

1920

March 30, 1920 Tues. - Raytown High School will give Pie and Ice Cream Social Wednesday night, March 31 at the Christian Church, Raytown. Proceeds will be given to the Memorial Fund for Soldier Boys of Lee's Summit...

Masquerade Leap Year Party by high school girls and boys. Evening spent playing different games. The girls asked a partner to eat with them. Sandwiches, pickles, fruit salad, cookies and punch were served.

June 26, 1920 Abstract - Orlando and Nora Jennings sold to Frances E. and B. W. Cassell the northeast corner of 63rd and Raytown road. Orlando and Nora Jennings had purchased this property from Sallie (Sarah) Rhoades Thomson on October 30, 1886.

Cassell & Cassell entered into business there.

July 7, 1920 - 60 acres between Raytown and Little Blue sold to H. H. Hiatt for \$10,000 by Edward D. Lynch, Mary H. Lynch, Mrs. Delia Heydon, John and Maggie Lynch; north 60 acres, E ½ of NE 1/4 34-49-32

July 1920 - some prices: Electric washer and wringer \$150; fans \$6.50 to \$14

July 5, 1920- Five Raytown citizens caught two men driving a Hudson Super-six car through Raytown. Will Clarke, employed as a driver, said two men had hired him at Union Station to take them to Longview Farm. One mile north of Raytown on Blue Ridge boulevard then drew a gun and forced him out of the car. The driver walked to Raytown and reported the robbery at the Raytown bank. L. M. Dehoney, cashier of Bank of Raytown also a farmer; J. L. Robinson, owner of a garage; H. M. Wright and Joseph Cassell, all armed themselves with shotguns. Getting into a motor car they sped down the road and found the Hudson, apparently disabled. The two men fled to a cornfield and finally gave up. William Bly of St. Louis and Gail McKuy of Illinois, sentenced as Wm. Stender, escaped from Jefferson City, given 5 years in addition to 7 years still coming.

Dec. 21, 1921 Starting Sunday, January 1, Dr. M. D. Eubank will give a lecture each evening of next week, except Saturday, at the First Baptist Church, Independence

**** The Independence Examiner, Independence, MO Tuesday October 25, 1921 Vol 17 No 130 RAYTOWN'S BUILDING BOOM Much Building Is Being Done in Brooking Township This Fall - Many Residences Go Up

Raytown, 8 miles southwest of Independence, is the midst of a building boom. Churches, school houses and business buildings are being improved. Lots have been sold and many new residences erected.

"Raytown has grown more in the last six months than it did in the ten years preceding," a resident of that community remarked yesterday.

Raytown is the center of a consolidated school district. Not many years ago the district put up a new high school building there; but it was inadequate and now an addition is being built so as to practically double its former size. It will be completed in December. A fine modern school building also is being put up for the Chapel district, 3 miles northeast of Raytown.

The Baptist Church realizes that to properly serve the community it must meet the needs of its young people. It is building an annex 40 x 80 at the rear of the church to be used as a gymnasium and as Sunday School quarters. It will contain a stage 12 x 18 with two dressing rooms at the side, so that it can be used in the giving of entertainments and amateur plays. A greater part of the work on the building is being donated by members of the church. The congregation hopes to have the building completed for dedication by Thanksgiving.

In the business district, James Green; the town's insurance and real estate agent, has put up an attractive office building. Mr. Harriman, automobile and garage man, has put up a substantial brick and tile building.

But it is in the building of residences that the community is making a record. Fifteen or twenty have been completed or have been started within the past eight months Omer Cassell and Charles Cassell each are building houses on the Blue Ridge boulevard. The Rev. O. P. Joyce, pastor of the Baptist Church, is completing an 8-room, 2-story house, a block from the main street. Robert K. Lewis, the lumberman, about a month ago completed a handsome cottage on his 20-acre farm adjoining town. Jacob Rieder has built a 2-story veneer house, southeast of town. W. F. Hall is building three cottages on his lots in an attractive part of the town. Mr. Brown, the druggist, and Mr. Short also are building homes that will be real additions to the village.

The fever for building has not confined itself to the town limits but has reached out into the surrounding territory. Charles Browning, a farmer near Raytown, is building a house on his lot in town. Fred McInteer, a mile south of town, is building a nice home. Emmet S. Atkinson is completing an attractive house on his farm, near Chapel School.....

