THE AMERICAN UNION

CHAUTAUQUA EDITION

Tenth Anniversary Program 1912-1921

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Sixty-Fifth Year. DENTON, MARYLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1921. $1.00 Per Year.

Denton---City of Beautiful Homes---Business Metropolis of Caroline County.

DENTON AND ITS INTERESTS

A town, like an individual, should form the habit of reflection. It needs to examine its life occasionally, know its achievements and study its shortcomings.

Unlike the individual, a town should grow better and stronger with the passing years. If it does not, dry rot will set in and the community become a back number. Of those who have lived longest, no citizens of Denton ever attained the age of 125 years. But our town did not really start to grow to any worth while extent until it becamea centenarian. It was not until near the close of the last century that our people realized its possibilities of Denton, and since that time it has been "on the mat."

History and tradition are in conflict over the name of our town and its origin. Edenton, according to its historian, was named for Sir Robert Eden, the proprietary governor of Maryland from 1769 to 1774. Then the other version traces the name to its original Garden of Eden on the theory that the Eastern Shore is really the modern Garden of Eden and that Edenton (Denton) located in the center of this garden, was the logical capital. The reader is privileged to accept either "horn of the dilemma."

In the closing years of the Nineteenth Century, two events occurred which caused the old town to awake from its Rip Van Winkle nap, viz: (1) The building of the new Court House and (2) the construction of the (then called) Queen Anne's Railroad.

PROPERTY VALUES

Before the advent of these two enterprises, values on town real estate were low. About this time some old landmarks, including the Charles Steven's and William G. Horsey properties, were divided into building lots and sold at public sale. It was then that a new record was set and from that time to the present Denton property values have compared well with the best towns on the Shore. With all the new building projects since then it is difficult to find a vacant house in the town.

TRANSPORTATION

Location on the Choptank River was Denton's salvation for a long time in the matter of traveling and shipping facilities. From 1850 to 1890 steamboats gradually absorbed both the passenger and freight traffic to Baltimore. For many years there were six steamboat trips a week and those boats—The Ida, The Joppa, The Georgianna, The Avalon and others—met all the needs of the public. In 1897 the railroad came and with it quieker service to our metropolis with bus lines to Ridgely and Greensboro, quick connections are made with the Pennsylvania system. The town is not concerned over new routes of travel, but rather for better schedules on the now existing systems.

COUNTY BUILDINGS

The Caroline County Court House was built about a quarter of a century ago from a $20,000 bond issue. It has met the County's needs in a most remarkable way and really is one of the most attractive Court Houses on the Shore. The spacious square, with its spendid shade trees, furnish a most beautiful setting for this public buildnig.

A commodious jail occupies a site on the slope of the Choptank River and is an ornament to the section where it is located. Due, perhaps, to the high standard for good morals there are never enough occupants in this nursery of "Jessup's Cut" and "The Pen," to live in a crowded condition, so the sanitary conditions of the jail are excellent.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

This is "neither the time nor the occasion" to say much about our school buildings. Since 1890 Denton has never had adequate school facilities, although a new building was erected in 1901. The idea of economy so pervaded the school and county officials at that time that the new building from the start was too small and lacked in proper school facilities. The town has been placed in a most awkward position ever since in having adequate school quarters, but always "too good to throw away." Never mind. The same good fighting spirit which brought about other good things for Denton will, after a while, land a high school building.

ELECTRIC PLANT AND LAW BUILDING

More than twenty years ago, four young men of brains and energy, believing in the town's future and willing to risk their money, in making Denton up-to-date, started on a plan of development which gave birth to many of the enterprises which have "made Denton famous."

The erection of the Law Building with its store rooms and offiices and the provision of an electric plant which substituted in most of the homes electricity for coal oil and acetylene gas lamps, was only making possible the building of a stand pipe with artesian wells sunk 500 feet in the earth from whcih come our supply of pure water.

WATER AND SEWERAGE

The town owns the water plant and the sewer system; and so business-like has been the administration of these public utilities that the bonds have almost been paid off.

Situated as the town is on the river bank, drainage is a simple problem, and at a minimum cost the town is kept in a good sanitary condition. Too much cannot be said for the town's water supply. The artesian wells not alone furnish an abundance of water, but its analysis is excellent. Pure drinking water and good sewage mean much to the desirability of a town as a place to live and also to the health and happiness of the people who live there.

INDUSTRIES

Denton cannot be called a "factory town." It is possible for it to become one. We need a Board of Trade with our most wide awake citizens composing its membership. There seems no good reason why, in the space of five years, we can't double our industrial activities.

