

**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: *4d

Title:	Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to approve Historic Landmark Designation for 7 S. 2 nd Ave., “Idle Hour Theatre”
Presenter:	Rachel Hitzemann

Meeting: Planning & Development Committee

Date: November 14, 2022

Proposed Cost: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Not Budgeted: **Executive Summary** *(if not budgeted please explain):*

Curtis Hurst has nominated his property at 7 S 2nd Ave. for Landmark status.

In accordance with the Zoning Ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the landmark nomination on 9/7/2022. The Commission recommended approval of the nomination by a vote of 5-0, based on the criteria listed in the attached resolution.

The structure was built in the commercial vernacular style between 1904 and 1908. In 1914, Idle Hour Theatre moved in and occupied the space until 1926. The Theater was a venue for many well-known vaudeville acts, first run silent movie shows and other popular events.

If the Landmark designation is approved by City Council, a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission will be required prior to issuance of a permit for construction, alteration, repair, demolition, relocation, or other material change that affects the exterior architectural appearance of the structure.

Attachments *(please list):*

Historic Commission Resolution, Landmark Nomination

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to approve a Historic Landmark Designation for 7 S 2nd Ave., “Idle Hour Theatre”.

City of St. Charles, Illinois

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 4-2022

A Resolution Recommending Approval for Landmark Designation (7 S. 2nd Ave. – Idle Hour Theatre)

WHEREAS, per Section 17.32.060 of the St. Charles Zoning Ordinance, it is the responsibility of the St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission to evaluate applications for Landmark Designation and to make recommendations to the City Council regarding them; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed the application for designation of 7 S. 2nd Ave. and hereby finds that the Landmark nomination meets one or more of the criteria for Landmark Designation listed in Section 17.32.060.C of the St. Charles Zoning Ordinance based on the historical and architectural significance as described in the following findings:

1. The property has character, interest or value which is part of the development, heritage or cultural character of the community.

Became home to Idle Hour Theatre after Minard Hall, located across the street, was destroyed by fire. The theatre was a noted venue for known actors, vaudeville acts and premier movies.

2. The property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community.

Dr. Charles Potter (eventually the first head of medical staff of the future Delnor Hospital) took over the property in 1912. He retained ownership until 1924 when he sold the Theatre to Lester J. Norris. Mr. Norris closed the Theatre in 1926 to eliminate competition to the Arcada.

3. The property is suitable for preservation or restoration.

The front exterior was redesigned in 1968. That elevation has been preserved and is visible today. The current owner has secured a new theatre for the space and intends to maintain the architecture of the building.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission to recommend to the City Council that the property known as 7 S. 2nd Ave. as legally described in Exhibit “A”, be designated as a Landmark, and that it be referred to as the

“Idle Hour Theatre”, with a construction date of circa 1906.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Malay, Kramer, Pretz, Kessler, Smunt

Nays: None

Absent: Rice, Dickerson

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

PASSED, this 7th day of September, 2022.

Chairman

Exhibit "A"
Legal Description

THE SOUTHERLY 37.5 FEET OF LOT 1; THE SOUTHERLY 37.5 FEET OF THE EASTERLY 25 FEET OF LOT 2; THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET OF THE EASTERLY 25 FEET OF LOT 7; AND THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET OF LOT 8, IN BLOCK 2 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF ST. CHARLES, ON THE EAST SIDE OF FOX RIVER, IN THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES, KANE COUNTY ILLINOIS

PIN #09-27-389-007

CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TWO EAST MAIN STREET
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174-1984



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING DIVISION

PHONE: (630) 377-4443 FAX: (630) 377-4062

HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

Instructions:

To nominate a property for Historic Landmark Designation, complete this application and submit all required documentation to the Planning Division. Based on a review of the application by City staff and the Historic Preservation Commission, additional detailed information to support this application may be required.

The information you provide must be complete and accurate. If you have a question please call the Planning Division and we will be happy to assist you.

Received Date
RECEIVED
AUG 26 2022
City of St. Charles
Community Development

1. Property Information:	Parcel Number(s): <p align="center">09-27-389-007</p>	
	Property Name (Historic or common name of the property): <p align="center">IDLE HOUR THEATRE</p>	
	Property Site Address <p align="center">7. SOUTH SECOND AVENUE</p>	
2. Record Owner:	Name <p align="center">STC IDLEHOUR LLC</p>	Phone
	Address <p align="center">1 E. MAIN STREET ST. CHARLES, IL 60174</p>	Email
3. Applicant (if different from record owner):	Name <p align="center">CURTIS HURST</p>	Phone <p align="center">630-330-7215</p>
	Address	Email <p align="center">CURT@FREEDOMDEVELOPMENTGROUP.COM</p>

4. Legal Description of Property: The legal description should be obtained from the deed, mortgage, title insurance, or other recorded document (attach sheets if necessary).

SEE ATTACHED

I. Classification of Property (Check all that apply):

a) Ownership:

- private
 public-local
 public-state

b) Category:

- building
 district
 site

c) Integrity:

- original site
 moved: date _____
 unaltered

d) Function or Use:

Historic/Current

- / agriculture
 / commercial
 / educational
 / government
 / entertainment

Historic/Current

- / industrial
 / military
 / museum
 / private residence
 / park

Historic/Current

- / religious
 / scientific
 / transportation
 / other(specify

e) Architecture: (Based on "A Field Guide to American Houses")

National Folk Style
circa 1850-1930

Romantic Styles: circa 1820-1880

Greek Revival
Gothic Revival
Italianate
Exotic Revival

Victorian Styles: circa 1860-1910

Second Empire
Stick
Queen Anne
Shingle
Richardsonian Romanesque
Folk Victorian

Eclectic Styles: 1880-1940

Colonial Revival
Neoclassical, Classical Revival
Tudor Revival
Chateausque
Beaux Arts
French Eclectic
Italian Renaissance
Mission
Spanish Revival
Monterey
Pueblo Revival

Modern Styles: circa 1900- present

Prairie
Craftsman
Modernistic
Minimal Traditional
Ranch
Split-Level
International
Contemporary
Shed
Other 20th Century Modern
21st Century Modern

^{STRUCTURES}
Styled Houses since 1935:

Mansard
Styled Ranch
Millenium Mansion
New Traditional
American Vernacular

COMMERCIAL

Other Architecture:

A Building
DONE OUTSIDE ANY
ACADEMIC TRADITION.

The building has American Vernacular but the arch typifies Romanesque, the horizontal band of second floor windows typifies Prairie and the multi light windows are influenced by Arts and Crafts movement.

II. Building Materials:

Please mark the appropriate boxes listing the materials that exist on the building. Possible options are provided below.

Inventory of Original Architectural Elements

Item:	Original (yes only)	Material	Location if Required
Chimney	DOES NOT EXIST		
Door(s)	ADDED LATE 1960'S	WOOD	EAST ELEVATION
Exterior Walls	ADDED LATE 1960'S	BRICK / LIMESTONE / CEMENT	EAST & SOUTH ELEVATIONS
Foundation	UNKNOWN	CEMENT	SOUTH ELEVATION
Roof	UNKNOWN	VARIOUS	
Trim	ADDED LATE 1960'S	LIMESTONE + WOOD	SOUTH + EAST ELEVATION
Window (s)	ADDED LATE 1960'S	WOOD	EAST & SOUTH ELEVATION

Materials List

Adobe	Aluminum	Asbestos	Asphalt	Brick	Bronze
Canvas	Cast Iron	Ceramic	Clapboard	Cloth	Concrete
Concrete Board	Copper	Dryvit	EIFS	Engineered	Fiberglass
Glass	Granite	Iron	Lead	Limestone	Log
Marble	Metal	Nickel	Plastic	Plywood	Rubber
Sandstone	Shake	Shingle	Slate	Steel	Stone
Stucco	Synthetics	Terra Cotta	Tin	Vinyl	Weatherboard
Wood	Other:				

III. Significance of Property:

Please indicate source of documentation, if available.

- a) Original Owner: ALEX T. ROCHE
- b) Architect/ Builder: UNKNOWN
- c) Significant Person(s): DR. CHARLES A. POTTER (EDGE HOOK THEATRE) + LESTER J. NORRIS
- d) Significant Dates (i.e., construction dates): BUILT BETWEEN 1904-1908;
EAST ELEVATION RENOVATION 1968

e) Criteria for Designation:

Please indicate which of the following criteria apply to the property and attach supporting documentation for each criteria. (check all that apply)

1. Property has character, interest, or value which is part of the development, heritage, or cultural character of the community, county, or nation.
Notes: BECAME HOME TO EDGE HOOK THEATRE AFTER MINARD HALL LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET DESTROYED BY FIRE. Noted venue for known actors, vaudeville acts, and premier movies.
2. Property is the site of a significant local, county, state, or national event.
Notes:
3. Property is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation.
Notes: LESTER J. NORRIS
DR. C. A. POTTER - FIRST MEDICAL PRESIDENT DEWITT HOSPITAL
4. Structure embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
Notes:
5. Property is identified with the work of a master builder, designer, architect, or landscape architect whose work has influenced the development of the area, the county, the state, or the nation.
Notes:

6. ___ Structure embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that are of architectural significance.
Notes:
7. ___ Structure embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
Notes:
8. ___ Property has a unique location or physical characteristics that make it a familiar visual feature.
Notes:
9. ___ Structure is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of historical or architectural significance.
Notes:
10. Property is suitable for preservation or restoration.
Notes:
11. ___ Property is included on the ___ Illinois and/or ___ National Register of Historic Places.
Notes:
12. ___ Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to prehistory, history, or other areas of archaeological significance.
Notes:

IV. Attachments

1. Descriptive Statement: Attach a narrative statement describing the property and its historical architectural significance as indicated in Sections I, II, and III above. Describe structural changes, additions, and decorative modifications or material changes and dates of such work if known. State the reasons it should be designated as a Historic property. *SEE ATTACHED*.
2. Plat of Survey: Attach a plat of survey showing the boundaries and location of the property. This may be obtained from the County Recorder (630-232-5935) at the Government Center. You may also have one from your house closing. *SEE LEGAL DESCRIPTION*
3. Photographs: Attach photographs showing the important structures or features of the property and a photograph as viewed from the public way. Black and white or color prints. A minimum of one photograph of the structure as viewed from the public way is required.

SEE ATTACHED

4.) *CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF HISTORICAL OWNERS. SEE ATTACH*

I (we) certify that this application and the documents submitted with it are true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief.



Curtis Hurst

06/17/2021

Record Owner

Date

Applicant or Authorized Agent

Date



ST. CHARLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY
ST. CHARLES CENTRAL DISTRICT
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

DIXON ASSOCIATES / ARCHITECTS

ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY

	1	2	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Minor Alteration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Major Alteration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Additions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sensitive to original	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insensitive to original	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1: first floor; 2: upper floors; 3: roof/cornice

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Significant**
 Contributing
 Non-Contributing

BUILDING CONDITION

- Excellent: Well-maintained**
 Good: Minor maintenance needed
 Fair: Major repairs needed
 Poor: Deteriorated

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Style: Commercial Vernacular

Date of Construction: 1910-1930

Source: A Field Guide to American Architecture

Features:

Former Idle Hour Theater building. Two story brick with large curved top entry and band of windows at second floor.



Address:

7 South 2nd Avenue

Representation in Existing Surveys:

- Federal**
 State
 County
 Local

Block No. 47

Building No. 2

SURVEY DATE:

MAY 1994

ROLL NO. 6

NEGATIVE NO. 7

Description – 7 South Second Avenue

Built between 1904-08 this current commercial vernacular architectural design (a building done outside any academic tradition) housed the Idle Hour Theatre which located there in 1914 remaining there until 1926. The great fire of Minard Hall which was located across the street forced that theatre to find both a new location and name. The building was built by then owner Alex Roche who eventually lost control and title in 1912 to the Stewart State Bank. Dr. Charles Potter (eventually the first head of medical staff of the future Delnor Hospital) took control from Stewart State Bank until 1924 when Lester J. Norris purchased this property with his closing of the theatre in 1926. That was the time Mr. Norris and the Arcada Theatre began operation thus eliminating any competition. The Idle Hour Theatre was a venue for many well-known vaudeville acts, first run silent movie shows, and other popular events.

The current entrance on the east elevation was the rear exit door until 1968 when the architectural firm Selleg, Stevens, Peterson, and Flock took ownership and renovated the use of the building. During the time of use by the Idle Hour Theatre the entrance was located through a hallway that currently houses the Berry Barbershop. Today we view the 1968 redesign of the east elevation which has been preserved.

The Idle Hour Theatre housed 325 patrons and the current building owner has secured another theatre company to begin operation. The exterior is original to the 1968 renovation.