1922

September 10, 1922 MRS. MARY G. CROUSE DEAD Spent All of Her Life of 71 Years West of Raytown Mrs. Mary G. Crouse, widow of Jacob Crouse, died at 9 o'clock Sunday morning at her home one-fourth of a mile west of Raytown. Mrs. Crouse was born and spent her whole life on the farm on which she died. About seven weeks ago she had a stroke of apoplexy and early Sunday morning she suffered another stroke which caused her death. She was 71 years old. Four children survive her: Charles L. and William S. Crouse of the home address; Mrs. Mary Myers of Lee's Summit and Mrs. Rose M. Fehrman of Kansas City. The funeral services will be held at the Raytown Baptist Church at 2 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon and burial will be in Brooking Cemetery.

(Brooking Cemetery: Jacob Crouse - March 4, 1844 - August 7, 1914

Mary D. Cox Crouse - Dec. 30, 1850 - Jan. 22, 1922)

1923

From Independence Examiner, September 19, 1923:

A triangular section, less than an acre in size, to be condemned at Sni-A-Bar, Raytown road, and Blue Ridge, owned by Mrs. Mary T. Ridgeway and has proposed to deed the land to the War Mothers, who have secured bits of soil from every state of the Union and water from the Atlantic and Pacific, wish to dedicate the spot as sacred to the Nation's dead.

In 1923 W. C. (Bill) Glover, Sr. and E. E. Norquist, both Kansas City business men, bought 167 acres of woodland south of 67th and east of Raytown road, in Brooking Township. They wish to provide an area for recreation for their families, to hunt for rabbits and squirrels and fish in a lake,

October 20, 1923 - William Lane, 84, died near Leeds; born in Madison County, Kentucky. He served under General Sterling Price in the Confederate Army. He is survived by his wife, Frances Lane; children; H.F., Kansas City; L.R., of the home; Mrs. L. E. Cassell; Mrs. J. M. Pitcher and Lora Lane; sister, Sallie Lane, Eastwood Hills. Burial was in the Brooking cemetery. Brooking Cemetery: William Lane Jan. 28, 1839 - Oct. 20, 1923

Frances Lane 1845 - 1923 or 1928

October 23, 1923 - T. W. Cassell returned from three weeks in Texas attending State Fair at Dallas. W. L. Yost, Wallace Goode. Pickering Farms received awards.

Mr. Cassell visited his daughter, Mrs. W. D. Ellis at Plano, Texas. Sherman and Dennison are called Missouri towns because the first settlers there were Missourians, some were from Jackson County, Missouri.

Fred Redford is walking now. He was laid up eleven weeks with his leg lashed to a board and board to the bed as a result of a cow kicking him on his hip. A mule kicked the guilty cow in the jaw and she is now a corpse.

November 13, 1923 - Mrs. Corella N. Geyer, Raytown resident for 25 years, died Sunday. She was 66 years old, born in Carter County, Kentucky. She was buried in Brooking Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Christian Geyer; sister, Mrs. Clara Bell Parker, N Y; brother, Elmer Nethercutt, Portland, Ore.; and Lyman Nethercutt, Kansas City. Brooking Cemetery: Christian Geyer 1848 - 1935 Corilla Geyer - 1857 - 1923

December 19, 1923 - The County Court paid \$400 for a triangular piece of road at Sni-a-bar and Blue Ridge. The War Mothers to improve and beautify and set up a suitable monument. Triangle Club will go in each direction to plant roadside ornamental trees under the supervision of the County Highway Engineer

1924

January 24, 1924 - W. F. Muir filed for 20 acres, Section 4, Township 48, Range 32, corner of 63rd and Raytown road, to develop Muir-Smith Addition

January 30, 1924 Funeral services for John Thomas House, died Sunday. Services at 2 o'clock Raytown Baptist church. To be conducted by the Rev. O. P. Joyce, assisted by the Rev. L. M. Proctor of Independence. Pall bearers were: Frank Johnson, Harry Stayton, Henry Twiehaus, Dave Moberly and Thomas Cassell.

Brooking cemetery: House, J. T. 1838-1924 House, Alice 1891-1955 wife

Car sales February 7, 1924: Hudson; new Essex-six hp, the coach \$975; touring \$850, coach \$1475; speedster 41350; 7 passenger Phaeton \$1425

Hupmobile- 2 passenger coupe \$1535; 4 door sedan \$1870; new club sedan \$1585; touring \$1329; roadster \$1329; 4 passenger coupe \$1765

Maxwell- new Crysler 65-70 miles per hour; 3" bore; 4 3/4" stroke, gas mileage 20 miles per gallon - no price

Jewett six brougham - touring \$1195; Brougham \$1485; sedan \$1665; special touring \$1385; special roadster \$1330; special sedan \$1990

Durant Fours touring \$995; sedan \$1515

Studebaker touring \$995, sedan \$1485

February 8, 1924 Friday Independence Judge Harry S. Truman, now serving first term as member of the County Court, is endorsed for another term.

