

A HISTORY OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE
IN JUNCTION CITY KANSAS: 1880-1919

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of Speech
Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

by

Marvin Jonason

August 1970

Thesis
1970
J

Forrest A. Newlin
Approved for the Major Department

James C. Boyer
Approved for the Graduate Council

303162

2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. AN INTRCDUCTION TO THE STUDY	1
Statement of the Problem	3
Definitions of Terms Used	3
Sources to be Used	4
Method of Organization	4
II. THE HISTORY OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE	6
The Founding of The Junction City Opera House	6
The Construction of the Opera House	9
Opening of the Opera House	15
Physical Characteristics of the Opera House	15
Christening of the Opera House	17
Remodeling of the Blakely Opera House	18
The Burning of the Blakely Opera House	18
Rebuilding the Opera House	20
The End of an Era	22
III. CONCLUSIONS	25
BIBLIOGRAPHY	27
APPENDIX A	30
1882	31
1883	32
1884	34
1885	34
1886	35

APPENDIX (continued)

PAGE

1887	35
1888	36
1889	37
1890	37
1891	38
1892	38
1893	39
1894	40
1895	41
1896	42
1897	43
1898	44
1899	44
1900	46
1901	48
1902	50
1903	52
1904	55
1905	57
1906	59
1907	61
1908	63
1909	64
1910	67

APPENDIX A (continued)	PAGE
1911	69
1912	71
1913	72
1914	72
1915	73
1916	74
1917	75
1918	76
1919	77
APPENDIX B	80
Speech Given by Judge Humphrey at the opening of the Opera House on January 5, 1882	81
APPENDIX C	84
Figure 1	
Exterior Picture of the Junction City Opera House	85
Figure 2	
Burning of the Junction City Opera House	86
Figure 3	
Exterior Picture of the Junction City Opera House	87
Figure 4	
Opera House Boxes	88
Figure 5	
Scenic Drop of the Junction City Opera House	89

APPENDIX C (continued)

PAGE

Figure 6

Stage of the Junction City Opera House 90

Figure 7

Stage of the Junction City Opera House 91

CHAPTER I

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

In the small towns across America one can find old buildings which were once the centers of cultural life in the community. Whether it was called an Odd Fellows Hall, a Masonic Temple, a Music Hall, an Opera House, or was just a hall with the owner's name on the front, it brought a variety of entertainers and traveling shows to the community.¹

And there throughout the country they stand today, many of them, facing the world as bravely and proudly as they did years ago when they were the center of interest that brought their little world to the Town Hall Tonight.²

The world of the town hall, opera house or such brought the traveling companies and Broadway shows to the eager awaiting public.

Road shows came and went with Broadway stars in New York hits. Some of them even visited the smaller towns for a one night stand to break their jumps between their week engagements. But these were the more pretentious one nighters with theaters equipped to handle a big time production. The smaller towns depended for their entertainment upon the traveling companies that played the local town hall.³

The existence of these small town theaters was pertinent to the growth of the American Theatre; it is part of its legend and history. Being part of this history it has been greatly overshadowed by the theatrical activities of the large cities. An understanding of the history

¹Harlow R. Hoyt, Town Hall Tonight (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1955), p. 13.

²Ibid., p. 279.

³Loc. cit.

of the American Theatre is not complete without research of these small town theaters showing theatre growth and development during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

No history of the Junction City Opera House has been written. Hopefully this thesis, A History of the Junction City Opera House in Junction City, Kansas; 1880-1919, will add to the body of knowledge concerning the development of the American Theatre.

A history of the Junction City Opera House would give insight into the events which happened in Junction City during its existence.

The desire for an opera house in Junction City was unquestioned. Mary Liz Montgomery recounts:

Many of the village's residents were from the East and a number of the men stationed at Fort Riley were southerners. They had seen enough rabble-rousing on this frontier and longed for a more cultural environment.⁴

The Junction City Opera House played a major role in bringing theatrical activity to Kansas.

The Opera House new and elegant soon became the top-ranking theater for stock companies between Kansas City and Denver with virtually every operetta, drama and concert stopping here for a night or two.⁵

The history of the Junction City Opera House would not only provide historical information about Junction City and the state of Kansas, but, hopefully, it will stimulate more research into the small town theatres of America.

⁴The Junction City Union, February 3, 1970.

⁵Ibid.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study is to present an historical account of the Junction City Opera House in Junction City, Kansas, from its origin to 1919 when it became the City Theatre and to record its theatrical productions presented by local groups and traveling stock companies.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

The following terms have been used by the researcher in compiling this study.

Physical characteristics. This term is defined as the physical attributes of the facilities such as size, seating capacity, architecture, floor plan, and equipment.

Traveling stock companies. Traveling stock companies for the purpose of this study, includes those companies organized, either nationally or locally, to travel and perform various types of entertainment.

Theatrical productions. All productions that are dramatic presentations, or plays, minstrel shows and burlesques.

Historical study. An historical study is the "study of a period, person, or phenomena in human development, in order to record discovered facts in an accurate, coherent, and critical narrative that posits causations and probabilities."⁶

⁶J. Jeffrey Auer, An Introduction to Research in Speech (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1959), p. 28.

SOURCES TO BE USED

Material for the study was researched from the various sources. These sources fall into the following categories: (1) historical reference books on the American theatre, (2) state and local history books, (3) examination of the local newspapers, (4) interviews with local citizens, (5) material available from the Kansas State Historical Society.

The majority of the documentation was gathered from the Junction City Union and the Junction City Republican, the newspapers of the time, because of their completeness in reporting the events vital to this study.

The basic historical information on the founding and establishment of the opera house was researched from the History of the State of Kansas by A. T. Andreas, The Annals of Kansas 1886-1925 by Kirke Mechem, and information recorded in the Junction City Library.

METHOD OF ORGANIZATION

Chapter one presents the introduction to the study, the background and purpose of the study, the definition of terms, the sources used, and the method of organization used.

Chapter two presents the history of the Junction City Opera House. The chapter is divided into the following divisions: the founding of the opera house, the construction, the opening, the physical characteristics, the remodeling, the christening of the Blakely Opera House, the burning, the rebuilding, and the conversion from opera house to movie theatre.

Chapter three discusses the conclusions drawn from the research of the Junction City Opera House during the time of this study.

The Appendix A lists in chronological order the theatrical events which took place at the Junction City Opera House from 1882-1919. These events listed in the chapter are only those events mentioned or reviewed in the newspapers that were researched.

The Appendix B gives the text of the speech given by Judge Humphrey at the opening of the Junction City Opera House on January 5, 1882.

The Appendix C shows photographs of the exterior, the interior, and various productions of the Junction City Opera House.

CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

The founding of the Junction City Opera House. Opera houses flourished in Kansas at the end of the nineteenth century, and they could be found in all of the major cities and many of the smaller towns. Junction City, at the beginning of the 1880's, was one of the few larger cities in Kansas without an opera house. The people of Junction City were well aware of this deficiency which became more pointed after a small group of interested theatre-goers attended a presentation of Seven Oaks given in the Abilene opera house. The Junction City Union carried the following account of the trip:

About seventy-five people, including the members of the "Seven Oaks" Dramatic Club, went to Abilene on Friday evening of last week, to witness the play of "Seven Oaks" in Bonebrakes Opera House. . . . the Abilene people treated our party courteously and handsomely, and it will be our pleasure to reciprocate at the first opportunity. Our folks fell in love with Abilene's beautiful opera house and all long for the day when Junction City can boast of one equally as good.¹

The enthusiasm was strong, and time was not to be lost in making the opera house a reality in Junction City. The following announcement appeared in the next issue of the Union:

An opera house meeting is to be held at the Bartell house this (Friday) evening, at which everybody interested is invited to be present. Let there be a good attendance of property holders and business men. A plan for the raising of means to erect an opera house will be submitted to the meeting. The project is feasible and there is money in it.²

¹Junction City Union, May 8, 1880.

²Ibid., May 15, 1880.

The meeting was well attended, and the desire for an opera house was indicated by businessmen as well as the theatre enthusiasts. The meeting initiated a proposal that would incorporate an opera house and city hall building to be bonded and voted upon by the people of Junction City. The proposal was well accepted, and a committee was appointed to solicit names on a petition to be given to the city council. The following account of the meeting was given by the Union on May 22, 1880:

The opera house meeting at the Bartell house last Friday evening was attended by a respectable number of the business men of the city and the prevailing sentiment was that Junction City must have a spacious and comfortable hall or opera house. Plans for a joint stock company were considered and after considerable discussion they were voted to be impracticable. On motion of Hon. J. R. McClure a committee of five was appointed to solicit names for a petition to the council to submit a proposition to the people to vote bonds to the amount of \$20,000 for the erection of a city hall. Capt. McClure sustained his motion by one of the most sensible addresses ever made in this city. He showed that a public hall, with a seating capacity of a thousand people, was an absolute necessity here, and that it could be erected by the city without practically adding a dollar to its indebtedness. S. W. Pierce, J. C. Scott, W. S. Blakely, George S. Miller, M. K. Bitterman, and S. S. Hunter were appointed the committee who have obtained a large number of names. J. C. Scott offers to give a site for the building and Messrs. Scott and Pierce propose to lease it for a term of years agreeing to pay the interest occurring on the bonds and also the annual amount apportioned for the sinking fund, for the lease. The city can have rooms in this building for an engine house, council chamber, police justice and calaboose without expense. This is a scheme that should commend itself to the favor of every sagacious and public spirited man in Junction City.³

The city council acted quickly upon the petition and a resolution was passed to submit to the voters a proposition for the issuing of bonds in the amount of \$20,000. A proclamation was issued in the paper stating the time of the election, July 15, 1880, the amount of the bonds

³Ibid., May 22, 1880.

was set at \$12,000 instead of \$20,000, and the proposed site was to be Seventh and Jefferson, lots 8, 9, and 10.⁴

The Junction City Union, outspoken on the opera house, made many comments urging the people to vote for the bonds:

Now friends of Junction City, is your opportunity of making a telling strike for your town. If this proposition fails, good-bye to a public hall for years. The Union earnestly favors it and believes its adoption will be of incalculable benefit to the city.⁵

The people of Junction City responded well to the proposal by giving a strong majority vote in favor of the city hall building. The vote showed 214 for the bonds and 86 against, a majority of 128 votes.

The Junction City Union commented on the election by stating:

Junction City covered itself all over with glory last Thursday. The proposition to issue bonds of the city to the amount of \$12,000 for the erection of a city hall was adopted by an emphatic and wholesome majority.⁶

The news of the vote was carried to various cities in the area and their newspapers complimented the decision of the Junction City voters. The Salina Journal reported:

The people of Junction City have shown their good sense in voting to issue \$12,000 bonds for construction of a much needed public hall, with a seating capacity of 1,000.⁷

Securing the necessary votes, the city council appointed Mr. Ketner, Mr. Strand, and Mr. Trovinger to a committee that would

⁴Ibid., June 5, 1880.

⁵Ibid., June 19, 1880.

⁶Ibid., July 17, 1880.

⁷Ibid., July 24, 1880.

superintend the erection of the city hall building. The council also enlisted Mr. Wells, an architect from Kansas City, to draw up plans and specifications for the building and submit them to the next council meeting.⁸

On August 14, 1880, an announcement appeared in the Union that the plans and specifications had been received by the council and were accepted after some alterations. ✓

The construction of the Opera House. In the desire to keep the construction within the community, sealed bids were requested from local merchants for the furnishing of materials and labor for the erection of the building. The following contracts were open for bids: excavation, masons' work, carpenters' work, plastering, and painting. The proposed completion date was January 1, 1881. On August 30, 1880, the city council rejected the bids and solicited a new advertisement in the paper for lower bids.⁹

The second bids submitted were acceptable and contracts were let: J. H. Strand, stone cutting; Hohlgreen and Oberg, stone masons; Scott and Thurston, lime stone; McKnight and Bartell, brick for the building; Mr. Terhune, contractor. The tentative completion date was re-scheduled for April, 1881.¹⁰

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid., September 4, 1880.

¹⁰Ibid., September 25, 1880.

On December 9, 1880, Mr. Terhune met with the city council and asked for permission to suspend work until spring. Permission was granted.¹¹

Before work resumed on the building, the city council was served with a temporary injunction suit in the first week of February, 1881. The injunction was filed by Mr. Jetmoe of Topeka and J. H. Franklin, county attorney of Davis county. The injunction was designed to: (1) stop the city council from constructing a city hall costing more than \$12,000, (2) stop construction on any portion that may be used for other than public purposes, (3) keep the council from paying the interest on the bonds issued by the city out of funds levied and collected for general revenue purposes.¹² This injunction resulted from the feelings of a minority group of citizens who felt the council had taken too much liberty when they engaged Mr. Terhune to construct the city hall for \$15,000 which was \$3,000 over the voted bond issue. The city council believed this added expense was necessary to avoid making an inferior building. Legal questions arising were the following: (1) did the mayor and the city council have the right to exceed the amount voted upon, (2) did they have the right to construct part of the building for uses other than public purposes.¹³ The payment of the interest on the bonds had already been paid out of general revenue funds and could not comply with the restraining order under the injunction.

¹¹Ibid., December 11, 1880.

¹²Ibid., March 5, 1881.

¹³Ibid.

The injunction case was heard by Judge J. H. Austin. He referred the question to the statutes of the city which would show the council's power and limitations. By examination of the various sections of the law it was felt by the court that the council had acted out of concern for the public in order to secure a city hall for public uses. It was also felt that the funds derived from the general fund, if there was a surplus, could legally be diverted. The ruling of the court was that a temporary injunction should not be granted.¹⁴

The work on the building resumed in March of 1881, but the injunction order was only one of many hurdles before the building was to be completed.

In April the Union noted two accidents which occurred during construction of the city building:

A wheel-barrow fell from the second story and hit a gentleman of color, Mr. Dobbs fortunately only received a slight scalp wound.