PREPARED BY AND
RECORDING REQUESTED BY
Inland Bank and Trust
2805 Butterfield Rd., Ste 200
Oak Brook IL 60523

2013K058924
SANDY WEGMAN
RECORDER - KANE COUNTY, IL

RECORDED: 8/9/2013 11:20 AM
REC FEE: 34.00 RHSPS FEE: 9.00
PAGES: 1

AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO
Wendell W. Clancy
Kay E. Clancy
PO Box 1247
Wayne, IL 60184

PC

Space above line is for the Recorder's use only

SATISFACTION AND RELEASE OF MORTGAGE AND ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS

Inland Bank and Trust, as successor in interest to First Choice Bank, for and in consideration of the payment of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage and Assignment of Rents hereinafter mentioned, and the cancellation of all the notes thereby secured, and of the sum of one dollar, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does REMISE, RELEASE, CONVEY and QUIT CLAIM unto Wendell W. Clancy, Trustee of Wendell W. Clancy Revocable Trust under the provisions of a trust agreement dated April 15, 1995 to an undivided one-half interest; and Kay E. Clancy, Trustee of Kay E. Clancy Revocable Trust under provisions of a trust agreement dated February 15, 2002, to an undivided one-half interest, of the County of Kane and State of Illinois all the right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever it may have acquired in, through or by a certain Mortgage and Assignment of Rents bearing the 24th day of September, 2004 and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Kane County, in the State of Illinois, as Document Number(s) 2004K127567 and 2004K127566 to the premises therein described, situated in the County of Kane, State of Illinois as follows to wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

THE SOUTHERLY 37.5 FEET OF LOT 1; THE SOUTHERLY 37.5 FEET OF THE EASTERLY 25 FEET OF LOT 2; THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET OF THE EASTERLY 25 FEET OF LOT 7; AND THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET OF LOT 8, IN BLOCK 2 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF ST. CHARLES, ON THE EAST SIDE OF FOX RIVER, IN THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES, KANE COUNTY ILLINOIS

PIN# 09-27-389-007-0000, common address is known as: 7 S. Second Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174

Situated in the City of St. Charles, County of Kane, and the State of Illinois, together with all the appurtenances and privileges thereunto belonging or appertaining.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said corporation has caused its name to be signed to these presents by its Vice President and attested by its Senior Vice President this 27th day of June, 2013.

By:

Carla J. Salerno

Attest:

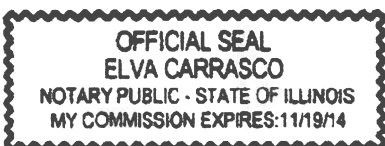
TSU SUP

State of Illinois, County of Dupage

I, the undersigned, a notary public in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that Carla J. Salerno personally known to me to be the Vice President of Inland Bank and Trust, an Illinois Corporation, and Thomas E. Lux personally known to me to be the Senior Vice President of said corporation, and personally known to me to be the same person (s) whose name(s) is / are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and severally acknowledged that such Vice President and Senior Vice President, they signed and delivered the said instrument, pursuant to authority given by the Board of Directors of said corporation, as their free and voluntary act of said corporation, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of June, 2013.

[Signature]



Commission expires:

11/19/14

43

7 Second Avenue

09-27-389-007

STCHAS/2E/1

- 1849 WD Ira and Sarah Minard to...
...vacant land with several ownership changes...
- 1901 QCD ...to T.E. Ryan
- 1901 WD Terrence E. and Emily M. Ryan to Alex T. Roche
- 1901 QCD Sarah Maude Webster family to Alex T. Roche
- 1903 QCD Thompson P. and Flora Adams to Alex T. Roche
- 1904 MTG Alex T. Roche to St. Charles Bldg & Loan Co.
Building built between 1904 and 1908
- 1907 MTG Alex T. Roche to St. Charles Bldg & Loan Co.
- 1908 MTG Alex T. Roche to St. Charles Bldg & Loan Co.
- 1909 QCD Helean M. Barbour & Geo. W. & Lizzie Minard to Alex T. Roche
- 1912 Court order John S. Sears appointed to Stewart State Bank
- 1913 Deed John S. Sears appointed to Stewart State Bank
- 1914 WD Stewart State Bank ILL Corp to Frank C. Hunt & Chas A. Potter
- 1924 WD Charles A. and Althen Potter to Lester J. and Dellora A. Norris
- 1968 WD Lester J. and Dellora A. Norris to Selleg, Stevens, Peterson and Flock,
Inc.
...several changes to today.

E. St. Chas pt

Lot 1	Sec.	R. O.
	Tp.	Bk. 414
Block 2	Rg.	Pg. 526

Terrence E Rayn &
Emily M Ryan h w

Warranty Deed dated Nov 15 01 and recorded
Nov 25 01 in Book page

Consideration \$ 2700

C & W t f d r e t - w :

to
Alex T Roche

Doc 53912

Lt 1 of B 2 of the Orig Tn now Cy
of St Chas ex the pt of sd lt on
N & E si 80 ft on 2nd St & 18 ft
on Main St the pt of sd. lt hby cvyd

being the W 32 ft of sd Lt 1 & the S 20 ft in reare of
the 18 by 80 ft abv excepted. This D is givn subj to
all incumbrance now on the ppty as shown by abstract
to date

C. M. Chas

Lot 1	Sec.	R. O.
	Block 2	Bk. 409
		Pg. 196

Sarah Maude Webster
 frmly Sarah Maude
 Minard & William E
 Webster h h of Batav-
 ia Ills & Abbie M
 Minard & Charles I
 Minard h h

to
 Alex T Roche

Doc 53913

Quit Claim Deed dated **Nov 23 01** and recorded **7**
Nov 25 01 in Book page **9**

Consideration \$ **1.00**
 Cvy & q-c all int. in t f d r e t - w:

All of Lt 1 in B 2 of the Orig Tn
 now Cty of St Charles except a strip
 on N E cor of sd Lt b a f; Comg at a
 pnt on the S li of Main St 18 ft Wly
 from N E cor of sd Lt th Sly // wi
 W li of Second St 80 ft th Ely //
 wi the S li of Main St 18 ft to Sec
 ond St th Nly on the W li of Second
 St 80 ft t t p o b Meaning & intg to
 cvy all of sd Lt 1 exopt the last
 debd strip (eighteen X eighty ft)
 sit in the Cty of St Charles

7 0 0 0

E. 2

E J Char. pt

Lot 2	Sec.	R. O.
Lot 1	Sec.	R. O.
	Tp.	Bk. 422
Block 2	Rg.	Pg. 405

Thompson P. Adams
& Flora h w

Quit Claim Deed dated Mar 11 03 and recorded

Oct 28 03 in Book page

Consideration \$ 1

Cvy & q-c all int. in t f d r e t-w:

to
Alex T Roche

Pt of L 1 in B 2 of the Orig Tn now
 Cy of St Chas b a f t w comg at the N
 E cor of sd Lt 1 th Sly alg E li of
 sd Lt 80 ft th Wly // with S li of
 Main St in sd Cy 18 ft th Nly // with E li of sd Lt 80
 ft to S li of Main St th Ely on sd S li of Main St 18 ft
 p o b

Doc 65702



E. M. Chao

Lot	1	Sec.	R. O.
		Tp.	Bk. 323
Block	2	Rg.	Pg. 429

**Alex T Roche an
unmarried man**
of the City of St. Charles, K. C. I.
to
St. Charles Bldg. & Loan Co.
of St. Charles, K. C. I.

Doc **72849**

tsfrd by sd **Alex T Roche**
Mtg & War

Mortgage dated **Oct 18 04**
and recorded **Dec 30 04** in Book _____ page _____
To secure _____ note for **\$2400.00** b e d h p t sd Co.,
tog w i thon at 7 p c p a, accdg t t tenor & effect of sd note; also
to secure _____ premium note for **One Dollar**
cents b e d h p t sd Co on or bef the 10th of ea mo hereafter in
advance until the princ note hinbef named is fully pd or until
the **24** shares of the **55th** series of stk of sd Co this day
to it as col secy shall have reached par value of \$100.00 per share.

**All of L 1 of B 2 of the 0 Tn now
Cty of St Charles**

Grantor covenants to pay all taxes and assessments and to keep all buildings insured.

H. R. W.

Ack _____ bef _____

N. P. K. C. I

St Charles

Lot 1

Try Origin E St Charles

Lot /	Sec.	R. O.
		Bk. 323
	Tp.	Pg. 474
Block 2	Rg.	

Alex T Roche a batchelor

of the City of St. Charles, K. C. I.
to

St. Charles Bldg. & Loan Co.
of St. Charles, K. C. I.

Doc **87747**

tsfrd by sd **Alex T Roche**
Mtg & War

Mortgage dated **Feb 21 07**
and recorded **Feb 26 07** in Book _____ page _____

To secure note for \$ **2400** b e d h p t s d Co.,
tog w i thon at 7 p c p a, accdg t t tenor & effect of sd note; also
to secure premium note for **One Dollar**
covenants b e d h p t s d Co on or bef the 10th of ea mo hereafter in
advance until the princ note hinbef named is fully pd or until
the **24** shares of the **64th** series of stk of sd Co this day
to it as col secy shall have reached par value of \$100.00 per share.

All of L 1 of the O T now Cty of St Charles.

422

405

Grantor covenants to pay all taxes and assessments and to keep all buildings insured.

H. R. W.

N. P. K. C. I.

Ack _____ bef _____

E. St. Charles

Lot 1	Sec.	R. O.
	Tp.	Bk. 323
Block 2	Rg.	Pg. 527

Alex T Roche a bachelor

of the City of St. Charles, K. C. I.
to
St. Charles Bldg. & Loan Co.
of St. Charles, K. C. I.

Doc 99031

tsfrd by sd **Alex T Roche**
M g & War

Mortgage dated **Oct 30 08**
and recorded **Nov 4 08** in Book _____ page _____
To secure note for \$ **2600.00** b e d h p t sd Co.,
tog w i thon at 7 p c p a, accdg t t tenor & effect of sd note; also
to secure premium note for **One & 08/100**
cents b e d h p t sd Co on or bef the 10th of ea mo her after in
advance until the princ note hin bef named is fully pd or until
the **26** shares of the **70th** series of s k of sd Co this day
to it as col secy shall have reached par value of \$1 0.00 per share.

L 1 of B 2 of the O T now Cty of St Charles.

Grantor covenants to pay all taxes and assessments and to keep all buildings insured.

H. R. W.

Ack _____ bef _____

N. P. K. C. I.

Charles

E. J. Chan

02 Lot 2

File

E. J. Chan

Lot 1

Sec.

R. O.
Bk. 506

Tp.

Block 2

Rg.

Pg. 534

Quit Claim

Warranty Deed dated **May 29 09**

and recorded

June 18 09

in Book

. page

Consideration \$ **1.**

C & **CC** t f d r e t - w :

Helean M Barbour,
a widow of Chicago
C C I &
Geo W Minard &
Lizzie h w

to
Alex T Roche

Lt 1 in Blk 2 of the Orig Tn , now
City of St Charles in K C I

Doc 103221

Gra
H. J
ck
RM

<i>E. H. Chas.</i>	Lot <i>1</i>	Sec.	R. O.
		Tp.	Bk. 543
	Block <i>2</i>	Rg.	Pg. 374

R. O.
62
48

John S Sears,
M. i. C. of the Cir. Ct. of K. C. I.

to
Stewart State Bank

Doc. **125641**

Ctf of Sale dated **Jul 22, 12** and recorded
Jul 26, 12 in Book _____ page _____
Ctfs that in pur of a decree entd on **May 28, 12** by sd Ct
in a Chy cause therein entitled **C E Morrill & Stewart State Bank, vs Alex T Roche, et al,**
he duly advtsd accdg to law the
prems hinaf dsd to be sold at pub vend t t h & b b f c, at **10** o'clock
A M. on Jul 20, 12 at **E dr of the Ct House at Geneva,** in K. C. I.

