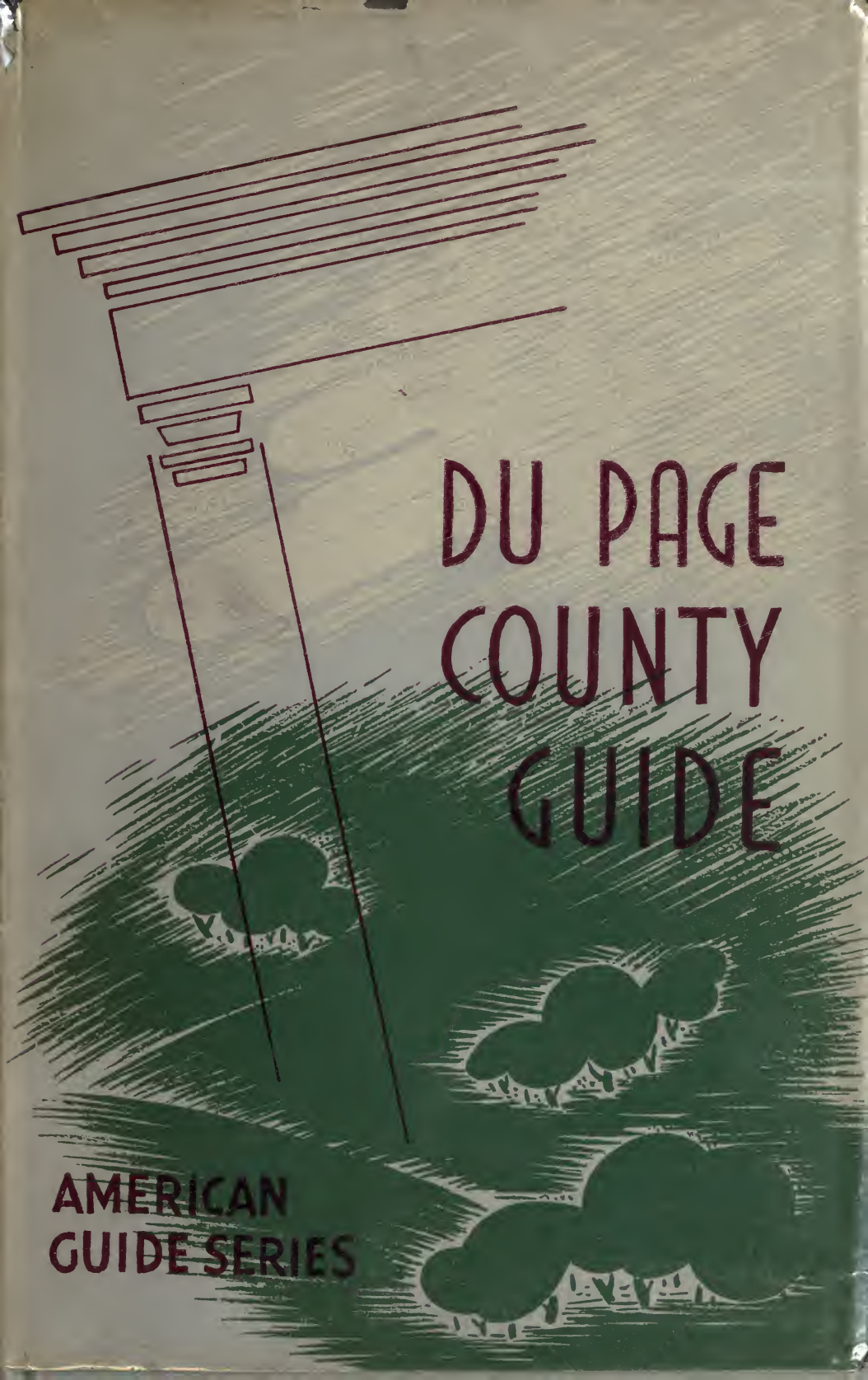
DU PAGE
COUNTY
GUIDE
AMERICAN
GUIDE SERIES

American Guide Series

THE DU PAGE COUNTY GUIDE

Illustrated

Special Edition
Commemorating
the
Twenty-fifth Anniversary
of
DU PAGE TITLE COMPANY
1925–1950

" . . . It stands as a highly worth while part of the American Guide Series . . . Well illustrated and well documented . . . " —FREDERIC BABCOCK, *Chicago Tribune.*

"Here we have a fine example of what should be done in other counties, not only in Illinois but throughout the country. It is a guidebook that brings home to residents of Du Page County, and to outsiders as well, all of the interesting and unique things to be found in that county, and how these things originated." — JOHN DRURY, author of *Old Chicago Houses, Historic Midwest Houses, Midwest Heritage, Old Illinois Houses,* etc.

(*Continued on back flap*)

These are the gardens of the Desert, these
The unshorn fields, boundless and beautiful,
For which the speech of England has no name—
The Prairies. I behold them for the first,
And my heart swells, while the dilated sight
Takes in the encircling vastness . . .

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

(NOTE: The poem of which these are the opening lines was published in a two-volume edition of Bryant's poetry issued in 1855 by D. Appleton and Company, New York. Richmond and Vallette, in their 1857 history of Du Page County, printed the same excerpt without naming the author and with the third line altered to read: "And fresh as the young earth ere man had sinned.")

DU PAGE COUNTY GUIDE

DU PAGE COUNTY

A DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL

GUIDE

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES

EDITED BY

MARION KNOBLAUCH

SPECIAL EDITION

PUBLISHED IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

1925-1950

BY

DU PAGE TITLE COMPANY

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

First Printing September, 1948
Special Revised Edition June, 1951

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PRESENTATION

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY is a short span, as time is measured. But when a business organization reaches its twenty-fifth birthday in a career of service to a community, it is fitting that the occasion be suitably marked. And so, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding, Du Page Title Company is proud to present this special anniversary edition of the *Du Page County Guide* to its good friends and neighbors in Du Page County.

In 1925 Du Page County was expanding rapidly as part of the growing Chicago metropolitan area. Large tracts of farmland were being subdivided, and the population of the county, which jumped from 42,120 to 91,998 in the decade between 1920 and 1930—an increase of 118 per cent—practically doubled in the short space of one year. Because buyers of real estate needed legal evidence of their ownership of property, the sudden increase in real estate activity meant a tremendous growth in the need for abstracts-of-title. The small local abstract office of T. M. & D. C. Hull did its best to meet the increasing demands for service, but its facilities were inadequate to cope with the situation. The result was the formation of Du Page Title Company, which purchased the abstract indexes and records of the Hull organization.

Incorporated on October 9, 1925, Du Page Title Company immediately began to increase the existing physical facilities and personnel of the old organization. After confining its activities from 1925 through 1930 to the making of abstracts, the new company in 1931 began to issue title guarantee policies as an agent for Chicago Title and Trust Company. Six years later, in 1937, it started issuing its own Du Page Title Company policies, a service which today comprises the major part of its business.

Three presidents have guided the destinies of Du Page Title Company. The first of these was the man who had organized it, A. R. Marriott. A native son of Du Page County with 50 years of title experience in Chicago Title and Trust Company, he headed the new organization until his death in 1932. He was succeeded by his son, Arthur C. Marriott, who previously had served the company as vice-president and manager. The present head of the company, Byron S. Powell, succeeded Mr. Marriott in June, 1948. Other officers of the company have included Alva J. Shaw, vice-president and manager from 1932 until his retirement in 1940; Gus Buchholz, A. J. Yates, and William J. Rose, each of whom served as secretary; and Kenneth E. Rice, who held the office of treasurer for many years. Current officers of the company, in addition to the president, are Orville H. Ross, vice-president; Louis J. M. Pommier, secretary; Roderick A. Mette, treasurer; Harry E. Madsen, title officer; James J. Tomisek, assistant secretary; and Webster S. Davis, assistant treasurer.

The original staff of 8 or 10 employees has grown into the highly trained present staff of 70, which is housed in a two-story, fireproof brick building on East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, with a fireproof record warehouse nearby.

For 25 years Du Page Title Company has served Du Page County. It has helped to secure for men, their families, and their institutions the rightful enjoyment of their ownership of land—our basic resource. The company's growth in the past quarter of a century has paralleled and contributed to the growth of the community it serves. It dedicates to a continuation of that service the energies and abilities of the men and women who are Du Page Title Company.

Intended for publication in 1939, the year of Du Page County's centennial, this book—as a result of the eleventh-hour backing out of its sponsors—unwittingly acquired the distinction of being the last work published in the American Guide Series, when it finally appeared in 1948. Regrettable though it was, I feel that the delay in publication did not seriously impair the essential value of the Guide—which, incidentally, is the first historical work devoted exclusively to the county since Rufus Blanchard's county history of 1882.

Lithoprinted from the page proofs pulled in 1939 (which accounts for some of the technical imperfections), the original text was left virtually intact, except for minor revisions including the correction of typographical and other errors which came to light in rechecking (more having come to light since, additional revisions have been made for this edition). Appendix I and notes referring to it were added, to tell the reader which points of interest no longer existed and which had undergone major changes. As population figures throughout the text were from the 1930 census, Appendix II was added, listing both 1930 and 1940 figures. Now that has been revised to include preliminary 1950 figures. In other respects the book follows the general format of the American Guide Series.

Although the passage of time has relegated to history numerous details that were current in 1939, the general picture of the county today is not markedly different from what it was then. The most notable exceptions are the large increase in population since World War II (which, while it did not bring big industrial plants to the county, brought an influx not only of families deriving employment from such plants nearby, but of people driven to the suburbs by Chicago's housing shortage), the thousands of new homes built by the newcomers, the new semi-rural communities that have sprung up to accommodate them, and the establishment here of the Argonne National Laboratory. —M.K.

FOREWORD

A GROWING TENDENCY in present-day American historical research is toward regional and local studies. Now that the nation as a whole has been properly surveyed in numerous standard works, greater emphasis is being placed on the nation's parts—on the various regions which compose the country, on the states that make up the regions, on the counties that comprise the states, and on villages, cities and townships within the counties. This is a natural evolutionary step and bespeaks the coming-of-age of the United States as a whole.

It is for this reason that the *Du Page County Guide* is of great value. Here we have a fine example of what should be done in other counties, not only in Illinois but throughout the country. It is a guidebook that brings home to residents of Du Page County, and to outsiders as well, all of the interesting and unique things to be found in that county, and how these things originated. In it, too, future generations may learn what one American county was like from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

When I saw the manuscript of the *Du Page County Guide* at the Newberry Library in Chicago, shortly before the book was published, I was impressed with the wide scope of its subject matter, with the thoroughness of its historical aspects, and with the literary ability displayed. It then occurred to me that the citizens of Du Page County were most fortunate to have had a county guidebook prepared for them as part of the distinguished American Guide Series and to have had for that Guide such an editor as Marion Knoblauch, without whose perseverance and personal investment of time and money, the skillful research and writing expended on this work never would have been placed in permanent record form.

Today the book is owned not only by most of Du Page County's public, college, and school libraries, but by major public, university, and historical-society libraries throughout the country. It even has traveled as far afield as the Provincial Library, Victoria, British Columbia. Because a knowledge of local history and the local scene is important in understanding the world we live in, I am pleased that the Du Page Title Company has seen fit to increase the Guide's local circulation by publishing and distributing this special edition.

JOHN DRURY

CHESTERTON, INDIANA
September 24, 1950

The County Took Its Name from the River, the River, from the French Trader du Page — Who May Have Looked like This

PREFACE

THE *Du Page County Guide* is the latest brush-stroke in the portrait of America that the Federal Writers' Project set itself to paint. The portrait, of course, remained unfinished when the Project closed. Even had the work continued indefinitely, the picture could never have been completed, such is the infinite variety of the face of our great country. The books brought out by the Project that have been most widely acclaimed and read are the State Guides. This is natural, since they, because of their wide geographic coverage, have the widest appeal. But the multitude of smaller publications, like the present volume, perhaps in the end will prove the most valuable to future historians. The State books deal in broad generalities of a great community's history, culture, politics, and economy, and, of necessity, cannot give a close-up of the local scene such as the local Guides, which view the city, county, or village through the magnifying lens of an historic microscope, are able to do. To me, these local books always had the sharp flavor of the particular territory they covered, and most vividly illustrated the flowing pattern of American civilization.

In New Jersey, for example, the Project most frequently interpreted the small town and city through the history of its fire department, which in that State seems to have been the center around which revolved the eddy of the community's social life. In one town, if I remember correctly, the local pyromaniac kept the volunteer fire force busy, even to the point of burning down the jail in which he had been lodged. In a number of towns throughout the country—it is strange how the local conduct-pattern repeats itself—the high point and crisis of history was the fight for the privilege of becoming the county seat. In one case the rival town abducted, *vi et armis,* the county records out of the old county courthouse, a procedure which ended—unlike the similar happening in Du Page County—just short of bloodshed. In many towns the old cemetery is a central point of interest, for in it are buried the town's founders, notables, and "characters." I recall the case of the man who lies buried surrounded by his six wives and whose stone proudly records the fact that he outlived all of them.

We, today, are apt to think of the frontier as having existed vaguely somewhere west of the Mississippi. But actually the first frontier was in the backyards of the Puritan Fathers in Plymouth, and only gradually

moved westward across New-England, New York, Pennsylvania, and the Middle Western States, and from there receded slowly toward the Pacific.

The general pattern of frontier communities was the same: the coming of the first settlers and the building of log cabins, a log church, and the first schoolhouse; conflicts with the Indians; the building of the first roads; the clearing of stumps; the laying out of a town. The successive gold rushes which claimed some of Du Page County's pioneers actually depopulated some Western towns, but the deserters often returned to transmute their gold dust into enterprises that brought prosperity to the community. In Northern towns you have the development—often in opposition to a small but articulate minority—of abolitionist sentiment, the establishment of stations of the underground railroad, and mass enlistment in the Union forces during the Civil War. The contest to have the canal and, later, the railroad come to town is another part of the general pattern. On the Pacific Coast that battle was fought between Tacoma and Seattle for the better part of a generation, with Seattle the final victor. The boom-bust is less a part of the pattern of the East than of the West, although many Eastern and Middle Western towns boomed and declined with the wanton cutting of the lumber in the great forests and the exhaustion of coal and oil in certain localities, just as in the West lusty towns of ten thousand and more shrank to ghost towns when gold or lumber sources petered out. Labor conflicts, as labor fought for recognition, have punctuated local history almost everywhere. Du Page County, however, essentially a nonindustrial area, has been spared any spectacular part in this unhappy portion of the general picture. The struggle for good government, the fight against local corruption, and the effort to attain to better techniques of local administration are everywhere characteristic of small communities as of large. All over America these and many other general developments have taken place, but in each community they have followed along special lines, always differing in this or that point from the generalization.

This is what makes these little guidebooks so intersesting. Reading them, one is able to follow the large developments of American civilization; but the survey is never monotonous because of the infinite variety of detail in each community. These little books—they are little merely in the sense that they cover only a comparatively small area—these "little" books, like the *Du Page County Guide,* are the living flesh and blood of American history.

HENRY G. ALSBERG

NEW YORK, N. Y.
December 31, 1947

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

UNDER THE DIRECTION of John T. Frederick, state head of the Federal Writers' Project for Illinois in 1938-39, three editors were responsible for the production of the *Du Page County Guide:* Ethel Eyre wrote the Downers Grove and Glenbard sections and contributed considerable material used in compiling the general essay "So They Came to Du Page" and the points of interest on the motor tours. Oril Brown wrote part of the Hinsdale section and also much of the material used in the motor tours. For the balance of the book and the over-all editing the present editor was responsible.

All three editors shared in the field and library research, much of which was done by a number of specifically designated research workers. Chief credit in this category goes to Mrs. Madolyn Banghart. Others who deserve mention are: J. Adams, Conway Ferguson, Ella Golden, H. W. Humphrey, Pearl Lawson, Florence Le Vitt, Clarence D. O'Connell, John F. Pickering, William Smith, George Whitehead, and O. Winkfield.

The scratchboard drawings were done by Catherine O'Brien and Mildred Waltrip, then of the Federal Art Project for Illinois. The jacket design was done by Erel F. Osborn, of the Art Project. All but three of the photographs were taken by John Clinton, also of the Art Project. The exceptions are the photographs of the Bailey Hobson House, the St. Francis Retreat, and the Naperville swimming pool, taken, respectively, by Howard Clark of the Writers' Project, a Chicago *Daily Times* staff photographer, and Burke & Koretke, commercial photographers.

The maps were prepared in 1947-48 by Harold F. Steinbrecher, civil engineer and surveyor, Wheaton, Illinois, and the editor.

Finally, much valuable assistance, without which the book could not have been written, was contributed voluntarily by interested citizens. Most of them, of course, were residents of Du Page County—in numerous instances the descendants of the county's pioneers. Others, however, contributed from as far afield as Monmouth, Oregon, and Washington, D. C. It is impossible to name all who aided in the gathering of this material, but an attempt has been made to include in the following list the consultants to whom those who produced this book are most indebted. These people gave freely and extensively of their knowledge, research,

records, and time. Regretfully—as in the case also of the research workers—some of them are not alive today to receive even this small recognition for their pains.

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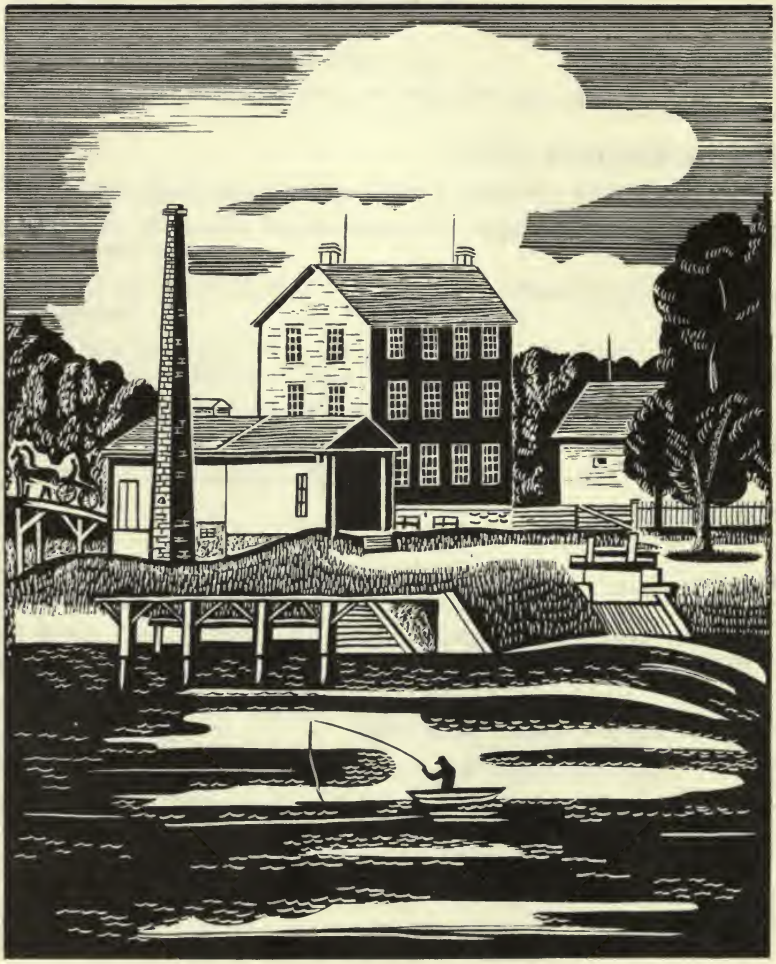


The Graue Mill, Fullersburg

I

COUNTY PROFILE

American Wood Gothic:
St. John's Episcopal Church, Naperville

THE COUNTY TODAY

The century-old county of Du Page extends over 338 square miles of fecund, broadly undulating land, hemmed in on two sides and part of a third by Cook County. Three lines of cities and villages extend like fingers out of sprawling Chicago. Each line follows a railroad right-of-way, but most of the communities comprising them existed prior to the coming of the railroads, which merely accelerated their growth and development. Only 4 of the 18 municipalities engage in manufacturing. Two railroad towns stand out against the pattern of dormitory suburbs. Although close to and integrally dependent upon Chicago, with its larger communities considered as western suburbs, Du Page County has both towns and byways that are far removed, inwardly as well as outwardly, from the life and physical characteristics of the metropolis.

Surrounding its cities and villages, and liberally sprinkled with tiny crossroads settlements, is some of the finest rural landscape in Illinois. The terrain is more markedly rolling in the north and south sections than in the center, where urbanization is more concentrated. From numerous dairy farms fresh milk is shipped into Chicago, and greenhouses and nurseries are widely distributed throughout the countryside. In vivid contrast to the many small general farms are the lavish country estates of a few wealthy Chicagoans. Of the many thick groves of native trees which punctuate the landscape along the watercourses and on the higher ground, 27 have been developed as county forest preserves. These, in addition to 22 golf courses—in connection with which are some of Chicagoland's most elaborate country clubhouses — characterize the county as a play area.

Many of the aged farmhouses strung out along the roads are Greek Revival, a style prominent also in the older communities. A surprisingly large number of buildings date from the late 1830's, the forties, and the fifties. Because residents of Du Page are homeowners, there are few apartments and fewer hotels. American Wood Gothic churches, tall-spired and white, emphasize the bucolic quality of the landscape.

In 1933 the Chicago Regional Planning Association induced Du Page County to adopt a zoning resolution. First county in Illinois to pass such legislation, Du Page was influential in getting the State legislature to pass a county zoning act in 1935. Gaining thereby the legal means to enforce its own ordinance, Du Page County revised its law and made it more strict. Through the zoning ordinance, the use of both buildings and land is regulated to prevent the encroachment of business and industry upon residential areas outside the limits of incorporated cities and villages and to keep the highways free from unsightly dumps and automobile "graveyards."

Singularly free from crimes of violence, the quiet countryside of Du Page County was recently rocked by its involvement in two kidnappings which attracted Nationwide attention. In 1934 and again in 1936 the Karpis gang of St. Paul, Minnesota, chose the little village of Bensenville as the hiding place for their victims, both prominent citizens of St. Paul. In late years the county has been invaded by numerous "bookies" and slot machine establishments controlled by outside syndicates. In 1938 Chicago papers wrote banteringly of the "homey matrons" who played the ponies in the staid, God-fearing communities of "proud and prissy" Du Page. A majority of the local citizenry—comprised chiefly of circumspect farmers and commuters—as well as government and church officials, have waged a hard battle against the gambling syndicates, and, in spite of some lapses, Du Page County remains conspicuous in the metropolitan outskirts for its comparative lack of vice and crime.

The population of about 100,000 (91,998 in 1930) is predominantly American-born. Among the 13 per cent foreign-born, Germans comprise the largest single group, totalling above 3,700. Ranking second is the English group, which is only a third as large. People everywhere are descended from the county's pioneers, and one finds 20 or 30 names familiar to the local histories cropping up over and over in the various communities. *(See p. 234.)*

THE GOOD LAND

BEFORE either Indians or white men came to Du Page County, its history was made by nature. During the long geologic past, nature operated in many ways to form the topography and resources of the land. About 600,000,000 years ago this region, like all the territory from the Alleghenies to the Rockies, was subject to repeated invasions of the sea, which covered the land for several million years at a time, then retreated and left the surface exposed to weathering and erosion for eons more, then advanced again. With each submergence the surface of the land acquired new layers of sediment. Varying according to the different periods in which they were laid down, these strata were composed of sandstone, limestone, and shale; another deposit which stored the oil pool of southeastern Illinois; and a layer of marshy land in which grew the giant trees and ferns subsequently to be pressed into the coal that underlies two-thirds of the State. Only the first three of these various strata lie beneath Du Page County; the two later ones were probably removed in the erosive processes that followed. Although the county was thus deprived of two great economic resources, it was left with two others. The limestone in some sections has been a profitable source of road and construction materials. The sandstone beneath carries water from central Wisconsin that is tapped by the artesian wells of the region.

At the close of the Pennsylvania period of the Paleozoic era, most of Illinois remained above sea level. The wind and rain worked upon the land, eroding and creasing it into valleys and ridges. A climatic change brought snow to the long winters of the North, so deep that the ephemeral summer sun was unable to melt it. The result was the glacial era.

Four times in the course of several hundred thousand years an inert mass of ice moved slowly down over the upper portion of North America and covered Illinois in varying degrees of extensiveness. The fourth glacier, called the Wisconsin, occurred only 50,000 years ago. This ice-sheet extended no farther south than the northeastern part of Illinois. As it slowly expanded, plucking off bedrock and filling in contours, it

shaped the terrain of Du Page County to its present aspect. When melting caused it to lose its grip on the debris it had accumulated, the glacier dropped great quantities of clay and stones. The hills of Du Page County are terminal moraines, formed when the ice front paused for extensive periods of time and piled up the debris in large masses. Approximately one-third of the area is ground moraine, deposited more or less evenly by a steadily retreating ice front. Common throughout the area of ground and terminal moraines are kettle holes, circular depressions in the surface ranging up to 100 feet in diameter.

The majority of the rocks deposited in this region range in size from fine pebbles to boulders 2 or 3 feet in diameter. The largest erratic boulder is at Downers Grove, standing as high as a man's head and embedded to a depth at least twice its height. The rocks are chiefly limestone, but enough other stones are present to assure the variety of minerals essential to plant growth. In addition to this unstratified mass of debris, the ice left some rudely stratified layers and pockets of gravel and sand, called glacial outwash. The gravel and sand have been widely utilized as road and construction materials. Glacial clay has been put to commercial use in the manufacture of common brick and drainage tile. Besides providing these resources, the ice-sheet left in its wake a gently rolling surface especially adaptable to cultivation.

The waters of the melting glacier formed a lake between the Valparaiso Moraine and the retreating edge of ice. Given the name Lake Chicago by geologists, it was the ancestor of Lake Michigan. Its shore, withdrawing by stages north and east, left still visible boundary lines. The westernmost of these runs north and south through La Grange and Bellwood, about two miles east of the Du Page County line. It is an important and easily discernible physiographic boundary. The land to the east of the ridge, formerly the lake bed, is flat, comparatively low and unwooded, and was, until drained, too marshy for general cultivation; that to the west is markedly rolling and is dotted with fine groves.

Before there was vegetation to protect the surface left bare by the retreating ice, the wind picked up fine material from the glacial drift and scattered it across the land. This, known as loess, produced the best soil of the county wherever it was deposited.

The formation of the major soils of the county followed the development of vegetation. In the uplands, under the groves, the brown loams formed; under the tall prairie grass, the fertile black earths. On the poorly drained lowlands, two other types developed: along the watercourses, the rich alluvial soils; in the marshes, the peat beds.

Although there are few natural lakes, the county is well supplied with ground water. Farmers depend chiefly on shallow wells 20 to 40 feet deep. The mean annual rainfall, slightly over 36 inches, is in general evenly distributed. The altitude averages 750 feet, 152 feet higher than that of Chicago. The climate is generally moderate, although Du Page encounters greater extremes of heat and cold than Chicago, whose climate is tempered by Lake Michigan. Like the rest of Illinois, the county is subject to occasional droughts.

The Du Page River, Salt Creek, and several smaller streams flow through the area. The two branches of the Du Page rise near the north boundary and come down east and west of center to meet in the upper part of Will County—adjoining Du Page County on the south—from whence the course leads south and west until it meets the Des Plaines near Channahon. Although always a non-navigable stream, it formerly carried much more water, furnishing the power for grist- and sawmills erected on its banks by enterprising pioneers. Salt Creek traverses the northeast corner of the county down to a point below center, crosses into Cook County, and enters the Des Plaines. Small lakes dot the region at infrequent intervals, and some swamp land remains near the watercourses, but on the whole the land is well drained. The Des Plaines River marks the southeastern boundary of the county.

Oaks predominate among native trees, which include elms, maples, willows, ashes, aspens, basswoods, cherries, hickories, walnuts, thornapples, plums, wild crab apples, hackberries, and American hornbeams. Wild flowers, including goldenrods, phloxes, spring beauties, hepaticas, mandrakes, wild geraniums, asters, and violets grow in profusion on the prairie and in the woods. Purple martins, woodpeckers, wrens, thrushes, blackbirds, crows, owls, pheasants, jays, grackles, cardinals, flickers, and meadow larks are among the many kinds of birds that either migrate to the locality or remain throughout the year. Only a few small mammals—squirrels, gophers, rabbits, woodchucks, opossums, weasels, skunks, minks, and moles—still exist in the county, but in pioneer days red foxes, prairie wolves, deer, elks, and bears were common.

It was a land rich in wild life and natural resources that the Indians inherited, to enjoy for no one knows how many centuries, to lose in 1833.

"THE GREAT WHITE FATHER MUST HAVE SEEN A BAD BIRD..."

WHEN the first white settlers came to northeastern Illinois, they found it inhabited largely by the Potawatomi Indians, with possibly a few small bands of the Illinois and Ottawa tribes scattered about the region. In the northwestern part of the State were Winnebagoes and the united Sauk and Fox tribes.

Little concrete evidence of the Indian occupation of Du Page County is to be found today, but four major Indian villages are believed to have existed in the area in the early 1800's. In addition, there were minor villages, camps, mounds, signal and chipping stations. The village and camp sites, the signal and chipping stations probably belonged to the Potawatomi, but the mounds are thought to have been made by earlier occupants of the land.

One of the major villages lay along Salt Creek, just south of present Elmhurst. To the north of it were two camps and a signal station; to the south, two chipping stations and a mound. A second large village was on the Indian trail that has become St. Charles Road, situated between present Lombard and Glen Ellyn. Nearby were a mound, a camp, chipping and signal stations. In the southeast corner of Milton Township on a trail now roughly paralleled by Butterfield Road, was the third major village, surrounded by mound, chipping station, and camp. On the present site of Naperville was the fourth big village, reached from Chicago by an important trail which became Ogden Avenue (US 34). Just south of it was a chipping station, and below, on the river about where Hobson built his mill in 1834, was a minor village. There was a camp on the present site of Warrenville and a signal station around the east end of what is now West Chicago. Up on the north border of Wayne Township was a signal station and mound, and in Addison Township a signal station was located just east of the junction of two important trails, now Lake Street (US 20) and Army Trail Road, the latter of which led up to the big Winnebago village on the present site of Beloit, Wisconsin. Two important trails ran diagonally through the southern end of Downers Grove Township, one later to be known as the Chicago-Plainfield Trail, the other as the Chicago-Plainfield-Joliet. Both are in

use today, the latter having become a national highway, US 66. Irving Park and Warrenville Roads also had their origin in Indian trails. A trail running south from the village in the Glenbard vicinity and known as the Buffalo Trail led to the Sag village on the south bank of the Des Plaines, which forms the southeastern boundary of the county. Many other Indian trails criss-crossed the area, all of which gave the pioneers their first lines of travel between settlements, most of which persist today in modern highways and country roads.

Through a treaty made by the Sauk and Foxes with the United States Government in 1804, the Indians had ceded 15,000,000 acres of land in Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois to the whites for a $1,000 annuity and arrangements for their transfer farther west when the land should be sold. Within this vast tract, at the mouth of the Rock River, lay Saukenuk, one of the largest Indian villages in the country and headquarters of the Sauk and Foxes. Chief Black Hawk was the leader of a faction which opposed the treaty. He had not signed the disputed agreement, and he claimed that neither he nor his band had sold or intended to sell their village or farms. According to the terms of the treaty, the Indians were to retain the privilege of living and hunting on their lands as long as they should belong to the Government. It was violation of those terms by encroaching white squatters as early as 1823 that caused the trouble which led to the Black Hawk War in the spring of 1832.

From all of the region around Chicago the frightened pioneers left their cabins and poured into Fort Dearborn. Other forts, including one at Naper Settlement in present Du Page County, were hastily erected in the outlying territory. Although the Black Hawk War can scarcely be said to have touched the Du Page area, the panic-stricken settlers there fled to Fort Dearborn, where the women and children were left in safety, and the men joined or formed various companies to search for Indians and protect their property. During the building of Fort Payne at Naper Settlement one or two men were shot from ambush, but that was the extent of the war in their own territory.

At the battle of Bad Axe on August 2, 1832, Black Hawk's forces were routed. With their defeat, the Sauk and Foxes conclusively lost their lands in northwestern Illinois, to be banished forever across the Mississippi. A treaty made by General Scott and the Winnebagoes in September, 1832, secured for the United States the rest of northwestern Illinois, as well as land in southern Wisconsin.

Through a treaty negotiated at St. Louis in 1816 the United Nation of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi Indians had ceded to the

Government a strip of land ten miles wide extending from Chicago down to the navigation head of the Illinois. The white men had early foreseen the advantages of constructing a canal between the two points and so completing the waterway between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes. Following the Des Plaines River course, the diagonal canal strip stretched well into the future Du Page County area, including most of Downers Grove Township and thin triangular slices of York and Lisle Townships.

After the Black Hawk War it remained for the United States to get title to the remainder of northeastern Illinois in order safely to open up to settlement the territory already acquired. So a great council of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes was called at Chicago in the autumn of 1833. To the white official who announced at the opening of the council that the President had heard of large holdings in the region which the Indians desired to sell, an Indian spokesman replied: "The Great White Father must have seen a bad bird which told him a lie, for, far from wishing to sell our land, we wish to keep it." Nevertheless, after many days of delay on the part of the Indians and wheedling on the part of the whites, a treaty was signed on September 26. Probably not more than six of the Indians fully understood its provisions at the time.

In exchange for 5,000,000 acres spreading out along the western shore of Lake Michigan and extending north to the foot of Lake Winnebago, the Indians were to receive an equal amount of land beyond the Mississippi. Those living within the boundaries of Illinois were to remove to the reservation immediately, while those farther north were permitted to remain three years. Annuities of $14,000 a year over a 20-year period were granted and the Government agreed to pay all costs of transportation and support the dispossessed for one year after their arrival on the reservation. In addition, the Government was to make payments to various individuals who had asked for disallowed reservations; to indemnify the Chippewa for certain lands along the lake shore which they claimed but which had been ceded to the United States by the Menominees; to satisfy all approved claims made against the United Nation; to erect mills, houses, and workshops on the reservation; to purchase agricultural implements; to provide for education and the support of physicians, millers, farmers, blacksmiths, and such other mechanics as the President should see fit to appoint. All in all, the United States was spending about $775,000 to free northern Illinois of the Indians.

Within the immense area thus acquired by the United States lay a comparatively small parcel of land—comprising less than a twentieth of the total acreage—that six years after the signing of the treaty was to become Du Page County.

In the summer of 1835 the remaining Indians assembled at Chicago to receive their annuity and prepare for their journey westward. Before taking final leave of their ancient council ground, their hunting lands, their village sites, and their well-worn trails, the warriors staged a magnificent war dance, colorful and savage. "With beautiful appropriateness the red man thus celebrated the end of his era. Defeated but defiant, he took up his journey toward the sunset. Over Chicagoland the day of the white man had dawned." (Milo Milton Quaife, *Checagou.)*

Bailey Hobson: Du Page County's First Settler

SO THEY CAME TO DU PAGE

BEGINNING with the 1830's strong forces both here and abroad sent a 40-year tide of immigration into northern Illinois and surrounding areas.

Much of the land in the north and middle Atlantic states had become unproductive from too strenuous cultivation, and the small farmer whose land did not lie in the more fertile valleys found himself hard put to earn a living. The attractive possibility of selling scrubby eastern farmland and trekking westward to prairies where the soil was both unspoiled and free put ideas into the heads of the less successful husbandmen. The adventuresome started coming out while northern Illinois was still inhabited by the Indians, but it was after the close of the Black Hawk War that immigration really became significant. The returning soldiers of General Scott's army had carried back to the East enticing tales of rich land that stretched mile upon rolling mile and only awaited someone to come and take it.

By land and by water came countless thousands to make their homes in the West. The way to the good land was made relatively easy by the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the development of steam navigation, and the construction of a harbor at Chicago in 1833. Before 1833 most of the newcomers traveled by wagon, driving their stock before them. In 1831 only a few pioneers arrived by boat, some in the schooner *Telegraph,* piloted by Captain Joseph Naper, others in the *Marengo.* In 1833, however, 20,000 immigrants landed at Chicago, all but a few of whom continued their journey by foot or wagon on into the verdant prairies beyond the muddy little frontier town. Some of these remained within the confines of Cook County, organized in 1831, avidly taking up the fertile acres in its western portion which later were separated from it and organized as Du Page County.

Political, religious, and economic conditions in most of the northern European countries during the 1830's resulted in a tide of foreign immigration, of which, because of its rich soil, Illinois drew more than its quota. The Germans far outnumbered the other foreign arrivals. Firm

believers in freedom, having left their own country as a result of the failure of their revolution against oppression in 1830, they wanted to settle in a free state, and many came to northern Illinois. Frugal and industrious, the Germans made good farmers, but they were something more that made them good citizens, as well. Many of them members of the intelligentsia of the Fatherland; they brought culture and education to the prairies, gradually tending to elevate the ideals of the frontiersmen. Although they adapted themselves to the simpler standards of their neighbors, they often had better houses and their settlements were characterized by fruit trees and flowers, books and music, Lutheran and Evangelical churches.

The prairies excited the wonder of all the early immigrants. Morris Sleight of Naper Settlement wrote back to his wife in New York in 1834: "The first view of a Michigan prairie is delightful . . . but the first view of an Illinois prairie is sublime." Strange it must have been, after leaving behind the ugly little town of Chicago, to come upon vast stretches entirely covered with a coarse grass that varied in height from 18 inches on the uplands to 9 feet in the lowlands, that bore brilliantly colored flowers at one stage and at another was yellow and resembled young wheat. Not only did the prairie grass serve as fodder for cattle, making the planting of hay unnecessary for a number of years, but it also served as inspiration for pioneer poetry. In a trunkful of old papers at Warrenville, Rufus Blanchard, the historian, found the following lines, the beginning of a long poem:

O fly to the prairie, sweet maiden, with me.
'Tis as green, and as wild, and as wide as the sea,
O'er its emerald bosom the summer winds glide,
And waves the wild grass like the vanishing tide.

Under the preemption law, the settler could claim as many acres as he could care for and reserve them until the land went on sale, at which time he would be given the first chance to buy. His early claims were staked by plowing a furrow around a tract in the prairie, or by blazing a trail through the timber land, cutting a few logs, and arranging them as a cabin foundation. Speculators thronged the region during the 1830's, staking out large areas on which they made slight improvements, and which they held for high prices. For a decade prior to the Government survey the settlers wrangled with claim-jumpers, a name given to unscrupulous squatters and speculators who attempted to claim land previously preempted. In self defense the bona fide settlers of the Du Page region formed a protective organization at a meeting in 1836 on

the eastern fringe of the wide forest that ran for nine miles northeast of Aurora. Six months after its establishment the name Big Woods Claim Protecting Society was adopted. Its membership ran to more than 90. In October, 1839, the Du Page County Society of Mutual Protection was organized at Naperville. Members of the societies were asked to provide definite descriptions of their claims, and a system of recording them was set up. Fees of 25c to the clerk for each claim recorded and $1 to board members for each day spent on official business were established.

The organizations held the claims of their members, to be bid in as blocs at the time of the Government sale. In addition to the two main societies, subordinate organizations were established throughout the area. Nearly all of the settlers joined one of the protective organizations, and the men who wanted to bid for land under an individual claim aroused strong resentment. Peaceful methods of adjusting feuds were employed whenever possible, but sometimes the use of force was necessary to drive a speculator or a claim-jumper from the land. In later years the original settlers enjoyed recalling their various means of frightening off the undesirables. Humor, also, entered into the proceedings with the formation, in 1834, of the Hognatorial Council, which burlesqued the actions of the claim societies. In one instance this council returned the following verdict:

> We, the jurors in this case, decide that Mr. Clark is justly entitled to a piece of land lying on the Du Page River, and described as follows, to wit: commencing at a certain point on the east bank of said river, and running perpendicular to the horizon *straight up.*

Through the establishment of the claim societies the Government was deprived of thousands of dollars, since the best as well as the poorest land went at $1.25 an acre, when the land was put on the market in the early forties. However, much trouble was saved the Government in the adjusting of claims, and a dependable type of permanent resident was encouraged to establish himself and improve his property.

The first settlers took land in the timber and along the streams. For one thing, they doubted the value of soil on the open prairie; for another, they needed water power for their saw- and gristmills. Springs along the banks of the water courses determined, in many instances, the location of cabins. The great flocks of ducks and wild geese that migrated annually along the Du Page River, the wild game that came to drink at its

banks, and the fish that swam in its current all served to draw the pioneers toward the water. By 1837 there was little timber land left.

The first cabins were constructed of logs fitted closely together and mortised with mud. The single window, placed high in the wall for safety, was hung with gunny sacks or covered with lard-greased paper. In the winter, it was often boarded over. Nails were scarce, so wooden pegs were used instead. The stone fireplace, which had a wooden chimney crusted with clay, was used for both cooking and heating, except in warm weather, when much of the cooking was done outdoors. Candles afforded the only illumination. Matches, patented by 1836, were long a luxury. Flint and steel were used to start the fire. If these were unavailable, the settler had to carry an iron pot several miles to his nearest neighbor and borrow some burning embers.

Hospitality was warm, and the traveler was given the best in the house and invited to stay as long as he liked. The newcomer was given assistance if he needed it, his hosts helping him to build his cabin and even donating livestock, if he had none. Only one rule the new settler might not transgress and remain popular with his fellows. He must not criticize the new country, complain of its disadvantages, or talk of the superiority of the place he had come from. The frontiersman did not even welcome complimentary remarks. His hospitality was given in a simple, unassuming manner, and he expected it to be received in the same way.

It has been said that whatever else he might lack, the Yankee immigrant never arrived without what he considered the indispensable articles: a plough, a bed, a barrel of salt meat, a supply of tea and molasses, a Bible, and a wife.

In many cases the original rude huts were not used long. Known for their energy, thrift, and ingenuity, the New Englanders raised their living standard as soon as possible to a level approaching that to which they had been accustomed on the eastern seaboard. It was generally not many months after their settlement on the new land that they replaced their log cabins with neat little white frame houses of Greek Revival architecture.

The first pieces of furniture constructed by the settlers were crude, but some of the houses contained finer pieces that had been carted out from the east in the Yankee wagons. Bake ovens were built into the fireplaces, when women held long-handled, covered pans over the flames for certain types of cooking, and broiled their meats in open griddle pans.

Hard the life of the settler may have been, yet, after one summer, there was little danger of his having to go without food. An abundant and varied diet was his for the taking. Wild strawberries, plums, grapes, cherries, and black raspberries grew in profusion, and in the woods were hazel, hickory, black walnut, and sugar maple trees. Prairie chickens stalked in large numbers through the tall grass, or flew low in coveys over the tree tops. Their eggs provided amply for the needs of the farmer. Wild turkeys and quail were often on his table, while deer and other wild animals furnished food or skins.

Agriculture and the raising of livestock were the twin industries of the prairie. It had not taken the newcomers long to discover that, contrary to their belief, the prairie soil was much more fertile than timber soil. They solved the problem of water supply on the open fields by digging shallow wells. But Yankee farmers throughout the thirties had difficulty in cultivating the new land. They found the soil tough and matted, and it stuck to their primitive bar-share plows. Everywhere farmers were discussing their plows and what could be done to make them more efficient. Every blacksmith with an inventive turn of mind was tinkering with plows. Sometimes moldboards of cast iron were tried on the plows by way of improvement. Then it was found that polished steel worked better than cast iron. As early as the thirties, threshing machines were being discussed by the progressive, but it was not until the next decade that a good self-scouring plow was developed.

Pioneer farmers produced chiefly corn, wheat, rye, oats, and potatoes, also raising some barley, buckwheat, and garden vegetables. Because of the shortage of man-power, corn best met the needs of the settlers, as it could be harvested over a longer period of time. It was also favored because it gave a greater yield per acre than wheat. Fed to the stock during the winter, it often constituted the main article of diet in snowbound cabins. Few regions were so favorable to hog raising as the Illinois prairies, so that the settler was usually well supplied with pork.

Livestock was allowed to wander freely over the fields. Hogs fed themselves on roots and acorns. Cows strayed for miles on the open prairie and were identified by the tones of bells placed around their necks. The settlers had to fence in their crops to keep the animals out. Rail fences required too much labor for their relatively short period of usefulness to be practical, so farmers began to substitute ditches or sod embankments. In the late forties, after Jonathan B. Turner had experimented successfully with the Osage orange hedge, fencing by means of hedgerows was adopted throughout the State, to be used until the advent of wire fencing.

To the fast-growing markets of Chicago the farmers hauled their produce, selling potatoes for 10c a bushel, oats for 18-25c, wheat for 35-50c, butter for 8-16c a pound, eggs for 4-6c a dozen, and hay for $1.25 a ton. For their pork they got $1 per hundred pounds. Because of the marshes and sloughs which extended from the Des Plaines valley into Chicago, the trip often took several days or a week. When the river was swollen by freshets, teamsters had to wait until it could be forded. In 1840 the settlers of what became Milton and York Townships in Du Page County constructed a crude floating bridge over the Des Plaines to facilitate their trips to market.

For a time most of the necessities of life were produced on the farm. Household industries included spinning, weaving, quilting, and the making of candles, soap, butter, and cheese. The lot of the farmer's wife was not lightened by her lack of utensils. Because of the high price of iron-, tin-, and stoneware, it was necessary to indulge in a great deal of borrowing back and forth in order to accomplish the various kitchen tasks. The scarcity of containers accounted to some extent for the fact that dairy products were not produced commercially to any great degree for several decades. The tubs and barrels that arrived packed with goods from the East were received with double enthusiasm, for they could be used as rain barrels and "pounding," or pork, barrels.

The pioneer's daily life was a varied one. Besides erecting his buildings, cultivating his farm, repairing and improving his agricultural implements, hunting, and doing the limitless chores, he found time to set up schools, form religious societies, and enter into local government. The settler who was an artisan or merchant endeavored to establish himself as soon as possible in his own business. Besides the trading posts and mills, grew up blacksmith shops, plow works, and wagon shops.

The pioneer had his amusements as well as his work, but they were mostly of a practical nature. There were, of course, spelling bees, singing and debating societies, and a few staid dances, but more frequent were the quilting parties, corn huskings, rail splittings, house and barn raisings, and the gatherings for paring apples or pumpkins, dipping candles, making soap, or washing sheep. In fact, every homely task that could make use of more than one or two pairs of hands was turned into a communal festivity at which the usual frugality was dispensed with and feasting lightened the labor. Wolf hunts, wrestling, shooting matches, and horseracing were accepted sports, but card playing was generally considered a snare of the devil. Weddings were great social events, guests from all the neighboring settlements gathering for a celebration that occasionally lasted for several days.

Important in pioneer life were the camp meetings, held by evangelists who traveled in pairs, one to preach, the other to exhort. Among the New Englanders temperance societies were soon formed, avidly urging all non-members to "take the pledge," in days when whiskey was sold in gallon jugs for the same price as vinegar.

At the various gatherings political and religious questions were discussed freely, often keenly, and sometimes violently, and news of the outside world was passed from settler to settler. The Yankees tried as a rule to keep in touch with current events through subscriptions to Eastern publications, but newspapers and periodicals were, none the less, rather scarce in the prairie settlements. Before the establishment of libraries, pioneers suffered a sort of literary starvation. The Bible, almanacs put out by patent medicine houses, Fox's *Book of Martyrs, Lives of the Apostles, Pilgrim's Progress,* Rollin's *American History,* and Weems' *Life of George Washington* constituted the main reading matter.

Although the Du Page County area was proverbially healthful, there were some bad times in the fall and during long dry spells, when different types of fevers and the ague were common, but the frequency of disease diminished as more land went under cultivation and the swamps were drained. Soppington's Pills were the great ague cure to be found in nearly every medicine chest carried out from the East. Doctors were few, and the job of nursing the family back to health after sickness or injury usually fell to the housewife. Sometimes she employed home remedies learned in the East, sometimes she adopted methods learned from the Indians.

In the beginning there was mud. The slightest rain turned the rich soil into a mire. Horses, wagons, and men alike sank into its oozy depths, and teams were slowed up to two miles an hour. Frequently the teamster had to unload his wagon and carry its contents to firmer ground, unless a passing driver assisted him by "rolling on the wheel." Farmers pushed and pulled, coaxed, exhorted, and swore. It was a by-word in the countryside that the most fluent user of profanity got the most out of his horses.

Improved roads were needed in order that farmers could more easily transport their produce to the Chicago markets and to open up regular lines of stagecoach transportation which would facilitate both travel and the delivery of mail. Laying out road districts, the settlers elected roadmasters and sent them out to remind the inhabitants that each man must do his share of road building. In those days a man usually paid his poll tax by grading the portion of road nearest him. Disliking the labor, many preferred to donate a strip of land to be used for a road. As a

result, the neglected roads became a series of furrows which turned into bogs in rainy weather. It was many years before any permanent solution to the road problem was reached, but the pioneers early developed a system of east-west highways focusing upon Chicago.

Of the first two Cook County highways marked out by the commissioners in April, 1831, one went through the southeastern portion of the area which later became Du Page County. Called the "high prairie trail," it led from Chicago to Laughton's Tavern on the Des Plaines, passed south of Brush Hill (Hinsdale), then continued on down to Walker's Grove on the Du Page, near present Plainfield in Will County. In 1834 Dr. John Taylor Temple ran the first stagecoaches west of Chicago over this route, carrying the mail to Ottawa. That same year he opened two other routes to Ottawa, one of which passed through Brush Hill and Naperville. Identical with the Chicago - Naperville - Ottawa route as far as Naperville was the southern stage route to Galena. Also opened by Dr. Temple in 1834, this route followed the Indian trail used by General Scott in his westward march during the Black Hawk War.

The army of General Scott, taking a different westward course than its commander, had followed an Indian trail leading up to Beloit, Wisconsin. Soon afterward, the tracks left by the heavy army wagons became a pioneer highway. The route, still known as the Army Trail Road, passed through Meacham's Grove (Bloomingdale) and crossed the Fox River at a point about five miles south of Elgin. In 1836 the State legislature authorized the continuation of the road between Chicago and Meacham's up to Galena. In order to give Elgin—then a nameless community—an outlet to Chicago, enterprising settlers from there and the Grove started out on July 4th to cut a road between their two settlements, connecting with the Army Trail at the Grove. Hitching their oxen to heavy logs, they scraped out the route. When the two groups of workers met halfway, they celebrated Independence Day and the result of their labors with a hearty dinner of cornbread, bacon, and cold coffee. Their industry was rewarded when the Cook County commissioners came to lay out the State road and followed the course thus blazed. As early as the fall of 1836, the Galena coach went by way of Meacham's Grove rather than Naperville. The firm of Frink & Walker, which bought out Dr. Temple's stage lines late in 1837, maintained two other mail lines west of Chicago, one to St. Charles via the St. Charles Road, graded by settlers in 1836, and the old one to Ottawa via Naperville.

The three principal pioneer highways through the Du Page area are,

with minor alterations, in use today: the northern route to Galena as present Lake Street (US 20), the Ottawa or southern Galena route as Ogden Avenue (US 34), and the St. Charles Road.

With the laying out of the highways, taverns sprang up. Welcome oases to the weary traveler and gay gathering places for pioneer festivities, they were often uncomfortably crowded and far from immaculate. According to the rates established by Cook County officials in 1831, breakfast or supper could be had for 25c, dinner for 37½c, and a night's lodging for 12½c. A horse was fed for 25c, kept overnight for 50c. The traveler could refresh himself with a pint of cider or beer for 6¼c, regale himself on wine, rum or brandy at 37½c, or settle down to some serious whiskey drinking for 18¾c. These odd transactions were made possible by the use of currency based on the Mexican 12½c-piece, which came to be known as a bit. Teamsters driving to the Chicago markets patronized the taverns sparingly. Unless it was very cold, they slept in their wagons, ate the food they had brought along, and turned their horses into the prairie. From autumn to June there was little grass left on the prairie because of the fires which annually swept across it, and often the drivers were forced to spend some of their scanty resources for hay at some wayside inn.

The starting of construction on the Illinois-Michigan Canal in 1836 brought an influx of laborers into the southeastern fringe of the Du Page area. Completed in 1848, the canal was of vast importance in the development of Chicago as a central market, but it appears to have been little used by farmers of Du Page County.

In 1837 the ambitious plans of the settlers were retarded for a time by the financial panic which affected the whole country and was abetted in northern Illinois by the collapse of the wild land speculation.

On February 9, 1839, the organization of Du Page County was approved. The county took its name from the river which ran through it in two branches. Settlers at Walker's Grove (Plainfield) had named the river after a French trader who operated in the region of their settlement in the 1820's. The county boundaries as originally specified included the north half of two townships in Will County, with the provision that they were to be officially included in Du Page only if their inhabitants so voted at an election to be held the following August. The proposition lost by one vote. In June, 1839, Naperville was selected as the county seat. Until 1850 the political subdivisions of the county were called precincts and constituted only voting districts.

During the 1840's, when the county population averaged from two to six inhabitants per square mile, the handling of livestock was still unscientific and inefficient. The problem of housing and feeding of stock through the severe winter was a serious one in this region. Small farmers were opposed to legislative measures aimed at the improvement of stock. When the State passed a law prohibiting small bulls from running at large, many farmers denounced it as undemocratic.

As the amount of acreage under cultivation increased and the settlers came to own more and more head of cattle and sheep and larger droves of swine, the farm produce and livestock sold in the Chicago markets greatly increased in volume. No longer were farmers consuming the bulk of what they produced. Chicago in 1842 was exporting almost as much as it was importing. Farmers were raising more wheat now and taking most of it to the city, where they could get 87c a bushel, as against the 50c offered in rural communities. In 1847 about 1,300,000 bushels more of wheat than of corn were exported from Chicago.

In the decade of the forties, anti-slavery sentiments, which had been strong in Du Page County from the beginning, assumed important proportions. A few citizens—among them Jesse Wheaton—voted for James G. Birney, the Abolitionist candidate for the Presidency, in 1840, and stations of the underground railroad came, within a decade, to be established at some of the settlers' houses. In 1844 an anti-slavery massmeeting of all Baptist churches in Illinois was held at Warrenville. Delegates called for the establishment of an anti-slavery newspaper, with the result that in January, 1845, the Elgin *Western Christian* began publication. The paper attacked certain Baptist associations in the State for not standing up to the issue. According to Pease, the attitude of Illinois churches on the slavery question during this period was "fascinating because of its vagaries and inconsistencies." The Methodists did not protest against the general pro-slavery attitude of their denomination as did the Presbyterians, but by 1845 anti-slavery pronouncements made their appearance in the Methodist ranks. Congregationalists were generally outspoken in their opposition to slavery, although they, too, occasionally hedged. The Universalists were frankly against slavery, while Philander Chase, the Episcopal bishop, was repeatedly attacked for his hedging.

It was the decade of the forties, too, which ushered in a county temperance society, as an auxiliary to the State society, an educational society for the promotion of public education, the first Masonic lodge, the first local newspaper, and the first public library.

"These days," says H. E. Cole, "were circumstanced in dried apples, salt pork, baked beans, cornbread, all frequently irrigated with fluid from handy flagons . . . It was the era of phrenology, of the first sulphur matches, of cascading tobacco juice on board walks, the romantic underground railway, vast woodpiles, and whittling in front of the general store." The newspapers advertised "cholera mixture, vitalized air, pictures painted by the sun's rays, galvanic belts, Arabian liniment for neuralgia, coach-wheel quilts, buffalo robes, bootjacks, bed-cords . . . melodeons."

In spite of the resentment which some of the Germans had at first aroused among the native settlers because of their different habits and their criticism of American institutions, the immigrants had rapidly entrenched themselves in the American scene. When the Mexican War came in 1845, they offered their services as readily as any other settlers of Du Page County. Following the failure of another revolution in Germany in 1848, an even greater wave of Germans engulfed the Illinois prairies over a 12-year period. Figures for Du Page County are not available, but by the middle of the nineteenth century there were 38,000 foreign-born Germans in the State.

A disastrous hail storm which swept across the northern portion of Du Page County in June, 1847, stripping fruit from the trees in the Duncklee orchard in present Addison Township and leveling or uprooting half the crops, led to the founding in 1852 of the Addison Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, today the oldest mutual fire insurance company in the State. Another hail storm in 1854 went down in local history. The hail fell for only ten minutes, but so large were the stones and so fierce the storm that a path of destruction a mile or more wide was cut through the northern reaches of the county, and losses of the farmers ran up to $900 apiece.

Blame for the severity of the cholera epidemic of 1848-49 was laid to the widespread use of streets as dumping grounds and public hogpens. The settlers had been too busy rooting themselves in the new land to bother about public improvements in their little communities, which were, moreover, as yet too small to be able to afford such luxuries. Naperville, the oldest and largest settlement, was hardest hit by the epidemic.

The more adventuresome of the pioneers joined the Gold Rush in 1848-49. More went West in the revivals of the gold fever in 1852 and 1859, and some trekked out to Kansas and Nebraska in 1854, when those States were opened up. But the majority of the settlers were content

where they were, and the places left empty by the others were quickly filled by new arrivals from the East and abroad.

In 1848 the plank road idea, which had come to America via Russia and Canada, struck the Chicago area. The settlers were tired to death of their muddy, rutted highways. They had tried corduroy roads, made by laying logs crosswise in the earth, but that had proved a dismal failure. Now they believed they had finally found the solution to their problem. A general Plank Road Corporation Act was passed in 1849, but plank road companies had been established earlier under special charters.

Three main lines of plank roads were constructed out from Chicago. Following the course of the old stage route to Naperville, the first ten miles of the Southwestern were completed in September, 1848. Its owners made $1,500 the first month from tolls. Early in 1850 the Southwestern reached Brush Hill (Hinsdale), and by the end of 1851 it extended as far as Naperville, from which point various companies built branches to Oswego and Sycamore. A few miles east of Naperville a branch left the main road for Warrenville and St. Charles. The two other main lines, called the Northwestern and Western, were started in 1849, the latter passing through the northern part of Du Page County. Within a period of a few years the entire Chicago area was covered with a network of improved highways.

The construction of a plank road consisted of three-inch boards laid across stringers embedded in the ground and cost about $2,000 per mile. Toll gates were set up at intervals of five miles, at the termination points of each corporation's stretch of highway. The toll rate allowed by law was 2½c per mile for a man on horseback, double that for a single team and wagon, and 7½c for a four-horse vehicle. By 1851 some of the plank roads were paying 40 per cent to their investors, and the editor of the Chicago *Democrat* declared them to be the "best investment afloat." But soon the heavy planks, exposed to the weather, became warped and loosened. Wagons passing over them made a tremendous clatter that could be heard "for miles around." Enthusiasm over the plank roads died down as suddenly as it had taken hold.

Construction of the Galena & Chicago Union—first railroad line west of Chicago—begun in 1848, had been completed as far as Elgin by January, 1850. The interest of the settlers turned from the plank road to the railroad, and their disappointment over the failure of their highway improvement was alleviated by the thrilling new mode of transportation. The right-of-way passed through the middle of Du Page County. The little wood-burning steam engines clattered faithfully along the hazardous

strap rails at a top speed of 25 miles an hour, altering the entire course of events in the straggling communities through which they passed. The lot of the passenger was not always one of ease in the early days. Sometimes the engines ran out of water and he had to trudge back and forth with pails between the train and the nearest creek, or he might be pressed into service helping to fill the tender at a wooding station. Sometimes snake-heads—ends of rails loosened from their moorings—appeared in the roadbed, and the engineer would have to stop the train, jump off with hammer and spikes, and nail them down. But all in all, the railroad proved a great boon to the settlers, and in a surprisingly short time it became an efficiently working mechanism.

With the organization of nine civil townships early in 1850, Du Page County discarded its old voting precincts and set up local governing bodies in the form of town boards.

The outstanding feature of life in the Illinois of the 1850's was the passing of the frontier. In this period the farmer began to take account of himself. Instead of going along in his old individualistic and none too progressive way, he commenced to think about improving his methods. Farm machinery was rapidly being introduced, even the more backward husbandman coming to see its necessity. A desire for education along agricultural and mechanical lines took hold and resulted in the formation of societies for the purpose of experimentation, exchange of ideas, and advancement of scientific methods. In 1853, the year of the formation of the Illinois State Agricultural Society, the Du Page County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was founded.

According to the local census of 1855, Du Page County's population had reached 12,807 or an average of 38 per square mile. The census listed one Negro and one Indian. The value of the manufactured products in the 52 small industrial plants was $161,095. The value of livestock was $876,185, and close to 105,000 pounds of wool were produced. Mills for grain and lumber, quarries, brickyards, plow works, and breweries constituted the principal industries in this period.

There were in the area 72 common schools, 3 incorporated academies, and 6 private schools. Monthly wages in the public schools ranged from $16 to $30, plus board, for male teachers, and $8 to $16 for female teachers. In his annual report the Rev. Hope Brown, school commissioner, divided the 64 schoolhouses into four classes, grading 20 "extra," 20 "good," 16 "passable," leaving 8 "for the fourth class, which may justly be called miserable." The total number of pupils in the district schools was about 2,000. The school term ranged from six to eight months.

Into the educational scheme in 1860 came the county's first college, to be followed by two others in the seventies and two in the early 1900's.

From the groves farmers and villagers were taking large numbers of maple, elm, ash, and butternut trees to be transplanted around their homes and on their streets. As pioneers, the farmers of Illinois had had no time to set out fruit trees. Later they had simply neglected doing so. The Duncklees planted an orchard in Addison in the early thirties, but it was not until 20 years later that the practice became general in the State. The nursery started at Naperville by Lewis Ellsworth in 1849, was the first in Du Page County. All over the State during the 1850's farmers were finally awakening to the importance of cultivating fruit and ornamental trees. Other Du Page residents were quick to follow Ellsworth's lead, and horticulture gradually came to be important in the county's economy.

