

Famous Club of Other Days---With the Passing of a Downtown Building the "Home Circle" Is Recalled.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE "HOME CIRCLE."

BY O. BENT CARR.

WE started out to make the dance parties of the circles as simple and unostentatious as possible, but, like all things in a young and thriving city, we soon grew "well" and ultra-fashionable.

At first the membership was small and the dues \$25 per member. Our wives and daughters were members, of course. With that \$25 per head we defrayed the expenses of five parties in a season, and paid for everything, hall, music, supper, exclusive of wines and carriages. Mahler & Spiering, I remember, furnished the music. Mr. Sylvester Chouteau was the chairman of the first Floor Committee. He was succeeded by Mr. Charles Chambers. Both of these gentlemen are now dead.

The rules of admission to the "Circle" were very rigid. Every applicant had to be vouched for and endorsed by some member of the board, and one black ball was

sufficient to exclude him for all time to come.

Money had nothing to do at that time with the eligibility of a member, but he had to be of good family, excellent standing in the community and good moral character.

To our Board of Directors we always elected men of fine executive ability, many of whom gave excellent service. The late Mr. Charles C. Mauffit was an exceedingly efficient member of the board. So were Messrs. John O'Fallon, Delaney, Allen B. Pendleton, Edward C. Simmons, William H. Thompson, William McCree, Pierre Chouteau, Charles P. Chouteau, whom we had to rest a few weeks ago; Gerard B. Allen, Ed Norris and his brother, James, and many others.

At the time George W. Parker was president; George H. Parker, who was no relation of the former, acted as secretary, and we considered that quite a coincidence in the small society list of the city.

BY MRS. ED NORRIS.

THE pleasantest recollections of my early married life are connected with the "Home Circle." My husband was one of the founders, and I was then a young bride, from Lexington, Ky. We were quite democratic in the beginning. To the first balls at Guenaudon's we went in our street clothes. In fact, it was stipulated in one of the paragraphs of the constitution that simply should prevail, and the ladies carried out their husbands' desires. Several omnibuses, each holding from twenty-five to thirty persons, gathered us all up, and we had great fun both coming and going.

The last party of the season was the masquerade ball. For this the most rigid rules were in force. Every guest had to pass separately into a room where was seated a committee of five or six gentlemen who knew personally every member of the circle. The guest had to remove his or her mask and be personally identified by some member of the examining committee before being allowed to enter the ballroom. If not personally known, no plea on earth could have procured admission to that gathering.

Elaborate masquerading was not in vogue in the early days of the "Home Circle." I remember some seven or eight of us went one year as schoolgirls, in short frocks and pinafores, with golden braids hanging down

our backs and school bags and slates dangled from our sides. We were all dressed alike, differing in nothing, not even the color of our hair. One of us would dance with a gentleman a bit, then another would do a third, and so on, until we got our partners so confused that they didn't know what they were doing.

But the very first season closed the period of street clothes and omnibuses, and some of the most elegant gowns I ever saw were worn after that at the "Home Circle" balls. Some of the noted belles of the city made their debuts at these parties, and once we entertained royalty in the person of the Grand Duke Alexis, who sat on a throne under a canopy of rosebuds while every lady was presented to him. "A la grande cour," in vogue at real Old World courts.

It was at the annual masquerade ball, Sallie Britton was the belle of the evening. She was a beautiful woman, and made quite an impression on his Imperial Highness. As we were introduced to him we lifted our masks, that he might see our faces. I suppose he was struck with Miss Britton's beauty instantly, for he selected her as his partner for the opening dance. Mrs. Julius Walsh, who was Josephine, was another belle with whom the Russian visitor danced several times.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR AT MANILA.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.
Upon Judge William H. Taft, now President of the Philippine Commission, will fall the somewhat uncertain honor of being the first Governor to rule over the entire Philippine Archipelago in the name of the United States.

There have been Governors of the Philippines before, when the Spanish flag waved over Manila, but none of these ever pretended that he ruled the archipelago. It was easier, and much more comfortable, to sit in the residence at Manila and tell what ought to be and might be done, and one could get rich just as quickly.

