

KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY
THE INDEPENDENCE EXAMINER, FRIDAY JULY 21, 1950

JACKSON COUNTY'S BABY CITY BLINKS ITS WONDERING EYES

Raytown, Incorporated this week, has capable officials, strong business institutions, thriving churches, modern schools, utilities, a rapid growing population and all else to make a successful fourth-class municipality.

Raytown, Jackson County's baby city, less than a week old is blinking its eyes at the prospect of some day becoming one of the largest and most inviting incorporated areas in the county outside Kansas City.

Acting on a petition signed more than 80 percent of the property owners in the district, the County Court last Monday granted permission to incorporate as a fourth class city.

This incorporated area is about 1 1/2 miles square and has a population of approximately 1000 persons. For miles beyond its boundaries in all directions, however, are hundreds of homes, which may petition to be brought into the corporate limits. Here is a densely populated area expanding and building up more rapidly than any district east and south of Kansas City.

Leroy Cox, sturdy, congenial and civic minded garage operator, who was named by the County Court to serve as mayor of the new city until a general election is held next April, was seen this week by the Examiner representative in his office on Blue Ridge Boulevard, a short distance west of Raytown Road.

Under the photo: At Raytown's main business corner. The person standing in front of the building is Ivan Ebbe, manager of the Missouri Public Service Co. one of the leaders in the move for incorporation.

RAYTOWN NEWS 1950

Volume 24, February 9, 1950

Advertisers:

H & M Service station, 50 Highway and Raytown road

Vic's Records and TV, 9126 East Highway

Bivins & Son Mobilgas, 63rd and Raytown road

J. Wesley Crump Wallpaper and Paint, 6313 Raytown road

Gifford Real Estate, 6300 Blue Ridge

W. F. Muir A G Grocer, 6223 Raytown road

Evans Real Estate, 6311 Raytown road

Fox's Drug store, 10004 63rd street

Cox Motor company

Raytown Service station, 63rd & Raytown road, Ivan Whiting

The Jolly Porker Bar-B-Q, 50 highway & Laurel Heights, Lester & Elizabeth Ogan

Raytown Taxi, Chuck & Mary Brundage

February 16, 1950 Raytown News

A welcomed addition to the Raytown Fire station was a 8 x 6 shower and lavatory

February 23, 1950 Raytown News

Ground breaking for new Baptist Church will begin. The Baptist church here is 104 years old.

Mary Gallion, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gallion married John S. Clifton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Clifton, February 18, at the Nativity Catholic Church. They will be at home at 81st and James Reed road.

March 2, 1950 Raytown News

The Raytown Aluminum Foundry has rented only the back portion of the old mill building on 64th and Raytown road. John Blue's Fix-It shop is still located in the front part where he carries on his business. The foundry entrance is at the rear on 64th street.

March 30, 1950 Raytown News

A Lone Carpenter Building a Tool Shed in the High Wind on Tuesday on the Corner of 63rd and Blue Ridge, across from the Gifford, Grill, Corcanges, Faye's, Cleaners, Laffoon buildings caused much speculation. According to Wes McCune, president of the McCune Construction company, a new building will be 20 feet wide, 75 feet long, 10 feet high, made of concrete blocks, fronting 63rd street, in buff bricks and large plate glass window. There will be six doors mounted in pairs on separate frames. A three foot canopy will extend in front of the new building. Arthur Burke, of Kansas City, is the owner.

April 13, 1950 Raytown News

Ted Hill Chevrolet will open Saturday, a new 75 x 125 fire proof building, solid glass front, 28 x 34 display room on the corner of 9601 63rd street and Green.

Bids for the new north addition to the high school have been opened April 13.

Save-More Drug store, at 9124 East 50 highway, opened April 20, 1950.

Radio broadcasting system installed at fire station, ready by May 1.

April 27, 1950 Raytown News

Talk of improving postal service, possible new post office and routes

May 25, 1950 Raytown News

Arthur Burke building at 63rd and Blue Ridge is rapidly taking shape. The front doors have been painted cocoa brown and go with the light green interior walls. A large septic tank is being built outside.

