days bathers did not go to Lake Ontario. That area was surrounded by marshes and it was only on rare occasions that one got a look at its waters, to say nothing of bathing in them.

Another important building on the river bank was the jail that stood on the island now occupied by the Erie Railroad train shed. In good weather one might see prisoners out in the yard breaking stones. In the summer the river was low and it was easy to escape simply by walking across the dry river bed. Finally, when conditions reached the point that it was easier to get out of jail than to get in the city built a new jail.

The business section of Exchange Street in these days boasted at least six drygoods stores. If a customer wanted hardware he could be accommodated within a block by any one of three stores. There also were two drug stores, one hatter, one leather and shoe store, three stove and tinware stores, six or more grocery stores, the barber shop, two banks,

the packet boat office and the Rochester Museum. With the mills humming constantly beside the river, the district was a busy place.

But what would have caught the attention of a visitor would probably not have been none of these busy merchantmen or their customers, but the sound of sweet music. Its origin would have been on the third floor of the Rochester Museum building, where an organ in the window mingled its notes with the raucous shrieks of a red-headed South American cuckatoo. The organ was to lure the passersby to view the wonders of the museum, and apparently after listening to the same three tunes played over and over for days on end, the permanent residents of the street ceased to appreciate it. They even intimated that it was a bit off key and sounded like groans and shrieks. Instead of the sweet music it was meant to represent. But of the contents of the museum those who saw them never had anything but enthusiastic testimony.

Not only did it contain representatives of the birds and beasts, sea monsters and wonderful wax figures, but wonders of wonders, "slide" performance rooms. One witness of those slides was so enthralled that he stayed through five "separate and distinct" performances and in those days they paid again for each new performance. Apparently no one visited the museum casually. People spent the day there.

Just outside this busy business section of Exchange Street was a residential section and some of the fine old homes that still remain in the neighborhood bear testimony to the prosperity of the merchants and millers of that era. Col. Nathaniel Rochester built his impressive home at Exchange and Spring streets. This Third Ward, known as the "Ruffled Shirt Ward," still retains some of the glories of those days, the dignified colonial houses having outlasted most of the commercial buildings built at that time.

In spite of the title that clung to the

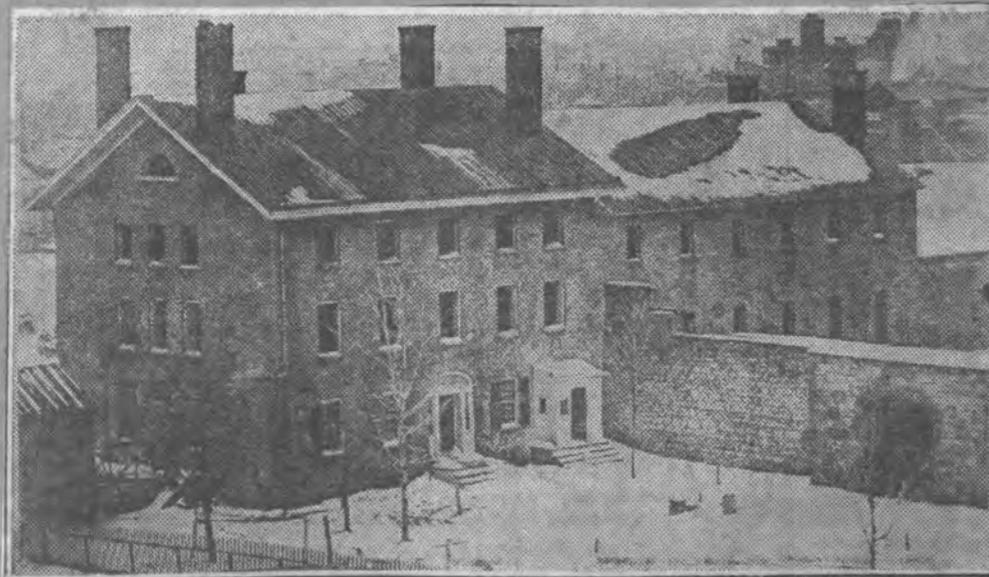
Third Ward, it must not be supposed there was anything "ruffled" about the home of Colonel Rochester. It was an excellent example of good taste and simplicity, since he thought to live lavishly was to set a bad example for the other members of the community. At that time the residential area had a more suburban aspect. There were large lawns

surrounding the houses and those on the east side of the street had pleasant gardens that sloped down to the river. But though the railroad came through along the river and the business section engulfed it the "Ruffled Shirt Ward" clung on tenaciously, still maintaining much of its prominence as late as 1870.

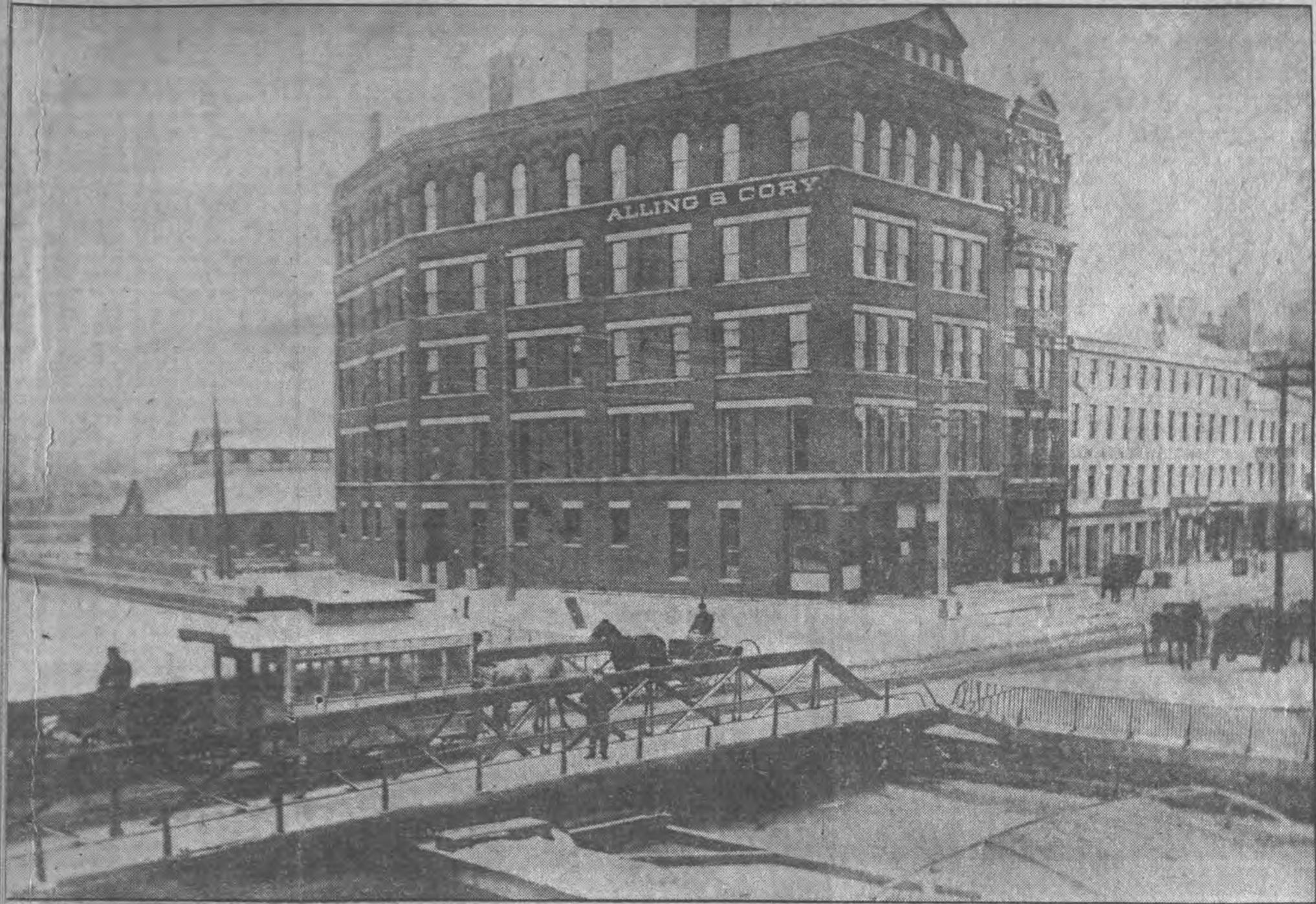
But the real glory of Exchange Street as it was in those early times began to fade with the depression of 1836 to 1838. Many who had been engaged in speculative businesses failed and gradually the business section was deserted. The state enlarged the canal and the bridge in

Exchange Street was raised. That act actually separated the north and south sides of the street, destroying the value of property. In 1853 the Rochester House was destroyed by fire and that ended the early glories of Exchange Street.

Could those early settlers see Exchange Street now they would not recognize it. The canal, which was the center of their world, is now Broad Street. When that street was being constructed in 1822 some of the old buildings of the first era of prosperity were torn down, but now without some resistance on their part. The workmen discovered the walls were three feet thick and of hand-hewn timbers so that even after a century of life they were still standing solidly. The Times-Union Building occupies the corner once the location of the Rochester House, imposing bank buildings have taken the place of one drygoods store and "Loafers' Paradise" is now the busy Times Square.



