

NUGGETS of HISTORY

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ECHOES OF THE NATION'S BICENTENNIAL

by Hazel M. Hyde

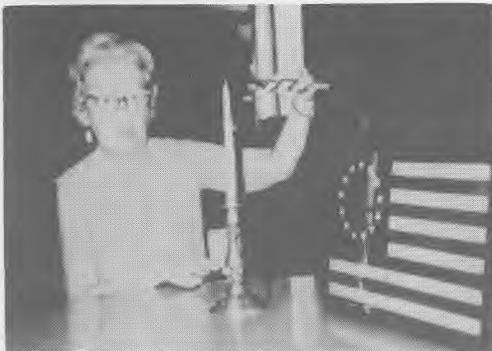
Starting five or more years before the 1976 Bicentennial Year, huge projects were set in motion as a means of celebrating two hundred years as a nation. The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution declared that a heretofore unfurnished floor of the Independence Hall in Philadelphia would be restored to its original appearance. Cooperation through the National Park Service, Department of the Interior and specifically Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was established. Chapters all over the United States were asked to contribute money and artifacts. Rockford Chapter DAR was recognized as contributing the requested one dollar per member within a period of two years. Descriptions of desired period articles filtered down into the localities.

An 18th century candle snuffer that had been reposing in Rockford Chapter DAR's Museum in the Rockford Woman's Club Building was certified, and after considerable correspondence, was presented. A picture of the candle snuffer held over a candle by Mrs. Byron Mabie appeared in the LOVES PARK POST in July of 1974. Mrs. Margaret Mabie was the Bicentennial chairman for the Rockford chapter and coordinated several other activities associated with the Nation's birthday.

The candle snuffer was displayed in a glass case in Loves Park in the North Suburban Library before being sent to Independence Hall. Letters of appreciation came to Rockford from Mrs. Donald Spicer, then President General of NSDAR and from Douglas G. Warnock, Acting Superintendent of the Independence National Historical Park. The snuffer is permanently displayed in the Committee of the Assembly's Chamber.

New members of Rockford Woman's Club, each season, are shown the DAR Museum. The museum is open to viewing whenever it can be staffed for a special occasion. There the twin of the candle snuffer that represents Rockford in Philadelphia may be seen. Originally there was a pair of the fine steel candle snuffers.

Mrs. Byron Mabie with 18th Century Candle Snuffer Given by Rockford Chapter DAR to Independence Hall in Philadelphia



BEAUTY ALONG ROCK RIVER
by Hazel M. Hyde
(A talk given for Garden Department of
Rockford Woman's Club)

Albert Einstein has been quoted as saying, "A thousand times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depends on the labors of other men living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving."

I would add to Mr. Einstein's observation that any beautiful or worthwhile thing we enjoy owes its inception and maintainance to many individuals. Almost any season of the year, either driving along North Second Street or walking along Rock River through the Sinnissippi Sunken Gardens or the Boehland Memorial Area, beauty greets the eye. Many of you know the story better than I, but it seems fitting to retell the story that came from someone's vision and foresight. You can ride a bicycle or jog along the bicycle path in sight of flowers or water. You can stand and quietly look at the lagoon or the rose garden. My purpose is almost in the nature of a prayer of gratitude. Today I want to recall for your appreciation the efforts of thoughtful, caring people who left a heritage of beauty for us to cherish. Some of you will dredge up from your memories the names of those I do not mention. I shall center most of this talk on one of these men--a man whose story I have researched for over a year.

Local history is fascinating because it dishes up so many surprises and forgotten stories and facts. In 1946 the REGISTER-REPUBLIC carried a story relating how Sinnissippi Park escaped becoming a soldiers' and sailors' home. A commission appointed by Governor Oglesby visited Rockford in 1885. They selected the Jacoby property of 75 acres and the Rood tract of 50 acres, now included in the park as the most available site for the home. The legislature voted only \$10,000 to purchase the land and the citizens raised the remainder of the \$25,500 purchase price. The commission, however, took 399 ballots and reached a decision to locate the home in Quincy. All the lovely woods and natural charm were saved for the people of greater Rockford to enjoy.