That at the ti & pl so aptd for sd sale he offered sd prems for sale at pub vend t t h & b b f c, whereupon **Stewart State Bank** bid thfr \$ **5173.58** &, that being t h & b b offered thfr, he accdgly stk off & sold to sd bidder, for sd sum, the sd prems, which are sit in
K. C. I. & are d a f t-w: **Lot 1 Blk 2 Orig tn now city of St Charles, K C I.**

<i>E. St. Chas</i>	Lot <i>1</i>	Sec.	R. O
		Tp.	Bk. 556
	Block <i>2</i>	Rg.	Pg. 6

John S Sears

M. i. C. of Cir. Ct. of K. C. I.

to

Stewart State Bank

Deed dated **Oct 27 13** and recorded
Oct 30 13 in Book _____ page _____

Set fth that in pur of a decree entd on **May 28 13**
by sd Ct in Chy case then pdg thin wherein **C E Morrill**

**& Stewart State Bankwete cplts
& Alex T Roche et al were**

Doc **135234**

defts, sd M duly advtsd accdg to law the prems hinaf desc'd for sale at

pub auc t t h and b b f c at **10** o'ck **A** M. on **Jul 20 12** at **the E door**
of the Court House

That at the time and place so apptd for sd sale sd M offered sd prems for sale at pub auc t t h and b b f c
and thereupon **The Stewart State Bank** bid thfr \$ **5173.58** and that being t h and b b offered
he accdgly stk off and sold to sd bidder for sd sum the sd prems and deld to sd purchaser the usual M's ctf thfr,
that sd prems have not been redeemed from sd sale; Now thfre, in consid of the prems 1st pty cvys to 2nd pty

their and as, the sd prem which are sit in **the** _____ K. C. I. and d a f t-w:

**L 1 B 2 Orig Tn now City of St Chas K C I sitd in the Cy o
St Chas K C I**

E. St Chas.

Lot 1

Sec.

R. O.

Tp.

Bk. **579**

Block 2

Rg.

Pg. **148**

**Stewart State Bank
Ill corp,**

Warranty Deed dated **Apr 25, 14**
Apr 29, 14 in Book

and recorded
page

Consideration \$ **1.** and other

C & W t f d r e t - w : **L 1 Blk 2 orig tn**

**to
Frank C Hunt &
Chas A Potter**

**now city of St Chas, sitd in the Cy
of St Chas, in K C I.**

Doc 139131

**Subj to taxes for 1914 & all unpd
installmts of specl asmts for sewer
and water works which grantees
assume and agree to pay.**

15202

1924
WD

~~Charles A. Potter and Althea Potter, his wife, Frank C. Hunt and Carolyn J. Hunt, his wife,~~ the Grantors, Charles A. Potter and Althea Potter, his wife, Frank C. Hunt and Carolyn J. Hunt, his wife,

of the City of St. Charles in the County of Kane and State of Illinois
for and in consideration of ~~the sum of~~ Other good and valuable considerations and ten DOLLARS.
in hand paid CONVEY and WARRANT to Lester J. Norris and Bellora A. Norris, his wife

of the City of St. Charles County of Kane and State of Illinois
as Joint Tenants, but not as tenants in common,
the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

The southerly thirty seven and one half (37½) feet of lot one (1) and the southerly thirty seven and one half (37½) feet of the Easterly twenty five (25) feet of lot two (2) all in Block two (2) Original Town, now City of St. Charles, Illinois, including therein all of the theatre building now on said premises, and the premises on which same is now located. Together with the rights of the grantors under party wall agreement between Aurora Brewing Company of the one part, and John Christiansen, C.A. Potter and F.C. Hunt of the other part, dated October 27th, 1914, and recorded in the Recorder's office of Kane County in Book 577 on page 329, document No. 143132, and all rights under warranty deed from John Christiansen and wife to F.C. Hunt and Annie M. Potter, dated March 20th, 1924 and recorded in the Recorder's office of Kane County, Illinois, in Book 741 on page 419, and under deed from said Annie M. Potter to Charles A. Potter, recorded in the Recorder's office of Kane County in Book 721 page 457, in so far as the said deeds and agreement pertain to the party wall between the theatre building on the premises herein described, and the building next westerly, now owned by G.A. Norton.

Revenue \$13.00

UNOFFICIAL

Situated in the County of Kane in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Law of the State of Illinois. This conveyance made subject to installments of special assessments for sewers and for special assessments for paving Second Avenue, becoming due subsequent to January 2, 1925, which grantees assume.
Dated this 8th day of December A. D. 1924.

Frank C. Hunt (SEAL)
Charles A. Potter (SEAL)
Althea Potter (SEAL)
Carolyn J. Hunt (SEAL)

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
County of Kane } ss.

I, Harry G. Hempstead, a Notary Public

and residing in
in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY That Charles A. Potter and Althea Potter his wife, Frank C. Hunt, and Carolyn J. Hunt, his wife,
personally known to me to be the same persons whose names are subscribed

(Harry G. Hempstead
Notary Public
Kane Co. Ill.)

to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of Homestead.

Given under my hand and Notarial seal, this Eighth day of December A. D. 1924.
My commission expires Mch. 16th, 1926. Harry G. Hempstead, Notary Public.

No. 246627 Filed for Record this 10th day of Dec. A. D. 1924, at 8 o'clock A. M.

Book 762 Charles Doetschman, Recorder E&H

SEP - 4 1968

BOOK 111 PAGE 100

129820

THE GRANTORS, LESTER J. NORRIS and DELLORA A. NORRIS, individually and as husband and wife,

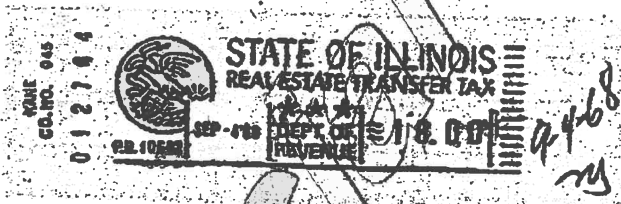
of the City of St. Charles County of Kane State of Illinois

for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars and other valuable consideration in hand paid Convey... and Warrant... to SELLEG, STEVENS, PETERSON AND FLOCK, INC., an Illinois Corporation,

of the City of St. Charles County of Kane State of Illinois

the following described Real Estate, to-wit:

The Southerly 37.5 feet of Lot 1; the Southerly 37.5 feet of the Easterly 25 feet of Lot 2; the Northerly 10 feet of the Easterly 25 feet of Lot 7 and the Northerly 10 feet of Lot 8, in Block 2 of the Original Town of St. Charles on the East side of Fox River, in the City of St. Charles, Kane County, Illinois.



situated in the City of St. Charles County of Kane in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois.

This conveyance subject to: (1) Party wall agreement recorded November 16, 1914 as Document 143132; (2) Party wall along the Northerly line of premises in question as disclosed by Warranty Deed recorded July 7, 1926 as Document 276599; (3) Other party wall and party wall rights, if any; and (4) Taxes for the year 1967 and subsequent years.

Dated this 30th day of July A. D. 19 68.

[SEAL] Lester J. Norris (SEAL) [SEAL] Dellora A. Norris (SEAL)

State of Illinois } as. I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in, and for said County and State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that Lester J. Norris and Dellora A. Norris, individually and as husband and wife,

personally known to me to be the same as those whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this 21st day of August 1968 and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.

Given under my hand and Notarial seal, this 21st day of August A. D. 19 68. Norman J. Nelson (SEAL) Notary Public.

MAIL TAX BILL TO: Document No. 1122321 Filed for record in Recorder's Office of Kane County, Illinois.

NAME Selleg, Stevens, Peterson and Flock, Inc. Address: Idle Hour Building St. Charles, Illinois

at 2 o'clock P. M. SEP - 4 1968 Bruce E. Markuson Recorder of Deeds.

1968 WD

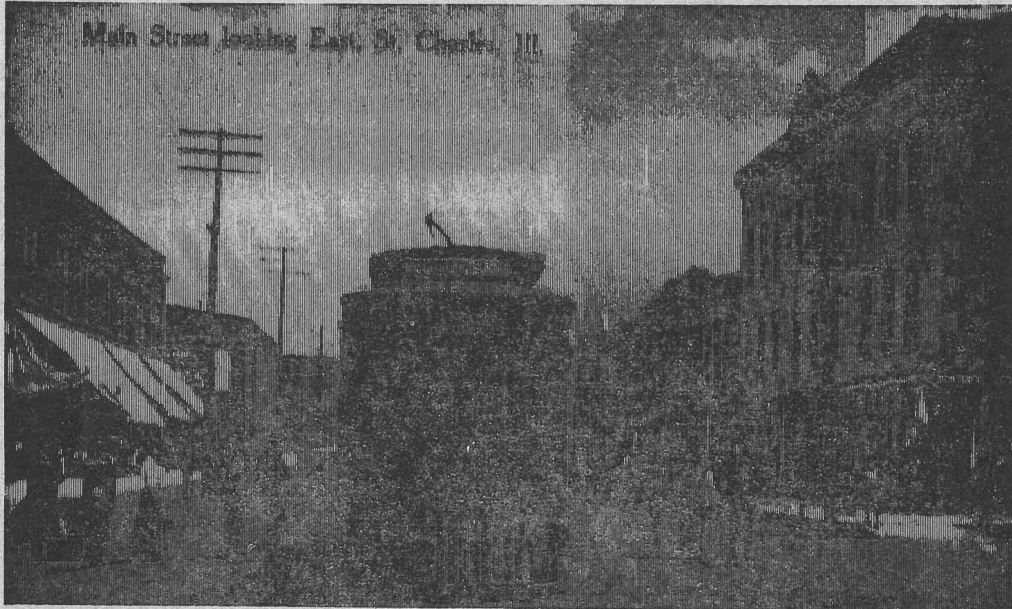
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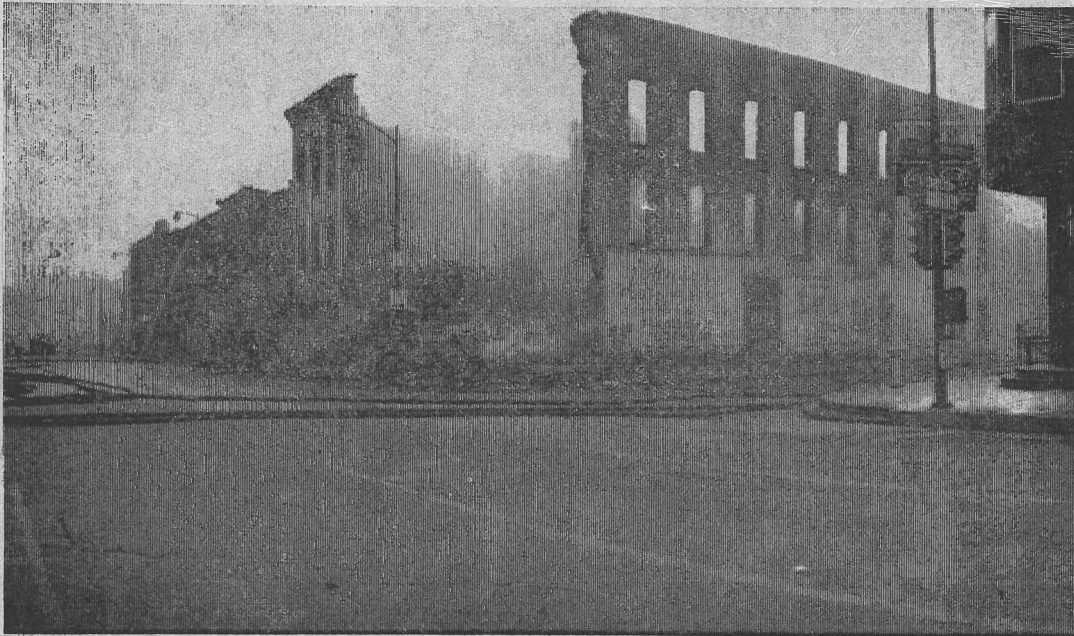
St. Charles Opera Houses Flourished In Early Days of Home Town Society



Main Street looking East, St. Charles, Ill.

STREET OF YESTERDAY—A reprint of an old post card shows the Irwin building at right of picture. The post

card was dated only by the streetcar and garb of the pedestrians—knickerbockers and ankle-length dresses.



LANDMARK DESTROYED — A fire which started in a rubbish heap at the back of the Irwin building July 29

left only the stone walls. What started out to be an opera house ended as a burned-out grocery

LANDMARK DESTROYED — A fire which started in a rubbish heap at the back of the Irwin building, July 29, 1958, destroyed the 90-year-old struc-

ture, leaving only the stone walls. What started out to be an opera house ended as a turned-out grocery store, and is now a parking lot.

"Ten Nights in Barroom", "Uncle Tom" Among Plays

About 74 years ago, when the population of St. Charles was only 1600, the town boasted two opera houses, one on the east and one on the west side of the river.

Minard's hall, located on the southeast corner of Second avenue and Main, was built by the first Ira Minard, one of the early settlers of St. Charles, and was then the center of social activities in the town.

The Negro Baptists held their services at Minard's hall, baptizing their new recruits in the Fox river. Small companies of actors played out their dramatic offerings there; and sometimes minstrel shows or political speeches was the fare.