With the start of the Civil War, prominent citizens of the county took an active part in raising companies of troops. Altogether the county gave more than 1,500 men, distributed through almost 40 regiments. The county authorities spent $180,000 in bounties and for the support of soldiers' families, the township officials contributing about half as much more.

The war augmented agricultural opportunities. Despite the drain on farm labor, acreage increased, and Illinois became the country's center of agriculture. Even conservative farmers were forced by the labor shortage to use machinery, and women and children went into the fields. A revival of foreign immigration at this time somewhat relieved the labor problem in northern Illinois, however. The war brought high prices for grain and livestock, and wages rose. The size of farms began to decrease in the decade of the sixties, and stock raising to increase. Modern dairy industry is said to have got its original start in Illinois with the commercial manufacture of cheese on a farm in the Hinsdale area in 1864. A new sense of professional pride developed among the farmers in this era, and they began to form small clubs in addition to the agricultural societies.

The region was growing not only in population, production, and wealth, but also in comfort and refinement. On April 25, 1867, the editor of the Aurora *Beacon* wrote: "The school, the church and the arts are doing for the rising generation what energy, practical shrewdness and hard work have done and are doing for the present." Anxious to improve the quality of public education, the county school superintendent founded an institute in 1866 for the training of the school teachers. The

question of women's rights was beginning to assume a place of importance in people's thinking and discussion, activated by the notice received by the women during their wartime years in the fields, shops, hospitals, and soldiers' aid societies.

Back in 1855 a branch railroad line running between Aurora and Turner Junction (West Chicago) had become the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Seven years later the Burlington decided to accede to the requests of leading citizens of Du Page County's southern line of villages and lay tracks between Aurora and Chicago. In 1864 the line was completed. In the same year the Galena & Chicago railroad consolidated with the Chicago & North Western.

Of a total county population of 16,685 in 1870, 3,243 were foreign-born Germans.

In 1872-73 the Chicago & Pacific Railroad, now the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific, was constructed from Chicago to Elgin, passing through Addison and Bloomingdale Townships. The coming of the railroad immediately gave birth to several hamlets along its right-of-way in Addison, communities whose lifeblood was the dairy industry. All over the county in this period the manufacture of butter and cheese developed extensively.

At the same time, with the opening up of wheat fields in the West, Du Page County, like the rest of the region, went back largely to the raising of corn, its original chief agricultural product. Formerly grown mainly as a means of subsistence, corn now was produced for export.

The decade of the eighties brought four more railroads out through the county—the present Santa Fe, Chicago Great Western, Illinois Central, and Elgin, Joliet & Eastern lines.

After the turn of the century, as the population in and around Chicago became more and more concentrated, the making of butter and cheese was shifted to points farther away from the metropolitan area, and dairy products in the communities close to the big cities were limited to fresh milk, which could not be so easily shipped from a distance. At the same time much of Du Page County's agriculture gave way to horticulture, as nurseries and greenhouses came to dot the landscape at more and more frequent intervals.

Now began the change by which the little country towns were transformed into commuting suburbs, depending more and more upon Chicago for the employment and professional activities of their citizens, a change in which the coming of an electric line, the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin, and the automobile played no small part.

II

CITIES AND VILLAGES

DOWNERS GROVE

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
8,977 *(See p. 234.)*

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
22 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R. Two stations, one in business section.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Central Hotel, 1010 Warren Ave.; Tivoli Hotel, 900 Warren Ave.; usual restuarants.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
City Hall, 5200 Main St.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Main and Curtiss Sts.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
Numbering starts at continuation of 55th St. from Chicago at South end of town (5500) and runs north to Ogden Ave.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:
Tivoli Theater (motion picture).
Downers Grove Golf Club, 9-hole daily fee course, Fourth Ave. and Prospect St.
Forest Preserve (Maple Grove), west of village on Maple Ave.; baseball diamond in Memorial Field.
Oak Knoll Pool, Ogden Ave. and Belmont Rd.
Belmont Pool, Maple Ave. and Belmont Rd.
Tennis Courts at High School, Forest Ave. and Grant St.
High School band concerts.
Garden Club flower shows; held twice a year in winter and summer.
Little Theater Guild; three plays a year.
Washington Birthday dinner; Methodist Church.
Volunteer Fire Department dinner; Masonic Hall; Thanksgiving Day.
Catholic Church 4th of July carnival; 3 days; Memorial Field, Maple Grove.
Veterans of Foreign Wars dance and carnival; held out of doors at corner of Forest and Warren Avenues; June.

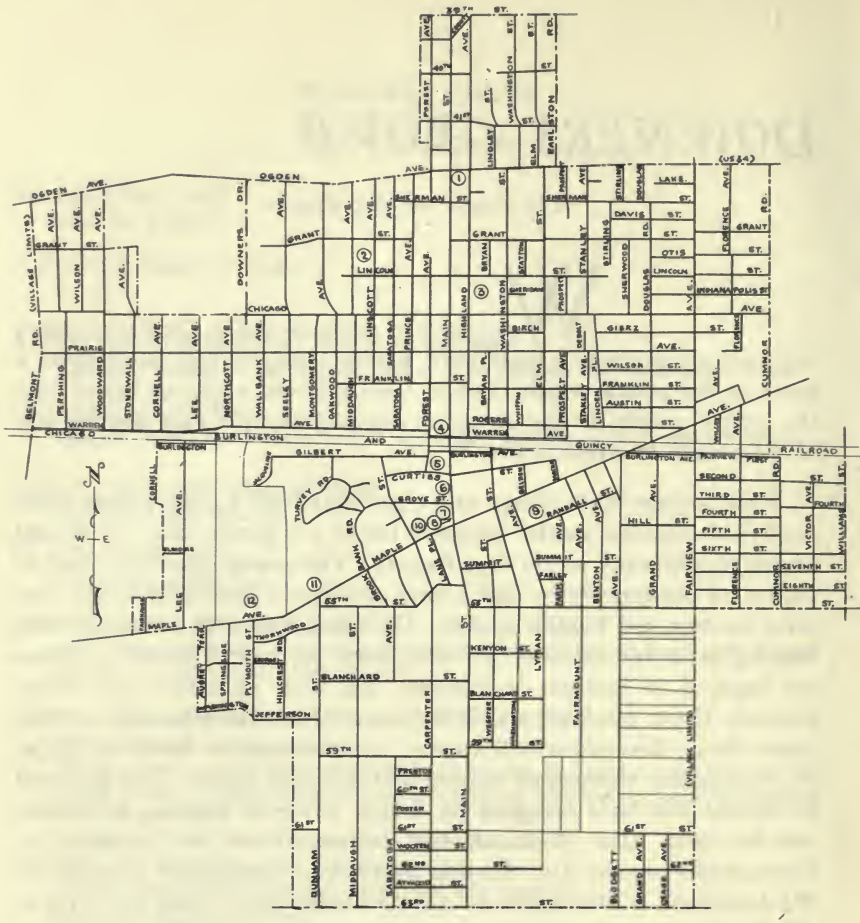
DOWNERS GROVE

The Island on the Prairie

WHEN the first white settlers in Du Page County were seeking a place to build their homes, some of them came upon a grove in the prairie which "looked from a distance like an island, and the prairie around it like an ocean surrounding it." This was the site of the present Downers Grove.

From a sleepy little village with a graveyard and a muddy main street lined with wooden shacks, Downers Grove has grown into the second largest municipality in Du Page County. The population has grown to 10,000, 15 per cent Poles, and a large number of descendants from the early German and English settlers. The town lies in the midst of a rich farming land, and many of the inhabitants are retired farmers. Others are engaged in business in Chicago, less than an hour's ride away. Downers Grove has been and is the home of several important writers. James Henry Breasted is well known, in addition to his works on Egypt, for his readable volumes on ancient and medieval history. The Breasted homestead was later occupied by Edwin Griswold Nourse, economist, and his sister, Alice Tisdale Hobart, author of *Oil for the Lamps of China,* and *Yang and Yin.* Sterling North, who wrote *Night Outlasts the Whippoorwill,* is literary editor of the Chicago *Daily News,* and lives in the Grove. Lane Kay Newberry, a painter, who joined the Chicago art group in 1921, is another present-day resident.

Inward from the periphery of the island-like village roll historic old streets—Main, Maple, Curtiss, and others—once narrow trails and mud roads, now broad and well-paved thoroughfares. On these streets are the quiet suburban residences: modern brick and pioneer frame buildings standing side by side. Maple Avenue is lined with gigantic maples grown from the saplings planted by Israel Blodgett and Samuel Curtiss when they laid out the avenue in 1838. These two early settlers yoked a team of six oxen to a huge log and drove up and down a cleared pathway 2 miles long, pressing down the prairie turf to make a well-marked trail for stagecoaches. This improvement created a short cut for the stages past the claims of Blodgett and Curtiss. Symbolic, perhaps, of



DOWNERS GROVE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. *Rogers Pioneer Homestead*
2. *Downer Monument*
3. *Breasted House*
4. *Capt. Theodore S. Rogers Residence*
5. *Downers Grove Free Public Library*
6. *Main Street Cemetery*
7. *Cressy Auditorium*
8. *Cole and Thatcher's General Store Bldg.*
9. *Blodgett Homestead*
10. *Methodist Episcopal Church*
11. *Avery Coonley School*
12. *Maple Grove*

the broad outlook of the pioneer is the wide avenue with its rows of sugar maples planted at generous distances apart.

There are other village trees that have historic interest or are unusual in themselves. A *Ginkgo biloba,* or maidenhair tree, so called because of its fernlike leaves, stands on the southeast corner of Chicago Avenue and Elm Street. The ginkgo has been cultivated for centuries as a temple tree in Japan, Korea, and China. A number of thornless honey locusts, one of them over a hundred years old, are growing on the Lyman farm, planted there by a pioneer. A single tamarack grows near by—in the middle of the sidewalk, to be exact—inspiring constant friction between practical-minded public officials and nature lovers of the village. The hackmatack, as the Indians called it, grows naturally in the marshy soil of the far West and North, so that the presence of this particular specimen—75 years old—is a rarity in the community.

Along Maple Avenue and other old residential streets the suburban charm of the village is apparent. There is a peacefulness, a sense of subdued and quiet living that makes the visitor from the city feel as though every day were Sunday. Only the occasional bark of a dog and the constant clamor of the birds break the silence.

Downers Grove has always encouraged this atmosphere of quiet. When the village was incorporated in 1873, some of its first ordinances were against noise and disturbance of the peace. A section of one law forbade "the annoyance of others on Sunday, by dancing, fiddling, singing songs, jumping, drilling, skating, running foot races, racing horses, playing ball, ten pins, billiards, cards, marbles or other games, wrestling, boxing, pitching quoits, fishing, hunting, or any amusement of like nature." A fine of ten dollars was imposed for breaking this ordinance. A similar law prohibited any disturbance of the peace by "loud and unusual noises, or by blowing of horns, trumpets, vessels or implements, or by loud or boisterous laughing, or by hallooing, bellowing, singing, whooping, screaming, scolding, traducing, swearing, cursing, challenging to fight, engaging in obscene language or conversation, or by creating false alarms, or by assembling in disorderly gatherings."

Downers Grove, like any other town its size, has its Main Street, with the usual chain stores, general stores, super-service stores, drug stores, and movie theater. It also has the Bateman Lumber and Coal Company, located at the extreme eastern end of Burlington Avenue, which has manufactured poultry and brooder houses since 1905, and the Dicke Tool Company on Warren Avenue, which occupies a building nearly a block long in the manufacture of electricians' supplies and hardware

specialties. Casper H. Dicke, the founder, came from Germany in 1881 and settled in Downers Grove in 1890. His tools won the grand prize at World's Fairs in Chicago (1893), Buffalo (1901), and St. Louis (1904). The present manager, Henry C. Dicke, is mayor of Downers Grove. As a result of the depression, Downers Grove has been without a bank since 1933. The Citizens State Bank, chartered in 1939, has not yet started functioning.

Unlike most other towns, however, Downers Grove has its early-day cemetery right on Main Street. Only a low concrete wall and a line of shrubbery separate the living from the dead. Several years ago a Chicago paper commented: "The graveyard is still a conspicuous feature of the main street, but it is conspicuous now by contrast to its surroundings. A few years ago it seemed symbolic."

Since September 18, 1915, when the village adopted the commission form of government, it has been governed by a mayor and board of commissioners. In the early part of 1939, the council took steps to create a park system. Strangely enough, Downers Grove has less park area than any other town its size in the county.

Two weekly newspapers are published: the *Reporter* and the *Journal*. The former is the only early-day local newspaper to survive the vicissitudes of pioneer times, although its numerous changes of ownership show that its existence at times was precarious.

Twenty-five volunteers form the fire department. In 1929 Fire Chief Grant Dicke read his men an account of the fire department of Portland, Oregon, which was repairing broken toys to be given to underprivileged children at Christmas time. Members of the Downers Grove department were so impressed that they, too, began collecting discarded toys to be renovated during their spare time, and every Christmas for five years thereafter they distributed several thousand playthings. At the end of that time the project was turned over to the high school, where students of manual training carry on the work.

Since the days of the circuit-riding ministers, religion has been of great significance to the villagers. Eight churches, representing Catholics, Congregationalists, Lutherans, Baptists, Christian Scientists, Methodists and Episcopalians—each with its own social organizations and activities—play a vital part in the life of the community. Organizations other than religious are also active in the Grove. The Downers Grove Women's Club has been prominent since February 3, 1897, when it was founded, with its object "the mutual improvement of its members in literature, art, science and vital interests of the day." Among its early endeavors

were three traveling libraries. The American Legion Post sponsors a 25-piece band. Three village choruses include a local unit of the Mother Singers of the National Parent-Teachers' Association, the Women's Choral Ensemble, and the Arion Singers, a men's chorus of 16 voices. The latter two give a free Christmas concert every year as their contribution to Yuletide festivities.

From the time, more than a century ago, when Israel Blodgett built a lean-to against his house, where school was "kept" for his own and a few neighbors' children, educational facilities have developed with the community. Today they include four public elementary schools, a community high school, two elementary parochial schools, and the Avery Coonley Experimental School. The combined enrollment of the four public grade schools is about 1,600; the total faculty, about 47. About 1,125 students from the village and outlying communities attend Downers Grove Community High School, which has a faculty of 35. Dramatic productions are held in its auditorium, and athletic facilities include football and baseball fields, track, and tennis courts. Of the two parochial schools, St. Joseph's, with ten faculty members and an enrollment of 385, is the older, dating from 1910, although the present building was erected in 1925. St. Mary's of Gostyn's, established in 1920 by the Rev. Stanislaus Koralewski, teaches its 81 pupils in both English and Polish.

Supplementing the work of the schools is the Works Progress Administration recreation project, with which, in 1935, the Associated Leisure Groups of Downers Grove merged. Villagers showed their enthusiasm by donating to the Recreation Center the necessary equipment, such as pianos, sewing machines, and furniture, and by establishing a governing board of representatives from 14 local clubs. Painting, drawing, pottery, the making of plastic jewelry, basket weaving, woodcraft, square and folk dancing, dramatics, ping-pong, and other indoor games are some of the advantages enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Among such surroundings the citizens of the Grove live: some prosperous, some not so prosperous, all interested in the welfare of the community, active in its undertakings, and anxious to preserve the traditional quiet and dignity of their "island on the prairie."

Founder of the Grove

Late in the year of 1832, a solitary rider drew up his horse and camped for the night at the fork of two Indian trails. He was Pierce Downer, journeying on horseback from New York to Chief Waubansie's favorite camping grounds. The spot where he chose to camp is now

bounded by Oakwood and Linscott Avenues, Lincoln and Grant Streets, in the village later named for him and the grove in which he soon staked his claim. Downer had been drawn to the Chicago area partly to seek a homesite, and partly to visit his son, Stephen, who had just finished building Chicago's first lighthouse.

Downer established a claim on 160 acres of prairie and timber land on the northeastern fringe of the grove—still a part of the village today, though streets and railroad tracks intersect it—for which he paid the Government $1.25 an acre. To mark the trail to his cabin, he seized the branches of a small sapling and bent the tree to the ground, where he secured it with a stake. This tree is still standing at 4714 Oakwood Avenue.

Where Downer had opened the land, others quickly followed. The next year he was joined by his son, Stephen, and the rest of his family. Two men, Wells and Cooley made claims southeast of the grove. In 1835, Israel Blodgett arrived and on August 14, 1836, sold part of his claim in the center of the grove to Samuel Curtiss for $1000. Curtiss put up a tavern with stables near the center of the present village and in 1838 helped Blodgett lay out Maple Avenue to facilitate stage coach traffic past their claim. The old Galena Road passed through the grove on present Ogden Avenue (US 34). Three years after Downer's arrival, every available acre of timber land in the grove had been claimed.

It was inevitable in such rapid settlement that boundary disputes should arise. Among the protective agencies organized for the purpose of keeping claim jumpers and land sharks off the claims of bona fide settlers was one which met in Downer's home. Its members declared they would consider men who should "attempt to claim pre-emption or to seize any part of another's claim as thieves and robbers," and that they would do whatever they could to keep such men from buying land in the neighborhood. Eventually, this group passed a resolution to the effect that any person attempting to jump a claim would be hanged.

Downer personally dealt with two men who were trying to annex part of his land. Wells and Cooley, coveting a portion of Downer's claim, started to erect a cabin on it. Years later Downer told the story:

> I went to Chicago one day to buy some provisions, and on returning thought I saw someone working near the northeast corner of the grove. I went home and deposited my cargo (a back load) and although very tired, went out to reconnoitre my premises. To my great surprise I found that Wells and Cooley had commenced erecting a cabin on my claim. I went to a thicket close by and cut a hickory gad, but found I had no power to use it, for I was so

mad that it took my strength away. So I sat down and tried to cool off a little, but my excitement only *cooled* from a sort of violence to deep and downright indignation. To think that my claim should be invaded, and that, too, by the only two white men besides myself at the grove, made the vessel of my wrath to simmer like a pent sea in a burning volcano. I could sit still no longer. So I got up and advanced toward them, and the nearer I approached, the higher rose the temperature of my anger, which by the time I got to them was flush up to the boiling point. I said nothing, but pitched into them, *shelalah* in hand, and for about five minutes did pretty good execution. But becoming exhausted and being no longer able to keep them at bay, they grappled with me, and threw me down on the ground and after holding me down a short time they seemed to come to the conclusion that "discretion was the better part of valor" and let me up, when they ran one way and I the other, no doubt leaving blood enough upon the field of action to induce a stray prairie wolf to stop and take a passing sniff as he went that way. But sir, they didn't come again to jump my claim.

Pierce Downer, however, possessed qualities other than the traditional hardihood of the pioneer which marked him as exceptional. His library was once the largest in the northwest. Because of his reputation for honesty and fairness, he was often made arbiter of disputes arising between early settlers when courts of law were not accessible. He was acknowledged leader of the first settlers in the grove, and his name was given both to the township, when it became a recognized part of Du Page County, and to the village which grew up round his log cabin.

Pioneering in the Thirties

The 1830's brought many settlers to Downers Grove. From the east came trains of covered wagons drawn by horses or oxen, moving slowly across the prairies. The high, well-drained grove attracted settlers because its timber furnished wood for fuel and building materials, while the prairie which surrounded it was suitable for cultivation.

The only pathways in the settlement were tortuous Indian trails that wound in and out through the forest. The new settlers set to work, first to build their log cabins and then to "mark off" their claims by carving their initials on "witness trees" at the four corners of their land.

Around his cabin the early settler built barns, animal shelters and corn cribs. He planted corn, raked hay and harvested wheat with a cradle—a scythe-like implement with wooden fingers. The first cast-iron plows used in the district were made by Israel Blodgett in his blacksmith shop.

In early days when livestock was allowed to wander freely on the open prairie, the settlers fenced in their crops. Six years after the coming of Pierce Downer, one pioneer, Elisha Smart, established a regular business of making fence rails.

The Methodist Episcopalians were the first to organize. In the late thirties two men, the most colorful zealots of their day, were responsible for the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Downers Grove. One of these, Stephen R. Beggs, was the son of a Revolutionary War soldier. He was 6 feet tall, weighed 200 pounds, had the reputation of being the strongest man in Du Page County, and possessed a magnificent voice. An early pioneer declared that his voice could be heard a quarter of a mile away, and that at meetings "he just yelled from the start." Beggs was also the author of a book called *Pages from the Early History of the West and Northwest.* He pursued his business of saving souls at any place and at any time. "Those who would not come to church I followed to their houses, conversing with them on the highways and by the wayside." The other founder was William Gadis, familiarly known as Father Ged, an itinerant preacher who came across the prairie on foot from Barber's Corners—near the present southern boundary of Lisle Township—to preach to the people at the grove, beginning his periodic visits in 1839.

The year 1836 was a boom year. Laborers working on the Illinois-Michigan canal settled along the southeastern boundary of the township, and a fever of speculation overtook the pioneers. Walter Blanchard, David Page and Gary E. Smith were among those who came about this time. Blanchard and Henry Carpenter bought a farm, part of which was in what is now Downers Grove village. Later, Blanchard returned east for a bride. He apparently did not see eye-to-eye with that other young man of the vicinity who declared: "I ain't going to pay no freight on a woman, no how, when there's enough here!"

The first schools in the grove were organized in private houses. Hiram Willson (or Stillson) taught the first of these in the winter of 1836-37 in a lean-to attached to Israel Blodgett's house. In 1837-38, a school was opened in a house built by John Wallace, and later L. K. Hatch taught a school in what was known as the "Norwegian House" or the "old shoe shop" which stood some distance west of the Blanchard place. In 1838 a schoolhouse was built near the home of L. W. Stanley on the "west side." In 1839 Norman G. Hurd was teaching a school held in the back part of a log house owned by Samuel Curtiss. This

was a private enterprise which kept going five or six months a year for about four years.

Cole and Thatcher's general store marked the beginning of commercial enterprise on Main Street.

In 1839, when Du Page County was officially separated from Cook County, the Downers Grove post office was established with Eli Curtiss as first postmaster.

The Underground Railway

The welding room of the United States arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, rang with the clash of metal on metal. The foreman stood in one corner, his muscular blacksmith's arm beating out the iron upon the anvil. From among the workmen, a young mulatto stepped forward. Fellow workers knew him to be intelligent and capable. He walked over to the foreman as though he wished to ask him something about his work, and spoke low and earnestly in his ear. He was a slave, he told the foreman, whose earnings were turned over to his master. He desired to escape to Canada, where he could live a free and independent existence. What should he do?

It was, perhaps, foolhardy, but the young Negro knew his man. Israel Blodgett was known to sympathize with enslaved Negroes. Without looking up from his work, Blodgett continued the attack upon his anvil, answering at the same time: "Travel only by night, and then over unfrequented roads; follow the North Star."

Some inkling of this incident came to the ears of the armory's managers, and Blodgett was discharged. Not at all discouraged, he left his wife and family and started for Illinois with a large party of prospective settlers. He built a cabin at the forks of the Du Page River in Will County where he was joined by his family. One day a man on horseback rode up to their cabin door leading two Negroes whose hands were tied by a rope attached to the horse's saddle. The rider asked for a drink of water. Mrs. Blodgett took a tin cup and went to the spring, which was not far from the house. Returning, she handed the water to the Negroes, and suggested to their outraged white master that whereas he was perfectly capable of helping himself to water, the Negroes were not.

When Blodgett moved to Downers Grove, he was able—in the midst of his activities as blacksmith, gunsmith, inventor, farmer and cattle raiser—to take a leading part in the abolition movement. At a time when such activities were dangerous, he established a station of the underground railway to assist runaway slaves to escape.

Blodgett was assisted in his work by other abolitionists in the grove: David Page, Robert Dixon, Henry Carpenter and Rockwell Guild. In those days the expression of a political doctrine like abolitionism could cost a man his life. Robert Dixon was told by a preacher that "abolitionists were on the road to hell." But as one historian puts it, Dixon "took no fear upon himself."

One of Israel Blodgett's sons, Judge Henry W. Blodgett, was among the first anti-slavery representatives elected to the general assembly of Illinois. Judge Blodgett was a member of the Free Soil party whose slogan was "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor, and Free Men."

Changes on the Frontier

Downers Grove in the 1840's and '50's was a typical frontier village of the Middle West. Its progress in education, religion, medicine, transportation and public services was slow and often crude; but considering the handicaps and disadvantages of being so far removed from centers of culture, the village did remarkably well. What it did not have in the way of equipment it made up in enthusiasm.

Take, for instance, the breaking out of a fire in the town. An excited citizen rushes into the middle of the street shouting, "Fire! Fire!" at the top of his lungs. Other voices take up his cry until it echoes and re-echoes down the village streets. The citizens come running to volunteer their services, a little confused at first as to where the fire actually is. Soon enough volunteers arrive upon the scene to form a bucket brigade: two lines of men facing one another, a few feet apart, extending from the nearest well or cistern to the burning building. Men and women in the background fill a bucket with water and pass it to the end men in one line. From man to man it passes up to the leader who dashes the water onto the flames. The empty bucket then travels down the other line for refilling.

Later, more effective alarms were used. John Sucher, a fire fighter, made a piece of railroad iron into a triangle and struck it with an iron bar, producing a sound that, if the stories be true, could be heard in the placid country atmosphere for miles beyond the village limits. Not until 1906 was a bell used.

The opportunity for fighting fires was considered such a privilege that twenty young men formed a volunteer fire brigade with the exclusive rights of wearing red flannel shirts and arriving first upon the scene of the fire, without benefit of salary. In fact, at one time, they even paid dues in order to belong to the brigade.

In the middle forties a site was purchased and a schoolhouse was built near the residence of F. M. Woods. Some of the early teachers were O. P. Hathaway, Mary Blodgett and Captain T. S. Rogers. "Unless some class was continually on the recitation floor," says an old history, "all could not find seats." This school has been described by one of its first pupils, Mrs. Emma J. Miller:

> It was taught in a little unpainted one story building set in a clump of trees. It faced north on the street now called Maple Avenue, then called Chicago Road. The building was heated by a long cast iron stove set in the center of the room. When the stove was too full of ashes to draw well the teacher and some of the boys would carry it out and empty it. We always had a man teacher for the winter term and a lady in the summer. Directly over the stove was a hole in the ceiling. It was a favorite pastime of the boys to climb into the attic and disconnect the stove pipe. School closed then on account of smoke. Teacher birched all the boys to get the right one.

Before the time of the traveling doctor, the pioneers picked up the art of using herbs from the Indians who had developed many uses for them. One of Israel Blodgett's sons says in his reminiscences:

> One day my elder brother Henry was bitten by a rattlesnake while we were cutting corn. I had heard of rattlesnake weed and quickly dug some up. As we came to the house a company of Indians was riding past. A squaw got off her horse and asked me what I was going to do with what I had in my hand, I told her. She snatched it out of my hand and threw it away, grunting, "No good!" Then she took my hoe and ran off and dug up another kind of weed. She bound a leaf of the rattlesnake weed she had dug up about Henry's leg above the swelling, and while the foot and leg swelled up terribly, the swelling did not go above that leaf. She made a poultice out of another kind of weed and some tea, and he got well.

The religious societies that had organized in the thirties began to build their churches a decade later. In the early days the Baptists permitted no musical instrument other than a tuning fork to be used. A proposal to install a small organ was hotly contested. As the original building was too small to allow for indoor baptism, the congregation would go to Salt Creek in Fullersburg. When St. Joseph Creek was deep enough, baptism rites could be held there, even though in winter, the ice had to be broken. Later, when a baptistry was built into the church, it had to be filled by hand and heated by warm bricks thrown into the water.

In 1846 the town was platted by Norman Gilbert. The year previous to this, a store and blacksmith shop had been erected by Henry Car-

penter and N. A. Belden. Carpenter had to sell mainly on credit. "Any one who came into his store with his shoes tied up, could get trusted." In the middle of the century the Southwestern Plank Road was constructed through the grove following the old stage route to Galena. By 1857, the town's population had increased to 1,200 people, most of whom were engaged in farming.

The Plow Boys

One day in the year 1860 a large wagon rattled down Main Street in Downers Grove. It was followed by most of the townspeople, children, and dogs. In the wagon a flag pole towered 40 feet in the air, supporting a large American flag. Arranged in tiers around the pole were 45 young men of the village, dressed in white trousers, patent leather belts, red flannel shirts, and glazed caps. The townspeople gaped and cheered. These were the Plow Boys, a political organization led by the Republican, Sheriff Theodore S. Rogers. They held banners which proclaimed: "Lincoln for President!" . . . "Vote for Old Abe." Four years before, their banners had exhorted: "Buchanan for President! Vote for James Buchanan!" Into every nearby town and community they went, banners flying, bringing the townsfolk all the excitement of a political campaign. A generation later, the sons of the original Plow Boys organized a similar group to serve during the campaign of Benjamin Harrison.

A few months after campaigning for Lincoln, the men of Downers Grove were called upon to give more serious proof of their loyalty than the forming of a political society. When Captain Theodore Rogers was commissioned to organize the first company of 100 men in Du Page County for service in the Civil War, 138 men promptly enlisted. Captain Rogers was put in command of Company B, 105th Illinois Infantry, a regiment which participated in Sherman's march to the sea and in the siege of Savannah.

Captain Walter Blanchard, also of Downers Grove, commanded Company B of the 13th Illinois Infantry. In the Battle of Ringgold Gap he was mortally wounded, but rallied his men as he fell. In his report on this battle, General Hooker said of this company: "It has never been my fortune to serve with more zealous and devoted soldiers." In an engagement at Missionary Ridge the Thirteenth, although outnumbered, captured an entire Confederate regiment.

Coming of the Railroad

Ever since the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad had gone through the central part of the county in 1849, citizens in the line of villages to

the south had been jealous. A committee had been selected from Brush Hill (now Hinsdale), Downers Grove and Naperville to request the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy to build a branch from Aurora to Chicago through their villages. On July 28, 1858, this committee filed a petition with the railroad company, which read in part:

> Downers Grove, five miles west from Brush Hill and 21 miles from Chicago, is also the center of a rich farming country which is well settled. This point would draw the business of a large section the produce of which now finds a market either at Lockport or is taken directly to Chicago by teams. The grain raised in this section of the country, which would make this its depot, during the last year was 397,560 bushels.
>
> The merchandise tonnage for the same time, to and from Chicago, amounted to 250 tons, or 500,000 pounds, besides lumber. That may be safely estimated at 550,000 feet, or 1,650,000 pounds. Total, 2,150,000 pounds of freight. The passenger traffic at this point would be no inconsiderable item.

Not until October, 1862, however, was construction on the railroad begun. The first train arrived on May 20, 1864. For a number of years only one train a day passed in each direction, and often passengers had to ride in a freight car.

Until the building of the railroad Downers Grove was little more than a crossroads hamlet. Only a few things could be purchased in its shops, and people traded extensively with John Graves, who ran a big general store at what is now Belmont *(see Tour)*. In fact, the first railroad station in the vicinity was almost awarded to the latter settlement. But Downers Grove awakened with the coming of the trains, and Blanchard, Carpenter, Blodgett, Whitney, two of the Curtisses, and several others contributed $500 to buy a station site on land belonging to John Coates. Coates was unfriendly to the railroad and would not sell short of this sum.

In 1872 a company headed by General Ducat bought 600 acres, including most of the eastern part of the original grove, and laid it out in streets, with lawns and rustic parks. In 1873 the first sidewalk—made of two-inch planks—was built on Maple Avenue. The same year the village was incorporated. Captain Rogers was elected first president; Eugene Farrar, clerk; and Robert Dixon, judicial magistrate. When a drunken man instigated a row during the erection of a building on Salt Creek, Dixon fined the offender $15. After this, anxious to set a good example, the magistrate refused to touch liquor again. A village hall was erected in 1877, containing jail cells, as well as offices and courtrooms.

The village grew steadily. An annual directory published in 1899

contained 575 names and included Gostyn, a Polish settlement lying between Downers Grove and East Grove. The Poles had settled in this area (now a part of Downers Grove) when a Polish real estate agent started a subdivision. The population of Downers Grove was 2,601 in 1910. Three years later the village had two banks, three hotels, and four major industrial units: The Kelmscott Press, Dicke Tool Company, Illinois Heater Company, and the Austin Nurseries.

In 1922 Mrs. Lottie Holman O'Neill of Downers Grove, elected to the Illinois General Assembly, became the State's first woman legislator. Thousands of women, overjoyed by this victory of one of their sex, gathered at the State Capitol to celebrate her induction into office.

The economic depression of the 1930's saw the failure of the Downers Grove Bank.

Under Miss Kate Ward the Associated Leisure Groups was organized in 1933, "to assist in making the life of the community more enlightened, tolerant, co-operative and creative." During the first year, 150 people studied economics, world affairs, journalism, public speaking, printing, wood and metal work, etching, creative writing, dramatics, puppet show technique, folk dancing, foreign languages, and current books. Under the auspices of the League of Women Voters the participants served the community in various ways.

Main Street and Minor Streets

1. The large two-story frame house on the east side of North Main St. near Ogden Ave. is the ROGERS PIONEER HOMESTEAD *(private)*, built by Joseph Ives Rogers, father of Captain Rogers, in 1845-46. The Rogers family lived in a log cabin until the building was completed. The frame is of oak timbers cut and hewn on the Rogers farm, which adjoined Pierce Downer's claim, on Ogden Ave., northwest of Downers Grove. On this farm, on the north side of Ogden, was the original site of the Rogers homestead.

2. The DOWNER MONUMENT between Grant and Lincoln Sts., west of Linscott Ave., marks the grave of Pierce Downer. A granite boulder—taken from the foundation of Downer's barn—about five feet in front of Downer's grave, draws attention to the spot where the pioneer spent his first night in this locality in 1832. Here, also. was the intersection of two Indian trails. (Path to graveyard not clearly visible.)

3. In the BREASTED HOUSE *(private)*, 4629 Highland Ave., James Henry Breasted (1865-1935), director of the Oriental Institute of the

University of Chicago, spent part of his boyhood. The house was built in 1874 by his father. After the Breasted family moved to Chicago in 1881, the house was occupied for a number of years by Edwin Griswold Nourse, the economist, and his novelist sister, Alice Tisdale Hobart.

4. At 1024 Warren Ave. is a remodeled building that was originally the CAPT. THEODORE S. ROGERS RESIDENCE *(private).* The house, now painted white with blue trim, was built by Captain Rogers shortly after the Civil War. He served as mayor, sheriff and captain of a Civil War company.

5. At 1050 Curtiss St. is the DOWNERS GROVE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY *(open 11-6 Mon., Wed., Fri.; 11-9 Tues., Thurs., Sat.; closes 1 p.m. Wed. during June, July, August).* The building and site were made possible by a bequest of $2,000 left by the late John Oldfield. For maintenance of the library, a tax upon the citizens of the village was necessary. The citizens objected to this for many years. Nevertheless, a group of public-minded women, who had yet to achieve suffrage, were able, by enlisting the support of prominent men, to get the tax bill passed on June 3, 1911. The library opened its doors in October, 1912.

6. MAIN STREET CEMETERY, a short distance south of the C. B. & Q. station, was not always on Main Street. Its location, back in the early fifties, was south of Maple Avenue and east of Main. However, Henry Carpenter, one of the town's pioneers, was obliged to gaze at a child's grave every time he opened his door, and complained that the sight made him sad. So the townspeople moved their three-grave cemetery to a sheep pasture, for which they agreed to pay $15. Ten years later, when the Burying Ground Association was organized, $10.50 of this sum had still to be raised. When the village was platted it was discovered that the cemetery faced directly on the town's main thoroughfare. In 1876, a proposition that it be moved was voted down, and the little cemetery became a permanent fixture. Many early pioneers lie buried here, among them Israel Blodgett, Samuel Curtiss, and Capt. Walter Blanchard.

7. A garage at 5208 S. Main St., a remodeled brick building, was known in the 1890's as the CRESSY AUDITORIUM. Originally built as a temporary place in which to hold political rallies, its pine board construction proved so sturdy that it was allowed to stand as a social hall and town meeting place. Here, for many years, the high school commencements, school dinners, and revival meetings were held. It was also used as a drill hall for the Boys' Brigade and as a lecture hall where Jane Addams and other well-known persons spoke. The building was

originally three stories high and was the only structure to survive a fire in that district of town.

8. A delicatessen near the northwest corner of S. Main St. and Maple Ave., occupies the original COLE AND THATCHER'S GENERAL STORE BUILDING. Cole and Thatcher's was the first store in Downers Grove, built in the late 1830's.

9. The BLODGETT HOMESTEAD *(private)*, 812 Randall St., is a pioneer structure—made of beams cut from black walnut trees—built by Israel Blodgett in 1836. It has been removed from its original site at 831 Maple Avenue to its present location.

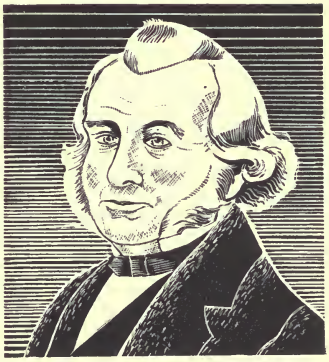
10. The METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1032 W. Maple Ave., Gothic in architecture, is one of the most imposing structures in the community. Built in 1928, it is equipped with a fine organ, an auditorium seating 750, an educational unit seating 500, a gymnasium, and a public address system. Records of the First Methodist Episcopal Church extend back to 1838, when meetings were held in a schoolhouse and the Rev. Stephen R. Beggs was an early preacher.

11. The AVERY COONLEY SCHOOL *(open by arrangement; tel. Downers Grove 800)*, 1400 W. Maple Ave., is one of the country's pioneer progressive schools. In 1911, Mrs. Avery Coonley, who lived in Riverside, Illinois, established an institution known as the Kindergarten Extension Association on Grove Street. She chose Downers Grove for the site of this school because she believed it was a place where children were living wholesome, normal lives in typical American homes. When the school was removed to its present location on a 15-acre plot of land, skirting woods, its name was changed to the Avery Coonley School. The school maintains a capacity enrollment of 200 boys and girls.

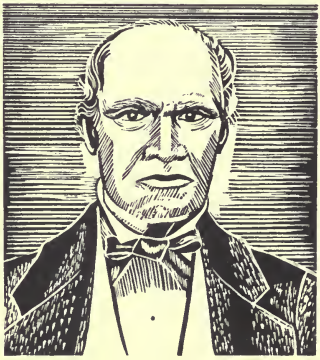
12. MAPLE GROVE (*county forest preserve*), in the west central section of the village is bounded by Maple Avenue on the south and by the right-of-way of the C. B. & Q. on the north. The grove has a souvenir of the glacial period in a kettle hole, which is located 300 feet west of St. Joseph Creek. Found in the ground and terminal moraines of glaciated regions, kettle holes are steep-sided hollows without surface drainage, formed by the melting of blocks of ice protected by drift. This kettle hole, affectionately named Eddie by boys who played here a quarter century ago, is about 20 feet deep and nearly 100 feet in diameter. It is lined with trees, brush, and flowers in season.

Deacon Winslow Churchill

William Robbins



John B. Turner



Gerry Bates

ELMHURST

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
14,055 *(See p. 234.)*

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
17 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago & North Western Ry. Stations in main business center.

Chicago, Aurora & Elgin R. R. (electric). Stations in south section.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Private tourist homes. Crane Sanitarium, 203 S. York St., accepts transients when rooms are available. Usual restaurants and taverns.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
Chicago Motor Club, 105 S. York St. Elmhurst Trade & Civic Association, 152 N. York St.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Main one centered in vicinity of C. & N. W. Ry. station, with York St. its principal thoroughfare. Minor ones centered around York St. and Spring Rd. stations of C. A. & E. R. R.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
No directional distinction between streets and avenues. Numbering is N. and S. from the C. & N. W. Ry. tracks. In the section N. of the C. A. & E. R. R., numbering is E. and W. from York St. In the section S. of the C. A. & E. R. R., numbering is E. and W. from Euclid Ave.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:
East End Park, NE. corner of city, entered from Third and Schiller Sts. Swimming pool, children's wading pool and playground equipment; when completed, will also have tennis courts, athletic fields, and bird sanctuary.

Salt Creek Park, on the creek, outside of NW. section of city, entered from Ill. 54. Children's playground and wading pool, picnic facilities which include outdoor fireplaces, tennis courts, snow slide, ice skating rink. Ice hockey games at night throughout winter.

Wilder Park, in heart of city, bounded by Virginia and Church Sts., Prospect and Cottage Hill Aves. Children's wading pool and playground; tennis, badminton, volleyball, and horseshoe courts, fieldhouse, picnic facilities including outdoor fireplace.

York Park (county forest preserve No. 1), ½ mi. S. of city at intersection of Roosevelt (US 330) and York Rds.; on E. bank of Salt Creek. Boathouse and picnic facilities including outdoor fireplaces.

York Theater, 152 N. York St. (motion picture).

York Golf Club, 2350 York Rd.; daily fee course; dining room.

Spring concert by the Women's Choral Club.

Garden Club show, usually in June.

Flower shows at Wilder Park Botanical Conservatory *(free):* Easter lilies (according to season), chrysanthemums (Nov. 15-30), poinsettias (Dec. 15-Jan. 3), night-blooming cacti (usually June 1-20).

Two or three plays during the season by The Masquers, local amateur group.

Two or three presentations during the season by Elmhurst College Theater.

Easter and Christmas programs by Elmhurst College Chapel Choir.

Annual concert by Elmhurst College Band

ELMHURST

Urban Countryside

LARGEST city in Du Page County, Elmhurst extends from the central eastern boundary west to Salt Creek. Lying for the most part in York Township, the city extends northward into Addison. The leafy avenues, landscaped parks, wide lawns, and gardens combine the openness and heavy foliage of a countryside with the trimness of a well-kept suburb. Less than a century ago this was unbroken prairie land, fringed with groves along the creek.

From the early Cottage Hill days to the present, a fortunate sense of values has prevailed among the residents. Their desire for gracious living has resisted all attempts to mar the spacious housing pattern with either apartments or commercial quarters. In all sections housing is limited to one-family units of five rooms or more. Strict zoning regulations prevent the encroachment of commerce or industry upon the residential areas, which comprise by far the greater part of the city. Houses have been well built and, usually, well designed.

There is no predominant architectural style. A number of Greek Revival buildings recall Elmhurst's earliest period; there are some houses in the colonial tradition typical of the Civil War era; and several gauche "mansions" of stone or frame are stolid reminders of a gilded Victorian past. The majority of homes, however, exhibit more recent types of design, as Elmhurst's period of greatest growth has been since the World War. Remodeled from an elaborate homestead of the 1860's and situated on a wooded acre adjoining attractive Wilder Park, the Elmhurst Public Library building is notable for its charm of line and setting, for the comfortable informality of its interior. The post office is housed in a large Federal building of modern design, erected in 1935.

This suburb of approximately 17,000 inhabitants is the shopping center of the county. While most of Elmhurst's business and professional people commute to Chicago, many operate their own enterprises in the community, in which about 500 workers find local employment. Among the 175 shops and offices are units of several national chains. Local

industry comprises quarrying, millworking, fertilizer manufacturing, and horticulture. Oldest and largest industry is the Elmhurst-Chicago Stone Company, founded in 1883. The company employs between 50 to 75 persons and does business over a hundred-mile radius. The firm of Hammerschmidt & Franzen, dealing in coal and building materials, as well as millwork, originated in 1885. The Hydralizer Company is a small concern started about 1935. The most extensive and oldest greenhouses are those of Wendland & Keimel, covering 21 acres in an undeveloped section at the east end of town. Employing about 20 men, the firm specializes in roses, shipping to Chicago and Milwaukee. Offices of the Addison Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, incorporated in 1855 and Illinois' oldest mutual fire insurance company, have always been in Elmhurst. An old saddlery building and a few aged frame taverns and blacksmith shops stand close to modern store fronts, reminders of the day when they, with the general store, carried the bulk of local trade. In the rural area surrounding Elmhurst are nurseries, a mushroom farm, large-scale truck gardens producing for the Chicago markets, and more greenhouses.

A five-story building of Bedford stone in the main business center houses the Elmhurst State Bank. Started as a private bank by Henry L. Glos in 1894, it is now the largest financial institution in the county, with total resources of more than $3,500,000. The city's only other bank, the York State, is at the south end of town.

Two bi-weekly newspapers, the *Press* and the *Leader,* are under the same management. Older of the two, the *Press* is the successor of the *News,* founded in 1894. Formerly Republican it is now independent. Its circulation is the largest among local papers in the county.

Incorporated as a city in 1911, Elmhurst is under the council form of government, with a mayor and ten aldermen. The city tax rate is a little less than the average among Chicago suburbs. Founded in 1920, the Elmhurst Park District has completed two parks and begun two others. When the projects are finished, the city will have 70 acres of recreational grounds.

Most notable civic feature is the public school system. Four elementary schools with six grades, a junior high school with eight grades, and a township high school are housed in large, unusually well-designed buildings of brick and stone, surrounded by lawns and playgrounds. Finest architecturally is the Tudor Gothic Hawthorne Junior High School, designed by E. Norman Brydges, local architect. More than 70 teachers serve a grade school enrollment of about 2,000. A department for chil-

dren with special needs or disabilities was established in 1929. Ranking among the best in the State, the high school has 60 teachers and 1,600 students.

In addition to its public schools, Elmhurst has two parochial schools, belonging to the Lutheran and Catholic churches, and an Evangelical college. Outgrowth of a seminary and a proseminary which moved here in 1870 and 1871, respectively, Elmhurst College only recently became co-educational.

The police personnel is under civil service. The department's modern equipment includes a radio system. Started in 1928, the bureau of identification has on file more than 300 fingerprints. Overnight lodgers in the jail, as well as all persons arrested in Elmhurst, are fingerprinted. Police departments all over the country have found the Elmhurst department of value in submitting information leading to the apprehension of criminals. Elmhurst itself, however, is relatively peaceful, and less than 20 persons have been sentenced here since the beginning of the department in 1925.

Since 1916, when the city took over the water system and installed new equipment, the record of Elmhurst's now 45-year-old volunteer fire department has been so good that residents obtain the lowest insurance rate issued for a community of this size.

Elmhurst's city health department is the only one in Du Page County whose record of contagion is published weekly by the State health department. Eye and ear surveys are made among the school children; records and files recently added to the health department make possible the checking for contagion of all school children, food store employees, milk wagon drivers, and workers in dairies. The Elmhurst Community Hospital, a privately owned institution, is one of the two general hospitals in the county.

One of the most influential local organizations is the Woman's Club, with a membership of about 300. Founded in 1913, it has promoted and sponsored a number of important civic developments. For many years the club has maintained an infant welfare station, and through its efforts the tax levy which made possible the establishment of a public library was passed. So strong was the minority opposition of the Woman's Club and the Citizens' Protective Association to a re-zoning proposal which would have permitted the erection of a coffee roasting plant, that although a post card ballot in December, 1938, was cast in favor of the measure two to one, the plan was abandoned by the manufacturer. Originating as departments of the Woman's Club, the Women's Choral Club and the Garden Club—which now has one male member—are self-

sustaining organizations. Also active in civic improvement is the Trade and Civic Association, with a membership of about 235. Other important organizations include The Masquers, amateur dramatic group, and the Welfare Association, administering poor relief. The Boy Scout band is the oldest in Illinois.

In 1860 there was no church within a radius of several miles. Today Elmhurst has 14 churches, embracing the Baptist, Catholic, Christian Science, Congregational, Episcopal, Evangelical, and Lutheran faiths. The Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Evangelical Church still hold services in both German and English.

About 18 per cent of Elmhurst's native-born population is of German stock; 3 per cent is foreign-born; Negroes comprise only a few families.

Ever since the 1850's Elmhurst has attracted people outstanding in the professional, business, and social affairs of Chicago. It still likes to recall that when Edward VII, son of Queen Victoria, was Prince of Wales, he was entertained here at the country house of diplomat Lucian Hagans. Although the brilliant social life which came into full swing in the 1870's has long since been forgotten, it is to the wealthy owners of the extensive and lavishly landscaped estates of the past century that the suburb owes the start of its city-beautiful ideal. Still living in Elmhurst is Caroline Wade, one of the three women artists whose work was exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, who came to the suburb as a small child in 1863. Also prominent among present-day residents are Dr. Jens Christian Bay, head librarian of the John Crerar Library in Chicago; Lee Sturges, artist; Rosamund du Jardin, novelist and short story writer; Otto Brenneman, German artist and designer; Miles Sater, artist, designer of the stamps for the Panama-Pacific Exposition and San Diego Fair of 1915; Ralph Dobbs, pianist; Dr. Harlan Tarbell, magician; and Mayor Claude L. Van Auken, railroad engineer and publisher.

The Cottage on the Hill

In 1837 came Elmhurst's first settlers, the John Glos family. German immigrants who had for some years been living in Boston, they had sent their son, John, Jr., out a few months previously to find a suitable spot for farming on the frontier prairie. Young John had staked a claim to the northeast corner of section 12 of present York Township, and to this land the Gloses now came, to build a home on the south side of St. Charles Road. A few miles northwest of them, in a grove just below the town line, were the Graues, also from Germany. Several miles south, in a grove known as the Frenchman's Woods, centering around the pre-

sent intersection of Roosevelt and York Roads, were John and David Talmadge of New York; the Torode family from the French settlement on the Isle of Guernsey; and John Bohlander. Near these settlers, on land around the present junction of Roosevelt and Butterfield Roads, were Edward Eldridge of New York and Jesse Atwater of Connecticut. The Thurston family, too, lived somewhere in the vicinity. All of these earlier settlers had staked their claims between 1834 and the year in which the Gloses arrived. Like all the other first pioneers in the region, they had taken the wooded land along the waterway. By the time the Gloses arrived there was little, if any, timber land left in the county.

School was started in 1838 at the cabin left vacant by the suicide of Elias Brown, who had settled in the Frenchman's Woods. Mary Fuller was the first teacher. Some of the earliest religious services of the township had been the "praying matches" held by Brown. The school moved to John Talmadge's home in 1839, and Miss C. Barnes became teacher. Here, too, the settlers of the vicinity gathered for religious services.

In 1842 came the man who is credited with the founding of Elmhurst, although he was not its original settler. This was Gerry Bates, born of English stock in Massachusetts in 1800, and named after Elbridge Gerry, signer of the Declaration of Independence. In late March, Gerry Bates left Ohio in a light one-horse cutter, reaching Chicago in early May. After resting a few days, he went to the land office and looked up the location of unoccupied tracts. Driving west to Du Page County, he came to the settlement of the Torodes and Talmadges. John Talmadge accompanied him a couple of miles north to look over the available land. Choosing 45 acres in section 2 of York Township, Bates consummated his purchase the next week, paying $1.25 an acre. His tract lay along the north side of St. Charles Road, a half mile west of the Gloses.

Returning to Ohio, Bates sent his brother-in-law, John L. Hovey, to build a house on the new land. Hovey arrived in 1843 and erected Hill Cottage Tavern, named both for the knoll on which it stood and for the Bates home in Ohio, which was called Hill House. Serving his guests at his own table, Hovey soon acquired a wide reputation as an excellent inn-keeper and many travelers over the St. Charles Road stopped for refreshment and perhaps a bed for the night.

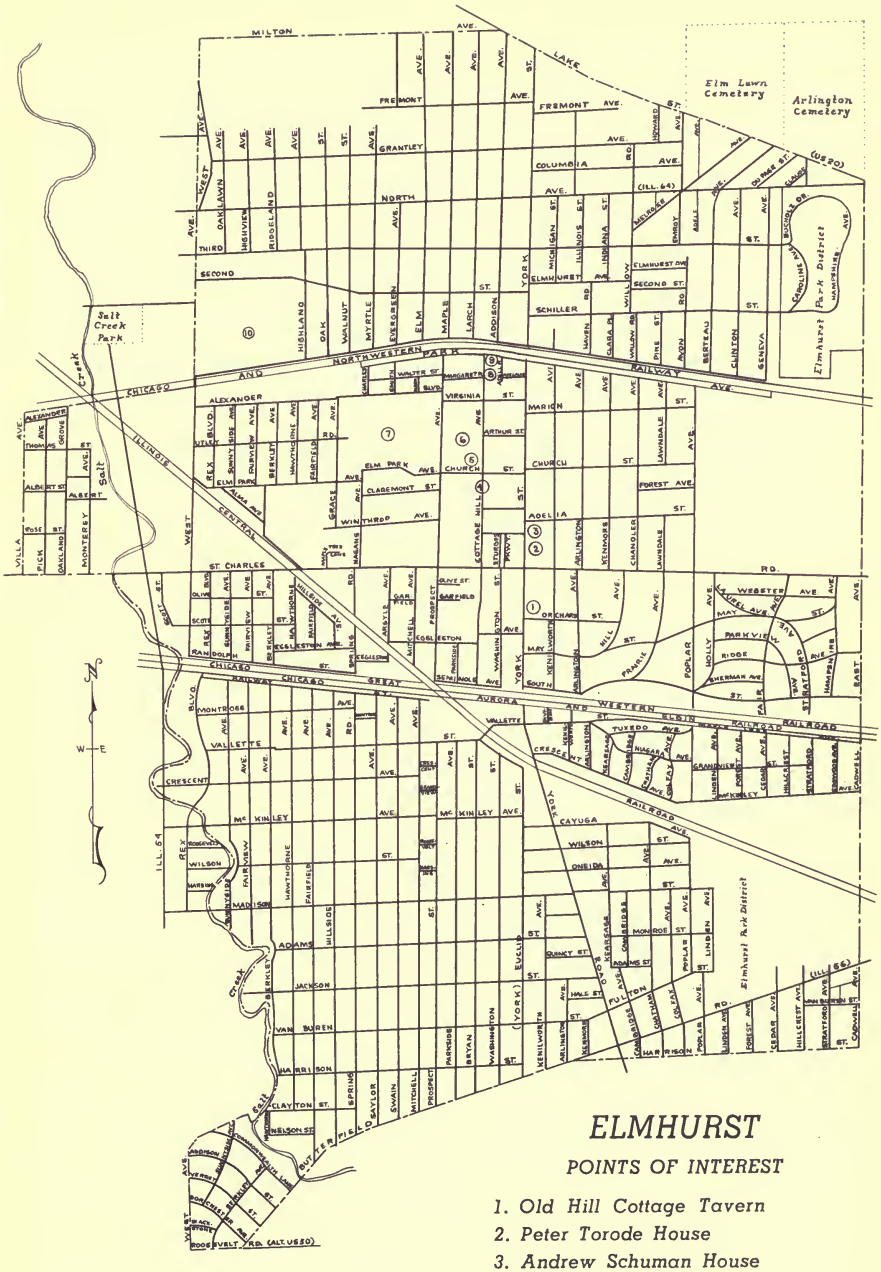
Unable to dispose of his business enterprises in Ohio until 1844, Bates did not come to Hill Cottage until the following year. In December, 1845, a post office was established at the tavern, with Hovey as postmaster. Upon receiving the petition for the office, the authorities in

Washington had suggested changing the name to Cottage Hill. Until 1868 the community which grew up around the tavern retained this name. Shortly after the establishment of the post office Diedrich Mong opened a tavern.

Edward Bonney, who became second postmaster in 1847, played a leading part in the capture of a notorious band of robbers and murderers, one of the many that infested the region during the forties, preying upon settlers and travelers over the lonely roads. In a book entitled *Banditti of the Prairies, or the Murderer's Doom!!! A Tale of the Mississippi Valley,* which he published in Chicago in 1850, Bonney described three murders and how he ran down the cutthroats. Bonney's house may have been a gathering place for one of the self-appointed bands of citizens, called Regulators, who went about the countryside rounding up the desperadoes and meting out extra-legal punishment, but Du Page County was apparently never menaced by the "banditti" of the period.

In 1848 Gerry Bates moved from the tavern to his new house half a mile north. Hovey, too, moved out and shortly afterward started building his own house. Before its completion a windstorm wrecked it and, discouraged, Hovey returned to Ohio. Bates started the community's first general store in a building erected near his house and in 1849 became Cottage Hill's third postmaster. Old account books in the possession of his grandson reveal the fact that the early villagers charged their postage stamps along with their groceries. Living and dying were both comparatively inexpensive in those days. Five quarts of whisky, for instance, cost only 32 cents, and lumber for a coffin, 40 cents. Mong's and another tavern along St. Charles Road, opened by a Mr. Bingham, took the place of Hill Cottage, which had started its long career as one of the community's most notable private residences. Later Mong turned his tavern into a general store.

In the autumn of 1849 the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad came through, over a right-of-way donated by Gerry Bates in return for the erection of a station on his property. Later Bates sold the railroad a strip of land along the south side of the first track for a carload of wood. Cottage Hill became the most important station between Chicago and Turner Junction (West Chicago). A large well was dug on the railroad property, and all trains stopped here for water, later furnished by the local water company, until about 1916. The line set up a wood depot and employed about a dozen men in unloading the logs hauled from the groves, sawing them into pieces of suitable size for the little wood-burning engines, and loading them onto the trains. The circular saw,



ELMHURST

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Old Hill Cottage Tavern
2. Peter Torode House
3. Andrew Schuman House
4. Cottage Hill Avenue
5. Elmhurst Public Library
6. Wilder Park
7. Elmhurst College
8. Gerry Bates House
9. Old Ludwig Graue Store
10. Elmhurst-Chicago Stone Co. Quarry

run by horse power, was in constant operation during the day. There was also, for a good many years, a turntable at the Cottage Hill stop.

In 1850, York Township was organized, and it arrived at its name because a large number of its pioneers hailed from western New York State. Edward Eldridge, elected first town supervisor, did not fill out his term and was succeeded by Gerry Bates. Adam Glos was first collector. In 1851 Peter Torode became town clerk, to be succeeded by Adam Glos. The following year Cyrenus Litchfield, who had settled south of Cottage Hill when he came from New York in 1846, became one of the two justices of the peace. The first public school district was organized in 1850 at a meeting held in Gerry Bates' back parlor. The first public schoolhouse was erected soon afterward. Georgia Smith, its first teacher, married Gerry Bates in 1856.

On May 25, 1854, Gerry Bates platted part of his land into town lots, the first of which he sold to Ludwig Graue, who erected Cottage Hill's first brick building and opened a grocery.

From Cottage to Mansion

In 1856 came Thomas B. Bryan, lawyer, real estate operator, and leader in Chicago financial circles. Bryan bought Hill Cottage to live in while his own estate across the road was being developed. The following year G. P. A. Healy, who has been called "the very pioneer of true artists in the Northwest," stayed at Hill Cottage as Bryan's guest and soon afterwards bought the place from him, renaming it Clover Lawn. The Healys lived here until 1863. Another prominent buyer of property at Cottage Hill in 1857 was Lucian Hagans, merchant, political figure, and publisher. Born in West Virginia, Hagans came to Chicago for three years, returned to his native state in 1860, where he served as Secretary of the Commonwealth during the Civil War, and in the early seventies returned to live in Elmhurst.

In 1857 York Township had a population of about 1,500, of which number 200 lived at Cottage Hill. The township had the largest school fund in the county. Cottage Hill at this time had one hotel, five stores, and several small manufactories. Some religious societies in the village met in private homes or in the schoolhouse, but the German Lutherans attended services at Churchville, a few miles north of Cottage Hill. The Cottage Hill station was handling more than 2,000 tons of freight annually, with receipts totaling about $3,600. It is said that up to 1860 the village boasted only one resident carpenter, John Hahn.

The John Case family moved out from Chicago in 1860 to land south

of St. Charles Road. John Case, Sr., set out a large cherry orchard, one of the first in the Chicago area. Some years later, toward the end of the Civil War, Case bought another, adjoining tract of land, on which he planted an apple orchard. During the peak years of the two orchards Case sold between two and three thousand barrels of apples and a thousand cases of cherries annually.

In 1861 a group of Catholics from the locality organized and built a small church in the southwest part of the township. Two years later the members from Cottage Hill erected the village's first church. Regular Protestant services were started in October, 1862, in Thomas B. Bryan's private bowling alley. Aroused by seeing a church in Chicago converted into a bowling alley, Bryan had determined to reverse the procedure at his Cottage Hill estate. He was licensed as a lay reader by the Episcopal bishop, and with other members of the congregation led the services when no clergyman was available. In 1864 Bryan erected Byrd's Nest Chapel on a corner of his estate, which bore the maiden name of his wife, a member of the Byrd family of Virginia.

Bryan had been a prominent figure in the Civil War activities of both Chicago and Du Page County. For his activity in raising volunteers, S. F. Daniel's company, one of the four from Du Page which, with six from De Kalb, made up the 105th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, was called the Bryan Blues. Bryan had also been a member of the first War Finance Committee in Chicago and other wartime organizations, and in Bryan Hall, the concert auditorium built by him, were held many of the mass meetings of the period.

The Civil War era brought an influx of prominent Chicagoans: Lieut.-Gov. Andrew Schuman, editor of the Chicago *Evening Journal;* Jedediah Lathrop, brother-in-law of Thomas Bryan and also a prominent Chicago real estate man; Seth Wadhams, ice manufacturer; and Henry W. King, clothing manufacturer.