LUMBER MILL

One of the oldest establishments is the lumber mill located near the station. It ranks well with similar plants north of Salisbury and has done its part in building up our town.

CANNERIES

The most extensive industry has been the canning houses which have given employment for two or three months of the year to hundreds of people. These were good money makers to their owners until the past year when the slump came in the canned goods market. This depression not alone affects the owners of these plants but laboring classes who were paid high wages in these factories will feel the sting also. In addition to tomatoes, much corn and peas are packed in the Redden cannery over the bridge.

GARAGES

No town of its size can boast of better or more automobile stores than can Denton. There are five in the town, and four of them have excellent buildings involving a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. This industry is of course a new one, a necessary corrolary of the automobile proposition, and shows how completely the motor has taken the place of the horse in the matter of travel and hauling.

BANKS

Its banking institutions have done their part to build up the town and to keep it on a substantial basis. The Dentot national was organized in 1881; The Peoples Bank in1898, and the Farmers and Merchants in1919. The deposits in these banks total one and a half million dollars. This furnishes a fair index of the prosperity of the people and also of the business conditions of the community. Many new enterprises have been made possible by the liberal credit extended to business men who had brains and energy enough to make it profitable to themselves, as well as to the banks, to borrow money.

ICE FACTORY

When the people of Denton started on "high gear" and things began to warm up, the need of an ice plant was felt and soon thereafter the ice plant was numbered among our boasted industries. The needs of the town have been well met in this particular and ice is now considered as necessary as butter. No town can be content and satisfied during the warm season without an abundant supply of ice cream. It helps in the discipline of the children in the home. The ice plant man was psychologist enough to recognize this need and he has provided graciously and adequately for a supply of ice cream which is the one hot weather dish everybody wants.

SHIRT FACTORY

Our town has been somewhat spasmodic in the support of a shirt factory. Everybody wears shirts. They must be made somewhere. They can be as economically made in Denton as elsewhere. We should have a factory all the time and it should be large enough to employ a hundred people. The ide of a Board of Trade looms up again as an outstanding need. Who will make the motion that we have a Board of Trade and have same pretty quick.

FISHERIES

It will never to do omit mention of one of our oldest crafts—the catching of fish. We have borne the brunt of that perennial story that during fish season the inhabitnts along the Choptank have to wear shirts made of tin to keep the fish bones from going to the surface of their clothes; but whether that is true or not, we must take off our hats to the industry which for ages has made possible the shad and herring. Say what you please, but in the years gone by the herring did its full share in simplyfying the living problem. They are still delicious, but getting to be too much of a delicacy. Our slogan is "more shad and cheaper in price."

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

A good hotel in a town sustains about the same relation to the traveling public that a well appointed kitchen does to a home. While we are in the flesh we are not going to be cured of the eating habit. It makes no difference how good a dinner we had, we will want our supper. The temper for business is always more keen after a good meal. The Brick Hotel has helped very much to give Denton a good name, especially away from home. People who live away from home several days of the week appreciate a good clean room, and a good table when in a hotel. They find all these at our hotel and they sing its praises wherever they go. It brings people here who would not otherwise come. A good hotel is one of the best boosters for a town. Let's rejoice we have one. A motion is in order for the people of Denton to give a banquet in honor of mine host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. John Baggs.

STORES

Denton and its surrounding communities have good store facilities. In the past 25 years the volume of mercantile business done in the town has increased ten fold. Where will you find better buildings for the trade than we have in the Nuttle, Carter, Nichols Blocks, the Telephone and Law Buildings? You won't find them. The trade is good since about all the approaches to town are hard roads. Then the state road runs through the town and Main street is cemented from the Bridge to the Railroad, about a mile. This gives a concrete street from north to south and another from east to west touching the four limits of the town.

SHADED STREETS

Another creditable showing for the town is its well shaded streets. The telephone and electric light promoters have not had carte blanche privileges here and lend greatly to the town's attractiveness. Vacant lots may be much product of a lifetime and we have guarded these beautifiers with zeal and determination. The vandal must not touch our shade trees. Well paved side walks, and these shaded with trees, add much to the comfort of the dwellers here and lend greatly to the town's attractivenss. Vacant lots may be much improved through some active organization like the Community Club. Ladies keep up your assaults on the Town Fathers until they make Denton the prettiest town on the shore.

POST OFFICE

This department of the Federal Government is located in the Law Building in the center of the town. Denton is a second class post office with excellent facilities as far as they go. It seems a hardship that citizens living near the limits of the town should have to go to the office to mail a letter. We should have at least four letter boxes where mail may be put and gathered by the force in the post office. Our town has a Congressman and he will take up the matter with the Federal authorities if requested. Why not have these facilities extended? Other towns of our size have them.