In 1840, William C. Irwin, age 26, came to St. Charles from New York and started construction on a building which was to take him 50 years to complete. Irwin's hall, as this second opera house was called, was on the third floor of the Irwin building, and by 1890, had begun to draw a healthy following from the clientele of Minard's hall.

Some of the older townspeople of today remember attending plays there, some presented by hometown talent and some by professional traveling theatrical groups. Miss Alice Davis recalls being allowed to attend "Little Women" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," but was forbidden to see "Ten Nights in a Barroom." The hall was also used for dances, and many residents remember their first experience at indoor roller skating as having happened there.

Though Irwin's hall with its expansive stage was considered the "mecca" of St. Charles social life in the early '80's, according to historical records, its builder William Irwin was anything but social. Reportedly, the construction of Irwin's hall was purely a business matter, with money the sole object. Irwin himself was many things, including cooper, mason, carpenter, undertaker and atheist.

Since the hey-day of Irwin's hall, a legend about its underground tunnel has grown. The

tunnel runs from Second street, under the Irwin building and down to the river, and according to the local myth, was used to harbor run-away slaves. It was supposed to be part of the underground route for slaves on their way to Canada. The truth is, the tunnel was nothing more than a large sewer meant to drain water to the river after heavy rains.

In those early days, the streets were dirt roads, the few scattered street lamps were powered by oil, and there were no sewers. Rainfall turned the

powdered dust of the streets into a veritable quagmire, and heavy rainfall caused near-flood conditions. Therefore, when some of those old buildings were constructed, it was necessary to provide some kind of drainage to prevent flooding in the cellars of those buildings.

In the more recent history of Irwin's hall, the building was host for many years to Fritz Carlson's haberdashery, and was finally sold to P. S. Nichol, a St. Charles lumber dealer.

The Irwin building was 50 years in the making — Irwin adding to it until he died — but it was destroyed in a few hours by fire six years ago.

Where the old opera house once stood, is now a blacktopped parking lot.

B

St. Charles Chronicle
PACHAL & HALL, PUBLISHERS
Office: 44 West Main Street
Entered at the post office at St. Charles, Illinois, as second class mail matter.

OUR CHOICE FOR 1916
For President
Y. SHERMAN OF ILLINOIS
"The Man of the West"
For Governor
FRANK O. LOWDEN OF OGLE CO.

If Carolyn Wilson, a Chicago newspaper woman who accompanied the party, tells the truth, and there is no reason to doubt her, Henry Ford was accompanied to Europe on his so-called peace mission by a lot of cheap gophers. Writing from The Hague, under date of January 22th, she tells of numerous devices that were used by the members of the party to mislead the anti-militaristic manufacturer of automobiles, who came home, as soon as he could get away to escape further humiliation, "the way up hills, which are now close to half a million dollars, and not miss it. It has taught him a good lesson, and he is of the opinion that it may have caused in Europe for Americans. While Ford's party had no official sanction, the administration did recognize the movement, and bid it good speed, when it should have advised the rich traitor that such a movement at this time would be decidedly in bad taste.

When this country has legislated to increase the regular army, as it soon will do, then one of the most movements should be to change the manner of securing enlistments, else there will be few of them. In appealing to young men to enlist, as the army is constantly doing in all cities, and has been doing for years, no appeal whatever is made to patriotism. "Farming bill boards" proclaim a life of ease and travel, accompanied by a sure livelihood, and such inducements have not and will not attract a young man with good sense or a degree of patriotism. It secures young men who are failures, or who are filled with a spirit of adventure. These men hold the best of the country over advertisements in general, demanding truthfulness, but he should start at home and set a better example.

It all originated at a small grocery store, where they sold everything from and to a pearl necklace. A farmer had sons for some time to rub on his cow's leg. The bungling grocer gave the old farmer, however some scent instead of liniment. The day following the farmer came back in a great rage. "Look here," he said to the grocer, "I wish you'd be more careful, how you chuck things over that counter. You gave me eau de Cologne yesterday, instead of liniment, and I put on the blessed cow here I knowed."

"I hope it hasn't done her any harm," said the grocer, in a mollifying tone. "Harm be hanged!" snapped the farmer. "That 'ere cow won't eat now, nor allow herself to be milked. The only thing she does is to stigh she whole day long, and go and look at her reflection in the pond."

RECIPE FOR GRAY HAIR.
To hair get of water add 1 oz. Ba...
To hair get of water add 1 oz. Ba...
To hair get of water add 1 oz. Ba...

All Winter Garments Reduced
In The Clean-Up Sale
All of the suits, coats and dresses for women, misses and children are reduced, in many cases to less than cost in the Clean-Up Sale. Don't miss this opportunity to secure stylish garments at such low cost.
Theo. F. Swan.
"High's Most Popular Store."

Art Exhibit

LIVING PICTURE TABLEAUX
AIM OF SCHOOL ART.
INTERPRETATION OF PICTURES
MUSIC
ART AND TRAVEL IN VENICE.
EVENING BY ST. CHARLES WOMAN'S CLUB

From February 8 to 12
AT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING
To Promote Interest in Art
and
Secure Funds for Purchase of Pictures
Open Afternoon: 4:00 to 5:30
Evenings: 7:30 to 9:30
Admission: Afternoon, Pupils of School 5c. Adults 10c
Evening, 10c. Thursday and Saturday 25c

Program
TUESDAY AFTERNOON
4:00 Music The Victor
Interpretation of pictures Miss Wilber
Poem West Third Grade
Music West First and Second Grades
5:00 to 5:30 Study of Exhibit

TUESDAY EVENING
7:30 to 8:15 Study of Exhibit
Story of King Midas East Third Grade
Interpretation of Pictures East Third Grade
Living Picture Tableaux Third Grades
Art of School Art Miss Wilber

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
4:00 Music The Victor
Interpretation of Pictures Miss Wilber
Story of King Midas East Third Grade
Music West Third Grades
5:00 to 5:30 Study of Exhibit

WEDNESDAY EVENING
7:30 to 8:00 Study of Exhibit
Masurka in E flat major Lemchick
To a Wild Rose Medowell
FAITH COOK
Interpretation of pictures Miss Whitely
Music Miss Sweet
Living Picture Tableaux Seniors High School

THURSDAY AFTERNOON
4:00 Music The Victor
Interpretation of Pictures Miss Wilber
Poem West Third Grade
Music West Sixth Grade
5:00 to 5:30 Study of Exhibit

THURSDAY EVENING
7:30 to 8:00 Study of Exhibit
Venice and its Galleries Mrs. Sherwood
Music Miss McQueen

FRIDAY AFTERNOON
4:00 Music The Victor
Interpretation of Pictures Sixth Grades
Music Seventh and Eighth Grades
5:00 to 5:30 Study of Exhibit

FRIDAY NIGHT
7:30 to 8:00 Study of Exhibit
Music West Fourth Grades
Interpretation of Pictures Third Grades
Living Picture Tableaux Seventh Grades
Interpretation of Pictures Eighth Grades
Song, "Japanese Doll" West Third Grade
Music Miss Wagner

SATURDAY AFTERNOON
4:00 Music The Victor
Interpretation of Pictures Miss Woodard
Poem West Fourth Grades
Music Fourth and Fifth Grades
5:00 to 5:30 Study of Exhibit

SATURDAY EVENING
7:30 to 8:00 Study of Exhibit
Vocal Solo Mr. LeRoy Leacy
Vocal Solo Mrs. Fred Adkins
Reading, "Inside the Cup" Rev. E. D. Sherwood
Duet Mrs. Adkins, Mr. Leacy
Accompanist, Vera Fineman

IN THE SCHOOLS

The basket ball team plays the return game with Geneva at Geneva on Friday. A number of the high school students are planning on attending the game to give their support from the side lines.
The Senior English class are using the Literary Digest in connection with their English work. Various topics of state, national or international importance have been selected and cumulative reports are made from time to time by members of the class.
The Art exhibit programs have been well attended by the school people. The response on the part of the general public has not been as large as expected. All are cordially urged to attend and advised that they will find the exhibit well worth their time.

homes of the town should remember that this is their exhibit, that they have given the funds from year to year with which to purchase the pictures now assembled and for the first time exhibited as a whole. Not only funds are needed, but what is more vital and significant the interest and intelligent co-operation of every St. Charles home in the work of the schools is needed if best results are to be obtained.
The living pictures presented by the Senior high school students on Wednesday evening were well executed and much enjoyed by the audience. The illustrated travel talk by Mrs. Sherwood on Thursday last, pleased the audience to some of the beauty spots in Italy and to a few of the world's great things in art. On Friday a varied program will be given with music, choruses, solos, and living pictures. The evening planned for Saturday last, Wednesday last, was unusually fine. "Inside the Cup" will be read by Rev. E. D. Sherwood of St. Charles and several members will be given by Mr. LeRoy and Mrs. Fred Adkins, Mrs. Vera Fineman.

A Singular Vindication

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

Nearly a hundred years ago, when New York city was what would now be considered a small town, a young man stood on a dock in the East river waiting for the arrival of a sailing ship that was coming up the bay. When the ship arrived, was docked and the dozen passengers that had come from England on her began to disembark, the young man mentioned, recognizing each person, finally pointed to a woman with a gaiter over her left eye and called upon a constable standing beside him to arrest her. She was taken to the headquarters of the watch, where she proved to be a constable's young woman who stood by three bars across about the man who had caused the arrest and silently wept tears of relief, with her head on his shoulder.

Ten years before at seventeen, she had married Abel Williams, two years her senior, a clerk in the counting room of Edward Hooper, a china merchant. They were very happy, and a little girl was born to them. One evening when the young husband was playing with his child, a stranger entered and arrested him on a charge of embezzling money from his employer.

For some time Williams was at a loss to understand why he, a constable, being perfectly innocent, had been charged with crime. Then, remembering certain suspicious circumstances connected with a fellow clerk named Skinner, he came to the conclusion that Skinner was the defaulter and had laid his peccadillo on Williams' door. Abel's books were brought into court at his trial, and when he was convicted that same one had been covering up a loss of about \$30,000. He was not an expert accountant and foundered hopelessly in his defense. He was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

During his incarceration his wife stood by him and when he stepped from prison she took him home, and the two began to plan for his vindication. Unfortunately an investigation would cost money. Besides, there was no one, save her own husband, who could not secure a position and was obliged to make a living by working at home. He was very handy with a pen and carried out tickets that he sold for him.

One difficulty in the way of his vindication was that Skinner had left New York and no one knew where he was. His disappearance confirmed Abel's suspicion that he was the real criminal and had covered up his own part in the transaction through the good work of Abel. A criminal in one case is likely to be a criminal in other cases, and had Skinner remained in New York he might have got into trouble that would have explained Abel's ruin. But Abel was not sure that Skinner was guilty.

While in prison one of the inmates whose cell was directly over Abel's appealed to him to assist him in making an escape. The man cut a hole in the floor and let himself down into Abel's cell. Abel permitted him to hide under his cot. Abel, who was employed on the prison books had secured special privileges, also consented that the man should take advantage of them. He then escaped, and Abel lost his job as the books and was relegated to a cell.

One day when Abel was at work making a toy ship a man waited in and stood looking at him. "You don't remember me," he said. "I'm the man you helped to escape from prison. I've come to pay you for what you did and suffered for me. I don't know whether you are a bad man or a good one and don't care. I only know that I'm bad. A pal of mine who has got some valuable jewels with him and I took together on the other side of the big water is going to beat me out of my share. I can fix it so that he'll have to divide with you."

Abel told the man that he would not receive stolen goods. "Well, then," continued the jailbird, "I can fix it this way: There's a big reward offered for the property. You're welcome to it."

Abel readily assented to this and the man informed him that the party was bringing the jewels from Paris, where they had been stolen, to dispose of them in America. He was a one-eyed man and readily identified. He would arrive on a certain day and Abel would turn him over to the authorities and receive the reward.
To return to the party who had just discovered that the reward offered was a snare. Mrs. Williams recognized Skinner. He was much changed from what he had been and had lost an eye. The fact that Abel was so much indebted to him in his escape was a relief to the poor woman, who had caused a complete restoration. For a few moments she looked at the man and then, to her surprise, she turned to the jailbird and said: "Return."

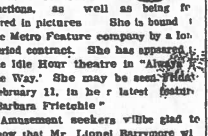


IDLE HOUR THEATRE

Mrs. Beverly Bayne became a very popular favorite with the public while associated with the Escanaba company of Chicago. However since she has joined the Metro Feature forces she has been nominated unanimously the queen of the season at the Panama Exposition.



Her first appearance in the Metro program is in "Penitentiary Chances," playing opposite Francis X. Bushman. She will appear shortly in "Man and His Soul."