February 9, 1924 Saturday E. G. O'Flaherty at Little Blue was robbed last night of 25 pocket knives, 5 inexpensive watches, a razor, 1/2 dozen mens dress shirts, and a hair brush

February 13, 1924 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brown return home, 116 S. Pleasant, after a winter of remodeling. The house was built in 1888 by Mrs. Brown's father, Joseph Wayne Mercer. The house is the home in picture Order No. 11, which tells part of civil war history. A special place is reserved for hanging of the picture on the north wall of the large living room.

February 26, 1924 Tuesday Funeral services for Mrs. Sarah E. Robinson, widow of Rev. J. J. Robinson; died at the home of a (step) daughter, Mrs. Georgia A. McIntire, Eureka Springs, Ark. Services will be Friday at the Baptist Church of Raytown.

Sarah E. East was born in Henry County, Missouri October 5, 1848. On October 1866 she married George Buster. Of their six children three are now living: Mrs. Lois O. Johnson, Calhoun, MO.; Mrs. Josie Conway, Mt. Washington; Mrs. Georgie A. McIntire, Eureka Springs, Ark.; 12 grandchildren, three sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth Simmons, Mulhall, Okla.; Mrs. G. H. Shultz, Raytown; Mrs. Jennie Parker, Kansas City; brother J. W. East, Raytown.

George Buster died in 1879. On June 1890 she married the Rev. J. J. Robinson who died September 22, 1895. Burial in Brooking cemetery:

Rev. J. J. Robinson Dec. 6, 1821-Sept. 22, 1895 S. A. Robinson Oct. 5, 1859- Feb. 29, 1924

February 27, 1924 Wednesday Cora Lee Jennings, wife of Noel T. Jennings, died Tuesday after an illness of six weeks. She was 30 years old and leaves two children, Wallace and Barbara Ann; her mother, Mrs. Carrie Robinson; sister, Mrs. Nellie Hansen. Burial in Brooking cemetery : Cora Lee Robinson Jennings - 1893 - Feb. 28, 1924

April 19, 1924 Monday The Triangle Club set out 200 cherry trees on Blue Ridge and will be called Cherry Lane

May 10, 1924 Saturday - C-2 schools closed with a number of athletic events on Friday; mental events held on Thursday. Winners were: Vyra Alice Robinson of Stormy Point, elementary reading; Eugene Golden of Bennington, advanced reading; Robert Hartman, elementary writing; Juanita Mast of Central, advanced writing; Johnnie Blyholder, elementary arithmetic; Helen Mitchner of Raytown, advanced arithmetic; Lorene Frost of Stormy Point, elementary spelling; Mary Meigs of Chapel, advanced spelling. Raytown won by 78 points, a banner held by Chapel for the last two years. A big basket lunch was held at noon for 200 pupils and their parents.

High school graduates were: Jack Mitchner, Thomas Edmondson, Helen Brown, Anabelle White, Marguerite Ballard, Elinor Killenger, Alma Kuhn, Hazel Leonard who was the honor graduate.

1925

July 1927 - Charles Lindbergh took early training at Richards Field and was instructed in Jennie and D H - 4's

Marvel Burch was honored at a Raytown Historical Society quarterly meeting as a high school history teacher, and introduced by Jess Storms.

She was a graduate from Warrensburg college. She had taught for forty years; two years in Cabool, Mo. and thirty-eight years in Raytown, coming here in 1923. At that time there were forty-three high school students; John F. Blyholder was the superintendent and Opal Rainwater was the principal. At times Marvel served as gym teacher and director of plays.

On August 20, 1925 she married James "Dick" Burch and they lived on the northeast corner of 63rd street and Blue Ridge Cut-off on the land owned by the Burch family since 1831.

Her former students will always remember her affectionately as, "Ma Burch", a close friend.

James Luther "Lute" Robinson, had served in World War I, as 2nd Lieutenant; married Anna Dehoney in 1917; had a Ford Agency in Jewell, Kansas; but returned to Raytown in 1925 to buy the Harriman Ford Motor company; renamed it the Raytown Ford company; and continued to operate the agency for 30 years.