June 4, 1950 Raytown News

Al Moody has installed a new counter across the front and painted the walls ivory with gray windows and a new linoleum. He has added a new stitcher.

June 8, 1950 Raytown News

Sunday afternoon, Jne 6, 1950, Miss Charlene Marie Thruston married Mr. Arthur Junior Forsythe of Tina, Mo.

June 15, 1950 Raytown News

Grading has started Tuesday on the proposed Tom Edmondson building just east of Raytown Super Market. Edmondson, owner of Raytown Five to Dollar store, is building a 25 x 60 foot structure to match the recently constructed Burke building which adjoins it on the east. Hope to have completed by the middle of August.

Fifteen, heavy, department uniforms arrived at the fire station, blue striped twill coveralls with red cuffs, collars and waist bands, white lettering on back of overalls. Individuals names have been sewn on a small red oval patch above left-hand pocket.

June 22, 1950 Raytown News

William L. Hunter, a life long resident of this community, died early Thursday, June 15, at Research hospital, where he had been a patient for ten days. Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. Saturday in Forester Chapel. Burial in Brooking Cemetery.

Mr. Hunter was born in the old Coffey Rice home on Blue Ridge in 1862. He would have been 88 years old next November. For many years he farmed and did truck gardening in this area. He lived on Woodson road, one mile west of Woodson. Mr. Hunter was a member of the Baptist church.

He leaves a brother, Edwin Hunter, of Route 3, Independence. Mr. Hunter was the uncle of Ed L. Smith and great uncle of Minor Smith.

Miss Patricia Ann Foster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emery Foster, married Mr. Willis E. Pettegrew Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Pettegrew, June 17 at the home of F. K. Harrison, grand father of the groom. Both, the bride and groom, are students at Missouri Central State College.

Jean's Wardrobe, 10030 East 63rd

New- The Bake Box, 10023 East 63rd street, July 1, Dorothy Ramsden-Joyce Wilson

July 20, 1950 Raytown News

RAYTOWN IS A CITY OF THE FOURTH CLASS AS OF MONDAY, JULY 17, 1950

Charles Corteville has leased the one remaining store room in the Burke building and plans to establish a TV and Appliance store. Fred Volquardsey will be the local manager, 10026 E. 63rd

Harry Graham takes his whole staff of the cleaning business on a fishing trip.

August 3, 1950 Raytown News

BUILDING CONTINUES AROUND 63RD STREET. J. H. Greene's new office, 10014 East 63rd street. Edmondson's dime store which has red rancho brick and Greene's office with a tan stone front.

?? A handsome two-story building next to Brinton's Electronic shop.

Ted's Laurel Heights Barber and Beauty Shop, one block east of Justrite on 50 highway.

September 7, 1950 Raytown News

Proposed new Raytown Bank home of buff brick, drive-in window, face north and adjoin Dr. Laffoon building on the east.

Raytown Poultry Shop, 6321 Raytown road.

September 14, 1950 Raytown News

Perry Gifford has sold his building, which houses his office and the Colonial Grill, to O. B. Ford, local building and real estate dealer. No change of the ownership in the Colonial Grill.

September 21, 1950 Raytown News Written by Mrs. Ethylene Thruston

MR. AND MRS. WALTER F. MUIR CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY Sunday, September 24 from 2 to 5 at their home, 62nd and Blue Ridge. The ceremony was performed at the Laclede Hotel, in Independence, on September 26, 1900 with the Reverend Dan P. Mason reading the service. The Laclede Hotel was located across the street from the south door of the Jackson County Courthouse.

The first year of their marriage, the couple lived with Mr. Muir's parents in Washington township, where his father was the earliest settler there, and where Walter Filmore Muir was born January 21, 1876. The home was at what is now Bannister road and Blue Ridge extension. Here, with his father, Mr. Muir ran a dairy. The next year they moved to the old Henry Harper farm, all now within Kansas City.

"If you notice when you pass Meyer boulevard and Paseo, you will see a little parkway there, where the spring and springhouse were. This farm was bounded by 63rd street on the North, Woodland on the West, Prospect on the East and Meyer boulevard on the South. I leased 180 acres of blue grass pasture from Col. Thomas Swope, who was a fine and fair man to deal with. When I left that farm, after four years, that 180 acres became the Evanston course of Kansas City.