Wednesday afternoon Mr. Strand, son, and Mr. Augustus Johnson were about to place a stone cap on one of the windows of the upper story when the scaffold gave way, and Mr. Johnson and the cap fell to the ground inside the building a distance of twenty-eight feet. Mr. Johnson was slightly injured on one of his legs. Mr. Strand and son clung to the wall until rescued by fellow workmen.¹⁵

The next major consequence was the death of Mr. Terhune in June, 1881. Mr. Terhune died from bilious fever. All work under Mr. Terhune's contract was stopped. The newspaper announced that the work would be

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Ibid., April 30, 1881.

completed by the city, and a week later the work resumed. The amount of expenditures at this time was \$10,500.¹⁶

On August 6, 1881, a major setback was incurred when a large portion of the building fell to the ground. The Union gave the following account:

About 4:30 a.m. today (Friday) the tower and spire of the city building sank to the ground with a terrible crash carrying with it a portion of the roof over the city offices, and the joices and partitions of all the stories north of the partition wall. The walls north of the partition wall are so badly injured that they will have to be taken down. Mr. Nicholson, the superintendent of the building, estimates the loss from the disaster will amount to at least \$6,000. Mr. Nicholson has always said that the walls of the tower were too weak and attaches the blame for the disaster to both the architect and contractor.¹⁷

That same day the city council went into a special session at 11:00 a.m. and ordered an examination of the building to determine the cause of the accident.¹⁸

The following week Mr. E. T. Carr and George Wells, the original architect, representing Farrand and Wells Firm of Kansas City, arrived in Junction City to inspect the city building. Mr. Wells expressed his view by saying the late contractor, Mr. Terhune, did not follow the building specifications. Mr. Carr felt that the plans were good but the language of the specifications was ambiguous and gave too much latitude to the contractor. He also felt that the tower was the only weak point in the building and that work could continue without interruption. He

¹⁶Ibid., June 18, 1881.

¹⁷Ibid., August 6, 1881.

¹⁸Ibid.

also estimated the repair cost for the damages at \$1,500 to \$2,000.¹⁹ After returning to Kansas City with the findings from the accident he sent a letter to the city council of Junction City containing his recommendations for completion of the building.

The work on the building continued smoothly with an opening date set for January, 1882. In October, 1881 the gas lighting equipment arrived and Capt. J. C. Walkinshow from Leavenworth, Kansas, came to direct the installation. The Union noted the reaction of Mr. Walkinshow after he had been in the opera house:

Capt. J. C. Walkinshow, of Leavenworth was in the city last Tuesday, to give some directions as to the arrangement of gas burners on the stage of the opera house. The Captain is in love with our opera house and says ours will be the largest and handsomest in the state. He is an old experienced stage carpenter.²⁰

On October 29, 1881, the newspaper pointed out that the city council had ordered 600 chairs from the American Store Stool Company of Chicago. They had ordered enough to fill the dress circle and in the future hoped to add 300 more seats.²¹ Because of the limitation of city funds the other equipment needed for the theatre had to be obtained by other means. A letter addressed to the public of Junction City by one of the members of the Junction City Dramatic Club appeared in the paper which stated:

The new city hall in which all citizens of Junction City take a deep interest, will soon be ready for occupancy. The gas machine, which has been on the road several weeks, is all that delays the

¹⁹Ibid., August 13, 1881.

²⁰Ibid., October 22, 1881.

²¹Ibid., October 29, 1881.

opening. It seems to us proper at this time to say that the furnishings, stage, scenery, foot lights, coal, gasoline, and various sundries, have been procured on time, and have run our expenses higher than we at first anticipated. The payment of the bills was guaranteed by a few of the public spirited citizens, who leased the hall from the city council with a promise that as soon as they had been reimbursed for this outlay, the lease to terminate, and the property to be turned over to the city clear of incumbrance. It was the only way in which the stage could be furnished, as the council was not authorized by law to spend city funds for stage appurtenances.

It was hoped we could have the hall early in the season, as we had a celebrated combination engaged, and were intending to have a "Grand Opening," but this to our disappointment has been found impracticable at this season of the year. Of course this opening entertainment comes under the lease, and it behooves us to make it as remunerative to ourselves as possible as we have concluded to open with an amateur company. We will thus be able to put the price of admission so that all may come; and thus by patronizing us help pay for the scenery, etc.

We have already made dates with some first class companies later in the season, and the persons who will be disappointed in not seeing "professionals" at the opening will be gratified in due time. We think that when the public understands our reasons for using home town talent they will lend a helping hand in the same spirit we ask it that of making this the finest hall in the state a successful enterprise.²²

As the opening of the opera house grew nearer the Junction City Dramatics Club began rehearsals of a Spanish drama called Miralda to be given at the opening along with an address by Judge Humphrey. The Junction City Union carried the following comment which told of the dramatic club's reason for christening the new building as the "City Hall" because: "there are so many snide towns all around with opera houses, that the boys thought the name overdone."²³

²²Ibid., December 24, 1881.

²³Ibid., December 31, 1881.

Opening of the Opera House. The new Opera House opened its doors to the Junction City public on January 5, 1882. The program opened with a speech by Judge Humphrey that was followed by the Spanish drama, Miralda, given by the Junction City Dramatic Club. The play was given two nights and cleared \$170.00 which was used to help pay for the furnishings.

The production by the dramatic club was amateur and the desire to officially open the opera house with a professional company was fulfilled on January 10, 1882. The Union carried the following announcement:

Our city hall is to have another opening next Tuesday night, the performance of the Clayton Star Concert Company is to be given there, which will be attended by excursion parties from Clay Center and Manhattan. Arrangements will also be made to procure the assistance of the Fort Riley band or orchestra. As the concert company is one of the best on the road, a splendid treat is in store for our citizens. The audience will be large, fashionable and tony, and the formal opening of the hall by a foreign or professional company will be interesting and brilliant.²⁴

The citizens of Junction City witnessed two official openings giving the Opera House a solid beginning. A. L. Barnes was in charge of managing the Opera House and J. W. Barney was secretary and treasurer.²⁵

Physical characteristics of the Junction City Opera House. The people of Junction City were proud of their new opera house which was located on the corner of Seventh and Jefferson. It was a red brick structure reflecting a Victorian taste in architecture. The windows gave evidence of a provincial French style. The tall tower held a four

²⁴Ibid., January 7, 1882.

²⁵Ibid., December 31, 1881.

faced clock, audible and visible in all directions to the people of Junction City. On the west side of Jefferson Street was the entrance where a porte-cochere served the carriages that brought theatre-goers to the opera house.²⁶ The front of the building housed the fire department, police department, jail, and the city council room on the second floor.

The interior of the opera house was large with a possible seating space of 1,000 although when it first opened only 600 seats were installed.²⁷

The auditorium was lighted by a large prismatic reflector with sixty gas burners. This gas chandelier was suspended from the ceiling high over the auditorium.²⁸

The stage was located at the south end of the auditorium, it was twenty feet deep by sixty-two feet wide with a proscenium opening about thirty-six feet square. The front curtain was flown up into the fly gallery instead of the old means of using a roller.²⁹

Scenery for the opera house was arranged and stocked by the firm of Noxon, Halley, and Toomey, artists of St. Louis, Missouri. It is best described in the following article taken from the Junction City Union.

Mr. P. J. Toomey, of the firm of Noxon, Halley & Toomey, artists of St. Louis, is in town, actively at work stocking and arranging the stage of the Opera House. It is very complete in all appointments and will undoubtedly be the handsomest in Kansas. The stock

²⁶Ibid., February 3, 1970.

²⁷Ibid., October 29, 1881.

²⁸Ibid., December 3, 1881.

²⁹Ibid.

of scenes consists of a beautiful landscape drop curtain, palace chamber of the Louis XV style, a plain chamber, a rustic kitchen, a Bastillion prison, a scene each of street, landscape, garden, horizon, and rocky pass, a set piece, a set house, garden statues, garden balustrades, flower vases, set rocks, set waters, tormenter wings, and doors, drapery borders and sky border. All of the above scenery is of the latest designs and most artistically gotten up. The size of them is sixteen feet high and twenty-four feet wide, the same as in the larger cities. There are three sets of grooves, with amply wide entrances of five and half feet.³⁰

The Junction City Opera House was new, beautiful, and well equipped to bring to the community the entertainment and culture of the eastern cities.

Christening of the Opera House. On January 1, 1890, the Opera House which had been known as the City Hall building for many years was finally given a more formal name, that of William Blakely who died in 1885. The following review of the occasion was reported by the Junction City Union on January 4, 1890.

The christening of the Opera House took place Wednesday, January 1, there was a large audience assembled to see the "Noble Outcast." The house was decorated very nicely in honor of the occasion. P. Van Trovinger appeared after the curtain was drawn, and after a few appropriate remarks gave a brief sketch of the gentleman after whom the house was to be named. Suspended above the stage was a board bearing the words, "Blakely Opera House," and at the close of Mr. Trovinger's remarks the name was unveiled. There was great applause when the name was made known. Maj. William Sayer Blakely died June 11, 1885. He represented the county in the legislature, held several county offices, was mayor of the city when the opera house was built, was postmaster eight years, and held several less prominent positions. His public spirit and his great liberality made him a very popular gentleman.³¹

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Ibid., January 4, 1890.

The remodeling of the Blakely Opera House. In the summer of 1890, the Opera House under the management of A. T. Trott was closed for remodeling of the interior. The city council let contracts for the alteration of raising the seats to an angle which would improve visibility. The contract for the work was given to Edwin McKee for \$235. A contract was let to Dave Carr to build a flue on the southwest side of the building and to change a window to a door on the south end of the building to provide more unified heating.³² Electricity was hooked up to the building and electric lights were installed. The interior walls and ceiling were painted and papered by A. J. Watung.³³ The celebration of the remodeled Blakely Opera House was held on September 4, 1890, with a band concert.³⁴

The burning of the Blakely Opera House. The burning of the Blakely Opera House occurred on Friday evening, January 14, 1898. The cause of the fire was unknown. There was some speculation that it started over the stage and scenery area.³⁵ The blaze spread quickly and there was not much hope of saving the building. The Junction City Union carried the following story the next day:

Only a few people heard the three taps of the fire bell, but the word that the opera house is on fire ran fast along the street, and as with one bound everybody in the town was at the scene to see the flames burst from the roof. The fire had spread so rapidly through

³²Ibid., July 26, 1890.

³³Ibid., July 19, 1890.

³⁴Ibid., September 4, 1890.

³⁵Ibid., January 15, 1898.

the scenery and along the dry roof that the entire building seemed to be ablaze when the first stream was thrown. Only three taps of the fire bell had been sounded when the rope was burned off, so some intimation may be gained of the condition of the blaze when it was discovered. The department got action on itself quicker than it ever did in its history, but it was to no avail, and at no time did Chief Ziegler think the building could be saved.³⁶

The fire department worked hard to keep the fire from spreading to any of the nearby buildings. Rain and snow made the job easier in preserving the nearby business houses of W. W. Hicks, J. J. and W. F. Muenzenmayer, and the White Lumber Company.³⁷

Mrs. Fred Durand, during an interview on July 14, 1970, recalled standing across the street on the west side of the building during the fire. She said it was snowing and at exactly six o'clock, when the clock in the tower was striking, it fell to the ground.³⁸

The building was a complete loss; portions of the east, west, and south walls and the roof fell to the ground. The front wall of the building remained, the only salvagable portion of the building.³⁹

It was a tragic loss for Junction City, but the people would not let their opera house end as a pile of rubble on the corner of Seventh and Jefferson. An interview with many of the local businessmen on Seventh and Washington revealed to a reporter of the Republican no serious opposition to the rebuilding of the opera house. Of all the people

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Ibid., January 11, 1932.

³⁸Interview with Mrs. Fred Durand.

³⁹Junction City Republican, January 21, 1898.

he had interviewed only two or three were opposed and many of the rest urged that the city council take immediate action on the situation.⁴⁰

Seven hundred dollars was collected by S. W. Pierce, J. C. Scott, A. H. Bartell, and M. K. Bitterman for rebuilding the opera house. They all had businesses on Seventh Street and wanted to see the street built up.⁴¹

The week following the fire representatives of the six insurance companies that had insured the building for \$10,000 inspected the ruins and prepared the necessary papers for payment to the city.⁴²

The city council met in a special session on Tuesday, January 24, 1898, in the evening. The council all agreed to the rebuilding of the city hall at once. It would be the same size utilizing as much of the foundation and the old building as possible. The structure was to be modern and would be safe and adequate to fulfill the needs of the people.⁴³

Rebuilding the Opera House. The city council acted quickly in securing the bids for work on the new building. Mr. J. C. Holland, an architect from Topeka, Kansas, was employed to prepare plans and specifications for the building.⁴⁴ The contract for heating the building was let to a firm in Kansas City for \$600.⁴⁵

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Junction City Union, January 27, 1898.

⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴Junction City Republican, February 10, 1898.

⁴⁵Ibid., April 7, 1898.

The work on the building proceeded very rapidly and within a span of eight months a new and impressive building was raised on the corner of Seventh and Jefferson. The front portion of the building was built of brick which housed the fire department, police court, and jail on the first floor. The second floor of the front section housed the city council room and the board of education office. The back half of the building housing the opera house was constructed of native stone. The entire building was covered with a slate roof. The tower on the front of the building was supplied with a new Seth Thomas tower clock and a 2500 pound bell, manufactured by the Meneely Bell Company of Troy, New York.

To enter the opera house the people no longer had to climb stairs; the ticket office was near the door on the ground floor. The stage was located on the south end of the building. The house proper had a seating capacity for 820 people. The balcony, as well as the dress circle and parquet, was seated with opera chairs. There were six private boxes furnished with willow chairs and harmonious drapes and carpeting.⁴⁶

The walls were decorated, painted, and frescoed in different shades of terra cotta and gold. The work was done by Durbon Brothers of Junction City.⁴⁷ Decorations used throughout were of plastic relief furnished by A. A. Prall of St. Louis, Missouri.⁴⁸

⁴⁶Ibid., October 7, 1898.

⁴⁷Ibid.

⁴⁸Ibid.

The stage floor had an area of 2000 square feet with a proscenium opening twenty-five feet high by thirty feet wide. The fly gallery was high enough to raise scenery well out of sight. A light board was installed to handle the electric lights which illuminated the stage. The front curtain was an elegant hand painted drop by Wm. Grabach of Omaha, Nebraska and was flown overhead. The scenery of 150 pieces was also constructed and painted by Mr. Grabach. Dressing rooms were located on either side of the stage, and a chorus dressing room was downstairs beneath the stage area.⁴⁹

The entire building was heated by eight furnaces supplying hot air. The building was also designed with numerous exits for quick evacuation in case of an emergency.⁵⁰

The opera house was to be managed by Mr. T. W. Dorn, City Clerk, who had been managing the old opera house since he succeeded A. P. Trott who retired from the position in May, 1894.⁵¹

The new Junction City Opera House was formally opened on October 13, 1898, by the presentation of Hoyt's A Milk White Flag.⁵² The production was well attended and the people of Junction City were again furnished with the finest of theatre in the finest of buildings.

The end of an era. The opera house flourished for a long time after its rebirth in 1898. But slowly its position of prominence as the

⁴⁹Ibid.

⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹Ibid.

⁵²Ibid.

entertainment center for the community dwindled. The advent of the motion picture house gave the public first-rate Hollywood productions at prices considerably less than those paid for road show entertainment. This, linked with the scarcity of road companies, caused T. W. Dorn to relinquish the opera house to John W. Wendel who announced he had leased the facilities and would open it on April 14, 1915, with movies running the latter half of the week if no large road show were available. The first half of the week would be open for musical tabloid shows and extra features. He had signed a contract with Paramount Pictures which would supply him with the best movies.⁵³

The opera house, from that time on until September, 1919, ran a combination of live theatre and movies. It served as the home for some of the local movie theaters while their facilities were being remodeled.

In September, 1919, the Junction City Union carried the announcement that T. W. Dorn would open the opera house on Wednesday, September 24, 1919, renovated, renamed, and regenerated under the new name of the "City Theatre." The theatre would play the good regular stage attractions when offered, and a line of high class and varied pictures.⁵⁴

To the patrons of the opera house who attended its various programs under the management of T. W. Dorn, the following announcement was given in the form of a small pamphlet.

To the Public: Twenty-one years ago in October we had the pleasure of opening to the public, the then new and finely equipped Opera House belonging to the city, and for many years thereafter gave our

⁵³Junction City Union, April 12, 1915.

⁵⁴Ibid., September 22, 1919.

best efforts to securing such attractions for our patrons as were available.

Many of the most famous people of the stage have from time to time appeared here for our pleasure and amusement. Distinguished musicians and famous orators have also entertained us. Congressmen, Politicians, Generals, Colonels, Men of Affairs and the Common People have been guests of the theatre.

A list of attractions played during the last twenty years would make a formidable showing. While conditions have materially changed in the amusement field in the last three or four years, we believe it is still possible to make the City Theatre the favorite amusement resort. We shall play such high class regular attractions as may be secured, aided by a wide acquaintance among theatrical producers and managers and a carefully selected and diversified program of pictures.

An excellent orchestra will be provided and it will be our ambition to give each guest of this theatre a little more than his money's worth at each performance.

Our preliminary season will open Wednesday, September 24, 1919, with the program shown on another page. Yours Respectfully, T. W. Dorn, Manager⁵⁵

The advent of movies in Junction City brought the end to the opera house as a performance theatre. The movie theatres could bring new pictures each week and change the feature every night. The admission was only ten and fifteen cents which was cheaper than the prices at the opera house.

The opera house still stands at the corner of Seventh and Jefferson. It no longer brings the road shows to Junction City, instead it too houses a motion picture theatre called the Colonial Theatre.

⁵⁵Pamphlet by T. W. Dorn, September, 1919.

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSIONS

The Junction City Opera House was one of the most centrally located opera houses in Kansas and the midwest since it was the stopping point for most of the traveling companies between Kansas City and Denver, Colorado. The traveling stock companies riding the Union Pacific Railroad often stopped in Junction City for a break in the long trip from Kansas City to Denver. One night performances by large companies stopping over in Junction City was not uncommon. Also, the location of the Fort Riley Army Base was a strong drawing card for the larger stock companies and for stars who traveled the circuit. Mrs. Fred Durand, in an interview on July 14, 1970, said that many of the people at the base had money to buy the better and more expensive season tickets for the various traveling shows that came to the opera house. Many of these people had lived in other parts of the country and had been exposed to various cultural events and were willing to spend between seventy-five cents and a dollar and a half for good seats.¹

The annual season at the opera house usually lasted from late August to the middle of May. Occasionally during the summer months there would be shows and events on special holidays. These productions were infrequent, however, due to the uncomfortable heat since the opera house lacked any kind of ventilation until fans were installed in 1898.

¹Mrs. Fred Durand attended numerous productions at the opera house, and her late husband sang and performed in some of the local productions.

Other summer events took place in Junction City, such as traveling circuses, tent shows called Chautauqua which ran every day for a week, and the annual fair that lasted for several days. These events, plus the fact that Junction City was a rural community and the farmers were kept especially busy during the summer months, made running the opera house unprofitable.

Several movie theaters opened in Junction City during the early 1900's. The theaters that were most competitive were the Cozy, the Lyric, and the Aurora. These theaters ran nightly features and had air domes for ventilation in the summer months. Finally, when the opera house was converted to the City Theater in September, 1919, it also ran films in the evenings.

Since its opening in 1882, the Junction City Opera House has served the people of Junction City well. The building still stands and serves as an entertainment center for the public by showing the current releases from the major Hollywood film companies. Although the interior has been stripped bare of its elegant period decor and the backstage area is filled with air-conditioning units, the exterior of the building still evokes memories of a bygone era with its high bell tower, both a symbol and a landmark. Even more important is the fact that the people of Junction City, in a desire for cultural entertainment, did take an active part in the growth and the history of the American Theatre.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. BOOKS

- Andreas, A. T. History of the State of Kansas. Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883.
- Auer, J. Jeffrey. An Introduction to Research in Speech. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1959.
- Blackmar, Frank (ed.). Kansas. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912.
- Bowen, Elbert Russell. Theatrical Entertainment in Rural Missouri Before the Civil War. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1959.
- Carson, William G. B. The Theatre on the Frontier. New York: Benjamin Blom, Inc., 1965.
- Hewitt, Barnard. Theatre U. S. A., 1668 to 1957. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1959.
- Hornblow, Arthur. A History of the Theatre in America. New York: Benjamin Blom, 1965.
- Hoyt, Harlowe B. Town Hall Tonight. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1955.
- Macgowan, Kenneth and William Melnitz. The Living Stage. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1955.
- Mechem, Kirke (ed.). The Annals of Kansas 1826-1925. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society.

B. UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

- Dorn, T. W. A scrapbook which includes most programs of plays presented at the Junction City Opera House. 1900-1915. (Located at the George Smith Public Library in Junction City, Kansas.)

C. NEWSPAPERS

- Davis County Republican, September, 1882-October, 1884.

Junction City Republican, September, 1886-January, 1902.

Junction City Tribune, January, 1882-January, 1902.

Junction City Union, May, 1880-February, 1970.

D. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Durand, Mrs. Fred, Junction City, Kansas, July 14, 1970.

Kessinger, Mrs. Ed. L., Junction City, Kansas, July 14, 1970.

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

PERFORMANCES GIVEN IN THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

The following is a chronological listing of the performances given in the Junction City Opera House between January 5, 1882 and June 11, 1919. The listing has been compiled from issues of the Junction City Union from January 14, 1882 to June 11, 1919; the Junction City Republican from September 3, 1886 to January 24, 1902; T. W. Dorn's scrapbook from April 18, 1900 to February 26, 1915.

The listing includes the performances as they were reviewed or advertised in the paper. Also events that were mentioned in news stories but not in reviews or advertisements are listed.

The following pattern is used to catalog each entry: (1) the play title or event's name, (2) the name of company or organization performing the event, (3) the names of the leading actors or actresses if indicated. This pattern will be used throughout the entire chapter and only omitted when no information is available.

The following key will be used to categorize the various performances that took place in the Junction City Opera House:

- (A) a local amateur production
- (B) a non-professional traveling company
- (C) a professional traveling company

One of these appears in front of each entry.

1882

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 5 | (A) <u>Miralda</u> ; Junction City Dramatic Club |
| January 10 | (C) The Slayton Star Concert Company |

1882 (continued)

January 17 (C) Galatea and Leah; Katherine Rogers Company
 January 24 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; S. Draper's Company
 January 25 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; S. Draper's Company; repeat performance
 February 6 (C) The Louie Lord Dramatic Company
 February 7 (C) same company
 February 8 (C) same company
 February 9 (C) same company
 February 10 (C) same company
 February 11 (C) same company
 March 13 (C) Duprez and Benedict's Minstrels
 August 21 (C) Globe Dramatic Company
 August 22 (C) same company
 August 23 (C) same company
 August 24 (C) same company
 August 25 (C) same company
 August 26 (C) same company
 September 16 (C) Uncle Reuben Lowder; Carner-Herkimer Comedy Company; Cora Herkimer; matinee
 October 19 (C) The Phoenix; Milton Bobles
 December 25 (C) East Lynne or The Elopement; Chas. A. Watkins's Fifth Ave. Company; Miss Ada Gray

1883

January 8 (C) Uncle Reuban Lowder; Waits Union Square Theatre Company
 January 9 (C) Ingomar; same company

1883 (continued)

- January 10 (C) Hazel Kirke; same company
- January 11 (C) Damon and Pythias; same company
- January 12 (C) Rip Van Winkle; same company
- January 13 (C) Ten Nights in a Bar Room; same company;
Mr. Corners; matinee
- January 13 (C) Rosedale; same company; evening performance
- January 25 (C) Wilberforce Grand Concert Company
- February 8 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; Riels Company
- February 22 (C) Scraps; Pathfinders Company
- April 12 (C) Lucretia Borgia; Miss Claire Scott Company
- April 14 (C) Princess of Bagdad; Miss Claire Scott Company
- May 12 (C) Iolanthe; Ford's English Opera Company
- July 4 (C) Ingomar; Carner and Waite Company
- August 23 (C) French Spy; Waite's Union Square Company
- August 24 (C) Rosedale; same company
- September 24 (C) Mascotte; Fay Templeton Troupe; Fay Templeton
- September 29 (C) The Princess Chuck; Cornely Dramatic Company;
Lizzie Harold
- October 24 (C) Calendar's Minstrel Show
- October 27 (C) Heywood's Matadons
- November 27 (C) Whiteley's "Hidden Hand" Company; Billy
Robinson
- December 8 (C) Flower's Concert and Comedy Company
- December 25 (C) La Macotte; St. Quinten Opera Company; Miss
St. Quinten and Mr. W. Wolf
- December 26 (C) Bells of Cornevills; same company

1884

- January 2 (C) Fogg's Ferry; Miss Lizzie Evans company
- January 24 (C) Hi Henry's Minstrels
- February 11 (C) Scraps; Jolly Pathfinders
- February 19 (C) Olivette; Star Opera Company, Fay Templeton
- February 27 (C) Only a Farmer's Daughter; company unknown; Adelaide Cherie
- April 18 (C) Yakie; Wyman Comedy Company
- May 23 (C) Galley Stone; Edwin Clifford Drama Company
- May 24 (C) Dave Crockett; same company; matinee
- May 24 (C) Planter Wife; same company; evening performance
- September 9 (C) Confusion; James R. Waite's Union Square Comedy Company
- September 18 (C) The Planter's Wife; Edwin Clifford Drama Company; Miss Constance Stanley
- October 14 (C) Little Ferrett; company unknown
- November 24 (C) Queen's Evidence; The Maude Athinson Troupe
- November 25 (C) Queen's Evidence; same company
- November 26 (C) Queen's Evidence; same company
- December 15 (C) Olivette
- December 27 (C) Creole

1885

- January 14 (C) Dewdrop; Lizzie Evans Troupe
- January 21 (C) Giroffle-Giroffa; Fay Templeton Company
- February 19 (C) Louise Sylvester Company
- February 20 (C) Louise Sylvester Company

1885 (continued)

- March 14 (C) Scraps; Jolly Pathfinders
- September 24 (C) Felix and McJusick; Solomon Smith Russell Company
- September 27 (C) Monte Cristo; The Edwin Clifford Company
- November 25 (C) Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots

1886

- January 1 (A) Above the Clouds; Senior Class, Junction City High School
- March 10 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; The Boston Double Uncle Tom's Company
- March 19 (A) The Firemen and Thirty Minutes for Refreshments; Junction City Fire Department; (fund raising show)
- March 24 (C) Virginus; Mr. Joseph Proctor Company
- April 7 (C) Zip; Patti Rose Company
- May 31 (C) Measure for Measure; Mr. Lewis Morrison Company, Celia Aisberg
- September 28 (C) Patti Rose Company
- November 20 (A) The Factory Girl; Junction City Fire Department; (fund raising show)

1887

- January 1 (A) Quinqueplexal; Kilians Band; minstrel musical show
- January 28 (A) Lancashire Lass; Arlington Club; benefit for fire department
- February 22 (A) Blue and Gray; Junction City Fire Department
- May 13 (A) Hippozoomadon; Junction City Fire Department
- October 20 (C) Louie Lord Company

1887 (continued)

- October 21 (C) Louie Lord Company
 October 22 (C) Louie Lord Company

1888

- January 16 (C) Streets of New York; E. M. Gariner Company;
 W. C. Boniface
 January 21 (C) Around the World in 80 Days; Fleming Company
 February 15 (A) Vannest's Burlesque Degree or The Initiation
 of a Candidate; G. A. R. Band
 February 16 (C) Mikado; Andrews Opera Company; a benefit for
 fire department
 February 18 (C) A June Bug; Jim Elliott Company
 March 7 (C) Crazy Patch; Kate Castelton Company
 March 8 (C) Beach & Bower's Minstrels
 March 10 (C) Sam'l of Posen
 April 21 (C) The Mascotte; Andrews Opera Company
 May 21 (C) Wages of Sin; Miss Adele Payn and Company
 October 24 (C) Two Old Cronies; Wills, Henshaw and Broeck
 Opera Company
 November 14 (C) Virginus; Prescott and McLean Company
 November 15 (C) Ingomar; same company
 November 21 (C) Marque Musical Company
 November 24 (C) Cold Day on the Lamlanders; Fisher's Musical
 Company
 December 5 (C) Monte Griffo; English Opera Company
 December 19 (C) A Wonderful Woman; L. J. Carter's Dramatic
 Company
 December 20 (C) Louie Lord Company

1889

- January 28 (C) Erminie; Andrew's Opera Company; benefit for
Hornet Fire Department
- February 16 (A) Janaushek; local show
- February 20 (C) Clair Patee Company
- February 21 (C) Clair Patee Company
- February 22 (C) Clair Patee Company
- March 15 (C) Corner Grocery
- April 5 (C) Andrews Opera Company; benefit for Fire
Department
- April 16 (C) Kate Bensberg Opera Company
- October 19 (C) The Payton Comedy Company
- December 30 (C) The Falka; Andrews Comic Opera Company

1890

- January 1 (C) Nobel Out Cast; Charlie Wells Company
- January 6 (C) Fogg's Ferry; Issac Payton Comedy Company
- January 7 (C) Little Lord Fauntleroy; same company
- January 8 (C) Uncle Joshua Whitcomb; same company
- January 9 (C) A Mountain Pink; same company
- January 10 (C) East Lynne; same company
- January 11 (C) Little Lord Fauntleroy; same company; matinee
(C) Lost in London; same company
- January 15 (C) Ole Olson; Mr. Gus J. Heege Company
- February 7 (A) Crowning of the Queen; Ladies of the Episcopal
Church
- February 24 (A) The Phoenix; Knights of Pythias