In 1914 a greenhouse was built. In the next two years, two pergolas were erected in the rosearium and a combination tea house and pergola was built west of the lagoon.

Improvement of the river front, between the old Rockford Interurban and Chicago and Northwestern Railroad tracts was begun in 1922 with the excavation of 10,000 cubic yards of ground. Plans called for a lagoon 60 to 125 feet wide and 500 feet long, with adjacent gardens for roses, peonies, iris, and perennials. A conservatory was planned to be placed near the then existing Skandia Furniture Company building, which has since been demolished.

A large collection of waterfowl was donated to the park board by Will O. Doolittle of Rockford who became

editor of Parks and Recreation Magazine. Some of the geese have been shared with the Children's Farm because they were not compatible with the swan that reigns supreme in the lagoon. Ducks wander from the river to the lagoon at will, sometimes flying but often walking the short distance.

The Rockford Morning Star in March of 1959 gave details of the tearing down of the old greenhouse. Frank S. Pearce Company contracted to make the new greenhouse the same size as the one being replaced at an estimated cost of \$59,000. They used the footage of the old building and planned to complete the job in five weeks. Demolition began late in June after all plants kept in the greenhouse had been placed in the outside beds. In early 1978 two public rest rooms were added to the greenhouse.

A feature of the new greenhouse was a new memorial fountain, viewed in 1960 by over 300 persons during open house. The fountain was the gift of Mrs. Edwin W. Carlson, widow of the late Edwin Carlson, who served on the Rockford Park District Commissioners from 1941 to 1955.

The viewing of the Sinnissippi Park Memorial fountain in November coincided with the annual Mum Show. On that occasion the display included 2,000 pom poms and 1,000 standard varieties of mums. The first chrysanthemum show was held in the greenhouse of the lagoon at Sinnissippi in 1927 and was largely planned by Clarence Pedlow.

In addition Sinnissippi Greenhouse had a Poinsetta Show each Christmas. This event has become a traditional part of many family holiday plans.

Hal and Isadora Nelson gave to the Sinnissippi Greenhouse a Norway pine that was too large for their living room. "Izzy" told me about Mr. Eberhart and his fine contribution.

"Dewitt Eberhart, horticulturist for the Sinnissippi Park greenhouse and sunken gardens from 1961 until his retirement in 1974 at the age of 80 was greatly responsible for the development of the gardens.

He came to the Park Board as a laborer in 1920 and during those years learned much about the growing of flowers, shrubs and trees.

He grew plants for the indoor gardens in the greenhouses for the varied exhibits during the year including a spring show which usually featured cinerarias and azaleas, the fall chrysanthemum show at Thanksgiving, and the Christmas display with the poinsettias--red, pink, and white.

He was a member of the Men's Garden Club of Rockford. He died in January, 1976, and a memorial tree was planted by the club honoring his memory in the Boehland Memorial Garden north of the greenhouse.

He poured over seed catalogues and books searching for new plants to make the greenhouse a mecca for gardeners. Through a guest book he kept track of the visitors from many of the 50 states as well as the Rockford and northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin region."

George Cook, who lived on North Alpine Road in March of 1976, left an orchid collection, developed over 25



Mr. Eberhart and
Isadora Nelson

years, to the Sinnissippi Greenhouse. Mrs. Cook recalled that her husband kept a diary of each plant, some of which he brought home from Hawaii.

Some workers and philanthropists remain anonymous.

Do you remember Editha Dusher? As minimal as were my contacts with her, I recall her as a great lady, interested in birds and growing things. The year was 1945 when she wrote the story of the Rose Garden. Her opening sentence merits a direct quote: "A stretch of smelly swamp between Rock River and North Second Street where bullfrogs croaked and mosquitoes grew fat and avaricious today is a fairyland of roses because of the vision of two men at the helm of the park board two decades ago and the devotion of men who direct its destinies today." She wrote of the work of Earl A. Spring and his crew and the superintendent of the park district at that time, who was Earl F. Elliot.