The Chicago Fire sent a number of families out to the hamlet. Landscape architects employed by Elmhurst's wealthy estate owners were transforming what had been more or less unwooded prairie into garden plots filled with trees and hedges. One after another, leaders in the social, financial, and professional fields of Chicago built homes in Elmhurst, where prairie chickens were still so numerous that they were called "food for newcomers." Arrivals during the seventies included George Higginson, president of the Illinois State Microscopic Society; George Sawin, lawyer; and Francis Hoffman, Jr., Chicago's first president of the

Board of Election Commissioners, Corporation Council of that city, and United States Appraiser under President Cleveland.

Now began the brilliant social life which occupied Elmhurst's "first" citizens until well into the twentieth century. Although the hamlet itself was nothing more than a crude one-street country town, totally lacking in civic improvements, the great and near-great from Chicago and beyond jolted out over the hazardous roads, or came in comparative comfort over the rails, to attend the garden parties, musicales, amateur dramatic productions, and elaborate balls given by the owners of the big estates.

Elmhurst's first private school, which lasted only a few years, had been started about 1865. The early seventies brought to Elmhurst an Evangelical seminary, forerunner of the college of today. In 1870 it was voted by the townsmen to extend the public school term to 11 months, include German in the curriculum, and build a sidewalk from the school steps out to the street. The school expense account listed a pound of candles, three candlesticks, a lamp, a lightning rod, firewood, and eleven stovepipes. The following year it was voted to hire two teachers for the winter term and grade the school. Although the townspeople voted against the engagement of any "female teachers," a woman was hired the next fall at a salary of $30 a month. In 1875 another private school, the Cutter boarding and day school, was opened to Elmhurst's young ladies. St. Peter's Evangelical School, familiarly known to village children as "Pete's Institute," was established in 1876 and ran until 1921.

Country Becomes City

The Glos family, Elmhurst's original settlers, had taken an active part in local affairs, so that when the village was incorporated in 1881, Henry L. Glos—school teacher, and later banker—was elected president.

Until 1881 Elmhurst had no police force and infractions of the law were handled by the county sheriff and the town constable. Squire William Litchfield, who served as justice of the peace for many years, held court in the living room of his Elmhurst residence. Upon incorporation, the village elected a police marshal, and from then until 1891, when the first policeman was appointed, the preservation of law and order remained a one-man job. Fred Wandschneider, who built the village jail, using 20-inch limestone blocks for the walls, is said to have later admitted putting one of the blocks on rollers, just in case he should ever be locked up.

The dairy business was still important around Elmhurst at this time. The raising of vegetables, particularly potatoes, was increasing,

replacing to some extent the corn and wheat crops which had formerly been the chief items of farm production. Wheat, however, was raised within the present limits of Elmhurst for a number of years after the turn of the century. Everything east of the row of shops and houses strung along the east side of York Street from St. Charles Road up to Elmhurst Avenue was farmland, or still undeveloped prairie. The North Western tracks cut the village into almost equal halves. Most of the streets or walks were merely wagon tracks or cowpaths. York Street had four-foot plank walks on both sides and Cottage Hill Avenue also had a wooden walk. A few streets east of York had been graded, but loose boards placed over the bad spots were their only other improvement. During wet weather portions of the sidewalks often floated away. The village had a population of about 300 at this time, and local business establishments comprised, in addition to the stone quarry, three saloons, a dance hall, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, four general stores, one hardware store, a shoe store, two tin shops, a paint store, the small Robbins Cheese Factory, the Strange lumber yard, and a feed and lumber concern.

Three years after Elmhurst's incorporation, John C. Neltnor of Turner Junction (West Chicago) began to publish its first newspaper, the *Enterprise.* Also being published in the 1880's was H. C. Paddock's *Eagle,* an Elmhurst edition of his Wheaton *Illinoian.*

That Elmhurst was comprised largely of families of German stock and Republican sympathies is attested by the roster of the Republican Marching Club in 1888, most of whose 65 members bore German names.

A large public school was erected in 1888, years ahead of its time in both size and design. Better than statistics or factual data a picture of this fine old brick building expresses Elmhurst's traditional progressive attitude toward education and its housing. It burned to the ground in 1917.

One night in 1861, heralded by a great explosion, a spring had burst forth on the Talmadge farm, south of the village. Given the name Mammoth Spring by the Talmadges, it was put to no other use than that of supplying their farm with drinking water and irrigation until 1889. In that year a number of Elmhurst's leading citizens decided that it was about time that the village had running water, and accordingly they bought the spring, organized the Elmhurst Spring Water Company, and issued $20,000 worth of bonds for the construction of a water tower, pumping plant, and pipe lines. Similar in analysis to the well-known Waukesha Water, the water from Mammoth Spring added to Elmhurst's

reputation as a good place to live. Before the expiration of the water company's 30-year franchise, however, the capacity of the spring was no longer adequate for the growing needs of the community. Supplementary wells were drilled between 1915 and 1927, and then Mammoth Spring was abandoned.

Dr. Frederick Bates organized the first public library, of which he was librarian, in 1890, but nothing more is known of this initial venture. Later, in 1919-20, Bates wrote a series of articles for the local newspaper which, under the title *Old Elmhurst,* constituted the community's first history.

The year 1893 brought several municipal improvements. A volunteer fire department was organized; the first sewage ordinance, under which a brick sewer system was to be constructed, was passed; and the first health ordinance was adopted. Until the installation of the sewers, large sections of the village had often been under water in wet weather, while disposal methods had been primitive or, at best, semi-sanitary. A picnic held in Graue's Woods, just west of Elmhurst, netted the fire department $1,000 with which to supplement its meager equipment.

By 1894 the village population had reached 1,500. In addition to the Chicago & North Western, which carried a hundred commuters to Chicago daily, two other railroads, the Illinois Central and the Chicago Great Western, had stations here and maintained passenger service to and from the city. "Independent in Politics and Unsectarian in Religion," the Elmhurst *News* was started by Cushing & Company on January 6, 1894.

Following the trend toward more active types of recreation, both a golf and a saddle club were formed in 1900. The grounds of the former were laid out on the site now occupied by the high school and its athletic fields. When the expanding community could no longer harbor a golf club within its corporate limits, a new clubhouse and links were developed in Addison Township, to which the organization moved in 1927. Highlight of the riding season was the gymkhana held on the Hagans' track.

In 1910, when the population had reached 2,360, Elmhurst was reincorporated as a city. First mayor under the city council form of government was Henry C. Schumacher.

In 1912 the first air mail was sent from Elmhurst to Chicago, one of the pioneer air mail flights in history.

Although Thomas Bryan had died in Washington, D. C., in 1906,

the little Episcopal congregation had continued to meet in Byrd's Nest Chapel until it was finally closed in 1914.

Elmhurst's third mayor, Otto W. Balgemann, was the son of a village blacksmith of the old days. Having previously been village treasurer, postmaster, and member of the county board, Balgemann held the office of mayor during the city's period of greatest expansion and civic development from 1919 to 1931. In the decade between 1920 and 1930 the population increased from 4,598 to 14,055. It was in these years that most of the streets were paved, the municipal water works department was formally organized and the system further expanded, ornamental street lighting was installed, the park district and police department were organized, the newly-established community high school was opened, and four new elementary schools were built.

Elmhurst weathered the financial crash of 1929 and ensuing depression fairly well. Although three of its banks disappeared in mergers between 1930 and 1932, none failed.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The OLD HILL COTTAGE TAVERN *(private),* 413 S. York St., was built in 1843 by John L. Hovey for his brother-in-law, Gerry Bates. The house originally stood on the northeast corner of St. Charles Road and Cottage Hill Avenue. Thus situated on the pioneer highway between Chicago and St. Charles, a lonely building atop a bare knoll that was the highest point within a radius of almost two miles, it became a popular stopping place for travelers and farmers. It is thought that Margaret Fuller, writer and lecturer, stopped here one night during her trip through the region in 1843. James Lusk bought the house from Gerry Bates in 1851.

The list of owners and renters who followed Lusk reads like a *Who's Who,* and includes such notable Chicagoans as Thomas B. Bryan, builder of Bryan Hall, founder of Chicago's Graceland Cemetery, founder of the Fidelity Safe Depository, which saved Chicagoans millions of dollars in the Great Fire, and later vice president of the World's Columbian Exposition; G. P. A. Healy, artist; George Wheeler, real estate man; Henry W. King, founder of Browning King & Company; George F. Rumsey, grain commission operator; Mahlon D. Ogden, lawyer and real estate man; James L. Houghteling, banker; Gen. A. C. McClurg, publisher; Frank Sturges, manufacturer; and Mrs. Emmons Blaine, benefactress of education.

The original style of the house was Greek Revival, but subsequent alterations and additions have almost obliterated its former aspect.

2. The PETER TORODE HOUSE *(private)*, 331 S. York St., was erected in 1856 by the son of Nicholas Torode, one of York Township's early settlers. The architectural style is Greek Revival, the 12-paned windows are flanked with shutters. Having seen John Hovey's partially completed two-story house wrecked by a windstorm, Torode built his only a story and a half high, but later alterations completed the second story. Carl Sandburg occupied the house from 1918 to 1928, while working on his biography of Lincoln.

The summer kitchen attached to the rear was Elmhurst's first public schoolhouse, erected in 1850 and moved to its present location and status in 1857.

3. The ANDREW SCHUMAN HOUSE *(private)*, 313 S. York St., was built in Civil War days by the editor of the Chicago *Evening Journal.* Formerly located on the opposite side of York Street, near the original site of Hill Cottage Tavern, the house was moved in 1894. The bracketed cornices and hip roof are typical of the period.

4. COTTAGE HILL AVENUE, extending south from Park Ave. to the Chicago Great Western R. R. tracks, is noted for the unusual beauty of its elm trees, whose interlocking branches form a continuous arbor eight blocks long. The trees were set out in 1867 or 1868 by Jedediah Lathrop and Seth Wadhams. The two men were close friends and often went on hunting trips together. While on one of these trips they conceived the idea of their lane of elms. Each standing for half the expense, they purchased a carload of saplings and had them planted on Cottage Hill Avenue, the street on which their large estates fronted.

In 1868, when the hamlet of Cottage Hill was casting about for a new name, Thomas B. Bryan, Lathrop's brother-in-law, anticipating the future stateliness of the young elms, suggested the name Elmhurst.

5. The ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY *(9-9 exc. Sun. and holidays)* and its acre of ground adjoin Wilder Park on the south, with entrances on Cottage Hill and Prospect Aves. Founded in 1916, the library was first housed in a small room in the old Glos Building, on the present site of the Elmhurst State Bank. It possessed only 830 books, and was open two afternoons and evenings a week. Since moving into its present quarters, the library has grown rapidly, now (1939) contains 17,400 volumes, and subscribes to 55 periodicals. Registered borrowers number almost 9,000.

Built in 1868 by Seth Wadhams, who called his extensive estate White Birches, the library building was remodeled in 1936, under the direction of a local architect, E. Norman Brydges. The informal, residential aspect of the interior has been carefully preserved. Every room has its fireplace, and Early American maple furniture has been used throughout, with the exception of the Wilder Room. There, eighteenth century English furnishings include crystal chandeliers, lounge chairs, and divans.

6. WILDER PARK, bounded by Cottage Hill and Prospect Aves., Virginia and Church Sts., occupies 18 landscaped acres which formerly comprised the greater part of the Thomas Edward Wilder estate. Seth Wadhams, who established the original estate, White Birches, on this site in 1868, was an enthusiastic horticulturist and employed an English gardener, William Coney, to do his landscaping. Today the park, with its large assemblage of trees and shrubs, reflects Coney's ability. Flower shows are held spring, fall, and winter in the botanical conservatory *(open daily 8-8 in summer, 8-6 other times, exc. during shows, when open 8-9).* Gardens and lily ponds are scattered throughout the grounds. Adjoining the conservatory on the north are the offices of the park district. Just west of the conservatory entrance stand two historic urns. After the Chicago Fire of 1871 the walls of the courthouse still stood, bearing on the cornices of the east and west wings large ornamental limestone urns. When the building was wrecked, people took the urns for souvenirs. These are two of the seven which have been traced by Laura Kendall Thomas, local resident.

7. ELMHURST COLLEGE *(guides by arrangement)* lies in the heart of the city, its 30-acre wooded campus bounded by Alexander Blvd., Prospect, Elm Park, and Grace Aves. The seven college buildings occupy the south half of the campus. Oldest of these is Music Hall, erected in 1873. Second building owned by the institution, and first constructed by it, Music Hall in the beginning housed classrooms, dining hall, dormitory, and studios. The Administration Building, or Old Main, erected five years later, was completely renovated in 1923. The Speckmann and National Museum collections are notable among the exhibits of fossils, rocks, ores, minerals, mollusks, and fish in its laboratories. The co-operative store is also in this building. Irion Hall, women's dormitory built in 1911, contains the school of music and college chapel. Dedicated to the soldiers of the Evangelical Synod killed in the World War, the Memorial Library building was completed in 1921. Containing approximately 31,000 bound volumes, including 3,580 periodicals and 1,000 public documents, the library *(open Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30, 7-10, Sat. 8-1, Sun.*

2-5; closed during Christmas and spring vacations; summer hours Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5, Sat. 8:30-12) is growing at the rate of about a thousand volumes annually. Six newspapers and more than 100 periodicals are on current file. Largest gift to the library was the private collection of Thomas B. Bryan. A modern building of brick, concrete, and steel construction erected in 1922, the men's dormitory, South Hall, contains 50 two-room suites. The gymnasium, designed in the Georgian colonial tradition and completed in 1928, houses a stage and seating facilities for 800, in addition to athletic equipment. Both cafeteria and infirmary are housed in Dining Hall.

Accredited by North Central Association and a member of the Association of American Colleges and the American Council on Education, Elmhurst College is supported and governed by the Evangelical Synod of North America. Bachelor degrees in liberal arts and science are conferred. Because of the annual appropriations of the Synod, the college can be operated without a large endowment and at the same time maintain a low tuition rate. The entire plant, valued at more than $900,000, belongs to the Synod. The average enrollment of less than 300 is drawn mostly from Illinois, but other States and several foreign countries are also represented.

The student body is not self-governing, but the Student Union provides for co-operative action between students and faculty. Other organizations comprise the Women's Union, Student Christian Association, band, men's and women's glee clubs, *Goethe Verein, Le Cercle Français,* and Elmhurst's College Theatre. Founded in 1894, the men's glee club is the oldest and is comprised of 30 members. It goes on concert tour annually and has broadcast over several Chicago radio stations. The dramatic group stages two major productions a year. Student publications are the weekly *Elm Bark* and the annual *Elms.* The Student Guidance Committee and a psychiatrist are on hand to help students with personal problems.

The background of Elmhurst College rests upon two theological schools. In the early 1860's a small private seminary was established at Waukegan, Illinois. Taken over by the Evangelical Synod of the Northwest in 1865, it was transferred to Elmhurst five years later, under the name of Melancthon Seminary. Its campus consisted of ten acres of land given by Thomas B. Bryan and an additional 20 acres and a house purchased by the institution. In 1867, the German Evangelical Synod of the West founded a normal school at Cincinnati, Ohio. Reorganized to embrace a preparatory theological school as well, it moved to Evansville,

Ind., in 1870, and took the name Pro-seminar. When the two Synods united in 1871, the proseminary moved to Elmhurst, where it joined forces with Melancthon Seminary. On December 6 of that year Pres. Carl Kranz arrived with 14 students. Since Melancthon House was inadequate for both housing and school purposes, most of the students lived in temporary quarters of their own construction until the erection of Music Hall in 1873, at which time 34 men comprised the total enrollment. The original plan of the founders of Melancthon Seminary had been to develop a college, but the financial assistance that the churches were able to give at this time was only sufficient to cover the training of teachers and the preparation of students for theological seminary work. From 1906 to 1919 the institution grew rapidly; in the latter year it reorganized as Elmhurst Academy and Junior College. In 1924 junior and senior college years were added and in 1930 Elmhurst College became co-educational.

8. The GERRY BATES HOUSE *(private)*, 112 Adell Pl., was built in 1848 by the man credited with having been the guiding spirit in the development of the Cottage Hill (Elmhurst) community, of which he was the founder. Originally fronting on Park Avenue, the house was moved around the corner to its present position in 1908. Gerry Bates became Cottage Hill's third postmaster in June, 1849, and near his house was erected the first post office building. The old home is now (1939) occupied by his son, Charles W. Bates.

9. The OLD LUDWIG GRAUE STORE, 138 W. Park Ave., was constructed about 1854, the first brick building in Elmhurst. A later addition to the east doubled the building's size.

10. The ELMHURST-CHICAGO STONE COMPANY QUARRY, on W. First St., west of Highland Ave., was founded in 1883 by Adolph Hammerschmidt and Henry Assman. Its equipment is of the most modern type.

The Pre-Emption House, Naperville

The Mansion House, Glen Ellyn

GLEN ELLYN

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
7,680 *(See p. 234.)*

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
23 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago & North Western Ry. Station at Main St. and Crescent Blvd.
Chicago, Aurora & Elgin R. R. (electric). Station at Main and Duane Sts.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Tourist rooms in private homes. Usual restaurants.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
Village Hall, 498 Pennsylvania.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Main St. and Crescent Blvd.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
Numbering runs from west to east and from Roosevelt Rd. at the south end of town, north.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:
Glen Theater (motion picture), 540 Crescent Blvd.

Glenbard Golf Club, Roosevelt and Joliet Rds., a daily fee course of 18 holes.

Glen Oak Country Club (for members only), East Hill Ave. at village limits.

Sunset Park, bounded by Fairview, Sunset Ave., and Main St.: two tennis courts, a soft ball diamond and a playground.

Forest Park, between Park Blvd. and Forest Ave., adjacent to C. A. & E. tracks: horsehoe court.

Benjamin T. Gault Park, bounded by Main St. and Forest Ave., Hawthorne and Linden Sts.: bird sanctuary, and wild flower preserve.

Memorial Park, bounded by Crescent and Park Blvds. and Park Row and the North Western Ry.: tennis courts, baseball diamond with grandstand. A Community House, 662 Crescent Blvd., is in the northeast part of the park. It is a two-story frame building containing a room large enough to seat 100 people, a kitchen, study rooms and the offices of the Park Board.

Stacy Park, bounded by St. Charles and Geneva Roads, provides playground equipment, a tennis court and a small pond used for ice skating in winter.

Ellyn Lake Park, bounded by Lenox and Essex Rds. and Lake Ave.; playground equipment, warming house for ice-skaters, picnic tables, badminton courts, ping-pong tables, boating.

Stanton Stables, Butterfield Rd. and Bryant Ave., riding.

Glen Ellyn Drama Club, two plays a year.

Sunday Evening Club Lectures; five during winter at High School auditorium.

Winter ice-skating meet on Lake Ellyn.

Volunteer Fire Department Ball. Glenbard High School auditorium.

LOMBARD

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
6,197 *(See p. 234.)*

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
21 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago & North Western Ry.; station at Main St. and St. Charles Rd.
Chicago, Aurora & Elgin R.R. (electric); station on South Main St.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Tourist rooms in private homes; usual restaurants.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
Village Hall, 48 N. Park Ave.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Main St., St. Charles Rd.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
Main St. divides East and West; St. Charles Rd. divides North and South; numbers start at division points.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:
Du Page Theater (motion picture), 109 S. Main St.

Glenbard Golf Club (see *General Information,* Glen Ellyn).

Village Hall Park, 48 N. Park St. Baseball diamonds; 3 tennis courts; ice skating in winter on courts.

Lilacia Park, in the center of the village, has the third largest collection of lilacs in the world. Annual lilac and tulip show during Lilac Week, early in May; 250 varieties of lilacs and more than 135 varieties of tulips on display.

Baseball diamond and 2 tennis courts on grounds of Westmore School, Division and Westmore Avenues.

Lombard Recreation Parlor, 3 E. Ash St., 8 bowling alleys; 4 billard tables.

Lions Club Easter Hunt.

Youth Week, 1st week in May, sponsored by American Legion. Children take over Village Hall; closed by Fathers and Sons Banquet.

Lombard Garden Club flower show, usually in September; held in Lincoln School.

Annual Volunteer Fire Department dance, late November or December.

GLENBARD

Sister Villages

LYING in the eastern central section of Du Page County, respectively 20 and 23 miles west of Chicago, the adjoining villages of Lombard and Glen Ellyn have much more in common than their contiguity. At their inception they were, for a short time, one community, known as Babcock's Grove, because the Babcock brothers were the first who claimed land in the region. Their history has differed in detail; its broad outlines have been the same: the slow development of pioneer settlements from self-supporting farm centers to dormitory villages, parasitic in the sense that most of their wealth is acquired through Chicago trades, professions, and industries. Today both towns are typically suburban and non-industrial, with populations well under 10,000. Their citizens are, for the most part, prosperous middle-class people.

Both communities operate under the village form of government, headed by a president and board of trustees. The contrast between the villages is not great. Glen Ellyn is larger, wealthier, older; a smaller percentage of its citizens is on relief. But the aggregate picture of its composite parts—its homes, churches, schools, parks, public library, its police and volunteer fire departments, its modern improvements—is reproduced in Lombard on a slightly smaller scale.

Glen Ellyn's *News* and *Courier,* and Lombard's *Spectator* are Republican in their political point of view, and all three come out on Friday.

Of Glen Ellyn's 7,680 residents and Lombard's 6,197, many are descended from English New England ancestors who first settled the communities or from the Germans who came in large numbers from 1840 to 1860. About 11 per cent of Glenbardians are foreign-born, and in 1930 less than 40 Negroes lived in the villages.

Topographically the villages differ somewhat. Glen Ellyn is situated in an area of knolls and glens, while Lombard is on more gently rolling terrain.

When Glen Ellyn's history began, in the 1830's, the little hamlet was one mile north of the present business district, where Stacy Park now lies. In 1849, when the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad went through a mile to the south, the settlement moved downhill. The name Glen Ellyn was adopted in 1885, when "Professor" Thomas Hill, then village president, renamed the town in honor of his wife. Before this, the village was known at one time or another by each of six names: Babcock's Grove, Du Page Center, Stacy's Corners, Newton's Station, Danby, and Prospect Park.

Today Glen Ellyn centers around the railroad it came downhill to meet. The visitor arriving at either of the two railroad stations finds himself looking down Main Street, with its rows of stores and offices. The shops, many with English half-timbered fronts, continue for about a block on each side of the intersecting side streets. The Glen Ellyn State Bank Building—which today houses no bank—is a three-story structure of Indiana limestone, standing on the northeast corner of Main Street and Crescent Boulevard, historically one of the village's most important sites. From this point, in the Civil War era, the proud and gay Mansion House dominated the town's social life.

Lombard had its beginning when Sheldon Peck built the first frame house in 1838. Today Main Street divides the village into east and west; St. Charles Road, into north and south. The north and south sections each have their own business centers, clustering about the steam and electric railroad stations. In the Hammerschmidt Building, on Main Street a half block north of St. Charles Road, are the York Township offices. Lombard's village hall, on North Park Avenue, is removed from the business districts.

Host to thousands of visitors who annually attend its famous spring festival and flower show in Lilacia Park, Lombard is known as "The Lilac Town."

Recreational facilities in Lombard are centered about the village hall, on grounds leased by the park board. Glen Ellyn's park district, organized in 1910, maintains recreation grounds in five parks. A sixth, the Benjamin T. Gault, is a bird sanctuary and wild flower preserve, where an effort is being made to collect examples of each kind of tree and flower native to the region.

Rimming the banks of Ellyn Lake, which lies in a valley in Glen Ellyn's northeastern section, are some of that suburb's finest modern homes. Late in the nineteenth century, by reason of mineral springs in

the vicinity, the village developed into something of a health resort. Although this function ceased with the burning of the Glen Ellyn Hotel in 1906, the lakeside community still retains, because of its unusual setting, a resort flavor.

Life in the two towns follows the contemporary American pattern. Although the business and professional interests of the majority of the villagers lie outside of their home communities, all share in the local social and cultural life. Glenbardians are "joiners." From house raisings and spelling bees to gay dances at the Mansion House, social activity has progressed with the times, culminating in this century in the more formal bounds of societies of every sort. Local groups of which there are about 60, include national organizations known to every American, and clubs peculiar to the villages themselves. The Glen Ellyn United Charities provides medical and dental care for the unemployed and raises relief funds by operating shops for the sale of used furniture and other household articles. A Works Progress Administration recreation project in Lombard creates leisure time interests. A Civic Club has recently been founded with 100 Glen Ellyians as members, to take the lead in all plans for civic betterment.

A Tudor Gothic tower marks the Glenbard Township High School, which Glen Ellyn and Lombard share; and a four-faced clock tower of colonial design crowns the attractive and strikingly large junior high school building. Both these towers stand out above the treetops near Glen Ellyn's main business center. The junior high school, attended by 350 students, occupies the site of the village's first frame schoolhouse on Duane Street. Four public elementary schools, two private schools, a business college, St. Petronille elementary Catholic school—with an enrollment of almost 200—the Country Day School, which comprises prekindergarten, kindergarten and the first four grades, complete the list of Glen Ellyn's educational units. In Lombard are two public elementary schools, with a combined enrollment of 750, and two parochial schools attended by 300 pupils. A special feature of the Westmore public school is its State sight-saving room.

Katharine Reynolds, a Lombardian, made her home town the locale of her two novels, *Green Valley* (1919) and *Willow Creek* (1924). Another villager, William R. Plum, wrote the *Military Telegraph* (1882) and *The Sword and the Soul* (1917), both dealing with the Civil War era. Artists, as well as writers, have made Lombard their home. Desal S. Rao, native of Hyderabad, Deccam, India, is a commercial and fine arts painter. Christia M. Reade is a designer, chaser, and modeler in silver

and copper. F. De Forest Schook, one-time president of the now defunct Du Page Society of Artists and Writers, is a member of the faculty of Chicago's Art Institute. When Lombard boasts of Harold Gray, originator of the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, Glen Ellyn counters with Dick Calkins, creator of "Buck Rogers."

"All Went to Meeting"

In 1833, the year in which all of northeastern Illinois was ceded by the Indians to the white men, two brothers, Ralph and Morgan Babcock, laid claim to a grove that was to be the site of the town of Lombard in York Township, Du Page County. It was the custom in those days to name the various groves for the first men who settled them, so this claim became known as Babcock's Grove.

But the Indians did not at once remove from the vicinity. Two years passed before the last of them collected their blankets and horses and trailed off toward the West. When the first white settlers came to Babcock's Grove, they found that their log cabins overlooked a Potawatomi village of about 500 red men, on the east branch of the Du Page River, south of the present St. Charles Road. Here the People of the Place of Fire—as their name means—continued the old customs. At the Feast of the Dog, offerings of tobacco and cedar smoke rose pungently into the autumn air. Deer and black bears, the beaver, the mink, and the muskrat fled from the Indian lance or bow and arrow. For three days after the death of one of their tribe, the air was filled with singing and praying to propitiate the dead man's ghost, as though they were not already ghosts themselves.

The year after the Babcock brothers made their claims, another newcomer appeared at Babcock's Grove. Deacon Winslow Churchill, with his wife and 11 children, sailed from New York to Chicago on the schooner *La Grange*. Three of his sons brought their own families. This little group claimed land on the western fringe of Babcock's Grove, site of the present village of Glen Ellyn in Milton Township. For this tract, Deacon Churchill paid $1.25 an acre.

Working together, the Churchills put up five log cabins and one house of "hewn timbers and rough boards" during the first year. The next year they added two log buildings and a schoolhouse to the settlement. When the buildings were completed, a stockade was built around them, and the new owners of the land moved their possessions into their new homes. The stock was led into the lean-to, and what furniture was lack-

ing, the men made out of timber: low benches for the children, three-legged stools, tables, and bedsteads. Most of the houses had only one room; although the Deacon's own cabin had in addition to a large main room, a bedroom, a lean-to, and a loft, as well. The boys slept in the loft, which they reached by a crude ladder. The smaller children slept in a trundle bed, kept during the day beneath their parents' larger one. The main room had two small windows and a fireplace where the cooking was done.

The settlers soon discovered that the prairie offered more than tall grass. The children picked violets, strawberries, and other wild flowers and fruits. For food there were all the deer, hare, turkey, quail, and pigeon the men could shoot. At night the wolves howled around the stockade. When the earth was plowed and the grain planted, it was promptly scratched up by gophers and prairie chickens. A greater trial than this was the inevitable mosquito.

In the autumn a new danger, prairie fires, menaced the little community. The Indians were accustomed, in the fall of the year, to set fire to the prairie because the high grass impeded their view. Then, too, the fire drove the wild game into the forests where it could be easily trapped.

For a year the Churchills had Du Page Center—as their portion of Babcock's Grove came to be known—all to themselves. The winter was long and severe and forced both men and women to indoor occupations. While the women added to their store of linen, the men looked after the cattle, husked their corn, prepared timber, and split boards for future building. Hunting was suspended. "At evening," said Amos Churchill, "we would sit around the table and read; candles were used for lighting." They read the Bible, and a book called *Our Country's History*.

But the winter at last came to an end. The "boom-boom" of the prairie chickens early in March told them that the tedious winter months were over. And with the spring came neighbors.

Of those who came in 1834 and the half dozen years following were some whose names were to be closely linked with the development of the places in which they settled. Elisha Fish, who claimed land on the site of Lombard, was one of these, Moses Stacy was another. He came down the Great Lakes from New York in a sailing vessel, reached Du Page Center, and built his log cabin. David Churchill came from New York, married one of Deacon Churchill's daughters, Christiana, and built the first frame house in the settlement. Peter Curtis, Jabez S. Dodge,

James McChesney, Milo Meacham, Horace Barnes, Royal Walker, F. D. Abbott, and John D. Ackerman came to Du Page Center, built homes, and plowed the land. Sheldon Peck left Vermont in a prairie schooner in 1837, bound for the Indian country west of Chicago. He reached the present townsite of Lombard the following year and staked out a claim. Some records give Luther Morton, who built his log house near the present depot, the distinction of being the first settler on the site of Lombard. Dr. Theodore Hubbard pre-empted a large tract of land nearby. They were mostly New Englanders, tidy and hard-working.

Primitive as the social life of the time was, it was enjoyed by every settler. "All went to meeting, singing school, spelling school and dancing parties," reports Amos Churchill. More often than not, the scene of communal activities was the schoolhouse. In the second year after their arrival, the Churchills, with the help of other settlers, built the first school. It was a small log building, one story high. In the "reception room" all classes stood in a line across the floor, and in this formation, recited their lessons. There were two aisles with a row of desks and seats made of common, unpainted lumber on each side. In the corner stood a number of ironwood whips 4 to 6 feet long, and on the desk lay a black oak ruler, 1½ inches wide and 18 inches long, symbols of stern discipline. Amos Churchill reports that one scholar, whipped with an ironwood, went home to bed and died. Whether this is accurate or not, certainly the misdemeanors of pioneer children were met with severe punishment.

His experiences as impromptu host to an occasional traveler led Moses Stacy to become a professional innkeeper. Unable to turn away the strangers who came to the door of his cabin seeking shelter, Stacy built a tavern in 1837 on the south side of present Geneva Road. He moved his own cabin up just west of the tavern and used it to house the overflow of guests.

To add to the confusion of names, the area surrounding the tavern became known as Stacy's Corners. The two settlements which were to become the villages of Glen Ellyn and Lombard in Milton and York Townships, respectively, were at this time scarcely divided. With the establishment of Stacy's Corners (later Glen Ellyn), however, they began the process of separation, the one—Stacy's Corners—to develop rapidly; the other—Babcock's Grove—to follow after in a more leisurely style.

Stacy's Tavern was a low, rambling building with a Greek Revival doorway which faced Geneva Road. It was a frame house, built of lumber prepared at Gary's sawmill, on the west branch of the Du Page.

A sign swinging in the breeze in front of the tavern beckoned pioneer farmers on their way to Chicago with a load of grain. Indians, also on their way to Chicago, used the tavern as a halting place. Many stayed overnight, loaded wagons arriving late from the west and leaving early in the the morning.

The Frink & Walker coaches bound for St. Charles changed horses and deposited mail and passengers at Stacy's. Dr. Theodore Hubbard was appointed postmaster by President Polk. Moses Stacy's children were brought up in the exciting atmosphere of the pioneer hotel. The farmer coming in to exchange the latest news and gossip, the departing and arriving guest, the stranger and his tale, the overturned coach, the arrival of the mail, the constant change of faces in the circle about the great log fire—all were a part of their lives.

In 1839 a frame church was built on St. Charles Road, opposite Stacy's Tavern. It, too, was made of lumber from Gary's Mill and was of Greek Revival architecture, white, prim, with high narrow windows containing small panes of glass, lacking spire or a bell. The box pews were entered through little doors or gates. For a year before the building of the "meeting place," church services had been held in a blacksmith shop, and before that in the schoolhouse or in private homes.

The church was of the Methodist denomination, but with the liberality of pioneer days, other denominations worshipped within its walls. As yet there was no regular preacher; circuit riders served instead. Two names remain to local fame: James McChesney and Charles Gary. They were paid $200 to $300 a year, but often received their salary in produce. A circuit rider might be given a load of cordwood, a bushel of cornmeal, a smoked ham and two yards of flannel, instead of cash. He always carried a Bible, a few tracts and printed sermons, *Pilgrim's Progress* and other books, along with the supply of food in his saddle bag. He preached a fiery gospel which offered only unquenchable fire or heaven to choose between. He also discussed all the problems of the day, among them temperance and slavery. People came from neighboring towns to hear their favorite speaker. As one old settler put it: "the greatest speaker in the sarkit was to be thar. The people all thought a power of him."

There were few, if any, hymnals, so the preacher would "line" the hymn, that is, he would read two lines, then pause while these were sung by the congregation. There was no organ, of course. That was only "the devil painted red." The singing master placed a tuning fork between his teeth, withdrew it suddenly, and held it to his ear; then he

sounded the note. After delivering his sermon, the preacher went to Stacy's Tavern to be entertained.

Sunday gave the women a chance to put on their best bib and tucker. They came to church carrying Bibles and sprigs of rosemary folded in their handkerchiefs. Slate-colored silk gowns, stiff and full, with white muslin kerchiefs folded across the breast were the fashion, and the hoop-skirt was in high favor. Bonnets were capacious. The more conservative wore prim poke bonnets, but others, more daring, decked theirs gaily with bows of corn colored silk or artificial flowers mingled with ribbons of rainbow hues.

By this time Stacy's Corners had not only a church and a schoolhouse, but a factory, one wagon and one harness shop, two blacksmith shops, two stores, and a dozen or more houses. Storekeepers supplied the settlers with articles they needed, such as food, clothing, farm implements, and medicine, receiving in return, wheat, corn, sugar, beef, and bacon. One pioneer bought two pair of shoes for ten bushels of wheat, and a plough and two tin milk pails for 20 bushels of wheat. Coffee cost a dollar for four pounds.

Meanwhile, pioneer sawmills worked away steadily, rapidly bridging the gap between the age of the log cabin and that of the frame house.

Company to Dinner

For the people in Stacy's Corners as well as the rest of the State, the important events during the decade of the forties were: recovery from the nationwide financial panic of 1837, to which the collapse of land speculation and internal improvement projects had largely contributed in Illinois; the development of railroads; war with Mexico; and the discovery of gold in California. The period was characterized in the Middle West by a substantial growth in population and wealth. Criss-crossing major happenings, were local affairs. To the townspeople it was a decade of singing school, spelling bees, and company-for-dinner. Meals were enormous. There was always plenty of fresh beef and pork, venison, prairie chicken, wild turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, turnips, eggs, buckwheat cakes, fritters, stewed peaches, pumpkin pies, honey, doughnuts, cider, and clabber.

In the spring of 1840, the first wedding at Stacy's Corners took place, when Gilbert Way married Harriet Fish. In that year, the settlers of York and Milton Townships built a bridge over the Des Plaines, facilitating trips to market. Isaac Bradford Churchill, a son of Deacon Chur-

Glen Ellyn Plays in the Shadow of Its Township High School

A Coal Magnate's Estate Is Now the St. Francis Retreat, near Hinsdale

Greek Revival Was the Vogue in 1833: George Martin House, near Naperville

An Old Quarry Makes a New Swimming Hole: Centennial Park, Naperville

A Mansion of the Victorian Era: the von Oven House, near Naperville

Victorian Battlemented Tower of Wheaton College

chill, records in an old account book of 1841 that he paid $2.50 for staying five times in Chicago, that his taxes were $2.57, and that he paid 18c for one bottle of Geoffrey cordial, 25c for a bonnet, and 38c for two bushels of potatoes. A man with a team could earn a dollar a day, if he worked for ten hours.

Before the coming of the railroad, Babcock's Grove (Lombard) was regarded by settlers as a center for a future village, when the countryside should be well enough settled to need one. In 1846, Nathaniel B. Morton sold his portion of Babcock's Grove to Reuben Mink, who in turn sold it to Josiah L. Lombard the following year. Lombard's holdings of 227 acres constituted the main part of the settlement.

In 1848, Miss Almeda J. Powers taught school in Stacy's Corners. For two years previous she had taught in Babcock's Grove. Thirty children were under her jurisdiction. For her wages she collected $18—whether for a month or a term, the records do not say—charging each family according to its number of children, in the following manner:

David Whitman —— for

Warren Whitman	$1.3662
Jane Whitman	1.3662
Abigail Whitman	1.3662

For school books, the children of the sister villages had Cobb's *Juvenile Reader,* the *Elementary Spelling Book,* Daball's and Colburn's *Arithmetic* and Peter Parley's *Geography.* Their pens were made from goose quills.

Although a charter for the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad had been granted in January, 1836, construction was not begun until 1848. For some years the people of Stacy's Corners had heard rumors that a new invention was at hand, "a powerful piece of machinery that ran on iron rails and drew after it a string of coaches buckled together . . . and which went along at breakneck speed." The villagers chose a council of leading citizens to investigate the rumor, and if it were true, to persuade the company in Chicago to lay the tracks through Stacy's Corners.

But in spite of these measures, construction was begun a mile south of Stacy's Corners and the village had to come down the hill to the railroad. One of the first physicians in the vicinity, Dr. Lewey Quitterfield Newton, built the first railroad station on land bought from William Churchill. In recognition of this service, the village again changed its name, Stacy's Corners becoming for a while Newton's Station.

In the fall of 1849, Newton's Station received word that the first train over the line would leave Chicago on October 24th. Settlers, determined not to miss such an important occasion, began to leave their homes at four o'clock in the morning, and with their families and picnic lunches, gathered around the track for a long wait.

It was not until the middle of the afternoon that the whistle of the locomotive was heard. Old Deacon Landy stood in the middle of the track ringing a cowbell, while Dr. Newton, carrying an American flag, led a band of drums and fifes, and, followed by the excited citizens, escorted the "Pioneer" through the settlement, watching it as it chugged out of sight.

Excitement over the discovery of gold took some of the interest away from the railroad. In 1849 the caravans that passed the settlement took on a new character. "California or Bust" was lettered on their wagon tops. Many men from Newton's Station and Babcock's Grove joined them. One of these, Horace Churchill, died near Fort Laramie, Wyoming.

Horse and Buggy

The decade of the fifties found Newton's Station a thriving little town with a population of between three and four hundred, one hotel, two drug stores, three dry goods stores, one cabinet shop, a gristmill, a tin and hardware store, a blacksmith shop, and a lumberyard. Babcock's Grove, on the other hand, had but five frame houses, one store, a railroad station, and a hotel kept by a Mr. Parsons, and belonging to the railroad company. In 1851, nine citizens of Babcock's Grove organized the Congregational church under the leadership of the Rev. E. L. Wells, agent of the Western Home and Foreign Missionary Association. For several years the Congregationalists held their services in the village schoolhouse. They welcomed all believers to the Lord's Supper, but added: "Persons engaged in the manufacture, sale or use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, slave-holders and apologists for slavery are not included in this invitation."

At the beginning of the fifties, Milton Township was organized, and soon after the hamlet in its northeastern part changed its name for the fifth time. David Kelley, the station agent and postmaster, was responsible for calling Newton's Station, Danby, after his birthplace, Danby, Vermont. Horace Brooks, a justice of the peace, county surveyor and assessor, planted a row of elm trees on what was to become Danby's South Main Street, then just a lane on his property, which he valued at $1.50 an acre.

School was held in the Danby School with Walter Sabin as teacher. During his administration the school ranked as one of the best in the county. He was a small, awkward man, ungainly, and with one eye missing, but he was "devoted" to his work. The children analyzed and parsed "Thanatopsis" and Pope's "Essay on Man." Grammar classes were held in the evening. About two years later another schoolhouse was built—the Duane—with Henry Benjamin as its first teacher. Students were posed with problems such as: "The hour and minute hands of a clock are together at noon. When will they be together again?" Webster's *Elementary Spelling Book* was still used for the inevitable spelling bees. On Friday, routine was relaxed and the afternoon devoted to "declamations."

The first gristmill in the town, a Dutch windmill, was built on Pennsylvania Avenue, where it was well patronized. A year later, 1855, Danby was officially platted and recorded. In this year Danby folk and their neighbors at "The Grove" went to see and weep over *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* During the years before the Civil War a number of citizens showed their sympathy with the southern slaves in a more vital way than weeping in a theater. There were two branches of the underground railroad at Babcock's Grove, operating on a chain with Plainfield. Sheldon Peck's house, which still stands on the southwest corner of Grove Avenue and Parkside Street in Lombard, was one of these. The other branch was at Thomas Filer's house on present Crescent Boulevard, about a mile west. An ardent abolitionist, Thomas Filer used his basement to conceal runaway slaves sent to him, perhaps, by Professor Matlack at Wheaton. Filer or Peck would then transport the Negroes, concealed in wagons loaded with produce, to the Tremont House station in Chicago. The songs the slaves sang and the scars of lash wounds on their bodies made a deep impression on the Peck children.

In 1852 two men built taverns at Danby which quickly became the hub of the town's social life. David Kelley built the Mansion House on the corner of Main Street and Crescent Boulevard, across the street from Dr. Newton's Galena and Chicago Union Station house. Milo Meacham built the Danby House on the southwest corner of Main and Crescent. Both taverns were three story frame buildings, but the Mansion House boasted a large parlor and a ballroom on the third floor. The Danby House was the scene of many political debates. Men argued hotly the horrors of slavery or the evils of liquor.

The horse and buggy occupied a place in the social scheme of the fifties comparable to the automobile of today. Guests arrived at the

Mansion House in carryalls, chaises, and coaches from the neighboring towns of Naperville, Wheaton, and Warrenville. The women came in hoopskirts and ruffled taffeta gowns. Men wore swallowtail coats and tight-fitting breeches. Their vests and chokers were embroidered. Fiddlers provided the music, for pianos were scarce. Guests danced the Money Musk, the Sir Roger de Coverley, the Virginia Reel, and jigs. Wine was served with supper, and the more worldly used snuff.

The first veranda of the Mansion House was used to store hogsheads of beer, which were rolled across the street from the railroad station. On the west end of the veranda stood the town pump, where the farmers left their horses to be watered while they themselves went to buy a beer. Many a head was held under the town pump after its owner had visited the bar.

Also on the veranda, at any time of day, a row of men could be seen, tipped back in their chairs, feet on the railing, smoking and chewing, watching the strangers arrive.

The Mansion House veranda was not the only place where men of the village were accustomed to idle away their time. Another popular spot was the village dry goods store, a general country store, stocked with every sort of commodity from a needle to a barrel of flour. On the shelves were dress goods, woolens, shirting, bonnets, hats, caps, boots, shoes, and underwear. On tables were overcoats, overalls, trousers, groceries, tinware, harnesses, saddles, rope, spades, pitchforks, and chains. In an adjoining shed, perhaps, there might be plows, ox-yokes, and barrels of flour, salt, and molasses. The whisky barrel stood next to the molasses barrel.

Villagers gathered in the store or sat outside on boxes, telling stories, exchanging gossip, commenting on the weather, the roads, the crops, the new circuit rider, and the latest arrival in the village. Most of the men carried pipes and knives, and whittled and smoked as they talked. "With the talkers it was puff, puff, with the listeners it was cut, cut, whittle, whittle." During cold weather the general store became a sort of village club where people gathered. Past the gossipers' watchful eyes and wagging tongues flowed the affairs of the village.

Civil War

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the young men of Danby and Babcock's Grove cut short their debates on slavery at the Danby House and departed to join Union armies marching southward. The veranda

of the Mansion House was deserted; membership at the "village club" outside Charles Du Bock's store on the southwest corner of Main and Pennsylvania dwindled noticeably. Albert Janes, who had recently been appointed postmaster, went to war leaving his wife to take his place. Those who were left behind trudged over to the Mansion House to listen anxiously while the war dispatches were read.

When the war was over, returning soldiers in blue uniforms wandered up and down the streets observing the changes that had taken place in their towns during the years they had been away. The Galena & Chicago Union Railway had merged with the Chicago & North Western. Josiah Reade, who was to become one of Lombard's leading citizens, three times president of the village council, clerk in the First Church of Lombard for 43 years, and organizer of the town's library, arrived in 1864.

In Danby, the schoolhouse on Duane Street had been torn down and rebuilt. The day of the ironwood was over. Boys who climbed up on the belfry and threw things down on the teacher were smacked with the ruler for their pains. A few members of the Congregational Society, residents of Danby, had purchased the old Baptist Church at Stacy's Corners and moved it down into their village. "It took the church," says Ada Douglas Harmon, "three weeks to make its journey down the hill and change its creed from Baptist to Congregationalist."

The whole town came out to watch the moving and laugh at the enthusiasm of Deacon Yalding, who, fearing that the church was traveling too rapidly downhill, ran ahead to push it back single-handed. There was still no permanent organ, but Deacon Yalding, ever zealous, carried his own small one on his back to church and home again.

In Babcock's Grove, the Congregationalist organization had lapsed. The confusion incident to the war and the subsequent death of some of the society's early supporters were the chief causes. But immediately after the war, the population of the village was increased by many families interested in supporting Christian institutions, and on July 6, 1866, the First Church of Christ was formed. Six denominations were represented in the new church, which continued to hold its meetings in the schoolhouse. Two years later, however, a chapel was built on the northeast corner of Main and Maple Streets and was dedicated December 3, 1868.

On the night of August 27, 1869, the chapel was destroyed by what was believed to be an incendiary fire. As there was no efficient fire fighting equipment, the church burned to ashes. A new one was promptly erected on north Main Street.

The Congregationalists of Babcock's Grove, whose activities had been suspended during the war, now reorganized and formed the First Congregational Church, on October 22, 1869. All but 3 of the 13 original members came from the First Church of Christ. The Congregationalists built their church on the southwest corner of Main and Maple Streets. Between the two churches ran the railroad.

At this time, Babcock's Grove unlike its vacillating neighbor, changed its name for the first and last time. On April 23, 1868, the town of Lombard was platted and recorded, named in honor of Josiah Lombard, a Chicago banker. The plats were made by Lombard, Captain Jones, and General J. B. Sweet, each of whom chose a street to which to give his wife's first name. Elizabeth Lombard, Martha Sweet, and Charlotte Jones all had Lombard streets named after them. In 1869, Isaac Claflin was elected first president of the town council.

Begun in the excitement of war, the 1860's came quietly to an end.

"I'll Never Turn Back"

Danby folk celebrated the advent of the new decade in a manner peculiarly their own: they changed the name of their village to Prospect Park. The name was made official on July 11, 1870, but the town continued to be known as Danby until 1882.

The summer of 1871 brought intense heat and a drought to Danby, Lombard, and the surrounding country. In the fall, the Great Fire broke out in Chicago. Mattie Janes Coe gives an account of the effect of the fire on Danby as she remembers it:

> The light from the burning city was so brilliant that we, twenty-two and a half miles away, could see to read newspapers all night, for several nights *(sic)*. At the same time a fire had in some manner started in a low-lying bit of ground south of Danby, which caused much anxiety and was watched night and day for weeks, as it was feared it might spread to the adjoining fields which were literally as dry as tinder. Wells and cisterns were dry and the suffering among stock was quite a serious problem for farmers that year.
>
> The air was filled with the acrid, pungent odor of the burning peat fields, and the dark smoke clouds hanging over Chicago were for weeks the only clouds that floated in the dazzling glare of that October sunshine.
>
> Danby people rallied to help the fire sufferers. Homes were opened to friends whose own homes had been destroyed; strangers came to board . . . collections were taken at church and public

meetings . . . requests were sent out for food. I remember how my mother made hundreds of doughnuts, in the intense heat, over a coal stove . . .

Relics of the great fire at that time were found in every home, for no one went to Chicago but who brought home some evidence of the havoc wrought by the fire . . . Many of these relics adorned the old fashioned "what not" cabinets for years.

It was a period of social organization. In Danby the Odd Fellows, who had disbanded some time before, reorganized, and young women formed the Utili Dulci Society for the purpose of promoting "social and gainful" affairs for the village, such as New England dinners, bazaars, and strawberry festivals.

The Danby School began to present dramas at the Congregational Church. The playbill for one of these records that *A Little More Cider* had as its cast: Joseph Smith as E. Applejack, David Smith as Z. Applejack, James Hogan as D. Peachblossom, Clem Dodge as I. Peachblossom, and Joseph McChesney as H. Drinker.

By 1874 a patron's directory of Du Page County listed as the trades and callings of Danby citizens: real estate operator, watchmaker, jeweler, farmer, merchant, insurance man, hotelkeeper, carpenter, grocer, boot- and shoemaker, wagonmaker, blacksmith, maker of gig saddles and coach pads, and "capitalist."

Some of the lectures given in the Duane School at this time show a preoccupation with the supernatural. "Phrenology" and "Spiritualism" were among the titles. A school report of 1876 lists 46 pupils in the "Higher Department of Prospect Park," and some 75 in the lower grades.

In 1878, Philo Stacy, carrying out the hospitable traditions of his family, entertained the veterans of the 108th Illinois Infantry and the 8th Illinois Cavalry at their 14th reunion. Stacy Grove on Main Street was decorated with red, white, and blue bunting, and flags. A grandstand was erected and long rows of tables were burdened with food to feed 2,000 guests.

In the late 1870's William Hammerschmidt established the Lombard Brick and Tile Company, which for many years was one of the village's few industries.

In 1878 the Free Methodist Church was established in Danby as a result of a series of "protracted meetings" held in the neighborhood the year before. A Free Methodist protracted meeting was something in the nature of a revival, held usually in the open. Meetings lasted anywhere from two days to a week, and were attended by people of all denomina-

tions, many of whom brought their own tents and camping equipment in order to be nearby while the meeting was in session. Sometimes there were as many as 150 or 200 conversions. Among those converted were always a number of "rounders," or backsliders, so called because they "got" religion at every protracted meeting, only to lose it a few weeks later. The favorite chant of the enthusiastic, if not altogether truthful, rounders was:

I'll never turn back any more,
Any more, any more,
I'll never turn back,
I'll never turn back!

But at the next protracted meeting, they would reappear, completely fallen from grace, and ready for conversion again.

Family Album

In the years between 1870 and 1900, the American scene emerged as a "family affair." Social life centered around the closely integrated family. If the entertainment, such as straw rides, coasting or skating parties, did not originate in the home, it usually ended there, with the participants engrossed in taffy pulls and parlor games. One historian records that "sleighing parties on cold moonlight nights were the favorite pastime of young people" in 1890.

In this period, Danby became more urban in its outward aspects and began its gradual change to a suburban community; Lombard on the other hand, for many years remained more or less a country town.

The first telephone—at Boyd's hardware store—had been installed in 1880. A year later the first library was started. An agent for Harper & Brothers—the principal publishers of the time—sold 100 volumes for $100 to 20 citizens, each of whom paid $5. The hundred books were stored in an old walnut bookcase in the basement of the Congregational Church. The founders called themselves the Prospect Park Library Association. On July 1st, Danby was incorporated as the village of Prospect Park. J. R. McChesney was elected first village president with a board of seven trustees, and William Luther was made first village clerk.

Three years later the village changed its name for the last time. Thomas E. Hill, village president, was instrumental in naming the town Glen Ellyn, in honor of his wife, Ellyn Hill. Mrs. Hill is described as being the envy of the town. She "was a dainty little woman whose fine diamonds, real lace and shimmering silk gowns were the despair of the

other women in the village. Professor Hill wore a plum colored overcoat with a cape to it and a black slouch hat."

School life in the two villages reflected home teachings. In the morning, before classes, there would be a brief religious exercise, usually a Bible reading, a prayer or a song. At the 15-minute recess boys played "hornaway" or marbles in the school yard. Girls wept over *Elsie Dinsmore,* and *Little Women* which they concealed behind their schoolbooks, while the boys devoured Oliver Optic, the Rollo Books and the novels of Jules Verne and J. T. Trowbridge. At home, their elders read Margaret Deland's *John Ward, Preacher,* Mrs. Humphrey Ward's *Robert Elsner,* the *Lives of the Presidents,* U. S. Grant's *Personal Memoirs,* and *Over the Hill to the Poorhouse.* Tennyson was popular, but Walt Whitman and Herman Melville were unknown.

"Numbers," geography, reading, and writing were the stock subjects for study. Pupils were expected to recite each morning such verses as:

When bright the day is breaking,
And school day bells are waking,
With joy our homes forsaking,
We hail our pleasant school.

Not until 1894-95 was a high school course started, and that a very loose one. The first commencement of the Glen Ellyn High School at the Congregational Church, June 15, 1894, found the graduates reading their own essays on subjects such as "Good Humor," "The Geometry of Life," and "National Reform, a Pressing Necessity."

Toward the end of the eighties, people from Chicago began using Glen Ellyn as a resort. Glen Ellyn people in turn began taking trips into the city to see Modjeska, John McCullough, and performances of *Pinafore.* Ada Douglas Harmon says of Glen Ellyn at this time: "The little village with its New England flavor lost its simple Puritan character and became a summer resort."

Black Maria

With its change in function, Glen Ellyn began in the nineties to find a number of improvements necessary to making itself pleasant as a summer resort. The first of these projects was the creating of Lake Ellyn. The Glen Ellyn Hotel and Spring Company, which had been organized by Baker, Riford and Goodridge in 1890, acquired title to 116 acres of land within the village limits, and gave Glen Ellyn part of it for a park. Thomas Hill landscaped the grounds and planned an artificial lake to be called Lake Ellyn. Philo Stacy superintended the excavation and con-

struction of a dam, for which villagers had pledged $2,500. The lake was dug on land that had once been used as a ballpark by boys of the village.

In 1893—after a man from another town had fallen through the boardwalk on Main Street, Glen Ellyn, broken his leg, sued the town for $500, and collected it—the sidewalks were kept in better repair. The outcome of the suit amused the more ironical townsfolk because the village fathers, who had always been a bit "cautious" about spending money for public repairs, had to appropriate $500 for the cost of damages due to their own economies.

A further sign of sophistication was the organizing of a country club and the building of a clubhouse on Hill Avenue. Here members could ride and dance, and play tennis, baseball, croquet, and even polo. A drugstore had come to the village, and in 1895 telephone service was established. In the fall of that year the Glen Ellyn Woman's Club organized as a Study Club with nine members. Later, the first kindergarten was organized in the basement of the Congregational Church by Mrs. Charles H. Kerr.

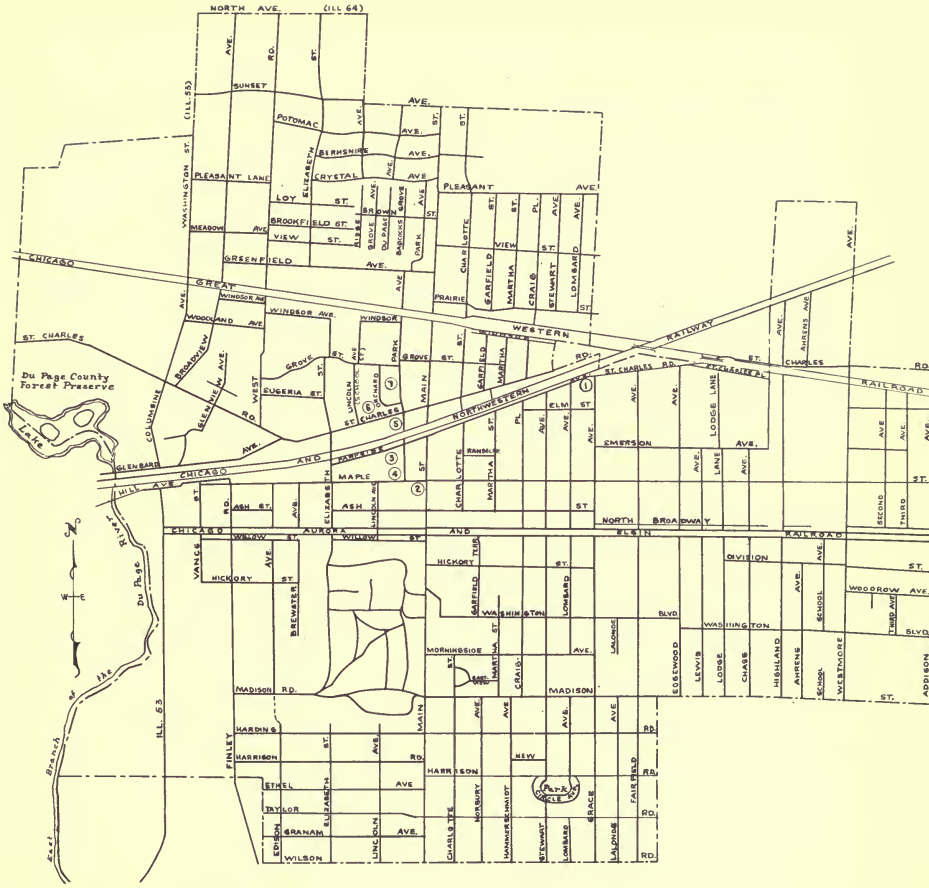
In spite of urban advances, Glen Ellyn still retained many of the characteristics of a small country town. A creek ran through the center of the village, crossing Pennsylvania and Forest Avenues, and over the north end was an old red bridge with railings on either side. Here the boys of the village found their best playgrounds, and dug for crawfish, of which there seemed to be an inexhaustible supply.

One of the town's institutions was "Black Maria," a large bus owned by Nadelhoffer's Livery Stable and used by the women as a conveyance. Black Maria was " a black and melancholy vehicle," but was seen on all important occasions. She carried guests to weddings, pall bearers to funerals, and crowds of people to affairs. "She was a comfort and a mainstay on a wet day. In fact she entered intimately into all the affairs of our lives."

Lombard did not begin to make her public improvements until the twentieth century, but already, by the end of the nineties, Glen Ellyn had become a gay summer resort, its hotels filled with guests from Chicago and other points in the State.

Twentieth Century

The twentieth century found the villages of Glen Ellyn and Lombard with no sidewalks except wooden ones, mud filled streets which were lower than the sidewalks (customers had to walk up and down



LOMBARD

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. *Sheldon Peck House*
2. *First Church of Lombard (Cong't'l)*
3. *Lilacia Park*
4. *Helen M. Plum Memorial Library*
5. *O'Connor Building*
6. *Old Cushing Home*
7. *Village Hall*

various levels of steps to reach different store levels), no adequate fire control or public water facilities, no street lights, and only kerosene lamps for domestic lighting.

In the period between 1900 and 1930, the increase in population enabled both towns to take advantage of the advances of science, bringing about complete modernization. Development, in general was similar, but differed in specific instances.

In the second year of the new century, the Aurora, Elgin & Chicago Electric Railroad was built through the village of Glen Ellyn. Two years later the first automobile to be seen in the town was bought by S. T. Jacobs. "It was painted red and the springs were none too good." From then on, horses went slowly out of fashion, and buses came in. Pastures became subdivisions, and the town's major business of grain shifted to coal and lumber.

In 1903 Ruskin College, a Socialist institution founded in Ruskin, Tennessee, and later moved to Missouri, was established in Glen Ellyn. "Ruskin Rays," a bulletin for October, 1904, stated that the purpose of the college was to combine "honest toil" with education. The first page of the bulletin listed as college departments: the Ruskin University, Ruskin Sanitarium, Ruskin University Press, Ruskin Industrial Guild, Ruskin Industrial Bank, and the Ruskin Co-operative Association. The latter two institutions were housed in the old Elders Building which was pulled down in 1926 to make way for the Glen Ellyn State Bank Building. The Ruskin Novelty Works and Engineering Laboratory were established in the old Duane Street School on Crescent Boulevard; and the Ruskin University Press operated in the church built in 1839 at Stacy's Corners, now also on Crescent.

The president of the college persuaded Isaac A. Poole, a botanist, to come to Glen Ellyn and take charge of the botanical work. Poole lived and worked until his death—except for a brief interval in the county poor farm—in a shack across the road from the Kettlestring house on Crescent Boulevard. He claimed to have antedated some of Burbank's discoveries; he did develop a beautiful iris, white with blue border and a tall stem, many specimens of which are seen today in Glen Ellyn's gardens.

The college closed its doors following a student strike protesting capitalist donations.

The town's first newspaper, the Glen Ellyn *Echo,* was published by the Men's Club in 1905. The following year another newspaper, the

Glen Ellyn *Enterprise,* was started by Wade Garfield, a young lawyer. The population at that time was 1,500.

Several new businesses were started before 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stanton established Sittyton Farm on Butterfield Road at the corner of Bryant Avenue, and raised shorthorn cattle. They raised one of the highest priced shorthorn heifers ever sold in the world—Sittyton Queen—which was sold in Argentina for $35,000. George Ball started a greenhouse; Otto and Herman Miller opened the Glen Ellyn Auto Company in an ice-house on Crescent Boulevard next to the Glen Ellyn State Bank. "It would only hold one car," said Otto Miller of his pioneer garage, "but we did most of the work outside under a tree. There were only four cars in town then . . . but there was enough to keep us busy. We had to tow them in with horses but they never got far those days, only about half way to Naperville, or out to the Great Western tracks." By 1928, 1,600 automobiles were owned in the village.