Mr. Muir moved to what is now Raytown March 1, 1906. The entrance to Wildwood Lakes,

called Robinson avenue then, led into the Farm lot of the "Parson" J. J. Robinson place to where Mr. Muir moved. "All I had then, was a wife and a houseful of kids," he claims. Today, this farm houses many new Raytown homes, and among the grove of old trees set the pre-Civil War house of the "Parson", today the new home of the Kahons. "Never will I forget that moving day. It had rained and rained and there were no concrete slabs! The mud was very deep. We had hired two moving vans; wagons - not motor trucks! They left the farm with our household goods at 11 a.m. The route was down Troost and out Twenty-seventh street to Raytown road.

Mt. Muir operated a dairy on the Robinson place for twelve years. (1906 + 12= 1918) first wholesaling his own 250 gallon output, and buying up that of his neighbors, among whom were Mr. Stayton and Sons of Stayton Meadows Golf course, Tom and Henry Pendleton and the Cassell boys. "The old Robinson house burned about 1911 and we moved into the little house, now occupied by the Russell Christie family. We lived in the little house from 1911 until March 4, 1916, when we moved here, where we have resided 34 years. (1916 + 34= 1950)

Then Mr. Muir entered the grocery business which is located in the same spot as as where he began 32 years ago. This building once housed the Raytown Christian Church, and when they completed their new building on Blue Ridge boulevard, they offered that building for sale at auction, and Frank Ballard bought it for \$100. He sold it to Fred McInteer. In a few months J. L. (Lute) Robinson moved his grocery business from his father's old store building (which had housed Raytown's only high school, one room until then, on the second floor) over the old church. Mr. Muir bought the building from Mr. McInteer. It has undergone several face liftings since then.

Both are long time members of the Raytown Christian Church. Mrs. Muir has been a member since she was eleven years old.

Both are members of pioneer families whose ancestors go back to the earliest colonial days. Mrs. Muir was Miss Laura Mercer Greene, daughter of Isaac Newton Greene and Sallie Smith Greene. Her girlhood home was at 50 highway and Raytown road. Her father, known as "Uncle Newt" to all Raytowners, and has two brothers, Thaddeus and William Greene, were early settlers of the Raytown vicinity. They all owned large tracts of land, now making up many newer additions, including Wildwood Lakes, Loveland and Blue Crest. Their parents (Mrs. Muir's granparents) Beal and Corinna Greene had lived on a farm section of land now occupied by a large part of southern Kansas City. The old house still stands, facing on Twenty-seventh street, near Kensington avenue. Beal Greene paid fifty cents an acre for that ground which he settled in 1839, when he arrived from Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Beal Greene helped to make the cut for Kansas City's first portion of Main street.

Mrs. Muir was born September 20, 1877 at the old John Davis place, 50 highway and Old Lee's Summit road, where also "born" the Raytown Baptist Church (then Westfork) 108 years ago. Mrs. Davis was a great-aunt on Mrs. Muir's maternal side.

Mr. Muir's great-grandfather, James Muir, came to Clark county, Kentucky from Holland. His grandfather, John Sylvester, Sr, was born in Kentucky, and came to Jackson County by ox train in 1836, settling a 400 acre tract, which he purchased from the government for \$1.25 per acre. His father, John Sylvester, Jr. settled there, too. He was born in Kentucky November 29, 1825. John Sylvester, Sr. had married Lavinia Evans, the great-granddaughter of Col. Daniel Boone, noted Indian fighter and trail blazer for the pioneers into the "Dark and bloody grounds of Kentucky." John Sylvester, Jr., known far and wide as "Soney" Muir, went to California during the Gold Rush when he was nineteen. He accompanied a wagon train, 300 wagons, led by Col. Upton Hayes, later of Confederate army fame. "Following the old Santa Fe Trail from Independence I've often heard

father say it took them three months and twenty days to reach their destination. He returned home (not rich) by sail boat around Cape Horn to New Orleans." Mr. Muir's mother was Fanny Clara Warner, who came from England with her family to Missouri. She was born October 11, 1848 and died April 1, 1882. Although his father, J. S. "Soney" lost a leg at the age of 70, he lived (just lacking one month of 87) dying October 29, 1915.