CHURCHES

With a populatio nof 2,500, it speaks well for the religious interests of our people to suport eight churches. The following denominations have churches in the town, viz.: Protestant Episcopal, Catholic, Methodist Episcopal; Methodist Protestant, Church of the Brethren, the Holiness Church, Methodist Episcopal (colored) and African M. E. (colored). In church edifices, our town does not compare favorably with some of the Eastern Shore towns. When pre-war conditions are restored, we may expect more activity in church building.

THEATRES

People must hvae wholesome amusement. No town is complete which fails to provide public halls where entertainments of various kinds may be given. Since 1884 our town has had at least one large room provided in the Masonic Hall for such entertainments. Recently Parker's movie theatre was built and just a short while ago Bryan't Palace theatre was opened. This new building is a most creditable affair and is none too large for present needs.

NEWSPAPERS

For considerable more than half a century Denton has had two progressive newspapers to chronicle the passing events and carry her messages of social, political and business activities to the outside world. Both of these periodicals have had a more or less checkered career and have been owned, managed or edited by quite a number of different men, with more or less success.

The Denton Journal is the older of the two publications and has been the mouth-piece of the Democratic Party since its inception. It is now an eight-column paper, printing from four to eight pages and is a very successful business venture under the management of Messrs. Melvin & Johnson. It occupies its own building on Main street adjoining the Brick Hotel and is without question the leading Democratic paper of Caroline County.

The American Union is the only Republican paper in Caroline County and has enjoyed this distinction since the time it was founded and first made an appeal to the poeple of the Eastern Shore in behalf of the principles of the then new party. Several of its various woners and editors have been men of conspicuous ability and highly progressive ideas. It was The American Union that brought to Denton the first type setting machine ever seen in this locality (the old American Typograph machine now an exhibit in the back room of the present office.)

This periodical publishes a newspaper in quarto form, seven columns to a page and under the present management, Mr. G. H. Rue, editor and proprietor, has installed one of the newest models of the Mergenthaler Linotype machines which now does the type setting for the paper, with a ficilty that enables the Union to print a larger volumn of news and receive and handle nwes matter without restriction almost up to the minute of going to press.

The American Union office has recently been removed from its old location on the second floor of the Carter Block to the building adjoining on Third street, where it now has ground floor quarters and occupies the entire building.

HOMES

The residences of Denton give a variety of good architecture and are attractive in appearance. It is doubtful if another town of similar size has a greater percentage of beautiful and comfortable homes. The claim can be made with fairness that the percentage of homes here with modern conveniences and comforts is unusually large . If every proprty owner will try to make his property the cleanest and prettiest of the town then Denton will be a model rural town of which we will all feel even prouder than we do now.

Altogether for a bigger, better and more beautiful DENTON. This can be done by buying and selling in DENTON, rather than sending away for your wants. Patronize our Advertisers. They are live, wide-awake business men and will treat you fair.

Editor's Note—The above was compiled and edited for the Chautauqua Edition of The American Union by Mr. M. Bate Stephens to whom we extend our thanks.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT CONTRIBUTED BY THE AMERICAN UNION TO FURTHER A BIGGER AND BETTER DENTON CHAUTAUQUA.

The gift that has personality—that is you.

Your portrait made in your home.

Be photographed this year on your birthday

Home sittings by appointment



THE BRADLEY STUDIO

Amateur Finishing Framing

THE BOHEMIAN GIRL

Had it ben possible for us to take a vote on the opera we should present this year we believe that you would have chosen with us Balfe's ever-popular, "The Bohemian Girl."

Would you not have desired, as we thought you did, to hear an experienced cast render those well-known songs, such as, "Then You'll Remember Me," "The Heart Bowed Down," "I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls," and "The Fair Land of Poland."

If you have heard them once, of course, you will remember them and will look forward with pleasant anticipation to your re-acquaintance with them. If you have not already learned to know these songs, you could not make their acquaintance under better conditions than will be afforded you when this opera is presented by the cast which will give it on your Chautauqua program.

The fact that Arthur Wooley, whom you will remember as Sir Joseph in "Pinafore" two years ago, is to be the director of the company which will give the opera in your town, is sufficient guarantee of its quality.

For an evening of delightful musical reminiscences or wonderful new friendships in harmony be sure to hear "The Bohemian Girl" on the fourth night.

JOHN T. CARTER

CANDIDATE

for the

Republican Nomination

for

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

of

CAROLINE COUNTY

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