

GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

"A Window into the Past"

JAN 2019 1st. QTR.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Roger Heidebrink, Pres.
- Pam Slack, V. Pres.
- Connie Bihlmaier, Sec.
- Anne Anderson, Treas.
- Cordella Aden
- Marcy Aden
- Brent Block
- Lyle Franzen
- Dick Larson
- Donna McConnell
- Dick Schwanz
- Bev Titkemeier
- Chuck Titkemeier

LOCAL BANKS VITAL TO EARLY GROWTH

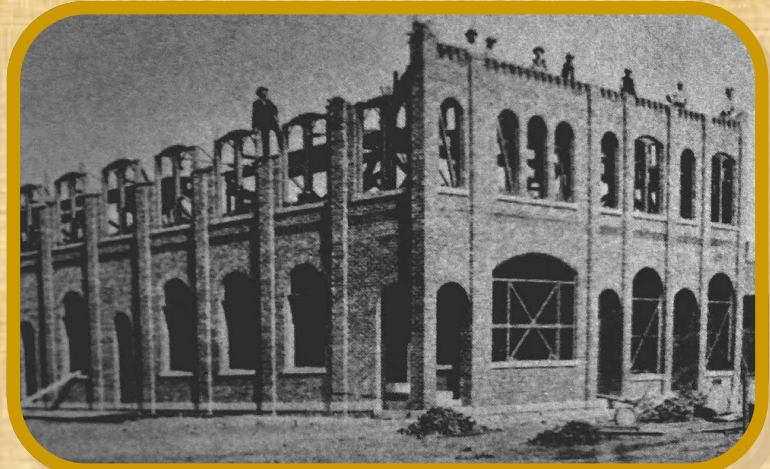
As early as 1885 and later, local banking names included the State Bank, Peoples State Bank, the Bank of Gothenburg, Citizen's National Bank, Gothenburg National Bank and Farmer's & Merchant's State Bank. Eventually the names of Gothenburg State Bank and First State Bank would become the mainstays of our financial institutions.

GOTHENBURG NATIONAL BANK aka GOTHENBURG STATE BANK:

On May 29, 1902, the Gothenburg National Bank was chartered by the U.S. Treasury Department. Shortly after its inception, the bank boasted over \$300,000 in total assets

chartered bank in 1915. Since that time, the bank has been known as the Gothenburg State Bank. In 1917, Harry Williams was elected President of the bank and held that position until his death in 1965.

Robert Williams assumed the leadership of the bank as President and could be found at the bank most every day until his death in 1973. In 1975 Matthew Williams was elect-



ed Chairman and President. For over 100 years, the bank and the Williams family have been continuously involved with the Gothenburg Community. The main building, which still houses the bank today, was built in 1890. The building located north of original structure once housed the mercantile store J.M. McDonald's. This building was purchased to allow the bank to expand, grow and continue to serve the community.

GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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An original officer of the bank, Harry L. Williams was elected as a director of the bank in 1913 and later that year became a vice-president. The bank converted to a State-



Information about the local banks was taken from an article published by the Gothenburg Independent Booster 1911, in the files located at the museum and in the Gothenburg History Book.

EARLY BANKS—CONTINUED.....

We are extremely proud of both our locally owned banks and the parts they play in the history of Gothenburg.

CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK aka FIRST STATE BANK:

Organized in 1906, this bank employed a degree of steady and rapid development and in less than five years it stood as one of the foremost banking houses in this section of the state, both in a standpoint of resources and public prestige.

All the men whose names appeared on the roster of the bank were men widely known for their personal integrity and business stability. Each man had made a success for himself aside from the bank's growth.

The capital stock of the institution was \$25,000 and the surplus and undivided profits \$25,000. The deposits as shown by the last statement were \$211,851.84. The total resources of the bank were in

excess of \$285,000 earning the bank a reputation for good management and progressive ideas. *The above information was reported by the Gothenburg Independent Booster Edition 1911.*

The following information was taken in part from the Gothenburg History Book.



One of the first duties of the board of directors was to assume the assets and liabilities of the **Farmers and Merchants Bank** which had been organized

about a year earlier. In June, 1906 the directors voted to build a two-story building to house the **Citizen's National Bank**. On May 3, 1915 the Citizen's National Bank changed their name to **First State Bank**. As part of their continued growth, in 1934 the assets of the

State Bank of Farnam were moved to Gothenburg and in 1937 the **Farmer's State Bank** of Gothenburg merged with the First State Bank.

In November 1957, the First State Bank purchased the building to the south of their main offices which housed the J.C. Penney Store and started expansion that was completed in 1958. Future remodeling and expansions would include an off-site drive-up banking facility completed in 1978 and several main bank remodels with the latest being completed in 2018.