Where it was easier to get in than to get out, the old jail on the bank of Genesee



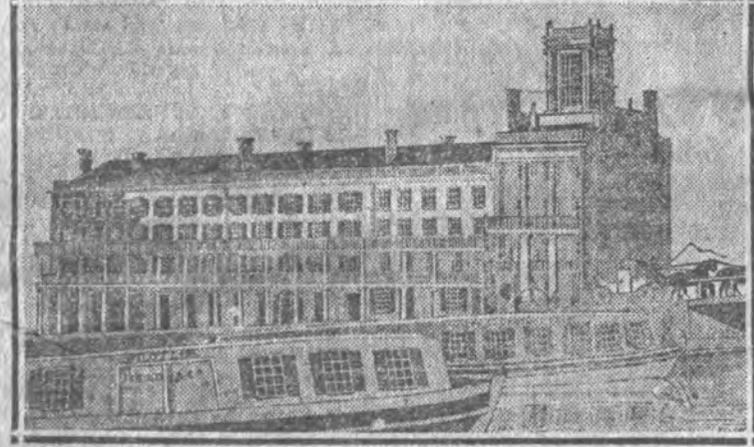
Exchange Street as it was when the first street cars traveled the first car tracks in Rochester. Buildings familiar to the

Rochesterians of today were there then, but the old rattling bridge that crossed the canal near the aqueduct has vanished



Exchange Street as it is today, the Times Square district where business hums amid the memories of a glorious past that had their part in the upbuilding of Rochester

R.T.U. By Amy H. Croughton Feb 4, '28



One of the famous old buildings of Exchange Street was the Rochester House, here shown. Later the site was occupied by the Hess Building, which made way for the new home of The Times-Union, now nearing completion.

No. 1—Exchange Once Was Mill St.

NO street in Rochester has a more interesting historical background than Exchange Street; and, save for its one block of bustling bank, business and newspaper buildings, between Main and Broad streets, none, perhaps, makes a more drab impression on the casual observer.

Exchange Street began as a mill road paralleling the river on the west of the mill yard which occupied the present site of the Wilder Building. It was a rough road; for it ran over an outcropping ledge of rock, infested, near the river, by rattlesnakes. There was no Erie

Canal in those years and Exchange Street, then known as "Mill Street," ended in forest land not far beyond the present Broad Street. In 1827 the street extended no further than Troup Street, and in 1838 only to Edinburgh Street.

Home of Founder

In 1816 Col. Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city, built his first home here at the southwest corner of Exchange and Spring streets. Until 1818 the house was occupied by Dr. Levi Ward. Then Colonel Rochester lived in the house until 1824, when he built what became known as the Rochester homestead

at Spring Street and Plymouth Avenue South. In later years this first home of Colonel Rochester became a tavern known as the Break o' Day House.

A hotel known as the Rochester House occupied the block of Exchange Street between Spring Street and the Erie Canal after the building of that waterway in 1825. Not only was this hotel a stopping place for travelers by packet boat, before railroad days, but nearly every young man coming to Rochester in the early days to found a career in business or the professions made his home there at least for a time. The building was burned down April 29, 1853. The Macomber Hotel, opened in 1820 by Messrs. Schemerhorn and Moore on the present site of the Lincoln-Alliance Bank, changed its name to Clinton Hotel in honor of De Witt Clinton when he came through Rochester at the opening of the Erie Canal. In 1837 the Livingston Hotel was built on the same site. There was another very old tavern, in the building later occupied by the Field Company and now torn down. Tradition has it that Lafayette was entertained in that tavern.

Many Theaters

So old Exchange Street was a place of entertainment for man and beast and was also a place of

amusement, for in 1825 the "Rochester Museum" opened its doors and continued to flourish until 1852, despite the prejudice of the good people of Rochester against "worldly amusements." In 1824 the Rochester Circus was opened on a site near the present jail, and in 1840, Edward Dean opened a theater in the building still standing in Exchange Street opposite Spring, now occupied by the White Wire Works Company. In this auditorium appeared such stars as the elder Booth, Forrest, Plunkett and Julia Dean. This building was later used as an armory and in the years of the Civil War Exchange Street was a busy and colorful place as Rochester regiments took their departure for the front.

Before the tracks of the Erie Railroad were pushed along the river bank in 1852, upper Exchange Street was a place of pleasant homes with gardens running down to the water's edge.

Even after the railroad went through, the houses on the west side of the street were considered very desirable residences, and many of these houses, still standing, retain an air of faded gentility.

Home of Buffalo Bill

Exchange Street has one tradition that should hold it forever dear to the hearts of young Rochester. In a house on Exchange Street, opposite Hubbell Park, resided, in 1874, the family of William Cody, "Buffalo Bill," and there came Buffalo Bill, himself, to spend his infrequent holidays from the theatrical career which succeeded his scouting days and preceded those of his outdoor Wild West Show.

The importance of Exchange Street in the middle-age of the city is shown by the fact that the first street car operated in Rochester was over the Exchange Street-Mt. Hope Avenue route on July 9, 1863. This car carried a party of officials of the railroad

company, but on July 22 regular service was begun and continued over the route.

Long Banking Street

Exchange Street became a banking street in 1824, when the Bank of Rochester opened its doors on the site where the Genesee Valley Trust Company now does business. In 1839 the Bank of Western New York was conducted in the old Rochester House Building on the south side of the canal. In the same year the First Commercial Bank began business in Exchange Street. The Bank of Monroe, the Mechanics Savings Bank, the Genesee Valley Trust Company and the Lincoln-Alliance Bank come into the later history of the street.

The Union and Advertiser printing offices and its successor, The Times-Union, have played puss-in-the-corner across the street several times. The Union and Advertiser for many years occupied the building, now razed, to the north of the canal on the west side of Exchange Street. Then it moved to a site now occupied by the south portion of The Times-Union building. This Spring the Times-Union will move back across the street to its new building at the southwest corner of Exchange and Broad Streets.

The Rochester Herald Company, now absorbed by the Democrat & Chronicle, also occupied two sites in Exchange Street, both of the east side of the street.

Jail Built In 1831

Monroe County's second jail was built in 1831, not on Exchange Street, but on the artificial island back of Exchange Street where stands, today, the freight house of the Erie Railroad. In 1885 the present jail was erected and in 1895 the central police station was built where it now stands.

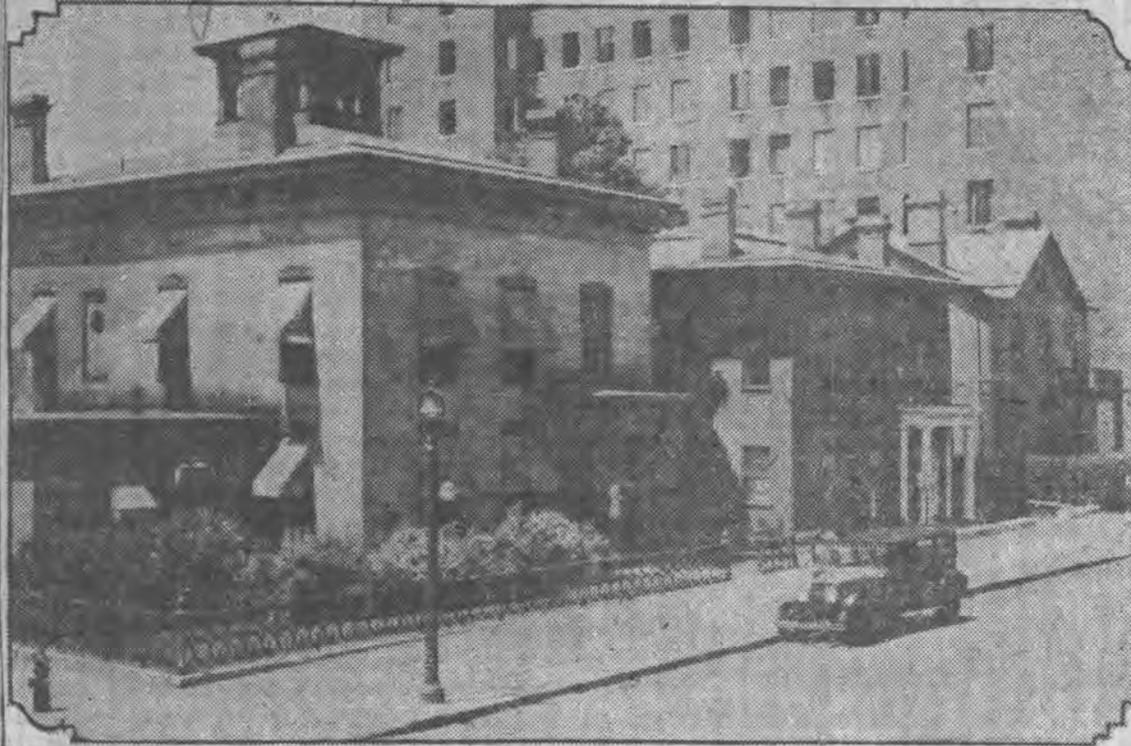
For nearly 100 years the Erie Canal dominated the development of Exchange Street. Today Broad Street and the subway have begun to exert an influence which is destined to make the street of more importance than ever before.

Colorful Streets Of Rochester...

By Amy H. Croughton

No. 20—South Fitzhugh Street Still Retains Old Homes

HEREWITH is presented another of the series of articles on the streets of Rochester. In this series, Miss Croughton demonstrates that even the most drab thoroughfare has a background of tradition and history if it can only be discovered.



Three century-old houses on South Fitzhugh Street seen against the background of the Terminal Building, the first building to be erected on Broad Street.

SOUTH FITZHUGH STREET has one feature of which no other Street in the city can boast. It has seven houses in a row on the west side of the street, south of Broad Street, which have stood for periods ranging from 90 to 104 years and have been the homes of families prominent in the early life of the city.