1890 (continued)

- February 25 (A) The Phoenix; Knights of Pythias
- April 9 (C) The Ida Clayton Burlesque Company; Henry Barnett
- October 11 (C) Brodball and Flower's Comedy Company
- October 12 (C) Brodball and Flower's Comedy Company
- October 13 (C) Brodball and Flower's Comedy Company
- October 14 (C) Brodball and Flower's Comedy Company
- October 15 (C) Self Accused; same company
- October 16 (C) May Blossom; same company
- December 13 (C) Fireman's Ward; Charles P. Morrison Company

1891

- April 4 (C) Duncan Clark's Female Minstrels
- April 20 (C) Damon and Pythias or Test of Truth; The Grace Healep Opera Company
- October 12 (C) Si Plunkard; Farmer J. C. Lewis and Company
- November 13 (C) Rip Van Winkle
- November 27 (C) Tom's Vacation; Ray L. Royce Company
- December 26 (C) Two Orphans; Kate Claxton and Charles A. Stevenson Company

1892

- January 9 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; Mason and Morgan
- January 21 (C) Lost in London; Newton Beers and Jessie Lee Randolph
- January 26 (C) Below Zero; Rentfrow's Comedy Company
- February 10 (C) Quick Match; The Nass Jollities Comedy Company

1892 (continued)

- March 16 (C) Col. Gilhooley; T. E. Murry Company
- May 5 (C) Black Oddities; The Mckanlass Mammoth Minstrels
- May 14 (C) Duncan Clark's Female Minstrel Organization
- September 21 (C) Faust and Marguerete; John Griffith and Anne Burton
- October 21 (C) Harvest Moon; Martin and Booker's Company of Dramatic Artists
- October 24 (C) McCutcheon and Cooley Theatre Company
- October 25 (C) McCutcheon and Cooley Theatre Company
- October 26 (C) McCutcheon and Cooley Theatre Company
- October 27 (C) McCutcheon and Cooley Theatre Company
- October 28 (C) McCutcheon and Cooley Theatre Company
- October 29 (C) McCutcheon and Cooley Theatre Company
- October 30 (C) McCutcheon and Cooley Theatre Company
- November 19 (C) New Edgewood Folks; Alba Heywood and Company
- November 29 (C) The Rag Baby; Johnny Orr and Company
- December 22 (C) Dorothy; Andrews Comic Opera Company

1893

- January 14 (C) Below Zero; Rentfrow's Jolly Pathfinders
- February 14 (C) Si Plunkard; Farmer J. C. Lewis Company
- April 4 (C) The Mikado; Boston Comic Opera Company
- April 5 (C) The Mikado; Boston Comic Opera Company
- May 8 (C) Faust; Lewis Morriston Company
- July 4 (A) Historical Pageant

1893 (continued)

- September 1 (C) Inside Track
- September 2 (C) The Daughter of the Regiment
- September 25 (C) Turkish Bath
- September 30 (C) Edgewood Folks; Protean Company
- October 7 (C) My Colleen; Tony Farrell
- October 9 (C) Play unknown; Harrison and Company
- October 10 (C) Play unknown; same company
- October 11 (C) Play unknown; same company
- October 12 (C) Play unknown; same company
- October 13 (C) Play unknown; same company
- October 15 (C) Play unknown; same company
- November 1 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; Ed. P. Davis' Company
- November 30 (C) A Busy Time

1894

- January 6 (C) Fast Mail; Lincoln J. Carter Company
- January 9 (C) Fra Diavolo; Andrews Opera Company
- January 10 (C) Operatic Minstrels
- January 26 (C) The Burglar
- February 10 (C) Sin-A-Bad-Sailor; Operatic Burlesque Company
- February 26 (C) Little Trixie; May Smith Robbins and Company
- March 2 (C) A Pair of Kids
- March 26 (C) Ten Nights in a Bar Room; Women's Christian Temperance Union
- March 31 (C) A Model Husband

1894 (continued)

May 14 (C) Name unknown; Our Dorothy Company
 May 15 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 16 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 17 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 18 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 19 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 20 (C) Name unknown; same company
 July 19 (C) Young Mrs. Winthrop; Kemper Stock Company
 July 20 (C) Snowball; same company
 July 21 (C) Baby; same company
 September 10 (C) A Fight for a Million; Spooner Comedy Company
 September 28 (C) The Tornado; Lincoln J. Carter Company
 October 20 (C) Charley's Aunt; Mr. Chas. Frohman's Superior Company
 October 23 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin
 October 26 (A) Tyrolien Queen Cantata; Epsworth League of the First Methodist Church
 October 29 (C) Stamp's All Star Vaudeville Company
 November 27 (C) The Fast Mail; Lincoln J. Carter Company
 December 10 (C) A Girl's Way; Patti Rosa Comedy Company

1895

January 16 (C) Copper Lion; Beeb-Reed and Charles Company
 January 28 (C) Fritz in a Madhouse
 May 7 (C) Remenyi Concert Company
 June 17 (A) The Lady Minstrels; Univesalist Social Club
 December 14 (C) Richard III; Mr. Thomas Keene

1896

January 1 (C) The Fast Mail; Lincoln J. Carter Company
 February 15 (C) Si Plunkard; J. C. Lewis Company
 February 28 (C) Nancy at the French Ball; Fanny Rice Company;
 Fanny Rice
 March 24 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; Slater and Martin Company
 April 28 (C) Mahara's Refined Minstrels
 July 13 (C) Name unknown; Criterion Dramatic Company
 July 14 (C) Name unknown; same company
 July 15 (C) Name unknown; same company
 July 16 (C) Name unknown; same company
 July 17 (C) Name unknown; same company
 July 18 (C) Name unknown; same company
 September 28 (C) Name unknown; Williams and Fennwick's
 Comedians
 September 29 (C) Name unknown; same company
 September 30 (C) Name unknown; same company
 October 1 (C) The Liar; same company
 October 2 (C) The Happy Pair and The Chimney Corner; same
 company
 October 3 (C) Name unknown; same company
 October 9 (C) Wanted, the Earth; John Dillon
 October 15 (C) Devil's Auction; Charles H. Yale's Company
 October 27 (C) A Bowery Girl
 November 11 (C) The Twelve Temptation; Chas. H. Yale's Company
 December 7 (C) The Lightning Rod Agent; The Paige's Company
 December 8 (C) Name unknown; same company

1896 (continued)

- December 9 (C) East Lynne; same company
- December 10 (C) The Private Secretary; same company
- December 11 (C) Name unknown; same company
- December 12 (C) Name unknown; same company
- December 21 (C) In Missouri; Sharpley Lyceum Theatre Company
- December 22 (C) Name unknown; same company
- December 23 (C) Name unknown; same company
- December 24 (C) Name unknown; same company
- December 25 (C) Name unknown; same company
- December 26 (C) Name unknown; same company

1897

- January 16 (C) In the Shadows of a Great City; Chas. B. and Thos. Jefferson Company; Julia Stuart
- February 1 (C) Faust; Lewis Morrison Company; Florence Roberts
- February 19 (C) Monte Cristo; W. Monroe Company
- March 25 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; Salter and Martin Company
- May 3 (C) Our Strategists; Weston's Comedy Company
- May 28 (C) Ideals; Prigles Comedy Company
- June 14 (C) Our Mascotte; Madison Square Comedy Company
- June 15 (C) Name unknown; same company
- June 16 (C) Name unknown; same company
- June 17 (C) Name unknown; same company
- June 18 (C) Name unknown; same company
- June 19 (C) Name unknown; same company

1897 (continued)

- September 19 (C) Spooner Dramatic Company
 October 26 (C) Uncle Josh Spuceby Company
 December 10 (C) Wanted a Man

1898

- October 13 (C) A Milk White Flag; Chas. A. Hoyt's Company;
 opening of the opera house after being
 rebuilt after fire
 October 17 (C) A Romance of Paris; Paige Company
 October 18 (C) Prince of Liars; same company
 October 19 (C) Forget-Me-Not; same company
 October 20 (C) Pawn Ticket No. 210; same company
 October 21 (C) East Lynn; same company
 November 6 (C) La Mascotte; Merrie Bell Opera Company
 November 7 (C) Fra Diavolo; same company
 November 11 (C) Tennessee's Pardner; Authur C. Aiston's
 Company
 November 19 (C) Mothas; Andrews Opera Company; Miss Catherine
Lee and Jay Taylor
 November 26 (C) The Girl I Left Behind Me
 December 28 (C) The Pulse of Greater New York; Miss Fannie
Granger and Mr. Wm. A. Lang

1899

- January 4 (C) Finnegan's Ball; Murray and Mack Company
 January 9 (C) Name unknown; Hoyt Repertoire Company
 January 10 (C) Name unknown; same company
 January 11 (C) Name unknown; same company
 January 12 (C) Name unknown; same company

1899 (continued)

January 13 (C) Name unknown; same company
 January 30 (C) Angie; Chase-Lister Theatre Company
 January 31 (C) Name unknown; same company
 February 1 (C) Name unknown; same company
 February 2 (C) Name unknown; same company
 February 9 (C) Gay Coney Island
 February 16 (C) The Heart of Chicago; Lincoln J. Carter Company
 February 23 (C) Under the Dome; Lincoln J. Carter Company
 February 27 (C) Hogan's Alley; Gilmore and Leonard Company
 March 8 (C) A Boy Wanted; Chas. L. Blaney Company
 March 18 (C) New Dominion; Clay Clements
 March 22 (C) Devils Auction; John R. Wilkins and Ralph M. Betchel Company
 April 10 (C) Counterfeit Money; Graham Carle Company
 May 8 (C) Name unknown; Senter Payton Repertoir Company
 May 9 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 10 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 11 (C) Name unknown; same company
 May 12 (C) Name unknown; same company
 November 10 (C) The Boys in a Hot Old Time
 November 11 (C) Maloney's Wedding
 November 13 (C) Janet Lewis Company
 November 14 (C) same company
 November 15 (C) same company

1899 (continued)

November 16 (C) same company
 November 17 (C) same company
 November 21 (C) Under the Dome; Lincoln J. Carter Company
 November 27 (C) Oliver Scott Big Minstrel Carnival
 December 2 (C) The Widow Wiggles; Miss St. George Hussey
 December 18 (C) Chase-Lister Company
 December 19 (C) Chase-Lister Company
 December 22 (C) The Mountain Girl; Redmond Dramatic Company
 December 23 (C) same company
 December 28 (C) Faust; Lewis Morrison Company

1900

January 4 (C) A Bunch of Keys; Hoyt Company
 January 8 (C) Yon Yonson Company
 January 12 (C) The Air Ship
 January 27 (C) A Stranger in New York; Hoyt Company
 January 29 (C) Darkest Russia; Edwin C. Jepson Company
 February 1 (C) The Real Widow Brown
 February 6 (C) What Happened to Jones; Harry Corson Clarke Company
 February 10 (C) Darkest Russia; Edwin C. Jepson Company
 February 12 (C) A Man of the People; Columbia Big Stock Company
 February 23 (C) The Girl from Chile; Joseph Miller's "The Girl from Chile" Company
 March 9 (C) The Burglar; Mr. Augustus Thomas

1900 (continued)

- March 10 (C) The City of New York
- March 16 (C) Midnight in Chinatown; V. O. Edwards Company
- March 24 (C) The Air Ship; The Air Ship Company
- April 2 (C) Hans Hanson
- April 12 (C) Quo Vadis; H. H. Brady Religious Company
- September 12 (C) Variety Fair Company
- September 22 (C) The Man from Mexico; Broadhurst Brothers
- October 1 (C) What Did Tomkins Do?; Harry Corson Clark and Company
- October 14 (C) Name unknown; Morey Stock Company
- October 15 (C) Name unknown; same company
- October 16 (C) Name unknown; same company
- October 17 (C) Name unknown; same company
- October 18 (C) Uncle Sam in Cuba; same company
- October 19 (C) Cleopatra; same company
- October 20 (C) Humpty Dumpty and A Warning Bell; same company
- October 23 (C) A Wise Woman; Marie Lamour and Frederic Murphy
- October 30 (C) Two Merry Tramps
- November 7 (C) A Black Sheep; Hoyt Company
- November 12 (C) A Midnight Bell; Hoyt Company
- November 17 (C) My Daughter's Husband; Fitz and Webster Company
- November 26 (C) Quo Vadis; Aiden Benedict's Company
- December 8 (C) A Young Wife
- December 29 (C) Tennessee's Pardner

1901

- January 5 (C) The Prisoner of Zenda; Helen Bell, Vaughn Glaser and Helen Strickland
- January 11 (C) Hamlet; Walker Whiteside
- January 23 (C) A Milk White Flag; Hoyt Company
- January 30 (C) Ingomar and Poris in 1793; Mr. Robert Downing and Company; Miss Alberta Converse
- February 6 (C) Al G. Field's Greater Minstrels
- February 8 (C) The Mikado; Anderson Opera Company
- February 14 (C) A Hot Old Time; The Rays Company
- February 16 (C) A Woman in the Case; Bartlett and May
- February 22 (C) Ole Olson; Ben Hedrick Company
- February 25 (C) La Belle Marie; Chase-Lister Theatre Company
- February 26 (C) Mystic Mountain; same company
- February 27 (C) Mother and Son; same company
- February 28 (C) Oak Ridge; same company
- February 29 (C) Young Mrs. Winthrop; same company
- February 30 (C) An Amiable Maniac; same company
- March 5 (C) Spartacus the Gladiator; John Griffith and Miss Katheryn Pernell
- March 9 (C) A Breezy Time; Fitz and Webster Company
- March 16 (C) A Romance of Coon Hollow
- March 19 (C) Side Tracked; Miss Louise Llewellyn and Company; Jule Waters
- April 10 (C) Town Topics; Wm. H. Mack Company
- April 19 (C) Tramp; Elmer Walters
- June 21 (A) A Gentleman In Rags; Junction City Dramatic Club; Mr. Harrison director

1901 (continued)