Mr. Muir has been active in civic and educational enterprises, as well as one of the early real estate promoters for this area. He served on the schoolboard for the Consolidated District No. 2 for twelve years, serving in that capacity when school bonds were first voted for a high school building. The school, now used as a Junior high school, was the result. It housed all the high school pupils of the consolidation as well as the grade school children of this district. That filled two rooms for the grades and one for the high school. Later the front two rooms were added to that building.

When the Robinson estate was settled, Mr. Muir bought twenty acres of this farm where he had long operated a dairy, and together with the late Andrew Smith, then cashier of the Raytown Bank, they platted and developed Muir-Smith addition. Besides the many residences there today, the tract includes the entire business tract from the southeast corner of 63rd and Raytown road east to and including the building occupied by the Raytown branch of the Jackson County Library.

Next Mr. Muir and Mr. Smith purchased forty acres of "Uncle Willie" Greene's estate and offered lots for sale. This is now known as Blue Crest addition. Mr. Muir built the first three houses there and his son, Forest, occupies one of them (9409 E 64), another one is the home of the late Wilson Stanton.

Mr. and Mrs. Muir's family consists of five children, three daughters and two sons. They are Frances (Mrs. Emory Foster), Raytown; Gertrude (Mrs. Lee Reynolds), 5436 Pawnee Lane, Kansas City Kansas; and Mercedes (Mrs. William Gibbs, Prairie Village, Johnson County). The two sons are Forest, Raytown's postmaster, and W. F. Jr., who operates the Muir Pharmacy.

They have ten grandchildren, Walter Emory Foster and Mrs. William Pettegrew, Jr.; Rodney, Audrey and Barbara Reynolds (twins); Betty Laura (Johnnie) Muir; Stephen and Jean Muir and Billy and Donny Gibbs.

O.I. Ford changes his real estate office, 57th and Blue Ridge, to first door east of Colonial Grill , (10033 East 63rd street or 6300 Blue Ridge avenue)

September 28, 1950 Raytown News

Joan Cassell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Greene Cassell, and Mr. James Cesar, were married Saturday, 23.

Suburban TV Appliances 10026 E 63rd

Save More Drugs 9124 E 50 Highway

Hansen's Home & Auto 9919 E 63rd Raincoats \$1.29

Ted Hill 9601 E 63rd

October 8, 1950 Raytown News

Mrs. E. O. McClanahan, 827 East 71st Terrace, died Monday after a short illness
Survived by her husband, E. O. McClanahan, pharmacist for Fox Drug; daughter Jane; sister, Mrs. James Conway.

October 26, 1950 Raytown News

Raytown has a night watchman, C. A. Brundage, operator of Raytown Taxi. Salary of \$5 a month.

November 2, 1950 Raytown News

Suburban Realty Co. 9201 E 63rd.

November 16, 1950 Raytown News

This week pupils are to move into the new Junior High School building, 10601 E. 59th

November 23, 1950 Raytown News

J. H. Greene, Jr. has sold his recently completed office building to Gifford Realty Co,m and has started constructing a smaller structure adjoining the Raytown Bank. It should be ready in sixty days.

A new cleaning business has moved into the Smith building at 64th and Blue Ridge.
Church of Christ at 6305 Blue Ridge

Missouri Public Service moving from location on 63rd and Raytown road, one block west, 9710 East 63rd.

November 30, 1950 Raytown News

Jim Cesar has been elected to become Raytown Special Policeman to patrol the business district at night.

December 2, 1950 Raytown News

Teen Town readying a new home above the Raytown News, 6213 Raytown road.

December 21, 1950 Raytown News

Wayne Cherry Realty - 9206 E 63rd

The Independence Examiner, Friday, July 21, 1950

KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY- JACKSON COUNTY'S BABY CITY
BLINKS ITS WONDERING EYES

Raytown, Incorporated This Week, Has Capable Officials, Strong Business Institutions, Thriving Churches, Modern Schools, Utilities, A Rapidly Growing Population and All Else to Make a Successful Fourth Class Municipality

Raytown, Jackson County's baby city, is blinking its eyes at the prospect of the largest and most inviting incorporated areas in the county outside Kansas City.