There are many other houses along the street dating back to the 1830s and 1840s. Adequately to tell the history of South Fitzhugh Street would be to rewrite the history of Rochester from 1820 to the present time, for each of these houses was occupied by families whose members were active in the industrial, political and social life of the city in their generation. Many of the houses were lived in by three generations of one family before they passed into other hands, and a few are still occupied by descendants of those who built them.

Seven Early Homes

The first of the seven houses south of Broad Street were built in 1826 for William B. Rochester, son of the founder of the city. It subsequently was occupied by Henry Benton, Jacob S. Gould, and now Harry P. Gould. The next house, now occupied by the Guarantee Abstract & Title Company was the home of Ebenezer Watts and was built in the late 1820s. The corner house was built in 1824 for Gen. Jacob Gould on a lot bought from Jacob Howe, Rochester's first baker, who came to the village in 1813 and camped at the northwest corner of Spring and Fitzhugh Streets, where he established his first bake house before moving to North Fitzhugh Street. The house built for General Gould by Capt. Daniel Loomis was of hand-made bricks from the yards in Brighton which also furnished material for the Cobb house at Monroe and Highland Avenues. The facing of cement which still covers the bricks was the invention of a Frenchman who visited Rochester in the early 20s and died here, his secret dying with him. The cement is of unusual hardness and shows little deterioration.

The Gould house was one of the centers of social activity in the Third Ward and at one time Presi-

dent Martin Van Buren was entertained there. It now provides for a number of physicians.

These three houses south of Broad Street, once such imposing edifices, now seem to crouch in the shade of the lofty Terminal Building which has the distinction of being the first important building erected on Broad Street and occupies a strip of land which extended along the Erie Canal and was used as a stone yard.

House of Editor

On the southwest corner of Spring and Fitzhugh a house was built in the early 1920s for Everard Peck, publisher of the Rochester Telegraph. William F. Peck, author of a number of histories of Monroe County and Rochester, was born in this house which is now an apartment house. The house next south is known to old residents of the Third Ward as the Mudgett house but it was built in the 1830s and had at least two occupants before William Mudgett. It is of the same type of architecture as the Washington Club, and the Montgomery House in Spring Street. This house, also, is now divided into apartments.

The sixth of the group of houses,

also built before 1838, is now used for physicians' offices, but its graceful stairway and its large rooms with high ceilings and marble fireplaces preserve the original beauty and dignity of the old dwelling.

In Henry O'Reilly's "Sketches of Rochester," published in 1838, the second, third and fourth houses south of Spring Street on the west side of Fitzhugh Street are pictured as examples of the excellent taste in architecture shown by Rochesterians.

The fourth house south of Spring Street was erected in 1836 for a private school and functioned in that capacity until 1903. This school, known for many years as the Rochester Female Seminary and later as the Nichols School, was conducted by Mrs. James Nichols and her daughters from 1858 to 1903 and its alumnae are scattered all over the country. In 1903 the Christian Science Society bought the building and worshipped there until 1909 when it became the headquarters of the Rochester Conservatory of Music. A few years later the music school moved to Prince Street and the old house became a part of the Fitzhugh apartment hotel.

The northeast corner of Spring and Fitzhugh Streets was the site of the home of Dr. Frederick F. Backus where was a well of pure water which supplied many neighbors in the early days of the village. The house is now replaced by a commercial building; but the frame office of Dr. Backus, which later was used as a school for boys, conducted by the Rev. James Nichols, now stands on the east side of Fitzhugh Street south of Broad and is used as an office by the Bradshaw Coal Company.

The first house south of the southeast corner of Spring and Fitzhugh Streets, now remodeled for apartment use, was the home of Dr. Edward Mott Moore, notable physician and philanthropist and also honored as "The Father of Rochester's Parks."

Another Notable Group

Four notable houses mark the corners of Fitzhugh and Troup streets. On the northeast corner is the house built in 1832 for Edmund Lyon and occupied since 1886 by members of the Chapin family. On the southeast corner are two semi-detached houses, the one to the South having been the home, from 1855 to 1881, of Lewis H. Morgan, the noted ethnologist. On the southwest corner is the fine old house which was built before 1837 for Benjamin Campbell, an early miller, and was purchased in 1848 by Frederick F. Whittlesey, chancellor of the now defunct Court of Chancery of the State of New York. Mrs. Anna W. Oliver, a granddaughter of Chancellor Whittlesey is the present owner of the house. The house on the northwest corner is of more recent date but was the home of Edward N. Walbridge, officer of Naval Militia, for many years.

Until 1837, Fitzhugh Street ended at Troup Street, the stretch of Troup to Exchange Street being known as "Bunker Hill" and being extremely popular with juvenile sled owners of the Third Ward. In 1837 an ordinance provided for the southerly extension of the street along a line beginning "at a point seven feet six inches from the northeast corner of the water table of Benjamin Campbell's brick dwelling." It was the choice of this starting point which gives the street its peculiar "jog" at Troup Street.

First Court House

The block of South Fitzhugh Street between Main Street West and Broad Street has seen many changes. In 1812 the site of the court house was the cornfield of Silas O. Smith. The first court house was built in 1821, standing back from Main and flanked by two frame buildings resembling Greek temples, which housed a number of physicians and lawyers. In 1849 the second court house was erected, and in 1894 the present court house was begun.

In 1824 the First Presbyterian Church purchased property back of the court house and erected a chapel and, later, a church building. This burned in 1869 and the church acquired its present site at Plymouth Avenue and Spring Street, where its new church was dedicated in 1872. The Fitzhugh Street property was sold to the city as a site for the present City Hall, which was opened in 1876.

Just north of the central door of the First Church on the plot of green which later became the City Hall plaza and is now covered by the addition to the court house opened in 1926, there stood from 1825 to 1870 a sundial of wood and stone. When the church building was razed in 1870, the wooden cross of the sundial was destroyed. The base, a millstone and shaft, were moved to the southeast corner of the City Hall on the canal bank and were used by boats as a snubber or tie-post. One night in 1878 a heavily-laden boat pulled the post into the canal. It was removed from the water and taken to the weighlock stone-yard, where it is believed to have been broken up for paving stone. So, carelessly, disappeared a landmark of old Rochester.

Jackson's Bake Shop

In the 1840s there stood at the southwest corner of Fitzhugh and Main streets the bake-shop of Jesse Jackson, famed for his pastry and for the elaborate wedding cakes which he furnished to the best families of the town. Subsequently a row of wooden buildings extended west of Jackson's shop with a chicken market and cheap lodging rooms. This "Chicken Row" became so noxious that no one was displeased when it burned to the ground on the night after it had been bought by the Rochester Savings Bank as a site for its new building. This conflagration occurred March 30, 1853, and the Rochester Savings Bank Building was completed by 1857. The third

with its clock and guardian
was added in 1877 and at the
same time a neat little garden with
a fountain in the center was laid
out in the nook between the bank
and what is now the Education
Building. This garden is now covered
by vaults and offices of the
bank built a few years ago.

The site of the Education building
is also the site of the shop of Roch-
ester's first coffin maker, David W.
Allen, who hammered together out

of rough planks the oak boxes in
which some of the first Roches-
terians were laid to rest in the
Spring Street Cemetery.

Allen must have hammered and
sawed in close proximity to the
first public school building which
was erected on part of the site of
the present Education building in
1813. This school was but one story
in height, with a large fireplace in
one wall and rough benches facing
the other three walls. Here the
children of the early settlers were
taught the Three Rs by Aaron
Skinner. The building was twice
enlarged before 1823 and, some
years later, was replaced by a
structure of brick and rough-cast.
This and the earlier buildings were
known as District School 1. In 1857
a brick building was dedicated as
the Central High School with C. R.
Pomeroy as the first principal. The
school was flanked by two small
stores, one a barber shop and the
other a candy store.

Becomes Free Academy

In 1861 the name of the school
was changed to the Rochester Free
Academy and in 1874 the building
now known as the Education build-
ing was erected and was used for
high school purposes until 1903,
when, having been supplanted by
the East High School, it was given
over to administrative offices of
the Board of Education and to the
Municipal Court, being known as
the Municipal Building. When the
City Hall Annex was opened in
Court Street, in 1926, the Municipal
Building was remodeled and given
the name Education Building, a
clause in the deed of gift of the
original school site from Colonel
Rochester, and Messrs. Carroll and
Fitzhugh to the village trustees,
stipulating that the land must al-
ways be used for educational pur-
poses.

The first building erected on
South Fitzhugh Street by St. Luke's
Episcopal Church was a frame
structure with 40 pews which was
opened on Christmas Day, 1820. In
1823 the first building was moved
to the rear of the lot and the
present church was erected, the
dedication services being held on
Sept. 30, 1828. The church has been
remodeled several times, once in
1866 and again in 1926, but it has
not been radically changed in ap-
pearance. In fact the last work
undertaken was rather a restora-
tion than a remodeling.