- July 16 (A) Destiny; Junction City Dramatic Club
- August 21 (A) Harrison's Minstrels; Junction City Dramatic Club
- August 26 (C) Doris; The Southern Stock Company; Miss Ella Wilson
- August 27 (C) What Happened to Brown; same company
- August 28 (C) The Late Mr. Early; same company
- August 29 (C) One Night Only; same company
- August 30 (A) Lynwood; Junction City Dramatic Club
- September 18 (A) Wages of Sin; Ladies of the Episcopal Church
- October 8 (A) The Three Silk Hats; Ladies of the Universalist Church
- October 14 (C) M'lle Satan; Morey Stock Company
- October 15 (C) Faust; same company
- October 16 (C) Frou Frou; same company
- October 17 (C) A Noble Revenge; same company
- October 18 (C) Cleopatra; same company
- October 22 (C) For Her Sake
- October 29 (C) At the Old Cross Road; Arthur C. Alston Company
- October 31 (C) A Runaway Wife; Irving French Company
- November 14 (C) At Valley Forge
- November 18 (C) A Wise Member
- November 23 (C) Gideon's Big Minstrels
- December 9 (C) Alvin Joslin
- December 11 (C) Whose Baby Are You; Miss Vay Vokes

1901 (continued)

- December 13 (C) The Eleventh Hour; Lincoln J. Carter and Chas. A. Gardner Company
- December 17 (C) Two Merry Tramps; Wood and Ward Company
- December 24 (C) Taming of the Shrew; Charles P. Hanford and Company
- December 30 (C) Sylvias Romance; Warner Comedy Company

1902

- January 6 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; Leon W. Washburn and Company
- January 13 (C) Rudolf and Adolph; Mason and Mason
- January 25 (C) A Wise Woman; Marie Lamour and Frederic Murphy
- February 8 (C) The Bowery After Dark
- February 19 (A) Uncle from New York; Junction City Dramatics Club
- February 22 (C) A Thoroughbred Tramp; Elenor Walters Company
- March 4 (C) Missouri Girl; Sadie and Fred Raymond
- March 12 (C) Quo Vadis; E. J. Carpenter Company
- March 19 (C) Faust; Lewis Morrison Company
- March 24 (C) Uncle Josh Spruceby; Dave Lewis
- March 31 (C) The Escape from Sing Sing; Noble Dramatic Company
- April 1 (C) Gold King; same company
- April 2 (C) Reuben Glue; same company
- April 3 (C) The Embassy Ball; same company
- April 4 (C) Name unknown; same company
- April 5 (C) Our Strategists; same company

1902 (continued)

- April 18 (C) The Two Little Waifs; Lincoln J. Carter Company; Benefit show for opera house ushers
- April 23 (A) A Modern Ananias; Junction City Dramatics Club
- May 1 (C) In Luissiani; Oliver Labodie and Company
- May 21 (C) A Southern Romance
- May 30 (B) The Sorcerer; Salina Opera Company
- July 4 (A) Minstrel show; local talent
- July 16 (A) Neta; Ladies of the Episcopal Church
- July 17 (A) Neta; Ladies of the Episcopal Church
- September 5 (C) Picking from Puck; Willard Simms Company
- September 19 (C) Hoosier Daisy
- September 22 (C) Master and Man; Staters Comedians
- September 23 (C) A Romance of the South; same company
- September 24 (C) For Name and Honor; same company
- September 25 (C) A Fight for a Million; same company
- September 26 (C) A Woman of the World; same company
- September 27 (C) Hearts of Gold; same company
- September 29 (C) Falsely Accused; Allison Theatre Company
- October 22 (C) On the Swanee River
- October 27 (C) A Devil's Love; The Elmo Sisters and James F. Green
- October 30 (C) Richard Carvel; Andrew Robson
- November 4 (C) A Merry Chase; Lyman Twins
- November 14 (C) The Telephone Girl
- November 22 (C) Carmen; Rose Cecilia Shay

1902 (continued)

- November 26 (C) The Eleventh Hour; Lincoln J. Carter Company
- December 1 (C) Down by the Sea
- December 6 (C) Down Mobile
- December 11 (C) At the Old Cross Roads
- December 19 (C) Pudd'n Head Wilson; Shipman Brothers Company;
based on the novel by Mark Twain
- December 23 (C) Nadia
- December 27 (C) Jesse James; Morey Stock Company

1903

- January 1 (C) For Her Sake; E. J. Carpenter Company
- January 2 (C) The Pickaniniers; High School Lyceum Course
Company
- January 13 (C) Railroad Jack; The Railroad Jack Company
- January 21 (C) The Convict's Daughter; Specially Selected
Company
- January 24 (C) The Show Girl; Edmond Rice Company
- January 27 (C) Are You a Mason; Julius Cahn
- January 31 (C) The Missouri Girl; Fred Romand
- February 4 (C) Mr. Jolly of Joiliet; Broadhurst & Currie
Company; Edward Garvie
- February 16 (C) The Tyranny of Tears; Paul Gilmore and Company
- February 20 (C) Merchant of Venice; Mr. Whiteside and Company
- February 21 (C) The Great Barlow Minstrels
- February 28 (C) Unorna; Mrs. Brune and Company
- March 6 (C) Finnigans Ball; Gallaghaer and Barrett Company
- March 11 (C) Prisoner of Zenda; Mr. Ernest Shipman Company;
Thomas Alexander

1903 (continued)

- March 14 (C) A Little Outcast; E. J. Carpenter Company; ushers benefit show
- March 20 (C) The Power Behind the Throne; Katherine Willard and Company
- March 30 (C) Pennsylvania
- April 4 (C) Si Plunkard; J. C. Lewis Company
- April 8 (C) Man From Mexico; Leslie Morosco
- April 13 (C) The Inside Track; Floyd R. Briggs Company
- April 14 (C) Peaceful Valley; same company
- April 15 (C) My Uncle from New York; same company
A Tip on The Derby; same company
- April 16 (C) Old Vermont; same company
- April 17 (C) All a Mistake; same company
- April 25 (C) Two Jolly Rovers
- May 16 (C) Old Arkansaw; Fred Ramond Company
- August 18 (C) An Orphan's Prayer
- August 26 (C) An American Gentleman; Miss Gauntier and Company
- September 11 (C) Spotless Town; Leslie Morsoco and Leila Shaw
- September 16 (C) The Volunteer; Miss Cora Van Tassell and Company
- September 28 (C) Two Little Waifs; Lincoln J. Carter Company
- October 12 (C) Her Only Sin; Lincoln J. Carter; Julia Gray
- October 19 (C) A Daughter of Corsica; Jack Hoeffler Stock Company
- October 20 (C) Ranch King; same company
- October 21 (C) The Bowery Boy; same company

1903 (continued)

- October 22 (C) Alphonse and Gaston; same company
- October 24 (C) A Gambler's Daughter; E. Lawrence Lee Company
- October 26 (C) Grand Ruby; Jack Hoeffler Company
- October 27 (C) Because She Loved Him So; same company
- October 28 (C) Master and Man; same company
- October 29 (C) Prince of Liars; same company
- October 30 (C) Sign of the Crucifix; same company
- October 31 (C) Jesse James; same company
- November 3 (C) In Convict Stripes; B. C. Whitney Company
- November 4 (C) The New Dominion; Joseph C. Logan Company;
Mr. Clay Clement
- November 7 (C) The Two Orphans; Gilbert Faust Company
- November 14 (C) A Thoroughbred Tramp; Elmer Walter's Company
- November 16 (C) Morey Stock Company
- November 18 (C) A Fatal Likeness; same company
- November 19 (C) Name unknown; same company
- November 20 (C) Name unknown; same company
- November 21 (C) Little Miss Military; same company
- November 24 (C) Man to Man; Butterfield and Bromilaw Company;
Witman and Davis
- November 26 (C) The Midnight Express; Zeb and Zarrow Company
- December 3 (C) A Bunch of Keys; Gus Boehner Company
- December 7 (C) A Trip to Chinatown; Saylor and Miller Com-
pany; Jack Campell
- December 8 (C) Uncle Tom's Cabin; Leon Washburn Company
- December 15 (C) Mr. Jolly of Joliet; Edward Garvie Company

1903 (continued)

- December 17 (C) Much Ado About Nothing; F. Lawrence Company;
Mr. Chas. B. Hanford and Miss Marie Drofna
- December 22 (C) Rudolph and Adolph; Mason and Mason
- December 31 (C) The Game Keeper; Rowland and Clifford Company

1904

- January 2 (C) The Devil's Lane; The Elmore Sisters
- January 6 (C) In the Palace of the King; Helen Granthy
- January 9 (C) Miss Hursey from Jersey; Martin and Elting
Company; Marie Dale
- January 14 (C) The Mummy and the Humming Bird; Jules Murry
Company
- January 20 (C) Quincy Adams Sawyer; Puritan Company
- January 23 (C) Pickings From Puck; Mr. Willard Simms and
Company
- January 26 (C) Ward and West's Minstrels
- January 28 (C) Merchant of Venice; Joseph Shipman
- March 8 (C) The Punkin Husker; Lawrence Russel
- March 21 (C) Hoity-Toity; H. H. Oviatt
- April 11 (C) Devil's Auction; Chase H. Yale Company
- May 24 (C) His Absent Boy; Harry Corson Clark Company
- August 22 (C) Uncle Josh Perkins; Frayee and Bay Company
- August 30 (C) A Broken Heart; J. C. Logan Company
- September 22 (C) Finnigans Ball; Ollie Mack and Joe Spears
- September 29 (C) For Mother's Sake; Marie Heath
- October 10 (C) The War of Wealth; Morey Stock Company
- October 11 (C) Faust; same company

1904 (continued)

- October 12 (C) Name unknown; same company
- October 13 (C) Risen from the Ranks; same company; Luella Morey
- October 14 (C) Cleopatra; same company
- October 15 (C) On Circus Day; same company
- October 18 (C) At the Races; The Lyman Twins Company
- October 22 (C) Two Little Waifs; Lincoln J. Carter Company
- October 29 (C) Over Niagara Falls; Rowland and Company
- November 1 (C) Under Southern Skies; Harry Doel Parker Company
- November 5 (C) The Banker's Child; Harry Shannon
- November 11 (C) A Chinese Honey-Moon; New York Casino Company
- November 19 (C) Maloney's Wedding; Daniel F. McCoy
- November 24 (C) The Princess of Patches; The Locker and Company
- November 25 (C) The Hear of New York; same company
- November 28 (C) Clover Dale; Chase-Lister Company
- November 29 (C) The Man From Arizona; same company
- November 30 (C) The Doctor's Prescription; and The Black Hawk Mine; same company
- December 6 (C) Why Girls Leave Home; Vance and Sullivan Company
- December 10 (C) Sandy Bottom; Hampton and Hopkins
- December 16 (C) Quincy Adams Sawyer; Puritan Company
- December 17 (C) Her Only Sin; Lincoln J. Carter Company; Julia Gray
- December 20 (C) That Little Swede

1905

- January 5 (C) Sherlock Holmes; William Gilette Company
- January 5 (C) Peck's Bad Boy; same company
- January 14 (C) The Minister's Son; W. B. Patton
- January 21 (C) An English Daisy; Murry and Mack Company
- January 24 (C) German Liliputians; Songs and Dances (acts I + II); A Quiet Family
- February 2 (C) Arizona; Melville B. Raymond Company
- February 7 (C) Her Lord and Master; James B. Delcher Company; Miss Helen Grantly
- February 10 (C) Why Women Sin; M. W. Taylor Amusement Company
- February 16 (C) Way Down East; Wm. A. Brady
- February 25 (C) The Heart of Chicago; Lincoln J. Carter Company
- February 27 (C) The Hills of California
- March 3 (C) Mrs. Delaney of Newport; Melville B. Raymond Enterprises
- March 18 (C) The Hoosier Girl
- March 21 (C) My Wife's Family; Bert St. John Company; Hal Stephens and Harry Linton
- March 24 (A) The Fort Riley Minstrels
- March 30 (C) Macbeth; John M. Hickey Company; John Griffith
- April 3 (C) Thelma; Spedden and VanCook Company; Miss Claire Paige
- April 10 (C) A Trip to Egypt; Shea Amusement Company
- April 15 (C) Hi Henry's Minstrels
- April 17 (C) The Mummy and the Humming Bird; Jules Murry Company; Paul Gilmore
- May 8 (C) A Woman's Way; Fulton Bros. Stock Company

1905 (continued)

- August 28 (C) Nebraska; Chas. Breckenridge Stock Company
- August 29 (C) Land of the Sky; same company
- August 30 (C) The Diamond King; same company
- August 31 (C) A False Friend; same company
- September 5 (C) A Human Slave; Eugene Spofford
- September 11 (C) Christy Bros. Minstrels
- September 16 (C) At Cripple Creek; E. J. Carpenter Company
- September 23 (C) That Little Swede; Mr. Frank Hopkins
- September 27 (C) Rip Van Winkle; Coson and Niblo
- October 10 (C) Three of a Kind; Norey Stock Company
- October 11 (C) The Minister's Sweethearts; same company
- October 12 (C) Only a Private; same company
- October 13 (C) The Power of the Cross; same company
- October 20 (C) A Little Outcast; E. J. Carpenter Company
- October 23 (C) A Bachelor's Honeymoon; Fountain Company
- October 24 (C) Vermont Folks; same company
- October 25 (C) The Masked Ball; same company
- October 31 (C) Under Southern Skies; Harry Doel Parker Company
- November 11 (C) Si Plunkard; J. C. Lewis and Company
- November 13 (C) Deadwood Dick Jr.; Hugh Morrison's Company
- November 23 (C) The Slave Girl; The Lockes and Company
- November 24 (C) Polly and I; same company
- November 25 (C) Little Treasure; matinee; The Shadows of the Past; same company
- November 27 (C) Hoity-Toity; Weber and Fields Company

1905 (continued)

- December 2 (C) Lord Baltimore; Jap Rentfrow Company
- December 6 (C) Devil's Auction; Chas. H. Hale Company
- December 9 (C) A Royal Slave; Jules Murry's Company
- December 11 (C) Don Pasquale; Alice Nielsen
- December 16 (C) An Aristocratic Tramp; Kilroy and Britton
- December 19 (C) Babes in Toyland; Fred Hamlin and Julian Mitchell Company
- December 20 (C) Strongheart; Robert Edison
- December 23 (C) Dora Thorne; Rowland and Clifford Company
- December 25 (C) The Marriage of Kitty; Jules Murry's Comedy Company; Miss Alice Johnson

1906

- January 5 (C) The Isle of Bong Bong; B. C. Whitney Company
- January 13 (C) Over Niagara Falls; Rowland and Clifford Company
- January 20 (C) A Trip to Egypt; C. Herbert Keir Company
- February 3 (C) The Woman Hater; J. J. Coleman Company
- February 7 (C) Buster Brown; Melville B. Raymond Attractions
- February 17 (C) Pretty Peggy; Arthur C. Aiston and J. Emmett Baxter Company
- February 24 (C) A Poor Relation; Davis and Eugene
- March 5 (C) Shadows on the Hearth; Arthur C. Aiston's Company
- March 8 (C) She Stoops to Conquer; Robert Lee Allen; Margaret Ralph
- March 20 (C) King Richard the Third; John Hickey Company; John Griffith
- March 30 (C) A Message From Mars; David Proctor