Acting on a petition signed by more than 80 percent of the property owners in the district, the County Court last Monday granted permission to incorporate as a fourth class city.

This incorporated area is about 1 ½ miles square and has a population of approximately 1000 persons. For miles beyond its boundaries, however, in all directions are hundreds more homes, which some day may be taken in or may petition to be brought into the corporate limits. Here is a densely populated area expanding and building up more rapidly than any district east and south of Kansas City. Leroy Cox, sturdy, congenial and civic-minded garage operator, who was named by the County court to serve as mayor of the new city until a general election is held next April, was seen this week by an Examiner representative in his office on Blue Ridge Boulevard a short distance west of Raytown Road.

"We don't know exactly what this will mean," he said. "But we know we have a job on our hands. No definite program has yet been laid out and none will be, until we are sworn in as city officials within the next fifteen days."

Soon walked into the office C. Lee Kenagy, who has been delegated by the Court to serve as City Collector. Shortly afterward came Gilbert S. Hundley, motor car salesman; Oscar L. Hansen, auto supplies dealer; Dr. D. M. Eubank, well known practicing physician, and E. Clark Fegert, funeral director. "Now here's our City Council," remarked Mayor Cox. "If Harry Lewis, town marshal, were here, you would see our entire city administration. It is as fine a group of city officials as any community can produce - all long-time residents, active in the Chamber of Commerce affairs, and leaders in the movement to make Raytown a worthy city."

Mayor Cox was born and reared in Brooking Township. He has inherited from his father, the late J. L. Cox, who was prominent in community affairs for many years, an aggressive and pleasant nature that fits him well for leadership in the new city's government. Mayor Cox operates a large general garage. He has been in the business for twenty years.

His attractive office with walls of knotty pine decorated with pictures of fine horses probably will serve as City Hall for a time at least.

A mammoth moose head, hanging on the west wall, signifies the mayor's hobby. Every year at the right season he and other Raytown citizens, more often Dr. Eubank, head for the Canadian woods to fish and hunt. They always bring back some fish and game. W. Logan Jones, who was a partner of the mayor's father for many years, testifies he has eaten much good fish and deer meat brought home by these anglers and huntsmen from the Canadian wilds.

The Mayor's family consists of himself, Mrs. Cox and daughter Alberta Lee, who last year attended Stephens College in Columbia.

Collector Kenagy was born in Cass County and has lived in the Raytown community for the past seventeen years. He represents the Kansas City Life Insurance Company and is active in the affairs of the Raytown Kiwanis Club, of which he is secretary.

Harry Lewis, town marshal, belongs to one of the old families of this community and has lived at Raytown all of his life. He is employed at the Dehoney Feed Company.

Councilman E. Clark Fegert was raised in Lafayette County and has conducted a funeral home in Raytown for the past 14 years.

Councilman Oscar L. Hansen has been in the auto supply business since 1932. He says his chief item in sales, since the Korean War grew hot, has been tires. He has lived in the community all of his life.

Councilman Gilbert S. Hundley is with the Allied Motor Co., of Kansas City. He was born in Cass County, and when he was 6 years of age came with his parents to Jackson County, where he has since resided.

Dr. Eubank, the other member of the City Council, was born in China, while his father was a missionary there. He has been a practicing physician in the Raytown community for fifteen years.

So much for the men who will watch over the city of Raytown in its infancy, teach it to walk and help it to grow. Let us look now at the Raytown community itself, particularly that part which is incorporated. This area extends south to Sixty-fifth Street, west to Elm Street, north to Fifty-ninth Street and East to Wildwood Lakes Road. Located in it are the offices of the telephone, water, power and light utilities, the Bank of Raytown, numerous stores and offices, the Masonic Hall, several churches and approximately 400 homes. The business district is at Blue Ridge and Raytown Road at about its center. Frank Wilson owns the greatest amount of acreage within the city limits. His brother-in-law, Frank Cole, has 12 acres near it. These tracts are part of the Luther Wilson farm, which has been in the family for seventy-six years.