(RB. Although the above statement says "he operated the agency for 30 years", reports made in the local newspaper there seem to have been other owners during that time period)

Raytown residents, before 1925, depended upon wells and cisterns to provide their homes with water. Dr. Samuel J. T. Davis decided to form a water district to meet these needs. The Raytown Water company was incorporated January 27, 1925. The water lines were laid from near the municipal farm near Leeds. The first office building was in the brick building known as the Hobbs building, 6207 Raytown road.

1926

May 24, 1926

Robinson and Lewis, owners of the Ford Agency, are putting up a fine new tile and brick building, 60 x 125 feet, with a fine show room, storage room, shop, et. This will be the finest one-firm building in town (6224 Raytown road).

Air mail service through Raytown, May 12, 1926, Chicago to Dallas.

Bill Glover bought out the E. E. Norquist interest in Wildwood Lakes.

Chamber of Commerce of Rural Jackson County, "Little Miami of Jackson County-1926"

Located on good roads, Raytown is a host to many tourist each season. Within the limits of the town is a race track horse training course, on which the thoroughbred animals of Frank Nile are given initial workouts. A poultry school, and many model dairy farms on the outskirts of town, also prove attractions to the city dweller.

Raytown's location eight miles southeast of the Kansas City postoffice, makes it possible to obtain city water. Electric lights have been installed in the homes and business houses of the town...

Four real estate offices, nine contracting builders are busy in the new residential areas.

The Ford agency, Robinson and Lewis plan to move into their new \$30,000 building. There are seven filling stations and four automobile agencies; five groceries, two hardware stores; three lumber yards and four confectioneries...

T. E. Quisenberry conducted the American Poultry School, 9312 East 63rd street, teaching better and more productive measures in raising poultry. The farm had a 45,000 egg incubator and shipped baby chicks across the country.

The first issue of RAYTOWN NEWS was published December 39, 1926.

NEW - OLD RAYTOWN
From Lee's Summit Journal, May 27, 1926
J.H. Miller Editor and Publisher
Found on page 87, Raytown Remembers

It is now known by everybody that Raytown is probably the second oldest town in Jackson County. William Jennings, who has a general store there for 38 years, was born one mile east of Raytown and he says his father settled on that farm in 1852 and there was a little hamlet on the present site on a corner belonging to a man by the name of Ray, who had wearied of the long, long trail to California and stopped on the beautiful hill and began a home. But the village did not grow much until after the Rock Island railroad came through, although there has always been hope in the hearts of the early settlers. And now the great eastward growth of Kansas City pleasure seekers and new business houses are being erected and many new homes are going up. A corner lot was leased sometime ago for ten years for about nine hundred dollars a year for a filling station. A double room, two story brick building was built last winter and is now occupied.

The Heck Drug Store has one of the most beautiful rooms and a good stock of drugs and stationery and magazines and a fountain, ice cream, etc. Mr. Heck, who moved from Lee's Summit, has been operating this store for only two weeks but is much pleased.

He says it takes three to four people to wait on the trade on Saturday evenings and Sundays.

Mr. and Mrs. Paschal have opened a modern restaurant; the only one in town, and Mrs. Paschal is specializing in fried chicken dinners, baked ham dinners and quick lunches, for hungry tourists and pleasure seekers.

Todd George, who has built more houses in Lee's Summit than any other two men, has an office in Raytown and is as busy as a cranberry merchant, making loans, writing insurance, selling lots and urging business men in Kansas City to locate where "opportunity knocks."

J. H. Greene, another real estate man, is busy all day bragging about Raytown and selling town sites. He handled the sale of 5 1/4 acres for a site for the new high school at \$1700 an acre.

The Thompson-Parker Lumber Co. has a nice yard and office and seems to be busy. The new manager, J. W. Storms, has been in charge for about six weeks and seems to understand his business.

George W. Cassell has a general store, groceries, meats, and about everything else, including a soda fountain, but all he wanted to talk about was what the Commercial Club was doing— the latest— raising about a thousand dollars for city lights. The Commercial Club is looking forward to having an incorporated city, but they probably cannot reach a goal for a year. The club's present job is to get the first rate reduced to organizing a volunteer fire company.

Robinson & Lewis, the Ford Agency men, are putting up a fine new tile and brick building, 60' x 125', with a fine show room, storage room, shop, etc. This will be the finest one-firm building in town.

E. L. Foster does general garage work with his shop on the Kansas City-Lee's Summit Road while H. E. Clayton, formerly of Lee's Summit has his garage around on the boulevard west of the present high school building.