1906 (continued)

- April 19 (C) Piff! Paff! Pauf!; B. C. Whitney Company
- May 15 (C) The Holy City; Gordon and Bennett Company
- August 28 (C) At Cripple Creek; E. J. Carpenter Company
- September 4 (C) The Freedom of Suzanne; Arthur C. Aiston Company; Jane Corcoran
- September 15 (C) The Cow Puncher; W. F. Mann Company
- September 17 (C) Rosemond; Fulton Bros. Stock Company
- September 18 (C) Man and Master; same company
- September 19 (C) Name unknown; same company
- September 20 (C) Jane; same company
- September 21 (C) The Way of the World; same company
- October 8 (C) The Belle of Richmond; Morey Stock Company
- October 9 (C) The Darkest Hour; same company
- October 10 (C) Reaping the Harvest; same company
- October 12 (C) The Whole Damm Family; same company
- October 17 (C) His Highness, The Bey; W. C. DeWitt
- October 27 (C) The Shoo-Fly Regiment; Melville B. Raymond Company
- November 1 (C) The Volunteer Organist; W. W. Newcomer Company
- November 8 (C) The Rustlers; The Lyman Twins and Company
- November 9 (C) Wonderland; Julian Mitchell Company
- November 10 (C) The Little Homestead; Macauley and Patton Company
- November 15 (C) Ikey and Abey; Edward Salter Company
- November 17 (C) Monte Cristo; Mr. Eugene Moore and Company
- November 19 (C) A Bunch of Keys; Hoyt's Company

1906 (continued)

- November 24 (C) As Told in the Hills; W. F. Mann Company
- November 30 (C) The Vanderbilt Cup; Joseph M. Gaites Company
- December 7 (C) The Toast of the Town; Clyde Fitch Company
- December 8 (C) The King of Tramps; Cohan and Southerland Company
- December 11 (C) Devil's Auction; Chas. H. Yale Company
- December 15 (C) A Mad Love; Edward R. Salter Company
- December 19 (C) Miss America in the Philippines; Moss Comic Opera Company
- December 25 (C) The Merry Wives of Windsor; Louis James
- December 27 (C) Buster Brown; Melville B. Raymond Amusement Company

1907

- January 1 (C) Thorns and Orange Blossoms; Rowland and Clifford Company
- January 4 (C) The Squaw Man; Liebler and Company; Mr. Henry Jewett
- January 7 (C) Holy City; Luella Morey
- January 11 (C) A Royal Slave; Gordon and Bennett Company
- January 12 (C) A Messenger Boy; George D. Sweet Company
- January 23 (C) Sweet Clover; Donalds and Hockey Company; Juliette Atkinson
- January 26 (C) The Rajah of Bhong
- January 30 (C) The District Leader; Sardam and Lindsay Company
- February 8 (C) The Woman Hater; Harry Beresford
- February 19 (C) The College Boy; Riggs Company

1907 (continued)

- February 21 (C) In A Woman's Power
- February 28 (C) The Slow Poke; Macauley and Patton Company
- March 13 (C) The Little Prospector; King-Perkins Company
- March 22 (C) The Minister's Son; Macauley and Patton Company
- March 29 (C) The Mikado; Boston Ideal Comic Opera Company
- March 30 (C) Mascotte; (matinee) Fra Diavolo; (evening) same company
- April 10 (C) The Belle of Japan; Harris Eldon Company
- April 17 (C) Susan in Search of a Husband; Liebler Company; Isabel Irving
- September 5 (C) David Corson; Harry Doel Parker Company
- September 7 (C) The Three of Us; Walter N. Lawrence Company
- September 12 (C) The Trust Busters; Kilroy and Britton Attractions
- September 18 (C) The Vanderbilt Cup; Joseph M. Gaites Company
- September 21 (C) Sis in New York; Al Nathan
- October 7 (C) Anita; Morey Stock Company
- October 8 (C) The Little Homestead; same company
- October 9 (C) Tobe Hoxie; same company
- October 10 (C) The Minister's Son; same company
- October 11 (C) The World and the Woman; same Company
- October 21 (C) Are You a Mason; J. W. Treadwell Company
- October 26 (C) New Si Plunkard; J. C. Lewis and Company
- October 28 (C) Just Out of College; George Ade's Company
- November 12 (C) My Dixie Girl; Dodge and Doffield Company

1907 (continued)

- November 14 (C) The Slow Poke; W. B. Patten
- November 19 (C) Two Merry Tramps; Wood and Word's Company
- November 21 (C) At the Old Cross Roads; Arthur C. Aistons Company
- November 23 (C) The Cow Puncher; W. F. Mann Company
- November 26 (C) An Old Sweetheart of Mine; Jules Murry High Class Amusement Enterprises, Inc.
- December 6 (C) In the Bishops Carriage; Llebler and Company
- December 21 (C) Big Jubilee Minstrels; Sanford Ricaby's Minstrels
- December 25 (C) A Doll's House; C. Aiston Company; Jane Corcoran

1908

- January 3 (C) The Comedy of Errors
- January 10 (C) Raffles; Joseph M. Gaites Company; S. Miller Kent
- January 25 (A) Variety Show
- February 11 (C) Little Dollie Dumbles; C. H. Kerr Company; Grace Cameron
- February 14 (C) Painting the Town; Chas. H. Yale Amusement Company
- February 19 (C) Cupid at Vassar
- February 28 (C) The Man of the Hour; Wm. A Brady and Jos. R. Grismer Company
- March 13 (C) The Holy City; Luella Morey
- September 26 (C) Dan Cupid
- October 6 (C) Parsifal; Martin and Emery Company
- October 12 (C) In Spite of All; More Stock Company

1908 (continued)

- October 13 (C) same company
- October 14 (C) same company
- October 15 (C) same company
- October 16 (C) same company
- October 17 (C) same company
- October 22 (C) The Devil; Henry W. Savage Company
- October 31 (C) When We Were Friends; William Macauley
- November 24 (C) Honeymoon Trail; Princess Amusement Company, Inc.
- November 25 (C) The Heart of An Indian
- November 27 (C) The Man From Home; Liebler Company
- December 3 (C) The Yankee Drummers; The Lyman Twins Company
- December 5 (C) The Wolf; Canadian Hudson Bay Company
- December 19 (C) Isle of Spice; Mr. Frayee
- December 26 (C) Ma's New Husband; Harry Scott Company
- December 31 (C) The Night of the Play; M. Osterman; Kathryn Osterman

1909

- January 1 (C) A Good Woman Will Win; Lincoln J. Carter Company
- January 4 (C) The Taming of the Shrew; F. Lawrence Walker Company; Charles B. Hanford and Marie Drofna
- January 8 (C) The Burgomaster; Wm. P. Cullen Company
- January 9 (C) A Gay Old Girl; Reginald Poole
- January 13 (C) The Rivals; The Jeffersons
- January 14 (C) The Thief; Charles Frohman Company

1909 (continued)

- January 16 (C) Lena Rivers; Burton Dixon Company
- January 19 (C) Meadow Brook Farm; W. F. Mann Company
- January 23 (C) Marrying Mary; Jules Murry High Class Amusement Enterprises; Miss Florence Gear
- January 26 (C) A Bunch of Keys; Hoyt's Company
- January 30 (C) Little Dolly Dimples; Cameron Opera Company
- February 2 (C) Under Southern Skies; Harry Doel Parker Company
- February 6 (C) The Boys of Company B; Jules Murry High Class Amusement Enterprises; Paul Gilmore
- February 10 (C) A Millionaire Tramp; Elmer Walter's Company
- February 12 (C) Montana; Harry D. Carey Company; Miss Frances Hooper
- February 13 (C) Tempest and Sunshine; W. R. Mann Company
- February 15 (C) Rudolph and Adolph; Mason and Mason
- March 5 (C) Classmates; Jules Murry High Class Amusement Enterprises, Inc.
- March 8 (C) The Irish Senator; Joseph W. Spears Company
- March 22 (C) The Clansman; George H. Brennan Company
- March 23 (C) The Yankee Doodle Boy; Powell and Cohn Company
- March 27 (C) A Knight for a Day; Frayee and Wade Company
- March 29 (C) The House of Bondage; John Cort
- April 5 (C) Retribution; The Readick Company
- April 6 (C) The Old Sexton; same company
- April 7 (C) A Pink Mask; same company
- April 8 (C) The Shoes of Sin; same company
- April 9 (C) Monte Cristo; same company

1909 (continued)

- April 10 (C) The Gambler and Lady; same company
- April 15 (C) The Lion and The Mouse; Henry B. Harris Company
- April 24 (C) Si Plunkard
- September 9 (C) The Widow Perkins; Glines and Warda
- September 21 (C) Human Hearts; William Franklin Riley Company
- September 25 (C) The Wolf; Sam S. and Lee Shubert, Inc.
- September 27 (C) A Dry Town; Jos. M. Gartes Company
- October 7 (C) A Girl at the Helm; James H. Browne Company
- October 11 (C) Anita, the Singing Girl; The Morey Stock Company
- October 12 (C) The Man and the Milliner; same company
- October 13 (C) Name unknown; same company
- October 14 (C) The Gay Deceiver; same company
- October 15 (C) Only a Private; same company
- October 16 (C) The Whole Dam Family; same company
- October 21 (C) The Red Mill; Martin and Emery's Company
- October 22 (C) A Stubborn Cinderella; Homer B. Mason Princess Amusement Company
- October 26 (C) Jack and Jill; Hodkins-Mangold-Sinopoulo Company; Ada Meade
- October 28 (C) A Silent Partner; Dan Russell
- October 29 (C) McKenna's Flirtation; same company
- October 30 (C) The Matinee Girl; same company
- November 9 (C) The Royal Chef; F. F. Sturgis
- November 19 (C) Little Johnny Jones; Colonial Amusement Company

1909 (continued)

- November 20 (C) The House of a Thousand Candles; W. T. Gaskell and Edward Rowland Company
- November 23 (C) The Blue Mouse; Sam S. and Lee Shubert Company
- November 30 (C) The Time, The Place, and The Girl; H. H. Frazee Company
- December 4 (C) Girls; Sam S. and Lee Shubert Company
- December 8 (C) A Gentleman from Mississippi; William A. Brady and Joseph Crismaer Company
- December 14 (C) The Girl and the Gawk; the Lockes Company
- December 17 (C) The Little Homestead; Macauley and Patton Company
- December 21 (C) The Great John Ganton; Sam S. and Lee Shubert Company
- December 22 (C) The Blockhead; W. B. Patton
- December 27 (C) The Great Divide; Henry Miller Company

1910

- January 3 (C) The American Lord; Marie Drofna and Charles B. Hanford
- January 6 (A) Fort Riley Minstrels
- January 12 (C) As the Sun Went Down; Arthur C. Aiston Company; Estha Williams
- January 17 (C) Girl from U. S. A.; Harry Scott
- January 20 (A) The Inside Inn; Junction City Lodge 1037 B.P.O. Elks
- January 21 (A) same production
- January 25 (C) Paid In Full; Wagenhal and Kemper Company
- January 27 (C) Classmates; Jules Murry Company; Norman Hackett

1910 (continued)

- February 18 (C) Polly of the Circus
- February 24 (C) Girl Question; H. H. Frazee Company
- March 4 (C) The Servant in the House; Henry Miller Associate Players
- March 11 (C) The Top O' Th' World; Fred Bailey and Ralph Austin
- March 26 (C) The Flowers of the Ranch
- March 31 (C) The Third Degree; Henry B. Harris Company; Frenanda Elison, Ralph Ramsey and Paul Eveston
- April 1 (C) The Climax; Joseph M. Weber Company
- April 6 (A) The Toastmaster; Junction City Senior High School Play
- April 8 (C) The Traveling Salesman; Henry B. Harris Company; Bob Blake
- June 7 (C) The Gingerbread Man; Rice and Varley Company
- August 26 (A) Breezy Point; Edith Machey's Elocution Class
- August 29 (C) Name unknown; Morey Stock Company
- August 30 (C) What A Woman Will Do; same company
- August 31 (C) What A Woman Will Do; same company
- September 1 (C) Whirl of Society; same company
- September 2 (C) New Magadalen; same company
- September 3 (C) Two Married Men; same company
- September 19 (C) The Little Princess; Dorothy Stock Company
- September 20 (C) Dorothy; same company
- September 21 (C) A Royal Prisoner; same company
- September 22 (C) A Woman of the People; same company
- September 29 (C) Miss Nobody from Starland

1910 (continued)

- October 3 (C) The House of a Thousand Candles; Miss Clark
- October 5 (C) The Cat and the Fiddle; Harry B. Watson Company
- October 18 (C) Isle of Spice; B. C. Whitney Company
- October 26 (C) Wildfire; Lorella Morey
- October 28 (C) The Time, the Place, and the Girl
- October 29 (C) The Man on the Box; Trousdale Bros. Company
- November 7 (C) The Queen of the Moulin Rouge; Sam'l E. Pork's Company
- November 11 (C) Honeymoon Trail; Fitzgerald Company
- November 12 (C) Dan Cupid
- November 26 (C) The Squaw Man; Edward Westfield
- December 3 (C) The Port of Missing Men
- December 10 (C) The Climax; The United Play Company
- December 13 (C) The Newlyweds and Their Baby
- December 28 (C) The Golden Girl; Mort H. Singer Company; Leona Wetson

1911

- January 6 (C) De Wolf Hopper; Daniel V. Arthur
- January 14 (C) The Goddess of Liberty; Mort H. Singer Company
- January 21 (A) The College Widow; Junction City High School Senior Class Play
- January 27 (C) Polly of the Circus; Frederic Thompson
- February 1 (C) The Melting Pot; Liebler and Company
- February 17 (C) The Flirting Princess; Mort H. Singer Company
- March 3 (C) Paid in Full; Wagenhals and Kemper Company

1911 (continued)