In 1911 the Study Club's efforts to abolish saloons met with success and saloon doors were officially closed on February 14.

Civic improvements followed rapidly: a sewage system was installed, and gas and electric light were made available. Street paving was begun. A village orchestra was started. Glen Ellyn's population grew to 2,000.

Around this time villagers were fascinated by the sight of movies in the making. A cinema company, replete with actors, Indians, covered wagons, and horses, camped on the edge of Lake Ellyn to film a version of the Black Hawk War. Townsfolk went down to watch frontiersmen's wagons being pulled out of the lake by horses that waded and struggled through the water and up the steep bank of Honeysuckle Hill, "with Indians on ponies whooping and yelling in full chase."

By 1926, the population of Glen Ellyn had increased to 6,000. There were 924 grade school pupils and 485 high school students. The Glenbard High School at its 12th commencement in June 1928, graduated 83 seniors. In the national elections of that year there were 3,546 votes for Hoover, 711 for Smith.

Lombard's advances were of a nature similar to its neighbor's across the township line. On August 25, 1903, a special election was held for the purpose of organizing the town of Lombard as a village. There were 74 votes cast, 52 for and 22 against. On the 19th of October, the incorporation proceedings were completed. An ordinance passed in this year prohibited speeding over eight miles per hour.

The first public waterworks was built in 1905, and a municipal well, with a capacity of 475 gallons per minute, was drilled to a depth of 84 feet. Water mains were laid on the streets in 1906, and the reservoir tank that is seen from miles around was built the following year.

A few years later Lombard business men established a Lions Club. The Lombard Sanitarium was founded at Main Street and Roosevelt Road, and in 1915 the Lombard Women's Club organized, its object "the intellectual advancement of its members, the promotion of higher social, educational and moral conditions in the community and a united effort toward the higher development of humanity."

In June, 1927, the Lombard Park District was organized. Five commissioners and a president, William Ralph Plum, were elected at the first park board meeting. Colonel Plum died in that year and left his estate to the village to be used as a public park. He had been devoted to his hobby of collecting lilacs, and the town's first lilac festival was held three years after his death, in the park he had given.

In 1934, more than half a century after the founding of their company, the Hammerschmidt family stopped manufacturing tile and brick and started selling lumber and coal.

The Lombard Beautification Committee was organized in 1933 for the purpose of eliminating or minimizing public eyesores, such as automobile grave-yards and general dumping grounds. Committee members are drawn from 14 of Lombard's major organizations. The committee receives or formulates constructive plans for local beautification or conservation. Plans, when drawn up and in blue print, are turned over to the county forest preserve superintendent for tentative projects.

"Memory Lane" on North Main Street south of North Avenue, represents some of the finest work the Committee has done. Fifty-eight fine elm trees were planted here in honor of deceased residents of Lombard. Among the citizens so honored were Col. William R. Plum, soldier, lawyer, traveler, and horticulturist; his wife, Helen M. Plum; Allen B. Wrisley; Mrs. E. J. Andrews, founder of the Lombard Women's Club and the Lombard Garden Club; Josiah T. Reade, teacher, scholar, and founder of the Lombard Free Library; and many others outstanding in the civic life of Lombard. In years to come Memory Lane will be the most beautiful approach to the town.

Points of Interest in Lombard

1. The SHELDON PECK HOUSE *(private)*, southwest corner Grace Ave. and Parkside St., was built in 1838 by Lombard's pioneer settler and

used as an underground railroad station prior to the Civil War. Of nondescript architecture due to numerous additions and alterations, the dwelling still makes a comfortable home for the fifth generation of the Peck family. The last alterations were made in 1910 by Frank Peck, who raised the roof and removed the wings from either side. In the basement the dirt wall has been plastered over, but the bark-covered log sleepers are still visible. The hewn timber of the outer walls has been covered with a buff stucco.

Of Sheldon Peck's 12 children, Charles, born in Vermont in 1827, was a noted painter, one of the founders of the Chicago Academy of Design, predecessor of the Art Institute.

In 1849, at the age of 22, Charles Peck set out for California with his brother John. It was on this trip that his interest in western scenery was awakened, an interest which later found expression in his paintings, some of which attained national fame. One of his most notable works was the "Panorama of California," a mammoth folding canvas painted in the early fifties. Peck toured the country exhibiting it, accompanying its unfolding with a lecture. The following description appeared in the *Democratic Press* of Chicago in 1853:

> It contains 2,460 yards of canvas, nine feet in width; and on exhibition shows scenes eighteen feet long and eight feet, six inches wide. There are represented thirty-eight cities and towns in California, five thousand miles of country . . . forty scenes on the Pacific, Isthmus, Gulf of Mexico and San Francisco, and more than one thousand figures of men and animals, many of them life size. . . .

2. The FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD (Congregational), at the southwest corner of Maple St. and Main St., with its steeple rising a hundred feet above the ground, is an outstanding landmark in Lombard. The building, erected in 1869, is of frame construction and American Wood Gothic design, unusual for its vertical siding. The First Church of Lombard was originally the First Congregational Church, founded in 1851. For several years after its organization, its nine members held church services in the village schoolhouse. In 1873 the Congregationalists united with the members of the only other church in town at that time, the First Church of Christ.

3. LILACIA PARK *(open free exc. during Lilac Week, when admission for non-residents is 25c),* occupying a ten-acre square in the center of the village, at Park and Maple Sts., has the third finest collection of lilacs in the world. Early in May *(date variable)* the village celebrates its Lilac Week. Thousands of visitors come at this time to see

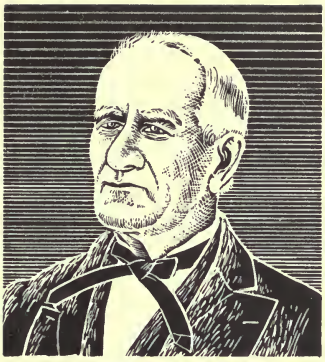
the 250 varieties of lilacs, the more than 135 varieties of tulips, and the uncommon trees that grow in the park *(conducted tours may be arranged, but plantings are adequately marked for those who prefer to go through alone).*

There are more than 800 lilac bushes on the grounds and 400 more in the nursery. The paths are lined with tulips that run a color gamut of bright and subdued tones from white through yellows, golds, reds, oranges, bronzes, browns, and purples, to black. Most of the tulips were planted in 1935, when 125 new varieties were imported from Holland. In 1939, fifty thousand tulip bulbs were planted. Scattered about are narcissuses, poppies, peonies, and irises. At the south entrance are two Chinese globe elms of singularly perfect shape. In front of the library, in the southeast corner of the park, are a huge silver aspen and a Schwedler maple tree. The latter is noted for the brilliant coloring of its leaves during both spring and fall. Nearby are fine specimens of the ginkgo tree, and several old apple trees.

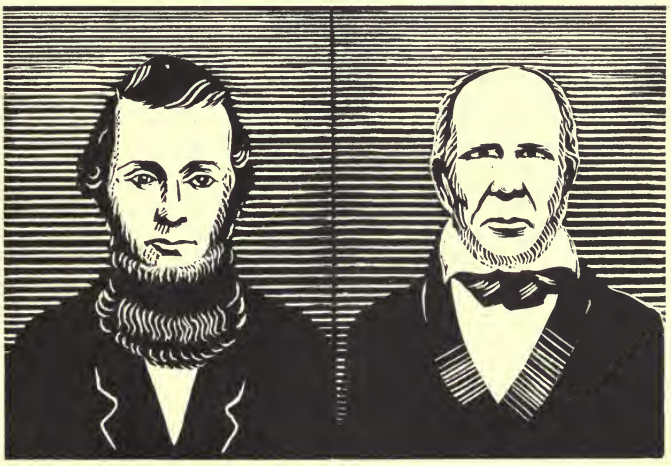
The origin of the lilac center dates back to 1868, when Col. William R. Plum, then recently married to Helen M. Williams, a descendant of Roger Williams, bought and built a house on the seven-acre tract that is now part of the park. Colonel Plum, who had served as a telegrapher in the Civil War while still in his teens, receiving his title after the war for exceptional service in the Intelligence Department, was a lawyer and naturalist. He named his house Lilacia and devoted his leisure time to raising lilacs. In 1908 he visited the famous gardens of Victor Lemoine at Nancy, France, and brought back many specimens. He died in 1927, having bequeathed his estate to the village, the grounds for a park, the house to be the Helen M. Plum Memorial Library.

4. The HELEN M. PLUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY *(open 2-9 weekdays)* stands in Lilacia Park. Architecturally in the colonial tradition, the two-story white frame building, erected in 1868, was formerly the home of Col. and Mrs. William R. Plum. Bequeathed by Colonel Plum for the establishment of a library memorializing his wife, the building was opened to the public on November 12, 1928. Containing 7,300 volumes, the library has 2,500 listed borrowers and an annual circulation of 45,000. In honor of Josiah Torrey Reade, who organized the first village library in 1869, the north room bears his name.

5. The O'CONNOR BUILDING, a three-story stone structure on the southwest corner of St. Charles Rd. and Park St., is a landmark in Lombard. Built in 1889, it is the only three-story building in the village and will remain so unless there is a change in building regulations.

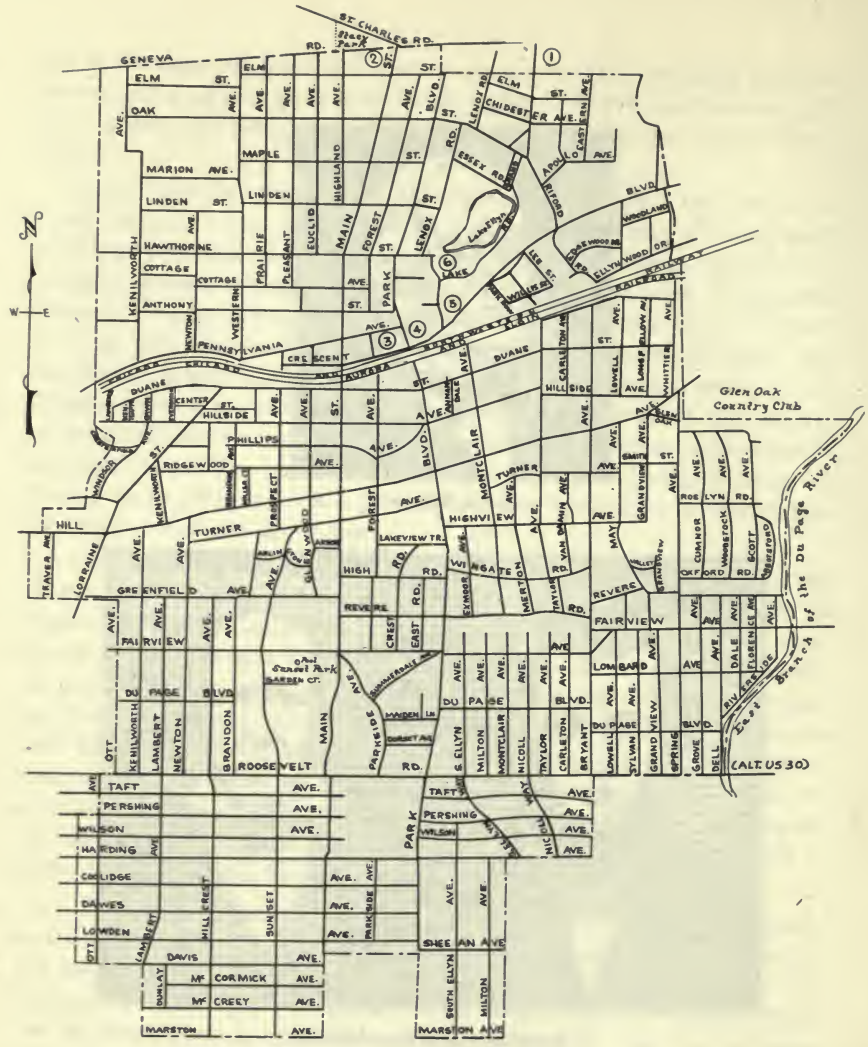


Warren Wheaton



Benjamin and Jacob Fuller

Jesse Wheaton



GLEN ELLYN

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Forest Hill Cemetery
2. Stacy's Tavern
3. Old Methodist Meeting House
4. Glen Ellyn Public Library
5. Glenbard Township High School
6. Ellyn Lake Park

Constructed of blocks of hewn native stone, with walls a trifle over one foot thick, the square building has been used, in turn, as a hotel, dram shop, and bank, today housing stores and offices. Around the walls and between the windows of the shallow third story are still faintly discernible, in tall black letters, the words *Lombard Hotel.*

6. At 126 W. St. Charles Rd. stands the OLD CUSHING HOME, a 14-room two-story frame house, recently sold to a local contractor who plans to convert it into an apartment building. The history of the old house dates back some 90 years to the time when the present second floor was a four-room cottage, one of the only two buildings that stood between the Churchill farm and the Peck homestead.

The house and land were bought by Deacon Cushing, a prominent member of the First Congregational Church. Raised bodily from its foundation, the little cottage became the second floor of a pretentious residence, for many years the home of the Cushing family.

7. The VILLAGE HALL, 48 N. Park Ave., is an attractive red brick, two-story building of modified colonial style, erected in 1927. On the first floor are the village offices, police department, and judges' chambers. The council meeting room and an assembly hall occupy the second floor. Surrounding the village hall are public recreational grounds, leased by the park board.

Points of Interest in Glen Ellyn

1. In FOREST HILL CEMETERY, southeast corner of St. Charles and Riford Rds., are buried many soldiers from the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the World War as well as the pioneers of Glen Ellyn. The land for the cemetery was donated by David Christian about 1835.

2. STACY'S TAVERN *(private),* 557 Geneva Rd., was built in 1837 by Moses Stacy, who had settled here two years before. Around the pioneer inn, situated at the junction of two early highways—now St. Charles and Geneva Roads—grew up a settlement known as Stacy's Corners. In this tiny hamlet, which moved a mile south to meet the railroad in 1849, Glen Ellyn had its origin. Originally white frame, the Greek Revival tavern is now painted buff. Both Indians and stagecoach passengers used to spend the night here. Now the building is a two-family house.

* Built in the 1840's, the OLD SCHOOLHOUSE *(open)* at 570 Crescent Blvd. today houses an antique shop operated by the Woman's Exchange. **(See p. 232.)*

3. Next door, at 574 Crescent Blvd., is the OLD METHODIST MEETING HOUSE. The prim, white frame building of Greek Revival style was erected in 1839 on St. Charles Road, opposite Stacy's Tavern. Later the frame was covered with stucco. A quarter of a century later it was moved downhill to its present site and elevated upon a one-story foundation. A porch with stone pillars has been added, and today it is used as an apartment building.

4. The GLEN ELLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY *(open weekdays 10:30-5:30, and 7-9; Sun. 3-5)*, northeast corner of Crescent and Park Blvds., is housed in a one-story brown brick building with a red tile roof, erected in 1915. Containing 14,000 volumes, the library circulates about 71,000 books yearly.

The library movement began in Glen Ellyn in 1881, with the purchase of a hundred books from Harper & Brothers by 20 townspeople. The volumes were kept in a bookcase in the basement of the Congregational church until 1907, when local women organized the Library Association and the village board donated a room in the village hall to be used as library. More books were bought with public contributions In 1911 Philo Stacy contributed $100 on the condition that an equal sum be raised. The aid of Andrew Carnegie was enlisted by the Library Association, and the villagers assessed themselves a two-mill tax for the erection and maintenance of the present institution.

5. The GLENBARD TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, 670 Crescent Blvd., crowns Honeysuckle Hill on the shore of Lake Ellyn, facing the street on one side, the lake on the other. A rambling building of red brick in the Tudor Gothic style, its design conforms to the contour of the hill, ramps and long flights of cement steps leading up to its several levels.

The first unit of the building was completed and occupied in 1923, the second in 1926, and the third in 1931. Another wing is now (1939) under construction. The building and grounds are valued at $750,000. The student body has grown from 120 in 1918 to 1,150 today; the faculty, from 5 to 37.

6. ELLYN LAKE PARK, bounded by Lennox, Essex, and Lake Rds., and Ellyn Ave., embodies the artificial lake excavated and landscaped in the early 1890's on land donated to the village by the Glen Ellyn Hotel and Spring Company, which erected a large resort on its eastern shore. Lying in a hollow, with high wooded banks, the lake provides a charming and unusual setting, for the township high school, the fine residences

which encircle it, and for recreational purposes. There is boating in summertime *(25c per hour)* and skating in winter. At its edge are a children's playground, a modern recreation house, *(ping pong 30c per hour)* equipped with kitchen facilities, picnic tables and park benches, and winding crushed stone walks.

Hobson's Mill, near Naperville

HINSDALE

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
6,923 (*See p. 234.*)

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
18 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. Central, east- and west-end stations.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Both usual and better-grade restaurants, including the celebrated Old Spinning Wheel, 421 E. Ogden Ave. (US 34), (closed Mon.).

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
Travel directions at filling stations. Data on civic activities and history at village hall and public library, both in Memorial Building, 19 E. Chicago Ave.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Main one lies for the most part immediately south of the C. B. & Q. R. R. tracks, with Washington St. its principal thoroughfare. Minor one centered around the intersection of Ogden Ave. (US 34) and York Rd.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
Avenues run E. and W.; streets run both E. and W. and N. and S. In general, E. and W. streets north of the railway track are named for trees; those south are numbered. N. and S. streets for the most part are named for presidents of the United States or local celebrities. Numbering is N. and S. from Chicago Ave., E. and W. from Washington St.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

Hinsdale Theater, 29 E. First St. (motion picture).

Midwest Golf Club, 35th St. at Canfield Rd.; daily fee course; dining room.

York Golf Club, York Rd. at 22nd St.; daily fee course; dining room.

Fullersburg Park (county forest preserve No. 5), Spring Rd., north of village; trails, bridle paths, outdoor grills, rowboats, canoes, refreshments, fishing.

Stough Park, Town Place, Stough and Railroad Sts., has tennis courts.

Burns Field, Madison, North, Vine and Hickory Sts., has a playground, wading pool, tennis and horseshoe courts, softball fields and facilities for basketball, roque and loop tennis.

Emmet Riding Club, 600 W. 35th; White's Riding Academy, York Rd. at 33rd.

Public games every Sunday afternoon throughout the summer at Oak Brook Polo Club, York Road and 22nd St.

Annual Oak Brook Horse Show in midsummer at Oak Brook Polo Club, York Rd. and 22nd St., for benefit of Hinsdale Infant Welfare Society.

A series of plays is presented each winter by the Hinsdale Little Theater, an amateur organization, usually in the auditorium of the Hinsdale Club.

HINSDALE

"Gold Coast City of Du Page"

SPILLING over the Du Page-Cook county line in the northeast part of Downers Grove Township lies Hinsdale, the richest municipality in per capita wealth in Du Page County. At first glance it might seem easily dismissed with that well-known phrase of Baedeker's, "There is little here to detain the tourist." Actually, it has a high quota of both physical charm and socio-historical interest.

Modern Hinsdale is compounded of the once separate communities of Hinsdale and Fullersburg. Hinsdale, the younger of the two, was deliberately created by real-estate promoters of the 1860's and 1870's to serve the same function it now serves—that of upper-middle-class dormitory suburb. Fullersburg, on the other hand, originated as a pioneer settlement which took root in the 1830's on a hazel-brush-covered rise of land that soldiers of the Black Hawk War had dubbed Brush Hill, and survived as a more or less self-sustaining, unincorporated, agricultural hamlet until it was absorbed by the growing village to its south in 1923.

Of Hinsdale's population of 6,923 in 1930, 85 per cent were native-born whites, 14 per cent were foreign-born whites, and 1 per cent were Negroes. That most of the resident Negroes are house servants living on the premises is evidenced by the small number of dwelling units occupied by non-whites.

Nonindustrial, its business sections strictly zoned, its dwellings single-family houses, and populated from the start—with the exception of its Fullersburg section—by people with the means and desire for attractive surroundings, Hinsdale has become increasingly worthy of the title given it by *Campbell's Illustrated Journal* in 1897: "Hinsdale the Beautiful."

"Gold Coast City of Du Page" is what the Naperville *Clarion* calls Hinsdale, and the aptness of the title cannot be denied, however much some of the villagers resent its implications. For it is true that Hinsdale proper has been from the outset, as *Campbell's* said, "the home of many of the big city's most influential business and professional men," and, as such, always has had a profusion of substantial homes, imposing mansions, and, along its outer fringes, many-acred estates. There are simpler houses, too, of course, but, whether they belong to the cottage or mansion category, or, like the majority, are typical examples of upper-middle-class

suburbia, the homes that line the tree-bordered streets are scrupulously well kept and set amidst well-tended lawns and gardens.

Characteristic of Hinsdale proper's nucleus are the big white frame houses of the post-Civil War and late Victorian periods, those of the former still pleasing in their simple dignity, those of the latter now interesting mainly as architectural extravaganzas, along with the same era's ostentatious masses of stone and brick. Greek Revival remnants are to be found only in Fullersburg. The American Wood Gothic style is exemplified in Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church; Romanesque Revival, in the Unitarian. Hinsdale's newer buildings reflect the Midwestern predilection for less inbred adaptations of European styles—Georgian colonial, English half-timbered, Spanish, French provincial, etc. The one Frank Lloyd Wright house is in Dutch-colonial rather than his own earth-hugging prairie style, but the latter is represented in a home designed by one of his pupils.

On the village outskirts are Hinsdale's two private country clubs and polo club, two public golf courses, and a 110-acre county forest preserve. Two village parks have softball diamonds, tennis courts, and playgrounds.

Village government is conducted by a president and board of six trustees, who are elected to four-year terms and serve without salary. The only other elected village officials are the clerk, whose office is a salaried one, and the police magistrate, who is paid on a fee basis. Members of the various boards and commissions—all of whom serve without pay—are appointed, with the exception of the board of local improvements, which consists of the village president and trustees, and the library board, whose six directors are elected to six-year terms.

In December, 1922, the village board established the Hinsdale Plan Commission. Upon the latter's recommendation, the board passed the first zoning ordinance in 1923. Soon afterward, the zoning commission was established. Enforcement of the zoning ordinance is vested in the building commissioner. A quasi-judiciary board of appeals hears appeals from his rulings. Appeals from its decisions must go to the circuit court.

Because Hinsdale believes in nonpolitical local elections in which the office seeks the man, nominations to elective offices are made by the Hinsdale Community Caucus, a voluntary organization having no basis in law and existing only by consent of the governed. Membership in the caucus is organizational and sectional. Any voluntary local organization having 25 or more members may designate one caucus member. The caucus itself elects two sectional members from each of four equal sections into which Hinsdale is divided for the purpose, and, to act only on school-board nominations, from each of two sections of Clarendon Hills and from Westmont. Noncaucus candidates may be put up by petition or write-in-vote, but, since the start of the caucus in 1934, its candidates have been elected consistently.

Village administrative offices and the public library are housed in the Memorial Building. Crowning a landscaped knoll in the center of town, the building dominates the view from railway station and business center, vividly typifying the community it serves, not only in the conservative elegance of its Georgian-colonial design and the beauty of its grounds, but in the story behind its construction. That story is a prime example of the civic pride and community spirit that characterize Hinsdale.

At its first meeting, the plan commission had begun working on a plan for a war memorial civic center. With professional help, a model Hinsdale Plan was produced, some of the main features of which were: a layout for the civic center; the grouping of all other future public buildings, except schools, in an area east of the proposed center, where already the power and water-softening plants stood; and the adoption of a uniform architectural style, Georgian colonial, for all public buildings.

In 1923 the village bought half of the site intended for the civic center, but no further progress was made until January, 1927, when, through the efforts of the local American Legion post, the Hinsdale Memorial Building Committee was formed, comprised of representatives of the Legion and its auxiliary, village board, plan commission, board of education, and several civic and social organizations. The original plan for a three-building civic center having been modified because of the cost, the committee's purpose was to promote the construction and financing by public subscription of a single civic building. By May the building fund had been completely subscribed. By July real-estate mortgage notes covering the purchase price of the remaining half of the site had been bought by a group of 12 citizens to expedite acquisition of the land. On November 11 the cornerstone was laid. On July 4, 1928, the completed building was presented to the village by the committee. A second public-subscription campaign was started in March, 1929, to pay for landscaping and a tower clock and bell. On July 4, the landscaping already done, the clock and bell were installed. Completed in two and a half years at a total cost of about $260,000, only $83,000 of which came from the corporate funds of the village (the amount spent on the land), the Memorial Building and its park represent a notable community achievement, in the financing of which practically every family in the village participated.

Although the original Hinsdale Plan has not been adhered to strictly, it has influenced numerous developments. New public buildings, except schools and the police and fire station built in 1935, have been located in the designated area and, barring one school, have followed the prescribed style. Plans now (1939) are under way for building a Federal post office.

Public utilities and services, gas and telephone excepted, are munici-

pally owned. Although rates are moderate, the water works and power plant—the latter the only municipal one in the county—contribute a sizable sum to the corporate funds. The present water-softening plant replaced in 1925 the original one built in 1915. In 1931 a municipal garbage incinerator was built, and in 1928 the Hinsdale Sanitary District, which includes Clarendon Hills and Westmont, built a sewage disposal plant.

Hinsdale's freedom from burglary and theft is reflected in low insurance rates, and the main concerns of the police and fire departments, which share one chief, are traffic violations and the frequent prairie and peat fires on the outskirts. Unlike the police department, which was created officially upon the hiring of a constable in 1877, the fire department did not begin to outgrow its volunteer status—which it still largely maintains—until 1928.

Although many of its pupils come from an economic class that usually frequents private schools, Hinsdale's public school system is supported by the patronage, as well as the taxes, of the whole community. In the village are three elementary schools, a junior high school, and the Hinsdale Township High School, which is accredited by the North Central Association and is distinctive among public schools throughout the State in that more than 60 per cent of its graduates enter college. To its building, completed in 1916, was added the adjoining gymnasium-auditorium in 1921. An annex built in 1927 increased the student capacity from 350 to 525.

Six of Hinsdale's 11 churches stem from the nineteenth century: Union (under which name the old Congregational and Presbyterian churches merged in 1918); Grace Episcopal; the Unitarian (formerly Unity); Zion Evangelical Lutheran; Evangelical Mission Covenant (formerly Swedish Evangelical Bethel); and Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran. Twentieth century churches are the Hinsdale (formerly Swedish) Baptist; Seventh Day Adventist; Redeemer English Lutheran; St. Isaac Jogues (Catholic); and Christian Science.

Three churches maintain parochial grade schools: Zion Lutheran, the Seventh Day Adventist, and St. Isaac Jogues.

The weekly Hinsdale *Doings*, started in 1895 by Daniel Merrill, 17-year-old son of a local printer, has been the village's only newspaper since the turn of the century, with the exception of *The Community*, which quickly came and went in the 1920's. The *Doings* is published by the Merrill Printing Company, established in Hinsdale in 1888 by F. M. Merrill, father of Daniel and grandfather of the company's present head. Also published by the company is the Du Page County *Life*, a monthly paper started in 1932.

The Morris Greenhouses, founded in Hinsdale in 1896 and now moved just outside, serve the Chicago and local markets. A recent ad-

dition to Hinsdale is the Dispensa Merchandising Company, which runs benefit street carnivals for organizations throughout the area. Notable among Chicago-area restaurants is the Old Spinning Wheel, opened in 1935 in a rambling log building on Ogden Avenue (US 34). With these exceptions, local business is limited almost entirely to stores and services supplying the community's daily needs.

Hinsdale's First National Bank, chartered in 1922, is an outgrowth of the Hinsdale Trust and Savings Bank, started in 1910. Unlike most communities, Hinsdale did not suffer a bank failure in the 1930's. That it did not was due to the merger effected in 1932 of the village's first bank, the Hinsdale State, and the First National. The Hinsdale Federal Savings and Loan Association was chartered in 1934.

Three organizations date from before 1900: the Hinsdale Club, Hinsdale Woman's Club, and Hinsdale Golf Club. Also noteworthy are the Parent-Teacher Associations, infant welfare societies, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, two garden clubs, two Masonic organizations, Ruth Lake Country Club, Oak Brook Polo Club, Hinsdale Music Club, Hinsdale Little Theatre, Friends of the Library, and Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce, representing a recent reorganization of the Hinsdale Commercial and Civic Association, which itself represented a merger in 1923 of the Hinsdale Commercial League and Lions Club. In 1936 the Hinsdale Community Service was founded to provide employment service, relief, and medical aid in the high school district.

Outside the village are three notable institutions more or less identified with it: the Godair Memorial Old People's Home; King-Bruwaert House (for elderly women); and Katherine Legge Memorial (a residential country club for women employees of the International Harvester Company).

The Conquest of Brush Hill

For centuries Brush Hill belonged to the Potawatomies. One of the major Indian villages believed to have existed in the Du Page County area in the early 1800's lay along Salt Creek between present-day Hinsdale and Elmhurst. South of it was the Indian trail between Chicago and Naperville that General Scott and a detachment followed to the Black Hawk War front in 1832. Where it passed to the south of the Potawatomi village on Salt Creek, the trail began to climb the gradual slope of the Valparaiso Moraine. It was not much of a hill, but it was the first one the soldiers had seen since leaving the East, and it was all covered with hazel brush. So they named it Brush Hill—or so the story goes—and the name clung to the surrounding area for many years.

Lt. Sherman King, Scott's advance agent and later member of Captain Naper's company, is said to have been sent to Brush Hill at the war's end to observe the Indian village. If so, he probably was Brush Hill's first

white settler. Some sources say he ran a sawmill on the creek; he may have operated his own mill or been associated with Torode's (*see p.* 188). About 1834 the brothers Orente and David Grant staked a claim at Brush Hill and decided to build a tavern on the Indian trail that daily was bringing more settlers to the region. Not only by wagon, on foot, and on horseback were the new settlers coming now, but by stagecoach, for the trail in 1834 became one of the three Chicago-Ottawa stagecoach routes opened that year by Dr. John Taylor Temple.

In 1834 or early 1835 Benjamin Fuller came by horseback from Broome County, New York, to look over the land that was drawing so many Easterners to Illinois. What he saw of Brush Hill pleased him so much that he went back East for the rest of the family.

The rest of the family consisted of Benjamin's father and mother, Jacob and Candace Fuller, his five brothers and six sisters, his wife, Olive Atwater Fuller—probably related to Jesse Atwater, another York Township pioneer—and his son, Edwin. Sometime during the good-weather months of 1835 all the Fullers arrived by wagon on Brush Hill—all, that is, but two of Jacob's daughters, who followed by boat (their trip from Buffalo to Chicago taking six weeks), and, perhaps, Jacob's son George, who is said to have come the next year.

The diagonal northern boundary of the ten-mile-wide strip ceded by the Indians to the United States in 1816 for the projected Illinois-Michigan Canal ran through sections 24, 26, and 34 of present York Township and sections 4, 8, and 18 of present Downers Grove Township. The land within this strip was put on the market in June, 1835. Thus, the southeastern corner of York and all of Downers Grove Township except the northwestern corner went on sale at that time. This included Brush Hill. Orente Grant bought a large tract at Brush Hill on June 24, 1835. About the same time a New York City speculator, Robert Jones, bought extensive holdings a mile south of the Brush Hill settlement.

The original Fuller cabin and farm were a short distance northwest of Brush Hill, on Ginger Creek, off present Spring Road. Here Jacob bought a quarter section. Benjamin, however, who bought Orente Grant's land in 1843, eventually came to own everything from Salt Creek south to the present railroad tracks in Hinsdale and from today's Garfield Street east over the county line to what is now Western Springs.

Situated on the Chicago-Ottawa stagecoach route, which the southern route to Galena, also opened in 1834, followed to Naperville, the Grants' tavern, completed by 1835, had a long career. Castle Inn was one of its names. In March, 1835, Orente Grant became first postmaster of Brush Hill.

Most of the Indians remaining after the treaty of 1833 left Illinois in the summer of 1835, but a few scattered groups continued to occupy their old village and camp sites for several years. The Indians were friendly, and the early white settlers who became their neighbors lived on amicable terms with the dispossessed. Descendants of Brush Hill's early settlers like to tell the stories handed down to them of how the Indians often were seen paddling their canoes on Salt Creek in the early days, how they held powwows not far from Castle Inn, and how they presented a pony named Nidnodi to Benjamin Fuller's son, after Fuller, whose father, Jacob, had been a blacksmith back East, had taught them how to shoe their horses.

Shortly before or after 1840, John S. Coe came from Rockland County, New York, to open Brush Hill's first blacksmith shop—reputedly the largest in Du Page County. Later he married Harriet Fuller, one of Jacob's daughters, served as road commissioner, and started a general store.

As Jacob Fuller's sons and daughters married into the families of neighboring pioneers, it came to be said that "everyone in the neighborhood is a Fuller." Brush Hill's first schoolteacher was Mary Fuller, one of the two girls who had come to Illinois by boat. Lacking a schoolhouse, Miss Fuller at first gave lessons from farm to farm, tramping through the shoulder-high prairie grass under escort of two huge dogs, Nero and Pedro.

In 1838, however, a log cabin in the Frenchman's Woods—a grove to the north in which the Torodes and others had settled—became the area's first schoolhouse, presided over by Mary Fuller. The cabin had been the home of Elias Brown, who had committed suicide, an act rare in pioneer days. In 1839 classes apparently were transferred to the home of John Talmadge, also in the Frenchman's Woods, and Miss C. Barnes became schoolmistress. The room in which she taught was outfitted with slab seats cut at the sawmill. Religious services were held here, too, conducted by the Rev. David Colson, a Methodist circuit rider. Whether Mary Fuller continued teaching—at Brush Hill, perhaps—is not clear, but not long afterward she married Barto Van Velzer, a former boatdriver on the Erie Canal. Sometime in the 1840's or early 1850's James M. Vallette of Naperville became Brush Hill's schoolmaster, holding classes in the ballroom of Castle Inn and every weekend walking the 24 miles home to Naperville and back.

It was probably shortly after Benjamin Fuller's purchase of Grant's land that he and his father moved from their farms into the heart of Brush Hill. Just when Benjamin Fuller opened Brush Hill's second tavern is not known. Situated on the north side of the stagecoach highway, almost opposite Castle Inn, it was called Fuller's, or Fullersburg, Tavern.

In 1851 Benjamin Fuller platted the land he owned along present Ogden Avenue, recording it in June, 1852 under the name of Fullersburg—the fourth recorded plat in the county. Centering at the present junction of York Street and Ogden Avenue, it spread two or three modern blocks east and west, immediately south of the York-Downers Grove township line. Each of his five children received a parcel of land, and today there are in Hinsdale grandchildren, great- and great-great grandchildren of the Benjamin Fuller who came, saw, liked, and conquered Brush Hill, while the name Fullersburg still clings unofficially to the Ogden Avenue section and northern outskirts of modern Hinsdale.

Fuller's decisions to plat a town and start a tavern—whichever came first—doubtless were influenced by the fact that early in 1850 the planking of the highway, which now was called the Southwestern Plank Road, had reached Brush Hill. A tollgate was set up and a tollhouse built on the north side of the road, about midway between the two tavern sites, and Barto Van Velzer, who is said to have invested money in the local plank-road corporation, became toll collector. It must have been a busy job while it lasted, for in the peak seasons as many as 500 teams a day went through, some hauling farm produce to Chicago, some pulling the prairie schooners of new settlers westward, others drawing gaily painted stagecoaches in either direction. Needless to say, the two inns did well.

In the year that the hamlet acquired its first officially recorded name and boundaries, Frederick Graue opened a gristmill on Salt Creek that was destined to hold a place in the county's economy for 77 years.

Born in the little village of Landesbergen in the Kingdom of Hanover, on January 25, 1819, the third son of Frederick and Lucie (Thurmau) Graue, Graue had come to America in 1833 with his father and mother, seven brothers and one sister. The family first stopped at Albany, New York. In the spring of 1834, they pushed westward to Chicago and during the summer of that year moved to Du Page County. As the Grants and Lieutenant King were pioneering Brush Hill, the Graues were building a house in York Township, in the heart of a grove west of present Elmhurst that has ever since borne their name. In 1838 Frederick the younger moved down to Brush Hill, where, near the Torode sawmill on Salt Creek, he built a frame house. In 1847 he started building his brick gristmill, virtually on the site of the old sawmill, and, in 1858, a brick house close by. Both are still standing (*see Tour I*).

Complex milling machinery was installed in the gristmill by a millwright imported from New York. Otherwise, the three-story building reflected local resources. The bricks were made of clay from Graue's farm

and burned in a kiln near the site. Stone for the foundation and trim was hauled from the Lemont limestone quarry, 12 miles southeast of Fullersburg. White oak for the posts, girders, and joists was cut from a rich timber tract along the canal near Lemont. Construction was a triumph of pioneer craftsmanship. The wooden structural frame was mortised and tenoned with wooden pegs, and the girders at the tops and bottoms of the posts were secured with dowels. The loading platform was "wagon high." Sherman King built the first primitive dam of logs and brush, and power originally was produced by an undershot water wheel.

With William Ashe as partner, Graue operated the mill on a share basis, taking as fee a percentage of all grain ground. In 1858 the mill was so flourishing a part of the county's trade that, when the citizens of Naperville, Downers Grove, Brush Hill, and Lyons (in Cook County) petitioned the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad to lay tracks between Aurora and Chicago on a right-of-way running through their villages, it was cited as one of the inducements, inasmuch as it "keeps two teams constantly on the road to and from Chicago."

Between 1850 and 1852 Marvin Fox arrived from Vermont with his wife and ten children, bought 160 acres west and south of Fullersburg, and built a house on the plank road. Here Vallette, the schoolmaster, came to board.

The year 1853 gave Fullersburg its first and only real schoolhouse. Sherman King, one of Castle Inn's numerous proprietors, is said to have built the one-story frame structure, while John S. Coe was among those who gave money toward it. In May, 1854, County School Commissioner Hope Brown certified Caroline Bates to teach here. Fifty years later, Coe's son Clarence, a district school director, was among those who bought school bonds to add a second story. The Fullersburg School functioned until 1938.

Rabbit Hill School also was built about 1853, on land northwest of Fullersburg donated by David Thurston, husband of Katherine Fuller. Now a private residence, it still stands at 31st Street and Canfield Road. Erection of the Torode School about 1865 near the cabin where Mary Fuller had taught completed the Fullersburg area's school facilities until 1921.

Just when Fullersburg became a preaching station of the Lutheran church organized in Proviso Township, Cook County, in the 1840's is not known, but Lutheran services may have been started here as early as the 1850's.

A State business directory for 1854 lists Benjamin Fuller as postmaster, Jacob and Benjamin Fuller as general and dry-goods merchants, and Benjamin's son John as hotel proprietor. That same year, however, when land around Brush Hill was selling for $5.25 an acre, Benjamin Fuller

sold most of his property to Alfred Walker of Vermont. Walker also bought both taverns, operating the Fullers' as an eating house and Castle Inn as a hotel, where the Walkers themselves lived for several years. Fullersburg's business and professional directory now also included a sawmill operated by Graue, Ashe, and Arthur Young; four carpenters and house builders; two shoemakers; a lawyer; a doctor—George M. Fox, son of Marvin; and an Episcopal clergyman—the Rev. F. Leonard. Soon afterward, Henry Bohlander opened a harness shop, and in the 1860's a slaughter house and meat market were started. In February, 1859, while Benjamin Fuller was still postmaster, the name of the Brush Hill Post Office was changed to Fullersburg. The name Brush Hill, however, stuck to Fullersburg and the area around it for some time.

In 1857 the Walker family moved into their big farmhouse about a half mile south of Fullersburg. Walker's farm soon became a model one, and, in addition to raising crops and livestock, Walker became one of the region's earliest cheese manufacturers. The southeast part of his land, lying on the wooded ridge of the Valparaiso Moraine, was known as Walker's Grove.

In 1859 the Foxes' farm, adjoining Walker's on the west, produced 7,000 bushels of grain, which were sold in Chicago at 45c a bushel for wheat, 14c for oats. Other farm products brought the following prices: potatoes, 18c a bushel; butter, 10c a pound; eggs, 4c a dozen. Day laborers were paid 50c a day. In 1863 Marvin Fox's son Jarvis built a house on the farm.

On July 29, 1861, the first meeting in Du Page County to recruit soldiers for the Union army was held in Fullersburg schoolhouse. Enthusiastic crowds sang "The Sword of Bunker Hill" and other patriotic songs, as they were to chant them again and again throughout the next few months all over the county. Men and women alike spoke and sang and wept passionately for the Union.

From Fullersburg ten men went to serve in the infantry and cavalry regiments of Illinois. Among them were Morell Fuller, son of Jacob, and Walter Van Velzer, chief musicians in the 105th Regiment of Illinois Infantry; Samuel A. Coe, son of John, in the 156th Illinois Infantry; and Heman Fox, son of Marvin, in the 2nd Illinois Light Infantry.

In the first year of the Civil War, the only native of old Fullersburg destined to become internationally famous was born in a bleak little bedroom of Castle Inn, daughter of one of Jacob Fuller's sons. In the winter of 1861-62 Reuben Fuller and his wife, Delilah, moved to Castle Inn from their farmhouse at the present corner of Ogden Avenue and Wolf Road, because the winter was so severe and Delilah was expecting a child. The baby born to them, christened Loie, became one of the most brilliant dancers of the

Victorian era on the stages of New York, London, Paris and Berlin. Costume and lighting effects which she invented were the progenitors of modern stage technique. An expatriate throughout most of her life, she grew to be a leader of American society in Europe and a member of the inner circles of European courts. She became an intimate of Queen Marie of Rumania and helped to arrange the United States loan to Rumania during the World War. In 1926 she accompanied Marie on her American tour, but did not visit her native village. When she died in Paris two years later, at the age of 66, she was still a vivid international figure, and her ashes were buried beside the grave of Sarah Bernhardt in Père-Lachaise Cemetery.

Around 1864 Marvin Fox's son Charles was connected with Benjamin Fuller's store. In 1867 Fuller withdrew, and Charles and his brother Heman formed a partnership that was to last 22 years, during which time Fox Brothers was a leading store, first of Fullersburg, later of Hinsdale. Charles married one of Fuller's daughters and was postmaster for 9 years.

In 1867 John F. Ruchty, former Frink & Walker stagedriver and one-time proprietor of Castle Inn, moved his family from Naperville, where he had operated the Pre-Emption House, to Fullersburg, where he became the last proprietor of Fullersburg Tavern, now called the Grand Pacific, which he ran until 1887. Castle Inn expired about the time Ruchty bought its rival.

When Jacob Fuller died in 1867 and his son Benjamin followed him the next year, at the age of 58, a new settlement, sired by the railroad and nursed by real-estate operators, was growing up a mile to the south—a city-bred, upstart subdivision to which Fullersburg was destined to play country cousin for six decades.

Rise of a Commuters' Town

The petition signed on behalf of Brush Hill by Benjamin Fuller and Frederick Graue in 1858, asking the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad to build a line through Du Page County's southern string of villages —and, incidentally, offering a free right-of-way—had had no immediate effect. But finally, in 1862, work on the road had been started.

After the railroad surveyors had looked over the Brush Hill area, however, they had recommended that, because of the land contours, the roadbed be built, not through Fullersburg, but a mile to the south, cutting diagonally across the lower end of the Walker farm. Walker had been agreeable to this—in fact, had offered to deed the necessary five or six acres to the Burlington for the token sum of 5c—and thus Fullerburg's fate had been sealed. For, simultaneously with the plotting of the roadbed and the laying of the tracks, unexpected developments had mushroomed along them.

Upon the heels of the Burlington surveyors had come William Robbins, who cast a keen business eye over the wild prairie south of the right-of-way and forthwith bought between 700 and 800 acres of it. A native of New York State, Robbins had been a country schoolteacher in Illinois and dry-goods clerk in Chicago in the 1840's, a California-Gold-Rush miner and banker in the 1850's, a St. Louis banker briefly around 1860, and now was in real estate in Chicago. Except for the Walker and Fox farms north of the right-of-way, there was no sign of habitation nearby, and except for the grove, mainly of oaks, on the morainic ridge along the county line, there were no trees on the land that Robbins bought for about $14 an acre in 1862 or 1863 from the speculator Robert Jones—outbidding by about $2 John Hemshell, a recent English immigrant to Fullersburg. But to Robbins' experienced eye it was another gold mine, and he lost no time in working it—immediately building himself a frame house, laying out the streets of a town, planting trees, and advertising lots for sale.

By the time train service had begun, on May 20, 1864—one train a day each way, with a station stop at Robbins' embryo subdivision — Robbins already was building his second house, an elaborate stone structure which he named Woodside—because it was near the grove—and surrounded with park-like landscaping. In the acreage around it he established a stock farm.

Robbins also had been building other houses, which, along with his own first one, he soon had sold or rented. The first purchaser of one of his houses was James Swartout. One of the first buyers of vacant lots was Nelson Lay, a Chicago merchant, who built a house and rented it to the Rev. C. M. Barnes, a Baptist minister. To a son of the Barneses soon went the lot Robbins had offered, as a promotional measure, to the first boy to be born in his subdivision—and the name William Robbins Barnes.

Just as the 1860's were bringing prominent Chicagoans out to Cottage Hill (Elmhurst), 6½ miles north, on the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad, they were bringing a similar group of Chicago's first commuters out to Robbins' well-advertised lots to form a new kind of community; a deliberately planned real-estate development with no roots in the pioneer past.

In August, 1866, Robbins recorded the original plat of his town, giving it the name Hinsdale. Between 12 and 13 square blocks in area, it lay mostly south of the railroad track, its northeast corner adjoining the southwest corner of the Walker farm. In the same year he made an addition to Hinsdale on the east. Several theories have been advanced regarding the origin of Hinsdale's name, but it seems unlikely that the

question ever will be settled. It is interesting to note that the first sign put up at the railroad stop had been Hazel Glen; the second, Brush Hill.

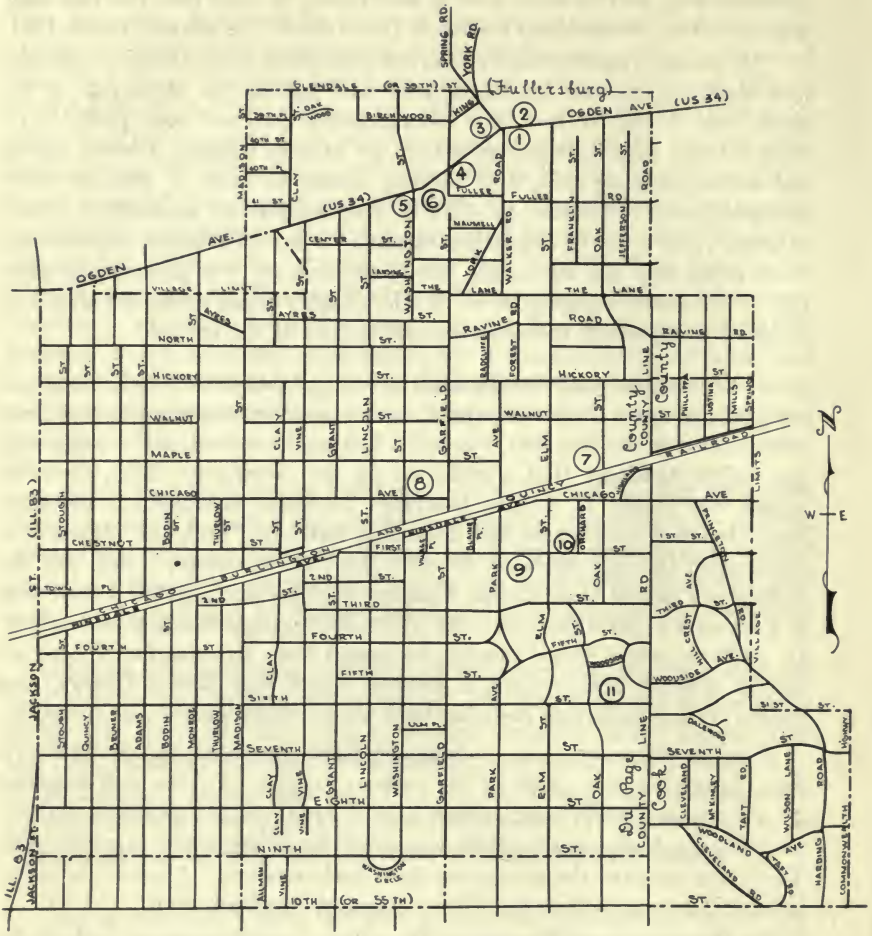
Meanwhile, another astute Chicago real-estate man, Oliver J. Stough, had begun buying and developing land that year on the north side of the track, west of the Walker farm. Stough's first purchase was Jarvis Fox's 80-acre farm. Like Robbins, he at once set to work building a home, laying out streets, planting trees, and building houses for sale. In 1868 he made two additions to Hinsdale. By 1872 he had bought and subdivided a total of about 1,200 acres. In 1871 Robbins made his second addition, immediately south of his first. His own estate was in this one, so to its planning he gave special attention, engaging H. W. S. Cleveland, a noted landscape architect, to plot curving streets to follow the undulations of the terrain.

Both Robbins and Stough built schools, Robbins, in 1866, Stough, a year or two later. Robbins' school, a two-story stone structure with two schoolrooms on the first floor, a meeting hall on the second, and a bell tower, was called Academy Hall. Conducted on the subscription basis, Robbins' school was taught by a Miss Stocking; Stough's—occupying a two-story frame building which also had a meeting hall—by "Professor" Gleason, a well-known Chicago educator. In 1867 Hinsdale was incorporated into the Fullersburg School District, and Academy Hall became a public school with B. F. Banker as principal and a Mr. Wiley and Georgia Blodgett as teachers. In 1868 the school board bought the school from Robbins for $8,000, renamed it South Side, created a separate South Side School District, and named Gleason principal (he must have taught simultaneously at Stough's).

Circuit riders of various denominations provided the settlement's first church services, held in the railway station. To the stiff benches of the waiting room were added a reed organ and a portable pulpit. In 1866, ten Congregationalists organized the village's first congregation. They, too, adopted the station for their early services. After a few years, however, they moved to the lecture room of Academy Hall.

In the meantime, Baptists of the village, numbering 15, had established a congregation. After a few months of meeting in the railroad station, they built a church. When the liquidation of building costs and the support of a minister almost depleted their treasury, they invited the Congregationalists to meet with them. After the latter left to build their own stone church in 1872 on land donated by Robbins, Baptist financial resources were again exhausted. The following year the Baptist church was converted into a community meeting hall and the congregation disbanded.

A few months after the start of construction on their building, however, the Congregationalists also had run into financial difficulties. When only a basement was completed, their treasury was empty. Roofed over,



HINSDALE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. *Castle Inn*
2. *Toll House*
3. *Benjamin Fuller House*
4. *Jacob and Morell Fuller House*
5. *Marvin Fox House*
6. *Fullersburg Cemetery*
7. *Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital*
8. *Memorial Building*
9. *F. O. Butler House*
10. *J. W. Butler House*
11. *William Robbins House*

"this queer church, which resembled a great sod-house, though its interior was commodious and fairly comfortable" served as a meeting place until 1882, when funds were raised to complete the structure. Robbins gave land for an adjoining parsonage, which was erected in 1889.

Stough also assisted a religious group, building, about 1870, a $3,400 Universalist church. The congregation petered out by 1877, however, and the building burned down in 1882. When the present Unitarian church was organized in the late 1880's, Stough again gave financial assistance.

Robbins and Stough were not alone in the development of Hinsdale. In 1869 the names of more than 20 property owners appeared on a real-estate journal's map of Hinsdale. Some had bought land previously subdivided by Robbins and Stough, but others were making their own additions to the town. Among the latter, whose plats were recorded between 1868 and 1872, were Alfred Walker, D. S. Estabrook, Anson Ayres, and J. I. Case.

Along with the founding of schools and churches came the start of local trade. The first business building is said to have housed a grocery and general store run by Lewis E. Moreley, who became Hinsdale's first postmaster with the establishment of the Hinsdale Post Office in May, 1867. Isaac Bush soon opened another general store and in 1869 became the second postmaster. Livery and baggage-delivery services also were started, and a little frame hotel, the Hinsdale House, was opened by D. S. Estabrook.

In the first few years the railroad directors must have rued their choice of right-of-way more than once, as the tracks repeatedly sank in the marshy flat that, south of Fullersburg, extended about a mile east of the county line. It is said that on one occasion a locomotive mired and had to be pulled out by two other engines, and the railroad's annual report for 1865 mentioned the extensive earthwork that had been necessitated by the sinking of the embankment. Actual suburban service, with a special Hinsdale accommodation train, began in 1869, and by 1872 the road had been double-tracked west through Hinsdale to Downers Grove.

The Chicago Fire of 1871 sent numerous families out to seek country homesites, and among those who chose Hinsdale were Alanson Reed and his son John W., piano and organ manufacturers and retailers, and H. L. Story, founder of the Story & Clark Piano Company. By 1873 Hinsdale's population was about 500, which meant that within a decade about 100 families had moved into the new town, some from Chicago, to become commuting suburbanites, some from the surrounding countryside, to set up the local businesses. Lots were now selling at $10 or more a front foot.

On May 15, 1872, was launched the first local newspaper, the monthly Hinsdale *Index,* published by T. E. Lonergan and Frederick S. Shewell.

On March 29, 1873, 62 male citizens cast their ballots at the railway station on the question of incorporating Hinsdale as a village. The vote was 60 to 2 in favor of incorporation, and on April 3 the county judge issued the decree of incorporation. The first village officers, elected soon afterward, were: Joel Tiffany, president; N. H. Warren, clerk; Isaac L. Hinds, police magistrate; E. P. Hinds, Winsor Leland, William Robbins, George H. Wells, and W. W. Wood, trustees. Robbins became second village president in 1874, and on his board was Stough. The early village boards met successively in the railroad station and schoolhouse and over a store.

In 1875 the North Side was incorporated into the school district, which now took the name Hinsdale School District. In 1879 the schoolhouse was enlarged and a four-year high school course was added.

When Stough's school terminated, probably in 1875, Stough's Hall continued to be used for social gatherings. Here were held the annual masquerade balls inaugurated in the early 1870's by the Stoughs—social events so important that special trains were run out from Chicago and back. In the 1880's Stough sold the hall to H. A. Gardner, who renamed it Gardner's Hall.

Grace Episcopal Church was organized in 1875 by a society started in 1872. Between then and 1898, five more churches were established in Hinsdale, while to the Fullersburg area, in 1878, came its first—and, to date, only—formally organized church, St. John's Evangelical. Both St. John's and Zion Lutheran, organized in 1888, were outgrowths of the Proviso Township Lutheran church, were started by German groups, and held their first services in the Fullersburg schoolhouse. St. John's building, American Wood Gothic in style, was erected just north of Fullersburg in 1881. Zion Lutheran's first building was erected in Hinsdale in 1889.

In the meantime, more business and professional people were settling in the little business center south of the railroad: Dr. J. C. Merrick, first doctor and druggist; J. H. Papenhausen, tailor (his business is still carried on by a descendant); Isaac L. Hinds, general merchant and third postmaster; John Bohlander, hardware merchant; the Fox brothers; William Evernden, druggist (and favorite of village youths till 1920); and others.

Robbins had plowed and graded three streets of his original town when he platted it. Later, other streets and sidewalks had been covered with planks or cinders by both the real-estate men and the residents. In the period 1875-80 the village board appropriated funds for the first public improvements: grading and ditching the streets, graveling the main business street, bridging Flagg Creek, and planking more walks.

There were no telephones yet, but, because so many railway officials lived here, telegraph lines ran into numerous homes. The Cultivators' Society, started in 1873, studied Shakespeare and gave readings. Baseball, hunting, and fishing were leading sports, and Fourth-of-July celebrations were noisy, eloquent, and long. *Recherché* was a pet word of journalists describing Hinsdale doings. Republicans then as now, Hinsdaleans in 1880 raised a 90-foot flagpole in the schoolyard to fly a Garfield-Arthur banner, and after the election changed the name of Main Street to Garfield.

In 1886, when Hinsdale's population was estimated at 1,400, the Hinsdale Building and Loan Association was organized with E. P. Hinds as president. In that year, too, the village board not only built a village hall but bought a horse-drawn fire engine to replace the donated hand-drawn cart. Just when the volunteer fire department had been started is not known. In 1888 the number of village trustees was increased to six, and in 1890 the first village attorney, Linus C. Ruth, was appointed. In 1887 the Romanesque North Side School was built, and when the South Side School burned down in 1893, it was replaced by Garfield School, also Romanesque, built on the same site. Both are still in use.

The Hinsdale Library Association was incorporated in 1887, an outgrowth of a group which, with the aid of a Chicago publisher living in Hinsdale, had started a rental library in 1886. This library, taken over by the association and operated on a yearly-fee basis, formed the nucleus of the public library opened in 1893. One of the association's directors was Dr. Daniel K. Pearsons, millionaire Chicago real-estate man who, upon his retirement in 1889, distributed his wealth among small colleges and Chicago's cultural, social, and medical institutions. To Hinsdale's library upon his death in 1912 went his home and the block of property on which it stands, with the stipulation that the money realized from their sale be used to build a public library bearing Pearsons' name. No use has been made of the bequest to date, however, because the amount received from the sale of the property has not approachd the cost of erecting a modern library.

The village's second newspaper, the weekly Hinsdale *Beacon,* began publication in 1888, founded by Charles H. Cushing, head of a Chicago printing concern. Shortly afterward, G. K. Wright started the *Herald.*

A men's club started in 1887 was incorporated in 1889 as the Hinsdale Club, which erected a big frame clubhouse in 1899 and became one of the most exclusive clubs in the Chicago area. Three years after Marvin Fox's death in 1889, his Fullersburg home was loaned by its new owner to the Hinsdale Fresh Air Association for the purpose of giving groups of Chicago's underprivileged mothers, children, and working girls week-long summer vacations—a project which lasted until 1920.

The year 1890 ushered in Hinsdale's era of public improvements with the completion of the municipal water works on land given by John C. Ross. In 1892 the sewer system and the hard-surfacing of the streets were started. Early in 1896 came the municipal power plant, privately built by a company organized by Village President J. C. F. Merrill and then sold to the village for $1 down and a $10,000 liability. A member and later president of Chicago's Board of Trade, Merrill was the brother of the local printer.

On October 5, 1895, when Daniel Merrill, one of the latter's three sons, was 17, he launched the weekly Hinsdale *Doings,* which today is Hinsdale's only newspaper, the *Index* having expired shortly after the *Doings* appeared, the *Beacon* and *Herald,* around 1900.

Originating in a mothers' class, the Woman's Club of Hinsdale was organized in 1893 with 100 charter members. A tennis club also was formed, and in 1894 a group of 23 men laid out a small golf course that led to the founding of the Hinsdale Golf Club in 1898. The Village League took up civic problems and public welfare, later evolving into the Hinsdale Relief Society, forerunner of today's Hinsdale Community Service.

More than a quarter of a century after Hinsdale's incorporation, it was discovered that the village had neglected to notify the proper State authorities of the incorporation proceedings and therefore never had received a charter. On September 17, 1901, the charter finally was acquired.

With the new century, the little hotel and general stores went, and a number of the commuting executives became gentlemen farmers. One of these was George B. Robbins, son of Hinsdale's founder, who started a pure-bred Guernsey farm—one of the first in Illinois—north of Fullersburg. Named Natoma (Running Water), its 160 acres along Salt Creek contained the hearthstone of the Fuller cabin. In 1908 Robbins sold Natoma to Frank Osgood Butler, millionaire paper manufacturer, under whom it became a model dairy farm and one of suburban Chicago's major dairy centers. Butler also started the Oak Brook horse farm. Both F. O. Butler and his father, Julius W., had moved to Hinsdale in the 1890's. The elder Butler died in 1912. When F. O. Butler moved away, about 1925, his son Paul operated Natoma until 1937, when the Butler Company bought the land and, in 1938, sold the dairy business (*see Tour* I). The company also owns the land and facilities of the Oak Brook Polo Club, started by Paul Butler in 1924.

There was also Sedgeley Farm, on South County Line Road, where Enos M. Barton, one of the founders of the Western Electric Company kept a herd of 250 Swiss cows and about 60 horses. After his death in 1916, part of his farm became the Chicago Guernsey Farm (*see Tour* I).

Between 1902 and 1915, the Hinsdale Building and Loan Association went into voluntary liquidation, paying in full plus a dividend of 8 per cent, and its officers then organized the village's first bank, the Hinsdale State; gas was piped into the village under a franchise; the village board appropriated $70,000 to replace the old wooden sidewalks with cement; Gardner's Hall became the Swedish Baptist Church, familiarly known as the "Swedish Maids' Church"; the Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital opened, bringing with it the nucleus of a Seventh Day Adventist church; village mail delivery was started, and Fullersburg's post office was discontinued, Fullersburg becoming a star route emanating from Hinsdale; a second bank, the Hinsdale Trust and Savings, was opened; a telephone franchise was granted (Hinsdale had had telephone service since about 1895, however—probably through a small, privately owned exchange); the first water-softening plant was built; and a motion picture theater was opened.

In the 1920's, which Hinsdale began with a population of 4,042, the Ruth Lake Country Club was founded; the Hinsdale First National Bank replaced the Trust and Savings; two more elementary schools were built, and the old North Side School became a junior high school; Butler School, its building and grounds north of Fullersburg donated by the Butler family, replaced the old Torode School, which had absorbed Rabbit Hill School shortly before; a new water-softening plant and the Memorial Building were erected; and the village-manager system was tried out.