W. F. Muir has a general merchandise stock and is also the postmaster and also a general town booster having, with Andrew Smith, put on two additional sales in the last year.

C. W. Rice and Sons are general contractors having contracts now for some fine residences.

The Raytown Bank is one of the solid institutions of the town and country with a capital of \$20,000 and a surplus of \$10,000. L. M. Dehoney is president, Andrew Smith, cashier, and W. N. Stanton, bookkeeper.

Leedigh and Havens have one of the best small town lumber yards in Jackson County with Henry O'Bryan, formerly of Lee's Summit, as local manager. Henry says it is necessary to keep five trucks to handle their business.

O. J. Greene has a feed and coal business near the Rock Island station.

Ed Smith is the general transportation man, hauling anything anywhere. He also keeps a supply of building material.

Now we probably have omitted several lines of business, but we have had only two hours there and we got as much as seemed possible in that time. There is an optimistic feeling about the whole town and folks look forward to being a part of Kansas City. Raytown now has water from Kansas City and electric lights from West Missouri Power Company and many of the houses are being made modern and all new houses are being so constructed.

A new high school building will be ready, probably by November, the present building then to be devoted to the work of the lower grades. Good teachers are always employed and Raytown schools rank high in Jackson County.

From LEE'S SUMMIT JOURNAL, MAY 27, 1926

NEW - OLD RAYTOWN

IT IS NOW KNOWN BY EVERYBODY THAT RAYTOWN IS PROBABLY THE SECOND OLDEST TOWN IN JACKSON COUNTY. WILLIAM JENNINGS, WHO HAS HAD A GENERAL STORE THERE FOR 38 YEARS WAS BORN ONE MILE EAST OF RAYTOWN AND HE SAYS HIS FATHER SETTLED ON THAT FARM IN 1852 AND THERE WAS A LITTLE HAMLET ON THE PRESENT SITE ON A CORNER OF A FARM BELONGING TO A MAN BY THE NAME OF RAY, WHO HAD WEARIED OF THE LONG, LONG TRAIL TO CALIFORNIA AND STOPPED ON THE BEAUTIFUL HILL AND BEGAN A HOME. BUT THE VILLAGE DID NOT GROW MUCH UNTIL AFTER THE ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD CAME THROUGH ALTHOUGH THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HOPE IN THE HEARTS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS. AND NOW THE GREAT EASTWARD GROWTH OF KANSAS CITY HAS BUILT NEW HOPES AND RAYTOWN IS TAKING ON NEW AIRS. THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE RIDGE BOULEVARD ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF KANSAS CITY PLEASURE SEEKERS AND NEW BUSINESS HOUSES ARE BEING ERECTED AND MANY NEW HOMES ARE GOING UP. A CORNER LOT WAS LEASED SOME TIME AGO FOR TEN YEARS FOR ABOUT NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS A YEAR FOR A FILLING STATION. A DOUBLE ROOM, TWO STORY BRICK BUILDING WAS BUILT LAST WINTER AND IS NOW OCCUPIED.

THE HECK DRUG STORE HAS ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL ROOMS AND A GOOD STOCK OF DRUGS AND STATIONERY AND MAGAZINES AND A FOUNTAIN, ICE CREAM, ETC. MR. HECK, WHO MOVED FROM LEE'S SUMMIT, HAS BEEN OPERATING HIS STORE FOR ONLY TWO WEEKS BUT IS MUCH PLEASED. HE SAYS IT TAKES THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE TO WAIT ON THE TRADE ON SATURDAY EVENINGS AND SUNDAYS.

MR. AND MRS. ROY PASCHAL HAVE OPENED A MODERN RESTAURANT, THE ONLY ONE IN TOWN, AND MRS. PASCHAL IS SPECIALIZING IN FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS, BAKED HAM DINNERS AND QUICK LUNCHESES, FOR HUNGRY TOURISTS AND PLEASURE SEEKERS.

TODD GEORGE, WHO HAS BUILT MORE HOUSES IN LEE'S SUMMIT THAN ANY OTHER TWO MEN, HAS AN OFFICE IN RAYTOWN AND IS AS BUSY AS A CRANBERRY MERCHANT, MAKING LOANS, WRITING INSURANCE, SELLING LOTS AND URGING BUSINESS MEN IN KANSAS CITY TO LOCATE IN RAYTOWN "WHERE OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS."