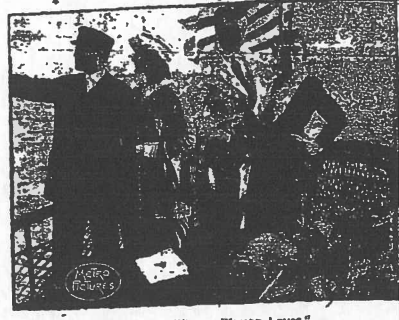
Mrs. Mary Miles Minter enjoys the distinction of being the youngest star in the world. She is not yet sixteen and has played leading parts in many stage productions, as well as being featured in pictures. She is bound to the Metro Feature company by a long-term contract. She has appeared in the Idle Hour theatre in "Along the Way." She may be seen Friday, February 11, in her latest production, "Barbara Frietchie."

Amusement seekers will be glad to know that Mr. Lionel Barrymore will be seen in the town in the future at the Idle Hour theatre. His initial appearance will be Friday, February 11th, in "The Yellow Streak," a four part Metro Feature in which he is supported by the charming little actress, Irene Hawley, well known to St. Charles as "The Manhattan Girl."

Because so much interest has been taken in our Wednesday feature we will run features in the future on Friday also. All our features are



LIONEL BARRYMORE



ANNOUNCEMENT

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of tax collector at the coming spring election and ask the support of the voters this office.—James Fay.

Floor Coverings Are Low Price in The Clean-Up Sale
At Theo. F. Swan's
The Clean-Up Sale, now in progress brings you the opportunity to secure floor coverings at splendid savings. Our regular 48c and 58c wool rug carpets are priced at only 35c and 45c. Regular 98c velvet suit carpet, 68c a yard. Best quality printed olefin very special at 35c a yard. Theo. F. Swan. "High's Most Popular Store."



Idle Hour THEATRE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11
Mary Miles Minter
Youngest Star in the World and
Mrs. Thos. W. Whiffen
In

"Barbara Frietchie"

Five part Metro feature full of action, pathos, comedy, thrills.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Charles Horan's vivid story
"When a Woman Loves"
with the exquisite actress
Emmy Wehlen

A five part Metro feature that will play a tune on your heartstrings.

You See Stars in Metro Pictures

METRO PICTURES advertisement for Mary Miles Minter and Barbara Frietchie. Includes text: 'Little Mary Miles Minter Beautiful Appealing-Natural the youngest star on the screen is seen only in Metro Pictures.' and 'Metro pictures are productions of the "first water" clear-sharp-brilliant as a diamond. AT THE IDLE HOUR THEATRE "BARBARA FRITCHIE" METRO WONDERPLAY EXCLUSIVE SHOWING OF METRO PICTURES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th'.

Historical Landmark Remodeled For St. Charles Architect Group

Preserve Features Of Old Theatre

By Dorothy DeWitte
Staff Writer

Something new is being held forth at the old Idle Hour theatre building on South Second avenue. And it isn't five reel silent flickers, high class vaudeville acts, or beauteous flower melodies from Joe Dussock on piano and Rex Godon on drums. It's four young architects and what they have done with one of our historical landmarks.

What was the Idle Hour theatre from its opening on Saturday, November 23, 1914, until its closing in 1926 is now the new offices of Selleg, Stevens, Peterson and Flock, architects and land planners.

The building has been completely rejuvenated, but still retains its theater atmosphere. The 16 by 50 foot stage still dominates the west end of the building. It holds ping-pong tables spread with blue sheets of drawing paper. And there are no more dark corners in what used to be the balcony. Now it's glazed in and brightly lighted with draftsmen working at their drawing boards.

The building that housed the Idle Hour theatre was erected at the corner of East Main street by F. C. Hunt, Dr. C. A. Pitzer, and John Christiansen. The building was the theater to two men from Joliet named Kelley and Nelson.

At first, the theater was called The New Theater. It opened for business in 1914 with a showing of "A Wonderful Night," billed then as a "sensational five-reel drama." Adult admission was ten cents. Kids could get in for a nickel.

Patrons had a chance to cash in on their theater-going when the following news item appeared in the November 28, 1914 issue of the St. Charles Chronicle:

"Get on your thinking cap and pull it clear down your ears. There is money in a bright 'think.' The New Theater is to be named. The patrons are going to name it. You will be asked to contribute a name and the names will be voted on. The one giving the accepted name will be given a \$10 bill."

The January 7, 1915 issue of the Chronicle announced that, "Idle Hour," by Edward Albee.

and romantic" name of the new theater. "Of the many names sent in, this one was chosen as the most original and fitting." The news item failed to announce, however, who originally had merited the \$10 prize. Later that year, Joe Dussock and Rex Godon were hired to appear nightly and provide music to dramatize the silent action shown on the screen.

"It may have been more economical to tear this all down and build a new building," architect Paul Stevens explained. "But, the building was workable, suited our purpose, and we wanted to retain the historical value of the place."

Three downstairs dressing rooms have been converted into private offices. The foyer houses an antiques and gift shop operated by Frank Caruso, Oak Park. An old outside stairway to the balcony has been replaced by an interior stairway to the balcony drafting area.

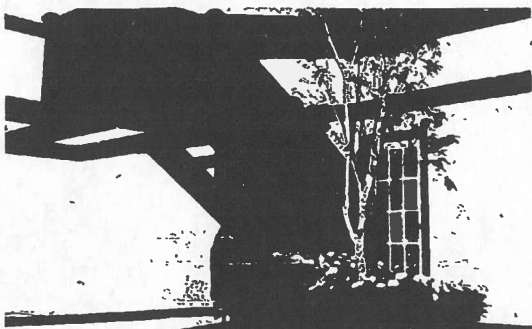
When the theater opened, the lessee announced the building had a 325 seating capacity. Kelley, who directed the opening arrangements, called it, in his opinion, "the best ventilated and safest theater he ever saw."

The entrance was through a walkway from Main street with the exit on South Second avenue. The entrance on Main street disappeared years ago, and the Second avenue exit has been remodeled into an entrance to the architectural offices.

Selleg, Stevens, Peterson and Flock have had offices in St. Charles since 1964. The four all live within the township. Selleg and Stevens are both members of the City Plan Commission. The group was also instrumental in initiating the downtown beautification program and they have taken part in historical society programs and festivals.

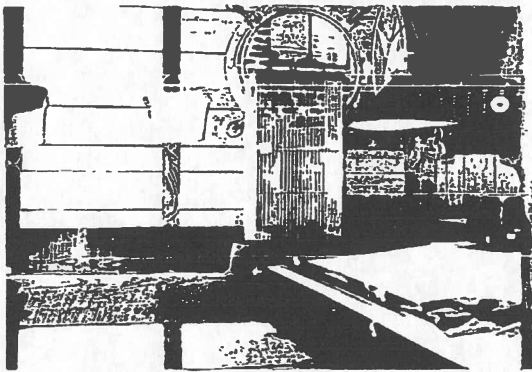
They plan to make the stage and auditorium available to private groups. This Saturday night, October 19, the Playmakers will present for their membership only a performance of "The Sand Box," by Edward Albee.

A Tree Grows in Idle Hour



"There never was an interior stairway to the theater balcony until the new owners of the Idle Hour building began their reconstruction. At the top of the stairs are well-lighted drafting offices. Yes, that's a real live tree in the planter. A generous skylight provides plenty of sunshine."

A Nautical Nook



Private offices located beneath the stage were once dressing rooms for vaudeville performers who played the Idle Hour. This nautical nook is the office of Donald E. Flock, a member of the firm of Selleg, Stevens, Peterson and Flock, new owners of the theater building that has been used as a storage area since its closing in 1926.

Zak Comes Out of Surgery



DELNOR HONORS ZAK -- Alfred Zak, R.N., (center) Delnor Hospital operating room supervisor, was honored at an informal reception in the Delnor dining room on Friday, October 11, his last day of hospital service. Cora Garcia, R.N., of Batavia (third from right) who has served as operating room head nurse since 1962, has named the new operating room supervisor Mr. Zak, who is leaving the nursing profession for the business world, had been on the Delnor staff for more than 15 years. Among those of the operating room team who wished him well in his new career were: (from left) Majorie Elberg, R.N., Lenore Arnold, technician, Barbara Hoffman, technician, Marjory Stanley, technician, Faye Driessen, R.N., Mrs. Gasca, R.N., Jane Dellenberg, R.N. and Georgianna Hayes, R.N.

Hawley's Honors Employees At Annual Dinner, St. Andrews

Hawley Products Company, a subsidiary of HITCO, held its annual service awards dinner at the St. Andrews Country Club on Thursday, October 3, 1968. The speaker, Mr. Don W. Hawley, President, reviewed the progress of the Company during the year of acquisition by HITCO. Included in this process was the increased efficiency and profitability of the Company; the construction of approximately 30,000 square feet of manufacturing area to replace the obsolete Plant I and the construction and installation of necessary equipment for the waste water clarification facility. He stated that the second year with HITCO commences with the formation of a planning and research group whose objectives will be to expand the application of present materials and the addition of new materials to supplement and expand present product lines. The present boiler systems will also be converted resulting in a modern plant operation.

John P. Snyder, Jr., Executive Vice President, presented D. W. Hawley with his twenty year service award. Mr. Hawley, in turn, presented the service awards to the

honored employees. Joining the 39 other Hawley employees with twenty-five or more years of service with the Company were Pauline Syllis and Edna McGee. They were presented with diamond service pins and Lady Elgin watches. Messrs. George Tarnanen, Ed Lungren and James Paleyborowicz received twenty years of service awards, an emerald service pin.

Fifteen years of service pins with a ruby were presented to Marvin Sheets, Eva Garcia, Maude Lovelace, Carrie Lippold, Marguerite Hartley, Robert Nold, Laura Alkin, Hubert Nold, Pilar Rodriguez, Pauline Walker, Maria Rutledge, Hazel Johnson, Florence Orlan, Benjamin Franklin, Valada

Stiage and Emma Cortes. Employees with ten years of service who received sapphire pins were Edward Konecny, Juanita Lospman, Joyce Barakade, Francis Austin and Clara Bartsch.

Five year service awards were presented to Barbara Kramer, Lucretia Swanson, Beatrice Wille, James W. Goode, James Heald, Earl A. Hurt, Wendell McIntyre, Thomas Procter, Arthur Kay, Karl H. Wenzel, Eddie Wilson, Evelyn Flannigan, Frank Peetz, and Patricia Mutehart.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by "The New Variety," a multi-company group from West Chicago.

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St. Charles Rotary Sponsors Explorer Gun Clinic, Trap Shoot

Two Rivers Council Explorers from seven communities met Saturday afternoon for the fifth annual Explorer Safe Gun Clinic and Trap Shoot. The event is sponsored by the St. Charles Rotary Club and hosted by Frank Boutell at Pine Ridge Farm near Elburn.

Following a presentation by Boutell on safe gun handling and trap shooting technique, a shooting demonstration was presented by Champion Trap Shot Judy Allison of Elgin Hills. Allison also answered questions from the group of Explorers about competitive shooting and the many state national trap shooting events she has won.

Members of the St. Charles Rotary Club served as judges and officials for the competitive shooting. Following three eliminations shoots, ten Explorers were qualified for the final red and blue team shoot-off.

Trophy winning members of the red team were Explorers Frank Corrie, Post #46 Sandwich, Kurt Nelson, Post #39 Batavia, Bill Jones, Post #35 St. Charles, Bruce Jacky, Post #49 Sycamore, and Ralph Herd, Post #37 Canaan.

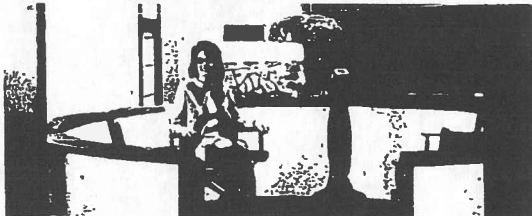
Top scores for the afternoon were shot by Explorers of Post #39 Batavia. Out of twenty-five targets, Bob Modine shot a 20, and Kurt Nelson a 21 in a high gun shoot-off. Nelson won the top gun trophy with a 14 out of 15, to Modine's 12 out of 15 targets.

St. Charles Rotarians conducting the event were club president Dr. Richard Baginski, Frank Boutell, Kelly Nelson, Dr. John Nyquist, Dave Gill, Stan Martin, Dave Ford, Dave Bennett, Jim Watkins, Frank Burger, Dan Nachtsheim, and Bob MacNelle. Jr. The annual event is conducted in co-operation with the Two Rivers Council, B. S. A.

Dr. Irwin Ross Speaks Saturday At Unity Lodge

Dr. Irwin Ross, psychologist, TV celebrity and well known after dinner speaker will appear before the St. Charles Unity Lodge No. 48, A.F.A.M. at the annual Post Masters Dinner, Saturday, October 19. He will speak on "Hypnosis." Dinner will be served at the Lodge rooms in Arcadia Building at 7 p.m. Tickets are available through George Ditts, 684-4735.