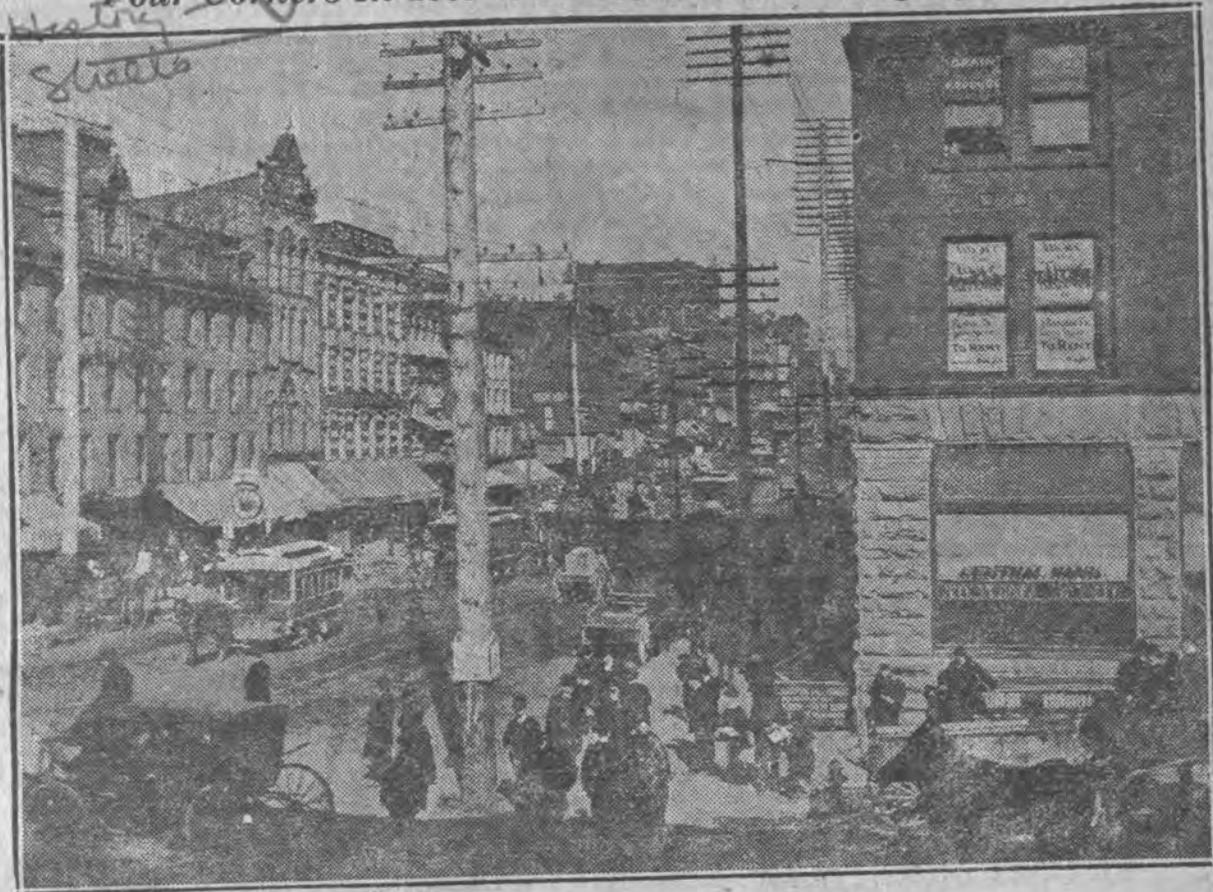
Canal Unwelcome

It may be imagined that the ar-
rival of the Erie Canal at the doors
of the First Presbyterian and St.
Luke's Churches was not wholly
welcome. Not only did the well-
spiced admonitions of the canal-
boat drivers to their mules fail to
blend harmoniously with the
sermons from the pulpits; but the
"hump" caused by the approaches
to the canal bridge was a fertile
source of broken bones to church
members during the Winter
months. This latter difficulty was
somewhat obviated by the erection
of a foot bridge which crossed the
lower ground between the church
and the sidewalk.

St. Luke's Church was partially
protected from the noise of the
canal by buildings which stood at
what is now the northwest corner
of Fitzhugh and Broad Streets.
These buildings were replaced in
the '90s by an auditorium called
Fitzhugh Rink where athletic ex-
hibitions were given and where, in
later years, motion pictures were
shown. This has now been re-
modeled for commercial and
restaurant purposes.

Fitzhugh Street was named in
honor of Major Charles Fitzhugh,
one of the founders of the city.

RUF - Rochester
DO YOU REMEMBER? T.V. 3/2/23
Four Corners In 1889 With Its Maze Of Telegraph Poles
Rochester Public Library
52 Court St.
Rochester, N. Y.



According to tradition, an exhl-
arated Rochesterian was found by a
policeman, one early morning in the
'80s, embracing one of the many
telegraph poles to be seen in the
above picture.

"Hey, captain," he beseeched the
representative of the law. "Can you
lend me a compass? I'm lost; lost in
an impenetrable forest."

Sober Rochesterians in 1889, the
time when this picture was taken by
Samuel H. Lowe, accepted the maze
of tall poles along the Main street
pavements as a matter of course, and
it was not until the '90s that the
movement for placing telephone,
telegraph and power wires in con-
duits underground became seriously
agitated, and the forest of tall poles
with their maze of wires was grad-
ually done away with.

The picture was taken from the
southwest corner of the Four Cor-
ners. On the right is the new
Wilder building erected in 1887 with
its basement in which was a railroad
ticket office. The Central Bank was
above and on the next floor window
one may read, in the original photo-
graph, a sign to the effect that "Tay-
lor the Taylor" had recently moved
to Room 5, Exchange Place building.
On the third floor was the office of
C. E. Drake, grain and produce
broker.

Individual telephones were com-
paratively few in number in Roch-
ester, in 1889, but there were many
public stations and one of these was
in the Wilder building, its presence
being indicated by the square sign
with the picture of the bell which
may be seen on the telegraph pole

at the southeast corner of Main and
Exchange street. For some years
the one and only exchange of the
Bell Telephone Company was in the
Wilder building.

In the foreground on the left is one
of the old-fashioned horse-cabs for
which stands were maintained in
front of the Court House and at some
of the hotels. Both one-horse and
two-horse cars, with their open
vestibules for the drivers may be
seen in the picture.

On the left of the picture is the
Reynolds Arcade, the Paine building
and, next door to the east, the build-
ing at that time occupied by the Gar-
son Clothing Company. The Granite
building was not in existence at that
time and one misses its tall bulk
which would rise in the left
background of the picture.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

A Crowd At Four Corners In 1871
When Horse Car Jumped The Track

T.V. Feb. 2, 22



Were you one of the crowd at the Four Corners on a certain day in 1871 when one of the "bob-tailed" horse cars left the track and blocked traffic for an hour or more until another, or was it "the" other, car came along and lent its horse to pull the first car back on the track again?

West Main street looks a trifle unfamiliar without its present maze of trolley wires. But the Rochester Savings Bank building in the background looks natural save that it then lacked its third story and the guardian lions which are familiar to present-day Rochesterians.

Court House Square may be seen at the Court House itself is hidden at Smith's Arcade, the building which

occupies the left foreground of the picture and from whose windows and balconies Rochester's prominent business and professional men may be seen leaning to get a better view of the accident.

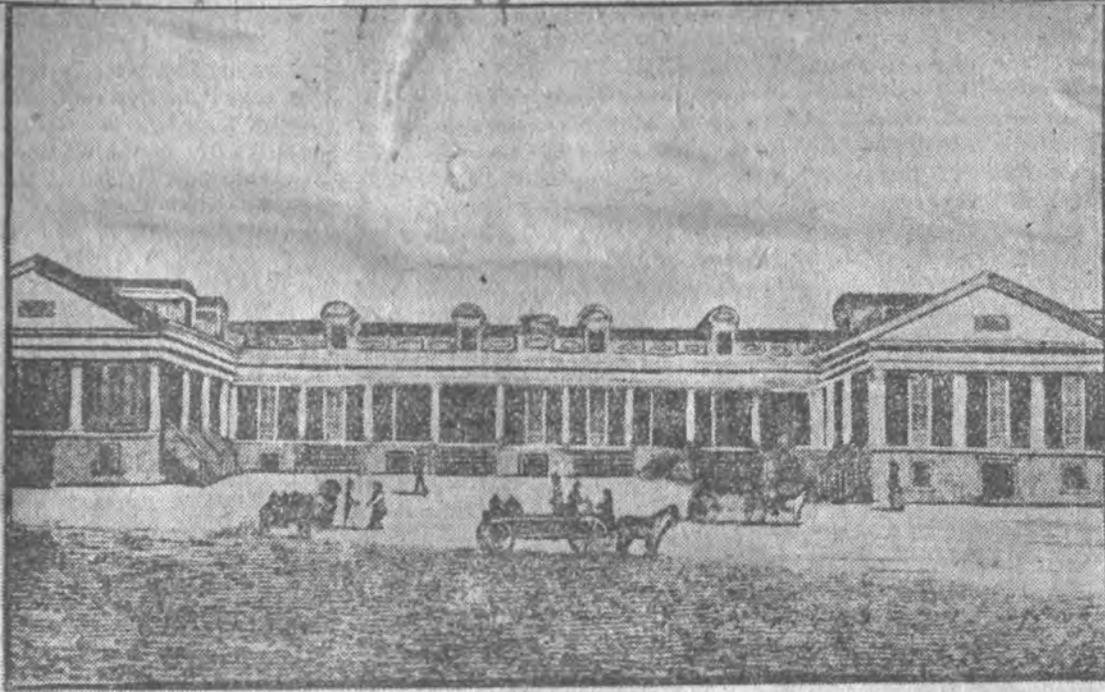
Smith's block was built by Silas O. Smith in the '40s and the building was later remodeled with an arcade extending from the Main street to the middle of the block. In 1869 "Russ" Coates' restaurant, the office of the American Farmer and the Elwood & Enos printing establishment occupied the arcade, but about 1871 it was remodeled into offices. The building was torn down in 1903 to make way for the German Insurance building and the Rochester Trust and Safe Deposit building.