J.H. GREENE, ANOTHER REAL ESTATE MAN, IS BUSY ALL DAY BRAGGING ABOUT RAYTOWN AND SELLING TOWN SITES. HE HANDLED THE SALE OF 5 3/4 ACRES FOR A SITE FOR THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL AT \$1700 AN ACRE.

THE THOMPSON - PARKER LUMBER CO. HAS A NICE YARD AND OFFICE AND SEEMS TO BE BUSY. THE NEW MANAGER, J.W. STORMS, HAS BEEN IN CHARGE FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS AND SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND HIS BUSINESS.

GEORGE W. CASSELL HAS A GENERAL STORE, GROCERIES, MEATS AND ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE, INCLUDING A SODA FOUNTAIN BUT ALL HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS WHAT THE COMMERCIAL CLUB WAS DOING --THE LATEST-- RAISING ABOUT A THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR CITY LIGHTS. THE COMMERCIAL CLUB IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING AN INCORPORATED CITY BUT THEY PROBABLY CAN NOT REACH THAT GOAL FOR A YEAR. THE CLUB'S PRESENT JOB IS TO GET THE FIRE RATE REDUCED BY ORGANIZING A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY.

THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE COMMERCIAL CLUB ARE: GEORGE W. CASSELL, PRESIDENT; E.M. HUFFMAN, SECRETARY; AND W.F. MUIR, ANDREW SMITH AND HOMER LINGER.

ROBINSON & LEWIS, THE FORD AGENCY MEN, ARE PUTTING UP A FINE NEW TILE AND BRICK BUILDING 60 X 125, WITH A FINE SHOW ROOM, STORAGE ROOM, SHOP, ETC. THIS WILL BE THE BIGGEST ONE-FIRM BUILDING IN TOWN.

E.L. FOSTER DOES A GENERAL GARAGE WORK WITH HIS SHOP ON THE KANSAS CITY-LEE'S SUMMIT ROAD WHILE H.E. CLAYTON, FORMERLY OF LEE'S SUMMIT, HAS HIS GARAGE AROUND ON THE BOULEVARD WEST OF THE PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

W.F. MUIR HAS A GENERAL MERCHANDISE STOCK AND IS ALSO POSTMASTER AND ALSO A GENERAL TOWN BOOSTER HAVING, WITH ANDREW SMITH, PUT ON TWO ADDITIONAL SALES IN THE LAST YEAR.

C.W. RICE AND SONS ARE GENERAL CONTRACTORS HAVING CONTRACTS NOW FOR SOME FINE RESIDENCES.

THE RAYTOWN BANK IS ONE OF THE SOLID INSTITUTIONS OF THE TOWN AND COUNTY WITH A CAPITAL OF \$20,000 AND A SURPLUS OF \$10,000. L.M. DEHONEY IS PRESIDENT; ANDREW SMITH, CASHIER; AND W.N. STANTON, BOOKKEEPER.

LEEDIGH AND HAVENS HAVE ONE OF THE BEST SMALL TOWN LUMBER YARDS IN JACKSON COUNTY WITH HENRY O'BRYAN, FORMERLY OF LEE'S SUMMIT, AS LOCAL MANAGER. HENRY SAYS IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP FIVE TRUCKS TO HANDLE THEIR BUSINESS.

O.J. GREENE HAS A FEED AND COAL BUSINESS NEAR THE ROCK ISLAND STATION.

ED. SMITH IS THE GENERAL TRANSPORTATION MAN, HAULING ANYTHING ANYWHERE. HE ALSO KEEPS QUITE A SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIALS.

NOW WE PROBABLY HAVE OMITTED SEVERAL LINES OF BUSINESS BUT WE HAD ONLY TWO HOURS THERE AND WE GOT MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE IN THAT TIME. THERE IS AN OPTIMISTIC FEELING ABOUT THE WHOLE TOWN AND FOLKS LOOK FORWARD TO BEING A PART OF KANSAS CITY. RAYTOWN NOW HAS WATER FROM KANSAS CITY AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS FROM THE WEST MISSOURI POWER COMPANY AND MANY HOUSES ARE BEING MADE MODERN AND ALL NEW HOUSES ARE BEING SO CONSTRUCTED.

A NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING WILL BE READY PROBABLY BY NOVEMBER, THE PRESENT BUILDING THEN TO BE DEVOTED TO THE WORK OF THE LOWER GRADES. GOOD TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS EMPLOYED AND RAYTOWN SCHOOLS RANK HIGH IN JACKSON COUNTY.