Five annexations were made to Hinsdale between 1910 and 1923, the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation. The fifth of these was Fullersburg. Now at last the country cousin was placed on an equal footing with the city-bred sophisticate, gaining through the move the long overdue stature and advantages of a municipality, giving in return a rich heritage in the past.

Four more annexations enlarged Hinsdale between 1924 and 1928. During the 1930's when Federal funds flowed into public projects to employ the unemployed, the village plan commission turned its attention to the erecting of new public buildings, the development of parks, the planting of more trees, the installation of a booster water main, the cleaning of Flagg Creek (part of the sewage disposal system), and the rounding of street corners in the old section of town to increase the radius of the intersections from the 10 feet of horse-and-buggy days to the 30 feet needed today.

Points of Interest

1. CASTLE INN (*open to the public as an antique shop*), 220 East Ogden Avenue (US 34), one of the few remaining coach taverns of early Illinois, was built by Orente and David Grant about 1835. Of historic interest on several accounts, it deserves better care than it has received. Its age

and significance are instantly revealed to even the most casual glance by its porch, which, built to stand slightly above the corduroy highway of pioneer days, is considerably below the level of the present-day road. Both Lincoln and Douglas are said to have stayed at Castle Inn. Before the Civil War, the tavern was a station on the underground railway. In tavern days, the room at the west end of the ground floor served as a barroom. The two rooms east of the entrance were parlors. Behind them was a dining room. On the second floor, the east room was a ballroom and the four rooms in the middle, bedrooms. The room at the west end was unfinished. At one time steps on the outside of the east elevation provided an outdoor entrance to the second floor. In this tavern, in 1862, was born the world-famous dancer, Loie Fuller.

2. The TOLLHOUSE operated by Barto Van Velzer in the days when Ogden Avenue was the Southwestern Plank Road now is an addition on the rear of Van Velzer's former residence (*private*) at 225 East Ogden Avenue (US 34). Benjamin Fuller's tavern was a short distance west of here.

3. At 948 York Street is the BENJAMIN FULLER HOUSE (*private*). In this two-story frame building, probably dating from the 1840's, lived the man who, in 1851, platted Fullersburg, which today comprises the extreme northern section of Hinsdale. One of the earliest of Brush Hill's pioneers, Benjamin Fuller first came here on horseback in 1834 or 1835. He died in this house in 1868.

4. The west section of the residence at 108 East Ogden Avenue (US 34), comprises the JACOB AND MORELL FULLER HOUSE (*private*), which probably was constructed in the early 1840's. Jacob acquired the land on which it stands from his son Benjamin, and it is thought that he then moved here from the original Fuller cabin, built in 1835, a mile or so northwest. Morell Fuller, another of Jacob's sons, later acquired the house and added the east section. Inside, the old part is clearly distinguishable by its low ceilings and its balustrade of hand-turned cherry wood.

5. The 1½-story frame house at 32 West Ogden Avenue (US 34) is the MARVIN FOX HOUSE (*private*), former home of one of Fullerburg's leading early families, built about 1852. From 1892 until 1920 it served as the Hinsdale Fresh Air Home.

6. At Maumell and Garfield Streets is the entrance to the FULLERSBURG CEMETERY, established in 1862 by the families of Benjamin Fuller and Marvin Fox. As Fullersburg grew, it came to be used as a village burying ground. Many of the earliest pioneers of Brush Hill, as well as Du Page County Civil War soldiers, are buried in it.

7. The HINSDALE SANITARIUM AND HOSPITAL, 120 North Oak Street, is primarily a hospital today, with a capacity of 125 patients.

It was founded in 1904 by Dr. David Paulson and his wife, Dr. Mary Paulson. Ardent Seventh Day Adventists, the Paulsons formerly had been connected with the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan and in 1899 had founded a mission and medical center in Chicago as a branch of the Battle Creek institution. The Paulsons were induced to transfer their activities to Hinsdale by Charles B. Kimbell, local trustee and manager of estates, who had been so favorably impressed with their work when he was a patient at the Chicago center that he made it possible for them to acquire the late Judge C. G. Beckwith's estate by making them a 20-year, non-interest-bearing loan. The Beckwith home, built in the 1870's by John W. Reed, is today the student nurses' dormitory. Frame wings added between 1904 and 1912, with the brick addition completed in 1921, form the bulk of the main building. The old gardener's cottage is one of about 20 supplementary cottages. The Alanson Reed home, now an employees' residence, formerly was a charity ward. A Seventh Day Adventist church, to which most of the nonmedical staff members belong, meets in the hospital chapel.

8. The MEMORIAL BUILDING, 19 E. Chicago Ave., an attractive Georgian colonial structure of red brick with white simplified Corinthian columns, clock tower, and trim, designed by Edwin H. Clarke, houses the village administrative offices, public library, and the headquarters of the local American Legion post and the Hinsdale Community Service. Built by public subscription and dedicated July 4, 1928, it memorializes "all those who on land, sea, or in the air have offered their lives in the service of our country." The sculpture and dedicatory murals in the foyer were done, respectively, by Oskar J. W. Hansen and Ralph Fletcher Seymour.

The public library, which occupies the north wing of the hall, has 16,000 volumes (*open Mon., Thurs., Sat., 9-9; other weekdays, 9-6*).

9. The J. W. BUTLER HOUSE (*private*), on the northwest corner of First St. and Orchard Pl., dates from about 1890, when the head of the J. W. Butler Paper Company moved to Hinsdale from Chicago, where the firm had originated in 1844 as a jobbing house for the paper mills started about 1841 at St. Charles, Illinois, by Butler's brother Oliver.

10. At 230 E. First St. is the red-brick F. O. BUTLER HOUSE (*private*), built in 1898 by the son of J. W. Butler. While engaged in the paper business in Chicago, F. O. Butler operated the well-known Natoma dairy farm north of Hinsdale from 1908 until he moved away about 1925.

11. The remodeled stone residence at 425 East Sixth Street is the second WILLIAM ROBBINS HOUSE (*private*), built in 1864 by Hinsdale's founding father. In the 1890's it became the home of C. L. Washburn, Chicago lumber dealer, who, with his father-in-law, O. P. Bassett, who lived in the house directly west, established a well-known greenhouse.

* Leo F. Wilson home
Married in this home 11/27/29

NAPERVILLE

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
5,118 *(See p. 234.)*

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
30 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Y.M.C.A., 34 S. Washington St.; men only. Private tourist homes; information obtainable at Y.M.C.A. The usual restaurants and taverns.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
City Hall.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Four blocks S. of railroad station, centered in three blocks bounded by Benton Ave., Washington and Main Sts., and the river.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
Streets run N. and S.; avenues, E. and W. Numbering is N. and S. from Benton Ave., E. and W. from Washington St.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

Centennial Park, along river at SW. corner of city; entered from Jackson Ave. Usual park facilities plus swimming pool.

Burlington Park (county forest preserve No. 6), west-central edge of city; entered from Jefferson Ave. Picnic facilities include open fireplaces, drinking water, rest rooms. Small herd of elk in park. Fishing.

Central Park, extending S. from Benton Ave., between Library and Court St. Weekly summer concerts by Naperville Municipal Band; other entertainment.

Pioneer Park (county forest preserve No. 18), 1.4 mi. S. of city on Washington St. Picnic facilities include drinking water. Fishing.

Goodrich Woods (county forest preserve), 2 mi. SE. of city, Goodrich Rd.

Naperville Country Club, 1 mi. E. of city, Chicago Ave.; daily fee course; dining room.

Naper Theater, Jefferson Ave. between Washington and Main Sts. (motion picture).

Concerts by Woman's Club and Y.M.C.A. choruses, college glee clubs, band, and orchestra.

Flower Show, June, at Y.M.C.A.

Mid-West Institute of International Relations sessions at North Central College; approx. 10 days, end of June; information at 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

Fourth of July Celebration, 2-3 days; Centennial Pk., Kroehler Athletic Field.

NAPERVILLE

Time: The Present — Setting: The Past

LYING among the broad, rolling hills of the southern half of Du Page County is its oldest town, Naperville, where time-worn houses and work buildings call forth the adjective "quaint." To wander its streets is to live for an hour in the past, or to be transported to an inland New England village. White frame houses—most of them Greek Revival in style—alternate with brown or grey weather-beaten structures that breathe their oldness to the passerby, and mingle with a few Civil War era colonial bricks. A pioneer cabin, its walls of ragged clapboards, its floors supported by logs, sags under the weight of more than a century on the bank of the meandering stream. A tavern, proud and renowned in the 1830's, slouches gaunt and still on a quiet corner that once resounded with horses' hooves and the crack of the stage-driver's whip. Within leaning walls lie many museum pieces, some in use, some being preserved with that reverence for things old often found among those who live in small towns with a past. *(See p. 232.)*

The once-busy waterfront is now a ghost street, its water-power mill gone, one of its big brewery buildings idle, its railroad tracks unused. The Du Page River was a sizeable, active stream when the pioneers found it. No longer capable of running a mill, its western branch flows along the outer edge of the forest preserve at the city's western extremity, turns east to form the southern boundary of Centennial Park, continues into town as far as Washington Street, then winds its way out in a southerly direction. A creek west of Main Street, now tiled over, formerly marked the eastern timber line of the grove in which the first settlers took refuge, woods so thick that children lost their way in them even after clearings had been made and several houses erected. One tree remains of this original timber, standing among others of later growth on the south bank of the river at Eagle Street.

Town of contrasts and contradictions, Naperville, for all its memories,

is in spots very much a city of today. Moreover, it is a city of some importance in its own right. Having started out an industrial as well as agricultural settlement, it has developed in the former respect, substituted horticulture for much of its agriculture, and has avoided becoming a suburb of commuters. From a present population estimated at 5,500, only about 300 persons work in Chicago. Local business includes two banks; coal, grain, feed, and lumber companies; dairies; a boiler works; and a storage plant. One of Naperville's greenhouses specializes in orchids.

Most important of Naperville industries is the Kroehler Manufacturing Company, world's largest makers of upholstered furniture. About 550 men and 100 women work in the plant, which constitutes the chief means of employment in the city. Also of national scope are Charles Bond's greenhouse, which ships orchids all over the country; the J. L. Nichols Company, publishers of the Nichols *Business Guide;* and the National Bag Company, manufacturers of parcel post, coin, and individual tea bags. Since the first edition of the *Business Guide* in 1886, more than four million copies of the periodically revised work have been sold throughout the United States. Publication offices only are in Naperville. Founded in 1866, Naperville Nurseries, Inc., covers two large tracts of land, one within the city, the other just outside *(see Tour).* From the Prince Castles ice cream plant, started here in 1931, are operated 13 stores in other Illinois towns. The firm name is derived from that of the owner of the affiliated Dixon plant, a Mr. Prince. In a big red frame building just north of the old waterfront is the Naperville Cheese Company. The Naperville Mushroom Farming Company sells its product almost exclusively to a canned soup manufacturer. Since 1904 the Arthur Beidelman Company has been manufacturing burial vaults, monuments, and garden accessories, which are sold throughout the immediate area.

Four parks and a forest preserve lie within the corporate limits, contributing to the attractiveness of the natural setting and the pervading air of unhurried ease. A fifth park, outside the present limits, is a recent acquisition of the city. Naperville is surrounded by numerous farms.

Together with the affiliated Evangelical Theological Seminary, North Central College adds to the cultural life of the city and has developed here a center of the Evangelical denomination. Because most of the students come from out of town, the two institutions have had a part in Naperville's economic growth. In 1937 the Mid-West Institute of International Relations selected the college as the permanent location of its

annual sessions, thus making Naperville a yearly mecca for teachers, students, social workers, and ministers, who come to hear authorities of world-wide reputation discuss international and interracial problems.

Two politically independent weekly newspapers—the *Clarion* and the *Sun*—give to Naperville's citizens all the local news and the headline topics of national and foreign interest. The public library dates from shortly before the turn of the century. One of the first schools in the region was opened here in the fall of 1831. Today, in addition to the college, there are two public elementary schools with an attendance of 587 pupils, a parochial school with 332, and a public high school with 430.

Tracing its formal religious services back to 1833, Naperville now has ten churches, embracing the German Baptist Brethren, Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, and Methodist faiths. The Dunkards, who established the Church of the Brethren in 1856, are less rigid than they used to be, but they still perform the ritual, known as the love feast, of washing one another's feet.

Music ranks high among the cultural and recreational pursuits. About 775 adults and children are actively engaged in musical groups, which comprise the Y. M. C. A. and Woman's Club choruses, a municipal band, five college organizations, ten church choirs, and bands, orchestras, and glee clubs of the public schools.

Among numerous other cultural, social, fraternal, and service organizations are the Garden Club, which has a membership of about 250 men and women and holds an annual flower show, and the Knife and Fork Club, an informal business men's weekly-luncheon group active in the promotion of civic improvements. Most of the local business men belong to this as well as to the Association of Commerce. The oldest organization is the Masonic Order, chartered locally in 1849. Next, is the I. O. O. F., dating from 1850. The W. C. T. U., established here in 1883, now has more than 250 members. The Walter Blanchard Post of the G. A. R. mustered its original 22 members in old Scott's Hall on January 7, 1884, taking its name from Captain Blanchard of Downers Grove, killed at Ringgold Gap, Georgia, November 27, 1863. It was this post which erected the monument in Central Park in honor of the Naperville soldiers and sailors who fought in the Black Hawk, Mexican, Civil, and Spanish-American Wars.

Although 95 percent of Naperville's residents are native Americans, three-quarters of them are of German descent. There is no Negro population. Most of the present inhabitants are descendants, if not of the original settlers, at least of those who followed close upon their footsteps

and helped to build a city from the straggling prairie settlement. Community spirit is high—perhaps higher than in any other town in the county.

The city operates under the commission form of government and is debtless. For all its external artlessness, Naperville is fully equipped with the necessities of modern daily life. A fire department, now 64 years old. consists of five regular members and twenty-five volunteers. The police force of seven has little work outside of traffic control. The first municipal wells were deep, tapping the water supply in the St. Peter sandstone. But when extensive use of that source in this area caused the water line to recede as much as eight feet a year, shallow wells, to the Niagara limestone source, were substituted. Sewage is disposed of through modern chemical treatment, but the problem has not been entirely solved and Naperville is one of the communities criticized by downstream towns for polluting the Du Page River.

The Thrilling Thirties (1831-1839)

In February, 1831, Capt. Joseph Naper of Ashtabula, Ohio, came to look over the region around Chicago. Since 1828 he had been master of the schooner *Telegraph,* owned by Capt. Benjamin Naper (relationship unknown). This two-masted schooner, with one deck, a scroll head, and a square stern, was built on the bank of the Ashtabula River. Joseph Naper and his brother John, also a seafaring man, decided to settle on the fine prairie land that Joseph had seen west of Chicago. When the *Telegraph* arrived at the mouth of the Chicago River on July 15, 1831, the Naper brothers delivered it over to a new owner and, with their families and other pioneers who had made the voyage with them, hastened out to the good land.

There were about 50 or 60 people in the Naper colony, including all the children. Trekking out to the west branch of the Du Page River, they unloaded their belongings and put up their first rude huts at a spot about two miles north of Bailey Hobson's claim and a mile south of Christopher Paine.

In the autumn the Naper brothers erected a sawmill, using iron-work they had brought for the purpose from Ohio. Christopher Paine built the dam, laying logs, which he held in place with stones, across the water, and then building up the dam with mud and buckwheat straw. By the spring of 1832 the Du Page River's first mill was in running order.

In partnership with P. F. W. Peck, who had come to the settlement

shortly after its founding, the Napers put up a trading post, where they carried on an extensive business with both settlers and Indians. A Cook County merchant's license for the operation of this store was granted to Joseph Naper in 1831.

The members of Naper Settlement cooperated with neighboring pioneers over a radius of several miles to the south and east in establishing a school. On September 14, 1831, the following contract was drawn up in John Murray's handwriting:

> We, the undersigned, whose names are here affixed, do agree to hire Lester Peet to teach a school in our respective District, for the term of four months, for the consideration of Twelve Dollars per month. Said teacher doth agree on his part to teach a regular English school, teaching Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and English Grammar if required. And the understanding is, that said teacher is to board with the scholars. School is to commence by the 15th of November next. N. B. Each subscriber doth agree to pay his proportionable part of the teacher's wages, according to the number of scholars that he subscribes for or sends. And it is likewise understood that Joseph Naper, Christopher Paine and Bailey Hobson be and are a committee to superintend said school, and to see that there is a suitable house built in due season.

Twenty-two scholars were subscribed for on this contract, signed by 12 men. The school building, a log cabin 14 feet square, was erected at the present intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Ewing Street.

Captain Naper had met Stephen J. Scott, settler at the forks of the Du Page River in present Will County, on his first trip to the region and engaged him to break ten acres of prairie land for him in the spring. Owing to the lateness of the season when they arrived, however, the Napers had been able to plant only buckwheat and rutabagas, and it was necessary to send three men to get provisions from the established farms along the Wabash. The winter was unusually severe, and the little settlement was practically buried beneath four feet of snow. Many wild animals starved or froze to death. Scantily supplied with food, the settlers sometimes had little to eat except corn, which they pounded by hand into meal, or ground on the crude gristmill built after the completion of the sawmill. Christopher Paine had made the grinding stones from boulders, and each settler ground his own grain, using his team of oxen or horses for power.

Then came the memorable spring of 1832. Crops were in the ground, and the settlers were busy improving their homes and rooting themselves more deeply in the new land. Their labors were suddenly interrupted on

the 17th of May. Mrs. Bailey Hobson told the story of that day in these words:

> . . . we were just setting down to dinner when a man and boy came in from a field near by and began to talk about the Indians coming. The boy said they were killing and burning everything in their way, and were at Hollenback, 30 miles away (that is where Newark is now located). . . . The report was exaggerated, but there was some shooting, but the fright was a good deal worse than it should have been. I don't think we would have all been killed had we remained at home, but I did think so then. A friendly Indian came and advised us to leave. . . . We were frightened and went into the woods where we remained until night. Then I came back to the house with my husband and helped him fix the wagon and hitch up the oxen for the journey. . . . In the night, we loaded up and started for Chicago, where we arrived the next day about sundown.

This was the beginning, as far as Naper Settlement was concerned, of the Black Hawk War. Some say it was the son of Shabbona, the friendly Potawatomi chief, who had brought the news to Naper Settlement, some say it was Half Day's boy.

All the families except Christopher Paine's immediately left for Fort Dearborn, some of the men remaining to look after the houses and crops. The next day David Laughton, Indian trader and owner of a tavern on the Des Plaines River, came with three Potawatomies and a half-breed named Burrasaw in search of information regarding the rumored invasion. Capt. Joseph Naper and a few other settlers decided to join them in a trip over to the Potawatomi camp in Big Woods, a grove that extended about eight miles in a north-easterly direction from Aurora. They found the whole tribe occupied in a feast and not entirely sober, but succeeded in drawing from them the information that a large band of Sauks was encamped in Blackberry Woods, only four miles away. Although some of the men said they would try to prevail upon the Sauks to spare Naper Settlement, an old squaw warned the party to run for their lives. Laughton, safe because of his position as a trader, remained at the camp, while Naper and his companions hastened back to their homes. There they made preparations for flight and awaited further news. Laughton returned with about 50 Potawatomies and a warning to depart immediately, as a band of Sauks had crossed the Fox River and had refused to listen to the pleas for mercy. Their loaded wagons standing ready, and the things it was necessary to leave behind hidden in the well, the remaining inhabitants of Naper Settlement started at once for Chicago, where they arrived on May 20. At this time Fort Dearborn was unoccupied as a military post, the troops of the garrison having been

sent to Fort Howard at Green Bay the preceding summer. The panic had already become so widespread that the fort was fast filled.

When the men from Naper Settlement made known at the fort their intention to return to look after their property, a company to go with them was formed from Gholson Kercheval's volunteers, under the command of Jesse B. Brown. Leaving the fort on May 21, they spent the night at Laughton's Tavern, and reached Naper Settlement the next day, where they found that nothing had been disturbed. They continued on to Plainfield, where settlers had erected a rude fort, and then on to Holderman's Grove (Newark). While there, an express from Ottawa brought the news of a massacre at Indian Creek, where they found the bodies of the 15 victims. After burying the corpses, the volunteers went down to Ottawa, from which point, joined by a reinforcement of 12 men, they started their return march. They found Holderman's Grove in ruins and the settlers of Plainfield so alarmed that they abandoned their fort and joined the march to Chicago.

After their return to the fort, two new companies were organized. Robert Kinzie headed a band of 50 Potawatomi scouts and runners, and Capt. Jean Baptiste Beaubien commanded a company of about 25 whites that included members of Naper Settlement. On June 1, they started out, Kinzie's band going directly to the settlement, Beaubien's making a detour in order to inspect Capt. Harry Boardman's property at the Scott Settlement, which they found unmolested. When they reached Ellsworth's Grove, Beaubien's company saw smoke rising from the vicinity of Naper's house. John Naper volunteered to investigate. He was to fire one shot if he found the other company, two, if Indians. Soon after his departure, two shots were heard, and, when Naper did not appear, it was concluded that he had been killed. Two members of the company became frightened and started to ride away without orders. Captain Beaubien rushed after them, but his cries of "Halt!" were disregarded. Running them down, he drew his pistol, shouting, "You run? By Gar, you run, I shoot you!"

Shortly after Beaubien's return with the deserters, Naper appeared with the news that the settlement was safely in the hands of Kinzie's men. Relieved and hungry, Beaubien and his men hurried to the village, where a feast and a party ensued. The next day, Beaubien's company left for Big Woods, after first tying strips of sheeting to Kinzie's Indians, so that they would not be shot by mistake. They scoured the prairies all day in vain and returned to the village disheartened. On the following morning they started back to Chicago, leaving Kinzie and his scouts to keep watch.

About the middle of June, Joseph Naper, Harry Boardman, and other members of the Naper and surrounding settlements went to Ottawa for assistance in building a fort at Naper Settlement. General Atkinson gave them the services of Capt. Morgan L. Payne of Joliet and 50 Danville volunteers. One tragedy marked the building of Fort Payne. In order to get materials which had been prepared for roofing shingles in the nearby grove, Captain Payne sent out some young men with a wagon. A volley from ambush killed one or two of them, and the horses were taken by their assailants. This occurred on the same day that a Michigan company under Col. Edward Brooks, sent out to escort the settlers back to Fort Dearborn, had left the settlement, believing that the alarm which had brought them out was false.

On July 10, Gen. Winfield Scott arrived at Fort Dearborn with part of his troops and on July 29 Scott started out for the front, going in advance of the main body of troops, with a few staff officers, a dozen men, and two baggage wagons. Young Robert N. Murray was one of the teamsters. Following an old Indian trail westward, Scott spent a night at Fort Payne, on his way to Dixon's Ferry on Rock River, from which point he proceeded to Fort Armstrong at Rock Island. However, before Scott and his army got into action, news came that the war had ended August 2, with the battle of the Bad Axe.

It was sometime in July that Capt. Joseph Naper's own company had been organized, too late to do active service, as a company, in the war.

Defeat lost to the Sauk and Foxes their land in northwestern Illinois, and they were banished forever beyond the Mississippi. Under the Treaty of 1833, through which the rest of northern Illinois was ceded to the United States, the Government provided for payment of claims made and approved against the United Nations of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi Indians, by an apportionment of their ready money. Among the many whites who entered claims was Joseph Naper, in the amount of $71.

With the Indians gone, Naper Settlement grew fast. Its fort became a barnyard, and the community took its place in the civic affairs of the county. It belonged to Scott Precinct, one of the voting precincts into which Cook County, organized in March, 1831, had been divided On August 6, 1832, a poll was held at Joseph Naper's house for the purpose of electing a State senator and representative, county sheriff, coroner, and commissioners. Joseph Naper, Harry Boardman, and Stephen M. Salisbury were election judges.

By the end of 1832 Naper Settlement numbered 180. Wooded land

all about the region was being claimed rapidly and the bona fide settlers were aready being harrassed by claim jumpers and land sharks.

Although most of the immigrants to northern Illinois in this period were Yankees, from New England and New York, the original Naper colony had been composed, at least in large part, of Hoosiers from Ohio. The straight-laced Yankees who filtered into the colony, or settled near it, cast a stern eye upon their neighbors, and the remarks of various old settlers indicate in general that the Hoosiers lived up to their reputation for impiety, intemperance, and slothfulness. Although less intellectual than the pioneers fresh from the East, the Hoosiers were jolly, and experience on a previous frontier had made them rugged and brave. Recalling the early days of Naper Settlement, Judge Robert N. Murray said, half a century later:

> . . . we were a sort of free born people with broad Christian svmpathies. We believed in doing just about as we pleased, so we did not interfere with the rights of other men. The good brethren of the East Branch Settlement [along the east branch of the Du Page River, in Lisle Township] who came out here from New England in 1832 used to come up here with their iron bed stead and try to fit us to it, but they found it useless, and gave up the people of Naper Settlement as children of the Devil, for whom there was no hope.

George Martin, a new arrival at the settlement in 1833, wrote back to his people in Scotland:

> They like the dollars very well—but they seem to know nothing about farming—and do not care much about work. . . . To say the least of it—I never thought to hear and see so much swearing and Sabbath breaking—but in justice to them I must also say in my travels through the States of Michigan and Illinois—I never saw a lock on their doors—when I asked them what was the reason, they told me they would not like to live in a country where they were required to lock their doors. . . . A large party to come out and bring a MINISTER with them, would find it a very comfortable thing—but the FAITHLESSNESS of men is so great here. . . .

Through the influence of the Yankees, who followed close upon the heels of Naper Settlement's Hoosiers, four religious societies took root in the locality during the 1830's. Founded on July 13, 1833, by the Rev. Jeremiah Porter and the Rev. N. Catlin Clark, missionaries in this area, with the help of the Rev. C. W. Babbitt of Tazewell County, the first was Congregational. Living within a radius of several miles of Naper Settlement, its 19 members were mostly from the East Branch Settlement and Downers Grove. Meetings were held at Naper Settlement's schoolhouse and in the East Branch colony. Punctuality was insisted upon, and a

committee called upon absentees for an excuse at the next meeting attended by them. In 1834 the society raised $100 to pay the expenses of a regular preacher and the Reverend Mr. Clark, resident of Lisle Township, was the first to hold the position.

In the fall of 1833 the Rev. Stephen R. Beggs was appointed Methodist circuit rider for a district of 12 stations that included Naper Settlement.

Early in 1837 Zion (now First) Evangelical Church was organized with 15 members, and in June of that year the Rev. Jacob Boas, who also led services at Duncklee's Grove, Addison Township, preached the first sermon. Meetings were held in various homes and in the schoolrooms until the erection of a church building—the first in the village—in 1841, on land donated by Joseph Naper.

St. John's Episcopal Church was founded in 1838. The first Episcopal visitation was made the following year by the Rt. Rev. Philander Chase.

The year 1834 was an important one. Joseph Naper was one of the Cook County Commissioners who laid out one of the first legally established roads through what later became Du Page County, and Dr. John Taylor Temple started stagecoach service from Chicago to both Ottawa and Galena by way of Naperville (*see p.* 19).

Coincident with the opening of the Galena and Ottawa stage lines, a tavern was built by George Laird. Called Pre-Emption House, it immediately took a leading place among the wayside inns of the day, and maintained its popularity for many years.

Bailey Hobson, whose settlement in the territory antedated that of the Napers by five months, started a large gristmill in 1834, in partnership with Harry Boardman. Erected on the west branch of the Du Page, about two miles south of Naper Settlement, this was the first flour mill to run by water power within the limits of present Du Page County. As soon as it was in running order, farmers came from all around with their grain. As it was often necessary for his customers to wait over a day for their flour, Hobson gave them accommodation at the large frame house which he built near the mill, and which thus became known as Hobson's Tavern. From the establishment of the gristmill, the Hobson family came to be inseparably identified with Naper Settlement.

In 1836, anticipating the general movement throughout the State toward improvement of agricultural methods, the Naperville Agricultural Works started manufacturing the Naperville Plow, which became widely known and used in the region.

On March 1, 1836, a post office was established at Naperville with

Once Part of Millionaires' Row, Now Elmhurst's Public Library

County Seat, Wheaton: Old Courthouse, Sheriff's House, New Courthouse

Typical of the Civil War Era Is the Willard Scott House, Naperville

Naperville's Kroehler Company Is the World's Largest Upholstered-furniture Maker

Elmhurst Has Been Quarrying Since 1883: Elmhurst-Chicago Stone Company

Cottage Hill Avenue Gave Elmhurst Its Name in 1868

Alexander Howard as first postmaster. Capt. Joseph Naper—seaman, merchant, miller, soldier, farmer—became a representative in the State legislature in 1836, a position he held until 1842, to be re-elected in 1852 for a term of two years. Opposed to the entire liquor licensing law, he introduced a bill for its repeal in the session of 1839-40.

Willard Scott, son of Stephen J. Scott, moved up to Naperville from "The Forks" in 1838. He brought his family with him and immediately set about becoming one of the town's leading citizens. His first enterprise was the building of a three-story frame hostelry called the Naperville Hotel.

The first election of officers for Du Page County was held at the Pre-Emption House on the first Monday in May, 1839. Lewis Ellsworth was elected first school superintendent. Another meeting at the Pre-Emption in June resulted in the selection of Naperville as county seat. Bailey Hobson, as county commissioner, secured a pre-emption on a tract of land for the public square, and about $5,000 was subscribed by Naperville residents for building a courthouse.

Banks and Planks (1840-1860)

A. S. Jones began manufacture of the Jones Plow in 1840. Later his plant was absorbed by the Oliver Plow Company. Vaughn and Peck are also listed as subsequent owners of the factory. In 16 years the output grew to 2,500 plows annually. Also in 1840 the Naper sawmill was torn down and a gristmill with two run of stones put up in its place. The latter venture was given the name Du Page Valley Mills. Joseph Naper ran an ice business on the side, cutting and selling the ice that accumulated on his mill pond.

The various local temperance groups banded together to form, on February 16, 1841, the Du Page County Temperance Society, an auxiliary of the State Society. The meeting was held at—of all places—the Pre-Emption House, whose whisky barrels made stains even yet visible on its aged floors. *(See p. 232.)*

Willard Scott established a big general store in the early forties. Empty now, the old building still stands on the city's main business street. To Naperville belongs the distinction of having started the first public library (1845) in the county. Its 30 subscribers elected five trustees, and shares were sold at $5, subject to an annual tax. The shareholders donated some of the books, others were purchased, and a system of fines and penalties was instituted. This library lasted about six years.

By the end of the 1840's German, English, Scotch, and Pennsylvania Dutch settlers about equalled the number of immigrants from New England. Money was scarce in this period, and credit popular. Doctors and lawyers were beginning to hang out their shingles. A number of farmers were making a special business of carting merchandise for local sale back from their trips to the Chicago grain markets.

The ravages of the widespread cholera epidemic of 1848 took many lives, but it left no permanent scar on Naperville, however, and the year 1849 saw the establishment of the Du Page County Nurseries by Lewis Ellsworth; of the Naperville Brewery by John and Nicholas Stenger; of another hotel, the New York House, by Robert N. Murray; and of the county's first newspaper. Ellsworth's nurseries and greenhouse ushered into the county the business which has become more and more successful throughout this area. The brewery was for many years one of Naperville's leading industries. The newspaper had a less fortuitous history.

A group of business men had offered to buy a printing press and type for anyone who would publish a newspaper at Naperville. Hearing of the offer, Charles J. Sellon, a stranger to the local citizenry, had hastened to accept. Supplied with $500 worth of second-hand equipment purchased from a Chicago paper, Sellon brought out the Du Page County *Recorder* on December 1, 1849. The sheet seemed bound to succeed, since it began with a circulation of 500 and the support of the county's business men. Sellon, however, was lazy, extravagant, and incompetent. The non-partisan political policy, agreed upon because of the diverse affiliations of the paper's backers, did not suit Sellon. When his funds ran low, he sought the financial aid of a couple of politicians, in return for which he arbitrarily changed the paper's policy. Discontinuing the *Recorder* at the end of nine months, he issued in its place the *Democratic Plaindealer*. At about the same time, playing up to the growing interest in the temperance movement which was spreading throughout the State at this time, Sellon began publication of another weekly called *Daughter of Temperance*. The increased cost of production, coupled with a sharp decline in patronage because of resentment against his unscrupulousness, quickly brought Sellon into financial difficulties. To save himself he formed a partnership with H. S. Humphrey, a journeyman printer on his staff, but in November, 1850, Sellon left Naperville, ostensibly to drum up business, and never returned. Behind him were left $500 worth of unpaid bills and a destitute family.

Messrs. Keith and Barnes assumed responsibility to Sellon's creditors, and with Humphrey began publication of the Du Page County *Observer*

in January, 1851. The still-rankling memory of Sellon, however, prevented the new paper from achieving success. In 1852 Humphrey sold out to Gershom Martin, and in 1854 the other partners dropped out. Martin continued alone until the following September, when, having less than 275 subscribers, the paper was suspended. Charles Keith bought Martin out, got a larger press, and in November issued the Du Page County *Journal*, a great improvement over its predecessors. A partnership with J. N. Edson did not last long and Keith's place was taken by E. M. Day, who in 1856 became sole owner and editor.

The middle of the nineteenth century brought to Naperville the much-heralded Southwestern Plank Road. Up to this point it was identical with the old stage route. On January 3, 1850, the following advertisement appeared in the Du Page County *Recorder*:

> *Plank Wanted*—We will take any amount of white or burr oak plank from those indebted to us, if delivered at Naperville, or any other place on the line of the Naperville and Oswego plank road, before the first day of April, in payment of their accounts, or will pay goods for them. The planks to be eight feet long, three inches thick, and not more than thirteen inches wide. 500,000 feet of plank wanted for the stock of the company, Naper and Skinner; Lyman and Company; W. Scott & Son; A. H. Howard & Company; A. Keith; H. L. Peaslee and Company; George Martin.

By the end of 1851 the Southwestern Plank Road reached Naperville. From there it was extended farther west by various corporations.

In 1848—the same year that work on the Southwestern Plank Road had begun—construction of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad had been started. The directors of the railroad had urged the residents of Naperville to take stock in the company; they had offered to lay tracks through the town without financial assistance, if only given the right-of-way; they had suggested making Naperville a junction point—all to no avail. Naperville's leading citizens were satisfied with their plank road. Soon, but much too late, they saw their mistake. Wheat and other farm products went rolling into Chicago over rails, and commercial traffic over the planks dwindled into inconsequence. In 1862, when another chance for a railroad came along, a thoroughly chastened Naperville grabbed at it, ruefully looking sidewise at her half-rotted planks, which were finally torn up and given to the disappointed stockholders.

With the division of Du Page County into civil townships in 1850, the Naperville community found itself divided, as far as government was concerned, between two civil units. The west portion belonged to Naperville Township and the east to Lisle.

The Naperville Academy, a private school, was incorporated in 1851 and opened at the close of the following year. Books and funds of the public library were turned over to the Academy Association, which included among its members John Naper, Lewis Ellsworth, and John Collins. George Martin donated 40 cords of stone for the new building from his quarry along the river. The first principal, the Rev. N. F. Atkins, was succeeded by C. W. Richmond, co-author with H. F. Vallette, of the first Du Page County history, published in 1857. In addition to the ordinary school subjects of the day, the academy offered music, drawing, and painting. In 1860 the academy building was purchased for use as a public school, in which capacity it served until it was razed in 1928.

The population in 1853 was 1,200. Plank walks lined the main village streets, paid for out of the proceeds of country fairs, organized by the women when their petitions for sidewalks were ignored by the town fathers. The streets themselves were unpaved and unlighted, and the rest of the walks were meandering foot or cowpaths. One of Frink & Walker's four-horse stages brought the mail daily now.

Cows and pigs roamed at large about the village, the hum of prairie fowls filled the air at dawn, and from the undrained sloughs came the croaking of many frogs. Summer still brought prairie fires, but no great losses resulted from them. The newspaper contained a little local news and received outside items through publishers' exchanges and the New York papers. When, as once happened, an editor's marriage delayed publication three days, no one minded, as the paper had not been missed. The school commissioner reported in March, 1853, that Naperville had four school districts and 184 pupils, but no schoolhouse, and that furthermore, no effort was being made to erect one.

Late in 1853 Naperville had a murder trial. Sometime in October Patrick Doyle murdered Patrick Tole in Winfield Township. The Tole brothers worked on the railroad. One payday, as they were staggering along the road—having celebrated in the customary payday manner—Patrick fell down. When his brother stooped over to pick him up, Doyle suddenly appeared and beat Patrick over the head with a fence stake. Taking his money, Doyle went a short distance to a farmhouse where he stopped awhile, then walked to Junction (West Chicago) and boarded a train for Chicago. Apprehended several days later, Doyle was brought to Naperville for trial. As he had no counsel, the court assigned the Hon. Nathan Allen, former county judge and prominent Naperville lawyer, and Robert N. Murray to the case. Doyle was convicted and

sentenced to death. The hanging, which took place the following spring in Naperville was a public affair and the town turned out to witness it.

Willard Scott and his son Thaddeus opened a banking and exchange office in connection with their general store in 1854. Advertisements of Willard Scott & Company in the *Journal* at this time asked for wool, yarn mittens and gloves, lard, butter, eggs, corn, oats, beans, potatoes, and wood.. Advertisements of H. L. Peaslee & Company offered bales of No. 1 buffalo robes and cases of buffalo overshoes.

An important local industry was founded in 1856, when George Martin, Jr. moved his brickyard from what is now the northeast corner of the cemetery to the forks of Oswego Road and Ogden Avenue—near his father's quarry—where William King operated a tile works. The manufacture of tile and bricks continued here until 1917.

John Haight came from New York in 1856 and entered into law partnership with Bailey Hobson's son Merritt. He ran a fancy hog and poultry farm and published *John Haight's Circular,* a periodical on swine raising.

The year 1857 was important to Naperville on four accounts. On February 5, 6, and 7 occurred what is still referred to as the "great freshet." The swollen river washed out the dams at both Warrenville and Naperville, piling up large cakes of ice against the latter's four-arched stone bridge erected the year before at Main Street. Blocked by the jam, the water surged out over the banks, uprooting frame houses and barns, one barn carried away with it the primitive wooden bridge at Washington Street. Among the buildings destroyed was the one housin the *Journal.*

On March 21 George Martin and James G. Wright, an Englishman, founded the Producer's Bank. Dealing as it did in scrip, it was called a shinplaster bank. A great financial panic held the country in its grip during the late 1850's. Grain prices were low, but taxes went on, and the State levy had to be paid in silver. Much wildcat currency was set loose, immune to the unreliable bank-note detectors, as the published enumerations and descriptions of worthless bank-notes were called. These were bad times in which to start a new bank, but the Producer's lasted 16 years, and when it finally closed in 1873, it paid its depositors in full.

On May 4 Naperville, whose incorporation as a village had come through on the last day of the flood, held its first election. Ballots totalled 174, and Joseph Naper was elected president. His oath of office read, in part:

> I . . . do solemnly swear . . . that I have not fought a duel, nor sent nor accepted a challenge to fight a duel . . . since the adoption of the Constitution, and that I will not be so engaged or concerned, directly or indirectly . . . during my continuance in office. . . .

Another election in May, 1857, created some stir at the time, but its full implications were not realized until another decade had passed. This was the poll on the question of moving the county seat to Wheaton. Although behind Naperville in some respects, Wheaton had two advantages: it was in the center of the county, and it had the railroad. It also had a college and two alert and active ruling families, the Garys and the Wheatons. It seemed only natural that Wheaton should be the county seat—to everyone except the residents of Naperville, who won the election.

The well known Col. Jean Baptiste Beaubien, Chicago's second permanent settler, moved to Naperville in 1858. The Beaubien Tavern, now a private dwelling, still stands northeast of town.

The Burch divorce case of 1860 brought the name of Naperville before the eyes of the country's newspaper-reading public. The trial, which took place in the courthouse from November 12 to December 10, attracted national attention because of the wealth and social prominence of Mrs. Burch's family. Mary Turner Burch, a niece of Erastus Corning—Congressman, wealthy merchant, and railroad man of Albany, New York—was accused by her husband of adultery with the Hon. David Stuart, a charge which she denied. As the Burches had lived in Chicago since their marriage, the trial had been scheduled for the Circuit Court of Cook County, but Mrs. Burch had been granted a change of venue upon declaring that her husband "had brought undue influence to bear upon the minds of the inhabitants of Cook County." Both sides engaged several of the best lawyers of the day, and 11 of the country's leading daily journals sent correspondents to Naperville for the trial. Orville Browning, chief counsel for Mrs. Burch, had served in the Black Hawk War and was a Whig politician. To him was given the credit for winning the case for the defendant, with the result that he became a national figure, appointed in 1861 to fill the unexpired term of Stephen A. Douglas as Senator from Illinois, and made Secretary of the Interior in 1866 by President Johnson.

War Again and a Railroad at Last (1861-1865)

On the evening of April 13, 1861, telegraph keys all over the country clicked out the news that Fort Sumter had fallen at noon. Fear gripped

the residents of Naperville, and all night men remained in the streets, gathering in little groups to talk, moving on to other groups. This was a Saturday. On Sunday preachers in their pulpits were talking of war. On Monday Governor Yates, ordered to muster six regiments for immediate service, directed all commandants of military bodies to hold themselves in readiness. On Tuesday the Governor called for the immediate organization of six regiments to be mustered into the service. On the following Sunday the first detachment of Naperville men left Chicago for active service.

The women joined the Soldiers' Aid Society to knit, sew, scrape lint, make bandages, slice potatoes, and fry bushels of doughnuts. The sliced raw potatoes were packed in barrels, with layers of salt as a preservative, and sent to the military camps.

In 1862 the *Sentinel,* a newspaper started in Naperville by D. B. Birdsall, one of the publishers of Wheaton's first paper, came to an end. In 1863 E. H. Eyer's *Newsletter,* which had followed the demise of the *Journal,* was supplanted by Robert K. Potter's Du Page County *Press.*

On May 20, 1864, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was completed to Chicago. For some time the southern line of villages in the county had been trying, by means of a committee formed to meet with the railroad officials, to induce the Burlington to run a branch between Aurora and Chicago. According to Bateman and Selby, the Burch divorce case was indirectly responsible for the decision of the railroad company, as it had brought out here from the East Erastus Corning and one Mr. Rathbone, both large stockholders, who listened sympathetically to the proposals of the settlers.

The Rape of the Records (1866-1875)

The war over, Naperville resumed its temporarily retarded development. In 1866 Ernest von Oven started the Naperville Nurseries, which remain today one of the city's major commercial enterprises. In October of that year C. W. Richmond, who had started an 11 year term as county school superintendent in 1865, opened at Naperville the Du Page County Institute. Its purpose was to train the county's public school teachers. By 1876 Richmond had conducted 16 sessions, giving instruction to more than 1,600 teachers.

In 1867 the Naperville Light Guard Band began its 33-year career, and the Naperville Baseball Club was founded with four teams. Jacob Keller opened the village's fourth hotel, the Washington House, that

year. The building, still standing at the southwest corner of Main and Jefferson, now houses a saloon run by his son.

All was not well, however; Wheaton had not forgotten about wanting to be county seat, nor had it let Naperville forget. Ever since the county seat election ten years before, bitterness between the towns had existed. In June, 1867, Wheaton called another election and won. Naperville refused to admit defeat and flatly declined to give up the courthouse records, in spite of injunctions, which were answered by instituting counter proceedings. Then came the fatal morning in July, 1868.

Hiram H. Cody and his family, who lived opposite the Naperville courthouse, awakened to see men's forms moving silently up and down the broad courthouse steps. Some carried lanterns; the others, armfuls of something they were putting into a wagon that stood in the road. Cody knew what that something was. Skipping out the back way, he ran over to the Congregational Church, where he rang the bell in wild alarm. The Wheaton faction stationed a guard around the home of James M. Vallette, then deputy county recorder, and seized him when he tried to get over to the courthouse. This was rather ironical, as Vallette had lived in Wheaton for 19 years before moving to Naperville in 1867. Alec Riddler, cashier of the Scott bank, was also held, and in a short time the county records permanently left Naperville's possession.

Naperville's plans to recover its loss by force were circumvented by her president, Lewis Ellsworth, and County Sheriff James J. Hunt. Informed of the party being assembled at a saloon for the purpose of counter attack, the two officials devised a scheme to prevent what they considered a foolhardy escapade. They went to the saloon and pretended to enter into the conspiracy. With false generosity, they bought drinks for each of the active participants in such rapid succession that one by one the heroes allowed themselves to be escorted home quietly. Last to relinquish the chance of serving his town on the field of honor was the man delegated to furnish transportation. Only by telling him that his team would be shot on the streets of Wheaton, could he be deferred from his noble aim.

The court upheld Wheaton's victory at the polls, and on December 31, 1870, the following notice appeared in the Naperville paper: "The Wheaton *Illinoian* and the Naperville *Clarion* agree to drop all past differences that have kept the people of this county in a state of unfriendliness the past six years."

Naperville's citizens may have forgiven, but they have not forgotten.

Even today, at inter-city athletic meets, Naperville rooters sometimes yell, "Yaah! You stole our records!"

False Fronts and Wooden Indians (1868-1899)

In February, 1868, David B. Givler bought the Du Page County *Press*. In 1869 he changed its name to the Naperville *Clarion*, under which title it is still published by his son, Rollo N. Givler, under the old motto: "Neutral in Nothing; Independent in Everything." An advertisement in the *Clarion* of April 16, 1870, read:

> We are now manufacturing the long-sought-for plow that existed once but long lost—the old Naperville Plow. Ruch and Strauss, Naperville Plow Works.

A little less than a year later the Naperville Agricultural Works, under the ownership of Bouton, Whitehead & Company, distributed a price list of Naperville Plows and Western Star Forks. The firm employed about 60 men. In 1882 Strauss & Goetsch were the owners. Plow manufacturing was discontinued in 1893.

On October 4, 1870, North-Western (now North Central) College was dedicated with addresses by Bishop Dubs, President Jonathan Blanchard of Wheaton College, Judge Hiram H. Cody, the Reverend Mr. Cunningham, and Judge Robert N. Murray. Three years later the present Evangelical Theological Seminary was founded as a department of the college.

A fire in the New York House on July 6, 1874, impelled the village council to action in the matter of fire protection. Until this time Naperville had no fire department and no equipment beyond some buckets and axes. So hopelessly inadequate were the activities of the bucket brigade that when the hotel started to burn, help was called from Aurora. Soon after the blaze a volunteer fire company was organized, with Willard Scott, Jr., as marshal. At the same time the village bought more than $1,700 worth of equipment, which included a hand engine and a hose cart.

In 1875 B. F. Russell started the village's fifth hotel, which he called the American House. Naperville in 1877 was a town of some 2,000 inhabitants and much manufacturing. Besides the tile and brick works and the stone quarry, there were a cheese factory run by George Hunt; L. Rosenstreter's Du Page Valley Mills (the old Naper gristmill); the carriage factories of Shimp, Hiltenbrand, Saylor, and Strubler; L. S. Shafer's planing mill; the boot and shoe factory of Martin Fest; and R. H. Wagner's saddlery.

NAPERVILLE

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. *Kroehler Mfg. Co. Home Plant*
2. *Evangelical Theological Seminary*
3. *North Central College*
4. *Site of Fort Payne*
5. *Old New York House*
6. *Old Egermann Brewery Building*
7. *Old Stenger Brewery Building*
8. *Naperville Cheese Co. Building*
9. *Centennial Park*
10. *Bethel Church of the Brethren*
11. *Old Stenger Brewery and Malt House*
12. *Willard Scott, Sr., House*
13. *Nichols Library*
14. *St. John's Episcopal Church*
15. *Mrs. Bailey Hobson's Town House*
16. *Naperville Cemetery*

In 1878 Ernest von Oven bought out William King's interest in the Naperville Tile and Brick Works. By 1886 the plant had grown from one kiln and 4,000 feet of drying room to four kilns and 20,000 feet of drying room with an annual output of one million tiles and a half million bricks.

The big event of 1879 was the brief stop made here by the train carrying General Grant and his wife on part of their world tour. H. W. Knickerbocker made a speech in behalf of the throng at the railroad station, and Grant spoke a few words.

By 1882 the Stengers were producing about 5,000 barrels of beer annually. A year later the local branch of the W.C.T.U. was established.

No longer entirely preoccupied with establishing themselves on the soil or in business, townspeople were turning to athletic recreation during these years. Thus an advertisement in January, 1884, announced a "Brilliant Season of Roller Skating" at the rink of John Collins and Arthur Cody.

Beginning in the 1880's and running for a decade or more was the cheese factory of Egermann and Bauer, which occupied a former Stenger brewery building on the waterfront. In 1884 Naperville acquired its first public telephone, installed by the Chicago Telephone Company (now the Illinois Bell) in Tom Saylor's confectionery store. The private bank opened by George Reuss in 1886 and incorporated 11 years later as a State bank still exists. The first publication of the Nichols *Business Guide* by Professor John L. Nichols of North-Western College in 1886 led to the formation a decade later of the J. L. Nichols Company, now nationally known.

The founding by Frederick Long of the Naperville Manufacturing Company—also known as the Naperville Lounge Factory—marked the year 1887. Starting the manufacture of lounge frames at the rear of his combined mortuary and furniture store, Long moved his workshop the following year to the old roller skating rink. Trade grew so fast that within a few years he could not handle it alone, and in 1893 he engaged P. E. Kroehler, just graduated from North-Western College, as secretary. Kroehler's salary was a dollar a day, for which he did all the correspondence, kept the books, sold, and helped in the factory. The business expanded rapidly, and now, as the Kroehler Manufacturing Company, is one of the outstanding industries in the Chicago area. The quarry business started by George Martin passed through various hands and flourished in Naperville until about 1914.

At an election held in March, 1890, in accordance with a petition

signed by 52 citizens the year before, the village of Naperville was reincorporated as a city.

The rapid growth of the frontier settlements had precluded for many years any thought of municipal improvements. Streets were dumping grounds, communal hogpens, and cowpaths. In 1885 a State law had been passed in an attempt to keep swine and cattle from running at large within the corporate limits of local communities. Although a woman had been gored in the village streets, Naperville had paid little attention to the law, the principle of which had become a political issue. In opposition stood the less affluent citizens, who contended that the streets were the poor man's pasture. With incorporation as a city, Naperville finally passed an animal law and saw to its enforcement.

Electricity furnished by a private concern began replacing kerosene lamps in 1890, and nine years later the plant was bought by the city.

The old Scott bank was bought out in 1891 by the organizers of Naperville's fourth bank, the First National, which functioned until the bank holiday of 1933. In an old fork factory Adolph Seuss began the manufacture of carved church altars.

The last third of the nineteenth century closed with Naperville a city in more than name. Educational facilities had been increased by three new schoolhouses, built between 1879 and 1892, the last of which was a parochial school erected by the Catholic parish. Religious facilities had been augmented by the erection in 1891 of an eighth church (discounting the defunct Báptist), the Grace Evangelical. Important additions to general cultural enterprises were the Woman's Literary Club and the Nichols Library. Two more journalistic ventures had appeared and disappeared: Hope R. Cody's *The Ray,* in 1884, and T. C. Anderson's *Du Page Semi-Weekly Press,* in 1896. The leading families were moving into more pretentious, if less charming, homes than the little white frame Greek Revival houses that had formerly sheltered them.

A Century Ends (1900-1939)

> Denizens along Water Street were surprised yesterday to see a horseless carriage pass rapidly along that thoroughfare, cross the stone bridge and disappear. An hour afterwards it returned, rushed up the slight incline, and proceeded eastward. A man and a woman occupied the vehicle.—The *Clarion,* May 2, 1900.

The Stenger brewery had carried on successfully until improvements in the manufacturing process of malt beer caused its discontinuance around 1900. Later the brewery buildings were taken over by mushroom growers.

These were good times in Naperville, as evidenced in an item by "Rusticus" in the *Clarion*:

> Our city certainly is prosperous. Every man, woman or child who wants work may have it. Mechanics and artisans are taxed far beyond their capacity with work. Our merchants are busy with profitable trade and our banks reflect unerringly and impressively the prosperity of the community.

To drink or not to drink was a burning question in 1908. Naperville was often referred to as the "City of Churches," but cynics said that there were more saloons than churches. The ladies of the W. C. T. U. staged a temperance parade April 20, 1908, in which 500 women and children took part. It was not without result, for in the election the next day, held under the provisions of the Local Option Bill, the city went dry by 59 votes. Lisle Township also went dry, but Naperville Township, living up to its reputation, perhaps—went wet. Lying half in one township and half in the other, Naperville found itself in a complicated situation, and much liquor business went on outside the corporate limits on the Naperville side. Feeling that the student vote had swung the city election—the college with its Biblical institute being situated in the Lisle half—the wets questioned the students' voting privilege. Much bitterness arose. The wets claimed that the students were not permanent residents. The drys pointed out that many of the young men remained throughout the year, working as salesmen of the Nichols *Business Guide* in the summer, and topped off their argument with the reminder that a number of former students from out of town had become prominent citizens of Naperville. A committee from Springfield made a legislative investigation resulting in the decision that nothing could be done about the matter. The pro-student faction had won, but so did the wets in the 1910 election. In 1911 the Lincoln Temperance Chautauqua held sessions in Naperville, but the city remained wet until the advent of National prohibition.

The question of changing to the commission form of government was settled in favor of the proposition in 1912, by a majority of seven votes.

The effect of the post-war depression was felt most severely by the large cities and did not greatly disturb a small town like Naperville. But the big-money period that followed was clearly reflected in general expansion and in the onrush of civic improvements. The depression that started in 1929 had its effect on building, employment, and banking. During one of the worst years (1931), Naperville community spirit was

such that the city raised almost $24,000 for a centennial celebration, the sum including $16,500 underwritten by a business men's syndicate for the purchase of Centennial Park. In 1938 Naperville received a $90,000 Federal grant for a new post office.

Points of Interest

1. The KROEHLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY HOME PLANT *(tours by arrangement)* occupies two city blocks between Ellsworth and Loomis Sts., adjoining on the north the tracks of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. Largest manufacturer of upholstered furniture in the world, the concern was established by an undertaker in 1887 as the Naperville Lounge Factory. In 1907 the company began the organization of branch plants in other cities, using for capital the dividends paid to stockholders in the Naperville plant. The company was re-incorporated with a capital of $1,115,000 in 1915, at which time P. E. Kroehler became president and the present name was adopted. Branches are now in operation at Binghamton, N. Y.; Kankakee, Ill.; Cleveland, Ohio; Dallas, Tex.; Los Angeles and San Francisco, Cal.; Montreal and Stratford, Canada.

2. The EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY *(open 7:30-4 weekdays)* occupies three buildings on School Avenue. The president's house is on the northwest corner of School and Brainard. A block east, on the northwest corner of School and Loomis, is the Administration Building, housing offices, lecture rooms, library, and chapel. Across the street, to the east, is Seybert Hall, the dormitory. The latter two are modern structures of Collegiate Gothic design erected in 1912 and 1926 respectively. Founded in 1873 as the theological department of the then North-Western College, the seminary was first known as Union Biblical Institute. In 1910 it became a separate but affiliated institution under its present name. Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology degrees are conferred, the latter upon students who have met the requirements of the graduate school, founded in 1909.

3. NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE *(campus always open; buildings open schooldays)*, with an educational plant valued at $1,300,000, spreads over three separate tracts of land. The Main Campus *(entrance on Brainard St.)* covers two city blocks, bounded by School and Benton Aves., Brainard and Loomis Sts. In its center stands Old Main, the original building. The north and central portions of this Italianesque Gothic structure were erected in 1870 of locally quarried limestone; the south, in 1890. The building houses administrative offices, classrooms,

and a small natural history museum. Old Main is flanked on the north by Goldspohn Science hall, on the south by Carnegie Library, both completed in 1908. The former, Roman classic in design, was the gift of an alumnus, Dr. A. Goldspohn, well known Chicago surgeon. The latter, in Renaissance style, was the gift of Andrew Carnegie. The library open by arrangement, contains 25,000 bound volumes and more than 150 periodicals. On the southeast corner of Brainard St. and Benton Ave. is Barbara Pfeiffer Memorial Hall, also of Renaissance architecture. This building, erected in 1926, houses the school of music and the large chapel with its fine organ. Bounded by Brainard and Ellsworth Sts., Jefferson and Chicago Aves., is the Women's Campus, comprising three dormitories and tennis courts. The entrance to Fort Hill Campus is on Chicago Ave. at the foot of Ellsworth St. Here, surrounding the site of Fort Payne is the president's house, Merner Gymnasium and Field House, the infirmary, Kroehler Athletic Field, and the baseball diamond. The big brick gymnasium of classic design contains a large swimming pool.

Endowed and supported by the Evangelical Church, North Central College was founded at Plainfield, Illinois, in 1861, as the Plainfield College of the Evangelical Association of North America. The name was changed to North-Western College in 1864, and in 1926 the present one was adopted. The average attendance for many years has been 500; the enrollment usually includes students from 20 or more states, and occasionally some from Canada. Member of North Central Association and approved by the Association of American Universities, the college offers the degrees of Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Science, in commerce, home economics, physical education, engineering; Bachelor of Music; Bachelor of Music Education.

Social and secret fraternities find no place in the democratic campus life, but five national honorary fraternities, representing the fields of oratory, social science, literature, drama, and biology, maintain local chapters. Student publications are the weekly *Chronicle,* the *Cardinal,* literary yearbook, the annual *Spectrum,* and the *Student's Hand-Book.* Each week the Naperville *Clarion* devotes a section, called the "Clarionette," to college news compiled by students.

4. The SITE OF FORT PAYNE, on the eminence about 150 feet south of the main entrance to Fort Hill Campus, recalls the days of the Black Hawk War. A 100-foot-square stockade with two block-houses, the fort was built in June, 1832, by Naper Settlement pioneers, with the aid of Capt. Morgan L. Payne of Joliet and his company of volunteers.

The spring that supplied it with water still gurgles out of the ground at the base of the hill's western slope.

Here Lewis Ellsworth built his first house in 1836, his second in 1850, and in the sixties Miss Sophronia Skinner ran a select school for young ladies. A tablet on Ellsworth's springhouse, restored in 1929 by Mrs. Marion Batten Wetten of Chicago, commemorates both the fort and the Ellsworth home.

* The PRE-EMPTION HOUSE *(open)*, northeast corner S. Main St. and Chicago Ave., may be the oldest tavern in constant operation west of the Allegheny Mountains, and it ranks next to Fort Payne as Naperville's most historic spot. George Laird erected this Greek Revival building in 1834. Upon its completion the following poem was recited from the ridge-pole:

This place was once a wilderness of savages and owls,
Where the red man once roamed and the prairie wolf howled,
This house now erected, the place to adorn,
To shelter the living and babes yet unborn:
We'll call it Pre-emption: a law that's complete,
For the use of George Laird, who says he will treat.

Oak was used for the framework, black walnut for the siding, butternut for the shingles. The north wing is a later addition.

The words of an old settler call up some idea of the regard in which the tavern was held and something of the spirit of its hospitality:

> It was the biggest thing between Chicago and the Mississippi. My, the dances we used to have there! The landlord would clear out the dining-room and give us full swing. Everybody danced in those days. The drivers would come in from their wagons, haul off their big boots and dance in their stocking feet. Dance all night!

The Pre-Emption House was also a center for horse-traders and traveling merchants. In faint lettering above one of the doors can still be seen the words "Sample Room." Within recent years a sign has been put up on the west wall, informing the populace that Lincoln once spoke from the balcony above it. Historians have as yet found no evidence that Lincoln was ever in Naperville. The hotel rooms are now closed, part of the first floor is occupied by a saloon, and part is used as private living quarters. Its glory long since past, the once famous hostelry is quietly crumbling away. Flagrantly anachronistic is the red and white neon sign, "Jim's Beer on Tap," jutting out from the corner of the drooping walls. * *(See p. 232.)*

5. The walls of the OLD NEW YORK HOUSE, northeast corner Main St. and Jackson Ave., having survived the fire which gutted the in-

terior in 1874, have since 1889 contained Reiche's general store. Robert N. Murray, member of the original Naper Settlement and later county judge, established the 22-room hotel in 1849.

6. The OLD EGERMANN BREWERY BUILDING, Webster St. north of Jackson Ave., is now occupied by Enck and Drendel, millers and coal dealers. The gristmill was started half a century ago by Thomas Bets and taken over by its present proprietors in the early 1900's. Xavier Egermann, member of the village's first board of trustees, operated his brewery in competition with the Stengers.

7. Now standing idle on Naperville's almost-deserted waterfront is an OLD BREWERY BUILDING OF THE STENGERS, northwest corner Jackson Ave. and Eagle St., erected shortly after the middle of the nineteenth century. The finished brew was ripened in kegs kept in tunnels radiating from the building. In this large limestone structure was later the cheese factory of Egermann and Bauer, started in 1885. In more recent times it was used for mushroom growing.

8. On Eagle St. between Jackson and Jefferson Aves. is the NAPERVILLE CHEESE COMPANY BUILDING, *(not open to visitors)*, a large frame structure, erected in 1892. William Sigmund, who was formerly employed by Egermann and Bauer, started this factory when he left their employ. Present sales amount to about $60,000 annually. Only one type of cheese is made. Called hand-cheese, it has an uncommon, strong flavor and is put out in small disk-shaped units less than an inch thick. Distribution is handled by wholesale houses and jobbers. Hand-cheese was introduced into the United States in 1860 by John Kilt, grandfather of Mr. Sigmund.