Judge Taft's task will be a different one. He will be expected to see that the civil laws of the Government are enforced, and in such a way that the people will have no cause for complaint. His accession to power will be an opportunity to prove whether a man educated for the law will make as good a Governor under these circumstances as one whose life has been spent in business pursuits. This question has become a mooted one, and the appointment of Judge Taft, which has already been informally announced, is likely to provoke a storm of discussion.

Judge Taft will by no means be left to depend upon purely moral force. General Charles M. Smith, who has been appointed in command of the military forces, and these will always be at the Governor's service. Judge Taft's appointment is in line with the understanding at the time he accepted a place on the Philippine Commission. To take this he surrendered a high position as one of the Judges of the Sixth Ohio Judicial District.



JUDGE WILLIAM H. TAFT.
Newly Appointed Governor of the Philippine Islands.



MARY BEER, NOW MRS. DALZELL, OF PITTSBURGH, PA., FROM A PHOTOGRAPH MADE IN ROME WHEN PIUS IX WAS STILL POPE.



PRENTICE SMITH and W.B. EDGAR, FORTY YEARS AGO.



WILLIAM B. EDGAR and ASA W. SMITH IN 1866.



MR. and MRS. PRENTICE SMITH, IN THE SIXTIES. MR. SMITH IS NOW CASHIER OF THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA IN SAN FRANCISCO.



LULU FARWELL, IN 1880. MISS FARWELL MARRIED MR. CHARLES SCOTT OF BOSTON.



MR. THAD SMITH, A BEAU OF EARLY ST. LOUIS. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN 1878.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

ONE of the various improvements being made in St. Louis that it may be truly, in looks as in fact, a World's Fair city by 1903, is the erection of a large six-story building at southeast corner of Broadway and Olive streets in place of the historic old Insurance-Exchange building.

The demolition of this old building has wiped out the last vestige, if not the last recollection, of a place where the grandmothers of the smart young set of to-day did their first dancing.

Long before the Insurance Exchange building went up the site was occupied by a two-story restaurant, owned by Eugene Guenaudon, a noted French caterer of that day.

It was in the ballroom of that restaurant that the famous St. Louis "Home Circle," for more than twenty years the leading social club of the city, gave its first dance.

The restaurant had formerly been the home of Mr. Bernard Pratt, one of the wealthiest residents of the growing town. Guenaudon built an addition to it on the south. On the first floor of the addition he conducted a confectionery store and above the store was the ballroom. The supper, always an elegant affair, was served in the store.

PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION OF THE "HOME CIRCLE."

The "Home Circle" was founded in the office of Norris, Taylor & Co. in December, 1864, by Messrs. C. Bent Carr, George W. Parker, Ed Norris and Charles Russell, and the records tell us that its object was to give amusement to the young married women of St. Louis's polite society, who, in those days of rigid conventionalism, had no place to go to dance and be merry.

These same young married women are today the grandmothers of the matrons and mademoiselles whose doings are chronicled in the society columns.

The first president of the Home Circle was Mr. George W. Parker, who later became Governor of Montana.

His successor was Mr. C. Bent Carr, who presided longer over the destinies of the "Circle" than any other. During part of the life of the "Circle" Mr. John M. Harney was its president.

Mr. Carr was devoted to its interests and speaks thus lovingly of the delightful seasons of mirth he helped to provide for the members of the association:

BELLES OF THE BALLS OF THE EARLY DAYS.

One of the distinguished belles of early Home Circle days was Lizzie Giles. She had that peculiar mark of great beauty, blond hair and black eyes. Miss Giles married Mr. Shannon of Richmond, Va., and after several years of widowhood was again married to a Mr. Gwynn of Washington, D. C.

Julia Rudolph, another belle, became Mrs.

Belcher of Memphis. Her son, Rudolph Belcher, is a resident of St. Louis.

Mrs. Ed Norris, a typical Southern brunette beauty, was Miss Martin of Lexington, Ky.

Mrs. C. Bent Carr, stately to-day in her white-haired elegance, was Miss Atcheson, and her daughter, Dorcas Carr, now Mrs. Ernest Bell, took her mother's place in the Younger generation.

Miss Jane Wiggins, a daughter of one of the oldest St. Louis families, is now Mrs. Franklin Ripley. She was one of the most graceful social leaders of that time.