RAYTOWN: LIVELY AS A CITY WITHOUT BEING ONE

The Kansas City Star, Sunday, March 3, 1946

By Charles W. Graham

Clipping from Ivan Ebbe

When you took a Sunday motor car ride out of Kansas City in the era before concrete highways, you probably chose Blue Ridge boulevard. It was the best iled macadam road in Jackson County. You drove through Swope park and turned north. You followed the meandering black top until it turned eastward, and you came to a village three miles east of the city limits.

That was Raytown. It was the only place on the old county highway maps that Blue Ridge boulevard took you to. There you crossed an old rock road, called Raytown road. That crossroads was called, in Raytown, "The Corner." There was nothing particularly interesting about the place. The Baptist church stood with its bell perched on the peak of the roof a little north of the corner. There was a few business buildings and some homes; nothing more.

Probably you drove on without stopping and turned north to Van Horn road, where Blue Ridge ended. Then you returned home. You had enjoyed the countryside and the ride. Raytown was just a little country village, and you may have wondered what its people did for amusement.

But if you lived in Raytown then, you probably were a Democrat and a Baptist. If you really "belonged" you were both those things and in addition your forebearers were from Kentucky or Virginia. On winter days the men collected around the big stove in the general store and threshed out the public questions of the day from the viewpoint of the Democratic party or the Baptist church. The women tended the children, kept house, and planned their church socials. The people did no boasting. They had nothing special in their community worth boasting about.

A Record Chamber of Commerce

Nowadays all that is changed. Raytown has something to boast about, but it is the kind of boasting you like. Raytowners assert that they have the largest Chamber of Commerce in any unincorporated community, and they will make it a challenge if any other unincorporated community wants to take it that way.

They claim no rich people and they have no poor ones. The Chamber of Commerce makes no attempt to bring in new industries because the people are content to develop the place as a residential community on the edge of Kansas City. They have a Red Cross chapter with money in the bank. There is no charity problem and no public dump. They hope this story will make it clear that the dump on Sixty-third street, just east of the railroad viaduct, is in Kansas City, It doesn't belong to Raytown.

Most of the businessmen eat all their meals at home, but for those who don't there is the own's lone cafe. It is, moreover, the monthly meeting place of the Chamber of Commerce, and mecca for the town's coffee drinkers around 10 o'clock every morning.

The Raytown postoffice is a small cube of lock boxes, with one wicket, located in a modern grocery and hardware store. The postmaster, Forest Muir, helps wait on trade in the store when occasion demands it. The town's lone idler, a throwback to the general store stove forums, finds a comfortable seat there in which to loaf away the hours. But there is no forum of discussion. That function has been assumed by the Chamber of Commerce.

Proud of Home Groups

Officers of the Chamber of Commerce "point with pride" to three residential districts, each humorously dubbed by its own residents, "Actor's Row" consists of three houses west of town, fronting on Sixty-third street, and was so named because "We act as if we had money, but we don't."

"Mortgage Hill," a recent development of perhaps two dozen middle-priced homes southwest of town, was named because the houses all were built on mortgages. "The Slums" is an area of smaller homes where, they boast, every home is owned by its occupant free of debt.

There is no wrong side of the tracks in Raytown. Its citizens boast also that there never has been a fatality on the highways among school children while going to or from school. Even if a child rides a bicycle or walks, he must use the highways.

What caused the change in Raytown? Why does it have such concentration on civic spirit? Concrete highways and the desire of city folk for homes in the quiet countryside, with modern conveniences, are among the answers.

Highways Brought Influx

In the late 1920s, when President Truman ^{became} ~~was~~ presiding judge of the Jackson County court, concrete highways began reaching eastward from Kansas City and southward from Independence. U. S. highway 40 carried its arterial traffic only a two miles north, U. S. 50 only a half a mile south. The old rock road to Leeds, four miles away, was laid with concrete and retained its name of Raytown road. Gregory road was improved through Swope park. Sixty-third street was extended eastward from the city limits and overlaid Blue Ridge boulevard less than a mile west of Raytown. Blue Ridge cut-off was extended southward through Grandview. Sni-a-Bar road joined highway 50 just at the edge of the city, with the cut-off, and Little Blue road was driven eastward from the Corner in Raytown. It became a county hub. You could reach Raytown easily from almost any place.

When that happened, during President Truman's tenure in the courthouse, the Denocrats, Baptists and Kentuckians became outn umbered.