9. CENTENNIAL PARK, lying along the south side of Jackson Ave., west of Eagle St., was developed in 1931, in celebration of Naperville's 100th birthday. Through the wooded grounds, covering 45 acres, winds the west branch of the Du Page River. Two contiguous abandoned quarries have been made into an excellent swimming pool, equipped with diving boards and rafts. At the west end of the pool is a modern bathhouse *(open 10-10, June-Labor Day; swimming rates incl. locker: children 15c; adults 35c weekdays, 50c Sun. and holidays; residents free).*

* The ROBERT N. MURRAY HOUSE *(private)*, 215 S. Main St., a tiny frame building in the Greek Revival style, is particularly admired by architects for its well designed doorway. The paneled door, 1½ inches thick is flanked by glass sidelights. White pine is used throughout the construction of the house; shingles are of cedar. It was here that Stephen A. Douglas was entertained in 1856. *(See p. 232.)*

10. BETHEL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, 131 W. Benton Ave., was established by a group of 15 German Baptist Brethren in 1856. The present edifice, American Wood Gothic in style, was erected in 1908. Commonly known as Dunkards (also Dunkers, or Tunkers) the German Baptist Brethren comprise a sect which grew out of the Pietist movement in Germany in 1708.

11. The OLD STENGER BREWERY AND MALT HOUSE *(not open to visitors)*, on Franklin Ave. at the end of Main St., were erected in 1856 and 1864, respectively. Started in 1849, the brewery operated continuously until around the turn of the century. After standing idle for more than a decade, the buildings were taken over by the Naperville Mushroom Farming Company. The darkened interiors exude a dank, earthy odor. On the outside, sparrows flutter in large numbers about the jagged yellow limestone walls. Men wearing miners' caps, closely belted rubber smocks, and high rubber boots walk noiselessly between the cavernous structures, carrying baskets of freshly picked mushrooms. Adjoining the brewery and malt house buildings on the west is the old Stenger residence, now used as office and packing house by the mushroom company. Erected in the same period as the other buildings, it is also of architectural interest, its fine simplicity and solidity characteristic of its time.

12. Completion of the WILLARD SCOTT, SR., HOUSE *(private)*, northwest corner Washington St. and Franklin Ave., was celebrated by a housewarming attended by more than 100 guests on January 30, 1867. A red brick building in the colonial tradition, with large glassed-in cupola, this big square house still bears the earmarks of having been the "mansion" of one of the town's leading families.

13. The NICHOLS LIBRARY *(open weekdays 2-6, 7-9)*, S. Washington St., at Van Buren Ave., was dedicated June 29, 1898. The establishment of the library was made possible by a bequest in the will of John L. Nichols, alumnus of North-Western (now North Central) College, for many years principal of its commercial department, and originator of the Nichols *Business Guide*. An appropriation from the city secured the land in Central Park Square. The library is maintained by public tax. When the Romanesque building, of native limestone and yellow pressed brick, opened its doors to the public in September 1898, it possessed 700 books. Now (1939) it contains 7,000. In 1915 librarian Mary Egermann started the historical collection, which includes two poll sheets of 1832; records of the first Naperville library, started in 1846; war

relics; artillery company records of 1865; village maps dated 1864, 1869, and 1871; fire department records of 1874; and old photographs.

14. ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, north side of Jefferson Ave. near Ellsworth St., is a thoroughly charming example of unpretentious American Wood Gothic. Erected in 1864, this little white frame house of worship, more than any other church in Naperville, belongs to that aspect of the town which is so remindful of New England.

* Erection of the OLD BAPTIST CHURCH, 234 S. Washington St., was begun in 1843, immediately after the organization of the Baptist society. As Goetsch's Warehouse it now houses farm machinery. Of Greek Revival architecture, its pediment supported by four flat wooden columns attached to the façade, this broad-beamed weathered structure looks and smells of its age. Marks on the interior walls indicate that slip pews were used, and an old resident has said that there was a covered baptismal pool and that the ceiling was "ornamented and frescoed around." Fated to an existence checkered and finally broken by dissension, the Baptists were in trouble even before their church was finished. A dispute arose between the donor of the original site, who had not yet conveyed the property to the church, and a member of the congregation. As a result, the landowner not only refused to give title, but forbade removal of the incompleted structure. All overtures of the Baptist committee were in vain, but the attitude of the owner aroused such general resentment that a large number of prominent citizens banded together and carted the framework and building materials away to another lot, given by Lewis Ellsworth. Early in 1844 the building was far enough along to enable its use by the Baptists and Congregationalists, the latter meeting here until its own church was ready two years later. The Rev. Riley B. Ashley was Baptist pastor until January 1846, when the congregation numbered 36. With the enlargement of the church the following year, a belfry and steeple were added. Another decade brought the membership to nearly 100, and then disagreement over the introduction of spiritualism broke up the congregation. Services were held until 1879, when the church was closed. *(*See p. 232.*)*

* The JOHN NAPER HOUSE *(private, but inspection granted)*, home of one of the founders of Naper Settlement, is on the east bank of the Du Page River, about a block down the dirt road that starts at the northeast corner of Washington St. bridge. Decaying slowly in its pastoral setting, this is one of the oldest houses in Naperville. The clapboards of its tattered walls may have been cut in the spring of 1832, at

which time the Naper sawmill was ready for business. Floor supports and corner uprights are logs. *(See p. 232.)

15. MRS. BAILEY HOBSON'S TOWN HOUSE *(open by arrangement)* is at 506 S. Washington St. Mrs. Bailey Hobson, wife of Du Page County's first settler, came to this house sometime after the death of her husband in 1850, to live until her own death in 1884. It is now occupied by Mrs. R. Louise Royce Haight, widow of two of Bailey Hobson's grandsons and granddaughter of Jonathan Royce, a Will County pioneer of 1835 and later banking partner of Willard Scott in Naperville. In better days the outer walls of the house were of stucco, and a garden extended from the north and east elevations all the way to the river's edge. The walls are covered over with dark red and green siding now, and the garden is tenanted by a sandwich shop and gasoline station. Humble as is its general appearance, the rambling old house retains a vestige of its former dignity in the touches of pseudo Tudor design, probably added some years after its erection. Inside, a two-story library is lined with books—some of them centuries old—in many languages, and is filled to overflowing, like the rooms adjoining it, with relics of pioneer and later days. Uncatalogued, the collection includes documents, manuscripts, photographs, drawings, paintings, glassware, chinaware, cooking utensils, candle molds, paper money and scrip, coins, jewelry, and other objects of historic interest.

16. The NAPERVILLE CEMETERY, S. Washington St. at Maple Ave., was started in 1843, when George Martin donated two acres of land and Joseph Naper, Lewis Ellsworth, and John Granger were elected trustees. As graves in the original pioneer cemetery were transferred at that time, numerous headstones bear earlier dates.

Capt. Joseph Naper

Willard Scott, Sr.

The Railroad Comes to Naperville:
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, 1864

WEST CHICAGO

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
3,477 *(See p. 234.)*

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
32 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago & North Western Ry.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Private tourist homes. A few restaurants and taverns.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
Police station, gasoline stations, and city hall.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Main St., between Washington and Chicago Sts.; Washington St., between Main and the railroad tracks.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
Numbering is E. and W. from Fremont, Main, and Joliet Sts., N. and S. from Washington St. No directional distinction is made between streets and avenues. Streets in the central and western portions run diagonally.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:
City Park, outside of NW. city limits, at Arbor Ave. and National St. Baseball diamond and bleachers, tennis courts, playground equipment, barbecue ovens, picnic tables, shelters, restrooms.

West Du Page Park (county forest preserve No. 2), S. of city limits, bounded by Neltnor Blvd. (Ill. 59), Forest Ave., and Du Page River. Facilities include a shelter.

One motion picture theater, Washington St. W. of Main St.

Annual American Legion carnival, in August.

One or two concerts yearly by the Chicago & North Western Choral Club.

"The Pioneer": Galena & Chicago Union Railroad, 1849

WEST CHICAGO

Railroad Town

SINCE the 1850's West Chicago has been the home of railroad men. Today, the city has 3,500 inhabitants, a third of whom are men who make the commutation runs, work in the roundhouse and coachyards or are employed at other points along the Chicago & North Western suburban line of which it is the terminal. One of the city's four clubs is a railroad employees' organization. Two of the 13 lodges have their background in railroads.

Through West Chicago runs, in addition to the North Western trunk line, the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, Chicago's outer belt line. To it, from Aurora, runs a branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. The Marshall Brothers Sheep Company maintains sheepyards on 500 of the 1,000 acres of land owned by the North Western; the balance of the property is occupied by coach- and freightyards. The switchyards of the E. J. & E. cover 18 acres.

In spite of the preponderance of railroad activity, West Chicago, away from the tracks, is quiet and small-townish. Diagonal and hilly streets give variety to the city pattern. Many trees shade the avenues and obscure some of the neat frame dwellings.

Lacking both Gold Coast and slums, West Chicago is an own-your-own-home suburb, situated on high land about five miles east of the Fox River valley and a mile northwest of the Du Page River's west branch. Its corporate limits embrace one lake, three others lie in the surrounding area, and an 85-acre park stretches above the northern boundary.

Aside from the railroads, there are five manufacturing plants, each employing between 10 and 60 persons. West Chicago is headquarters for the Lindsay Light and Chemical Company, manufacturers of lighting fixtures; the West Chicago Sash and Door Manufacturing Company; and the Economy Portable Housing Company. A pickle factory of Reid, Murdoch & Company is located here as well as a branch of the Bates & Rogers Construction Company. Those who do not work in the

factories and sheepyards or for the railroads—about a fourth of the city's working population—commute to Chicago.

Six churches embrace the Methodist, Congregational, Evangelical, Lutheran, and Catholic denominations, and an independent fundamentalist organization. Among the three elementary schools is a Catholic parochial institution. The community high school serves the northern part of Winfield Township. The Woman's Club, West Chicago Service Club, and Garden Club partake actively in community life. Musical organizations comprise the choruses, band, and orchestra of the high school.

City government is vested in a mayor and six aldermen. Thirteen business men comprise the volunteer fire department, organized in 1888. Although Main Street is shabby, its shabbiness bears the distinction of age and respectability. City Collector Rohr says: "Our quarters (built in 1884) are not much to look at, but the city is solvent; our banks did not suspend." Although not wealthy, West Chicago has the financial soundness characteristic of a railroad town.

From Junction to City

In 1842 Alonzo Harvey built the first house within the present limits of West Chicago. Other settlers nearby in the early forties included Sherman Winslow, a Mr. Stickney, the Wiants, Job Smith, John Barr (e), William Bailey, Thomas Brown, George W. Eastman (or Easton), George McAuley, and James Conley of New York. And sometime between 1840 and 1850 Asel Gates settled in the locality. Until 1849 all activity in this portion of the township was agricultural.

Then came the railroad to change the whole face of things. Almost overnight a little hamlet sprang up. With the railroad station as hub, other commercial interests took their places about it. Chartered in 1836, the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad did not start laying tracks until 1848, delayed first by the panic of 1837, then by the inactivity of its backers. The primary object of the original incorporators had been to connect Chicago with the Galena lead mines, but due to a combination of circumstances the plan never materialized.

Near the northern boundary of Winfield Township, the Galena line was met by a branch road from St. Charles, opened in December 1849 by the St. Charles Railroad Company. This company's later plans to construct a roadbed paralleling that of the Galena & Chicago Union from Chicago to this point and then proceeding directly west to the Mississippi were quashed in 1854, when the Galena line took it over.

Another independent company built a branch road connecting Aurora with the Galena line in Winfield Township. This road was completed by November, 1850. A contract drawn up in December, 1851, granted the Chicago & Aurora—which by then extended down to La Salle—the privilege of running its trains into Chicago over the Galena & Chicago's tracks. In 1855 the Aurora road became the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.

The point at which the Aurora line branched off from the Galena came, logically, to be called Junction. Land in the vicinity was selling for about $3 an acre in 1850. James M. Dale was Junction's first station agent, and at about the same time Michael McDonald opened the first general store. This was the beginning of the city of West Chicago. More and more men came out from Chicago or moved to Junction from the surrounding countryside, to work for the railroad or to set up businesses. In a few years land here came to be worth between $200 and $300 a lot.

Construction of the Galena line beyond Elgin went forward. In September, 1853, the Galena line was open to Freeport, and in two more months a branch was running between Belvidere and Beloit, connecting with Wisconsin's Beloit & Madison Railroad.

Back at Junction, another roadbed had been pushing westward to Dixon, which it reached in December, 1854. A year later it went as far as Fulton. Known as the Mississippi & Rock River Junction Railroad, the line was first leased by the Galena & Chicago Union, then, in January 1855, consolidated with it.

About 1854 the Galena line erected repair shops. There was no thought of establishing a village at Junction until after the absorption of the Mississippi & Rock River Railroad. Then, on September 22, 1855, J. B. Turner, president of the Galena & Chicago Union, platted 22 acres under the name Turner Junction. The population around the junction was at this time about 200. Joseph McDonald had taken over his brother Michael's general store. Paying cash for everything the farmers had to sell, he traded in butter, lard, pork, wool, and grain. He had started buying grain in 1853, taking in 1,200 bushels the first year. The next year his intake had increased to 3,000 bushels, and in 1855 it had jumped to 30,000.

In 1856 other subdivisions were added to Turner's plat, and the Galena line erected a freight house. The railroad was using coal instead of wood and had set up a telegraph system between Chicago and Freeport. In a little log schoolhouse Sarah Carter held the first classes. A Congregational church was organized under the guidance of the Rev.

Lot Church. The Methodists worshipped at Gary's Mill, southeast on the Du Page River, until 1858, when Turner Junction supplanted it on the circuit.

By 1857 the population had increased to 500 and Turner Junction buzzed with activity in spite of the nationwide financial panic. All over the country railroads were forced to stop building, but the Galena & Chicago Union completed its second track out to Turner Junction in December. Whereas the Junction had previously received its mail from Gary's Mill, it now had a post office of its own, under C. D. Smith.

About 40 trains passed through daily, and four wells were drilled to fill their tanks. Rail repairing was done in a brick blacksmith shop. In a two-story building near the tracks Alfred Harvey, veteran of the war with Mexico, ran an eating house for railroad employees, achieving local fame for his prowess in shooting empty bottles, at five paces, from the head of the German boy who worked for him. Andrew Wheeler, night watchman and baggageman, went down in local history because he could lift a hogshead of whisky from the ground single-handed and put it on the train.

On August 28, 1858, people gathered from all around to hear Stephen A. Douglas speak in Updike's hickory grove. A grand Republican rally was held at Turner Junction on October 9th following, and the Chicago *Evening Journal* reported that more than 3,000 persons attended the meeting.

In 1864 the Galena line merged with the Chicago & North Western, dropping its own name. The first roundhouse was built at Turner Junction at this time. In the same year the C. B. & Q. completed its own tracks from Aurora to Chicago via Naperville, still, however, maintaining the branch line between Aurora and Turner Junction.

In 1865 John C. Neltnor opened a drug store at Turner Junction. Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1841, Neltnor had come west with his parents in 1850. Adding more and more merchandise to his store, he came to have one of the most widely known general stores in the locality, with a stock including furs, gunpowder, and farm machinery. One night in 1869, while he was at his new house, the store caught fire. No one dared to go near it because of the gunpowder. Neltnor arrived on the scene too late, and the inevitable explosion occurred. There was not a dollar of insurance on this property, but Neltnor used his credit and started all over. Limiting his new store to drugs, he allowed his other interests to take concrete shape and within a few years had established the Grove Place Nurseries. He cultivated many varieties

of fruit and ornamental trees, as well as shrubs, vines, hedge plants, and bulbs, and published quarterly *The Fruit and Flower Grower and Vegetable Gardener.*

J. Russell Smith, Wheaton publisher, started the Turner Junction *News* in 1871, as an edition of his Wheaton *Illinoian.* First local newspaper, it continued until 1884.

In 1873 Turner Junction was incorporated as the Village of Turner. Capt. L. B. Church—prominent Civil War veteran and nephew of the first Congregational pastor here—was elected president, and Emory Watson, clerk. The population was 850, and the corporate area 645 acres. Turner was one of the principal railroad centers in Illinois.

In the eighties John Neltnor entered the newspaper publishing business, putting out the Du Page County *Democrat* at Turner, the *Star Critic* at Wheaton, and the Elmhurst *Enterprise.* A strong Democrat, Neltnor was active in village, county, State, and National politics. His many offices included that of postmaster during both of Cleveland's terms and that of police magistrate for 52 consecutive years. Neltnor continued publishing until about 1904. Republican rival of Neltnor's *Democrat* was A. L. Hamilton's *Journal,* which had a Wheaton edition called the *Press.*

In 1888 the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, running from Waukegan to Dyer, Indiana, was completed through the village. From this time on, Turner entered a more or less prosaic period of civic development, starting with the founding of the Bank of Newton and Smiley in 1891. Reorganized in 1908 as the State Trust and Savings Bank, it is still in existence. C. E. Bolles, local Civil War veteran and wealthy hide and tallow merchant, erected the Bolles Opera House in 1894. The third floor was equipped for plays and other entertainments.

In 1896, when the population was 1,500, the name of the village was changed to West Chicago. Quoting Harry M. Beardsley, ". . . an ineffectual attempt was made to create a boom by bestowing the name 'West Chicago' on a community that deserved a better fate." Many of the town's citizens have been chafing under the meaningless name ever since, but periodic agitation for a return to one of the old names or the adoption of a new one has so far come to nothing.

Despite its railroads, the village had not been growing. Old residents attribute Turner's slow development to certain early landholders who, in spite of the fact that a railroad center was a logical location for factories, refused to sell their property for industrial use.

By 1900 the population had reached 1,877. About this time E. A.

Cummings bought one of the lakes east of the village and spent a fortune converting it and its environs into a summer resort site. Called High Lake, the section is today an attractive residential community.

About 1904 Neltnor's Du Page County *Democrat* was succeeded by the Northern Illinois *Democrat*. In 1909 the Republican *Journal* became the West Chicago *Press*, edited and published by S. E. Wright. Since the demise of the *Democrat* about 1913, the *Press* has been without a rival, except for a brief period in the middle 1920's when Perry Hole published the weekly *News Digest of Du Page County*.

The 1900's brought a number of extensive industries, including the Union Tool Company, which manufactured mining implements and well drilling tools. In August 1906 the village voted on the question of re-incorporation as a city. The proposition carried, and on September 4 the new charter went into effect. In 1909 the electric Chicago, Wheaton & Western Railway—later taken over by the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin—began operating between Geneva Junction and West Chicago.

West Chicago fared comparatively well through the depression of the thirties. Federal projects made possible the city's first park, improved its streets, installed new street signs and sidewalks, constructed new culverts, engaged in arboriculture. There is belief among its residents that the little city, whose population is still increasing steadily, may yet in some measure live up to its early promise of importance. To that end they have adopted as their slogan: "The City of We-Go."

Points of Interest

1. The OLD GATES STORE BUILDING *(open)* stands on the northeast corner Main and Galena Sts. In this grey, 2½-story stone and brick building, John ("Bet-a-Million") Gates was set up in the hardware business by his father, Asel, about 1870. Young Gates sold out in 1877 to Charles Gary, son of the miller and Methodist circuit rider, and Hezekiah Holt. First entering the grain business, Gates was soon given a job by Joseph Glidden, inventor of barbed wire fencing. Later he founded the American Steel and Wire Company, and eventually organized, with Elbert Gary, the United States Steel Corporation.

2. The WEST CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY *(open Mon.-Fri. 3-5 and 7-9; Sat. 2-5 and 7-9)*, 102 Main St., is notable for its collection of 10,000 bookplates, one of the leading collections in the country, donated by Frank D. and Cornelia Neltnor Anthony. Although West Chicago's first library was started in 1880, its second in 1892, and its present one in 1929, it is only since 1935 that the city has had a tax-supported institu-

tion. Neither of the early libraries survived long, but the new one, started originally by the Woman's Club with 451 books, gives promise of permanence. The library now (1939) contains about 6,000 bound volumes, subscribes to 48 periodicals, and serves more than 1,500 registered borrowers.

3. The SITE OF THE STEPHEN DOUGLAS SPEECH *(open; entrance through private driveway)* is marked by a granite boulder standing in Grove Place, the old Neltnor estate, near the southwest corner of Washington St. and Neltnor Blvd. Here, in the old hickory grove, Stephen A. Douglas spoke on August 28, 1858, the day after the famous Freeport debate with Lincoln.

According to seven witnesses, whose sworn statements are in a local bank vault, Lincoln made an impromptu speech at the Douglas gathering, and the marker refers to the event as a Lincoln-Douglas debate. Lincoln is said to have spent the night of the 27th with Mr. Moran, a cousin, three miles out of Elburn (then Blackberry), intending to catch a train at Turner Junction the next day. The story relates that he was to ride over to the Junction with the Blackberry Republican society, called the "Lincoln True Hearts." However, when he arrived in the village of Blackberry on the morning of the 28th—the tale continues—he discovered that the "True Hearts" had gone without him, so he rode in the Democratic hayrack, in company of the "Ever Readys." Missing his train at Turner Junction, the legend has him being induced to go up to the hickory grove, where, invited by Douglas to speak, he delivered a brief address from the hayrack.

What discredits the story is the silence of the newspapers in regard to Lincoln's presence at the Douglas meeting. Surely the Aurora *Weekly Republican* (now *Beacon-News*), whose editor commented with such relish on the shortcomings of Douglas at that rally, would have been only too happy had it been able to contrast this man, whom it held in such contempt, with Lincoln, whom it admired. The following excerpts from its editorial of Friday, September 3, 1858, gives some feeling of the partisan journalism of those days.

> This great political montebank [Douglas] held forth on Saturday last at the Junction, to the great mortification of his friends, and the abundant merriment of his opposers. . . . His friends were thunderstruck at his imbecility. The great lion of the Party showed his ears too plain to be mistaken. His roar was simply the howl of the jackass about to be deprived of his accustomed booty. . . . An old prophet in Israel once cried out, "Oh that mine enemy would write a book," our prayer is "Oh that Douglas will make speeches and fire his cannon."

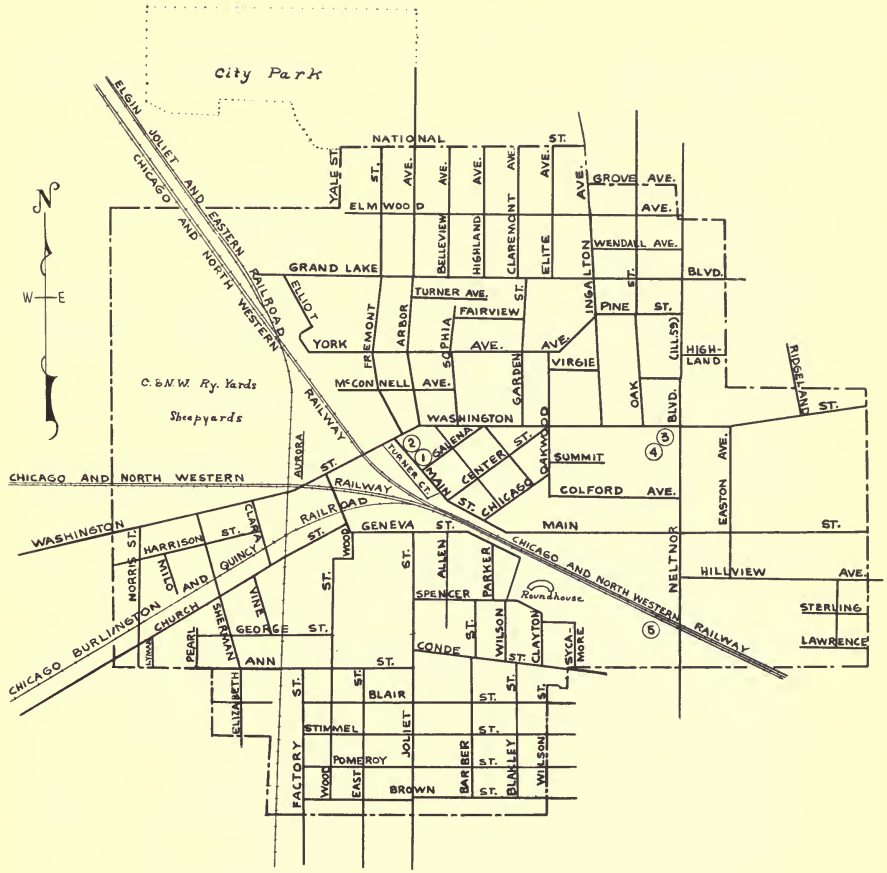
Had an impromptu debate taken place, it is likely that the Chicago papers would have considered the event worth mentioning. But, save for a letter in the *Press and Tribune* of August 31, 1858, dated from Elgin on the 28th and signed by a "Dr. Jaeger," who places the Douglas speech at Wayne instead of Turner Junction, the Chicago papers seem to have ignored the whole affair. No mention is made in the letter of any speaking at Turner Junction. In fact, the impression is given that Douglas did not even leave the train platform there, but simply stood silently with the "seven admirers" who accompanied him, until the train went on. It is possible, however, that Douglas spoke both at Wayne and at Turner Junction.

Another factor which seems to discredit any story of a joint debate at this time is the specific agreement known to have been made between Lincoln and Douglas not to meet in debate within their own Congressional districts. Turner Junction in 1858 was in Douglas' district.

It is quite possible that Lincoln did at some time during the debates visit Turner Junction and that that occasion gave rise to the local legend, on the basis of which the Woman's Club erected the marker in Grove Place on August 28, 1928. Until further evidence comes to light it seems a fair inference that the local citizens who recalled having heard Lincoln on August 28, 1858, at Turner Junction were confused in their dates.

4. The JOHN C. NELTNOR HOUSE *(open by arrangement, 25c)*, southwest corner Washington St. and Neltnor Blvd., stands on the site of a native hickory grove in which it is said that the Potawatomi held annual powwows. It is also believed that this eminence, one of the highest in Du Page County, was an Indian signal station. Completed in 1869, and designed in the Georgian colonial tradition, the house was built from hand-sawed, kiln-dried lumber. Its original owner, John C. Neltnor, was one of West Chicago's leading citizens from Civil War days until his death in 1938, at the age of 96. The house is notable for its authentic and historically interesting antiques, collected by Neltnor's daughter, Mrs. Frank D. Anthony, and her late husband. Many of the pieces of furniture, acquired in Canada, were possessions of the Duke of Kent (father of Queen Victoria) and the Duke of Richmond, first governor-general of Canada, and belong to the Queen Anne, Sheraton, and Chippendale periods.

5. The REID, MURDOCH & COMPANY PICKLE WORKS *(open Tues. and Thurs. 1-3)* lie along the Chicago & North Western Ry. tracks, between Neltnor Blvd. (Ill. 59) and Sycamore.



WEST CHICAGO

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. *Old Gates Store Building*
2. *West Chicago Public Library*
3. *Site of the Stephen Douglas Speech*
4. *John C. Neltnor House*
5. *Reid, Murdoch & Company Pickle Works*

WHEATON

General Information

POPULATION (1930):
7,258 *(See p. 234.)*

DISTANCE FROM CHICAGO:
26 mi.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION (from Chicago):
Chicago, Aurora & Elgin R. R. (electric).
Chicago & North Western Ry.

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Schultz Hotel (a rooming house), 120 E. Willow St. Private tourist homes. Usual restaurants. No taverns.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE:
Chicago Motor Club, 129 N. Hale St. Du Page County Courthouse, E. end Liberty Dr.

BUSINESS SECTION:
Centered on Front St., extending N. for a block on several side streets, spilling over S. to Liberty Dr.

STREET ORDER AND NUMBERING:
No directional distinction between streets and avenues. Numbering is N. and S. from Front St., E. and W. from Main St.

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPECIAL EVENTS:
North Side Park, at north-central city limits, entered from West St. Swimming, tennis, ice skating (shelter), baseball, Boy Scout and Girl Scout cabins.

South Side Park, Roosevelt Rd. (US 330), Indiana and Main Sts. Tennis, baseball.

Memorial Park, Hale St., Seminary, Wheaton and Union Aves. Tennis.

Herrick Lake (county forest preserve No. 12), about 1½ mi. SW. of city limits, at junction of Weisbrook and Butterfield Rds. Swimming, boating, picnic facilities, ice skating

Arrowhead Country Club, about 1 mi. S. of city limits, at junction of Butterfield and Orchard Rds. Golf: daily fee course; dining room.

Green Valley Country Club, in city limits *(see p. 232.)*.

Scheduled football and baseball games by high school on Grange Field.

Horseback riding, Kammes' Stables, Butterfield Rd. adjacent to Arrowhead Country Club.

Paramount Theater, Hale St. between Front and Wesley Sts. Motion pictures.

Handel's Messiah presented by Wheaton College Choir the Sun. before Christmas vacation, Pierce Memorial Chapel.

Weekly outdoor summer band concerts in Central Park

Wheaton College Chapel Choir, the Men's Glee Club, and the Women's Glee Club each presents an annual concert during spring months.

Spring Concert by Wheaton College Band. Fall and Spring Concerts by Wheaton College Little Symphony.

Garden Study Club sponsors annual exhibit in June at Episcopal Guild Hall, in conjunction with which the iris growers hold an exhibit in private gardens.

Wheaton Drama Club gives several plays during the season.

WHEATON

County Seat

WHEATON, city of 12 churches and a fundamentalist college, lies in the geographical center of Du Page County, sharing with Glen Ellyn and part of Lombard about half of the territory of Milton Township. Since 1867-68 Wheaton has been the county seat—a fact that still occasionally nettles nearby Naperville. First settled in 1839, and once dubbed "Wheaton's Mud-Hole," it has left behind both its farming stage and its manufacturing period. Its present phase is that of a quiet suburban town, a moderately wealthy community of homes and commuters.

In the barrenness of winter, Wheaton, like most other small towns in a northern region with scant snowfall, looks gray and forlorn in spots. But summertime brings heavy foliage to the many trees and patches of bright color to the gardens. It is then that the large elms and maples, many with branches interlocking above the streets, most strongly belie the fact that this was once unwooded land. About the only native trees when the settlers arrived were some hickories and red and white oaks that grew in the place now called Jewel Grove, northwest of town, and in scattered clumps within the present corporate limits. In the low spots are peat beds, some of which are subject to annual fires in the dry season; others have burned for years at a time. The occasional sand and gravel deposits are not worked commercially.

From the top of a wooded hill Wheaton College looks down upon the compact little city at its feet. Like an old feudal manor it seems to be watching over and guiding the life around and beneath it. Only one other factor has had so great an influence on the development of the community—the railroad. But it is from the college that Wheaton takes much of its personality.

Although the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Railroad maintains shops and yards in Wheaton, the only business concern of more than local scope is the Medical Protective Company. This firm, which underwrites liability insurance for the medical profession on a national scale, erected head-

quarters here in 1933. Formerly a more or less self-sustaining community, Wheaton now depends upon Chicago for the employment of about 60 per cent of its business and professional people. Within an area of only four blocks centering upon Front Street, are most of the public buildings and local commercial establishments, including two $1,500,000 banks. A reminder of the days before Wheaton grew up are the high sidewalks of Front Street, which still retain the grade established by an enterprising publisher to prevent pedestrians from being spattered with mud by passing vehicles.

On Wheaton's outskirts are nurseries, greenhouses, truck gardens, farms, and country estates, the last owned by wealthy Chicagoans who operate farms or maintain nurseries. Once a railroad shipping point for farm produce and livestock, Wheaton sees little such business now that motor trucks have come to be used so extensively.

Less than 10 per cent of Wheaton's population is foreign-born, and only 1 per cent, Negro. Surnames made familiar by local history books persist on every side. Having increased from 4,137 in 1920 to 7,258 in 1930—or 75 per cent—Wheaton's population today is estimated at 7,500. It seems both evidential and prophetic that there are ten real estate offices in this city of four and a half square miles. Housed in a long building of grey stone, remodeled from a cheese factory about 1900, is the town's only hotel, more accurately described as a rooming house. There are so few apartments or duplex houses that many young couples of today move to other communities, where small accommodations are more plentiful. One of the largest home-building projects in the Chicago area is being carried on in a 55-acre subdivision south of Roosevelt Road.

The city as a whole presents the usual conglomeration of architectural styles. These range from the simple Greek Revival, prevalent in the Middle West from 1830 to 1860, to the severe contemporary. Between these two extremes are the Victorian battlemented stone type of the college, Richardson Romanesque, American Wood Gothic, colonial, and some fine examples of modern classic, Tudor, and English Gothic. The oldest house was erected in 1847-48 by Warren Wheaton, for whom the town is named.

In some of the private homes are still to be found desks and tables made by hand from lumber that was probably cut at Gary's Mill in the 1840's or '50's, huge wooden flour bins, brass-topped copper warming pans brought from the East in pioneer days, and other reminders of earlier civilization. Among all the bells that ring on Sunday morning the one which calls to worship the German Lutherans stands out from the

rest by reason of its sweet, tinkly tone. More than a century old, it rang in the past, first for the Congregationalists in Babcock's Grove (Lombard), later for the Wheaton Methodists.

In addition to preserving some of their heritage in the way of houses and furnishings, the people of Wheaton have retained to a marked degree the religious and moral principles of their forefathers. Since the founding of the first local religious society by a group of Wesleyans in 1843, public worship has held a position of importance in the life of the community. In addition to churches of the Baptist, Catholic, Christian Science, Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian denominations, there are two independent fundamentalist organizations. One of the two Baptist churches belongs to the county's only Negro congregation. The influence of the college, as well as that of the church, has no doubt been largely responsible for the continuance of strict standards of conduct in a town so close to a metropolitan center. Local prohibition has been in force since 1886, and in many of the homes ash trays are conspicuously absent.

Since the opening of the first school in 1847, education has kept pace with religion. Wheaton's public school system has had the advantage of being kept out of politics. Although no distinctive innovations in educational methods have been introduced, a special feature is the Opportunity Room, a class for backward children taken mostly from the sixth grade. One board of education controls four elementary schools and a junior high school. Another board directs the community high school, which includes within its district Wheaton, Warrenville, and the intervening territory. In addition to the public schools are an elementary and junior high school in charge of the Sisters of St. Francis, of Milwaukee, and a preparatory school run in conjunction with Wheaton College.

Community life focuses around cultural, social, fraternal, and patriotic organizations, the lectures and concerts presented by the college, and the weekly summer concerts given by the municipal band. One of the most interesting of the cultural groups is the Wheaton Drama Club, whose membership of about 150 men and women is actively engaged in the study and production of plays. The Masonic lodge, founded in 1858, is the city's oldest organization. Altogether there are more than 30 clubs and organizations in Wheaton. In scanning the list, which reflects so many diverse interests, it is hard to realize that more than one resident remembers the time when social life was centered around homely tasks; apple-paring, soap-making, sheep-washing, quilting, and the like.

Two big parks and a little one offer to Wheatonians more than 75 acres of recreation grounds. The park district, organized in 1921 and governed by a board of elected officers entirely independent of the city administration, is carrying out an effective program of landscaping and development of play facilities. Tennis is one of the most popular sports, and any resident of the city is eligible for membership in the Wheaton Tennis Club. Surrounded by country clubs, Wheaton has one, the Green Valley, within its corporate limits. *(See p. 232.)*

Three sanitariums, all privately owned, are in or near the city: the Wheaton Nursing Home Sanitarium; the Howe Home for Women, specifically for the aged and feeble-minded; and the Mary E. Pogue School and Sanitarium, an institution for retarded children which also cares for a few adults.

The Wheaton *Illinoian,* founded in 1861, is perhaps the oldest paper in the county. Published weekly, it is devoted entirely to local news. Younger by 49 years is the Wheaton *Daily Journal,* which publishes national and foreign news, as well as local. Both the *Illinoian* and the *Journal* have always been Republican papers, with the exception of the period when the latter was a Progressive sheet, backing Theodore Roosevelt. The *Journal* is the county's only daily paper.

Wheaton has had a number of nationally recognized citizens. Among former residents of the city were: Benjamin Franklin Taylor, journalist, poet, and novelist; J. Wesley Powell, geologist and explorer of the Grand Canyon; Jonathan Blanchard, noted abolitionist, president of two colleges, and author; Elbert H. Gary, for 24 years chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation; Edwin Hubble, later connected with Mount Wilson Observatory; Clifford Gregory, former editor of the *Prairie Farmer;* Frank H. Spearman, novelist; and "Red" Grange, football idol of the 1920's. Four well known writers reside here today: Josephine and Harry M. Beardsley, historians and journalists; Roy Snell, author of more than 60 children's books; and Lyman Anson, magazine writer. John Jameson, listed in Barnett's *Armorial Book Plates* as one of the three greatest contemporary bookplate etchers, has been a Wheatonian since 1920.

Since its incorporation as a city in 1890, Wheaton has been under the commission form of government, consisting of a mayor and four commissioners. The small police department, having little to do in the way of crime suppression; devotes most of its time to accident prevention, in which service it has set an excellent record. The volunteer fire department, comprised of 25 business men, is out on the road with the first of

its four trucks one minute after the warning whistle blows. In a recent survey of municipal indebtedness conducted by the International City Managers Association it was revealed that Wheaton had no debts. The city clerk attributes this distinction to Wheaton's money-saving schemes, such as getting small electric light bulbs to give as much light as large ones.

Seeds (1832-1842)

In April, 1832, Erastus Gary staked a claim near present Warrenville. As soon as he had marked off his land he went back to Pomfret, Connecticut, for other members of his family. Warren Lyon Wheaton, then a young schoolmaster of 20 who spent his summers working on a farm, listened to Erastus' tales of the West. Gary soon returned to Illinois, with his sister and brother, but for Wheaton there were five more years of teaching, of saving, and of dreaming about following their footsteps.

About the first of May, 1837, Warren Wheaton left Pomfret. Accompanying him were Charles Gary and Mrs. Laura Gary Rickard, another brother and sister of Erastus, and their families. Traveling by stage, boat, and train, the party at length reached Buffalo. There they were obliged to wait two weeks before the new steamboat *Madison* could make her way through the ice and into the harbor. When she finally pulled in, 1,500 people boarded her for the voyage to Chicago. In seven more days she anchored near the mouth of the Chicago River.

Since the fourth of March, Chicago had been chartered as a city, but it was still unprepossessing enough to elicit the remark in Wheaton's diary that it was "a village claiming 3,000 population, but no honest inhabitant believed it." As a matter of fact, Chicago's population in 1837 was 4,179.

Proceeding to the place where Erastus, Jude, and Orinda Gary had been living for five years in a double log cabin, Wheaton and the newcomers of the Gary family moved in and set about making themselves useful. Wheaton recorded his first job in the diary: "Erastus Gary and myself each swung a cradle for 30 working days, cutting nearly 160 acres of small grain, lodged level with the ground." The early crop in, he helped the Garys erect a sawmill a few miles north of their cabin and assisted in the establishment of a Methodist class at the mill site. When the summer work was over, he went adventuring through the region, visiting St. Louis, Quincy, Burlington, Dubuque, Galena, and Dixon. Sometimes he picked up a ride by stage, but most of the time he walked.

The late-nineteenth century historian, Rufus Blanchard, suggests that

perhaps it was fatigue which accounted for Warren Wheaton's decision, upon returning from his walking tour, to settle down in the vicinity of the Garys. "But yet," he adds, "the distant hope that Chicago would rise out of the mud and become at least a good market for produce was then in the minds of everyone, and had its influence with Mr. Wheaton." While Wheaton was at Big Woods that winter, he was very ill, probably from the exposure suffered on his journey. It is said that while he was recuperating, the Gary cabin caught fire and he had to be taken out through a window and carted on a sled to a neighboring house.

Warren's brother Jesse, a carpenter by trade, joined the group at Big Woods that fall. In June, 1838, two years prior to the Government survey, the Wheatons took up land several miles east of Gary's Mill. Warren noted in his diary that he staked his claim "by plowing a furrow around some six or seven hundred acres of prairie land and calling it my own. At that time," he continued, "there were only two smokes in sight, Lyman Butterfield's, two and a half miles southwest and William Woodward, two and a half miles northwest." When the Wheatons' land came up for sale, they paid the Government $1.25 an acre and received deeds dated in 1844, 1845, and 1846, signed by Presidents John Tyler and James K. Polk.

Later in 1838 the Vallette family of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, settled near the Wheatons. As the years passed, the Vallettes became prominent in more than one community in the area. One of the oldest graves in the recently restored Pleasant Hill Cemetery, northwest of the city, is that of Jeremiah Vallette, who died in 1846 at the age of 84.

Not yet ready to settle down, Warren Wheaton went back to Pomfret in the fall of 1838. Missing the last boat out of Chicago that season, he had to walk most of the way, getting an occasional lift in some farmer's wagon. One of the diary entries at this time reads, "To riding with a Dutchman, 25 cents." The journey took less than three weeks.

Wheaton returned to his claim early in 1839, just about the time when Du Page County was organized. In March, Jesse Wheaton married Orinda Gary and built on his claim what the family still refers to as the "house-by-the-spring." For nine years Jesse and Orinda shared their home with Warren. Although the Government had officially removed the Potawatomies from the region in 1835, small scattered groups remained into the 1840's. They were friendly and mingled freely with the white settlers. Often they would walk into Jesse Wheaton's house at night—doors were never locked in those days—to be discovered asleep on the floor when the family came downstairs in the morning. There are no

remains of that small frame house which stood a little west of the foot of present Main Street, a block south of Roosevelt Road, but part of the foundation of the stock-watering tank marks its site.

The Wheaton house and those erected by Jonathan Vallette; Hezekiah Holt and Alvin Seamans, who drove out with an ox team in 1839; and Peter Crosby, who settled here around 1842, constituted the nucleus of the future village.

Green Shoots (1843-1849)

It was only natural that religion should be the first blade to push through the newly-broken sod, since most of the immigrants to the Wheaton settlement came from pious New England. While the Wheatons themselves continued to attend the Methodist class at Gary's Mill, 14 of their immediate neighbors organized a Wesleyan society in 1843. The primary principles of the Wesleyans were opposition to slavery, secret societies, and arbitrary church government.

The St. Charles Road, laid out in 1836, was platted in 1843. While it did not run through the Wheaton settlement, passing about a mile north of the city's present boundary, this former Indian trail became an important avenue of travel for new settlers in the community and for farmers hauling their produce to Chicago.

By 1847 there were so many children "hop-skipping and jumping about," as Rufus Blanchard phrased it, that their fathers built a schoolhouse and hired a teacher. The diminutive frame building served as both school and church for seven years and then became a private residence.

Warren Wheaton began to build his own house in 1847, about a year before Erastus Gary moved his family into the settlement. When it was finished, he married Harriet Rickard. It was Harriet whom, as the 12-year-old daughter of Laura Gary Rickard, he had often played with during the boat trip from Buffalo to Chicago ten years before. Wheaton was elected about this time, on the Democratic ticket, to serve a term in the legislature. In later years, after the formation of the Republican Party, he became a staunch Republican.

In the fall of 1849 things began to change quickly. It was 13 years since the incorporators of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad had received a charter by special act of legislature for the operation of a line west of Chicago. Now, at last, the great day was at hand, and amid much excitement the "Pioneer"—or one of the company's two other locomotives—chugged into Wheaton.

To Warren Wheaton goes the credit for the laying of the tracks through his community. When William B. Ogden, president of the railroad, and J. B. Turner, acting director, had traveled through the region the year before, prospecting for a right-of-way, Wheaton had proved that he was smarter than some other landholders in the county by offering to them free what others had dickered over for a good price, or even refused outright. The railroad built a station—merely a few poles set into the ground to sustain a roof and sides of battened boards—and called the stop Wheaton.

Prairie Flower (1850-1869)

In 1850 the first business buildings were erected by Patrick Lynch, Horace H. Fuller, and Jonathan G. Vallette. The first store was a grocery, run by Lynch. Like many of the groceries of its day, it sold Kentucky Twist chewing tobacco, Kentucky Bourbon and other liquors, and probably offered a bed and cornbread to the weary traveler. Fuller opened the next store, which, according to Rufus Blanchard, "was not a grocery store, that is, Kentucky Bourbon was not kept in it, although it kept tea, coffee, and sugar, and everything that sober people wanted from a penny whistle to a bass drum." Mr. Fuller's store was south of the railroad station, of which he was in charge, and from which he ran a stage to Naperville. One of the victims of the trip to Naperville exclaimed in 1851, "Oh, what roads! It seemed about as far up and down as straight ahead!" A Mr. Wormworth opened the first blacksmith shop in 1850, and the Wheatons and Garys constructed a grain warehouse.

All interest in this opening year of the expanding fifties was not centered in business. The first town meeting of Milton Township was held at Jesse Wheaton's house and the first board of supervisors elected. Warren Wheaton was on this board.

In 1850, too, Alvin Seamans established a Sunday school. Another Connecticut Yankee, Seamans modeled his venture on the pattern originated in New England.

The congregation of the Baptist church at Stacy's Corners, a settlement fringing on the northern limit of present Glen Ellyn, was composed mainly of people living in the community a mile south, at that time called Danby. When the railroad laid tracks through Danby, leaving the church up at the Corners somewhat stranded, the Baptists decided to reorganize, so they sold their church and transferred their activities to Wheaton, believing it held more promise of growth than their own community. For about 18 years they held their meetings in the Wheaton

schoolhouse, until they could build another church. In the meantime, a number of Wheatonians joined their congregation.

In 1852 a post office was established at Wheaton, and Mr. Fuller, the stationmaster, became also the postmaster. For some unexplained reason, he did not long retain the post, and it fell to Warren Wheaton in September, 1853. At about the same time the office was moved from the railroad station to a one-story frame building on Front Street.

The Methodists of the area who belonged to the Naperville (formerly part of the Du Page) Circuit, at a quarterly conference in 1852 voted that "an appointment be taken in at Wheaton's depot in connection with Gary's, giving the two places together one sermon each Sabbath, in case they raise $150 . . . " Warren Wheaton and the Rev. Charles Gary were delegates to this conference, which resulted in the transfer of part of the Methodist class from Gary's Mill to Wheaton in 1853. The class met at the railroad station and at private homes for more than four years. In 1857, after the division of the circuit into separate Wheaton and Naperville units, the cornerstone of a church was laid on ground donated by Jesse C. Wheaton.

On June 20, 1853, Erastus Gary, in his capacity as justice of the peace—a position he held for 21 years—certified the plat by which about a dozen blocks were laid out in lots and streets. Warren and Jesse Wheaton, Jonathan G. Vallette, and John Cross, owners of the land, signed the document.

At the end of the year, the Illinois Institute was opened, the upper part of its building still unfinished. The movement toward its establishment had been inaugurated by a little band of reformers at the Illinois Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodists in 1850. The anti-slavery struggle, then at its height, was the issue on which the Wesleyans expended most of their energy, but they were also interested in laboring for the moral and religious principles which held an important place in their lives. Their aim in establishing the institute was to provide a place of higher education where their children would not run the risk of contact with teachers of doubtful religious or moral zeal. After searching some time for financial sponsorship and a suitable locality, their committee inspired the generosity of Warren Wheaton, who gave them a large tract of land for a campus and pledged $300 toward the college fund. Jesse Wheaton and Erastus Gary each pledged the same amount of money. On a sultry summer day in 1852 a little band of devout people knelt down in the tall prairie grass, on a hill just east of the Wheaton subdivision, and dedicated it and all who should find

themselves on it to God. Soon afterward, construction of the institute was begun on the crown of that hill.

The Rev. John Cross, pastor of the Wesleyan Church in Wheaton, was the institute's sole instructor until April, 1854. Several others then came, and in the fall of that year the Rev. J. A. Martling became first principal. Although the Wesleyans' purpose had been to found a college, the institute as yet was only comparable to a high school.

Its openly expressed attitude toward slavery would seem to give credence to the story that the school became a station on the underground railway. It is said that President Lucius Matlack, who took office in 1856, becoming pastor of the Wesleyan Church at the same time, used to secrete the runaways in the attic. However, the few remaining people who knew the school in its early years deny this tale, saying that the institution helped the cause in many ways but was never a station of the underground.

In 1856 Leonard E. De Wolf and J. A. J. Birdsall, with a hand press and printing materials purchased from a Chicago firm, gave Wheaton its first newspaper. Though short-lived, the Du Page County *Gazette* broke the journalistic ice.

Wheaton's brief career as a manufacturing town also began in 1856. Peter Northrup, pioneer of Addison Township, built a steam-propelled flour mill, with a planing mill in conjunction. The gristmill produced a superior grade of flour until it burned down two years later. Avery Chadwick opened a carriage factory, also using steam power. The plant turned out about 50 carriages annually and employed 15 men. Rufus Blanchard called its products "locomotive vehicles for children and babies, for which there was quite a good home market in such a fruitful country as Wheaton and its surroundings." Two lightning rod factories were in operation either in or near Wheaton in 1857.

Under the motto "Inalienable Are the Rights of Freemen," Nathaniel H. Lewis of Chicago followed the demise of the *Gazette* with his Wheaton *Flag* in 1857.

Wheaton by now considered itself not only grown up but—because it was in the center of Du Page and had the railroad—worthy to supplant Naperville as county seat. Its insistance produced an election on the question in May, 1857, but not a favorable vote. It did not give up the fight, however.

In line with a Statewide movement, the Du Page County Agricultural and Mechanical Society had been organized in 1853. The first and second county fairs under the auspices of this society were held at Naperville,

the third at Wheaton. At a meeting of the association held at Danby on June 25, 1857, the fair grounds were permanently located at Wheaton on land donated by Jesse Wheaton. For many years thereafter these grounds, which included a race track, were the scene of the annual September fairs.

No more did the inhabitants of the prairie hamlet have to depend on home remedies for the treatment of their ills. From Indiana in 1858 came Luther L. Hiatt, and A. H. Hiatt, M.D., the former dealing in drugs and real estate, the latter in artificial limbs.

By 1859 Wheaton's population had grown to nearly 800. Gone were the pioneer days when it was possible to laugh off the epithet "Wheaton's Mud-Hole," a nickname not unmerited during wet weather. Sometimes, after a heavy rain, the people had to stay at home because the streets were impassable. They were becoming too well established, too dignified, to stand for this sort of thing much longer. They had progressed from house-raisings, apple-parings, and candle-dippings to debates, musicales, amateur theatricals, strawberry festivals, and oyster suppers, from covered wagon to horse-and-buggy. They wore their hoop skirts and ruffled taffeta, their swallowtails and embroidered vests, and attended elegant balls at the Mansion House in Danby, the Pre-Emption House in Naperville, or Colonel Warren's place in Warrenville.

In order to enforce a system of public improvements, the leading citizens drew up a charter for the incorporation of Wheaton as a village. The Naperville charter served as a model, with two modifications, one of which was that the council board should have the power to license or suppress the sale of fermented or distilled liquors of all kinds. A month after the approval of the charter Warren Wheaton became first village president, in an election presided over by Erastus Gary, Jesse Wheaton, L. J. Bliss, and Seth Daniels. The Gary-Wheaton regime was becoming more firmly entrenched.

The first civic improvements were the draining of the sloughs by tiling, the building of stone culverts, and the piking up of the roads with dirt dug from drainage ditches on either side. The condition of the streets and walks in rainy weather was still not much better than before, however, and it remained for further repairs about 20 years later to do away with the mud.

Serious financial difficulties having arisen at Illinois Institute, two sources were appealed to in an effort to save the school. The State Congregational Association was approached with the proposal that it adopt the institution. Jonathan Blanchard (no relation to Rufus) noted

anti-slavery leader, was asked to assume the presidency of the institute. He had recently left the presidency of Knox College, where he had performed something of a miracle in raising it out of financial mire, and it was hoped that he could work a similar miracle at Wheaton. The Congregationalists decided against adopting the institute, but many of them promised their financial help, if Blanchard would accept the presidency.

Mr. Blanchard accepted the offer of the institute, which was to be reorganized as a college, and came to see Warren Wheaton before taking office. In a letter written shortly after this visit, Blanchard suggested that Wheaton give every other lot of his town property to the college, the understanding being that the institution would raise money from its sale. He also proposed that Mr. Wheaton "call the college Wheaton College and that will at least save your heirs the expense of a good monument." Wheaton gave the land, Blanchard took office in December, 1859, the new name was adopted under the charter amended by the 1860 session of the legislature, and the institution at last started on its road to success. Hereafter it was to be under the patronage and control of the Congregationalists, with the co-operation of its founders, the Wesleyans.

The college motto, "For Christ and His Kingdom," now carved in the cornerstone of the east wing of Blanchard Hall, and the following excerpt from the paper adopted by the trustees at the reorganization show clearly the religious attitude that was to permeate the institution down to the present day:

> The intention of the Trustees is, that the instructions and influence of the institution shall bear decidedly against all forms of error and sin. The testimony of God's Word against slave-holding, secret societies, and their spurious worships, human inventions in church government, war, and whatever else shall clearly appear to contravene the kingdom and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, is to be kept good.

From this it is apparent that the slavery problem was not the only one that evoked the moral indignation of the college group. From the beginning, the college forbade its students to join secret societies. Jonathan Blanchard published a number of books attacking the Masonic Order and for several years edited the *Christian Cynosure,* a Chicago publication of anti-secret-society policy.

Not long after the reorganization of the college, the master of the Masonic lodge, established in Wheaton in 1858, stated that he intended to break down the rule against secret societies. A lecturer was imported

to form a Good Templars lodge. This man publicly announced that if the faculty objected to the students' joining, the Masons would publicize the affair all over the world and force the college to close. Three students were known to have joined. One became secretary of the lodge and posted notices of its meetings in the college hall. The students were suspended until they should conform to the rules. A writ of mandamus was sued for to compel their reinstatement, but the court refused to issue it. On appeal, for which the Master of the Masonic lodge signed the bonds for costs, the Illinois Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the lower court. The issue finally died down, but years later there was another upheaval, and again the college won out. It still does not countenance secret societies.

Connected as they were with the college, the Wesleyan Methodists of Wheaton came under Jonathan Blanchard's pastorate in 1860 and were organized, together with a group of Congregationalists, as the First Church of Christ. This church belonged at first to both the Illinois Wesleyan Conference and the Illinois Congregational Association. Two years later an amicable division of the congregation resulted in the withdrawal of the Wesleyan members to form the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

When news came of the fall of Fort Sumter on April 13, 1861, the strong anti-slavery sentiments of Wheaton's citizens provided a fertile field for the gathering of recruits. Many Wheaton men responded to the call, while most of the women joined the local branch of the Soldiers' Aid Societies that were formed in every community. Wheaton's railroad station served as the point of leave-taking for the Wheaton and Naperville members of the 105th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers.

H. C. Childs started Wheaton's third newspaper, the *Northern Illinoian,* during the first year of the Civil War. Republican in policy, it filled the gap left by the discontinuance of the *Flag* when its office and plant burned down the previous year. For a time Benjamin Franklin Taylor, literary and dramatic critic and war correspondent on the Chicago *Evening Journal,* was literary editor of the Wheaton paper. Although not particularly successful from a financial point of view, the *Northern Illinoian* was so well conducted that it did much toward bringing both Wheaton and the county into the public eye. Later the paper was published in several outside editions: Elmhurst, Downers Grove, and Turner Junction (West Chicago). John Whitlock, J. Russell Smith (who changed the name of the paper to the Wheaton *Illinoian*), Dunkelberg and Fischer, H. C. Paddock, N. E. Matter, and C. Plummer followed in

succession as owners and editors until 1915, when the present editor, H. L. Durant, bought it. Member of the corporation that published the Chicago *Republican,* started in May, 1856—one of that city's most remarkable, though unsuccessful, papers of the period—H. C. Childs was a journalist of more than local importance.

Two years before starting his newspaper, Mr. Childs had purchased the Chadwick carriage factory. The plant burned down in 1861. He rebuilt it, and, according to the historian Blanchard, "the same business went on till the supply of baby carts was ahead of the demand, for there is a limit to the rate of animated production."

In deference to a mud-bespattered populace, Mr. Childs, in 1862, raised the sidewalk in front of his newspaper office three feet above the roadbed. Other Front Street business men followed suit. The marked difference in grade thus established has never been entirely reconciled, so that today one must go up and down steps on Front Street corners.

A group of men organized a liberal religious society, which they called the Universalist Church, in 1862. They had no church ordinances or unity of faith, but that they were treated with tolerance by their more conventionally pious neighbors is attested in the fact that several other denominations held services in their building prior to the construction of their own churches.

In 1862 a third schoolhouse was built near the second and used for the primary children. The next year its predecessor burned down, and the older children attended classes in the basement of the Methodist Episcopal Church until the building of a larger, graded schoolhouse in 1874.

The unrest left smoldering since the 1857 county seat election burst into flames again in 1867, fanned by the editorials of H. C. Childs, and the following year Wheaton became county seat. In 1869 the village was re-incorporated as a town, with Warren Wheaton again first president of his community's new governmental set-up. Developments from then on were more or less routine.

Garden Variety (1870-Present)

Wheaton passed a prohibition ordinance in 1871 and repealed it the following year. In 1878 a modified ordinance gave the town liquor intermittently until the passage of a new prohibition law in 1886. Wheaton has been dry ever since.

Its manufacturing era was over, but two more industrial ventures of

more than local scope were to spring up and die out before Wheaton settled down completely to suburban domesticity. The first of these was the map-making plant founded by Rufus Blanchard in the fall of 1871. Opened in the Bedel Block on Front Street, which burned down soon afterward, the plant was later transferred to the rear of Blanchard's house lot, present site of the *Journal* office. How long Blanchard continued to print maps in Wheaton is unknown, but his Chicago map and publishing firm was well known until the turn of the century.

All this time Wheaton had existed without a bank. In 1874 Erastus Gary, his son Elbert, and Jesse Wheaton established the Banking House of Gary and Wheaton. Chartered as a State bank in 1897, it has since been called the Gary-Wheaton Bank.

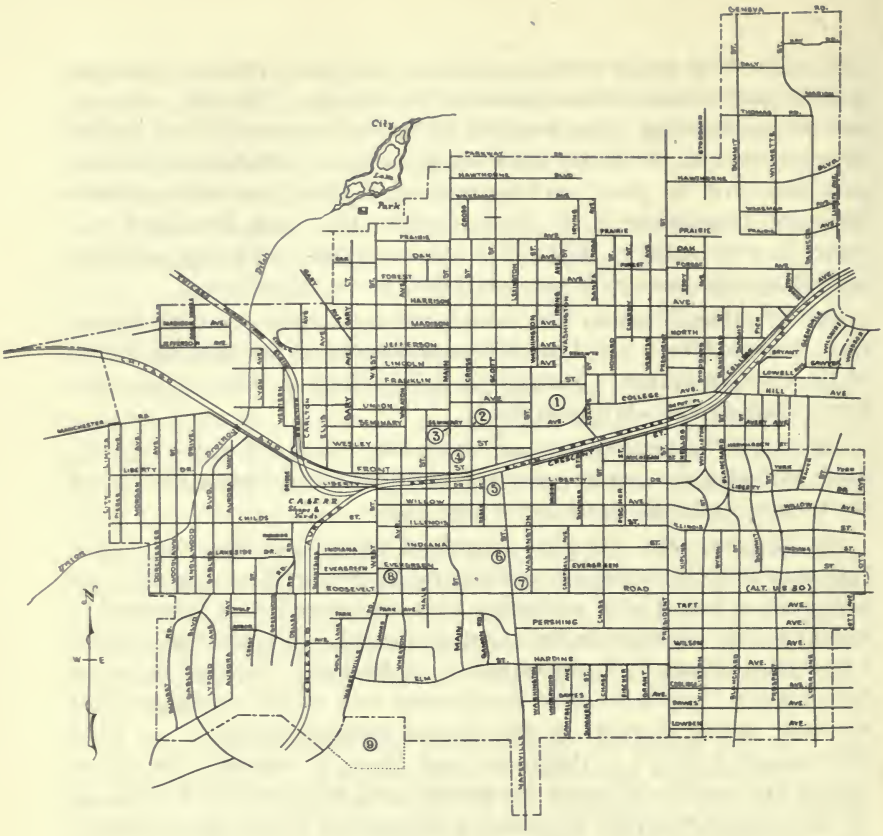
In 1877 Wheaton began in earnest to dig herself out of the mud. A street surfacing and grading program included the graveling of some of the roadbeds and the cindering of sidewalks.

In January, 1878, the First Church of Christ split into two bodies. Like the Wesleyan society out of which it had sprung, this Congregational organization had a rule excluding from its congregation members of secret societies. In 1867 the State Congregational Association had adopted a resolution written by Professor Bartlett of Dartmouth College, declaring Freemasonry "hostile to good government and the true religion." At the same session a report by Dr. Edward Beecher asserted, ". . . by it [Freemasonry] Christ is dethroned and Satan is exalted." Several attempts had been made during the decade and a half since the withdrawal of the church's Wesleyan members to disregard or revoke the anti-secret-society ruling, and it was difficulty over this matter that now caused the break. About 30 members withdrew and organized themselves into the First Congregational Church, omitting from their manual the disputed ruling. At the same time the remaining group renamed their church the College Church of Christ.

In 1881 Wheaton acquired another newspaper, the *Star Critic,* an edition of John C. Neltnor's Du Page County *Democrat,* published in West Chicago. It ran until about 1904.

An ordinance creating a police department and defining its duties was passed on April 15, 1882. Prior to that time the work of protecting Wheatonians and their property had been done by constables. With the passage of the new ordinance, a night watchman was appointed at a salary of $30 a month.