The Rose Garden or Rosearium was only a dream in 1924 and the park board members who carried the vision into reality were: E. W. Brown, Levin Faust, Fay Lewis, Frank Cleveland, and Frank Horner. The late Clarence Pedlow, landscape artist and engineer for the board in 1924, drew up the plans for the original garden and the layout plans remained the same throughout the period of renovation in 1935, when the late Paul B. Riis was superintendent of the park district.

Discovery that roses cannot endure wet feet made a major problem in establishing the Sinnissippi Park Rose Garden. In 1935 the rose gardens were torn up and excavated three feet deep. Large limestone rocks were placed on the floor of the excavation and these covered with a layer of straw. Finally, this was topped with rich, black dirt suitable for the growing of roses. Two men who worked faithfully were Albert Gesner who remained for seventeen years and Anthony Galvanoni who worked in the gardens for five years. Some of the roses mentioned by Editha Dusher were 1,880 hybrid teas, 1,780 rugosas, 1,140 polyanthas, and 4,070 rambling bank roses. The park board experiments with different varieties. Interested persons may wander through the garden and read

the names on the metal tags.

On Sundays or holidays camera buffs can be seen focusing on close-ups of some rose of uncommon color or finding a spot for an overview of the entire garden. And throughout the year, young persons on the park payroll can be seen cultivating, pruning, clipping dead blossoms, and the general work of maintaining a rose garden that has become famous throughout the area. Isadora Nelson wrote in the Star in 1962 that the rosearium at Sinnissippi is the biggest in Northern Illinois, outside of Chicago, which is open to the public. She stated that the American Rose Society has used the Rockford rose gardens as a testing ground for roses. Roses are tested for two years before being given names. The dream of 1924 is still a reality over a half century later.

Sitting in his home on Joslyn Street, Lee Fetzer, past president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America and also of Rockford Men's Garden Club, chatted on September 12, 1977, about the history of beautification along Rock River.

He said, "The old timers will remember that from the end of the rose garden at the last pergola and on up to the high bridge--the Auburn Street Bridge--was a sumac jungle." It was unsightly and thousands of people pass this every day.

The Rockford Men's Garden Club, initiated in 1941, had become a very active organization. I think we got our charter about 1947. We had the idea of having "a petunia day" to raise some money to do some good in the city of Rockford. We made about twenty-five hundred dollars on our first petunia day. We sold the petunias on the banks of Rock River by the greenhouse in Sinnissippi Park. Between four and five thousand boxes of petunias were sold. And what better project than the clearing out of the terrible jungle of weeds and sumac next to the Sunken Gardens!

So we gave the proceeds of the first petunia day to the Park Board with the provision that they would clear that all out. We had the hope of making an arboretum with many, many different trees that will grow in this area. This could give to Rockford's children a greater appreciation of growing trees and shrubs.

Then we had another petunia day. With that profit we decided to build a rock garden and a pool. We called it the Boehland Memorial in memory of Gus Boehland, who was deceased by that time."

Chiefly I was concerned with the reasons why Rockford Men's Garden Club chose Gus Boehland as the man to honor.

Gus Boehland is locally remembered for his tree gifts. The Rockford Morning Star, March 20, 1938, quotes Mr. Boehland as saying he got his initial idea at a convention he was attending in Chicago. Someone suggested giving away trees on Arbor Day as an advertising stunt. His mind seized upon this as being compatible with his personal interests and philosophy.

Following the inspiration, he ordered 13,300 elm trees in 1941 for distribution to all school children

in Winnebago County. Tickets entitling a child to receive a tree were distributed in the schools and the children came to the E and W Clothing Store to receive the tree. Trees to rural schools were sent by express or delivered personally by Mr. Boehland. He was pleased by reports that the fathers dug the hole and the whole family participated in putting the earth around the roots and planting the tree.

Mrs. June Weikal, visiting her home town from Arizona this June, reported that the bridal wreath shrub and the pine tree she received as a child are still growing in her brother's yard, her old home place. She said they had several spirea bushes but she never forgot which one was her very own, given to her by Gus Boehland. She remembered standing in a long line with her ticket in hand and finally seeing the trees in buckets. She received several tree gifts over the years she was a school girl in Rockford. Ruth Marshall in "Way Back When" of March 27, 1977, notes that the year was 1919 when Spirea van Houtlei was given.