THE F.A. BRUSH CO. Manufacturer of the BRUSH WASHING MACHINE

The F.A. Brush Company, located in Gothenburg, manufactured one of the first washing machines purported to make things **easier** for the housewife. Directions for using the machine:

- 1st....Heat water to boiling point.
- 2nd...Fill tub with water to dotted water line.
- 3rd....Shave bar soap and swing machine a few times to generate suds.
- 4th...Fill machine with equivalent to eight shirts or four sheets. Do not overload.
- 5th...It is advisable to soap collars and cuffs and oily or exceptionally dirty clothes.
- 6th...Operate from five to six minutes. Wash board not necessary with the

MONITOR WASHING MACHINE.

7th...After washing, drain the water and refill, adding a small quantity of water and operate three or four minutes.

8th...Drain the water and rinse with cold water, operating about one minute.

IMPORTANT—Tub should be swung about 50 revolutions per minute, counting a swing in one direction as a revolution. HESITATE for a second or so at the end of each swing to permit the air compression principal to function. Swing tub as far as dotted lines on drain pan. Do not swing in a quick, jerky movement, but as described above. It is the **easiest way**. Do not swing the machine too fast or too slow, but in time with the motion of

its contents.

Mr. Brush also made brooms, which he sold door to door. Often it was not unusual for him to come home from one of these selling sprees with eggs, milk, etc. Mr. Brush was the grandfather of Jim

Gonzales.

Thank you to Jim's wife, Janice, for providing us this information.



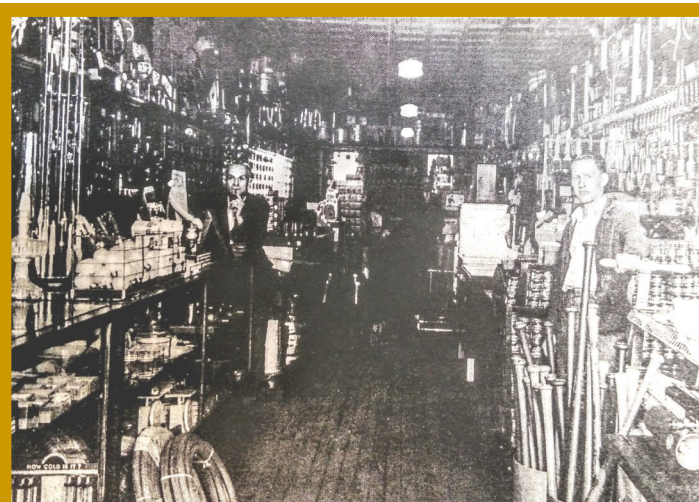
GOTHENBURG HARDWARE COMPANY Est. 1908

One of the largest business establishments in this section of the state, and one which carried a stock of goods unexcelled for quality and completeness, was the Gothenburg Hardware Company. Its inventory included a complete stock of shelf merchandise as well as heavy hardware, including stoves and ranges, graniteware, tinware, silverware, cutlery and all other accessories.

Formed in 1908, it was owned by some of the most widely known and successful business men of the community which included: E.G. West, W.H. Haywood, George McCarthy and Walter Dale. Mr. Dale was the general manager of the business. From the beginning the men decided they would give the trading public a service, a class of goods and a schedule of prices that would stamp the store as modern and progressive.

Cornhusker Hardware was chosen as a name of the company when it was incorporated in 1928. In 1936 Alden Johnson joined the firm and he entered into the management position in 1948. Walter Dale retired from the business in 1952. In 1968 Alden's wife Ada joined him in management after

working in the store part-time since 1957. Their son, Steve, returned to the business in 1975. Alden suffered a fatal



Pictured Walter Dale (left) Alden Johnson (right)

heart attack in 1981 and the responsibility of managing the store fell to Ada and Steve. They continued to carry all the nuts and bolts necessary to fix anything imaginable as well as an inventory of goods that would make the original owners proud. Steve ran the store with the help of his wife Jeanne until 1999. Ada passed away in 2002.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

More Information about the early days of Gothenburg is available in the Gothenburg History Book and in the business files at the Gothenburg Historical Museum.

DOWNTOWN PAVING DISTRICT FORMED—1929

June 26, 1929: An ordinance creating a paving district. With a proposal to pave Lake Avenue from the depot to the Library and one block each way from Lake Avenue on 9th and 10th Streets, has been passed by the City Council.



Picture taken at 10th Street around March 1930 by what is now the Chamber of Commerce Office.

November 6, 1929: Bids are opened on the first City paving project. Six-inch reinforced concrete was the type of paving decided upon and the Yant Construction Co. was the successful bidder at \$1.74 a square yard. The total amount of the bid on the engineer's estimate was \$43,304.51.

STREET NAMES CHANGED—1920

January 14, 1920: Winchell Street was changed to Lake Avenue when the City Council renamed Gothenburg's streets. North and south streets were named Avenues, and east and west streets were called Streets. Streets started with "First Street" seven blocks south of the railroad. Avenues were lettered starting with "A" east from the tailrace.