The Four Corners in the Early Days

Haymarket, Mecca of Farmers of Long Ago, Fades from Front Street Picture

R.E. Journal.



The old Center Market, built in 1837, forerunner of the Haymarket building now being razed. All sorts of produce were handled here,

and the old market was the Mecca for country folk for miles around. Peck's history refers to this building as a "magnificent market house." Front Street was Mason Street in those days.



Robert Purdy, No. 2550 Dewey Avenue, who knew the old Haymarket as a boy, is pointing to the record of the highest water that ever swept Front Street in the days when floods were a common occurrence in downtown Rochester. The record was set on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1865.



A historic landmark vanishes from "the Bowery of Western New York," as Front Street has been called. The old Haymarket Building

Photos by Staff Photographers shown here is being torn down to make way for a gasoline station. Automobiles are to be parked, where for many years farmers' hay racks stood, row on row.

PRESENT 'FOUR CORNERS' WAS ROCHESTER IN 1814; SURROUNDED BY FORESTS

Rochester History Streets

Descriptions of Events of Early Days Told

at Pioneer Festival in 1874

Rochester, N.Y.
54 Court St.

Dec. 27, 27

By JAMES M. ANGLE

If all the avenues, street and alleys, with the exception of Main, Exchange and State streets, and South avenue, were eliminated from the map of Rochester, the plan which remained would be the profile of the city as it appeared in 1814. Main street, at that date, terminated east of Fitzhugh street and west of Stone street; South avenue merged into the forest a short distance south of Court street; the southern limit of Exchange street was north of Troup street, and State street was unsettled beyond Market street.

On the north side of Main street west, west of State street, at the corner of those streets, was a building owned by Henry Skinner, on the site of the log house built for Hamlet Scramton and occupied by him in

1812 On the northeast corner of State street and Main street east was located the store of Hervey and Elisha Ely. Next east of the Ely store was the dwelling of Abelard Reynolds, next east of which was the harness and saddle shop of Mr. Reynolds, that also housed the postoffice.

The building next to the postoffice was the tailor shop of Jehiel Barnard; then came the new dwelling of Hamlet Scramton and, continuing toward the river, and in the order in which they are named, a house occupied by Wheelock, a joiner; the home of Aaron Skinner, school teacher; the house of David K. Carter, millwright and carpenter, and on the shore of the river the blacksmith shop of James B. Carter. There were no buildings on the south side of the street.

Lime Kiln Near Four Corners.

On the west side of State street, north of the Skinner building and back from the street, was the log house built for Hamlet Scramton, which had been moved from its original location on the corner, and was occupied by Henry Skinner, a joiner. The only other building on the west side of State street was the store of Ira West. On the east side of State street and north of the Ely store, came, in the order given, the law office of John Mastick, and the grocery and dwelling of Abram Stark.

There were two buildings on the west side of Exchange street, the one nearest to Main street being the store of Silas O. Smith, located about where the Weed store is now, and the other the house of Orin E. Gibbs, M. D. The east side of Exchange street had no buildings.

South of Main street west, in the vicinity of the present Union Trust building, and some distance back from the street, was the schoolhouse of District No. 1, which was built in the spring of 1814. Northwesterly from the school house was a lime kiln.

South of Main street east, and south of the junction of Basin and Graves streets, were the ruins of the Indian Allan mill, and a short distance to the south of the old mill was the saw mill of Hervey and Elisha Ely. To the northwest of the old Allan mill, at the end of a roadway running southerly from Main street and between Graves and Aqueduct street, was a log house built for the use of the contractor and his help while building the river bridge in 1812.

The First Tavern.

On the east side of the river, on the west side of South avenue and near the corner of Main street, was the new house of Enos Stone, the only building on the west side of South avenue, with the exception of the old saw mill of Enos Stone, on the river shore a little south of Broad street. On the east side of the avenue, and near the corner of Stone street, was located the first tavern in Rochester, owned and occupied by Colonel Isaac W. Stone, and to the north of the tavern was Colonel Stone's barn. Further south, and on the east side of South avenue, in the vicinity of Court street, was the first frame house in Rochester, built by Enos Stone, and just south of it was a bank house, first occupied by Enos Stone, and, in 1812, by Hamlet Scramton, while his house on the northwest corner of State street and Main street west was being completed.

The authority for the foregoing specifications is a map or profile of Rochester in the spring of 1814, prepared by Edwin Scramton and Phebus Carter in 1854, at the request of John Kelsey and others, for the benefit of the society of the Pioneers of Rochester. This association was organized September 16, 1847, and one of its purposes was to provide for an annual social meeting of its members who had settled at, or were born in Rochester, prior to 1819. This profile was published in 1854 in "The Lives and Reminiscences of the Pioneers of Rochester and Western New

York," by John Kelsey. Accompanying the profile was a communication from its authors, which, in part, stated: "We believe that we have placed upon the map all the dwellings, business houses, mills, etc., that were erected in what was then called Rochester, together with the names and business of each occupant."

On the first day of the year 1879, forty-eight years ago, the publication of the Rochester Gem, "a semi-monthly literary family journal," was resumed. The editor and publisher, Edwin Scramton, in this issue of the rejuvenated journal said, "The Gem was commenced in 1828, and continued until 1835 by me, and after a double Rip Van Winkle slumber I have revived it, commencing with volume 10."

In the first, and also the last issue of the new series of the Gem, its editor related the history of Rochester's settlement, limiting his narration to the actual colonization of the village.

History of Powers Site.

"The history of the site now (1879) occupied by the Powers Building," Mr. Scramton wrote, "is really the history of that part of Rochester lying west of the Genesee river, and extends nearly to the foundation of the village itself. For, although the city dates back to the erection of a saw mill on the east side of the river, commenced in 1808, there was no recognized community of settlers for three or four years later." The narration of Mr. Scramton relates the frequently repeated details of the purchase, by Henry Skinner, of the lot on the northwest corner of the present State street and Main street west, and the construction of a log house on it for Hamlet Scramton, and then continues:

"On the Fourth of July, 1812, the house was first occupied, and the celebration of the Nation's birthday consisted, in great part, of bonfires built in front of the log hut."

Hamlet Scramton was a native of Durham, Connecticut, born in 1773. In 1805 he moved with his family to Turin, in Northern New York, now in Lewis county. He remained there until the spring of 1812, when he came to the newly laid out "mill lot" of Rochester, Fitzhugh and Carroll, on the west side of the Genesee. Becoming familiar with his new location and perceiving the advantages of the place, he bought a lot on the north side of what is now Main street east, and built a dwelling which was, in 1814, the fifth building from the corner of the present State street. Mr. Scramton's vocation was milling, and he was engaged in conducting the milling business for the Messrs. Brown. When the Erie Canal was in process of construction he was the agent of Culver & Maynard in the building of the locks at Lockport. He died in 1850.

"The Corner Lot."

Continuing the story of the "corner lot," Edwin Scramton stated:

"In 1818, Azel Eusworth bought the lot and erected a larger wooden house, removing the former building and using it as a stable for the hotel—the Eagle tavern. Mr. Eusworth was

the landlord of his own tavern, and a few years later he added to an attic, which was the first room in Rochester used as a public hall. It was brought into service as a concert room, a ballroom, a lecture room and theater; in 1824 the first concert ever heard in this city was given here by Philip Phillip, who, from a common sailor, had become the leading vocalist of the country, and among those who figured in the private theatricals about that time were Daniel D. Barnard and Alpheus Bingham, who afterwards became prominent in state politics.

"In 1829 the old building was torn down and on its site was erected a brick building known for forty years all over the state as the Eagle Hotel. The first landlord of the Eagle was Mr. Crane, who was soon succeeded by Killian H. Van Rensselaer, a nephew of the old patroon of Albany, and he in turn by Coleman & Stetson, younger brothers of the old landlords of the Astor House and Coleman House in New York city. These young men, who went in in 1838, stayed there but a few months, and were, on January 1, 1839, succeeded by Hall & Thompson. The latter retired from business soon after, and Isaac M. Hall continued in charge until 1849, when he suddenly went to California. The hotel then passed into the hands of S. D. Walbridge, who soon after bought the building and remained the landlord of the hotel until 1863, when it came into the possession of D. W. Powers and was changed into a business block.

"In 1865 that part of the present building occupied on the ground floor by Mann's dry goods store (now Scramton's, on State street) was built but it was not until 1868 that the excavations were made for the principal structure. While digging the cellar at the corner (State and Main streets), in October of that year, an old stump was unearthed. It was the underground portion of a gigantic ash pole raised in honor of Henry Clay, during the presidential campaign of 1841, and cut down the following year."

The first Court of Common Pleas held in Monroe county, after its erection in 1821, was held in the ballroom of the Eusworth tavern. The building of the new Eagle Hotel did not prove a successful business venture for Eusworth, and soon after its erection it passed into the ownership of Abraham M. Schermerhorn.

The first pioneer festival, as the event was termed, of the Pioneer Association, was held on September 30, 1847, at the Blossom Hotel, which was located on the north side of the present Main street east a short distance east of the corner of St. Paul street. One of the features of the festival was the provision that "each person has the liberty to narrate some interesting incident of his early settlement at Rochester, but that none occupy for this purpose more than ten minutes." Of the reminiscences related few have been preserved. Among those which have survived the passage of time is that of Judge Moses Chapin, who came to Rochester in 1812 when he was 26 years old. Four years later he was elected one of the

trustees of the village of Rochester, and in 1825 he was made judge of the Monroe County Court, holding that office until March, 1831.

