

GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

"A Window into the Past"

AUG-2018 - 8rd QTR.

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GOTHENBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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1914 - OVER 7000 ATTEND JULY 4TH EVENT

The general opinion prevails that Saturday, July 4, 1914 was one of the most successful and enjoyable celebrations ever carried out in Gothenburg according to the July 10, 1914 issue of the Gothenburg Times. Crowds of this size were not easily estimated correctly but 7,000 to 8,000 is not out of the way in stating the number of people present. About 500 people came from North Platte and the intermediate points were well represented. Many autos came from Farnam and the delegation from Eustis was strong. Several hundred came from Lexington, Cozad and Overton. Word was that there was nobody left in Cozad except one boy and he had a sore foot.

Clouds veiled the sun most of the day and better weather could not have been asked for. There were no accidents, no disorders and no arrests.

Business houses generally, and many residences, were decorated with flags and bunting and there were a number of attractive and appropriate window displays, probably the most pretentious being that of the men's clothier, Anton J. Novak.

The official program began with a big

parade which started about ten o'clock. The floats, decorated teams, rigs and autos making a fine display as they passed through the streets. The parade disbanded at City Park (now known as *Ehmen Park*) and the mayor introduced the speaker of the day, Senator Kemp of Fullerton, candidate for the Republican nomination for governor, who delivered an able address along patriotic lines. Following the speakers remarks, the next event was the public wedding of Ernest E. Haynes and Ramona A. Brestel.

The bride was becomingly attired in a gown of pale blue crepe de chine with veil. The Lexington band played the wedding march preceding the auto as the wedding party approached. Follow-



ing the ceremony, the wedding party enjoyed dinner at the Houston Hotel. To the long list of wedding presents given by the business men of Gothenburg, Joshua Peckham added \$2.00 with his best wishes. **(Continued on Page 3)**

Information about these businesses and industries was taken from articles published by the Gothenburg Times and available in the files located here at the museum.

INDUSTRY NEWS FROM THE PAST

CIGAR FACTORY IS GOTHENBURG'S INFANT INDUSTRY -Dec. 10, 1909-

We are pleased to note the growth of one of Gothenburg's youngest industries, the J. C. Hartman Cigar Factory. Mr. Hartman started his factory here during the past summer and has enjoyed a steadily increasing business from the beginning.

Five men are now kept busy, the output being about 30,000 cigars per month, and the payroll per month over \$300.

When the Gothenburg Times called one day this week 5,250 cigars were being packed for shipment to Brady and Maxwell. The factory turns out four brands of cigars: "Platte Valley," "King," "Hartman's Single Binder," and "La Columbia."

When you call for these brands you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are boosting a home industry and every good citizen is interested in swelling the payrolls of our home enterprises. The more work we have done and the more goods we buy at home, the more prosperity we will all enjoy.

FOUNDRY BUILDING BURNED IN BIG FIRE

-Apr. 13, 1927-

The Fire Department had one of its largest and hottest fires to deal with when it was called to the property of the City Investment Company of Milwaukee. Just west of the power house, A. A. McKim has the property leased for farming and cattle feeding.

One of the brick barns had caught fire from some unknown cause and by the time water was turned on the building was doomed. Nearly 2,000 feet of house had to be laid from the nearest hydrant.

Much property was consumed by the fire. Bricks from the falling wall fell on one end of a loose plank and was thrown through the air and struck Fireman Louis F. Heuer between the eyes, making a painful wound requiring many stitches to close.

The building was one of the group of large brick structures built in 1892 by eastern parties

for manufacturing purposes. It was owned by the Holton Brass & Copper Co. of Boston. This company planned to ship copper ore from the Anaconda mines in Montana to be worked here. The boom flattened out during the following lean years, the building was abandoned and passed from one party to another until the property was purchased by the Platte Valley Cattle Co., and had since been used as a cattle barn and a storage place.

ICE HARVEST BEGINS -JAN. 8, 1909-



Ice cutting began on Lake Helen with 80 men being employed the first day. The output the first day was 58 cars, which were shipped to the Union Pacific at Kansas City, on an order for 10,000 tons. The ice is 11 inches thick and of a good quality. The men are being paid 20 cents per hour and 20 more men are wanted.

July 4, 1914 Festivities Continued from Page One

After the wedding, the first event in the afternoon was the Firemen's Dry Race with Gothenburg firemen winning by a mere 12.75 seconds. This was followed by the wet race, which was run in the same manner with Gothenburg winning by 25 seconds over the North Platte and Lexington teams.