Mrs. Thomas Brown (Pat) recalled the delicious apple pies from an apple tree given by Gus Boehland to her grandmother, Arline Harding, who lived on School.

George F. Brown was the great-grandfather of Martha Castle Hazen (Mrs. Fenton) and his farm was on the west side of the river. The property is presently owned by Millard Castle, Martha's brother. When Martha and Millard received trees, they gave their trees their own names. The Thomas Shimmin family had a cottage next to the Castle property and the two Shimmin girls, Edith and Francis, named the trees given to them. Still standing are Martha Tree, Millard Tree, Edith Tree, and Francis Tree.

Figures sometimes become boring, but imagine the impact on a community of 100,000 shade trees and 41,000 apple trees given in the 10 year period of 1914 to 1923. Mr. Boehland forgot the advertising angle in his great joy of giving trees and seeing the living trees on every hand. Shade trees included American elm, Russian mulberry, red cedar, white pine, and hard maple and were given for six of the ten years.

Another part of the tree project that received Gus Boehland's personal attention was distributing 1,800 trees to Rockford soldiers who returned from World War I. Also one hundred thirty Norway maples with metal plates giving the soldier's name, company, and regiment, were given to families of the soldiers who died in the service.

During World War I he gave vegetable seeds to children for Victory Gardens.

When G. J. Boehland died at age 84 in 1956, the Rockford Morning Star gave considerable space to his biography and a eulogy of his civic contributions. This man, who was a nationally known horticulturalist, was born in Freeport, Illinois, and had lived in Rockford sixty-two years. He married Rosalind Remington, February 6, 1899.

In 1889, Mr. Boehland became the first employee of

the E and W Store in Freeport. On August 28, 1895, he opened the Rockford E and W Store and fifteen years later became sole owner of the Rockford store. At that time he had given away 181,000 trees.

Some of Mr. Boehland's activities included: charter member of Rockford Rotary Club, Board of Directors of Boy's Club, one of the organizers and first members of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, member of Elks Club, served on the planning commission that developed the Roper Plan, was among local men who were instrumental in bringing Camp Grant to Rockford and was a trustee of Rockford College.

Lee Fetzer gave an insight into Gus Boehland's work for the Rockford Men's Garden Club. Gus was one of the charter members. Early in the fall of 1941, according to the "History of Rockford Men's Garden Club" edited by Cecil Waldsmith, a group of men consisting of Dr. Charles Helm, Gottfred Johnson, Lavern Ryder, Edgar Allen, Carl Zanten, Luther Johnson, and Hal Shumway met in the basement of the Montague Branch Library on South Winnebago Street. Elmer Zanten was chosen president and La Vern Ryder was secretary-treasurer. It related that the first meeting had just started when the library closed promptly at 9:00 P.M., so they met out in front under the street lights using the curb as seats.

Mr. Fetzer spoke of Gus Boehland's twenty acres of trees and flowers on South Main Road at the top of Corey's Bluff. His specialties were peonies and irises. He was an expert orchardist.

There was a garden walk while I was teaching in South Rockford and my school principal took charge of a class for me in order that I might visit the Boehland Gardens. It was a privilege extended because of awareness of my love of nature and beauty that I have not forgotten. Mr. Fetzer commented on a variety of plants, Shasta daisies on the grounds which were a personal gift to Mr. Boehland from Luther Burbank.

Lee chuckled as he quoted Gus speaking about cultivating tree peonies from seed. He always used to say, "If you don't have patience, plant potatoes, because tree peonies from seed will take eleven years from seed to bloom, the first little bloom." Mouton tree peonies, may reach a height of about four feet, was his proudest achievement. The dark pink blossoms took honorable mention at a national peony show and were a feature of the 1945 national show in Rockford. The Fetzers have several of Mr. Boehland's peonies and pink lilies of the valley from his garden.