Noted for unusual personal attractiveness was Lulu Farwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Laville of the Southern Hotel. She married Mr. Charles Scott of Boston.

Miss Adele Powell, daughter of Mr. Willis Powell, became the wife of Joseph Chambers of Florissant.

Miss Mary Beer, another of the famous young society belles of that day, married Mr. Dalzell and lives now in Pittsburg, Pa.

Miss Theodosia Hunt was of old Virginia lineage and married Colonel Strother of Kentucky. Her daughter, Miss Fannie Strother, was the belle of her circle. After the Colonel's death the Strothers went to Paris to live, where Miss Sallie married Baron von Fabnenburgh.

The Pratt girls, Julia and Lena, were dashing beauties. Miss Julia married first Captain Dickerson, U. S. A., and afterwards Governor Gilpin of Colorado. Her sister, Lena, married Doctor P. G. Robinson. Their daughters were famed for personal charms.

The chums of the Pratt girls were the Bertholds--Mimi, who married first Captain Kennedy and afterwards Major Wagaman, and her sister, whom the present generation knew as Mrs. Auguste B. Ewing.

Sallie, Fannie and Lizzie Britton were a trio of beauties, all of whom married men out of the city.

A second generation of belles of Home Circle days included Cora Baker, now Mrs. Ashy Chouteau; Nellie Hazeltine, Fannia Hayward, Lina Garrison, Lily Morrison, Dixie Thaw, the Misses Gregory and the daughters of James B. Eads, all of them married, and some gone hence in the freshness of youth.

BELLS AND BACHELORS STILL WELL KNOWN.

The beaux of those days were almost as famed for personal prettitude as the belles. There was Doctor H. J. McKellops, Paul Beckwith, Ed Washington, who was looked upon as a dandy par excellence; Ed Norris, the fastidious, and his brother Jim; George B. Kerr, R. B. Whittemore, Thad Prentice and Asa W. Smith, W. B. Edgar, Allan B. Pendleton, John Delaney, William H. Thomson, Bryan Clemens, Green Larimore, Edwin Harrison, Colonel J. L. D. Morrison, General D. M. Frost, Julius B. Walsh, Ben W. Lewis, Edward C. Simmons, E. A. Hitchcock, Henry L. Dausman and

men of that class, were both the Chesterfields and Beau Brummels of Home Circle days.

The Southern Hotel, and during a short interim the Lindell, were scenes of the most exclusive of these entertainments until the extinction of the Circle, March 22, 1888.

WHERE THE "FASHIONABLES" LIVED IN "HOME CIRCLE" DAYS.

When the Home Circle was inaugurated it was easy to ride in an omnibus to Guenaudon's restaurant and not catch cold, even in the severest weather. For in those days the fashionables lived within a stone's throw of the restaurant and the Southern Hotel.

The Filleys lived on Sixth street at the

time the late Oliver D. Filley was Mayor of the city. The Carr mansion was on Olive street between Eighth and Ninth streets. Hickory street between Ninth and Tenth was a suburb and the DeLoe's residence considered far removed from civilization.

The hospitable Hargadine mansion was on Locust street between Sixth and Seventh streets.

The Wadswells resided in a splendid home on Walnut street between Sixth and Seventh streets.

John O'Fallon Pope occupied an historic mansion on Chouteau avenue.

The Abades resided at No. 639 Morgan street, and the Major H. S. Turners lived at Eighth and Olive streets, where a building is now being torn down.

The McCreerys, the McKellopses, the Chouteaus, the Blocks, the Hayburns, the Ewings, the Lafins, were close neighbors on Olive street below Twelfth, and Chestnut street was beginning then to come in for a share of fashionable patronage as a residence quarter.