"The principal settlement," Judge Chapin said, "was in Buffalo street between the corner of State street and the bridge across the river. The buildings were rows of small shops on each side of the street, mostly a story and a half high. Here and there was a building further west on Buffalo street, and the brush had lately been burned along in front of where the Court House stands. From the bathing house on the west side (south side of Main street west, between Plymouth avenue and Washington street) was a log causeway over a deep swamp in which the forest trees were standing. State street had been cleared of trees, but the stumps were still standing.

Start of Public Worship.

"The forest came almost to the west line of the street between Allen and Brown streets. On the west side of Exchange street a small frame building stood perched on a high ledge of stone; further west was a dwelling house back of where the Bank of Monroe (now the location of the Genesee Valley Trust Company building) stands; then on the south was occasionally a small building. On the other side of the street were no buildings. From Sophia street (Plymouth avenue) on west beyond Washington street, was an ash swamp, filled with water most of the year. The long, pendent moss from the boughs of the trees in the swamp presented a picturesque appearance. The land south of Troup street was a forest. On the east side of the river was a cluster of houses on Main and South St. Paul streets. From Clinton street east, from Mortimer street north and from Jackson (Capron) street south was mostly forest."

Judge Chapin selected for his residence a location on the south side of what is now Troup street, and in 1818 cut a pathway along the course of Troup street eastward to Sophia street. Two years later he built his house. Charles F. Pond, in his History of the Third Ward, read before the Rochester Historical Society on April 19, 1895, stated, "the Chapin house was removed to Caledonia avenue, where it still stands, and its place is now occupied by the palatial residence and art gallery of the late William S. Kimball."

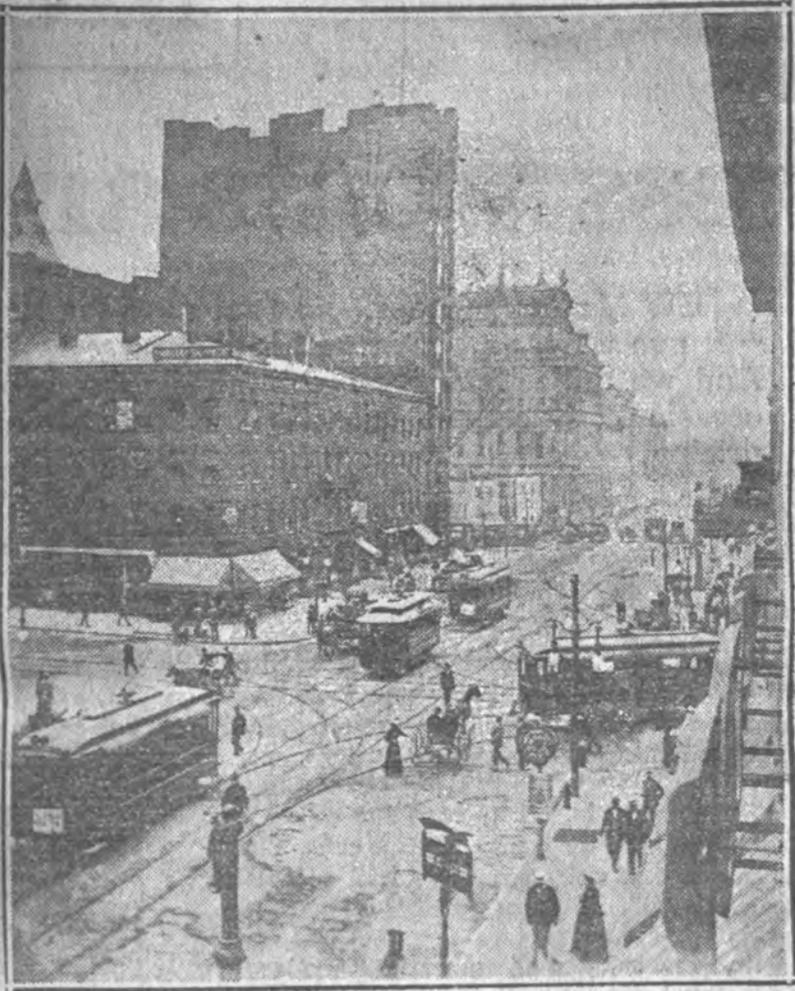
Hervey Ely, who came to Rochester in 1813, in his reminiscences related at the first pioneer festival, said: "The public worship of God on the Sabbath day, was first commenced in this place in the spring and summer of 1813, at the instance of two married ladies—women of faith and prayer. Mrs. Scramton and Mrs. Wheelock, when there were but eight or ten families in a district now (1847) containing more than 30,000 persons, applied to Jehiel Barnard to conduct the meetings. These were first, and for some months after, held in an upper room of a one and a half story building on Buffalo street, about twenty-two feet long and fourteen feet wide, owned by Mr. Barnard, the lower part being occupied by him as

a tailor shop. The worship continued in Mr. Barnard's building until the next summer, when a schoolhouse was erected, and our meetings were held there. Soon our members increased so as to fill it to overflowing, when a temporary linter was added to the south side. The summer or autumn of 1814, Rev. Comfort Williams was employed to preach for us a few months. This was followed by the formation of the first Presbyterian church in the autumn of 1815, and the settlement of Mr. Williams as its pastor."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

R-74 5-29-29 R.V.F. Rochester

Four Corners In Year Court House Was Built



The above picture was taken on September 11, 1894, from the window of the Alpha Zeta Fraternity in Reynolds Arcade, and reveals many changes that have taken place on and about "The Four Corners" since that time. Post's drug store and the cigar store which succeeded to the old street car waiting rooms, may be seen on the southwest corner, now occupied by the building of the Rochester Trust and Safe Deposit Company. On the roof of the old Smith Arcade building at the corner of Main street west and Exchange street may be seen a sign, "Rundel Art Gallery," which marked the print and frame shop of Morton W. Rundel, who on his death left the bulk of his estate to the City of Rochester for the purpose of establishing an art building which should perpetuate the rather ambitious name under which his store had been carried on

for so many years. The picture has a particular interest, for it shows the present Court House in its half-completed state as it was in the fall of 1894. Beyond is the building of the Rochester Savings Bank. On the lower right of the picture may be seen the sidewalk sign of "The Mighty Dollar Cafe," an institution which for many years was as well-known in Rochester as the Genesee Falls, but which suffered eclipse when the Eighteenth amendment rose above the horizon. At the time this picture was taken, Main and State streets had just been paved with Medina stone blocks laid on concrete, with the crevices filled with hot sand and tar. How many times these blocks have been laid and relaid since that time it would be hard to say.

RPF Rochester in Pictures

Rochester - Parks No. 176
R.F. Oct. 26, 1927

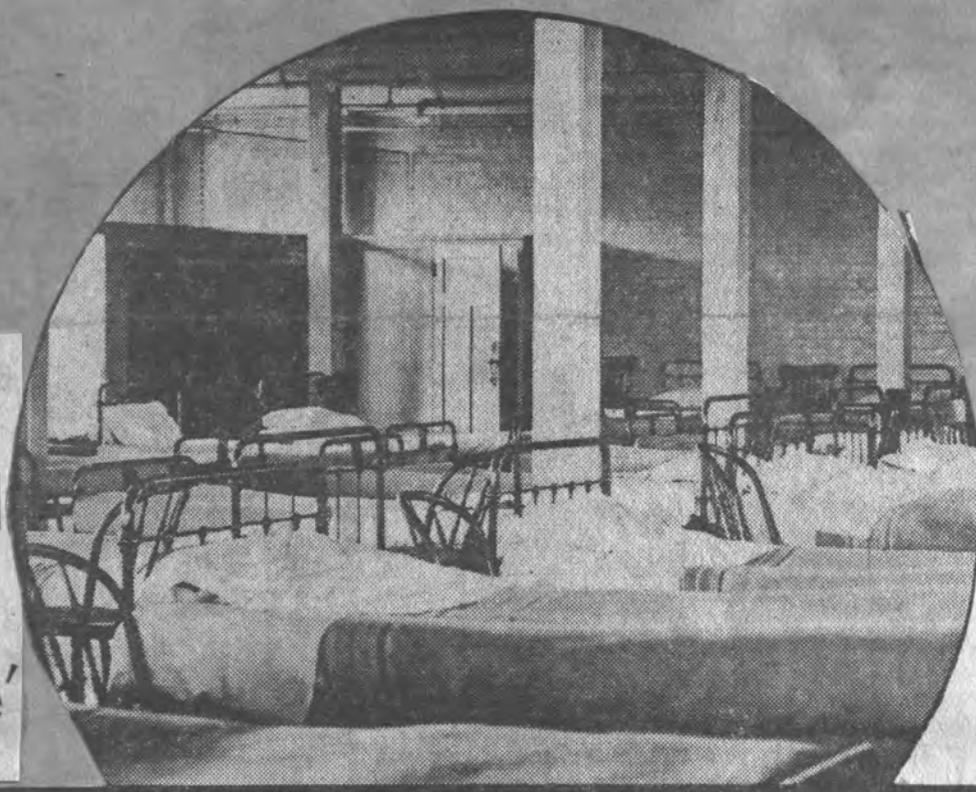


FRANKLIN SQUARE

FRANKLIN SQUARE, named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, was set aside as a square when this section of the city was laid out. And, in accordance with the style of an earlier period, it was fenced in and opened only on certain occasions. Following the establishment of the Rochester Park Board in 1888, this was one of the numerous small squares about the city that was taken over by it and

made a city park in 1890. The fence was removed, walks were laid through it and it was beautified. Located near the center of the city, it is changing from a section of beautiful old homes to one which is expected to be increasingly used for business. But, in spite of the changes that may take place in the streets by which it is bounded, the park itself will continue unchanged.