A Conference in the Round

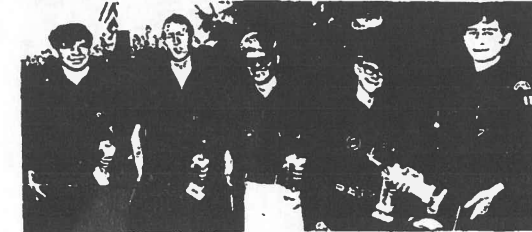


Mrs. Dolores Ticknor, St. Charles, secretary to Selleg, Stevens, Peterson and Flock, architects and land planners, relaxes for a moment in the open conference area that projects into space that once provided seating for 325 patrons at the Idle Hour theater. The orchestra pit had been floored over and the entire area carpeted. The stage and lighting are visible in the background.

To The Victors - Rotary Trophies



High gun and runner up trophies are awarded to Explorers Kurt Nelson and Bob Modine by Frank Boutell and Rotary Club President Dr. R. J. Baginski.



Winning Explorer trap shooting team show their trophies (l to r) Bruce Jacky, Bill Jones, Frank Ditts, Kurt Nelson, and Ralph Herd.

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ST. CHARLES

Theater,
Idlehour

A.)

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1968

Still quietly reminiscent of a more glamorous past, yet very 1968

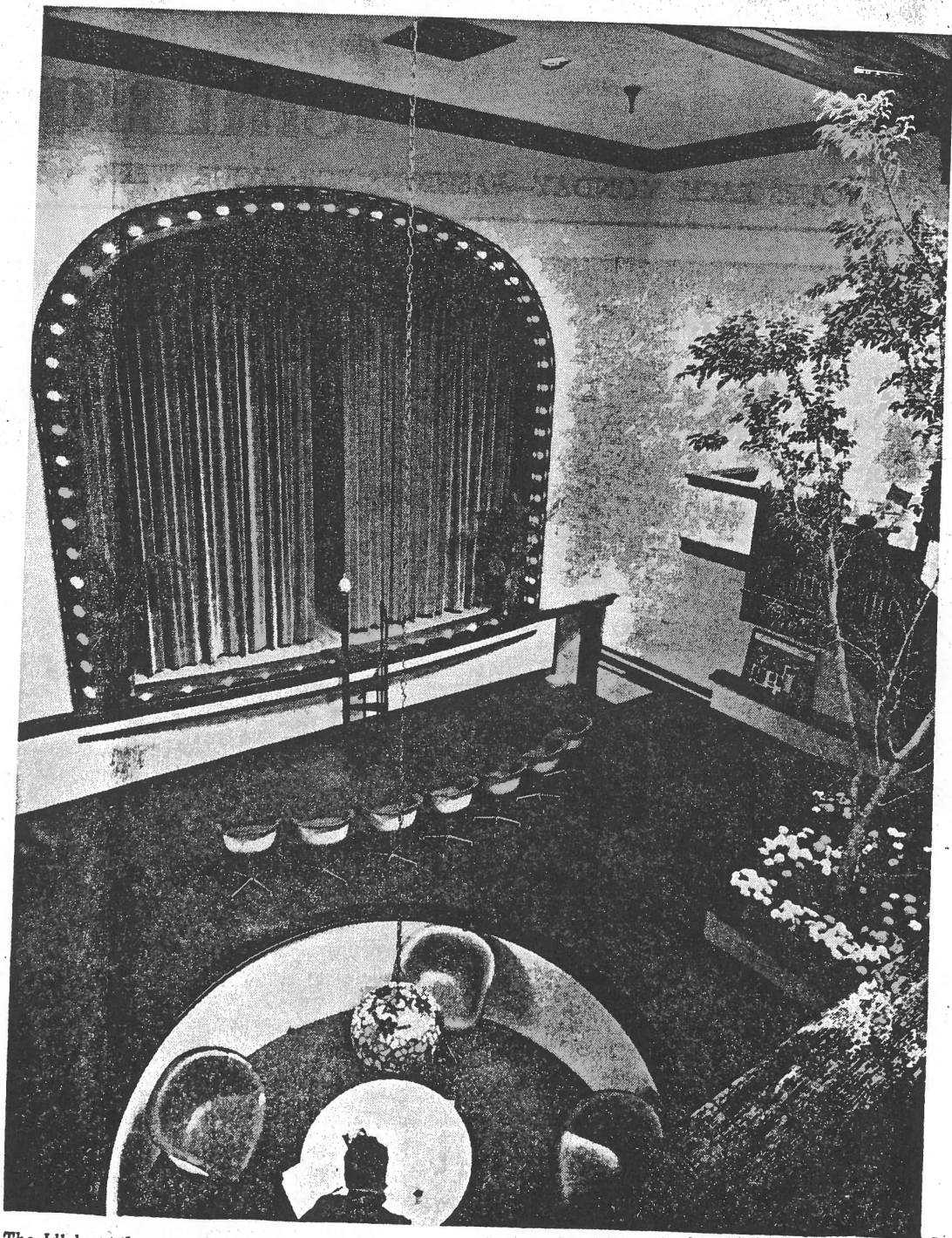
contemporary is the old
Idlehour theatre at 7 S. 2d st., St.
Charles, which a quartet of St.
Charles architects have converted
into their own offices.

The compromise between old and
new helped solve their first problem
—of persuading the building's owner
to a conversion. He had refused
offers to buy the building for razing.
The architects, whose firm name,
Selleg Stevens Peterson & Flock,
Inc., is etched on a small brass
plaque to the right of the entrance,
give equal billing to tradition. A
matching plaque on the left reads
"The Idlehour Theatre est. 1900." [It
will be changed to 1913, which they
have learned is more accurate.]

A SCALLOPED semi-circle of
white canvas awning, flanked by
large black wrought iron gaslights
further distinguishes the entrance.
Black doors project handsome brass
hardware. On the sidewalk, at either
side of the entrance, is an old cart,
tipped on end and filled with fresh
flowers. The flowers are for sale at
the Idle Hour Ltd. shop that occupies
an inside corner.

The theater offered vaudeville to
Fox River valley audiences in its
heyday. Meredith Willson appeared
there with John Philip Sousa's band
in 1921, according to architect Paul
Stevens. An unconfirmed report says
Gertrude Lawrence played Idlehour's
stage, too.

THAT STAGE IS now the archi-
tects' planning department. Except
at the noon hour, when the large
table converts for Pingpong. The men
intend to add basketball nets and a
trampoline for midday recreation.
Otherwise, concealed behind grass
green velvet curtains, the stage is an



The Idlehour theatre, now billed as an office building, has a work-recreation area onstage. The orchestra, brightened by cream walls, a skylight and proscenium lights, is in the background.

Yachi Iida

The orchestra is carpeted in Astroturf, almost the color of the curtain. Two structures are installed in the orchestra; they are level—not accommodating to the normal slant of the floor. One is a conversation circle into which drops a Tiffany lamp on a 20-foot chain. The other is a big square planter that sprouts a tall tree similar to a rubber tree and pots of chrysanthemums. Daylight pours in generously from a large greenhouse, ceiling center. Its floor was removed and it was installed in the roof as a skylight. Bare proscenium light bulbs and footlights provide additional light.

BACKSTAGE FEATURES the architects' private offices. Converted from performers' dressing rooms, they measure a spare 7 by 9 feet. Here the professionals demonstrate what can be accomplished in nearly no space at all.

Donald Flock, an inveterate sailor, has converted his tiny quarters into a captain's cabin. It is all wooden, with high step-in hatchway, seaweed poking up behind the brass porthole, three kegs full of drawings, and a caged green parrot. The "deck" creaks and gives away a little to the step. Issues of Yachting magazine and American Builder magazine vie for space on the bunk. On the wall is a picture and legend entitled "Elements and Practice of Rigging Seamanship 1794." A lantern hangs from a brass chain over Flock's desk. A wooden gallery on the shelf above protects his pipe rack against turbulence. His office has the ceiling trap door that leads to the stage.

THE SEAWEED AT his porthole emanates from a real greenhouse that opens off Richard Selleg's office. Selleg, city planner and landscape architect, has Astroturf on the floor, a white brick wall and a cedar board wall as foil for his live plants. The greenhouse is a rotational home for fresh flowers and plants used at the base of the rubber tree in the orchestra. In winter the architects plan to use it as a solarium for conferences.

Next is Paul Stevens' office, which resembles a monk's windowless cell. He sawed in two a handsomely-carved wooden door. Each half drops from the wall on a leather strap to create a double desk top for him. [He uses a square of glass over the carving to give a smooth writing surface.] A wall wine rack holds rolls of blueprints and an occasional bottle of wine.

A **RAW BRICK** wall of the erstwhile dressing room he painted brown, to match a snugly inserted

sofa. A black fake fur covers the patch of floor. A plaster lath ceiling, a wooden bookcase, and a spiral wood scone are accented by a brass desk stool. The only other accent is an earth-tone pot crammed with brilliant orange strawflowers.

The production department is ensconced in the balcony. Eventually partner Guy Peterson will take the projection room, now a storage area, as his private nook. The upper balcony now houses three draftsmen and Peterson—all separated from one another by opaque curtains. The lower balcony is growing space for the drafting department.

A conference room has been fashioned out of a portion of the orchestra. It is furnished with rockers and a slate table. One wall is a chalk board.

To the right of the entrance is the receptionist-secretary area. To the left is The Idle Hour Ltd. shop—fulfillment of a longtime ambition of interior designer Frank Caruso.

EVENTUALLY CARUSO will be interior consultant for the architects' model houses. In the shop he has assembled the work of several midwestern artists and craftsmen, along with choice antiques and gifts.

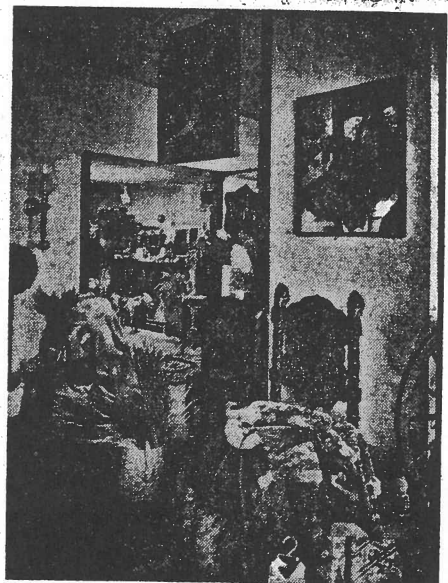
Nola Colbert of Oak Park does custom wood carving for him. She also addresses Christmas cards in elegant script for \$20 per 100.

Barbara Fiedler creates paintings on wood for \$1.25 to \$15. Kathy Sundstrom drives from Iowa twice monthly to bring her pottery to the shop. Rita Dahlberg and Jann Sullivan of Oak Park collaborate on Christmas ornaments. Mrs. Sullivan also makes children's clothes, tagged "Original Mollies," and linen aprons. Paintings are provided by Mary Amberg of Beverly Shores, Ind., and Ethel Scott of Hoffman Estates. Sena Green of St. Charles hooks rugs and hall runners to order. A 54-inch by 27-inch rug costs \$7.95.

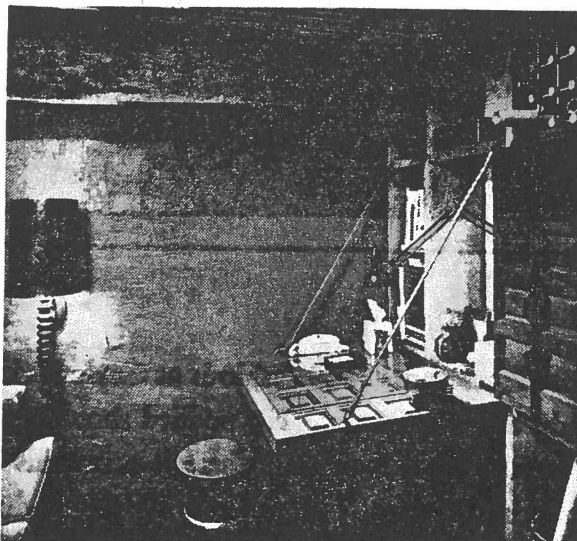
TOYS, CARNIVAL GLASS, and hand puppets are displayed on old stage stairs and inside the ornate glass candy counter from the former theater lobby. Velvet-encased ropes that used to hold back theater crowds when the feature changed, now serve to block off the shop except during its business hours: 10 to 6 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; Sunday, 1 to 5.