- March 29 (C) The Mummy and the Humming Bird; Paul Gilmore and Company
- April 5 (C) Blue Mouse; E. J. Carpenter Company
- May 1 (C) The Paradise of Mahomet; Daniel V. Arthur Company
- September 18 (C) For Humanity's Sake; Charles Breckenridge Stock Company
- September 19 (C) Nebraska; same company
- September 20 (C) Down Where the Cotton Blossoms; same company
- September 21 (C) Teddy O'Malley; same company
- September 22 (C) Thorns and Orange Blossoms; same company
- September 23 (C) The Cowboy; same company
- October 2 (C) A Woman of Mystery; Morey Stock Company
- October 3 (C) Red Circle; same company
- October 4 (C) Lena Rivers; same company
- October 5 (C) The Great Diamond Robbery; same company
- October 6 (C) Cast Aside; same company
- October 7 (C) Don't Tell Your Wife; same company
- October 9 (C) Girl of My Dreams; Jos. M. Gaites
- October 16 (C) The Aviator; Trousdale Bros. Company
- October 21 (C) The Prince of Tonight; Mort H. Singer Company
- November 7 (C) The Lion and the Mouse; United Play Company
- November 11 (C) The Rosary; Rowland and Clifford Company
- November 16 (C) The Tyranny of Tears; The Associate Managers; Gilmore Brown
- November 24 (C) Madame Sherry; Frazee and Lederer Company

1911 (continued)

- December 13 (C) Macbeth; The Coburn Players
- December 22 (C) Get Rich Quick Wallingford; Cohan and Harris Company
- December 28 (C) The Fortune Hunter; same company

1912

- January 8 (C) Bright Eyes; Joseph M. Gaites Company; Cecil Lean and Florence Holbrook
- January 9 (C) Polly of the Circus; Fredrick Thompson Company
- January 19 (C) The Newlyweds and Their Baby
- January 25 (C) The Heart Benders; Mort H. Singer Company; George Damerel
- January 27 (C) Rosalind at Redgate; Gaskett and MacVitty Company
- February 8 (C) Checkers; Kirke LaShelle Company
- February 13 (C) The Traveling Salesman; A. S. Stearns Company; Dorothy Grey and Don Mac Miller
- February 17 (C) My Wife's Family; Dan Russell
- February 24 (C) Miss Nobody from Starland; Mort H. Singer Company; Olive Vail
- March 14 (A) The Freshmen; Junction City High School Senior Class Play
- April 3 (C) The Deep Purple; Liebler and Company
- April 24 (C) Graustark; George Barr McCutcheon's Company
- May 21 (A) Bubul; Junction City High School Chorus
- November 15 (C) Officer 666; Cohan and Harris Company
- November 16 (C) Baby Mine; William A. Brady Company

1913

- January 3 (C) The Prince of Tonight; LeComte and Flesher Company
- January 4 (C) Madame Sherry; New Amsterdam Theatre Production
- January 11 (C) Kindling; United Play Company
- February 12 (A) Elk's Minstrel Show; presented by Junction City Elk's Club
- February 25 (C) The City; United Play Company
- February 26 (C) The Kiss Waltz; New York Casino Melody Company; Valeska Suratt
- March 13 (A) A Rival By Request; Junction City High School Senior Class Play
- April 15 (A) The House That Jack Built; local talent; Lillian Davidson, director
- November 7 (C) Believe Me; Billy "Single" Clifford Company
- November 15 (C) Madame X
- November 19 (C) The Rose Maid; Florence Miller, Lew Lederer and Howard Marsh
- December 6 (C) Fine Feathers; H. H. Frazee Company

1914

- January 8 (C) Ready Money; William A. Brady Company
- January 15 (C) The Firefly; Arthur Hammerstein Production
- January 21 (C) The Right Princess; Mr. Robert Dempster and Company
- February 11 (C) Little Women; William A. Brady Company
- March 10 (C) The Pink Lady; Fische and Stevens Company
- April 6 (C) Lazy Bill; W. B. Patton Company
- April 17 (C) Mutt and Jeff

1914 (continued)

- September 23 (C) Rosalind at Red Gate; National Play Company
- November 13 (C) Il Trovatore; Boston English Opera Company
- November 19 (C) The Red Widow; New York Astor Theatre Musical Comedy Company
- December 10 (C) Mutt and Jeff in Mexico; Gus Hill Company
- December 23 (C) Peg O' My Heart; Oliver Morosco Company
- December 31 (C) 45 Minutes from Broadway; Metropolitan Opera House Studio Company

1915

- January 16 (C) When Dreams Come True; Fredrick Company
- January 21 (C) The Winning of Barbara Worth; Gertrude Barker
- January 28 (C) High Jinks
- February 5 (C) Everywoman; Henry W. Savage Company
- February 12 (C) Baby Mine; William A. Brady Company
- April 16 (A) Merry Minstrel Maids; Women's Guild of Episcopal Church
- April 19 (C) The "Kelly and Kneeland" Musical Company in Tabloid
- April 20 (C) same company
- April 21 (C) same company
- May 13 (A) A Day On Coney Isle; Ladies of the Universalist Church
- September 13 (C) The Way of the World; North Bros. Stock Company
- September 14 (C) The Poor Rich; same company
- September 15 (C) Too Much Married; same company
- September 16 (C) The Final Settlement; same company

1915 (continued)

- September 17 (C) The Women God Forgot; same company
- September 18 (C) Driven From Home; same company
- September 23 (C) Richard and Pringles Minstrels
- October 14 (C) The Commanding Officer; Famous Players Company; Alice Dovey
- November 1 (C) Within the Law; Dave Campron and Miss Florence Lewis
- November 3 (C) Polly Primrose and Her Merry Minstrel Maids
- November 6 (C) The Blue Mouse; North Bros. Stock Company
- November 19 (C) High Jinks; Miss Betty Blye
- December 1 (C) The New Henrietta; Joseph Brook Company
- December 11 (C) Robin Hood; Dehoven Opera Company; Iry Scott and James Stevens
- December 18 (C) Little Lost Sister
- December 30 (C) Freckles; The Broadway Amusement Company

1916

- January 7 (C) Twin Beds; Salwyn and Company
- January 20 (C) September Morn; Martin and Lemle Company
- January 29 (C) A Pair of Sixes; H. H. Frazee Company
- February 4 (C) It Pays to Advertise; Cohan and Harris Company
- April 28 (B) The Fortune Hunter; Kansas State Agricultural College
- May 26 (A) The Varsity Coach; Junction City High School Senior Class Play
- October 2 (C) Charlie on the Stage
- October 18 (C) Sam Collin's "Black Sensation" Minstrel Show

1916 (continued)

- October 19 (C) same company
- October 20 (C) The Polynesian Princess; Foster Producing Bureau
- November 20 (C) The Only Girl; Joe Weber Company
- November 29 (C) Aida; Chicago English Opera Company
- December 20 (C) Fair and Warmer; Selwyn and Company
- December 27 (C) Hobson's Choice; Messrs. Shubert Company

1917

- January 11 (C) The Bohemian Girl; Aborn Opera Company
- January 17 (C) The Blue Paradise; Messr.'s Shubert Company
- February 21 (C) Macbeth
- March 6 (C) The Garden of Allah; Liebler Company
- May 9 (C) Intolerance; D. W. Griffith Company
- May 23 (A) Windmills of Holland; Junction City School, seventh and eighth grades
- May 28 (A) The Blossoming of Mary Ann; Junction City High School Senior Class Play
- August 22 (C) A Night in a Cabaret; The American Ginger Girls Company
- August 27 (C) 1917 Vode Revue; Ches. Davis Musical Comedy Company
- August 28 (C) September Morn; same company
- August 29 (C) same company
- August 30 (C) same company
- August 31 (C) same company
- September 1 (C) same company

1917 (continued)

September 3 (C) Troubles in a Hotel; same company

September 4 (C) same company

September 5 (C) same company

September 6 (C) same company

September 7 (C) same company

September 8 (C) same company

September 10 (C) The Lonesome Town; W. H. Hughes Company

September 12 (C) Honeymoon Trail; Hughes Musical Comedy Company

September 24 (C) Married Again; Al Loewn and Company

October 1 (C) The Girl from Navajo; Jack Amick's Pennant
Winners

October 2 (C) same company

October 3 (C) same company

October 4 (C) same company

October 5 (C) same company

October 6 (C) same company

October 12 (C) Assassins of Gloom; George M. Hall Company

October 13 (C) same company

October 14 (C) same company

October 15 (C) same company

December 31 (C) Young Mrs. Winthrop; B. B. Gallup Company

1918

September 30 (C) The Liberty Girls; Mack and Hasting Company

October 1 (C) same company

1918 (continued)

October 2 (C) same company
 October 3 (C) same company
 October 4 (C) same company
 October 5 (C) same company
 October 6 (C) same company
 October 7 (C) same company
 October 8 (C) same company
 October 9 (C) same company
 November 11 (C) Henpecked Henry; Halton Powell Musical Comedy Company
 November 13 (C) Pretty Papa; same company
 November 14 (C) same company
 November 15 (C) same company
 November 16 (C) same company
 November 17 (C) same company
 November 18 (C) same company
 November 19 (C) same company
 November 20 (C) Step Lively; same company
 December 28 (C) Frank King's Dainty Girls Musical Comedy

1919

January 22 (C) Mutt and Jeff in the Woolly West; Bud Fisher Company
 January 28 (C) Stop, Look, and Listen
 February 5 (B) The Khaki Minstrels; Soldiers from Camp Funston

1919 (continued)

- February 10 (C) One Girl in a Thousand; Dubinsky Bros. Stock Company
- February 15 (C) Why Marry?; same company
- February 18 (C) The Trail of the Lonesome Pine; Eugene Walter Company
- March 3 (C) Forty-five Minutes from Broadway; G. W. Dunn Stock Company
- March 4 (C) The Girl and the Gambler; same company
- March 5 (C) Kick In; same company
- March 7 (C) Tempest and Sunshine; same company
- March 8 (C) Polly-Anna; same company
- March 10 (C) Make Yourself at Home; Harry Segal Company
- March 11 (C) same company
- March 19 (C) The Killer; Dubinsky Bros. Company
- March 20 (C) Lena Rivers; same company
- March 21 (C) Maggie Pepper; same company
- March 27 (C) The Heart of Humanity; Allen Holubar Company
- March 28 (C) same company
- March 29 (C) same company
- March 31 (C) A Soldier's Bride
- April 4 (C) Uncle Sammy's Minstrels
- April 7 (C) The Bell-Hop; The Transatlantic Girls
- April 8 (C) same company
- April 9 (C) same company
- April 16 (C) Ole and His Sweetheart Company
- April 25 (C) The Pixies

1919 (continued)

- June 6 (A) A Merry Company; pupils of St. Xavier School
- June 11 (A) All of a Sudden Peggy; Junction City High School Senior Class Play

APPENDIX B

SPEECH GIVEN BY JUDGE HUMPHREY AT THE OPENING OF THE

OPERA HOUSE ON JANUARY 5, 1882

Ladies and Gentlemen: It has been discerned appropriate on this occasion of the formal opening of this Hall to the public to offer some remarks fitting the auspicious event. That duty has been delegated to me. Several years ago this town was without a place in which the people could meet for purposes of rational amusement and secular instruction. Through the enterprise and energy of several of the ladies of Junction City, aided by the liberality of individual citizens, the needs then existing were supplied by the erection of a Hall that furnished at least a temporary house for the local talent that before then had lain dormant for the lack of those facilities for frequent and congenial association with fit surroundings which tend to powerfully to quicken the intellectual and social life of the community. As a result of that enterprise the histrionic talent of the town conceived and executed 'Sevenoak' and brought upon the boards 'Pinafore,' so creditably as to win widespread and unqualified encomiums from the press of the state. These developments made every citizen of Junction City feel prouder of his home. 'Pinafore' and 'Sevenoak,' inspired the public liberality and munificence to which these noble walls have been raised; and we have now provided an ample and spacious temple in which to house, and nourish into an active and vigorous growth, the unfolding talents of the young men and women in our midst.

Who shall say that the expenditure of money for this purpose, lavish as it has truly been has been missapplied sic or unwisely expected? It is probably true that from a materialistic point of view, the investment will not pay. But the value of investment cannot in all cases be measured by the percentage of net returns in cash. There is a broader and higher view to be taken of this matter, and in the light of that broader view it will probably pay. While it will not add to material wealth and comfort, a public building devoted to the use to which this is designed will serve to stamp on the community a certain image and superscription. To illustrate: Let us suppose an intelligent stranger to come to Junction City. He is curious or interested to learn the character of the people. There are two ways in which he may gain such information. The first is to form and cultivate an intimate personal acquaintance with each individual in the community who possess any weight, to learn his views, his feelings, the state of his intellect, his peculiarities and his eccentricities; and when an inventory of each citizen, male and female, has been taken, to strike, by a process of generalization, a general average. But it will be seen that this method is impracticable.

The second is to go through the town, to observe the character of the business houses and the residences; these may give him some clue to the kind of people who do business and dwell therein. But these will fail to furnish a full or satisfactory test, and the intelligent stranger will not stop there. He will need to inform himself of the number and character of the school buildings, the churches, and the public places. In these he will find an expression of the soul's needs, and in proportion as he shall find these wants supplied will he gauge the condition of the community in respect to civilization, and the prevailing temper of the people.

Suppose he shall find churches in abundant supply, but no playhouse (if I may so designate a place set apart chiefly for purposes for rational amusement); he will, if he possesses a philosophical turn of mind, say: Here are the evidences of piety, but yoked to a solemn stupidity. In such a community he will recognize the fact that one side of humanity is entirely neglected, and he will reflect that such neglect is sure to bring in its wake, rude, awakening revenges. Such a community is preparing the next generation to despise the religion of its fathers. In shutting up the playhouse, gloom is thrown around the church windows. This to some will seem paradoxical. It needs but a brief reference to history to dispel the seeming contradiction.

Iconoclasts in religion in this country were not born in Virginia, where piety was tempered by the courtly graces and innocent gaieties of the cavalier, but they were nourished amid the puritanical rigors of New England. Theological negations, and rationalistic theories in religion grow most prolific upon the thin soil of Plymouth Rock. The Duke of Alva, whose name has become the synonym of unrelenting merciless cruelty in war was the product of an age of asceticism in Spain; an age which had witnessed the voluntary abdication of his vast power and dominions of the greatest monarch of his time, drain his life away in the meditations of the monastery, an age whose religious zeal inspired the persecutions of the Huguenots, the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and the ruthless sacrifices of the noble Servetus, produced Voltaire and his scoffing compeers. The British commonwealth of England brought forth Hobbs, Tindal, Bolingbroke, and a debauched dramatic literature too vile to survive among decent men. The rugged lines of Calvinism in Scotland stimulated the incisive skepticism of Hume. Bob Ingersoll was nurtured in the bosom of a Presbyterian family at a time when the sharp angles and rough edges of Calvinism had not been worn off the creed.

Men must unbend from serious tasks and cultivate the mirthfulness of their natures, or with perverted sensibilities, become the victims of morose and melancholy moods. Such is the order of nature, that after the philosopher comes the clown, and in accordance with this ordination, this evening's programme has provided the representation of a farce to follow this somewhat grave discourse.