Wheaton's last large industry was the Wheaton Creamery, established in 1882, with James Peirronet, president, Elbert H. Gary, vice president,



WHEATON

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. *Wheaton College Campus*
2. *"Poet's Corner"*
3. *Gary Memorial Methodist Church*
4. *Wheaton Public Library*
5. *Public Square*
6. *Captain Jones Homestead*
7. *Warren Wheaton House*
8. *Jesse Wheaton House*
9. *Wheaton Cemetery*

H. H. Fuller, secretary, and J. J. Cole, treasurer. An interior planned by J. J. Cole introduced the most modern improvements of the day and set the plant apart from all others in the State. The capacity of the creamery at the time of its organization was 16,000 pounds of milk a day. For about 35 years the company flourished, and then it, too, went out of existence.

Sometime during the seventies or eighties Wheaton also had small manufactories of saddles and gloves.

In his history of Du Page County, published in 1882, Rufus Blanchard remarked: "It is well known that . . . [Wheaton's] fame is due to the tenacious religious connections, not only of its leading men, but of its everyday sort of people." According to Blanchard, there were at this time eight churches and "four more kinds of religious beliefs."

Dr. Charles Albert Blanchard, who succeeded his father, Jonathan, to the presidency of Wheaton College in 1882, managed to complete the erasure of the institution's debts. When increased enrollment brought increased financial need, Dr. Blanchard resorted to increased prayer. In his book *How I Learned to Pray,* he wrote:

> When I began to speak for the college needs I had little faith; results were correspondingly small. As days went on, I learned to ask and expect larger things from God for His work. About the time I was 55 I placed 3 petitions before our Father in respect to the financial needs . . . I asked first that He would incline friends who were regular helpers to appropriate . . . a larger sum than heretofore. Not to wrong other interests, but to forward the college which lies at the foundation of so many great institutions. Second, that He would give me a man who might help me in raising money. My collection book shows that almost immediately the first prayer was answered. Without request, God's people were moved to increase the amount of their annual contributions to the college. . . .

His second request, he said, was answered with a full-time field worker's assistance. His third prayer asked God to incline unknown and unsolicited persons to send gifts to the school. The result of this petition Blanchard said, was the receipt of large amounts of money, sometimes as much as $10,000 at a time, from persons entirely unknown to the staff.

Slowly growing recognition of the need for fire protection had been heightened in 1880 when several buildings in the business district, including the post office, went up in flames. At last, on April 9, 1883, a volunteer fire department was formed. The equipment of its 16 members consisted of a hand-drawn wagon, 30 leather buckets, and a few axes. Two years later, privately owned horse-drawn rigs supplanted the wagon

that went by man-power. Pay was $2 per team and $1 per man, for each call. The first rig at the fire station after the ringing of the bell won a prize of $5; the second $3. Great was the excitement when no rig showed up for a long time. As soon as the firemen arrived at the burning building, one of them went all around it, breaking windows. Later, when electricity came, the custom, for a time, was to cut the electrical connections. In spite of obvious inconveniences, the horse-drawn rigs gave such good service, generally, that it took much argument to reach, in 1917, a decision in favor of replacing them with motor trucks.

On March 31, 1890, Wheaton, with 1,600 inhabitants, was reincorporated as a city. Judge Elbert H. Gary, who derived his title from the two terms he served as county judge, took office as first mayor. Eight years later Gary was to organize, under the Morgan auspices, the Federal Steel Company, a stepping stone to his organization, in 1901, of the United States Steel Corporation. It was the latter connection that brought Wheaton's first mayor fame, not only as a millionaire, but as a champion of the 12-hour day, 7-day week.

A Mrs. Fiske opened a private telephone exchange in the early nineties. In 1894 the Chicago Telephone Company (now the Illinois Bell), which later bought out Mrs. Fiske, established toll service to Chicago.

Another West Chicago newspaper, A. L. Hamilton's *Journal,* was published in a Wheaton edition, called the *Press,* from the 1890's to 1908.

Wooden sidewalks were installed about 1900. They might have come sooner had Wheaton not been so strongly set on temperance. Not all of Wheaton's citizens had been in favor of the prohibition ordinance of 1886. Some of those who opposed it had wanted to license liquor in order to use the money for building sidewalks. But Warren Wheaton and other leading citizens had held out. Wheaton's reply to the question involved was the laconic, "I've wallowed in mud before, and I can do it again." It was only six or seven years after 1900, however, that Wheaton had cement walks, paved roads, *and* temperance.

As early as the 1870's Wheatonians had begun to commute to Chicago. Completion of the Aurora, Elgin & Chicago Railroad (now the C. A. & E.) to Aurora in 1902 gave Wheaton electric as well as steam service. As Wheaton was the junction point of the Elgin and Aurora branches, the yards of the electric line were located here.

In the *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for the Year 1904* appears the following notice: "In the very early hours of the 3d day of January, 1904, at Wheaton, Du Page County, Ill., a

member of this society sent for his lawyer in order that he might make his will . . . He was nearly 83 years of age. In about four hours he died. His name was Rufus Blanchard."

In 1907 the Du Page County *News* was published by John Norman. It changed hands several times and ran for only a few years. Another weekly newspaper, the Du Page County *Tribune,* was established in 1910 by John L. Brown. At the time of its purchase in 1913 by George M. Smith and his son, George H. Smith, the paper was called the Wheaton *Progressive,* a name derived from the Progressive movement then at the fore in national politics. In 1933 the paper became a six-day daily, and its name was changed to the Wheaton Daily *Journal.* A monthly magazine, the *Young American Golfer,* was published at Wheaton for a short time around 1914.

During the World War Wheaton gave 445 men, 13 of whom died in service. From spring 1917 until fall 1918 the little suburb, like the rest of the country, lived on fear, excitement, elation, despair, patriotism, propaganda, and food rations. Women worked for the Red Cross, and everyone sold Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps.

At last it was all over, and, while life returned somewhat to normal, a depression settled down upon industry and big-city business. With so many of her citizens involved in outside commercial interests, Wheaton felt the let-down more acutely than other more self-contained small towns. The upturn that followed, in the 1920's, made of Wheaton a fairly wealthy, rapidly expanding city. Instead of one bank, three found ample business by 1926. In addition to the Gary-Wheaton Bank there were now the First National and the Wheaton Trust and Savings, the latter established in 1926. Under the leadership of Dr. James Oliver Buswell, Jr., who in 1926 succeeded Dr. Charles Blanchard as president, Wheaton College also came in for the phenomenal expansion that everywhere typified the big-money twenties.

Down through the years Wheaton had been acquiring more churches: in 1875, Trinity Episcopal; in 1881, St. Michael's Roman Catholic; in 1905, the Christian Science. In 1902—the Wesleyan Methodist congregation having previously disbanded—the German Lutherans took over the old Wesleyan building, which they still occupy. By 1910 the membership of the First Congregational Church had dwindled down to only a few, and the organization was much in debt. Since most of those who still attended the services were actually Presbyterians, the charter was trans-

ferred to that denomination. In 1927 St. Paul's English Lutheran Church and the United Gospel Tabernacle were founded. The 12 churches of today average more than two and a half per square mile of territory.

Around 1928, fifty years after the split over the Masonic issue, the College Church of Christ divided on the question of liberalizing its traditional strict policies and relentless fundamentalist principles. When the true fundamentalists could no longer live peaceably with those they called "modernists," they asked the trustees for a separate place of worship. Given the auditorium of Blanchard Hall, on the college campus, they took the name of Wheaton College Interdenominational Church. The "modernists" continued to meet in the college chapel. This arrangement did not, however, settle the issue, which became more and more bitter. It was impossible to have two official college churches because Jonathan Blanchard had stipulated in the reorganization proceedings of 1860 that only the College Church of Christ was ever to be on the campus. The chapel belonged jointly to the church and the college, but a clause in the papers gave the latter the privilege of taking it over, if the extra space were ever needed. It was this clause that came to the rescue and resolved the discord. The college paid the official church for its share in the building, and both churches moved off the campus. The College Church of Christ now faces the main campus on Washington Street, while the uncompromising fundamentalist group has its own building on the northwest corner of Center and Cross Streets, under the name Wheaton Bible Church.

For Wheaton, things went well until the stock market crash in 1929. Then the First National Bank failed; money became tight; and business slackened. Contributive to the death of William E. Gary, nephew of Erastus, was the failure of the Gary-Wheaton Bank to reopen immediately after the bank holiday of 1933. The bank was re-established, however, within a short time. Only the college seemed to be unaffected by the times, tripling its enrollment between 1927 and 1937. Construction work, which had come to a standstill, was resumed in 1938 with a large home-building project in a south-end subdivision. Like most suburban communities, Wheaton has been the recipient of Federal aid during recent years. A Works Progress Administration recreation project and a year's program of park improvement, the latter financed by a $90,000 grant, are in operation. The city expects to build a new police station with a Public Works Administration grant, and with other communities in the county, has voted to enlarge its schools in cooperation with PWA.

1. The central portion of WHEATON COLLEGE CAMPUS *(campus always open; college and academies open schooldays; guides by appointment Sat. and holidays)* is bounded by Seminary Ave., Washington, Franklin, and Adams Sts. The original college building, erected on the crest of the hill in 1853, no longer exists, but the foundation of the center section of Blanchard Hall, standing on approximately the same site, dates from 1854. Construction of this large, four-story, Victorian battlemented structure went on intermittently over a period of 73 years, the tower being added in 1871, the east wing in 1927. In it are the administrative offices, the two libraries, the classrooms and laboratories of all departments except music, art, speech, and physical education. Behind and to the left of this building is Pierce Memorial Chapel, a modern brick structure of modified colonial design, erected in 1925, which houses the conservatory of music and two auditoriums. Morning prayer meetings *(open; 7:30-7:55 a. m. weekdays, 8-9 Sun., 7 p. m. Tues.)* and chapel services *(open; 10-10:25 schooldays)* are held here. The departments of art and speech are in Plumb Studios, a two-story frame house adjoining the main campus on Franklin St. at Irving Ave. In a colonial-style brick building opposite the studios on Irving Ave. are Wheaton College Academy and Junior Academy. East of this building, on the northwest corner of Franklin and Adams Sts., is the new women's dormitory of modified Georgian colonial design. Nineteen other college buildings, three athletic fields, and a tennis court lie within a radius of several blocks, the campus comprising 33 acres. *(See pp. 232, 233.)*

An enrollment of more than 1,100 ranks Wheaton as the largest liberal arts college in Illinois. Students come from all over the United States and 17 foreign countries. The college is on the approved list of the Association of American Universities, a member of North Central Association and the National Association of Schools of Music. Bachelor degrees are awarded in science, philosophy, music, and liberal arts; the only master's degree is in Christian education. The college offers a premedical course approved by the A. M. A., a fully accredited teachers' training course, and a course in business administration. The two college libraries contain 38,000 bound volumes, receive 375 periodicals and 10 daily papers in addition to Government publications. Total resources of the college are estimated at nearly $2,500,000.

Based on fundamentalism, Wheaton College stands for an orthodox gospel, conservative political and economic views. Non-sectarian and independent of any one church, it is supported by individuals and

churches of various evangelical denominations throughout the country. Many graduates of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago work toward degrees at Wheaton, which is closely, but unofficially, related to Moody.

The college requires a high scholastic standard, a strict code of religious, moral, and personal habits. Only candidates who have ranked in the upper two-thirds of their high school class and maintained an average of 80 are accepted. Each applicant must sign an agreement to abstain from tobacco, spirits, card playing, dancing, secret society meetings, theatre or movie attendance.

In the absence of secret fraternities, numerous student clubs provide social and cultural activities. Alpha Delta, the national journalistic fraternity, and four national honor societies maintain chapters at Wheaton. Widely recognized by music critics are the men's and women's glee clubs, which make annual mid-winter and spring tours through several states. Other musical organizations include an orchestra, band and chorus. Student publications are the weekly Wheaton *Record* established in 1875, and the annual *Tower*. Every summer, under the direction of the League of Evangelical Students, undergraduates supply pulpits, engage in gospel team work and other religious activities throughout the country. Member of the Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the Northern Illinois College Baseball League, the college stresses physical education.

Summer school, organized in 1915, consists of two four-week terms of study in the college, music conservatory, academy, and junior academy divisions. Dating from 1853, as the forerunner of the college, Wheaton College Academy is fully accredited as a college preparatory high school. Limited to the seventh and eighth grades during the regular school year, the junior academy, started in 1916 as a practice school of the education department, includes grades five through eight in the summer term.

The college sends summer expeditions of botany and geology students to the Black Hills of South Dakota, where it maintains men's and women's dormitories and a laboratory at the base of Mount Tamaha. Research is done at various points en route.

2. "POET'S CORNER" *(private)*, 203 E. Seminary St., was the home of Benjamin Franklin Taylor, journalist, lecturer, and poet, from March until August, 1867. Originally frame, the house has been bricked over and shorn of its porch. It is said that Mr. Taylor did his writing in a summerhouse which, surrounded by tamaracks and pines, crowned a high knoll in the backyard. The last of the knoll has recently been removed.

Born in Lowville, N. Y., in 1819, Taylor came to Chicago in 1840, joining the staff of the *Evening Journal* as literary and dramatic critic. Sent to the battlefront to cover the Civil War, his letters from the field gained wide recognition and translation into several languages. His principal works in prose and poetry appeared after the war. For two years during the 1860's he was literary editor of Wheaton's *Northern Illinoian*. The London *Times* called him the "Oliver Goldsmith of America." Taylor's most popular poems were *Rhymes of the River, The Old Village Choir, The Beautiful Isle of Long Ago,* and *The River Time.* The novel *Openings* was one of his best works.

3. The GARY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH, southwest corner Main St. and Seminary Ave., developed from the Methodist Class started at Gary's Mill in 1837. In 1853 an appointment on the circuit was given to Wheaton in connection with the one at the mill, so that the members who lived at Wheaton would no longer have to go to Gary's Mill—several miles west, on the Du Page River—for services. In 1857 the Naperville Circuit, to which Wheaton belonged, was divided and a separate Wheaton Circuit formed. In that year the first Methodist church was erected at Wheaton on a Front Street plot donated by Jesse C. Wheaton. The financial panic held up construction, and for some time services were held in the basement. Four years elapsed before the completion of the building. Like many other churches of the period, this one had no organ, not because the congregation lacked money, but because it was considered sacrilegious to employ a musical instrument in connection with religious services. A singing leader pitched with a tuning fork the 15- or 20-stanza hymns. Placing the fork between his teeth, he would withdraw it suddenly, hold it up to his ear, then hum the tone to the congregation. At church committee meetings there were many arguments over the organ question. Amos Wheeler got up in one discussion and shouted: "Brethren, if we let 'em get an organ in this church, the next thing they'll want is a fiddle, the devil's own instrument!"

As a memorial to his parents, Elbert Gary gave the money for a new church, erected in 1900. When fire destroyed it in 1929, the present edifice was started. A fine example of American Gothic, the church was completed in 1930, honorary mention being given to Childs & Smith of Chicago, architects, and Edward F. Jansson, consultant, by the Bureau of Architecture of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in its publication.

4. The WHEATON PUBLIC LIBRARY *(open weekdays 12-9, closed holidays),* southeast corner Wesley and Main Sts., is housed in a stone

building of Richardson Romanesque style. Built and endowed in 1891 by John Quincy Adams (no relation to the former President) as a memorial to his wife, it was formerly known as the Adams Memorial Library. Catalogued by Katherine Sharp, secretary to Melvil Dewey, the library was the first in Illinois to adopt the Dewey Decimel Classification. In 1923 the city took it over. The library contains 15,710 bound volumes, subscribes to 52 magazines, and 5 newspapers. Indian murals in the juvenile room were painted in 1932 by Chicago artist Otto E. Hake. The scene on the east wall depicts life in the Hopi Tribe of Pueblo Indians; that on the west represents the Blackfeet Tribe in Glacier National Park. Flanking these are panels containing reproductions of Blackfeet pictographs.

5. The PUBLIC SQUARE, bounded by Willow Ave., Naperville and Reber Sts., contains the county courthouse of 1896, part of the new courthouse, started in 1938, the sheriff's house, and the jail. Strongly contrasting with the Richardson Romanesque bulwark of the nineties is the new, less pretentious, Georgian colonial building, designed by Chicago architect R. Harold Zook. Exterior walls are Wisconsin Lannon stone with Indiana limestone trim. Upon completion of all three sections of the new courthouse the old building will be razed and the grounds landscaped back to the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin right-of-way.

When the county was formed in 1839, Naperville was selected as county seat and a courthouse was erected there. In 1857, upon Wheaton's insistance, an election was held to determine whether Naperville or Wheaton should be county seat. Naperville won the election, but Wheaton would not drop the issue, and tension between the towns mounted. In 1867 the legislature acceded to Wheaton's demands for another election and authorized one to be held in June. Although Wheaton won this election, Naperville said she had cheated, and refused to hand over the county records and other official papers. Months of wrangling left the issue at a standstill. At length the circuit court confirmed the validity of the election, and the county board of supervisors started negotiations for a new courthouse site. Warren Wheaton gave a block of land, conveyed to the county through a warranty deed dated June 20, 1868 and he and Jesse donated $2,000 apiece toward a two-story brick building which was erected immediately.

Still Naperville held the documents. Injunctions were served and counter proceedings instituted. No one knows the exact day, but it was about four o'clock one morning in July, 1868, that a group of men from Wheaton and Glen Ellyn descended upon a sleeping Naperville. Gaining

access to the courthouse through an open window, they carried out the records and piled them in their wagon. Although Naperville awakened and put up a stiff battle, the invaders won out and returned to Wheaton about six a. m.

The affray was not without loss in both property and blood. A man named Mott had been killed in the street fighting. One section of deed records (volumes 15 through 21, for the years 1854-57) was overlooked by the Wheaton forces, and court and county papers were either overlooked or dropped in the road. The deed records were hidden for a short time in an outbuilding in Naperville, then transferred to either a bank or the courthouse in Chicago, pending the outcome of the lawsuit. The hands of justice moved too slowly for the hands of fate, however, and the seven books went up in smoke along with most of Chicago three years later. The court and estate papers met the same end at Naperville on the morning of the raid; the man who had charge of them feared another raid so much that he set fire to them.

The villain in the case was a courthouse employee, who, a Wheaton sympathizer, had left a window open on the appointed night. The story goes that his fiancee "declared she would never marry a traitor and turned her life to better things."

So bitter was the feeling between the two towns that the newspapers in both places ignored the incident, Wheaton's in a spirit of self-righteousness, Naperville's out of fear. Thus many versions of the story have been handed down in memoirs and by word of mouth, the most plausible of which is the one given above. Seventy-one years have not sufficed to gain official recognition in Wheaton of the fact that the raid took place at all.

6. The CAPTAIN JONES HOMESTEAD *(private)*, 504 Naperville St., was occupied by Marcellus Jones, formerly of Glen Ellyn, shortly after the Civil War. A captain in the Union Army, Jones is reputed to have fired the first shot at Gettysburg. The large house, of modified colonial design with a tall-pillared portico, was remodeled around 1900 by F. Blount.

7. The WARREN WHEATON HOUSE *(private)*, northeast corner Naperville St. and Roosevelt Rd. (Alt. US 30), is considered the oldest building in the city. Built in 1847-48 by Warren Lyon Wheaton, it is now (1939) occupied by his daughter, Lucy Wheaton Darling, and her husband. Made from hand-hewn oak timbers fastened by wooden pegs, the

house in its original state was typical of the Greek Revival style. Mr. Wheaton recorded the cost of construction in his ledger as follows:

Cost of material	$189.29
For Labor	$232.26
Total	$421.55

appending, laconically, "except my labor." The house formerly faced Roosevelt Road, but in 1910 it was remodeled by Mr. Darling and turned to front on Naperville Street. The remodeling included raising the roof 3½ feet. According to Mrs. Darling, her father built the house low because "everyone told him that if he built on this hill he'd blow away, but he liked it, you know—in Connecticut they lived on a high hill." Not even the tornado that took the cupola off the barn in 1911 managed to dislodge the sturdy house. Other friends once scoffed at the scrawny young maples set out by Mr. Wheaton in 1847, but they, too, are still proving their tenacity.

8. The JESSE WHEATON HOUSE *(private)*, 310 W. Evergreen St., is a gracious, white frame, modified colonial building. This was Jesse Wheaton's second house, erected in 1858, and contains some of his fine old furniture. It is now occupied by his granddaughter, Mrs. William Kuntze.

9. Jesse Wheaton gave the first acre of land for the WHEATON CEMETERY, lying just outside the city limits on Warrenville Rd. More land was added from time to time, including 11 acres donated by Elbert H. Gary, steel magnate and son of Erastus Gary, pioneer of Winfield Township. Buried in the cemetery are Henry T. Wilson, Erastus Gary, Warren and Jesse Wheaton, and many other early settlers of Wheaton and the surrounding countryside. The body of the famous Elbert Gary lies in a mausoleum.

Erastus Gary

III
MOTOR TOURS

TOUR I

St. Charles Rd. crosses the Du Page County Line from Cook County, *0 m.*, entering YORK TOWNSHIP (25,396 pop.), first settled in 1834 and named by pioneers for their home State of New York. Immediately encountered is ELMHURST (681 alt., 14,055 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages).*

At *1 m.* is a junction with York St.

Left on York St. *2.4 m.*—the second house beyond the junction of York Rd. and Roosevelt Rd. (US 330)—is (L) the NICHOLAS TORODE HOUSE *(private).* One of the earliest stone houses in the county, it was built in 1841. The modern-looking two-story dwelling was constructed of limestone from the Torode quarry about a mile west, operated by the family until 1909. As no mortar was available, the stone blocks were mortised with clay and straw. The same mixture was spread over the outside of the two-foot-thick walls.

Torode was born in Normandy, France, in 1774, moving to St. Peter's Port, a French settlement on the Isle of Guernsey, before his immigration to America. On the day of his arrival here in 1835, he startled the matter-of-fact settlers by producing a testament of character from the "Chief Inhabitants" of the Isle of Guernsey. The document, dated May 20, 1818, bore witness that "it is not by immorality, or ill conduct, neither by obligation, but of his own free will that he goeth from said Island, and to the contrary we give him all the approbation of having conducted himself as an honest man. Wherefore we recommend him to the Divine Protection and to the favor of that persons with whom he may meet." Shortly after Torode settled here, he started a sawmill on Salt Creek, predecessor of the old Graue gristmill. Part of the grove in which he settled, and which came to be known as the Frenchman's Woods, is today a county forest preserve.

Beyond the house, at *2.6 m.*, is a junction with Harger Rd. Right on Harger Rd., at *3.1 m.*, is (L) a dirt road leading to the OLD TORODE CEMETERY, at *3.3 m.*, now known by the name of York. The burial grounds were established by Nicholas Torode shortly before his death in 1845. They contain the graves of the Torode family, Elisha Fish—traditionally the first settler of York Township—Jacob Fuller, Jesse Atwater, Edward Eldridge, the

Grants, the Talmadges, and Filers, and numerous other pioneers of the Elmhurst-Hinsdale vicinity.

At *2.5 m.* on St. Charles Rd. is a junction with Villa Ave., center of VILLA PARK (690 alt., 6,220 pop.), youngest of Du Page County's municipalities. Before its development by real estate operators between 1908 and 1910, the land which comprises the village was considered as a cemetery site. The east end was subdivided into Park Farms, the west into Ardmore. The two subdivisions grew up separately until 1914, when they united and incorporated under the name of Ardmore. Three years later the village took its present name, and above its center rose the grey storage bins and the tall brick walls of the American plant of the Wander Company, international manufacturers of Ovaltine and other malt products. That part of Villa Park dominated by the factory structure has an industrial appearance, but for every one of the 100 Villa Parkers employed in the plant, there are 20 who commute to Chicago. Villa Park's foreign-born and first-generation native-born population, amounting to 13 per cent and 32 per cent respectively of the total, are relatively high for the county. Predominant nationalities are German and Swedish.

Along shaded streets are strung a variety of homes, including both standardized subdivision cottages and substantial residences more nearly akin to the pretentious houses in the surrounding older communities. The corporate limits sprawl over four square miles. Across the street from the village hall, in front of the old Myers farmhouse, the Woman's Club has made a children's playground, the community's first recreational development. Within the village hall is the small public library *(open Mon. and Thurs. 3-9, Tues.-Sat. 1-6; closed Sun. and holidays),* also sponsored by the Woman's Club and dating from 1928. Villa Parkers have their own bank; their own newspaper, the *Argus,* published by the Elmhurst *Press;* and their own movie theater.

At *5.2 m.* on St. Charles Rd. is a junction with Main St., center of LOMBARD (700 alt., 6,197 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages).*

At *5.7 m.* is a junction with Crescent Blvd.

Left on Crescent Blvd. *0.7 m.* is the OLD FILER FARMHOUSE *(private),* once an underground railroad station. Thomas Filer, an ardent abolitionist, erected the 1½-story house about 1838. The foot-thick concrete walls are insulated with leaves and grass.

At *6.1 m.* on St. Charles Rd. the highway enters MILTON TOWNSHIP (17,113 pop.), whose original settlers, Lyman Butterfield and Henry T. Wilson, came from Ohio on Captain Naper's vessel in 1831,

lived first at Naper Settlement, and staked claims in the south end of Milton in 1832.

Along the tortuous course of the Du Page River's east branch is (L) the 135-acre CHURCHILL FOREST PRESERVE, once the site of a large Potawatomi village. When pioneers arrived, the Indians were still camping here. Deacon Winslow Churchill and his son Seth, first to settle in the vicinity, staked claims in June, 1834. Latest of the county's forest preserves, the Churchill grove has been developed within recent years by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. The administration building of the forest preserve district is located here, the entire west wing of which is available for public recreational use. A Girl Scout cabin has been built near the west end of the woods.

At *6.4 m.* are (R) the SETH CHURCHILL CABIN REMAINS, now an uncared-for heap of logs in a farmer's field. Built in 1834 by the son of Deacon Winslow Churchill, with the help of Indian neighbors, the cabin served variously as home, schoolhouse, Sunday school, and church.

At *7 m.* is (R) a boulder marking the SITE OF DEACON WINSLOW CHURCHILL'S CABIN. Built in 1834, it was the first cabin erected in this vicinity.

At *7.7 m.* is a junction with Geneva Rd. and Main St., the north-central section of GLEN ELLYN (766 alt., 7,680 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages).*

Wedged between Geneva and St. Charles Rds. is STACY PARK, given to the village in 1891 by Philo and Betsy Stacy, son and daughter-in-law of Moses Stacy, pioneer settler. A boulder memorializes the pioneers of the vicinity.

At *10.1 m.* on St. Charles Rd. is a junction with another Main St. The surrounding farming community is called GRETNA (773 alt.).

Left on Main St., at *10.9 m.*, is a junction with Geneva Rd. Here (R) are the AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY *(open weekdays 9-5; public lecture, tea, and musicale fourth Sun. of each month at 4, free; public class Wed. at 8 p.m., free).* Set back from the main road in the 26-acre tract is the long three-story building of cloister brick and Bedford stone, erected in 1927. The lines of this structure, designed by Irving K. Pond, are full of esoteric meaning for the initiates. The stressed horizontality suggests both the various planes of life and repose. Through the contrast of verticality, the touches of collegiate Gothic intimate emotion, while representing the

educational activities of the society. The pylons flanking the entrance hint at Egyptian pyramids, linking the present with the past and symbolizing permanence. Murals on the walls of the first-floor reception room, painted by Richard B. Farley, depict the evolutionary process as interpreted by Theosophy. The library *(open on a circulating basis)* of more than 15,200 volumes, primarily on occult subjects, is one of the largest of its kind in the United States. The Theosophical Society in America was founded in New York in 1875 by Col. H. S. Olcott and Mme. Helena Petrovna Blavatsky. International headquarters are in India.

On the east side of Main St. (L) are the white buildings and wide lawns of the MARY E. POGUE SCHOOL AND SANITARIUM. Primarily for retarded children, the institution also cares for a few older people.

At *12.4 m.* on Main St. is a junction with Front St., center of WHEATON (753 alt., 7,258 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages).*

Right on Front St.—which becomes Manchester Rd. when it crosses the railroad bridge—at *14.3 m.,* is a junction with County Farm Rd.

Right on County Farm Rd. *0.3 m.* is the DU PAGE COUNTY HOME AND FARM *(visitors welcome).* Extending over 176 acres, the farm harbors about 35 old people and a few temporary families. The first parcel of land was bought in 1888.

Left on County Farm Rd., at *14.7 m.,* is a junction with Roosevelt Rd. (Alt. US 30). Right on Roosevelt Rd., at *14.9 m.,* is a junction with a graveled road.

Left on the graveled road *1 m.* is the CHICAGO TRIBUNE EXPERIMENTAL FARM *(open 7-6 May 1 - Dec. 1, 8-5 other months; guides free).* Of the farm's 1,000 acres about 600 are timber land, comprised largely of oaks and hickories. As implied in its name, the purpose of the farm is to experiment in the raising of new varieties of corn, oats, and other field crops, as well as other economic plants not commonly grown in this region. For example, in 1938 several varieties of vegetable soy beans were raised successfully. Current experiments include the growing of peanuts, sweet potatoes, and many varieties of small fruits, and the using of molasses with green alfalfa in one of the silos. A new type of combined granary and corn crib is in use. Particular attention is paid to the raising of cattle and sheep. The farm attracts thousands of visitors each year, including many groups of school children. Its daily progress is reported in the Chicago *Tribune.*

From the junction with the graveled road, Roosevelt Rd. (Alt. US 30) enters WINFIELD TOWNSHIP (6,077 pop), named for the Black Hawk War general, Winfield Scott. It is said the county's first thresh-

ing machine was brought into Winfield Township by the Fairbanks brothers in 1848.

At *15.2 m.* on Roosevelt Rd. (Alt. US 30) is (L) CANTIGNY *(private)*, country estate of Col. Robert R. McCormick, editor of the Chicago *Tribune*. Formerly called Red Oak, this was the farm of Joseph Medill, founder of the *Tribune* and grandfather of McCormick. McCormick renamed it for a World War battle in which he served and in 1934 converted the land into the Chicago Tribune Experimental Farm *(see p. 191)*.

At *15.5 m.* is a junction with Winfield Rd. Right on Winfield Rd., at *16.5 m.*, is a junction with Jewel Rd., which becomes High Lake Rd. west of this point. This is the center of WINFIELD (726 alt., 445 pop.), which grew up around a station on the old Galena & Chicago Union Railroad. John Hodges, the first station agent, erected the first building here in 1849. A large freight business soon developed at Winfield station because it was one of the nearest shipping points to Naperville and Gary's Mill, neither of which had a railroad in those days. The development of shipping brought more settlers. In January, 1853, the village was platted under the name of Fredericksburg. The following year John Collins added a big lumber yard to the town's several small factories, stores, and brewery. In the eighties the Winfield Creamery daily consumed 6,000 pounds of milk and made 120 pounds of butter and 425 pounds of cheese.

Winfield was incorporated as a village in 1921. Still a small country town, Winfield today contains only a minuscule business section, a number of frame houses, two churches, and a grammar school. Even sidewalks are scarce.

At the head of Winfield Rd. is the entrance to the WINFIELD SANATORIUM *(open for inspection daily 9-5)*, affiliated with the Jewish Charities of Chicago. Opened to 6 patients on February 11, 1909, the institution has since treated more than 4,000 tubercular cases. The sanatorium was started through a campaign instituted by Dr. Theodore Sachs, the Jewish Consumption Relief Society, and the Baron Hirsch Woman's Club. Its 54 acres of farmland were donated by Charles A. Stonehill. Soon after the opening of the sanatorium, the Jewish Charities undertook its support. Donations were made, more cottages were built, an occupational therapy shop was established, and the Jewish Tuberculosis Service—an extension of the sanatorium's work into Chicago—was started. In 1912 Dr. Sachs resigned as medical director, and Dr. Max Biesenthal, his former assistant, took his place. Under him, complete X-ray and dental departments were installed. In addition to occupational therapy, instruction in reading and writing is given to illiterate patients

With a capacity of 112, the institution at present has only about 75 adult patients. Social service and out-patient departments are maintained at Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago.

Left on High Lake Rd., at *18.7 m.*, is a sharp left turn and a junction with Prince Crossing Rd. (graveled). Straight ahead on Prince Crossing Rd., at *20.1 m.*, is a junction with Town Line Rd. (North Ave.). Here (L), on the southwest corner, is the 165-acre COUNTRY HOME FARM, owned by the University of Chicago Clinic and run for the purpose of supplying the Country Home for Convalescent Crippled Children *(see below)* with dairy products and vegetables. *(See pp. 232-33.)*

Straight ahead, north, at *0.3 m.*, is (L) the COUNTRY HOME FOR CONVALESCENT CRIPPLED CHILDREN *(open for inspection weekdays 9-12, 3:30-5; adults over 18 only)*, a non-sectarian institution for children between the ages of 4 and 14. Founded in 1911 by Mr. and Mrs. William Chalmers of Chicago, it has since 1938 been owned by the University of Chicago Clinic. Financial support comes largely from endowments and contributions. A resident physician is always on duty, and the University supplies orthopedic surgeons, pediatricians, and eye-ear-nose-and-throat specialists. Directed play and individualized educational work are based on mental tests compiled by the University. *(See p. 233.)*

The Home is in the rural community of PRINCE CROSSING (730 alt.), so named from the crossing here of the tracks of the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin and the Chicago Great Western railroads.

Left on Town Line Rd., at *20.6 m.*, is a junction with Ill. 59. Left on Ill. 59, at *22.1 m.*, the highway crosses a railroad bridge in the center of WEST CHICAGO (784 alt., 3,477 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages)*.

At *22.6 m.*, is (R) the OLD GATES HOMESTEAD *(private)*. In this rambling old frame house John "Bet-a-Million" Gates spent his childhood, before the family moved into West Chicago.

At *23.6 m.*, just beyond the junction with the underpass of Roosevelt Rd. (Alt US 30), is (L) the GARY'S MILL MARKER. Here, on the west branch of the Du Page River, Erastus, Jude, and Charles Gary erected a sawmill in 1837. The mill stood in the northern reaches of Big Woods, a forest eight miles long and four miles wide which extended in a northeasterly direction from present Aurora. *(See p. 233.)*

Charles Gary and his sister, Mrs. Laura Gary Rickard, moved up to the mill site with their families from the original Gary cabin at present Warrenville, he to run the mill and farm, she to start a school. A Methodist society was formed soon after the school, as a station on the Aux Plaines, or Du Page, Circuit. Starting with seven members who gathered at the Gary home, the society was the nucleus of Methodism in the

locality. The Rev. Washington Wilcox, a circuit rider, preached here until 1839. Sometimes the services were led by Charles Gary, who himself took up circuit riding and later became a licensed preacher.

A little settlement grew up around the mill and schoolhouse, giving promise of becoming the most important one in the county, next to Naperville. A post office was established, with Charles Gary as postmaster. For a number of years both the Wheaton and West Chicago settlements received their mail through Gary's Mill. At the organization of Winfield Township in 1850, the first town meeting was held in Charles Gary's house, and the miller-preacher-postmaster was elected overseer of the poor, later serving as town supervisor and justice of the peace. His son William held numerous township offices before moving into Wheaton. The Gary's Mill settlement, passed up by the railroad in 1849, did not live up to its early promise.

At *25.7 m.* is a junction with Batavia Rd. Left on Batavia Rd., at *26.8 m.*, is (L) the CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF THE CENACLE *(visitors welcome daily 2-5)*, opened in February, 1939, by Cenacle Convent, Chicago. Week-end retreats are held here for women and girls. Erected in 1916, the two-story building is a rambling colonial-style house. Covering 42 acres, the grounds include flower and vegetable gardens, an orchard, and a swimming pool.

At *27.3 m.* Batavia Rd. turns south (becoming, locally, Third St.) into the heart of the old section of WARRENVILLE (695 alt.), an unincorporated village with a population of about 1,200. Warrenville is comfortably set in a background of wooded knolls on the west branch of the meandering Du Page River, a small country town where the surfaced avenues are outwardly nameless and no one knows his street address. The people farm or commute to Chicago. Near to the big-city markets, they yet feel semi-isolated among their venerable trees and historic houses. Warrenville is experiencing a burst of expansion, evidenced by 50 houses constructed within the last year. The more modern of the two tiny business centers hugs the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin station. The older clusters around the junction of the two highways which traverse the town, dominated by a typical old country store building of frame and yellow limestone, with an old-fashioned wooden awning. The new two-story brick community house in the northwest section, controlled by the public school, will house the public library started a decade ago by the Woman's Club, a gymnasium, a stage, and kitchen. East of the river, along Winfield Road, are a number of large country estates.

Warrenville's first settler was Erastus Gary, of Pomfret, Connecticut.

In April, 1832, having spent the previous winter at St. Joseph, Michigan, Gary landed on the shore of Chicago in a canoe. Soon afterwards he staked a claim on the eastern fringe of Big Woods. Then he went back East for other pioneer-minded members of his family. He soon returned with his brother Jude and his sister Orinda, and built a double log cabin on his land. During the Black Hawk War that summer he served in the State militia. Until the 1840's, when he moved into Wheaton, Erastus farmed around his cabin site, and here his famous son Elbert was born.

In 1833 Col. Julius Warren staked out a claim not far from the Garys, and then he, too, went back East. Returning the following year, he immediately built a dam and sawmill, a frame dwelling, and a bunkhouse to accommodate farmers and teamsters. Other settlers came in 1834, among them Alvah Fowler, A. Churchill, and Ira Herrick. With the instinct of a founder, the Colonel provided space in the upper story of his mill for a schoolroom, where his cousin, Mrs. S. W. Holmes, taught. In 1836 the settlers organized a Baptist church. Two years later a post office was established in the Colonel's house, with himself as postmaster.

So many customers came to the sawmill that Colonel Warren's bunkhouse was soon inadequate, and he erected a fine hotel, which for many years made the name of Warrenville synonymous with merriment. The spacious ballroom was patronized by settlers from all the surrounding communities, as well as by citizens of Chicago. Tradition has it that "Long John" Wentworth learned to dance here. Describing the parties of the city folk at the country inns, Wentworth said: "The custom . . . was to leave Chicago at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, take supper on the way out and engage breakfast for the morning, and after dancing all night, get back to the city about 9 or 10 o'clock." William A. Kenyon, perhaps the earliest published poet of the Chicago area, wrote a poem dedicated to the winter of 1842-43 at Warrenville, to which he appended the footnote: "Warrenville will not soon experience another season of similar gaiety and animation among the gallant."

In 1844 Colonel Warren, then a member of the State legislature, platted some of his property into town lots. During the forties Dorus Stafford opened a harness shop, where he made high-top riding boots and fancy leather goods. Members of the Smith and Fowler families started the Warrenville Grist and Merchant Mill, operated by water power. "Brick" McKinney soon built a three-story fanning mill factory nearby.

In 1844 representatives of all the Baptist churches in Illinois met at Warrenville to protest slavery. The Baptists were also influential in

founding the Warrenville Academy at the beginning of the next decade. Aided by friends in Chicago who were looking for some "healthy country place" where they could send their children for higher education, the people of Warrenville raised money for a school building. The institution was incorporated, a board of directors appointed, and Mrs. Holmes chosen principal. In September, 1851, the academy was opened. Mrs. Holmes converted her home into a boarding house for students, of whom some one or two hundred enrolled during the next few years. After that the school's popularity waned. At the start of the Civil War many students left to serve in the Union army. Eventually the institution was removed to Rockford, where it evolved into Rockford College.

When the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad sought a route out of Chicago in the late forties, it tried to get a right-of-way through Warrenville. A roadbed was even graded along the east side of the river, but something happened—some say the Warrens would not grant the right-of-way—and the tracks were laid several miles north, through Winfield. That spelled the commercial doom of Warrenville.

Shortly before the Civil War, Warrenville had a population of 250. During the seventies a tannery drew more trade to the hamlet. The gristmill, bought by Lambe & Company in 1857, burned down in 1879. Rebuilt a year later, and equipped with steam power; its consumption was increased to 500 bushels of wheat a day. R. R. Barnard opened a dairy products plant in the eighties which manufactured 200 pounds of butter and 500 pounds of cheese daily. In '1897 the gristmill again burned down. Warrenville's activity was stimulated with the coming of the electric line after 1900.

On the northwest corner of the first cross-street (Main) after Batavia Rd. (Third St.) turns south is (R) the COLONEL WARREN HOUSE *(private)*, built in 1834—a Greek Revival white frame building with green shutters. Supporting timbers and interior trim are of oak; the shingles are butternut, the siding walnut, and the floors pine. The foundation is of native stone. The rear section sags somewhat because it had no foundation except logs, but otherwise the house is substantial and in good condition. Virtually unchanged from pioneer days, the house is today (1939) occupied by Miss Carrie Lambe, daughter of the old miller.

Diagonally across the street, on the southeast corner, is the FANNING MILL FACTORY BUILDING *(private)*, which long ago became a residence and has recently been remodeled by the Churchill family.

A block west of the Warren house, on the southwest corner of Main and Fourth Sts., is the OLD ACADEMY BUILDING *(private)*, a white colonial-style house with blue shutters, now in use as a dwelling.

The third residence south of the old fanning mill factory, on Batavia Rd., is the FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE *(private)*, a small one-story frame building with a side entrance and long sloping roof, dating from 1836.

About *0.1 m.* farther south on Batavia Rd., at *27.5 m.*, is a junction with an east-west road which east of the junction is called Warrenville Rd., west, Aurora, or Big Woods Rd. Here is Warrenville's old crossroads business section. A short distance east on Warrenville Rd. is a bridge over the West Branch of the Du Page River.

On the first side-street (Second St.) east of the bridge, a block north of Warrenville Rd., is (L) the ALBRIGHT GALLERY *(open Sun. afternoons)*, formerly the Warrenville Methodist Church, erected in the 1850's. Public school was held for many years in the stone basement of this Greek Revival building. The church congregation, made up largely of people from Naperville, gradually dropped off, and in 1907 the building was sold to ten Warrenville men, who, calling themselves the Live Wire Club, used it for social gatherings. In 1919 a candy manufacturer acquired the building, using the basement and renting out the auditorium. For some time thereafter the old walls heard the plottings of the Ku Klux Klan. In 1924 the property was bought by Adam Emory Albright, well-known painter of barefoot children in countryside settings. His famous twin sons—Ivan Le Lorraine Albright, painter, and Marvin Marr Albright, sculptor, who paints under the name of Zsissly—occupy the little studios to the left of the church building. The younger Albrights do not agree with their father's academic viewpoint. In a recent interview printed in the Chicago *Daily News*, the elder Albright commented: "If I like something they've done, they paint it out. When they bring visitors here, I find all my paintings have been turned to the wall."

On the northwest corner of Warrenville Rd. and the second side-street east of the bridge (First St., or Winfield Rd.) is the OLD WARREN HOTEL *(private)*, long since converted into a private home.

On Winfield Rd. (First St.), *0.1 m.* north of Warrenville Rd. is LUND'S GREENHOUSE *(open weekdays 2-5)*, notable for its geraniums. About 35 varieties are grown, including an unusual white-leaved specimen. A wide assortment of scents ranges from lemon and mint to cocoanut.

North on Winfield Rd. *1 m.* farther is a junction with Butterfield Rd. Right on Butterfield Rd. *0.3 m.* is (L) the ST.

JAMES STOCK FARM *(private; open by arrangement)*, owned by Chauncey McCormick of Chicago. The farm lies on the old Erastus Gary claim. The stock consists of about 96 head of Guernseys and a number of fine horses, including some thoroughbreds. Phil, the bull, sire of two national champions (1936 and 1937) is (1939) worth more than $10,000. Calves are valued at about $500 apiece. Some of the cows give more than 800 pounds of butter fat in a year. The horse stable is an unusually attractive red-brick colonial-style building with a cupola.

Left from the junction of Batavia and Warrenville Rds. *1.2 m.* is the YEAST FOAM EXPERIMENTAL FARM *(open daily 9-4)*, established in 1938 by the Northwestern Yeast Company of Chicago. Engaged in the manufacture of baking-yeast since the 1870's, the firm in 1923 introduced Animal-Poultry Yeast Foam to improve feeding formulas. At the entrance to the farm are the superintendent's residence and the colonial-style office and battery building. *(See p. 233.)*

Right on Big Woods (or Aurora) Rd. from the junction with Batavia Rd., at *30.6 m.*, is a junction with Eola Rd.

Right on Eola Rd. *1.4 m.* is the (L) DANIEL WARNE HOUSE *(private)*, a stone dwelling probably dating from the 1840's. The left side of the house is a later brick addition.

Daniel was the son of John Warne, pioneer from New Jersey, who settled in Michigan in 1831 and came here in 1834. The original Warne claim comprised a half section of prairie land flanked by the eastern fringe of Big Woods. Itinerant ministers found hospitality with the Warnes, and every day at morning and evening the family knelt to pray. A stanza from a poem written by Abbie Warne Bartholomew, granddaughter of John and Sarah Warne, throws a sidelight on the activities of this farming family:

Sarah's apiary was renowned,
She kept on hand a store of honey,
While "Squire" Warne's "Sugar-Bush"
Brought sweets as well as money.

John Warne devoted a good deal of time to surveying in the early years and was elected secretary of the Big Woods Claim Protecting Society. Both John and Sarah are buried in the Big Woods Cemetery. One of their daughters married another pioneer farmer of Winfield Township and became the mother of John Gates, the steel king.

Becoming one of the wealthiest farmers in the locality, Daniel Warne built a mansion in the early French Provincial style, after a visit to the Paris exposition in 1876. Standing a short distance south of the little stone house, it was a landmark until destroyed by fire in March, 1939. The old stone house is the property of John Warne, son of Daniel and last of the line.

Left on Eola Rd., at *30.7 m.*, is the BIG WOODS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND CEMETERY. The church, erected in 1849, is grey frame with a gabled belfry, distinctive because of its unusual decorative motifs. The religious society was organized in 1835 in the cabin of Thompson Paxton. In the cemetery are the graves of many pioneers of the Big Woods region. At least one stone dates from the 1830's, and many are from the 40's and 50's. Most notable is that of David McKee, a native of Virginia and one of the outstanding pioneers of the Chicago area. Hired by the United States Government, he came to Fort Dearborn in 1822 to do blacksmithing for the Potawatomies, according to treaty stipulations. In 1834 he settled in Big Woods. He died in 1881, but his farmhouse still stands on North Aurora Road, a short distance west of Eola Road.

At *30.9 m.* is (R) the JAMES BROWN FARMHOUSE *(private)*, erected in the 1840's by the man who gave the land for the Big Woods Congregational Church. The brick construction of this grey Greek Revival building is unusual for its period.

At *31.2 m.* Eola Rd. enters NAPERVILLE TOWNSHIP (3,603 pop.), first settled in 1831, in its eastern section, by the Naper brothers and other pioneers who came with them from Ohio.

At *31.5 m.* is BATAVIA JUNCTION (730 alt.), where the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin branches northwest to Batavia, southwest to Aurora.

At *33.4 m.* is (R) the CHARLES STOLP HOUSE *(private)*, a brownish red brick building in the Greek Revival farmhouse style, erected in the 1840's by a son of Frederick Stolp.

At *33.6 m.*, at a junction with a graveled road, is (L) the GEORGE STOLP HOUSE *(private)*, a red-painted brick farmhouse in the Greek Revival style, built in the 1840's by another son of Frederick Stolp.

Right on the graveled road *0.3 m.* is (R) the FREDERICK STOLP HOUSE *(private)*, a square red brick building with dormer windows and white trim. Dating from the 1840's, the house has 14-inch walls, composed of three layers of brick. The son of a German immigrant, Frederick Stolp was born in 1781. He is reputed to have served in the War of 1812. In 1833 he walked from his home in Pultneyville, New York, to Illinois, prospecting for land. Proceeding first to Ottawa, he then came to what is now Eola, where he claimed enough land, warily chosen for its clay bed, for his entire family. After walking back East for his wife and nine children, Stolp returned to his claim in 1834. Employing one Simeon Leach as brickmaker, Stolp worked his clay pit. This, the first brick house of the Stolps, was formerly surrounded with neat box hedges, fruit trees, and a fine garden. In 1842 Stolp bought,

for $12.72, the island which is the center of present Aurora, in which city he was buried in 1873.

At *33.8 m.* on Eola Rd., where it crosses the tracks of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, is the center of EOLA (740 alt.), a tiny, unincorporated rural community dating from the settlement of the Stolp family in 1834. Eola's original name, when the railroad came through in the sixties, was Lund's Crossing.

A block west of the railroad station is the REBER PRESERVING COMPANY, packers of canned goods. Employing between 25 and 40 persons, the company packs sauerkraut, pork and beans, asparagus, and other vegetables.

At *35 m.* is a junction with Ill. 65 (Ogden Ave.). Left on Ill. 65, at *39.4 m.*, is (L) OAKHURST *(private)*, former home of the Hon. James G. Wright, prominent in Naperville's history. An Englishman, Wright was one of the founders of Naperville's Producers' Bank in 1857, and served in the State legislature and as Indian agent. Probably dating from the 1850's, the buff-painted brick house is a graceful, colonial-style structure with two-story pillars, set back from the highway on landscaped grounds. *(See p. 233.)*

At *39.5 m.* is (R) a white gate, back entrance to the VON OVEN HOUSE *(private)*. The large, square structure of light reddish brown brick has interesting decorative detail. Built by Ernst von Oven, founder of the Naperville Nurseries, in 1886, it belongs to, but is not typical of, the Victorian era. It is now (1939) occupied by Miss Emma von Oven, his daughter and present manager of the nurseries.

Adjacent to the grounds of the Von Oven house is the OFFICE OF THE NAPERVILLE NURSERIES *(open)*. Started in 1866, the nurseries originally covered 20 acres. Today they extend over 375 acres. The property is divided into two tracts, one to the north of the office, the other within Naperville, along the east bank of the Du Page River.

At *39.8 m.* is (L) the EARLY GEORGE MARTIN HOUSE *(private)*, a small white frame building with 12-paned, shuttered windows and a tiny two-pillar portico. An excellent example of Greek Revival farmhouse architecture, it is doubtful that this was the first frame building in the county, as claimed, since the Naper sawmill presumably was running in 1832, 1½ years before the building's erection. Writing on November 2, 1833, to Messrs. R. and G. Martin, his associates in the grain business in Fifeshire, Scotland, George Martin described his new farm:

> We have been rather disappointed with our house—the one man got a fever—the other man had twenty acres of Indian corn

to cut and get in—and my house barely more than half done. We had a log house put up for a stable 24 by 15 feet—built in a fire place—and windows put in and doors and stairs intended for both up and down stairs—of my new house, put about us had made us surely very comfortable.

I must have another good Oak tree pulled to the Saw Mill, which is only about three hundred yards from us . . . after all I can assure you it is nothing yet the appearance of a FIFE Farmer's House. . . .

Across the road (R), on land to be developed as Naperville's newest park, is the LATER GEORGE MARTIN HOUSE *(open)*, a red brick mansion with steeply pitched roof, its Victorian architecture of French influence. Dating from 1883, the house reflects Mr. Martin's success in farming, quarrying, and as a Naperville banker. Naperville recently acquired the house and land—the former for historical museum purposes—through the bequest of the late Carrie Martin Mitchell.

At *40.4 m.*, at a junction with Washington St., is the south-central section of NAPERVILLE (693 alt., 5,118 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages)*.

Right on Washington St. *0.6 m.* is the EDWARD SANATORIUM *(open for inspection 9-11 and 3-5 daily)*, established in 1907. Affiliated with the Tuberculosis Institute of Chicago and Cook County, the sanatorium accepts adult patients admitted by the Chicago office. The plant includes 14 buildings and 40 acres of land. The total capacity is 97 patients.

A short distance beyond the sanatorium the road turns into LISLE TOWNSHIP (6,103 pop.), of which Bailey Hobson was the first settler, in 1831. As many of its early settlements were made along the east branch of the Du Page River, part of Lisle Township was originally known as East Branch Settlement. After the Government survey the entire area of 36 square miles took the name Du Page Township. With the establishment of civil townships throughout the county in 1850, a new name was sought, as there was another Town of Du Page across the border in Will County. The name Lisle was decided upon, in honor of Samuel Lisle Smith, brilliant Chicago lawyer and orator.

At *1.7 m.*, in Pioneer Park (L), a monument marks the SITE OF BAILEY HOBSON'S GRISTMILL, built by Du Page County's first settler in 1834. Two of the old grinding stones form the marker. The millstones were imported from the East. Made from millstone grit, found under the coal measures in the Appalachian region, the stones are of excellent quality—even harder than granite —and specimens such as these are rare today in the Middle West.

The ground behind the marker bears traces of the mill race. Hobson's was the first water-power flour mill erected on the Du Page River, and perhaps the first gristmill in northern Illinois. Cash receipts during the mill's best years totaled more than $4,000

annually. The mill was operated for some years after Hobson's death in 1850 by a Mr. Kimball, who also ran a sawmill served by the same mill race.

Across the road from the park, in use as a barn, stands the three-story OLD MILL BUILDING *(inspection granted by owner)*, inconspicuous among the surrounding farm structures. Inside are huge hand-hewn beams, fastened with wooden pegs. Embedded in the stone foundation are the fragments of another set of millstones.

At the Hobson mill monument is a junction with Goodrich Rd. Left on Goodrich Rd., at *2 m.*, is the BAILEY HOBSON HOUSE *(private)*, built about 1834.

In the spring of 1830 Bailey Hobson, native of South Carolina, came to Kendall County, Illinois, where he chose a parcel of land lying six miles from Holderman's Grove (Newark) and three miles from the big Potawatomi village on the Fox River. Designating his claim by cutting logs for a squatter's hut, he went back to Ohio for his family. In September, Bailey, his wife Clarissa, and Lewis Stewart, Clarissa's brother, piled the three Hobson babies and all of their possessions into a Conestoga wagon and, followed by their livestock, started out.

Reaching Holderman's Grove 21 days later, the immigrants lived with Vetal Vermet, while the men sowed winter wheat and started a cabin. In a few weeks the family moved to their claim, camping there until the cabin was finished around the first of November. Then Hobson made another exploratory trip. First he went west, then east again to the west branch of the Du Page River. Staking a new claim a few miles north of the forks, where Stephen J. Scott and his family had lately settled (in present Will County), Hobson returned to his cabin.

The snowstorms were so severe that winter that when Hobson went to a nearby settlement for food supplies, he was unable to get back to his cabin for many days. When he did return, it was without the food because of the impossibility of bringing the wagon over the drifts. Hobson set out again, this time with Stewart and a sled. When they finally succeeded in getting home with the provisions, they found Clarissa without food and tearing down the animal shelter for fuel. On their attempts to erect a cabin on the new claim, Hobson and Stewart were almost buried by snow, and had to seek shelter with the Scotts. At last, in March, 1831, the new cabin was finished, and Du Page County's first settlers moved in. Three years later they built a frame house.

The two-story structure is in poor condition, but it still retains the good, simple lines of its Greek Revival architecture. A porch formerly extended across the front of both stories, with pillars on the first floor and a balustrade on the second. The foundation is rubble stone; the siding, walnut and pine on walnut studs; the shingles, pine; the interior trim and floors, black walnut. In the original section brick was laid up between the studs.

It is known that Hobson kept a tavern for the accommodation of his mill customers. The stone wall, of which traces may be seen extending from the west side of the house, may have been the tavern foundation. *(See p. 233.)*

Left on Washington St., at *40.6 m.*, is a junction with Chicago Ave. Right on Chicago Ave., through Lisle Township, at *43.4 m.*, is (L) ST. JOSEPH BOHEMIAN ORPHANAGE *(open daily 9-4)*, embracing the Lisle Manual Training School for Boys and Industrial School for Girls. The institution is under the direct jurisdiction of the Archbishop of the Diocese of Chicago, with Cardinal Mundelein as *ex officio* director. On March 14, 1899, the first ten orphans were transferred from Chicago to a small frame farmhouse owned by St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle Township. In 1910 the present property was purchased and a new building erected. An adjoining building was erected in 1920, and the institution now cares for about 300 children. The position of superintendent has always been held by a Benedictine Father from St. Procopius Abbey.

At *43.6 m.* is a junction with a side road (R).

Right on the side road *0.5 m.* is ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY, COLLEGE, AND ACADEMY *(visitors welcome; tours by arrangement)*, whose grounds, divided among campus, groves, and farmland, spread over 600 acres. The college was established through the efforts of several Bohemian Fathers of the Order of St. Benedict, 1,400-year-old religious fraternity. Founded in Chicago in 1890 by the Rt. Rev. Nepomucene Jaeger, O. S. B., Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey, and incorporated the same year, the college remained a day school until September, 1901, when it moved to the country. The abbey moved out to the campus in 1914.

The fireproof library contains about 25,000 bound volumes, many of them rare, subscribes to about 150 periodicals, and is a repository for Government publications.

Accredited by the University of Illinois, the college confers bachelor degrees in liberal arts and science. Courses in Czech and Slovak languages and literatures are included in the curriculum.

Having taken the vow of poverty, the 25 Benedictine Fathers who comprise the faculties of college and academy receive no salary. College enrollment is about 145, academy, 30.

Among the oldest of the nine student organizations are the Apostleship of Prayer—the League of the Sacred Heart, introduced in 1904, and St. Wenceslas Servers' Society. Highest in popular regard, Holy Name Society was founded in 1921. The choir appears in its entirety at annual and sacred concert performances; on special occasions, in its glee club or quartet components. A social fraternity, Sigma Alpha publishes weekly the *Sigma Alpha Courier*. Other publications are the fortnightly *Procopian News* and the annual *Procopian*.

At *43.7 m.* are SACRED HEART CONVENT AND ACADEMY *(open weekdays 10-4; Sun. and holidays 1-4)*, sharing a modified English Georgian building and 200 acres of campus and farmland. Started in Chicago in 1895 by Mother Mary Nepomucene Jaeger, O. S. B., the Bohemian Benedictine convent moved to Lisle Township in 1912. At present it comprises 176 Sisters, 3 novices, and 2 postulants. The academy was opened as a four-year high school for girls in 1927. The present enrollment includes 120 boarding and 10 day students. Comprising the faculty are 12 Benedictine Sisters, a Benedictine priest, and lay instructors in dramatics and physical education.

At *44.5 m.* is a junction with Ill. 53.

Left on Ill. 53, *0.2 m.*, is a fork. Bear right on Joliet Rd. At *0.7 m.* is LISLE (680 alt.), a sprawling unincorporated agricultural community with a population of about 500. Lisle's first plat was laid out in 1893 by Simon Engelschall. Although more area has been subdivided since then, the hamlet has changed little in appearance. Its largest business is the lumber concern of Riedy & Engelschall, which firm ran a gristmill here from 1888 to the 1930's.

The original settlers of Lisle were Luther and James C. Hatch, who came here in 1832. They were later joined by two other brothers, Jeduthan and Leonard. Natives of New Hampshire, the Hatches had settled in Michigan before coming to Illinois. The brothers held many offices in county and township government and were prominent in the county agricultural, temperance, and educational societies. Jeduthan was a member of the State legislature in 1842 and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1857.

Lisle's first school was built in 1837. In the same year the East Du Page Religious Society was organized in the locality, an outgrowth of a Congregational society founded in 1833. In spite of enterprising citizens, Lisle did not grow much. One Xavier Schroedi, who ran a gristmill, bought from Luther Hatch land on both sides of the railroad tracks and, because he wanted no competition for his general store, refused to subdivide. By 1913, according to Bateman and Selby, more milk was being shipped from Lisle station than from any other on the Burlington line between Chicago and Aurora. Today most of the milk is trucked from the milk plant.

More than 1,000 acres in the vicinity of Lisle are rented out in small farms by the Lisle Farms Company, owned by the Joy Morton estate.

The LUTHER HATCH HOUSE *(private)*, southwest corner Ogden Ave. (US 34) and Joliet Rd., was built soon after the year 1833. A frame structure in the Greek Revival style, it has hand-hewn timbers of oak. Behind the house stands an immense elm.

The JEDUTHAN HATCH HOUSE *(private)*, southwest corner Ill. 53 and Warrenville Rd., its architecture of the Greek Revival farmhouse type, dates from about 1834.

At *1.7 m.* on Ill. 53 is the entrance to the MORTON ARBORETUM *(open daily sunrise to sunset; free; Administration Bldg., housing information bureau, library, herbarium, and offices open weekdays 9-5, Sun 10-12 and 2-5; picnic grounds available by special permission to botany classes and garden clubs).* Founded December 14, 1922, development of the Morton Arboretum was begun in the fall of 1921. Its establishment realized a life-long ambition of Joy Morton, son of J. Sterling Morton, originator of Arbor Day and Secretary of Agriculture under President Cleveland. The arboretum's 775 acres of partly wooded, rolling land are devoted to practical scientific research in the fields of horticulture and arboriculture, with emphasis on the growing and cultivation of all the known types of trees and shrubs able to thrive in the climate of northern Illinois. The living plant collection comprises about 4,500 species, varieties, and hybrids. All plants are labeled with their botanical names and accession, as well as numbers referring to the card catalog in the general office, in which their location, origin, and history are given. Plantings are arranged according to four classifications: (1) systematic groups, defined by botanical relationships; (2) geographical groups, according to native habitats; (3) ornamental plantings to create landscape effects; (4) economic plots, where trees are tested for timber value. Some 250,000 trees and shrubs include specimens from Siberia, Japan, China, and India, as well as from almost every country in Europe. Birds and wild fowl are attracted to the arboretum in large numbers. The east branch of the Du Page River meanders through the grounds, and several small lakes have been developed. A well-marked system of driveways and footpaths gives access to all parts of the plant collection.