The scene at the Idlehour these days is relaxed. Attired in sweaters, sneakers, open collars, and slacks, the architects enjoy the backstage embellishments of sink, refrigerator, stove, and shower. [The shower is in "Gents." "Ladies" has no such embellishment.] As Stevens says, clients find the Idlehour a nice place to visit. Actually, you could live there.

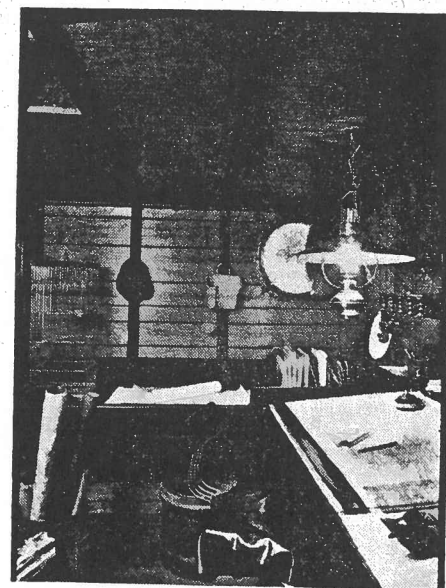
Betty Taylor



The Idle Hour Ltd. shop, in a corner of the theater, offers antiques and gifts hand-crafted by midwestern artists. In the background is the ornate candy counter from the theater's lobby.



One of the architects' offices is a windowless cubicle—all black and brown except for a pot of orange strawflowers. That's half of a drop-down desk made from a carved door, covered with glass for a smooth writing surface.



Another office is a vignette of a captain's quarters—wooden overhead, hatchway, and bunk, and even a porthole. This, as the other offices, is backstage, in a one-time dressing room.

St. Charles was mecca for celebrities Movies and vaudeville through the years

Story by Phyllis Warner

During the past century, much of St. Charles entertainment has centered, in particular around three theaters—the Star, Idle Hour and Arcada. In the past decade a fourth can be added, Pheasant Run Playhouse.

However, there were others—a small movie house operated by Issac Zimmerman is well remembered by his son, William Zimmerman present owner of the Ford, Lincoln and Mercury garage. The house was in operation in about 1922. It was located on 3rd Street, in back of the present Quiller clothes shop on Main," Mr. Zimmerman said. "It featured both vaudeville acts and silent movies. Johnnie Olson was the projectionist. He was the uncle of Bob Olson who operates the Arco gas station on Route 64. It wasn't very successful and didn't last too long.

Karl Gartner seemed to remember a movie house called the Bijou but couldn't recall where it was located. According to a history compiled by Alice L. Davis there were two other "halls"—Minard's and Irwin—which were also used for the presentation of various forms of entertainment.

Minard's hall, according to Miss Davis, who sets the date at about 1890, was located on the Southeast corner of 2nd Avenue and Main Street and was used for plays, concerts and religious gatherings. Activities went from the sublime to the ridiculous. The hall was the entertainment center where Charlotte Powers put on her home talent plays, where Negro minstrels were held; where politicians thundered out their orations, where small theatrical companies gave tragedies and comedies and where the Negro people, who had their own Baptist Church, held services and did their immersing in the nearby Fox River.

Bill Irwin, Miss Davis records, was a cooper, mason, carpenter, atheist and undertaker. He kept adding to his building on the Southeast corner of 2nd Street and Main because at this time, Irwin's hall was beginning to draw from the fame of Minard's. It had an underground tunnel to the river.

History records show that at one time or another each house has provided St. Charles residents with some outstanding piece of memorabilia—some definite presentation or personality—which has been an unforgettable experience—a treasured memory.

For the Star and Idle Hour it would be the golden age of the silent movies; for the Arcada the exciting, and at the same time, painful era of the "talkies" and the tragic demise of vaudeville.

Norris was realized when the finest vaudeville acts on the Palace circuit played the Arcada, so the dreams of Carl Stone Jr. are today being fulfilled at Pheasant Run Playhouse by bringing the best of the Broadway plays and actors to St. Charles.

Although there is considerable information available on both the Idle Hour and Arcada theaters, there seems to be very little, save a few exterior snapshots, of the Star.

Located on Main Street, about where Eddie's Pizza now is, the Star had an impressive entrance and for the most part was considered a "nickelodeon." According to Mrs. Althea Potter a man by the name of Pete Alleman was manager of the Star and every Saturday she and her friends would come into town to meet at the theater.

"We never missed a single Saturday," Mrs. Potter recalled, "because if we did we missed one whole showing of a favorite serial. How well I remember Pearl White and a matinee idol by the name of Crane Wilbur!" I don't remember who played the music that went along with the old one reelers but I do remember we worked up a lot of excitement and a good appetite, too.

"After the show, the place to meet all of your friends was at Bandacari's Ice-Cream parlor. That was located about where Fisher's Gifts or Burger's drug store now is. Going to the movies and getting an ice cream sundae or soda afterwards was about the only recreation we had when I was a child. We lived for Saturday!" Mrs. Potter said.

According to the plaque in the Idle Hour building—now the unique offices of the architectural firm of Selleg, Stevens, Peterson and Flock—the theater was erected in 1900 on the corner of East Main Street and 2nd Avenue. F. C. Hunt, Dr. C. A. Potter and John Christiansen were the owners and the ones who first leased the theater to two men from Joliet by the name of Kelley and Nelson.

There is an unexplained lapse of 14 years between the time the plaque states the theater was built and the time records show the theater was opened for business in 1914 with a five reel movie called "A Wonderful Night." Admission was 10 cents for adults and kids got in for a nickel.

It is possible that between 1900 and 1914 the theater was used to present traveling shows, minstrel shows and even locally produced shows together with early one reel "peep-shows" Kinetoscopes which went on public display on April 14, 1894 in New York and quickly caught on in America, Paris and London.

Mrs. Potter tells that there were also many local shows put on at the

Idle Hour and the one in particular participated—"A P

On November St. Charles Chron news item calling Theater patrons to name the theatre \$10 was offered. 1915, the Chronicle "Idle Hour" was romantic" name to the many which ha The item did not, winner.

Earling Hol enthusiastic in hi asked if he had a r Idle Hour Theater. the place to go youngster—it was 'kicks' with a bag peanuts. You could clap your hands or you wanted when take off on heroine—but you c Joe Durstock at the the movie charac faster Joe Durstock over the keys.

"The entrance was on Main Street Barber Shop is now where the entrance architects offices. led into the theatre and once loaded popcorn or peanut for the balcony and

"The views on the Hour were in direct at the Arcada which opened in 1926. It trying to sneak in a bag of popcorn taken away from you ushers. You were cautioned about loudly and disturbing and it was a rowdy to whisper with you. Now, of course laughed, "it's like beginning, theaters on the sale of popcorn employment of ushers the past."

Opening in September with the motion "Brother" with Ha 1000 seat Arcada prestigious house Spanish design. The family had careful construction so that elegance would be achieved. One of the Marr and Coult and provided the best outside the Chicago was not until two years famous Chicago Theatre same equipment. It was the first organized

IDLE HOUR THEATRE

THUR.—FRI.

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in

“THE TIGERS CLAW”

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—also—

**“HOOK, LINE and SINKER” a SNUB
POLLARD Comedy**

Idle Hour Theater Not So Idle

By BETTY FORKINS

ST. CHARLES — The old Idle Hour Theater which has been idle for more than 40 years is now a go-go-going place.

Four young architects took over this white elephant in June and with lots of imagination, hard work and ingenuity have come up with not only offices but an avante-garde theater.

Opening night for the architects was Friday night and the old stage will be used tonight by the Playmakers for a production of "The Sandbox" an avante-garde play.

Richard Selleg, Paul Stevens, Guy Peterson and Don Flock have combined their various talents to make a show place in St. Charles.

The Idle Hour Theater first opened in 1914 as the New Theater and was built by the late Dr. C. A. Potter, F. C. Hunt and John Christensen, who leased it to the firm of Kelly and Nelson of Joliet and Lemont.

The brick building seated 325 and had a large foyer on with the entrance on East Main Street, where a barbershop is today. The present entrance is on South Second Avenue about half way down the block.

The theater had one and two reel movies and stage performances. Names such as the Otte and Oliver juggling act and comics headed the vaudeville bill for such pictures as "Mother's Influence," "Out of Deputy Hands," and "Hello Mable," a Keystone comedy. Prices were five and 10 cents and two shows were given on Sundays.

The theater kept going until 1926 when the Arcada Theater, done in Spanish elegance, was opened by Lester Norris and was described by the press as the "show place of the middle-west." Norris had purchased the Idle Hour during the three years of building the Arcada. The very last bill of the Idle Hour advertised was Lon Chaney in the "Road to Mandalay," Aug. 26, 1926. The Arcada Theater opened that September.

During the years that followed the building was used for storage for Delnor Hospital equipment, furniture from the Baker Hotel and the Community House.

During the 1950s a summer stock company pushed the debris aside to paint scenery for the Arcada productions.

Paul Stevens stated that when they purchased the old theater in June of this year, there was barely any plaster left on the walls, no lights, plumbing or water, and the place was in a mess.

Now one enters the red brick building under a white canopy and passes through black doors with brass plating. One still sees the structure of the theater, its slanting floor, its balcony, the stage and dressing rooms. But that's where the similarity between theater and its present business ends.

The theater floor is covered with artificial grass. A sky light has been added, and a 20 foot tropical tree is placed just off center on the slanting auditorium floor.

A stairway has been added

to the north side of the auditorium leading to the balcony that has the most graceful steps to descend.

It seems ideal for style shows, where models would come off the balcony, down the wide steps, in a swoop of chiffon on to the green grass and tree below.

The balcony has been changed into carols where three other architects do their drawings, behind that is the projection booth which will be the office of Guy Peterson.

On the south side of the auditorium section is a platform where conferences can be held. A larger conference room lies to the left of the new foyer.

The stage floors have been sanded, a boom of lights added and footlights added. To dramatize the stage, the proscenium arch has an arc of white light bulbs outlining it. Soft green velour drapes now close off the stage which is used as a work room.

The bare brick walls of the stage have models of cities and parks that look like art forms, hung from them.

The original news stories describing the building in 1914 stated there were three large dressing rooms in the basement. Actors and actresses got to these by trap doors at the back of the stage.

The architects have each selected an area as "his very own."

Flock took his seven by seven foot dressing room and made it into the turn-of-the-century ship's cabin. One even has to

step up into it and it is complete with a porthole and a dwarf live parrot named T.H.E. Client. It doesn't speak yet, but Block is working to get it to say "architect" or "the price is right."

Selleg has created his little room in Early American antique, complete with a desk over 100 years old. He also has a greenhouse with a tropical plant blooming in it.

Stevens, has gone in for the dark comfort of old Spain, complete with a black rug on the floor.

Peterson who will be in the projection booth for his meditative processes is expected to have a Victorian decor.

There is a hustle and bustle in the theater now, getting the finishing touches completed before open house this weekend. There is a great combination in the building of the new and modern and the old and revered. It is a place of atmosphere.

The four partners are in the business of landscape architect, building architecture, city planning, land planning and park planning.

Selleg, Stevens and Peterson are all graduates of the University of Illinois with degrees in land planning and architecture. Flock holds his degree in architecture from Notre Dame.

They incorporated in 1964 and aided Mayor George Neumark on his city beautification program, and to all appearances these boys are practicing what they are preaching.

Memories of vaudeville play on

BY MARY CLAIRE HARRIS
Contributing Writer

What did young people do for entertainment in St. Charles in the 1920s and '30s?

Earling "Ike" Holmstrom remembers well. Theaters and dance pavilions.

Holmstrom, 76, has spent a good portion of his life here in St. Charles. He came here from Chicago with his parents and brother in 1925 at the age of 13 when his family relocated its

Have you met? ... 'Ike' Holmstrom

book binding business, Universal Press, in the Fox Valley.

The first theater Holmstrom remembers was the Star, located on the north side of East Main St.

The star was replaced by the Idle Hour Theater. It was located across the street from the Star, behind the present Arcada building. The building was L-shaped and entered through a long hallway on Main Street.

The building, marked with a historical plaque, is now occupied by the law offices of Rosensteel and Cooke on Illinois. It still has the original stage.

The Idle Hour would play silent films and short serials that were like our soap operas today, Holmstrom recalled.

Joe Durstock, who was a friend of Holmstrom's family, played the appropriate music on a piano to accompany the scenes in the movies.

"The Idle Hour would play the serials that would end in so called cliff hangers and you we'd have to come back the next Saturday to



see the continuation," Holmstrom said.

On Sept. 6, 1926 the Arcada Theatre opened. "It was a gala event held over Labor Day weekend. People came from all over to see the Arcada in its grandeur," Holmstrom said.