Present Cleanliness and Order Far Cry from Old Rowdy Spirit of City's 'Toughest Thoroughfare'



A comfortable and clean dormitory in the Rescue Mission has supplanted the old Front Street flop houses.



Sidewalk pushcarts, just like those in New York's East Side, were the retailers' stands in the old days.



Bringing the pig to market was a familiar Front Street sight years old.

By HOWARD H. KEMP
*"The Bowery, the Bowery,
 I'll never go there any more."*

THEY didn't call it jazz, but a piano player rambled over the keys of a much-abused instrument. On what might have been a good mahogany ledge, at one end of the keyboard, stood a half-empty "scuttle of suds." It generally stood at the right end, because most piano players in these music halls were right-handed drinkers.

Beside him stood a long-haired member of the species. He was drawing a bow over the strings of what he chose to call a fiddle, the movements bringing forth a strange conglomeration of notes. As his companion he had a half-empty glass which rested on the seat of his chair while playing.

In the center of the room was an open space, hardly equivalent to that prescribed by the Marquis of Queensberry. Here the feet of men and women shuffled about in two-steps and waltzes throughout the evening. Becoming tired of dancing and drinking, they departed to rooms upstairs.

Around this abbreviated square were seated the wallflowers, men and women, all seeking to satisfy their thirst. The women were brazen enough to smoke cigarettes in public. They even displayed hosiery a wee bit above their high shoe tops. Trim ankles were safely concealed within leather footgear.

'Pull-in' Merchant

Out in the street, a merchant keeping late hours—that was before any 8-hour day or 5-day weeks were even talked about—was pulling a prospective customer into his store. These merchants had a keen sense of human understanding. Their philosophy was: "Everybody needs something." If unable to persuade a prospect to enter by argument, they are said to have sometimes resorted to force. Anything to get him inside. This particular prospect had all the earmarks of a ruralite who had been to the Haymarket. And, as was the case with numerous others of this gentry, he was loath to return home that night, having spent a goodly share of the day's proceeds. He gave every evidence of being in search of a "flop house."

Men were men, even if the spaces were congested, as long as they had hair enough on the upper lip for a moustache or sported a beard. Fist fights were numerous, and the clang of the gong on the old horse-drawn patrol wagon added to the din. The driver and crew of this Black Maria were due to make many extra trips through the street on Saturday nights to pick 'em up as they were tossed

through the folding doors of those establishments where the "biggest and coolest" drinks in the city were dispensed at 5 cents a man's size glass. The walks were crowded from sunset to sunset.

Toughest Street

That was night life on Front Street, Rochester's Bowery, back in its heyday. It was known from coast to coast as the toughest street between New York City and Chicago.

But you can't go there any more. You can't, because the old Bowery is passe. All that remains of the old order of things are the "flop houses." Even this institution has been modernized to such an extent that its former standings seems entirely lost. In the good old days, these places were infested with rodents of huge

proportions, and if one were lucky enough to wake up in the morning, he invariably found himself surrounded by filth. The vermin was so thick they say the proprietors attached anchors to the bed posts to keep them in their proper rooms.

To have offered a guest a room with the privilege of a bath in those days would have been to insult him. Notwithstanding its abhorrence of water, the street generally took a good cleaning once a year when the old Genesee went on a rampage. Back in March, 1865, Old Man River is said to have done a pretty good job of it. Old residents still delight in telling of having cruised home in a rowboat.

They say the old order changeth. It most certainly has as far as the Bowery is concerned. Business places, chiefly markets catering to the very best people and hotels in town, supplant the former music halls and saloons. If it isn't a market, it's a restaurant. Myers' shoe store, Dave Solomon's place and a few other stores that fit with the present scheme, survive.

Just One Policeman

Moved by a slumming urge, it was my experience recently to travel through this once notorious section. Only one policeman, Leo Davis, was found pounding the beat. Shades of old "Cap" Vaughan, Tony Gabriel, Jim Scott, Bill Henline and a few other veterans of brass buttons and blue coats! They worked the street in pairs and found plenty to occupy their time. Sometimes as many as 37 unfortunates were herded out of a single place for a ride to 137 Exchange Street.

Having heard that the farther down the street one went, the tougher they got, it was my intention to get the toughest one out of the way first. The American House, at 197, therefore, was my objective as a first stop. The "lobby," located on the second

Front Street today, lined with stores and a busy center of trade

floor, was reached by climbing rickety wooden stairs in utter darkness. It was necessary to guide my way there by means of the walls on either side.

Inside, it was rather a cheerless sort of a place, yet warm even though the mercury hovered about the zero mark outside. While there, Policeman Davis stepped in. He was making his rounds for the night. He pulled out his flashlight and began his work inspecting the lodgers. As he pulled alongside one of the beds, an inmate was awakened by the bright light in his eyes. He was a stranger to the policeman, who began questioning.

"What's your name?" "Where are you from?" "Where are you going?" "How long since you had a job?" "Where did you work last?" "What did you do?" "Have you any relatives?"

Rubbing his eyes to become accustomed to the light which continued to glare into his face, the man replied. He explained he had a daughter in Ontario and a son on a farm in Macedon.

"Where's your wife?" queried the policeman.

There was a moment's hesitation, and his voice throbbed as he answered, "She's dead."

"God bless her soul," comforted the policeman, who then talked to the man as a brother and extended friendly advice which the lodger promises to heed.

In another cot, in an adjoining room, appeared a son of Ham, quite evidently just up from Alabama. He was resting comfortably beneath coverings at least two feet deep, having apparently

gathered all the blankets from those beds in the place not occupied that night. He was not disturbed.

That was all at 197, and we stepped outside. Sergeant Klein motored up to the curb, had a moment's chat with the policeman on the beat, and was away.

All was quiet as a church mouse at 181, but at Alli Sopp's place at 139, whom should we run into but Alex Carver, the adz wielder. Alex has known Front Street for many a moon. He was in a bemoaning mood, despite the fact he had just celebrated his 68th birthday and his beard seemed as thick as ever.

Alex Trims Blocks

For the benefit of those who may not recall the name, let it be said that Alex makes his livelihood trimming off chopping blocks for butchers all through Western New York. He was born in a Canadian village and learned the art of trimming blocks with his trusty adz when a lad of 9 years. His work never fails to attract a throng, and he still recalls the day that Jim Scott chased him off the street because the crowd that gathered about him was blocking traffic.

He has a particular liking for Front Street, for it was here that he made his record daily wage, a trifling \$98. Not so bad. But he isn't making that money these days. That was one reason why he was found in a bemoaning mood. Another was the fact that his adz had suffered a "broken back." To Alex, that was just about tragic. But he managed to splice it together again and is ready to sally forth and do his stuff the first time he gets an opportunity.

And that was not all. He sorely missed his old friend, the late Peter (Rattlesnake Pete) Gruber. Alex freely admitted he made plenty of work for brewers when times were good.

"He made a bet with me once," said Alex, "that I couldn't stop drinking for a month. He bet me \$10, and I took him up. I pulled myself together and hopped on the wagon for a couple of weeks when I got a job at Max Russer's market. Poor Max, he's gone, too. On that job, I suffered the most severe injury of my life when the sharp edge of the adz cut through a piece of the chopping block and severed an artery in my leg.

"They took me to a hospital. When Pete heard of it, he hopped into his automobile, you know, the one with the rattlesnake horn on it, and drove there.

"Clever way you have of winning that bet, putting yourself out of temptation's way in this hospital," was his salutation as the nurse ushered him into the room.

"But I haven't won it yet, I've two more weeks to go," I protested.

"Well I might just as well pay you now as two weeks from now. They tell me you won't be out of here by that time."

"With that he handed me the \$10 note wrapped about a bottle of, well, call it ginger ale. A wonderful man Pete."

It was a hard task to get away from Alex. We just had to cut him short, as it was time for the policeman to call the station for a mark.

At 132 is Pete and Jim's restaurant. Above the restaurant are rooms where beds are rented out by the night. Here was found the only lodger on the street sleeping on the floor. He was a habitual panhandler and had no money to pay for a bed, so the proprietor dug up some old bedding with plenty of coverings and kept him off the street for the night.

Across the street, which was now deserted, with the exception of the policeman and myself, is the "Beats 'em All" Lunch. The proprietor was about ready to close up shop.

Then to Joe Sopp's place 113. Believe it or not, this place is equipped with shower baths, with no extra charge to the guests. It was one of the best kept places on the street. This is a regular European plan hotel, with a restaurant on the ground floor.

All for 15 Cents

The menu made it quite clear how many of these chaps are beating the depression. Here's what they had to offer for 15 cents.

Navy bean soup; choice of short ribs and brown potatoes; baked pork chop, country style; Irish beef stew; baked ham hash; meat pot pie; hamburger loaf and onions; braised breast of veal and peas; wieners and kraut, home made baked beans or spaghetti, Italian style, and coffee.

There is an extra charge of five cents for a dessert.

Christmas and New Year's are big days at Joe's place, for the Front Street habitant. On those occasions, it's eat as much as you like on Joe. That is, his books show he went into the red on both days to the extent of \$18 each, serving the following menu to the accompaniment of an orchestra, at the regular price of 15 cents, without a charge for the pumpkin pie:

Soup	Celery	Olives	Pickles
		Salad	
Roast New England turkey with dressing			
Cranberry sauce			
Potatoes and gravy			
Coffee, rolls and pumpkin pie			

This menu attracted 180, Christmas Day, and the same number returned New Year's.