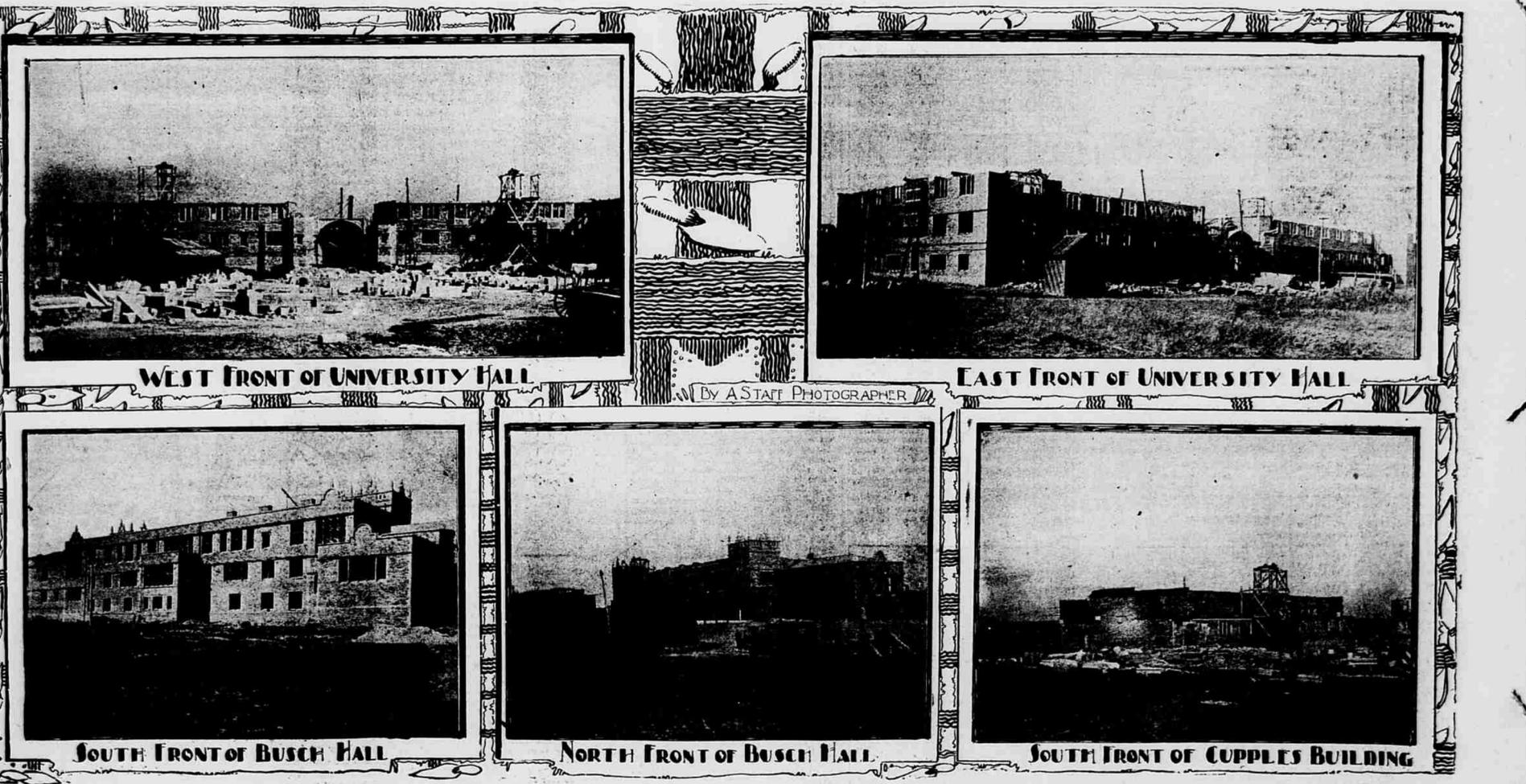
Locust street below Twelfth was a regular church thoroughfare. There was only one business house there then. That was the dry goods establishment of Henry Bell & Sons on the southeast corner of Broadway and Locust. On the northeast corner was the United Presbyterian Church.

The Second Baptist Church was on the corner of Sixth and Olive streets, Barr's of to-day.

Several houses on the corner of Sixth and Locust streets belonged at that time to Charles H. Peck, president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Mayor John F. Darby's house was opposite Guenaudon's place. The Mauffits, up to the time of the erection of the Julia building, now Barr's, lived near the corner of Sixth and Olive streets.

The complexion of the city has changed mightily since then, but the richest memories of early days in St. Louis cluster around the corner of Broadway and Olive, where the new Bank of Commerce will have its palatial home.



HOW THE NEW WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS ARE GROWING.
—From Photographs Taken for The Sunday Republic Last Week.