Among people interviewed concerning Gus Boehland was Mr. La Verne Selquist, a long-time employee of E and W Clothing Store. He knew Robert and Robert, Jr., too. He recalled, "I worked under him awhile before he died. Gus Boehland was a gentleman from the word go; fair as the day is long, and honest. He was an excellent business man

and "a real operator" from the standpoint of merchandising."

It was from Vern Selquist that I inquired if the Rockford store was connected with the Freeport E. and W. He explained: The Enenga family of Freeport that owned that E and W were related and he believed the relationship was through Mr. Boehland's wife. He had worked in the Freeport store earlier but he owned and E and W in Rockford.

"Probably the thing you should consider most important about Gus Boehland," according to Vern, "was his love of any living thing. He loved flowers. I've been to his place on South Main. He had garden walks so people could see his beautiful peonies and iris. He was skilled in grafting and he would experiment with flowers. He was a great promoter of good will. But he loved animals, too. He promoted a little zoo in Blackhawk Park for a time." Then he added, "He lived flowers! He would bring peonies in by the armload. And he had canary shows in the E and W. Store. Gus Boehland used to know Buffalo Bill. He was a good fellow. He watched his pennies, but he knew how to conduct his business. He loved farmers and stood around and talked with them. His son Robert was fine, too."

Helen Sarver (Mrs. Will C.) recalled the man in this way, "Gus Boehland was an outgoing, friendly man. He was common in the sense that he knew and spoke to everybody. It didn't matter if you were rich or poor. He remembered you and he spoke to you."

Under the headline "Living Flower Memorial Honors G. J. Boehland", Rockford Morning Star of January 13, 1957 the committee of Rockford Men's Garden Club was named. Lee Fetzer was chairman of the club's memorial committee and other members were: Dr. Howard Maloney, Tauge Lindquist, and Cecil Waldsmith. A. W. Ullrich, club treasurer, was authorized to receive contributions from persons in the community who desired to help finance the project. Roy Gayle was assigned to draw up the ground plan for the memorial garden.

And to return to my conversation with Lee Fetzer, the club desired a fine stone for the garden. Lee said, "We wanted a big builder. When they were building the interchange for the tollway on East State, people had to detour from Belvidere. The detour was from Bell Road and over. One of our members was coming back from Belvidere one afternoon and he saw something that intrigued him. He stopped and parked his car, then went over and looked. Here was this huge boulder. He asked the foreman what they were going to do with it. It seemed probable that they would dig a hole and bury it because it was in the way. So the Men's Garden Club member asked him to leave it there for a little while. Arriving home Louis called Roy Gayle. Arrangements were made then with Howard Linden of Linden Industrial Moving. He took equipment and put the boulder on skids, with which they brought it to the park, leaving it on the skids for easy moving. The boulder was black and white granite, a beautiful thing. Men's Garden Club Emblem was attached and it became the



focal point of the garden.

The next project was to put in the pool, the fountain, and the plantings. At various times it has been lighted at night. It is a gorgeous sight at night.

They often talk about the cherry trees of the Potomac. We want to have crab apple trees beside the Rock River. We've got over a hundred crab apple trees and other blooming shrubs or trees that are taking size so they are beautiful in the spring.

Now we have another living memorial project in conjunction with the Park Board. We are providing trees as memorials to each of our departed members and the Park Board is placing the plaque beside the tree. Last spring we dedicated six such memorial trees."

He spoke about the Johnny Appleseed Award given to Clarence Pedlow for his many contributions to the Sinnissippi Sunken Gardens and Rockford Park System.

Then Lee summed up his appreciation of Gus Boehland, "Gus was a quiet, soft-spoken, really fine fellow and very knowledgeable." So this is the reason this man who loved gardens and growing things was honored in the Boehland Memorial Area.

A 3,000 pound Corten Steel sculpture designed by Rockford's Gene Horvath is near the entry to the Boehland Memorial Area. This structure is entitled "Sinnissippi River Crab" and has a gemmetric resemblance to the angular leg structure of a crab.