The rapid growth of the Raytown community which spreads far beyond the incorporated area is reflected in the school enrollments, the records of the water companies, the power and light companies, the gas company and the telephone company, and in the statements of the bank and the savings and loan association.

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company serves 2925 subscribers out of its exchange at Raytown. In preparation for future expansion, it has purchased a lot for erection of a larger building.

Two water companies serve the area. The Raytown Water Company, of which Dr. Samuel J. T. Davis is the president, has 2,000 customers. Public Water District. No. 2, of which W. Logan Jones is manager, has 1600 customers and owns over 80 miles of pipeline. One hundred and twenty-five customers have been attached to the lines of District No. 2 since Jan. 1. Fifty homes are on the reserve lists to be added as soon as possible. The Missouri Public Service Company, of which Ivan Ebbe is manager, supplies light and power for 3,000 homes and places of business in Raytown and territory east. Territory west of Raytown is served by the Kansas City Power & Light Company.

Gas is brought to the community through pipelines of the Gas Service Company, operating from both Independence and Lee's Summit. The territory from Lee's Summit includes Raytown and south to Highway 50. There are 900 meters in this territory. The area south from Independence to the north of Raytown is serviced from the Independence office of the Gas Service Company. In this wider area are 1400 meters.

In recent years the Raytown Consolidated School District has kept on the run with the growth

in school enrollment. More than a half million dollars has been spent in new buildings and building enlargements. In October, 1948, the new Blue Ridge Elementary School building was completed at a cost of \$120,000. Last October an addition was erected for the Chapel School, increasing the capacity of the building 70 percent. This cost \$120,000. An addition to the Raytown High School is now being built at a cost of \$150,000. This is expected to be ready for use this fall. This enlarged building, according to Joe Herndon, superintendent of schools, will be filled to capacity at once. The school board, therefore, must begin planning immediately for more buildings.

The school tax rate for the next year will be \$2.50, an increase of 85 cents over the rate last year. This increase is a building levy for the new school addition.

"No schools anywhere could ask for better support of their financial program and general activities than those in the Raytown Consolidated District," Mr. Herndon said this week. "Our people appreciate the schools, readily vote this necessary tax money and support our various school activities in a very fine way."

The members of the Board of Education are: President J. Luther Robinson, Morris Stout, Arthur Lowell, George McLaughlin, Walter Brackman and J. M. Shirk.

In four years conditions in the Raytown District have changed from a rural school basis to a suburban basis. Five years ago there were eight elementary schools and a high school.

A remarkable feature is the transportation system instituted by Superintendent Joe Herndon. Sixteen hundred of the 2100 pupils transported daily to and from schools in fourteen busses, owned by the district \$3 per pupil per month. This is sufficient to maintain the service. The busses cover 27 square miles and transport all the children either to or from the school within an hour.

Each school in the district also maintains a cafeteria, where 80 percent of the pupils are served their noon meals.

Twelve additional teachers will be added to the school facilities this fall, two to the elementary schools. George Richey is principal of the high school, Ernest Ellis of the Chapel School, Carl Nuhn of Blue Ridge School, Everett Miller of the Junior High School. The high school achievement program brought to the school scholastic honors in speech, commerce and music. The Raytown High School Band, under the direction of J. R. Huckstep, was given a No. 1 rating in the state contest at Columbia and then went to the national contest at Enid Okla., where again won first place.

In athletics the high school was also prominent. Under the direction of Coach Ted Chitwood the football team closed the season as conference champions. The school won first place in track and tied for first in baseball in the Midwest Conference.

More than 2,000 pupils were enrolled in the schools of Raytown District last year. Seventy-two graduated from the high school and 144 from the eighth grade. The enrollment in the respective schools are as follows: High School, 450; Junior High, 240; Blue Ridge Elementary, 765; Chapel, 650.

With the great amount of home building that has been going on this summer and that will continue into the winter, many more families will move into the community and school enrollments will take another jump this fall. Superintendent Herndon says 500 homes are now in the process of construction in the Raytown School District.