At the main entrance to the arboretum stands the attractive Administration Building, erected in 1935 in memory of Joy Morton by his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Cudahy. Of steel, stone, and concrete construction, its exterior is Wisconsin limestone. The copper-roofed canopy over the doorway is supported by columns whose capitals are embellished with leaf designs. The first floor contains the library, herbarium, offices, and trustees' room; the second floor is devoted to living quarters. The information office gives free advice on planting problems. The library, which is paneled and furnished in pollarded English oak, houses a large collection of arboricultural and horticultural books and subscribes to about 50 publications. In the grey and black herbarium, furnished and paneled in curly maple, are dried specimens of the foliage, flowers, and fruits of all woody plants which can be grown in the region, filed according to botanical families, and a collection of indigenous flora, including mosses, ferns, grasses,

fungi, herbaceous and ligneous plants. Adjoining the arboretum on the north is the Morton estate *(private)*.

The arboretum is financed by an endowment established by Joy Morton, who is buried in a plot reserved as a family burying place within the grounds. Since her father's death in 1934, Mrs. Joseph Cudahy has been chairman of the board of trustees. The arboretum publishes monthly the illustrated *Bulletin of Popular Information ($1 per year; 10c per copy)*.

At *46.4 m.* on Chicago Rd. is a junction with Belmont Rd., southern outskirts of the unincorporated village of BELMONT (706 alt.), whose population numbers about 800. Its history dates back almost as far as that of Downers Grove and is intimately interwoven with the development of that village. Both of Belmont's schoolhouses were named for Henry Puffer, who settled here in 1836 and in 1864 donated half an acre of land to the school board. It was at Puffer's house that the East Du Page Church was organized on March 22, 1837. The first church building was known derisively as the "Church in Toad's Hollow." In the 1850's people from Downers Grove came to shop at the big store owned by John Graves in the center of the settlement. Belmont's only large commercial enterprise today is the Wellworth Farm Greenhouse, specializing in gardenias and roses.

On the southeast corner of Chicago and Belmont Rds. is (R) the BELMONT POOL *(open in swimming season; facilities incl. lockers, towels, refreshments, dance floor)*. The pool, in wooded grounds next to a large frame house, was originally part of the H. B. Utley estate. Two old granaries have been converted into tanks where the water for the pool is filtered and chlorinated.

At *46.6 m.* the highway enters DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP (22,925 pop.), first settled in 1832 by Pierce Downer. At about this point Chicago Rd. becomes Maple Ave.

At *47.9 m.* is a junction with Main St., center of DOWNERS GROVE (717 alt., 8,977 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages)*.

At *48.5 m.* is a fork. Bear right on Burlington Ave.

At *48.8 m.* is a junction with Fairview Ave. Left on Fairview Ave., at *48.9 m.*, is a junction with Maple Ave.

Right on Maple Ave. (which becomes Naperville Ave. at the western limits of Westmont), at *50 m.*, is a junction with Cass Ave., north-central limits of WESTMONT (740 alt., 2,733 pop.). Incorporated as a village in 1921, Westmont was largely the result of post-war real estate subdivision, a reflection of the outward growth of the Chicago

Mount Emblem Cemetery's Chimes Are Broadcast from a Gristmill of the 1860's

The Good Land, Gently Rolling and Punctuated with Groves

Barns like This Are Typical

The House of Bailey Hobson, Du Page County's First Settler, near Naperville

Modern Calves Are Unimpressed by Century-old Farmhouses

The Big Woods Congregationalists Built this Church in 1849, Winfield Township

metropolitan area. But 50 years earlier the site played a part in the building of Chicago. Shortly after the Chicago Fire of 1871, when there was a great demand for materials for the rebuilding of the city, several brickyards were opened here. The land was purchased from the Phipps Industrial Land Trust, an organization which numbered among its members many citizens of London, England, and Nassau County, New York. Streets were laid out by the brick manufacturers, and a milk receiving station—first called Greggs Milk Station, later simply Greggs—was opened on the Burlington line, but no significant town development took place. The brickyards were abandoned before 1900, and little more occurred until the aggressive real estate promotion that briefly preceded the incorporation and renaming of the community.

With 35 per cent of its population foreign-born, Westmont stands out in sharp contrast to the other municipalities of the county, which are all predominantly American. Westmont's foreign population is made up of Czechs, Poles, and Germans, with the Czechs in the majority. The foreign element is reflected in Westmont's outward appearance by the presence of several recreation centers, both outdoor and indoor. One of these is a large, privately owned athletic field where, during the baseball season bi-weekly evening games are played by the Du Page County League, composed of teams from Westmont, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Naperville, Aurora, Joliet, and Chicago.

Westmont's loosely knit business center is rather shabby, but a few store fronts are in the English half-timbered style, earmark of middle-class suburbia.

East of Cass Ave., Naperville Ave. becomes Chicago Ave.

At *51.1 m.*, on Chicago Ave., is the center of CLARENDON HILLS (725 alt., 933 pop.), popularly considered as a suave western adjunct of Hinsdale, but separately incorporated and with a brief history of its own. Commuters all, with the exception of a few local entrepreneurs, its population is preponderantly American. From winding, hilly streets, shaded by benign elms and maples, and widely-spaced, well-kept residences emanates an air of leisurely prosperity. Not all the avenues follow an intricate pattern, a conventionally minded real estate operator having straightened the original curves of those in the north section as much as the sturdy trees which bordered them would allow.

Clarendon Hills came into being as a milk station in the Civil War era, when the Burlington line came through. J. M. Walker, an early

president of the Burlington, and his brother, Dr. H. F. Walker, who at the close of the Civil War together bought 370 acres of land here, are considered the village's founders. Chicago's Great Fire was responsible for the mushroom growth of the country hamlet in the early 1870's, middle-class city dwellers moving out to set up comfortable brick and frame houses. In 1873 the hamlet was platted, its name suggested by Robert Harris, a large property owner and official of the Burlington, in honor of his birthplace, the Clarendon Hills district of Boston.

The community's only indigenous economic activity centered about the huge farm of Henry C. Middaugh, a retired Chicago banker who had settled here in 1869. His farm and the subdivisions he laid out comprised almost all of the northern part of the village. Middaugh kept several hundred horses, an immense herd of cattle and sheep, and built an imposing group of barns.

In 1895 the name of the hamlet was shortened to Clarendon, but its full name was restored in 1908. For a brief period Clarendon Hills sank into so somnolent a state that its post office was discontinued in 1919. Booming anew under the prosperity of the twenties, the village completed the formalities of incorporation in January 1924, and less than two years later its post office was restored. At its first meeting, in March 1924, the village board discussed the question of incorporation into Hinsdale, but no action was taken. From its earliest days the village had been threatened with fire from smoldering peat beds. When by the 1920's the peat fires had so gained in extent that it was impossible to run trains through the smoke, the Burlington laid temporary switch tracks across the beds, dug deep trenches around the fires to prevent their spreading, and by means of locomotives pumped water into them. This proved a solution, leaving the commuters' town to pursue its relatively secure existence.

At the junction of Chicago and Norfolk Aves. is (R) OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE RETREAT *(open daily, 10-12, 4-8, exc. during retreats)*, conducted by the Sisters of Christian Charity. Originally the home of Henry C. Middaugh, the three-story house was the Sacred Heart Convent, a home for elderly Sisters, from 1928 to 1939. Built in the early nineties at a cost of $35,000, the buff-colored brick mansion, trimmed in brown, is an excellent example of the elaborate domestic architecture of the Mauve Decade. The Sisters now living here accept a few permanent boarders, in addition to conducting the retreats.

At *51.6 m.* is a junction with Ill. 83.

Right on Ill. 83, 2 *m.*, is a junction with 63rd St., a graveled road. Right on 63rd St., at 2.5 *m.*, is a junction with another graveled road. Right on this road *0.4 m.* is MARIAN HILLS SEMINARY *(open Thurs. and Sun. afts.)*, a Roman Catholic institution conducted by the Marian Fathers Congregation to train college graduates for the priesthood. Until 1934, when the seminary was started, the large brick building housed a Catholic college. Enrollment of the seminary averages 25. The surrounding 350-acre farm belongs to the institution, operated solely for the needs of the Fathers and students.

At *2.8 m.* on 63rd St. is the ILLINOIS PET MEMORIAL PARK. The cemetery contains more than 600 graves of dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, monkeys, and turtles. Largest and most unusual is that of a horse. Tombstones range from plain granite slabs to elaborate headstones. Many of the interments represent an expenditure of hundreds of dollars. Many of the tombstones bear portraits of the animals beneath them, inset in the manner of the porcelain miniatures used on the markers of human graves.

At *3.5 m.* is a junction with Cass Ave. Left on Cass Ave., at *5 m.*, is a junction with 75th St., western fringe of the tiny farming community of LACE (739 alt.), founded in the early 1880's by L. F. Hesterman, who established a grocery store in its center, at the forks of 75th St. and Plainfield Rd. John R. Keig, immigrant from the Isle of Man who bought the store in 1887 and became first postmaster, named the place in honor of his grandmother, Mrs. Tom Lace. For a few years the hamlet boomed under the impetus of farming and dairying activity. But the rise of milk stations along the railroad lines to the north and south soon spelled the doom of Lace's dairying.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, northeast corner 75th St. and Cass Ave., was erected in 1899, by a church organization established 40 years before by German farmers. Services were held entirely in German until 1915. The big, grey, wooden church edifice, supported by a stone foundation, has a steeply pitched roof and square belfry.

At *6.2 m.* on Cass Ave. is a junction with US 66.

Right on US 66, *0.1 m.*, is CASTLE EDEN *(open daily exc. Mon.: luncheon 75c, dinner $1.25; overnight accommodations $3 double room, weekly $21 per person, with meals)*. Built about 1900 Castle Eden is a gracious modified colonial house, former estate of the late Congressman Martin B. Madden. It occupies one corner of the crossroads which once marked the center of Cass, a lively hamlet in pioneer days. *(See p. 233.)*

Founded in 1835-36, when Thomas Andrus of Vermont, Shadrac Harris, Hartell Cobb, and a Dr. Bronson began to cultivate the surrounding fields, Cass boasted two taverns a few years later. When stagecoach service began west of Chicago in 1834, the present US 66—laid out three years previously as one of the two

first legally established roads of Cook County—was the Chicago-Plainfield-Ottawa route. Cass's first tavern was opened by Thomas Andrus, who equipped his farmhouse to accommodate the stage passengers. Having worked as a carpenter on Chicago's famous Tremont House, Andrus named his own place after it. A post office was soon established at the tavern, with Andrus as postmaster. A school was started in 1836, and Elder Stephen Beggs organized a Methodist society in the early years. With the disappearance of the stagecoach, Cass—whose rise had been due in some measure to the building of the Illinois-Michigan Canal, with the resultant influx of laborers into territory along its route—lapsed into the somnolence which led to its total disintegration by the dawn of the present century.

Left on US 66, at *7.7 m.*, is a junction with Ill. 83.

Right on Ill. 83, at *10 m.*, is the north bluff of the DES PLAINES RIVER VALLEY. The valley was carved by the river during the glacial period, when it was a much larger stream. As early as 1673, Louis Jolliet, on a voyage of exploration with Father Marquette, envisioned the valley as an important travel route, needing only a short canal to make continuous navigation possible between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes. The Illinois-Michigan Canal, completed in 1848, became one of the most important factors in the growth of Chicago and northern Illinois. The deeper and wider Sanitary and Ship Canal later replaced part of the Illinois-Michigan and together with its branch, the Calumet Sag Channel, helped in the disposal of Chicago sewerage. The highway crosses all three of these artificial channels, as well as the river and the Santa Fe tracks. The county boundary lies between the river and the Sanitary and Ship Canal. Heavy woods line the water-courses. One of the nearby forest preserves, lying just west of the highway on the north bank of the river, bears the name Signal Hill because its eminence was an Indian signal station in the days when the big village of Ausagaunaskee, (The Tall Grass Valley), popularly referred to as the Sag, lay along the south bank of the river. The unincorporated rural community in the area is PALISADES. *(See p. 233.)*

At *52.6 m.*, on Chicago Ave., is a junction with Garfield St., center of HINSDALE (691 alt., 6,923 pop.) *(see Cities and Villages)*.

Right on Garfield St. from the Junction with Chicago Ave., *1.7 m.*, is a junction with 55th St. (10th St., locally).

Ahead on Garfield St. *0.2 m.* is (L) the CHICAGO GUERNSEY FARM *(open by arrangement)*, an important dairy and animal breeding center. Its 110 high-bred Guernsey cows and its high quality of milk have made it well-known throughout the region. This farm is one of four which have the authority and necessary inspection by city officials to send certified milk into Chicago.

Right on 55th St., at *2.2 m.*, is a junction with Madison St. Left on Madison St., at *3 m.*, is the GODAIR MEMORIAL OLD PEOPLE'S HOME *(open daily 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m.)*, a non-sectarian residence for elderly men and women, founded in 1931 by William H. Godair. The 20 acres of grounds were formerly a part of the Godair farm. There are a score of residents in the rambling, modified Georgian colonial building which was designed by N. Max Dunning and overlooks the attractive grounds of Ruth Lake Country Club.

Left on Garfield St., at *53.1 m.*, is a jog right into York St. (York Rd. north of Hinsdale). At *53.5 m.* is a junction with Ogden Ave. (US 34).

Ahead on York St. *0.1 m.* is a fork with Spring Rd.

Ahead (bearing right) on York Rd. *0.1 m.* is (L) the GRAUE MILL, one of the best-preserved frontier gristmills in northern Illinois. Started in 1847 and completed in 1852, the mill was in operation until 1929, conducted in succession by Frederick Graue, one of York Township's early settlers; his son, F. W. Graue; and lessees of its last owner, F. O. Butler, paper tycoon and founder of Natoma Farm. When it at last became necessary to close the mill, Butler, who had owned it for only a few years, sold the building to the county forest preserve district. Within recent years county and Federal officials—using Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps labor—have engaged upon its restoration. The three-story, red brick building needed little repair, but extensive work is being done on the interior, restoring or reproducing some of the original machinery. Dam and mill race were reconstructed in 1934. As part of its function as an historic monument, the mill will grind whole wheat and buckwheat flour and cornmeal as it did in the old days. *(See p. 233.)*

Across York Rd. from the mill is (R) the SHERMAN KING HOUSE *(open)*, a frail, one-story, weathered frame structure built about 1835 by one of the three first settlers on Brush Hill, as the vicinity was then called. King was second lieutenant in the company formed under Captain Naper at the close of the Black Hawk War. The tiny building now houses a flour and feed business conducted by Walter Graue, grandson of the miller. *(See p. 234.)*

Left on Spring Rd, just beyond the junction with York Rd., is (R) the FREDERICK GRAUE HOUSE *(private)*, a square, red brick building dating from 1858-59. The house is still occupied by Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Graue and their son, Walter.

Ahead on Spring Rd., at *0.6 m.*, is the entrance to FULLERSBURG PARK *(open 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; parking Sat., Sun., and holidays 25c; rowboats 35c per hr.; motorboats, bicycle boats, and canoes $1 per hr.; pole and line fishing; bridle paths)*, a 110-acre county forest preserve. The woods are particularly beautiful in the spring, when the hawthorns are in blossom. The equipment

of the preserve includes a stone boathouse, stone fireplaces, incinerators, trail-side seats, and shelters. Salt Creek has been diverted from its course to create two miles of winding channels, several ponds and three islands.

At *1.6 m.* is a junction with 31st St. Left on 31st St., at *2.6 m.*, is ST. FRANCIS RETREAT *(open Mon.-Fri., exc. during infrequent midweek retreats).* Known as the "Spiritual Country Club," the retreat occupies a $700,000, 40-room mansion, architecturally a combination of Tudor Gothic and English half-timbered styles, and 500 acres of elaborately landscaped grounds called Mayslake. The estate was the country seat of Francis Stuyvesant Peabody, coal baron, who died a few months after its completion in 1922. The Franciscan Fathers bought the estate in 1924.

Every week-end throughout the year groups of laymen from all walks of life gather here for "60 Golden Hours" of silence, meditation, prayers, and talks by the coarse-robed, sandaled Fathers. Retreats begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and end early Monday morning. The activities include a pilgrimage to the Portiuncula shrine and the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. The shrine was a gift from Peabody's widow and son and stands over his grave, on the spot where his body was found in the course of a fox hunt. On the front of the chapel, a copy of the Franciscan chapel of Assisi, is a $20,000 reproduction in mosaic of Overbeck's famous painting of St. Francis receiving the Portiuncula Indulgence. The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes was built by Brother Theophilus, a copy of the miracle grotto in France, and lies between an artificial and a natural lake.

Primarily for Catholics, St. Francis Retreat is visited by many non-Catholics. More than 2,000 men annually avail themselves of the retreat.

The retreat house, erected at a time of major strikes in the coal mines, has an interest peculiarly its own. An interior construction including steel-doored wall safes, sliding panels, hidden doorways, and a secret staircase contrasts curiously with the motto of the Peabody coat of arms, carved in stone above the main entrance: *"Murus aerus conscientia sana"* ("A good conscience is like a wall of brass"). Reached from both the first and second floors, the secret staircase led down to the wine cellar, from which a tunnel was dug to the big lodge at the gate. Another basement room, locked with a combination known only to Peabody, was filled with storage batteries which could be used if the power lines were cut. Throughout the house was a system of push-buttons connected with a siren which would warn the countryside of any attempt upon the Peabody life or fortune.

At *2.8 m.* on 31st St. is a junction with another graveled road. Left on this road, at *3.2 m.*, is ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE *(open Sun. afts.),* where Franciscan Fathers train young men for the priesthood. The institution was started in 1862 at Teutopolis, Illi-

nois, by a group of German friars. Under the name of St. Joseph's Ecclesiastical College, it originally comprised a high school, junior college, and seminary. In 1898 it was converted into a preparatory seminary exclusively for aspirants to the Franciscan Order and renamed St. Joseph's Seraphic College. In 1922 the Senior College of the Sacred Heart Province at Cleveland was added to the institution. Five years later, having outgrown its quarters, the college moved to its present location. The $1,200,000 Tudor Gothic building, situated in the midst of a large farm, houses chapel, classrooms, and living quarters of the faculty and 200 students. In the chapel are enshrined the bones of St. Innocent, boy martyr of the second century, originally buried in the catacomb of St. Callistus in Rome. The institution maintains a classical high school course, in addition to its five-year college course. Only boys between the ages of 12 and 16 are accepted as new students. Student organizations include the Third Order of St. Francis, St. Paschal's Eucharistic and Acolytes' League, an orchestra, and choir. The student publication, *The Gleaner,* appears six times a year.

Right on 31st Street from the junction with Spring Road. *0.3 m.* is a bridge over Salt Creek. This is the focal point of the BUTLER COMPANY'S DU PAGE FARM. On the west bank of the creek is (R) the large white-frame house (*private*), bought by Frank Osgood Butler, the paper manufacturer, when he purchased the well-known Natoma Dairy Farm here in 1908. The house, never consistently occupied by Mr. Butler, who lived in Hinsdale, now is occupied by his son, Paul. Across Spring Road, to the north, are the old farmhouse and other farm buildings. The former icehouse is now an office building shared by the Du Page Farm Division of the Butler Company and the Oak Brook Polo Club. The farmland now is operated by the Butler Company, which bought it in 1937 and sold the dairy business. A large part of the acreage is devoted to pastures for the several carloads of cattle brought here each year from the company's ranch in Montana, to be fed and subsequently sold in the Chicago stockyards, and to the raising of feed. On land lying east of the creek, between 31st and 22nd Streets, are the stables, foxhound kennels, and seven polo fields of the Oak Brook Polo Club, whose membership is drawn primarily from the Hinsdale area. Open to the public are the club's seasonal Sunday polo games and its annual horse show for the benefit of the Hinsdale Infant Welfare Society.

Right on Ogden Ave. (US 34) from the junction with York St., at *53.9 m.,* is (L) THE OLD SPINNING WHEEL, one of the outstanding restaurants in the Chicago area *(luncheon and dinner weekdays exc. Mon.; dinner Sun. 12:30-7:00).*

Immediately ahead on Ogden Ave. (US 34) is (R) a junction with County Line Rd.

TOUR II

Irving Park Rd. crosses the Du Page County Line from Cook County, *0 m.*, entering ADDISON TOWNSHIP (7,572 pop.), stronghold of Teutonic blood, Lutheran and Evangelical faiths. The first settlers were Hezekiah Duncklee and Mason Smith, who arrived in 1833. Many Germans followed them, and by 1870 more than half of the population was foreign-born. Roughly paralleling the course of the highway is the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, whose Bensenville switchyards and roundhouse are visible in the distance. The tracks were laid through the township by the old Chicago & Pacific in 1872-73, at once inducing the laying out of three subdivisions which developed into important dairy stations, engaged in the manufacture of butter and cheese. After 1900 the dairy business came to be limited to distribution of fresh milk, and much of the area's agriculture gave way to horticulture, today a major source of income and employment.

At *0.1 m.* is a junction (R) with Mount Prospect Rd., a graveled thoroughfare. The intersection was formerly known as Cogswell's Corner, after an early land owner in the locality. Right on Mount Prospect Rd., *0.6 m.* is a junction with another graveled road, Lawrence Ave. Here (L) are the EVANGELICAL ST. JOHANNES KIRCHE AND CEMETERY. The church was organized in 1848-49 by members of a Reformed and Lutheran group established at Churchville. The present white frame church building, with a belfry and round-arched windows, was erected in 1873 and remodeled in 1919. Although only two houses share the crossroads, the church draws a membership of 500 from the surrounding farms. *(See p. 234.)*

Left on Lawrence Ave., at *0.7 m.*, is (L) the OLD EVANGELICAL SCHOOLHOUSE, built in 1874. The school was discontinued about 1922, and the little frame Greek Revival building is now used as a parish house. *(See p. 234.)*

At *0.4 m.*, on Irving Park Rd. is (R) the SCHWERDTFEGER FARMHOUSE *(private)*, a brownish-red L-shaped brick building with a high gabled roof. The left wing dates from about 1848-50, the right from 1888. The older wing has leaded casement windows, and the decorative motif of the porch on the newer wing employs the frame tracery common

to its period. To the right of the brick house stands the original farmhouse, a small frame Greek Revival building erected by Carl Schwerdtfeger in the 1830's.

At *1 m.* is a junction with York Rd. (Ill. 54), north-central section of BENSENVILLE (681 alt., 1,680 pop.), first settled in the 1830's, platted in 1873 as Tioga by Diedrich Struckman. As there was another Tioga in Illinois, a group of immigrants suggested changing the name to Benzen, after their home town in Germany, but the previous existence, also, of a Benson resulted in the selection of the present name. The village was incorporated in 1884, electing Henry Korthauer first president. Bensenville at that time shipped milk to Chicago and manufactured 400,000 pounds of cheese and 150,000 pounds of butter yearly. With the establishment of railroad yards here in 1909-10, the population came to be composed largely of workers in the roundhouse and switchyards.

The Woman's Club is housed in an abandoned section house adjoining the tracks, and the one building which bears the word *Hotel* is a rooming house for railroad employees. A paint and varnish factory employing about 12 people constitutes the only industry. Villagers find local recreation in dance halls, taverns, the movie theater, and nearby forest preserves. More self-sufficient than the dormitory suburbs which comprise the bulk of the county's municipalities, Bensenville contrasts the clatter and confusion of locomotives and machinery with streets of trim cottages interspersed with a few old frames of the pioneer and Civil War eras, each with its carefully cropped lawn, its trees, and, perhaps, a little garden. One of the county's few outstanding restaurants, drawing a clientele from Chicago and the western suburbs, is in Bensenville. Called Plentywood Farm after the adjacent nursery, the restaurant occupies a recently erected log cabin on Church Rd. *(luncheon and dinner daily, Easter through Thanksgiving).*

On Lincoln Ave., ½ block east of York Rd. (Ill. 54), is the FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH, a white American Wood Gothic building dating from 1875. The church society was established in Cook County in July, 1837, by the Rev. Jacob Boas, who soon afterward began to hold services in Duncklee's Grove, southwest of present Bensenville.

Half a mile south of Lincoln Ave., on York Rd., is (L) the EVANGELICAL HOME FOR CHILDREN AND AGED *(open 1-5 daily),* started in 1895. Control and support of the institution is vested in the German Evangelical Orphanage and Old People's Home Society of Northern Illinois. On a pleasant 20-acre tract are the Home for Aged, occupying the original Victorian building of buff and red brick, and,

behind it, the three-unit Children's Home and Administration Building, completed in 1927. The design of the new units stresses the Romanesque arch. The grounds are partly landscaped, partly devoted to farming.

The home harbors about 90 children, taken from private sources or as wards of the Cook and Du Page County Juvenile Courts, and 55 elderly people. All applicants must be members of the Evangelical Synod.

At *1.5 m.* on Irving Park Rd. is a junction with Church Rd., a graveled thoroughfare.

Left on Church Rd. *0.6 m.* is (R) DEER PARK, a county forest preserve actually inhabited by a few deer. Just beyond the entrance, facing Church Rd., two old grinding stones form a MONUMENT TO AN EARLY LINSEED OIL MILL, which formerly stood a short distance to the east. Perhaps the first such mill in Illinois, it was started in 1847 by John Henry Franzen, a German immigrant of 1836. Frederick Korthauer, a German cabinetmaker and painter who settled near the Franzens about 1840, built the mill for them and shared in its management. After hauling their flaxseed to the mill, the farmers used to gather in Franzen's house for a "hot-stove session," a good dinner, and a night's lodging. Five feet in diameter and 14 inches thick, the grinding stones were motivated by horse power. In 1870, coincident with the general shift in this region from wheat and flax crops to corn, the mill ceased functioning.

During the fifties Frederick Korthauer began building little pipe organs for the Lutheran and Evangelical churches of the township. The German congregations unlike the early Methodists, considered organs necessary rather than sacrilegious.

The area through which the route passes was known in pioneer and later days as Duncklee's Grove. Leaving Hillsborough, New Hampshire, in the summer of 1833, Hezekiah Duncklee picked up Mason Smith at Potsdam, New York, and the two arrived in Chicago September 3. The pioneers continued westward on the 8th, following the trail marked by General Scott's army the previous year. They proceeded west as far as present Bloomingdale where they rested, and then retraced their steps to the center of present Addison Township, then covered by a dense grove more than two miles long and a mile or more wide. After exploring the woods, Duncklee and Smith staked large claims, both in the timber and on the bordering prairie.

The following spring brought Hezekiah's brother, Ebenezer, and his family, and with summer came Hezekiah's own family. By this time other settlers were arriving: from Germany, Thomas H. Thom(p)son; from the East, Richard Kingston, James Bean, A. Ingals, Demerit and Charles Hoit and a Mr. Perrin. Altogether, about a dozen German families arrived between 1835 and 1837, about half that number came from New York, and one from Ver-

mont. But for a long time, until villages were platted and given names, the whole area was known as Duncklee's Grove.

As a result of planting three barrels of frozen apples in the spring of 1836, the Duncklees had what was probably the first orchard in the county. By 1855, when Illinois farmers were just beginning to plant fruit trees, the Duncklees were selling $600 worth of apples annually.

At *1.2 m.* on Church Rd. is a junction with Mosquito Ave. On the southeast corner is WHITE PINES GOLF CLUB *(daily fee course).*

Right on Mosquito Ave. the route leads past truck farms and, in the woods, the habitation of a well driller.

At 2.5 *m.* is a junction with Wood Dale Rd. At the northeast corner is WOOD DALE GROVE, a county forest preserve. Opposite is ELMHURST COUNTRY CLUB *(private).*

Right on Wood Dale Rd. the route passes two trailer camps *(facilities incl. electricity, showers, and washing machines).*

At *3.9 m.* is a junction with Irving Park Rd.

At *3.1 m.* on Irving Park Rd. is a junction with Wood Dale Rd., the center of WOOD DALE (695 alt., 230 pop.), first settled in 1835 by Edward Lester of New York. The township's first school was started in the vicinity in 1837 by Julia Lester, his daughter.

Edward Lester ran the big butter and cheese factory which was Wood Dale's *raison d'etre* after the railroad came through, and in 1873 he platted part of his farm into town lots. For many years the community was known as Lester's Station. The village was not incorporated until 1928. Today it sprawls over an area of about 1½ square miles and supports one elementary school. Many of its streets exist only in the subdividers' drawings, or in the automobile tracks leading from the highway to the clumps of new frame cottages. Opposite the railroad station stands an old country store, but the decentralized village has no restaurants, taverns, or movie. Wood Dale uses the Bensenville post office.

Patten Hill, a settlement about a mile north of Wood Dale, was called Sagone in the early days. A post office was established there in 1850, in charge of Seth D. Pierce, a pioneer of the thirties, first township supervisor, constable and justice of peace.

At *4.7 m.* on Irving Park Rd. is a junction with Walnut Ave., center of ITASCA (694 alt., 594 pop.). Now extending over two square miles of rolling, wooded land, fringed with cornfields, Itasca was first settled by Dr. Elijah Smith, who laid claim to 160 acres when he came from Boston in 1841. Most of the houses are white frame, and a number date

from the Greek Revival period. Their general air, tucked snugly as they are behind venerable trees, is one of well-being. For recreation, villagers have a private country club within their corporate limits, and a public park in the center of town, both lying along a winding branch of Salt Creek.

Born in Morristown, New Jersey, Dr. Elijah Smith had practiced his profession but a short time before coming to Illinois, where he varied his medical practice with dairying and agriculture. In the sixties the Sagone post office was moved to the farm of Abel G. Chessman, 1¼ miles northeast of the present site of Itasca. When the railroad came in 1873, Dr. Smith donated a right-of-way through his land, contributed $400 toward the building of a station, and platted 80 acres north of Salt Creek into town lots. At the same time William Wischstadt laid out a subdivision south of the stream, and the post office was moved near the railroad station and renamed Ithaca. A month later the name was changed to Itasca.

In the middle 1870's the Hendricks brothers were manufacturing 400 pounds of cheese and 200 pounds of butter daily. Between 1876 and 1878 Abel G. Chessman founded a steam-operated gristmill and grain elevator, and started a cheese box and butter tub factory, both of which enterprises he ran until about 1918. In the eighties, when Itasca was the end of the run for the evening commutation train from Chicago, millworkers and the train crew lived at S. G. Eggleston's Itasca House. Remodeled and no longer a hotel, it still stands north of the bank on Walnut Avenue. A Sunday school class formed in 1855 used the commutation train as a meeting house until the building of the first church. Incorporated as a village in 1890, Itasca's first president was Abel G. Chessman. His son, William G., elected first village clerk, still (1939) holds the office.

No longer possessing a dairy, although some of the farmers on its outskirts do dairying in addition to truck and general farming, Itasca sends most of its working population into Chicago. Aside from a greenhouse specializing in sweet peas, the village's commercial enterprise is limited to the usual stores, taverns, and garages. The bank, established in the middle 1920's, is one of the strongest in the county. No one remembers how long the weekly Itasca *Herald* of the 1890's existed, but there is no local newspaper today, and Itascans subscribe to the Du Page County *Register*—published in Cook County.

Seen from the highway, the first view of the peaceful little community focuses on the tall, slender spire of ST. LUKE'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH, on Walnut Ave. south of Grove, tidy in its coat of glistening white paint and its American Wood Gothic architecture.

On Irving Park Rd., as it turns down into the heart of the village—before its junction with Walnut Ave.—are (L) the OLD SCHROEDER HOUSE, FACTORY BUILDING, AND BLACKSMITH SHOP *(private)*. Ernst C. Schroeder came from Germany in 1856. A blacksmith by trade, he set up shop first at Sagone. In 1872 Ernst sold out at Sagone and moved into the Greek Revival house still occupied by his daughter, at the same time buying the cheese factory next door, which Robert W. Gates had started in 1866. A year later Schroeder converted the plant into an implement and wagon shop, pursuing his blacksmithing in the tiny shack beside it. Achieving local acclaim for his invention of a potato planter and cultivator, and a revolving coupling for bobsleds, he remained in business until his death in 1927.

Itasca's first house of worship was the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, northeast corner of Elm St. and Center Ave. The building was erected in the fall of 1885, at about the same time that the congregation was organized, and the prim little meeting house is one of the county's most unadorned examples of American Wood Gothic. A Gothic doorway is the only break in its high-gabled front, the line of which is carried still higher by a square belfry and narrow, pointed steeple.

The large PUBLIC SCHOOLHOUSE, next door to the north, was built in 1892, an imposing two-story structure of tan brick trimmed in red, with a white cupola.

The ELIJAH SMITH HOUSE *(open)*, northwest corner of Maple Ave. and Orchard St., was built about 1844. A huge cottonwood tree stands near the entrance of the rambling Greek Revival house. Green shutters punctuate the trim white clapboards. Now occupied by the A. M. McKenzies, the venerable residence houses a collection of pioneer relics which includes Dr. Smith's saddle bags, as well as an extensive modern rental library.

At *5.7 m.* on Irving Park Rd. is a junction with Ill. 53, marking the eastern limits of BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP (2,043 pop.), first settled in 1833 by the Meacham brothers. Only two small incorporated villages break the flow of undulating farmland, generously embellished with sturdy oak groves.

At *6.8 m.* is a junction with Medinah Rd. The crossroads mark the south end of the settlement of MEDINAH, comprising little more than a few houses, a general store and post office, a railroad station used mostly

by golfers, and a population of about 85. Originally part of the vast area owned by the Meachams, the settlement once bore their name.

Left on Medinah Rd. *1 m.* is the entrance to MEDINAH COUNTRY CLUB *(private; occasional golf tournaments and dances open to the public on admission fee basis).* The arched, Moorish-style entrance gate is a prelude to the million-dollar clubhouse, a brick building, with a Byzantine colonnade embellishing its façade, a tall, thinly pointed minaret and a mosque dome completing the Oriental flavor of its Moorish lines. On the club's 650 acres of grounds are two lakes on a branch of Salt Creek.

At *8.5 m.* on Irving Park Rd. is a junction with Roselle Rd., marking the west end of the business center of ROSELLE (772 alt., 807 pop.) Covering an area of little more than one square mile, Roselle is more of a country town than a commuting suburb. Most of Roselle's inhabitants engage in farming, or find employment in the three greenhouses and in the lawn equipment and wood working establishments. Buildings in the two-block-long business center are mostly old-fashioned, and the shiny modern store front which has been built onto one of them contrasts strangely with the rest. Most of the houses are small frame buildings, neatly kept, and the residential streets are lined with big trees. North of the highway, in the east section of town, the village ends in a thick woods, part of which is occupied by Turner's Grove, a private park with dancing pavilion, baseball diamond, and picnic facilities *(free to local churches and schools; available to other groups on rental basis).*

Like the three northern villages in Addison Township, Roselle sprang into existence with the building of the Chicago & Pacific Railroad. Bernard Beck platted the first town lots in 1874, and the community took its name from Col. Roselle Hough, local landowner and one of the promoters of the railroad, which in the early days was popularly known as the "Hough Road." In 1889 Roselle was included in the corporate limits of the first village of Bloomingdale. By reason of its transportation facilities, the north—or Roselle—section of Bloomingdale quickly outstripped in population the older community comprising the south section. In the early eighties it had two hotels, a gristmill and grain elevator, a lumberyard, and manufactories of agricultural implements, linen fabrics, ropes and twine. Hotels, milling, and manufacturing gradually died out. On June 6, 1922, the incorporation of Bloomingdale was dissolved and on September 13, Roselle was incorporated as a separate village.

On the south side of Irving Park Rd., between Prospect Ave. and Roselle Rd., is an OLD LIVERY STABLE BUILDING *(closed),* an

interesting grey frame structure with green trim and a "porthole" decorative motif, dating from about 1900. *(See p. 234.)*

Left on Roselle Rd., at *10.1 m.*, is (R) BLOOMINGDALE GROVE, a county forest preserve.

At *10.4 m.* is a junction with Lake St. (US 20), center of BLOOMINGDALE (771 alt., 337 pop.). Bloomingdale's original community grew up around a general store, a blacksmith shop, and a post office on the northern stage route between Chicago and Galena, which survives today in Lake Street. The village remains a simple rural settlement, where the president can be found almost any day, dressed in blue jeans, working in the fields or tinkering with a piece of farm machinery around the town's main crossroads, and where the treasurer keeps a country hardware store in a white frame building which he copied from the Greek Revival structures of pioneer days. One of Bloomingdale's century-old houses has been converted into a garage near the tavern on the northwest corner of Roselle Road and Lake Street. Another, the old Neltnor homestead *(see West Chicago)*, has become a garage and tavern kitchen on the northeast corner of the intersection. In this tiny business center, humming with the passage of many cars over the four-lane highway, the modern is superimposed on the old, but the village itself remains quiet and undisturbed.

Bloomingdale was first settled by the Meacham brothers—Silas, Lyman, and Harvey—of Rutland County, Vermont. Arriving here March 11, 1833, they pitched their tents in a grove. The only sign of human activity was an Indian sacrifice: a dead dog hanging from a tree, a piece of tobacco tied to each foot. Before many weeks had passed the Meacham brothers had built log cabins for their families and planted 40 acres of prairie land bordering the woods. A branch of Salt Creek ran through their claims, and on it they later erected a sawmill. Meacham's Grove contained some 1,200 acres of fine timber. The Indians had named it Peanneack, after a root which they continued to harvest for several years after the settlers arrived.

Around 1835 Milton Kent leased land from Ebenezer Peck, who had bought one of the Meacham claims. When Kent's lease expired in 1837, Peck sold the land to George Green of Chicago, but Kent, who had started a tavern and farm, refused to relinquish the property. A law suit resulted in a decision against him. Kent then evolved a plan to intimidate Green into signing a quit claim. With his son and son-in-law, a friend, and a hired man, Kent went to Green's house one Sunday night in March, 1840, planning to spirit him away to a nearby shanty. Four of

the men waited a short distance from the house, while the fifth rode up on horseback and loudly demanded a night's lodging. Green, however, did not come to the door, but answered from his bedroom window, whereupon the waiting men broke down the door. Green fired in the dark and then, seizing a butcher knife, stabbed young Lorenzo Kent. The elder Kent was also stabbed and fell dead a few paces from the house.

The grand jury discharged Green and issued a warrant for the arrest of Lorenzo Kent, who, in spite of his wound, managed to escape from the State. Green remained on his land for three more years, but his fear that he would some day be murdered drove him to Chicago, where he amassed considerable wealth as a banker. In 1855, while confined in jail awaiting trial for poisoning his wife, he killed himself.

In the meantime, Meacham's Grove settlement had been growing up. In 1836 the State road between Chicago and Galena was laid through it. At the same time a Baptist group began meeting in the homes of Noah Stevens and Waters Northrup, organizing in 1841. In the early forties a Congregational society was formed, meeting in the schoolhouse, where, on weekdays, Miss Experience Gifford taught. Moses Hoyt opened a tavern in the village, a Mr. Tupper kept another a mile east, and W. Northrup was postmaster. When town lots were platted by H. S. Hills in January, 1845—the third recorded plat in the county—there were 35 families in the community, which at this time took the name of Bloomingdale. In the 1860's Bloomingdale farmers probably followed the trend of their time and area and entered into the dairy business. Other small industries—a gristmill, a flaxmill, which manufactured 600 tons of tow annually, and a bed spring factory—gave employment in the eighties. On February 4, 1889, the first Village of Bloomingdale was incorporated, its limits including what is now Roselle. In 1922, years after its industry had ceased, Bloomingdale dissolved its incorporation, splitting up into its north and south sections. On May 14, 1923, the south section, comprising the original community of Bloomingdale, was re-incorporated as a village.

On the north side of Lake St. (US 20), *0.4 m.* east of Roselle Rd., is the OLD LAUDON HOUSE *(private)*, built about 1850. The yellow frame building with white trim was selected in 1934 by the Historic American Buildings Survey as an excellent example of Greek Revival farmhouse architecture. The turned-under corners of the eaves, the inviting side door and pillared porch, and the more formal front door-

way—seldom used—are characteristic of the style which prevailed in American domestic architecture from 1820 to 1850.

A short distance east of the house is the BLOOMINGDALE CEMETERY, where the greying headstones of pioneers are pine-shadowed and undisturbed by traffic highway.

The BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP HALL, northwest corner of Franklin and Second Street (Roselle Rd.), served as the village schoolhouse and the Baptist Church in 1849. On April 2, 1850, the first town meeting was held here. The tiny one-story frame building remained a school until 1894.

On the first street west of Roselle Rd., just south of Lake St. (US 20), stands the VILLAGE HALL, occupying a two-story frame schoolhouse with a belfry, built in the nineties.

On the south side of Lake St. (US 20), *0.1 m.* west of Roselle Rd., is the American Wood Gothic BAPTIST CHURCH, erected in 1855 by Thomas H. Dumper and a Mr. Watson. In 1878 the church had 300 members and an extensive library. The present membership is small. A thirty foot spire originally crowned the belfry.

Right on Lake St. (US 20) from its junction with Roselle Rd., at *13.7 m.*, is (R) the HENRY HARMENING FARMHOUSE *(private)*, a large grey frame building, ornately decorated in the Victorian manner. Built in 1881, the dwelling is an interesting example of the domestic architecture of its period. Fine spruce trees line the highway east of the house and fill the front yard.

At *14.1 m.* is a junction with a graveled road. Left on the graveled road the route enters WAYNE TOWNSHIP (1,166 pop.), first settled in 1834 by Daniel Benjamin and Joseph Vale, and named for "Mad Anthony" Wayne.

When the township was organized in 1850, its population was 855. By 1870 it had reached 1,100, and since then it has remained almost static. Although traversed by five railroads—the Chicago & North Western, the Illinois Central, the Chicago Great Western, the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin, and Chicago's outer belt line, the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern—Wayne Township has no municipalities. Nine hamlets—the largest with barely more than 200 people—interrupt briefly the wide vistas of billowing land and heavy groves. The area is given over almost wholly to dairy, stock, and general farms, ranging in size up to 500 acres.

One of the township's most extensive farms was that of Luther Bartlett, one-time Michigan schoolmaster who, with his brother Lyman,

settled in Wayne's northeastern portion in 1842. Bartlett brought with him a herd of sheep and went in for wool raising. By the seventies Bartlett's modest herd of sheep had increased to 1,000. About 1900, gentlemen farmers came from the big city, one of whom bought the old Bartlett farm. At the same time the sons of farmers and country-town artisans began to turn their eyes toward the metropolis, and in another decade, commuters were leaving their ancestral farms to work in city offices.

At *14.6 m.* on the graveled road is a junction with another graveled road. Here is the south portion of ONTARIOVILLE (814 alt.), which straddles the county line, its railroad station (Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific) in Cook County, its post office in Du Page. The population of about 75 is made up chiefly of farmers, although airplane parts and insulating paper are manufactured here. In the Cook County section is a famous model poultry farm named Sweet Briar.

Left on the graveled road, at *16.2 m.* is (L) the ILLINOIS PET CEMETERY, founded in 1926. In a six-acre tract are buried dogs, cats, monkeys, rabbits, and canaries.

At *17.3 m.* is a junction with Schick Rd. Right on Schick Rd., at *17.9 m.*, is SCHICK'S CROSSING (760 alt.), a former railroad station and post office.

At *18.2 m.* is (R) the OBADIAH PRATT HOUSE *(private)*, an arresting, long, weathered building which combines Greek Revival features with an unusual use of gables.

At *20 m.* is a junction with Ill. 59. Left on Ill. 59, at *20.4 m.* is a junction with Wayne Rd.

Right on Wayne Rd. *1.8 m.* is the center of WAYNE (758 alt.) looking very much like a New England village, with its white frame houses clustered around a little white church. Elms and maples, Scotch pines and catalpas shade the paved road which runs through it and the stubby streets branching off to the north. A large part of Wayne's 225 inhabitants commute to Chicago, but the trains of three railroads fail to disturb its bucolic calm. In the fields to the north of it is a sand and gravel pit, Wayne's only industry.

From as far away as New York and Virginia and as near as present Elmhurst came Wayne's first settlers. In 1835 came the Virginian John Laughlin, whose farmhouse still stands at the west end of town. Although most of the land taken in the same year by Solomon Dunham of Cattaraugus County, New York, lay just west of the county line as designated in 1839, Dunham was, nevertheless, one of Wayne's founding fathers. John Glos came in the late thirties, a German immigrant from Boston, who, dissatisfied with his family's claim at what is now Elmhurst, moved farther

west. It was not long before a schoolhouse had been erected. Formerly known as Wayne Station, to distinguish it from the settlement of Wayne Center a few miles east, the community got its start when the tracks of the Galena & Chicago Union were laid through in 1849. Solomon Dunham built the railroad station, became first station master and postmaster, and opened an inn and general store. In 1863 Adam Glos became justice of the peace, an office which he held for half a century, to be succeeded by his daughter, Hattie, who still serves.

The CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, on Wayne Rd. in the center of town, was built in 1871 and still dominates the religious activities of the township. The white frame building has a belfry and tall, narrow round-arched windows flanked with green shutters. Pews are equipped with swinging gates. The church is frequently visited by tourists and is also popular for weddings.

At *3 m.* on Wayne Rd. is the county line. Beyond it, at *3.2 m.*, just west of the attractive big brown barn and stables, is (L) the SOLOMON DUNHAM HOUSE, now a private riding club. The bricks for the original, or east, section of the gracious, low red building were made by Solomon Dunham and his young son Daniel, who completed the house in 1836, the year after their arrival here. Upon Solomon's death, the homestead was left to his youngest child, Mark Wentworth Dunham, born in 1842. The original 300-acre farm was extended to almost 2,000 acres, and Mark became internationally famous as an importer and breeder of French coach and Percheron horses. In 1881 he erected "Dunham Castle," a copy of a Norman French chateau, visible diagonally across the intersection. At the same time the brick house was enlarged and fitted for business headquarters. People from all over the world came to visit Dunham's Oaklawn Farm. When Mark died in 1899, the farm was operated by his only son, Wirth Stewart Dunham, until his death in 1931. The coming of the tractor gradually usurped the place of the Percheron horse, and for years the International Harvester Company used Oaklawn as an experimental farm for their machinery. In 1932 the brick house was restored and redecorated by Mrs. Wirth S. Dunham and Bernice Dunham West, to serve in its present capacity. Proceeds of the horse show held at the club every summer go to the Wayne Volunteer Fire Department.

At *21.2 m.* on Ill. 59 is a junction with Army Trail Road. Left on Army Trail Rd., at *22.2 m.*, is (L) WAYNE CENTER CEMETERY. A marker erected here by the D. A. R. memorializes two soldiers who died of cholera on the westward march of General Scott's army in 1832. The soldiers' graves are on a nearby farm, but the owner refused to have the marker put up on his land.

At *23.1 m.* is a junction with a graveled road, heart of WAYNE CENTER (774 alt.), oldest settlement in the township. A cluster of farm-

houses, a stock feed store, and a district school are all that remain of the busy pioneer hamlet. On May 12, 1834, Daniel Benjamin, Joseph Vale, and their families, farmers and carpenters from the Little Scioto River Valley in central Ohio, rejected the plan of their companion pioneers to push on to the Fox River Valley and staked their claims here.

Vale and Benjamin and each of the latter's four sons quickly threw up log cabins, aided by the Potawatomies, whose labor was paid for with a barrel of Vale's whiskey. Other settlers straggled in and began farming. William Kimball, a Methodist circuit rider, settled here in the late thirties, holding religous services in his cabin, which also became a school. A hamlet began to take shape in 1842, when Abner Guild and James N(a)ind opened a general store and the Congregationalists organized a church. Soon Daniel Clark started a tavern and Jonas Blank built a sawmill on the river. In the beginning the community was known both as Gimletville and Orangeville. When Wayne Township was organized in 1850, its main hamlet was rechristened Wayne Center. During the fever of the abolitionist movement, Dr. Elias C. Guild turned his one-story frame cottage into a station of the underground railway. After the Civil War a post office was established at Wayne Center, and for a few years a broom factory flourished, but the hamlet's prospects of permanent growth were shattered when the railroads, one after the other, passed it by.

At *23.3 m.* is a junction with another graveled road.

Right on this road *1.4 m.* is (L) the entrance to FAIR OAKS FARM *(open daily)*, a well-known breeding and show stable for saddle horses, owned by W. P. Rogovsky.

At *24.7 m.* on Army Trail Road the route crosses the town line and re-enters BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP

At *26 m.* is a junction with Wheaton (or Cloverdale) Rd., marking the crossroads farming settlement of CLOVERDALE (763 alt.).

At *28.6 m.* is (R) TRANSMITTING STATION WMAQ *(open day and night)* from which programs originating in the station's studios in the Merchandise Mart, Chicago, are sent out over the air.

At *31 m.* is a junction with Ill. 53, beyond which point the route re-enters ADDISON TOWNSHIP.

At *32.4 m.* is a junction with Mill Rd.

Right on Mill Rd. *0.2 m.* is TRANSMITTING STATION WMBI *(open 12-5 daily)*, which broadcasts programs originating at the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

Left on Mill Rd., at *32.9 m.*, is a junction with Lake St. (US 20).

Ahead on Mill Rd. *0.5 m.* is (R) the HEIDEMANN WINDMILL, built in 1867 by Christian Heidemann, a German immigrant of the late 1840's. The main structural members are of oak, pine being used in the sails, the balcony and its supports. The hub is cast iron. The octagonal tower, 30 feet wide at the base, 15 at the top, rises to a height of 60 feet. The mill functioned until the 1920's when the need for local milling dropped off. In an excellent state of preservation, it could be put into operation again with the replacement of a few mechanical parts. Behind the mill stands the old shuttered farmhouse, erected in 1874 and still occupied by Heidemann's son.

Right on Lake St. (US 20), at *33.3 m.*, is (R) the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ORPHAN HOME *(open 9-5 daily)*, founded in 1873 by the Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Association of Northern Illinois. Playgrounds and landscaping contrast with vegetable gardens in the home's 41 acres. The two-story, rambling building of white-washed brick includes a hospital and infants' nursery among its facilities. A staff of 24 cares for the 90 children. Children are received from both private sources and juvenile courts throughout the State. Although primarily for orphans of Lutheran background, the home is not denominationally restricted.

At *33.8 m.* is a junction with Army Trail Rd., the center of ADDISON (689 alt., 916 pop.), a preponderantly German Lutheran community, part country town, part commuting suburb. Incorporated in 1852, when it was a little farming settlement, Addison is now park-like, its outskirts studded with the dark rows of nursery trees and splashed with the gleaming glass of greenhouses. Along the four-lane highway old houses and store buildings contrast vividly with shiny modern filling stations. Through the eastern section winds Salt Creek.

First settlers of Addison were the H. Rotermunds, German immigrants who came here in 1837. For several years prior to their arrival, however, German pioneers had been claiming land all around the present village site. To the southeast, along Salt Creek, were the Frederick Graues, who staked a timber claim in 1834. About the same time came Joachim Koehler. In 1836 the Conrad Fischers took land in Duncklee's Grove. In the late thirties Charles Hoit started the Buck Horn Tavern some distance west on the Galena Road (Lake Street). Other settlers gathered around the Rotermunds, and within a few years the Salt Creek House was opened in the settlement, becoming a point for changing stagecoach horses. Upon the organization of the township in 1850, S. D. Pierce, one of the village's pioneers, was elected town supervisor, constable, and justice of the peace. Addison's first postmaster, Henry Bartling, served

from 1852 until 1905. In 1856 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School was founded, and eight years later a teachers' seminary moved here from Fort Wayne. Evolving into Concordia Teachers' College, the institution moved to River Forest in 1913. In the middle seventies Louis Stuenkel, member of a pioneer family, started a cheese factory which by 1882 was consuming 7,500 pounds of milk daily. The nineties ushered in the nursery business, now so important a part of Addison's economy.

At the junction of Lake St. (US 20) and Army Trail Rd. is the ADDISON MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS *(open daily 10-4)*, operated by the Lutheran Kinderheim Association. Founded in 1909 in Chicago, the institution moved to Addison in 1916, taking over the grounds formerly occupied by Concordia Teachers' Seminary. The institution's 27½ acres of land are partly landscaped, partly given over to farming. Housed in a long, two-story brick building, the school harbors about 200 children from broken Lutheran homes, received through the Cook County courts.

At the southwest corner of Lake St. (US 20) and Maple is the CENTURY STORE, believed to have been in constant operation as a general store since the 1830's.

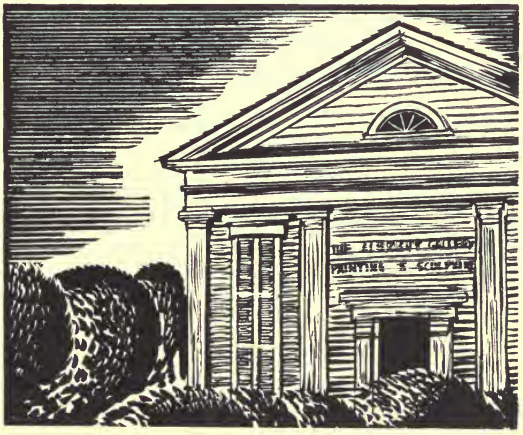
At *34.5 m.* on Lake St. (US 20) the road crosses SALT CREEK, at the point where, according to tradition, it received its name. When the highway first became a wagon trail, back in the early 1830's, it was sometimes employed by teamsters hauling lead from Galena to Chicago. Legend has it that one of these teamsters, returning to the lead mines with a load of salt, got stuck in the creek, whereupon the water soaked through the bags and flowed on, a saline solution.

Across the bridge is a junction with Grand Ave. Left on Grand Ave., at *35.8 m.*, is a junction with Church Rd.

Left on Church Rd. *0.2 m.* is the little settlement called CHURCHVILLE (690 alt.). In 1838 the German settlers around Duncklee's Grove formed Zion Lutheran Church under the Rev. L. C. Ervendberg. For four years services were held in a cabin, which also housed a school. A little frame church was erected in 1842, and at the same time a Reformed and Lutheran group was founded, meeting with the original congregation. In 1848 the Reformed and Lutheran group withdrew, organizing as the Evangelical St. Johannes Kirche and erecting a meeting house northeast of present Bensenville. About 1859 the Evangelical Immanuel Church was established in a building across the road from Zion. Churchville today consists mainly of its two churches, a schoolhouse, a few dwellings, and an old store building with a false front.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, on the east side of Church Rd., occupies a large Romanesque building of buff-colored brick, with a sharply pointed steeple, erected in 1862. In the cemetery behind the church are gravestones dating from the 1830's.

At *37.7 m.* on Grand Ave. is a junction with Mount Prospect Road, the county line. At the intersection is (R) a roadway leading in to Mount Emblem Cemetery. Right on this road *0.2 m.* is the OLD FISCHER WINDMILL *(open for inspection daily until dark).* Construction of the mill was begun in 1861 and completed in 1863 by Henry Fred Fischer, a German immigrant of the early forties. Construction and installation of the machinery, done by two millwrights imported from Holland, required six months. Made almost entirely of hand-hewn wood, both mill structure and machinery are the result of painstaking carpentry. The cypress framework rests upon a stone foundation. An 80-foot wing spread belies the fact that the mill is five stories high. The upper 20 feet revolves on a turntable which, connected with a windlass and roller controlled on the second-story platform, enabled the millers to swing the wings directly into the wind. Capacity of the mill was originally 40 barrels a day, but steam equipment installed later greatly increased the output. In 1877 Fischer sold the mill to a Mr. Ahler, who continued its operation until after the World War. When the farm was bought in 1925 by the cemetery association, the exterior of the mill was renovated. The building contains, in addition to the mill machinery, apparatus for broadcasting chimes across the cemetery.



The Albright Gallery: Warrenville's Old Methodist Church

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Greek Revival Doorway:
Robert N. Murray House, Naperville

APPENDIX I

Changes in Points of Interest between 1939 and 1948

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46 The ELMHURST-CHICAGO AIRPORT no longer exists. The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago now has its own hangar at Elmhurst Airport, from which it operates a flight-training school for missionaries.

93 The OLD SCHOOLHOUSE (Glen Ellyn) has been torn down.

99 The OUTDOOR PLAY SCHOOL AT KNOLLWOOD no longer exists.

119 The PIONEER CABIN (John Naper House) and OLD TAVERN (Pre-Emption House) referred to have been torn down (Naperville).

129 See note immediately above regarding the PRE-EMPTION HOUSE.

144 PRE-EMPTION HOUSE: see second note above.

145 The ROBERT N. MURRAY HOUSE (Naperville) has been torn down.

147 The OLD BAPTIST CHURCH (Naperville) has been torn down.

147-48 The JOHN NAPER HOUSE: see note above regarding the reference to this house on page 119.

160) 164) The land formerly occupied by the GREEN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB has been subdivided.

181 WHEATON COLLEGE ACADEMY now has its own 26-acre campus at Prince Crossing, 6½ miles northwest of the college campus.

193 The COUNTRY HOME FARM was sold by the University of Chicago to the Campbell Soup Company in the summer of 1945 and now is operated by that company under the name of PRINCE CROSSING FARM. In 1946 mushroom-growing houses were erected, which, when fully planted, are expected to produce nearly a million pounds of mushrooms a year. The rest of the land is utilized for the growing of tomatoes, carrots, parsnips, parsley, and asparagus. The company plans to build, in 1948, a large soils laboratory and greenhouse. The laboratory will be used for fundamental soil research and analysis, work which is expected to benefit the farmers who grow vegetables for the company. The greenhouse will be used in conjunction with this work to produce better

vegetable plants. Laboratory and greenhouse will be under the direction of the company's agricultural department.

193 Finding it impractical to operate such an institution so far from its campus, the University of Chicago, in the summer of 1945, sold the buildings and 26 acres of the land belonging to its COUNTRY HOME FOR CONVALESCENT CRIPPLED CHILDREN to WHEATON COLLEGE ACADEMY. The Academy immediately moved to its new site and opened its 1945 fall semester there. The University plans to build new facilities for a children's home on its campus in Chicago.

193 The boulder comprising part of the GARY'S MILL MARKER is almost completely obscured in summer by the vegetation around it, and, in 1947, the plaque was missing.

198 The YEAST FOAM EXPERIMENTAL FARM is no longer here.

200 OAKHURST is now WIL-O-WAY, a Guernsey farm owned by George J. Polivka, and the house is painted white instead of buff.

202-03 The BAILEY HOBSON HOUSE has been remodeled, without, however, destroying the original lines.

209 CASTLE EDEN is now a private residence.

210 Early in 1947 the Atomic Energy Commission announced the acquisition of a tract of some 3,760 acres in the southeastern tip of Du Page County for the construction of the ARGONNE NATIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORY, one of a projected series of national atomic research centers. This tract is bounded on the north by US 66 (Joliet Rd.), on the east by Ill. 83, on the south by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe right-of-way, and on the west by Lemont Rd. The Argonne Laboratory, now housed at the University of Chicago and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, and occupying 20 acres in Palos Park, a Cook County forest preserve, will be operated by the University of Chicago in conjunction with 28 other Midwestern educational institutions. According to announced plans, the laboratory will engage in the research and development of all phases of atomic energy. On December 31, 1947, it was announced that the bulk of the research activities of the Atomic Energy Commission would be centralized at Argonne, with the University of Chicago directing the expanded program on uranium chain reactors which previously had been slated for division between Argonne and the Clinton National Laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tenn., with centralization at Oak Ridge. Building on the Du Page County site is scheduled to begin early in 1948.

211 The GRAUE MILL has not been opened or put into operation as planned, with the exception of one day early in the 1940's. More repairs are needed.

211 The SHERMAN KING HOUSE has been torn down.

214 The EVANGELICAL ST. JOHANNES KIRCHE now is known as ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH.

214 The OLD EVANGELICAL SCHOOLHOUSE has been torn down.

221 The OLD LIVERY STABLE (Roselle) has been torn down.

(NOTE: The reader is asked to bear in mind that the World War referred to throughout the book is World War I, and, for further comment regarding changes which have taken place since 1939, is referred to the Editor's Note.)

APPENDIX II

Official Du Page County Population Figures from the 1930 and 1940 Censuses and Preliminary Figures from the 1950 Census

	1930	*1940*	*1950*
Addison	916	819	816
Bensenville	1,680	1,869	3,737
Bloomingdale	337	305	338
Clarendon Hills	933	1,281	2,421
Downers Grove	8,977	9,526	11,865
Elmhurst	14,055	15,458	21,204
Glen Ellyn	7,680	8,055	9,533
Hinsdale	6,923	7,336	8,664
Itasca	594	787	1,271
Lombard	6,197	7,075	9,799
Naperville	5,118	5,272	7,023
Roselle	807	694	1,025
Villa Park	6,220	7,236	8,807
West Chicago	3,477	3,355	3,968
Westmont	2,733	3,044	3,396
Wheaton	7,258	7,389	11,574
Winfield	445	567	847
Wood Dale	230	738	1,848
COUNTY TOTAL (urban and rural)	91,998	103,480	153,895

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INDEX

(NOTE: While the Hinsdale section of the Guide was revised extensively for this edition to eliminate errors of omission and commission which had come to light since the original printing, it was not feasible to revise the index accordingly. Therefore, the reader may find discrepancies between the page references in the index and the actual pages on which certain subjects appear in the Hinsdale chapter, as well as the elimination from the text of a few indexed subjects and the addition to the text of numerous subjects not indexed. Inasmuch as these discrepancies occur only in connection with a relatively small portion of the book—pages 96-117—it is hoped that they will not cause great inconvenience and that the reader will accept this apology for them.)

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