Vic Yehling reported in July 1977 that the Bike Trail was almost complete. This favorite spot for my walking treks was several years in the planning and it is shared by bicycle riders, joggers, walking couples, and exercise buffs. It merits exploration from Riverside Boulevard Bridge in Martin Park, if you don't mind a short stretch of paved streets in Loves Park, all the way to North Madison Street behind the YMCA. There are plans afoot to extend the path southward to Harrison Avenue. Bridges have been designed to permit bike underpasses. It is fun

to try out some of the simpler exercises at the exercise stations or watch people with more expertise do the more difficult bits. The lighting is decorative park walk lights.

Do costs interest you? The cost in 1977 was listed as \$150,000 of which \$80,000 came from the Park District, \$50,000 from federal funds administered through the state of Illinois, and \$20,000 in conjunction with Jaycee efforts, according to information given by Bill Graham of the Rockford Park District. Webb's Norman, Park District Director, was quoted as saying, "We think it's one of the nicest things the park district has ever done." I add my personal salute to the project and I've photographed the markers along the trail to verify my interest and joy in the whole undertaking.

At some other time it would be fitting to explore Sinnissippi Park history in greater detail. Today's "Moments of Recall" have been applied primarily to the gardens and paths that front Rock River. So I have not mentioned the 3,511 yard golf course considered to be the longest nine-hole golf course in the United States. Facilities include a baseball diamond, two soft ball diamonds, a football field, two clay and hard surfaced tennis courts, a basketball court, a volley ball court, picnic areas, six horseshoe courts, shelter houses, picnic tables and a beautiful bandshell for summer outdoor concerts. Many church groups, family parties, and industrial plants hold annual outings in Sinnissippi Park. There is an annual Easter Egg Hunt for children sponsored by the Rockford Lions Club. The new Park Office Building is worthy of note and its architecture adds a great deal of dignity to the park even though many regret the tearing down of the old stone shelter building.

Flowers are varied as the seasons change and the year progresses. Early spring arrives with tulips and lilacs. Almost imperceptibly these are replaced by the show-pieces of peonies, yellow roses, and irises in many hues. The wealth of flowering shrubs, such as elderberry, provides secret places for the redwing blackbirds but their noisy defense of territorial claims announces the closeness of nests. Such a profusion of flowering trees assaults the eyes that it is hard to remember the names: horse chestnuts in blossom, flowering crab, and judas tree stand out. Then it's June with roses and then the lilies. Before you've half exhausted your explorations of mid-summer coleus, geraniums, and impatiens, the fall brings huge scarlet coxcombs, spiderflowers and marigolds. Prior to frost there are the goldenrods and white frost flowers along with the berries and fruits on hawthorne and flowering crabs. Even on sunfilled, snowy days there is beauty among the evergreens. Indoors at the greenhouse there are plants as varied as flowering cacti or lemon trees. Rich and varied are the growing, living plants to be seen any day of the year. Not only do I take my out-of-town guests to see the ducks or swans, but my husband and I are regular visitors.

A BRIEF MUNICIPAL HISTORY OF ROCKFORD by W. Ashton Johnson

The county's first board of commissioners, Messrs. Doty, Talcott, and William Dunbar, met at the Daniel Haight home on August 3, 1836, two days following the county's first election. The primary items of business were administering the oath of office to each other, appointment of a clerk and treasurer, and dispatch of returns to the state capital.

Commissioner Dunbar was dispatched to Vandalia with certificates of election, following naming of D. A. Spaulding as clerk and Robert Cross as treasurer. A list of County Commissioners from 1836 until 1849, when the statutes abolished this form of county government in favor of a County Court, follows: Talcott, 1836-41; Doty, 1836-37; William E. Dunbar, 1836-42; Herman B. Potter, 1837-38; Elijah Brown, 1838-40; Erza S. Cable, 1840-46; William Hulin, 1841-44; Spencer Post, 1842-48; Samuel Cunningham, 1844-47; John K. Hulin, 1846-49; Richard J. Hudson, 1847-49; Abraham I. Enoch, 1848-49.