Next came the Tug of War. The Swedes were represented by Oliver, Erixson, Ernest Johnson, Alex Johnson, Andrew Ostergard and O. F. Sandstrom. The Dutch strong men were August and Charles Kostman, John Cyriacks, E. J. Gardner and Andrew Jobman. The results were in doubt for a long minute or two, but one of the Germans got his thumb in a kink in the rope and could not stand the strain. The prize went to the Swedes.

The Potato Race between the north and south side, six horses on each side, came next and proved an interesting event. The north side speared the most potatoes or

fragments thereof and took the first prize money.

The ball game was the next event on the program and was the only disappointment of the day. North Platte sent down a good team and they played real ball. The score was 9-1 in favor of North Platte.

The firemen's relay race and the water fight were pulled off after supper. Gothenburg won first in the relay and North Platte was called the winner of the water fight.

A band concert was given by the North Platte band followed by a good display of fireworks at the City Park.

Many complimentary remarks were heard as to the provisions made for the entertainment and comfort of the visitors. Eating accommodations were ample and there was plenty to eat up to the last minute. The rest rooms provided for the women and children were especially appreciated and the attendants were kept busy all day. Hundreds



enjoyed the shade and quiet at the city park which was kept free from thieves.

"NUMBER PLEASE.....LET ME CONNECT YOU....."

In 1894, there were three telephones in Gothenburg. Twenty phones were installed one year later. In 1897, the switchboard for the new telephone circuit arrived and boasted thirty wires.

In 1900, farm telephones were installed and Gothenburg had 57 telephones and orders for 20 more. An additional switchboard was ordered adding 240 lines. By 1943 there were about 1000 lines. In 1907 the telephone rates were \$1.00 per month for local and rural subscribers.

The Gothenburg Telephone Company offices were on the second



floor of the Kittredge Building above the Post Office .

Operators started at \$9.00 for a 40 hour week which was considered good wages. They not only connected calls, but also handled collections, cleaned the offices, repaired the worn switchboard cords and took trouble reports.

The rural lines had a number of people on them so they had code ringing and all the subscribers on the line could hear the rings. There were sequences of long and short rings. A good way to hear the latest news was to take the receiver off and listen while people were talking.

Times have certainly changed and most everyone has a cell phone and can be reached anywhere and at any time. The world is at our fingertips.

For more information about the Gothenburg Telephone Company stop by the museum and read the story in the Gothenburg History Book .

—EARLY POSTAL SERVICE—

- Thank you to E. C. Stanley's great-granddaughter Wendy Bridges Jerkich for providing us with this and other information about the White Rabbit Post Office.

More Information about the early postal service is available in the Gothenburg History Book at the Gothenburg Historical Museum.

Outside the White Rabbit Post Office

Myerl, Peg, Ralph, Ella, Java, and Edgar C. Stanley

Edgar C. Stanley was appointed postmaster of the White Rabbit Post Office on April 29, 1886 and served until the office was discontinued on April 6, 1894 with its customers then served by the Gothenburg Post Office. It cost two cents to mail a one-ounce letter and one cent to mail a post card. The White Rabbit Post Office was located south of Willow Island.



Post Office "Kittredge Building"

U.S. Post Office located at 928 Winchell St.

The year was 1910 and the Post Office was moved to 928 Winchell Street (now Lake Avenue) into the Kittredge Building. Today Gothenburg Realty is located here. Rural mail carriers wait to receive their bundles of mail for delivery.

In the 1920's the Post Office was moved to 909 Lake Avenue where Main Street Hair is located today. Another move was made in 1932 to the north side of what is now Eustis Plumbing. It would remain there until in 1963 when \$252,800 was allocated for a new post office building at 1021 Lake Avenue. The 7700 sq. ft. building was designated as a federal building and opened in August 1965. It continues to serve our community today.



2018 MEMBERSHIP & BUILDING FUND REPORT

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

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- Charlie & Connie Bihlmaier***
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***New 2018 Lifetime Membership**

NOVELTIES FOUND AT THE MUSEUM

THE OLD OUTHOUSE



Does this bring back memories or are you asking what is this? Many of us oldsters grew up using one of these and considered it a convenience that served it's purpose. To-day one of these can be found at the museum thanks to the creativity of Roger Heidebrink and Jay Richeson. It is very authentic looking and can be seen in the basement of the museum. Check it out and see that it quite functional, however not as it was in the "olden" days.

Form of Payment

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Check payable to:

Gothenburg Historical Museum

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