On practically every road in the Raytown neighborhood may be seen houses partly built. Carpenters, masons, electricians, and other skilled workmen are hard at it, getting homes ready for

occupancy this winter. The U.S. government is sponsoring 532 homes in the old Richards Flying Field to the amount of \$2,000,000. Roads are now being graded. One master sewer system is to serve the district. More than 100 houses have been erected at Wildwood Lakes since last year.

Attractive small homes have been built in the neighborhood of the Blue Ridge School. Mr. Herndon is erecting a fine ranch home on Blue Ridge between the Raytown High School and Chapel School. William Britton is building nearby.

Several new business buildings are going up in the heart of the main district. Thomas Evans (Edmondson) is erecting a new building for his 5c and 10c store. Holmes Green is erecting a new building in which he will have his law office. A large business building is going up at the intersection of Blue Ridge and Raytown Road. Work is started on the new Baptist Church at its site on Blue Ridge, and the lot occupied by the old church building on Raytown Road should soon be available for other buildings. It provides an excellent site for business.

Raytown is served by two healthy financial institutions. In its last financial statement on June 30, the Bank of Raytown showed assets to the amount of \$2,537,095.37 and deposits totaling \$2,408,948.03. The Security Federal Savings and Loan Association of Raytown on the same date showed assets of \$1,123,164.07. Its savings accounts amounted to \$1,037,962.45.

Mayor Leroy Cox is president of the bank, and Earl G. O'Flaherty is cashier. Other officers are: J. L. Robinson, vice president; Lydia Spradley and John Strohm, assistant cashiers. Cramped in its present quarters, the bank plans for the erection of a larger and more modern building soon. The directors of the bank are Leroy Cox, J. L. Robinson, E. G. O'Flaherty, Buford Dehoney and Ella Dehoney.

The civic and social activities of the community are centered in the churches, the service clubs, the Masonic Lodge, the Parent-Teacher groups, the Raytown Music Guild and the Raytown Garden Club.

Most of the leading denominations are represented by churches. The Baptist congregation is erecting a handsome new building on Blue Ridge Boulevard, about a block from its present location. The Christian Church has an attractive building farther north on Blue Ridge. The Blue Ridge Methodist Church is farther north near Chapel School. West of the main business district on Blue Ridge is the Church of Christ and farther west is a lot on which a Presbyterian Church is to be erected. At Blue Ridge and Gregory is the new Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and at 79th and Blue Ridge the Baptists have bought ground for a new church.

The Chamber of Commerce has been quite active through the years in promoting the best interests of the community. The officers are: President, Holmes Green; vice-president, Joe Herndon; secretary-treasurer, John Strohm. The directors are Leroy Cox, Forest Shore, Russ Elliot, George Stilley and William Smith.

A few years ago the Raytown Kiwanis Club was organized. It is promoting its annual fair to be held Aug. 18 and 19. The officers are: President, Allen Gibbons; vice-president, George Richey; secretary, C. Lee Kenagy; treasurer, Paul Brackman; directors, Holmes Green, Joe Herdon, and William Biggs

Raytown Masonic Lodge No. 291 is one of the oldest Masonic organizations in the state. It was organized in 1868 and received its charter on Oct. 13, 1871. The first Masonic Hall in Raytown was erected in 1875. It was in the second story of a building paid for and owned by Dr. Minor T. Smith. In the room beneath the hall was a grocery store operated by the late Thomas W. Cassell

(Samuel G. Robinson). The carpenter who erected the building was Daniel Hussey, grand master of the lodge and grandfather of Robert Hussey, present treasurer. This building was used by the lodge until destroyed by fire in 1927. The cornerstone for a new Masonic Building was laid Dec. 14, 1931, and the building was completed and occupied in 1932. This is still the lodge headquarters. The present officers are: A. Clay Fleming, Worshipful Master; Henry Poertner, Senior Warden; Virgil Dryer, Secretary; Robert Hussey, Treasurer; Paul Kennedy, Senior Deacon; J. T. Edmondson, Junior Deacon; Nelson Brouillette, Senior Steward; Don Gregory, Junior Steward; Henry Cole, Marshal; Lloyd Harsh, Tiler.

The women of Raytown are active in church organizations and various civic clubs. They are greatly interested in their homes and all that helps to make community life better. The Raytown Music Guild has done much to create a higher appreciation of music. It has furnished records.....