Mission Tops List

But it was at the Rescue Mission at 134-38 that the transformation of Front Street was most marked.

Here we found Herbert Henry Salmon, clerk, and Jack Phalen, night watchman, on duty.

Just a word here about the clerk, Mr. Salmon. He has been with the Rescue Mission from its founding, more than a third of a century ago, and has seen the Mission grow bigger and cleaner through the years. It started in a small way near the present location of the American House in the days when few sought beds on the street unless they were more than slightly under the weather. For that reason, the beds were nothing more than wooden bunks, sloped up at an angle from the wall to insure against the danger of falling out of the berth.

Today, transients declare, the Mission is the cleanest place of its kind between New York City and Chicago.

Jack Phalen, the watchman, took us in tow. We followed the regular routine of the lodgers. The first stop after leaving the clerk's desk is the "delouser." Every guest is required to disrobe and place his clothing in an air-tight room into which is forced dry heat, meaning certain death to Mr. Cootie and all of his kin.

Must Bathe First

While his clothing is being thus treated, the guest is given plenty of soap, a towel and a nightrobe and is escorted to the shower baths. Every guest must first bathe before retiring the first night. After the bath, he dons the nightrobe and is escorted to the dormitory.

The dormitory gives the appearance of an army barracks, with its long rows of cots erected on a spotless floor. As in the other places, the policeman marched through looking over the lodgers. He came to the bed of a mere youth whose head was completely submerged beneath the blankets.

In removing the covers from the boy's head, the policeman awakened him and he was subjected to the same list of questions as all strangers. He had just dropped in from Michigan and was on his way to Albany.

More about this youth was learned at the office later. It developed that while Supt. Herbert Baker sat in his office one afternoon, a mite of a woman stepped to the desk. She had just been forced to move to new quarters and had moved all her belongings to a new abode with the exception of a stove. And she had no money to pay for moving it. Superintendent Baker called

for volunteers to assist this woman in distress.

Got His Chance

The first to volunteer was this chap from Michigan.

"If you please, sir, I am a Boy Scout. I would like very much to be one of those to move the stove. You see, I could call that my good deed for the day."

Needless to say, the youth got his chance.

Unlike the other places on the street, the Mission is conducted on a semi-American plan. When a lodger has the wherewithal, he is assessed 25 cent for a night's lodging. This includes coffee and rolls and oatmeal in the morning. Most of other "flop houses" have a nightly fee of 20 cents.

From the rough roustabouts of the olden days, guests at the Mission today offer a good yardstick of the transformation in the street. Most of those now applying for a place to sleep are what are commonly known as "white collar" men. They include technical men, salesmen

and even clergymen; at least one applying for a bed when asked his occupation said he was a parson. He presented credentials from a Southern school.

It was the policeman's lunch hour, and we stopped at a restaurant. Over a cup of coffee we had a friendly chat.

"How's business been on the street with you, Leo? he was asked.

"Well, I had a pretty good night last night. Sent one man in, the first in a couple of weeks I guess. Nothing very exciting about it, just surprised him for his own welfare."

No More Drunks

"But where are all the drunks that once cluttered the street?"

"Haven't you heard about the depression? Well depression did more to make Front Street dry than Prohibition. It was still a pretty wet street long after Frog Leg George quit peddling water cress. If whisky was selling at 5 cents a shot, most of these dudes couldn't get drunk today. They're broke."

"Do they ever give you any trouble?"

"Once in a while someone tries to get rough, and we have to given 'em shuffle, you know; keep 'em moving."

And how Davis, who is a former pug, can make 'em shuffle. Most of the hard ones know him and keep well out of his way.

How come, this transformation of front Street?

Well, it can be told in a few words. Aside from the influence of the Mission, the Front Street Playground probably was one of the chief factors.

Here Miss Bertha Servis, the "Angel of Front Street," held forth for a number of years. Miss Servis, by the way, was the only playground director in the city eligible for a pension when the directors were dropped last fall.

Then there are the boys who have made good. Many of them are holding big positions today. Some of them are practising law. Everyone of them remembers her as the one who held out a helping hand when the whole world seemed wrong.

The Board of Health and the Department of Public Safety must also be included in the picture as forces that have converted Front Street from the toughest to the cleanest street of its kind between New York City and Chicago.

Who Remembers These Front Street Characters of the Nineties?

Aug. 16 - 24 Post-Evening Journal



TEDDY GRIMES
Frock Coated Vendor of Socks



"GEORGE THE NEWSBOY"
Once the Butt of Front Street.



"SAWDUST GEORGE"
Saloonskeepers His Patrons

Front Street Rich in Queer Characters

Rochester - *Hester* Streets
By RICHARD P. SMITH

Front Street today is just a street. Its fame or notoriety, gained by its numerous "characters" in the nineties, is gradually fading behind the every growing number of high class markets there.

Once, Front Street achieved country wide attention as a "tough" section. Cheap rooming houses lodged hundreds of "transients" who came in on the brake rods of fast freights. Many were wanted by the police.

Farmers with creaking wagons,

loaded with produce, came to market. Saloons with doors working both ways, were on every corner.

No one knows where Teddy Grimes hailed from.

But Teddy, in his swallow tailed coat, gray trousers, and battered derby, with an armful of "100 per cent" wool socks, stockings and "real" elastic suspenders, knew all the farmers, and sold them his wares.

Teddy was a salesman of the old school. If a farmer didn't want the wool socks, Teddy merely threw pair after pair into the farmer's wagon, and all went for a nickel.

Each day, Teddy was around with a huge bundle of his standard articles of sale. Where he got them was a mystery. He didn't make them. He was never known to steal, but he always had a large stock.

An injury to his spine left "Sawdust George," one time the greatest of circus acrobats and clowns, without employment. He came to Rochester and set up a novel business which earned his sobriquet.

"Sawdust George" was without competition in Front Street. He sold sawdust to every saloonkeeper on every corner.

Early in the morning, a burlap bag under one arm, and a ribless umbrella under the other, "Sawdust George" took his orders.

Another mystery was the source of "Sawdust George's" sawdust. He always could get it and seemed to control an inexhaustible supply.

With these two, there also basked in the limelight of Front Street one "George the newsboy." George sold papers up and down the street. Because he was slight demented and known as "queer," he was constantly teased.

The three died, all before 1900. They had no relatives, as far as was known.

*Front Street, Now Busy and Respectable,
One Time Rendezvous of Sporting Gentry*
D.C. Oct. 31, '27.



Busy Front street of to-day, a far cry to the Bowery tradition of thirty years ago.

Police Trod Old Thoroughfare in Pairs, for Lead Pipe Was Handy Weapon in Days When Free Lunches and Freer Fights Were Products of Many Saloons

Stands Corrected

Front street had its gas house in the old days. And as the saying is, the nearer the gas house you live, the tougher you are. The leader of the old Front street gang lived next door.

The days when Front street was the city's Bowery are gone, happily. But they are not without recall. This street, which to-day attracts trade from all sections of the city, and which each morning sees limousines parked at its curb while women of wealth and social position do their marketing, was once noted chiefly for the two-fisted activities of its roustabouts and the number of its drinking places.

"There were forty-eight saloons along the street," said one old timer yesterday.

"There were fifty-three," corrected a second.

Every other place along Front street, from Main street to Central avenue, and on both sides, was a saloon. That, of course, was before prohibition, when saloons were operated openly, with swinging doors to permit palsy-legged to stumble through without breaking anything.

Front street in those days was a place of cheap liquor and free-for-all fights. Policemen moved up and down its walks, after nightfall, in pairs, because the lead pipe was more than a plumber's accessory in that street.

Beer was cheap in Front street. Liquor was somewhat higher, but not prohibitive. At E. B. King's, one of the famous resorts, Nos. 38, 40, and 42, it was possible to obtain a bowl of soup, a dish of beans, a pork chop, two pieces of bread, and a glass of beer for 10 cents. E. B. King's was the haven for the apple pickers. It was the nightly haunt of scores of men who were able to subsist for days at a time on a pocket-full of change.

Hod Moody's place, where Hall's lunchroom now stands, the Empire, a famous concert hall and saloon, the Haymarket Hotel, next to the Haymarket, at the lower end of the street, Johnny Buckley's famous resort, presided over by its equally famous proprietor, Tommy Dixon's saloon, and dozens of others, all made Front street what it was twenty-five or thirty years ago.

At the northeast corner of Main and Front street the famous "Oyster Bay" was operated in the basement. This was one of the first oyster houses in the city. It flourished for a number of years, was the most

generally popular of all of the Front street resorts.

The Rescue Mission, at the lower end of Front street, furnished soup and a bed, as it does to-day. But the man who couldn't pay his keep, worked it out. He cut wood part of the day, barreled it, and then was given a bed and supper check. The barreled wood was arrayed in front of the mission and sold to passersby.

Concert Halls Were Tough

The Front street concert halls were "tougher than the tough." They were usually in the rear of the resorts. The performers appeared on a platform at one end of the room; the spectators sat at tables. At the conclusion of each turn, the performers joined the crowd at the tables, and usually, if the performer had won favor, several "rounds" were bought in his honor.

Prize fights were conducted in the basement of Johnny Buckley's place, and this was the rendezvous of the tougher sporting element of the city. Buckley himself was a great "sport," celebrated in his time for his wagers on sporting events.

There were several sausage places along Front street, and in the rear of each was a small beer garden. Some of these were places of considerable respectability, and the tougher element along Front street was not encouraged to patronize them.

Gaylord Bros. Inc.
Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.



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