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WORTHINGTON

AND

NOBLES COUNTY

Worthington Has

- Two Railroads
- Well Conducted Stores and Business Houses in Every Line of Trade
- Creamery, Flour Mill
- Ten Churches, Good Schools, Library, Hospital, Annual Chautauqua
- Tile Factory
- Ideal Pleasure Resorts

An attractive City of Prosperous Enterprises, Beautiful Homes, Schools, and Churches Located in a County of Unsurpassed Agricultural Resources. A Review of the Business Men Who Are Working for the City's Advancement and Are Making the Town a Desirable Place of Residence as Well as a Successful Business Location.

Worthington Wants

- Canning Factory
- Boat and Launch Works
- More Farmers in the Fertile County Surrounding the City
- Opera House
- Starch Factory
- Green House
- Brick Works
- Packing House
- Wholesale Grocery

Thirty-seven years ago a colony of Ohio people founded the village of Worthington, and a year later when the railroad up the Minnesota valley was projected out across the rolling prairies of southwestern Minnesota, there was already a prosperous little settlement here. Dr. Geo. O. Moore was practicing medicine, Daniel Shell was engaged in the livery business and Henry Davis was conducting the town's first grocery store, while Edward Humiston was working as a carpenter and builder. Dr. Moore, Mr. Shell and Mr. Humiston are still actively engaged in the town's affairs. Mr. Davis died several years ago, but Mrs. Davis still resides here. Dr. Barber was also among the first settlers, but he has since removed to California.

To one who is not familiar with the rapid development of this western country, the transformation of a little prairie settlement into a city of wealth and culture with nearly 3,000 people, all in less than a half century, is little short of marvelous.

Worthington's advancement, however, is perfectly natural, resulting from the combination of several favorable circumstances and conditions, among which may be mentioned its excellent location, the enterprise and public spirit of its citizens, and the richness of the surrounding territory.

To begin with, it would have been difficult to have found a more attractive site for a town. It is situated on the east shore of Lake Okabena, one of the prettiest sheets of water set in the emerald prairies of southern Minnesota. The shores are high and dry, without the marshes and low lands that mar the attractiveness of many of the lakes of this region. The beauty of the place has been further enhanced by the planting of trees on all streets, which was encouraged from the earliest days of the town, until today every street and avenue is bordered by trees of splendid growth. The location is at an elevation that insures ample drainage, and from every point of view it would be difficult to find a more desirable location for a city.

The advancement of Worthington's commercial interests has been of the steady character that gives the town an enviable reputation among business men throughout this territory. The town experienced something of a boom at the outset, which, as is the invariable rule, was followed by a short period of depression, due to general financial troubles along with light crops in this section. The recovery from this depression, however, was more rapid here than in many other places, and since that time, Worthington's advancement has been steady and uninterrupted.

The post office receipts for this year show a remarkable increase, and may be taken as a safe gauge of the general increase in business that the city is enjoying. Postmaster Frank R. Cough-

ran states that the receipts of the office have increased by nearly \$120 per month, and the total business for the year ending March 31, was about \$8,800.00 against \$7,400.00 for the preceding year. The money order department also shows a corresponding increase for the past year.

Postmaster Coughran's force at present consists of an assistant and one clerk. Five rural carriers are delivering mail from the local office.

Owing to the increase in business re-

tels, four restaurants, two laundries, two barber shops, one gunsmith, three liverys, two dray lines, one feed barn, two undertaking establishments, two plumbers, three shoemakers, three photographers, two pool halls, five wood and coal yards, three newspaper and printing plants.

City and County Buildings.

The city administration building is a two story brick building on Fourth avenue, accommodating the various city offices and the fire department. The village government is at present in the hands of Wm. E. Madison,

this region was established. The first religious services after the settlement of the town, were held by a union organization comprising the various denominations represented, and known as the "Colony Christian Union." After about one year, the union was dissolved, and the Congregationalists, Methodists and Presbyterians organized separate societies. The first church edifice was erected by the Congregational church in the fall of 1873. The first regular pastor of the church was Rev. C. C. Foote. The present pastor is Rev. Wm. Fletcher. The pastors of the various other churches of the city are as follows: Methodist Episcopal, Rev. G. A. Cahoon; Presbyterian, Rev. Grant B. Wilder; Swedish Lutheran, Rev. C. O. Swan; Episcopal, Rev. R. C. Ten Broeck; Catholic, Rev. John Sherman; Evangelical, C. G. Schmidt; Baptist, Rev. I. H. Darnell; Swedish Mission, Rev. C. M. Johnson; Christian, Rev. G. M. Walker.

Lodges and Fraternal Organizations.

The lodges and fraternal organizations of the city include a large Masonic blue lodge, a chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a chapter of the Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, Workmen, Maccabees, Degree of Honor, and Yoemen. The veterans of the Civil war form a large post of the Grand Army of the Republic, with an auxiliary order of the Woman's Relief Corps.

The ladies of Worthington can be credited with maintaining two of the best literary clubs in the state in points of scholarship and the character of the work done. The Twentieth Century club, with a limited membership of twenty, is studying the drama. Mrs. A. Clark is president of this club, Mrs. Wm. Chaney, vice president, Mrs. Sibley, secretary-treasurer. The Tourist club, with a membership of fifteen, is affiliated with the state federation. The subjects of their studies are Greek history, Greek literature and Greek art. The officers of this club are Mrs. J. M. Messer, president, Mrs. Wm. Chaney, vice president, Mrs. E. K. Smith, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Geo. A. Lincoln, critic.