"The interior was very plush and elegant, with draping curtains, chandeliers and expensive art work exhibited," Holmstrom continued.

Opening weekend offered the movie film "The Last Frontier" and the Our Gang Comedy Group.

The vaudeville lineup was the Ross and Louise dance troupe and the Jordans (Fibber McGee and Molly).

The program also featured the Arcada's own orchestra recital and a newsreel.

Lester Norris, who built and owned the Arcada, did the illustration for the cover of the premier program, Holmstrom said. Holmstrom's father's company put the

programs together. "We had to keep running back and forth between the theater and the shop to make more and more programs. We even put our visiting Chicago relatives to work. The people just kept flocking to the opening," Holmstrom said. (An original copy of the opening weekend program which can be seen in the St. Charles Historical Museum.)

The Arcada booked vaudeville acts and became a mecca to the vaudeville circuit. It became known as the Showplace of the Fox Valley, Holmstrom said.

The Arcada booked such big names as John Phillip Sousa, Edgar Bergen, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Maria Von Trapp, opera star Marie McDonald and Donald O'Connor, a movie star and dancer.

O'Connor was six years old when he performed here on stage dancing with his family known as the O'Connor Family Act.

"Under the Arcada's stage and where Scotland Yard's kitchen now is, used to be dressing rooms. I remember being down there and seeing the stars on the entertainer's doors," Holmstrom said.

The Arcada along with the Rialto in Joliet and the Chicago Theatre were some of the only theaters in the country that hadn't closed because of the depression. In fact according to Variety Magazine printed in the 1930s, during that period the Arcada was one of the last theaters still showing vaudeville acts in the country. It had a reputation as the Darling of Theaters, Holmstrom recalled.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 4

Arcada brings back memories

FROM PAGE 2

Holmstrom went to see "Crocodile Dundee II" at the Arcada recently. He sat up in the balcony. "In the early days the front row balcony chairs called loge seats were the expensive seats, larger and more comfortable with a better view of stage and screen," Holmstrom said. "I looked around and felt a bit melancholy. The grandeur of the theater is all but gone! My one hope is that the Arcada will never be cut up into shoe box size cinemas."

Another of Holmstrom's memories is Venetian Night, which was held on the Fox River during the pre-depression days.

"Every Labor Day weekend they had a parade up and down the river, north of Main St. bridge. There were boats and canoes, floats and wonderful, colorful Japanese lanterns everywhere," Holmstrom said.

"The Pottowattomi Park pavilion was beautifully decorated. It was used for dancing and picnicking. The spectators came by the hundreds to the park with their blankets and picnics in tow. Hundreds more gathered on the other side of the river."

According to Holmstrom, they all watched with delight from the banks of the river the beautiful sight on the water. The fireworks continually illuminated the sky overhead.

Holmstrom owned a boat which he called the "Foxy Queen." He kept it in a community boathouse along the river.

In the late 1920s a typical Saturday night in the summer months was for Holmstrom to take his date up the river in his canoe to the dances. There were two places that were quite well known. The Pinelands and Oakridge, located just west of Little Woods school.

The Pinelands building still stands today and has been converted into apartments.

"They were two competing dance halls with marvelous wooden floors. They were very outstanding and attracted big name bands," Holmstrom said. "The bands would play at the Trianon and at the Aragon ballrooms in Chicago and then they would come out to the Fox River for the summer.

"Many of the wealthier families from Chicago had summer cottages along the Fox. Such names as Fred Waring and the 'Pennsylvanians,' Guy Lombardo and his 'Royal Canadians,' Ted Fiorato, Paul Whiteman and others entertained there," Holmstrom said. "It usually cost \$4 a couple which was expensive back then, so sometimes instead of going in my friends and our dates would dance outside in the gravel. They never seemed to mind." Holmstrom said he and his friends had many memorable nights dancing to the melodies of the big bands at the river dance halls.

During the many years he has lived in St. Charles, Holmstrom has seen a lot of changes take place. He believes most of the changes are for the better. But he cherishes the memories of St. Charles when it was a quieter, slower-paced town.

Most people will never know what those days were like, but Holmstrom does. And his own wonderful memories bring it all back to life.

Holmstrom says he was proud of his hometown of St. Charles back then, and he's still proud of it today.

Editors note: The Holmstrom interview and additional information in this article is courtesy of the St. Charles Historical Society and is part of the society's oral history series in celebration of the 55th anniversary celebration of St. Charles.

**Honor Dr. C. A. Potter at Delnor;
Original Head of Medical Staff**



By Lois O'Mella
Delnor Hospital recently honored four area residents who were key participants in the early history of the hospital. Among these was Dr. C. A. Potter, first president of the medical staff, whose active interest continued from the day Delnor opened its doors, Thanksgiving Day, 1940, until the day of his death in February, 1966.

Dr. Potter was a lifetime resident of this area, and the story of his career, recounted by Mrs. C. A. Potter as she learned of the honor to be paid her late husband, extends from an era when the practice of medicine was conducted by horse and buggy to the era of the space age physician.

Mrs. Potter and Dr. Potter's niece, Mildred Washburn of Geneva, traced Dr. Potter's life back to the day he was born to Lemuel and Anna Potter on March 27, 1878 in LaFox, Illinois. His father owned a grocery store in LaFox, and the Potter homestead has been in the family for 106 years. The Potters came to this area from the East, and Lemuel M. Potter was the captain of a whaling ship which sailed out of New Bedford, Mass.

However, it was not the sea which challenged the young Charles Arthur Potter as he attended grammar school in LaFox and Geneva High School—the medical profession was always his goal.

Dr. Potter enrolled at the University of Illinois College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago, and was awarded his medical degree on Tuesday, May 20, 1902. His first post was on the staff of Alma Sanitarium of Michigan, and soon entered private practice in Cornell, Illinois.

"I can remember that he told me of riding in a horse and buggy on his rounds in Cornell with the mud so deep that he had to get off, unhitch and ride on horseback the rest of the way," Mrs. Potter reminisced. She told of his close friendship with Claude Ercanbreck, D.D.S. of Elburn. The two had attended school together, and when Dr. Ercanbreck accepted a position in Laramie, Wyo., he persuaded his young friend Dr. Potter to leave Illinois and join him. "Then, after Dr. Potter got settled in Laramie—which was far from family and friends—Dr. Ercanbreck decided to give up practice there and come back to Elburn," Mrs. Potter continued. After a few months of loneliness, young Dr. Potter suddenly asked himself what he was doing so far from home and followed his friend back to the Fox River Valley and St. Charles.

Dr. Potter started practice in St. Charles with Dr. Louis Van Patten in the old State Bank building overlooking the Fox River. Around 1910 the partners moved to East Main Street in an office adjoining Harry G. Hempstead's law office with an entrance in the area between what is now Nelson's Restaurant, corner of Main and First Avenues and Fisher's News Agency.

The name Harry Hempstead was going to become very familiar to Dr. Potter, for the Potter residence at 620 North

however, when Dr. Potter was working to establish his practice in St. Charles. Subsequent expansions of his own private practice led him to establish offices at the corner of Main and Second Avenue, above what is now Berry's Barber Shop, and (around 1955) at 105 South Second Avenue.

Meanwhile, the future Mrs. Potter was born Althea Whitney, raised in Wasco, and attended St. Charles High School. Dr. and Mrs. Potter were married in 1924 and had four children. Charles A. Potter, Jr. is the president of the First American Trust Company of Santa Ana, California, and the father of Charles A. Potter III. Ann Potter Lee (Mrs. Stanley) lives in St. Charles at 407 Eighth Court and is the mother of Stanley D. Lee, Jr., Debra Ann Lee and Joan Althea Lee. Priscilla Potter Berglund and husband, George reside in the former Potter residence at 620 North Third Avenue, St. Charles. Their children are Jeffrey E., David Whitney, Robert George and Kimberly. Ann Nancy Potter Lockwood (Mrs. Wayne) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has four children: Elizabeth Wing Lockwood, William W. Lockwood, Kathryn Lockwood and Christopher.

"All his life, Dr. Potter was very active in community affairs," Mrs. Potter continued. She remembers that St. Charles Day was celebrated then much as Founder's Day is celebrated now. One of the highlights was a King Neptune float on the river and residents would bet on how fast the float would travel from Jones Woods to the St. Charles dam. Dr. Potter always enthusiastically participated in the planning of events like these. He was active on the St. Charles school board and in the Rotary Club and Masonic Order and served in World War I as a captain in the Army reserve.

"He loved all children and his special interest was in the Boy Scouts of America. He organized the doctors who were in attendance at Camp Rotary McQueen," Mrs. Potter recalls. The Executive Board of the Shabbona Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored his service in 1956 with a citation for an "extraordinary contribution to the youth of DeKalb and Kane Counties."

In October of 1953 Dr. Potter was recognized for his 50-years of membership in the Illinois State Medical Society

He had served as president of the Kane County Medical Society and was a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club.

For 26 years, Dr. Potter served as a member of the Delnor Hospital medical staff and long before Delnor was built, he was on the staff of the first hospital in St. Charles, the building which is now the Moose Lodge on West Main Street. He was among those who later advocated the move to larger quarters on North Second Avenue and asked the American Legion to organize a campaign to establish the Miller mansion as the old City Hospital of St. Charles.

It was not surprising that his life-long area resident and community minded Doctor should be chosen to head the first medical staff at Delnor Hospital.

In May of 1962, St. Charles paid tribute to Dr. Potter with a festive Rotary Club sponsored celebration which included an afternoon at Wrigley Field where he and 60 friends watched the Cubs play the Braves followed by a testimonial dinner attended by 275 at the Baker Hotel, during which he was cited as "Humanitarian, philanthropist, and family man." Although he retired from active practice after 60 years as a practicing physician, he never retired from his interest in the hospital, and Dr. Potter remained an honorary member of the medical staff until his death in February, 1966.

A Dr. Potter Memorial Fund was established at Delnor and several Dr. Potter nursing scholarships were given and with the unveiling of the new Donor Standard, his name is permanently recorded in bronze in a place of honor in the hospital he served so long and so well.

**Boy's School Graduates 31
On Thursday**

Graduation ceremonies were held Thursday for 31 students at the Illinois State Training School for Boys at St. Charles, operated by the Illinois Youth Commission, according to IYC executive director, Joseph S. Coughlin.

Three of the students received high school General Equivalency Diplomas, recognized by all accredited high schools and colleges throughout the country, and the remaining graduates received eight grade diplomas.

Coughlin, recently appointed executive director of the Youth Commission, spoke to the graduates and their parents. He is the former deputy commissioner of the Iowa Department of Social Services, and has previously served 17 years in the field of probation, parole, and corrections for the state of Wisconsin.

The ceremony, which took place in the training school's All Faiths Chapel, and was followed by a reception for the graduates, their parents and guests

**Donald H. Johnson
Dies in Florida
Services Held Miami**

Word has been received in St. Charles of the death of Donald H. Johnson, 36, the son of Lloyd A. Johnson of 121 South 6th Street. Mr. Johnson died on Saturday in Miami, Florida.

Mr. Johnson attended St. Patrick's School and was a graduate of St. Charles High School in the class of 1951. He enlisted in the Marines after graduation and served in Korea.

Surviving are his wife, Lois; a daughter, Jennifer; his father, Lloyd Johnson of St. Charles; two sisters, Sharon Sanders of Batavia and Barbara Anderson of Carpentersville as well as nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret, and two brothers.

Services and interment were held in Miami.

A memorial to his tribute has been established with the Heart Fund.

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In loving memory of Harry Satterwalte, who passed away 8 years ago, June 12.

I often sit and think of you
When I am all alone,
For memory is the only thing

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As long as life and memory lasts
I will remember you
Wife, Minnie

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of Laverne (Suede) Anderson who passed away 4 years ago June 12th.

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Often brings a silent tear,
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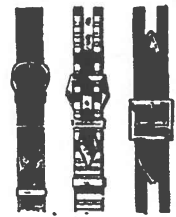
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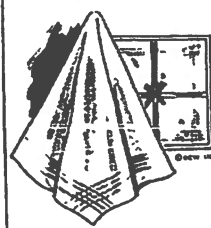
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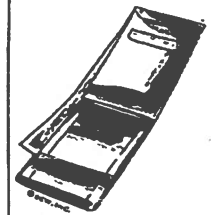
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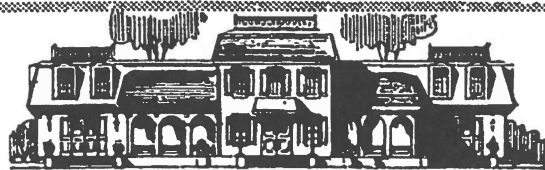
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