(This part of paper has been torn)-- J. L. Cox, an old resident, who remembers Raytown when it was a single general store back in 1890, and when-----ed" in the three decades----- put it succinctly:"-----fast we had to take----- wise they would have----- Smiling, he adds,"-----newcomers, you know. They've only been nere fifteen years, or less."

That first grocery store --kept its coffee, beans, sugar and other staples in bins. Folks killed their own hogs and smoked the hams. They grew their own fresh vegetables and picked their own apples, peaches and cherries off their own trees. Some of them still do. About 1895 a second store went in selling groceries and hardware. Five years or so later a third store was built. It was a general store where one could buy anything from a spool of thread to a plow. About that time, too, the Rock Island railroad was built along the edge of the village, and Raytown road had been hard surfaced to Leeds.

Church Still Has Hitching Rack

It was not until 1915 that the community had a lumber yard, there being but little growth. The Baptist church was built of brick fronting Raytown road, and had its hitching rack across the front. The hitching rack is there with the original cast iron pipe for bars, but the old wooden posts have been encased in concrete, or replaced altogether.

Most of the old buildings have been destroyed by fire. The church still stands, with a modern annex, and a rugged old general store houses the Raytown News, across from the church, with the name of the paper emblazoned in headline style across the front of the steel and frame awning.

Since the highways came, Raytowners have built a score or more business buildings forming a "T-shaped business section at "The Corner," Raytown road is the leg of the T, with Sixty-third street (Blue Ridge boulevard) the cross to it.

Thus has developed a modern suburban community where people own their own homes, and where nearly every child in town as a dog. The dogs range in size and breed from a huge St. Bernard owned by A. E. (Cap) Garvin, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and editor of the Raytown News, down to the little terriers of mixed ancestry. The children acquired their dogs by simply by finding them. Most of were strays picked up off the highways and taken home by the youngsters.

Republicans Live There Now

The change not only built a suburban community; it also amended sharply the requirements for "belonging." Nowadays, to belong means to belong to the Chamber of Commerce, without regard to political principles, church denomination or ancestry. The president for 1946 is Ivan L. Ebbe, who went to Raytown several years ago from that rock bottomed G. O. P. center, Trenton, Mo.

Garvin, the secretary, who took over the Raytown News in 1931, five years after it was founded, is a Republican, a Presbyterian, and (of all things) a Kansan. Through him and his weekly newspaper the Chamber of Commerce and the people give expression to their hopes and plans for the future, as well as their boasts of present-day

achievements.

Being unincorporated, there is no city government through which Raytowners can act officially on community problems. The Chamber of Commerce fills that need. It organized a modern fire station from wartime civilian defense unit, with Minor Smith, a coal and building material dealer, as chief. Chief Smith's place of business is handy to the fire station and his crews number two dozen or more, all volunteers. He has worked out a system of rotation to prevent congestion of fire fighters at a fire. By popular subscription the Chamber of Commerce purchased modern fire fighting equipment and built the station.

Voted Bonds for School

The organization got behind a bond issue for a new consolidated grade and high school. It carried nicely and the site has been selected and marked just west of town. Immediate problems are sewage disposal and sidewalks for the business section. Sewage is handled now by individual septic tanks which are creating a problem of seepage.

There are but two short stretches of sidewalk in town. Motor car owners often park the front wheels of their car on one where there is no curb, and where no walk exists at all they park close to the buildings. Pedestrians are thus forced to use the pavement of the highways.

Socially minded members of the Chamber of Commerce engage in pitch or poker. Neither is a game is a Chamber of Commerce project, however. Pitch players gather around a small table in the furnace room of Mr. Cox's real estate office every afternoon. Poker players make it an evening game for the home entertainment. Being a home game, the "law" has no cause for complaint.

Chamber Boomed by 'Campaign'

The remarkable size of the Chamber of Commerce is a result of competitive teams. Mr. Ebbe, the president, and James M. Shirk, an accountant, vice-president, chose up sides and went out for members. They ended up the campaign with 217 paid up boosters; hence the claim to "the largest Chamber of Commerce in any unincorporated community anywhere."

They make their estimates of population rather freely. Some would take in all Brooking township, while others are more restrained. The largest estimate is 8,000; the smallest about 2,000. The more modest claims restrict the population ed area of the town between Fifty-ninth and Sixty-seventh streets, measured north and south, and about the same distance east and west.

The community has numbered its east-west streets to conform to the numbered streets of Kansas City, and that, perhaps, provides the best forecast for the community's destiny.