NEW CO-OP CREAMERY TO OPEN—1928

June 27, 1928: Gothenburg's newest co-operative creamery will commence buying cream and eggs. Equipment is practically all installed, the ice machine now being made ready for operation. Gothenburg - made butter will be on hand at the time of the official opening. **March 27, 1929:** The Gothenburg Co-operative Creamery has passed its first hundred thousand pounds of butter churned. The total number of pounds of butter churned since the opening was 100,672.

2018 MEMBERSHIP & BUILDING FUND REPORT

Thank you to the following who joined or renewed their membership and contributed to the museum building fund.

- Marvin & Jill Franzen***
 - Mark & Cindy Peyton***
 - Robert & Mary Theasmeyer***
 - Gothenburg State Bank***
 - Charlie & Connie Bihlmaier***
 - Gothenburg Feed Products/ Terry & Cathy Healey***
 - Chuck & Bev Titkemeier**
 - Jack & Mary Ostergard**
 - Leonard France**
 - Loren & Mary Koch**
 - Elsie Cyriacks**
 - Marcia Welch*
 - Jan Gill*
 - Mike & Deb Bacon*
 - Stone Hearth Estates*
 - Roy & Lavawn Farnstrom*
 - Gene & Cora Bosch*
 - Ron & Kayleen Ostergard*
 - Dave & Linda Loostrom*
 - Dan Tinlin*
 - Connie Ostergard*
 - Paul Swan*
 - Pam Slack*
 - Henry & Patricia Potter*
 - Milan & Barb Franzen*
 - Dick & Jackie Schwanz*
 - Dick & Connie Larson*
 - Tom & Rhonda Jobman*
 - First State Bank*
 - Jerry & Sherri Peterson*
 - Roger Heidebrink*
 - Carolyn Peterson*
 - Arlan & Tip Ronnekamp*
 - Wendy Bridges Jerkich*
 - Gary & Anne Anderson*
 - Dan & Liz Frerichs*
 - Keith & Marcy Aden*
 - Mark & Patti Aden*
 - Robert Ronnekamp
 - Sus Peden
 - Robin & Lynnette Stevens
 - Monty & Sheri Schriver
 - Mid Nebraska Realty
 - Dawson County Museum
 - Jane Sheets
 - Tim & Cordelia Aden
 - Father Wayne Pavela
 - Eugene & Letty Morse
 - Eddie & Regis Fruit
 - Ralph & Charlene Ogier
 - Romaine & Joan Aden
 - Gene & Velma Schriver
 - Jack Soller
 - The Home Agency
 - Thomas Hodson
- ***Life-Time Member**
- **Building Fund Benefactor**
- *Building Fund Contributor**

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

- Karla Blasé
 - Denise Brittenham
 - Jan Gill
 - Gothenburg State Bank
 - Terry & Cathy Healey
 - Ronald Klein
 - Dick & Connie Larson
 - Donna McConnell
 - Ramona Ollendorf
 - Blaine Peterson
 - Jenny Raymond
 - Tot & Pauline Holmes
 - Keith & Marcy Aden
 - Jack & Mary Ostergard
 - Pam Slack
 - Marcia Welch
 - Dennis & Sue Kirkpatrick
 - Gerald & Janet Kranau
 - Roger & Carol Wahlgren
 - Robert & Mary Theasmeyer
 - **Charlie & Connie Bihlmaier***
 - **Mark & Cindy Peyton***
 - **Marvin & Jill Franzen***
- *New 2018 Lifetime Membership**

MUSEUM RETREAT SCHEDULED



Please RSVP to Roger Heidebrink at 529-2196
or Anne Anderson at 529-0906

All members are invited
and encouraged
to attend the annual
museum retreat.

It is your opportunity to share
your ideas and energy as we head
into another year.

WHEN: Saturday, February 9, 2019

WHERE: Hillcrest Meeting Room

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH AND SNACKS PROVIDED

2019 MEMBERSHIP & BUILDING FUND REPORT

Thank you to the following who
joined or renewed their membership
for 2019 and contributed to the
museum building fund*.

- Mike & Deb Bacon*
- Jack & Faye Kniss*
- Pam Slack*
- Kathy Nichols

Form of Payment

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Check payable to:

Gothenburg Historical Museum

PO Box 204

Gothenburg, NE 69138

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

2019 Membership

Life Time Membership:

- ☐ 10x Building Fund Contributor \$1,000

Building Fund:*

- ☐ Building Fund Benefactor** \$500+
- ☐ Building Fund Contributor* \$100+

*Contribution to the Building Fund includes an annual membership.

Annual Membership:

- ☐ Supporting Membership \$50
- ☐ Contributing or Family Membership \$25
- ☐ Base Membership \$15