Incorporation of the Town of Rockford occurred April 4, 1839, following a decision of the citizenry to embody East and West Rockford as one municipality. Five trustees, Dr. J. C. Goodhue, Daniel S. Haight, Samuel Little, Ephraim Wyman and Isaiah Lyon, were elected. This board organized according to state law by naming Haight as president; Anson Barnum as clerk; and John C. Kemble, attorney, Isaiah Lyon was the town's first collector and treasurer; Henry Thurston, John Haskell, Nathaniel Wilder and S. D. Preston, district assessors. This form of government was followed until 1852, when Rockford incorporated as a city.

The growth of Rockford between 1850 and 1855 was unusually rapid. In 1847, there were but 1,775 inhabitants. Five years later the census figures disclosed 2,563 residents. In 1855, three years after it became a city, there were 6,620 inhabitants. When the law changed the governing body of a county to the county judge and two associate judges, Selden M. Church became the first judge in 1849. His associate judges were Stephen Mack (1849-50), and David Weld (1849-53). The Board of Supervisors was organized in 1850, thus eliminating the administrative powers of associate judges. They were, however, elected each four years as Justices of the Peace for the entire county.

In 1851 a group of citizens issued a call for a public meeting to decide whether to have an election to change the government to a city plan, rather than continuing with a out-moded village status. As a result of a referendum on January 3, 1852, voters adopted the city form of government and modeled a charter after that under which Springfield was governed. Accordingly, the city was divided into four wards and on April 19th Willard Wheeler was named as first mayor of the City of Rockford. The term of office was one year. Sumner Damon, E. H. Potter, H. N. Spaulding and C. N. Andrews were elected aldermen of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th wards respectively. Appointive offices were named at the

council's second meeting on May 1, 1852. Those appointed were William Lathrop, city attorney; Hiram R. Maynard, treasurer; Duncan Ferguson, assessor; K. H. Milliken, collector; Duncan Ferguson, engineer; and Thatcher Blake and William McKenney, street commissioners.

Pioneer mayors who served between 1852 and 1869 were Wheeler, Hiram Maynard, Ulysses M. Warner, Edward Vaughn, James L. Loop, William Brown, Seely Perry, Charles Williams, Albert Fowler, and Edward Baker. The last two served two terms (two years) each between 1866 and 1869.

In 1857 growth of the southwest section of the city caused a redistricting of the wards and addition of the Fifth ward in South Rockford. During Mayor Baker's second term he authorized the numbering of business firms and residences, which paved the way for Kaufman & Burch to issue a complete directory following their "numbering" contract.

First spirited election occurred in 1869, when A. I. Enoch opposed Seymour G. Bronson, a militant leader of the liquor or "License" party. Enoch was personally a "teetotaler", but outlined his idea of fair play, if elected, by signing a license approved by his council. The campaign brought out the heaviest vote in history and the results gave victory to Bronson. His administration proved so popular with the voters that he was re-elected in 1870, 1871, and 1872. Those who followed Bronson in the city's highest office are cited below.

Gilbert Woodruff (1873 and 1874), Robert H. Tinker (1875); Levi Rhoades (1876); Duncan Ferguson (1877); William Watson (1878); Sylvester B. Wilkins (1879 & 1880); Samuel P. Crawford; elected in 1881 with 14 council members and other city officials under the new General Election law for two-year terms; Alfred Taggart (2 terms as advocate of high license of saloons) in 1883 and 1885; Horace C. Scovill (1887); John H. Sherratt, who made a sweep of all seven wards in the 1889 election, and during whose term the first paving of East and West State and South Main Streets was accomplished; Harry N. Starr, who went into office in 1891 backed by the American Protective Association, and who made the first appointments of women to municipal boards. His appointees were Mrs. Clara G. Sanford and Miss Sarah Anderson, library board; Mrs. D. S. Clark and Mrs. H. W. Taylor, school board.

(To be continued in the next issue)

MABEL GOLDING TO MOVE TO WASHINGTON STATE

Mrs. Mabel Golding, who with her late husband Stuart has been in charge of membership for several years, will soon exchange her address on Washington Street, her home for 40 years, for a new address at Gig Harbor, Washington. She will have 2½ acres "out in the country".

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