The ladies of the several churches also have the usual organizations that are contributing much to the success of the church societies.

The Ladies' Cemetery Aid association is an organization that has done excellent work in improving and caring for the city cemetery.

The Ladies' Improvement league has done much for civic improvement, and has contributed many books to the library, as has the Tourist club, also. In addition to these there are numerous social clubs, among which may be mentioned the Whist club, the Ladies' Euchre club, the Fancywork club and the Birthday club.

Libraries.

Worthington's Carnegie library was opened three years ago. The building, which is of stone in attractive architectural style, is located at the corner of Fourth avenue and Twelfth street. It has about 2,000 volumes and is in charge of Mrs. E. L. McIntosh.

Pleasure Resorts.

Few cities in this section of the state are situated in more attractive surroundings or with better opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation and amusement for their inhabitants. Worthington owns a beautiful little park on the north shore of Lake Okabena, where outdoor gatherings of all kinds may be held amid the most delightful surroundings.

The clear waters of the lake and its firm gravel beaches are most inviting to those who find pleasure in aquatic sports, and boating and bathing are enjoyed here during the summer season by many of the people of the city and thousands of others from outside.

The Worthington Bath House association, organized four years ago, maintains a large bath house, with chutes, floats, swings and other appurtenances of a modern bathing resort, with a large number of boats for pleasure seekers. The popularity of this resort has increased so rapidly that the association has been compelled to enlarge its facilities several times, and a number of improvements are planned for the coming season in order to keep up with the demands of its patrons. The Worthington Gun club is an organization of sportsmen well known in this part of the state, and has a large membership.

The Chautauqua.

The intellectual attainments of the people of Worthington and their tendencies toward improvement along this line are plainly demonstrated by the organization and maintenance of a successful Chautauqua association, which holds a ten days' meeting with a meritorious program of educational and amusement features every summer. This year's gathering from July 4 to 12, will be the third in the history of the organization, and promises to eclipse all previous meetings in points of attendance and interest.

The officers of the Chautauqua association are Ned Jones, president; C. J. Smallwood, secretary; S. M. Stewart, treasurer.

The Worthington Lyceum association, organized two years ago, has also done most commendable work in providing high class entertainment for the people of the city during the winter season. The past season was a great success in every way, and Secretary Clinton L. Mann is enthusiastic over



Scenes About Worthington

ported for the past year, the office will on July 1 be advanced from the third to the second class.

Banking Institutions.

Worthington's three banking institutions are counted among the best conducted and most enterprising institutions in this section of the state. The State Bank of Worthington, the Worthington National bank and the Citizens' National banks have a combined capital and surplus of nearly \$125,000.00 and their deposits aggregate about half a million dollars.

Business Establishments.

Worthington's mercantile houses and various business enterprises number close to one hundred, among them being six general stores, three groceries, two clothing stores, two tailors, two hardware stores, two drug stores, one music store, one confectionery store, two meat markets, two harness shops, two shoe stores, two jewelry stores, two furniture stores, three millinery stores, one feed store, five elevators, two hay dealers, one wool dealer, three lumber yards, one creamery, one flour mill, two repair shops, two cigar factory, two implement dealers, three ho-

Transportation Facilities.

Worthington is located on the main line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad of the Northwestern system, from Minneapolis to Omaha, and on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific from Chicago via Estherville and Cedar Rapids to North and South Dakota points. A branch of the Omaha from here connects Sioux Falls with the main line. The passenger and freight service in all directions are in every way adequate to the needs of the city.

Public Utilities.

The city owns its electric light plant and water works. In 1891 a bond issue of \$1,500 was voted for the construction of a light and water system and the plant on Eighth street and Third avenue was built. The equipment consists of two engines, with two dynamos, which furnish the current for the street and commercial lighting circuits, with pumps and other accessories for the waterworks.

The telephone system is owned and controlled by local capital. The company was organized eight years ago and started with fifty subscribers. Today the company has a list of over five hundred telephones and operates over one hundred and fifty miles of rural lines, reaching in every direction over the country tributary to Worthington. The town also has adequate long distance connections.

Worthington's fire department is one of the best drilled and best equipped organizations to be found in a town of this class. It is a volunteer organization, with thirty-eight members.

Professional Men.

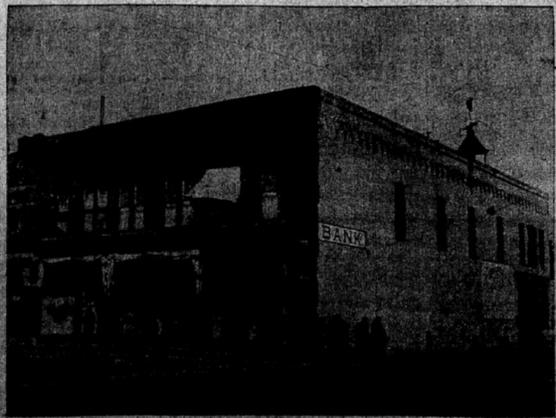
The legal profession is represented by Geo. W. Wilson, J. A. Town, Stelle Smith, C. M. Crandall, Flynn & Cashel, Ed. Jones, C. M. Cory.

The physicians of the city are Drs. F. M. Mason, C. P. Dolan, P. T. Geyerman, Henry Wiedow, Ray Humiston, and Drs. L. R. Gholz, E. W. Dieckhoff and W. J. Dodge are successful dental practitioners.

A. Sullwold, chiropractic, is also located here.

Two veterinarians, J. L. Gould and O. C. Selby, have successful practices.

F. A. Torrance & Son's Store



Boating on Lake Okabena