Thus are we prepared to maintain the even tenor of things, and of life, and guard the future against pernicious reactions from extreme courses. Here we may call our merchants and bankers from their exchanges and money getting, the lawyers from their papers and pleas, the preachers from their pulpits, the mechanic from his tools, the farmer from his tillage, and the women from their monotonous employments, and, commingling here, listen to the eloquence of the orator and to the music of song, and witness the impersonations of the drama--the immortal productions of earth's master minds. To these uses, so necessary to man's even, healthy and harmonious development as civilized being, this beautiful temple is dedicated.

If you ask me: Will it pay? I answer: Yes--if human enjoyment and happiness is of greater value than mere money. Yes--if the attractions of this place shall serve to draw our young men from places of pernicious resort, and shall stimulate them to the cultivation of the amenities and graces of art. Yes--if knowledge is of priceless value, and if from this stage important lessons in science and its history shall be taught to the attentive minds of this community.

Did it pay Greece to lavish upon splendid piles all the rich resources of her unequalled art, and the wealth of the state? Upon temples reared after the most sumptuous designs, and adorned and perfected with every grace of form? The exponents of the artistic skill of one age, and the education of the next; temples that inspired the matchless eloquence of her unrivaled orators, the thrilling music of whose strains they were filled to transmit through all the centuries of future time.

Upon the national life of Greece was impressed a straight and distinctiveness of character that presents to us, at the distance of twenty-four centuries, a people organized to impart to the human race great lessons in poetry, in philosophy, and the arts; whose achievements were destined to shed lustre upon the human family, and illustrate the dignity of human nature. The rental of her great temples was not remunerative, but they were among the means by which Greece achieved immortal fame.

We may not emulate Greece, but from her illustrious example we may draw lessons of deepest import. We may learn that, to attain perfection in the art of civilization, man must cultivate every side of his nature. The clown must not be despised; he is a philosopher in disguise. And the farce is not an unreality; its counterpart exists in some nook or corner of nature and it may serve the useful purpose at least of aiding in the digestion of more serious things, and recognizing this fact, I now yield this stage to its presentation.

APPENDIX C

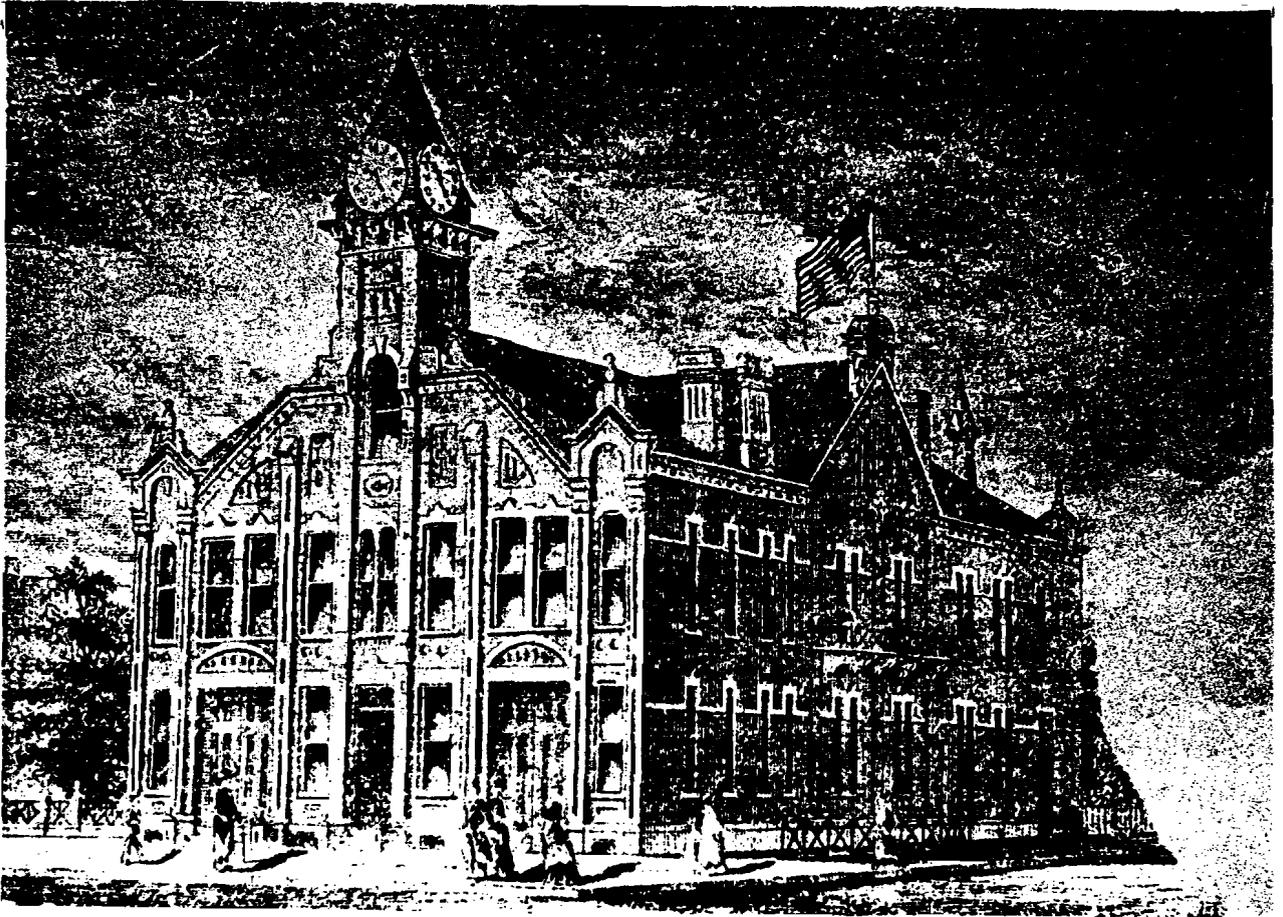


FIGURE 1

EXTERIOR PICTURE OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

*This picture of the Junction City Opera House is an etching which was shown in the Saturday issue of the Junction City Union on April 29, 1882.



FIGURE 2

BURNING OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

*This picture was taken January 14, 1898, during the fire that completely destroyed the Junction City Opera House and City Hall. Taken from the Pennell Collection in the Regional History Department of Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.



FIGURE 3

EXTERIOR PICTURE OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

*This picture of the Junction City Opera House was taken in 1908. This photograph shows what the Opera House looked like after the rebuilding after the fire that destroyed the old building in 1898. Taken from the Pennell Collection in the Regional History Department of Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.



FIGURE 4

OPERA HOUSE BOXES

*This picture of the Junction City Opera House boxes was taken after the rebuilding of the new opera house in 1898. Notice the curtains, wicker chairs, and opera seats. Taken from the Pennell Collection in the Regional History Department of Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

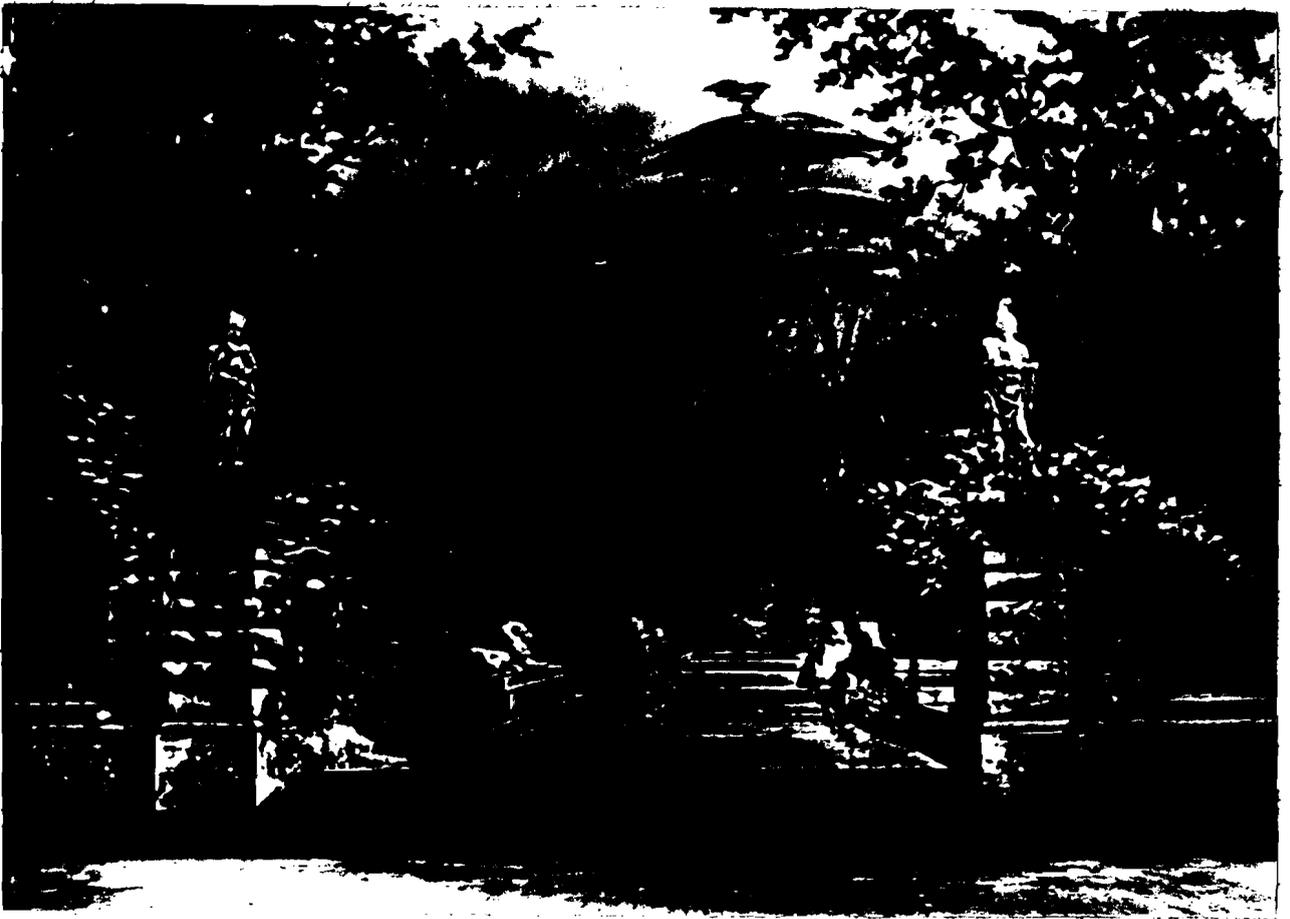


FIGURE 5

SCENIC DROP OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

*This photograph of a back drop curtain was taken in 1998. The title of the scene is not given, but notice the painted detail and perspective. Taken from the Pennell Collection in the Regional History Department of Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

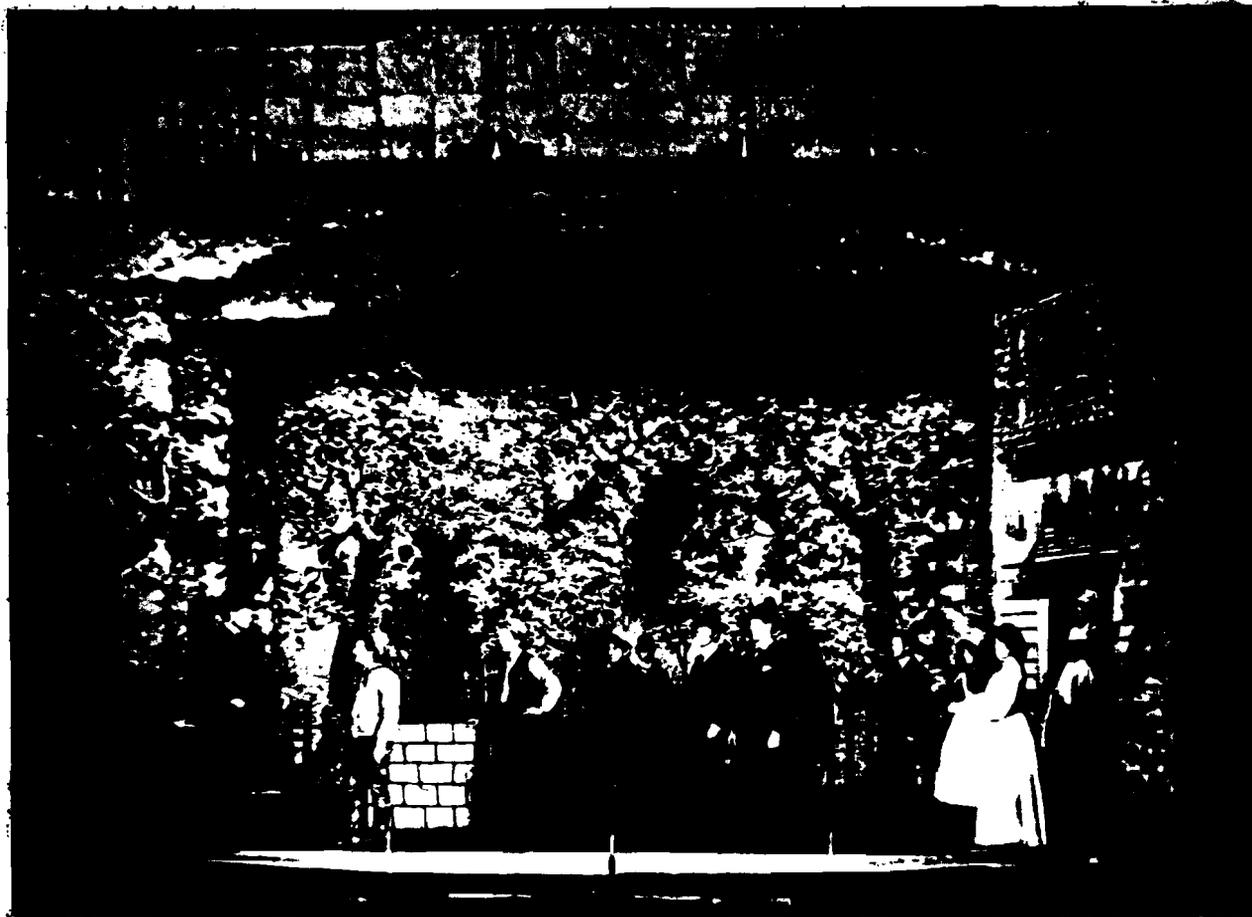


FIGURE 6

STAGE OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

*This picture of the Junction City Opera House stage was taken in 1904. The exterior setting was one of the scenes owned by the opera house and used for various productions. Taken from the Pennell Collection in the Regional History Department of Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

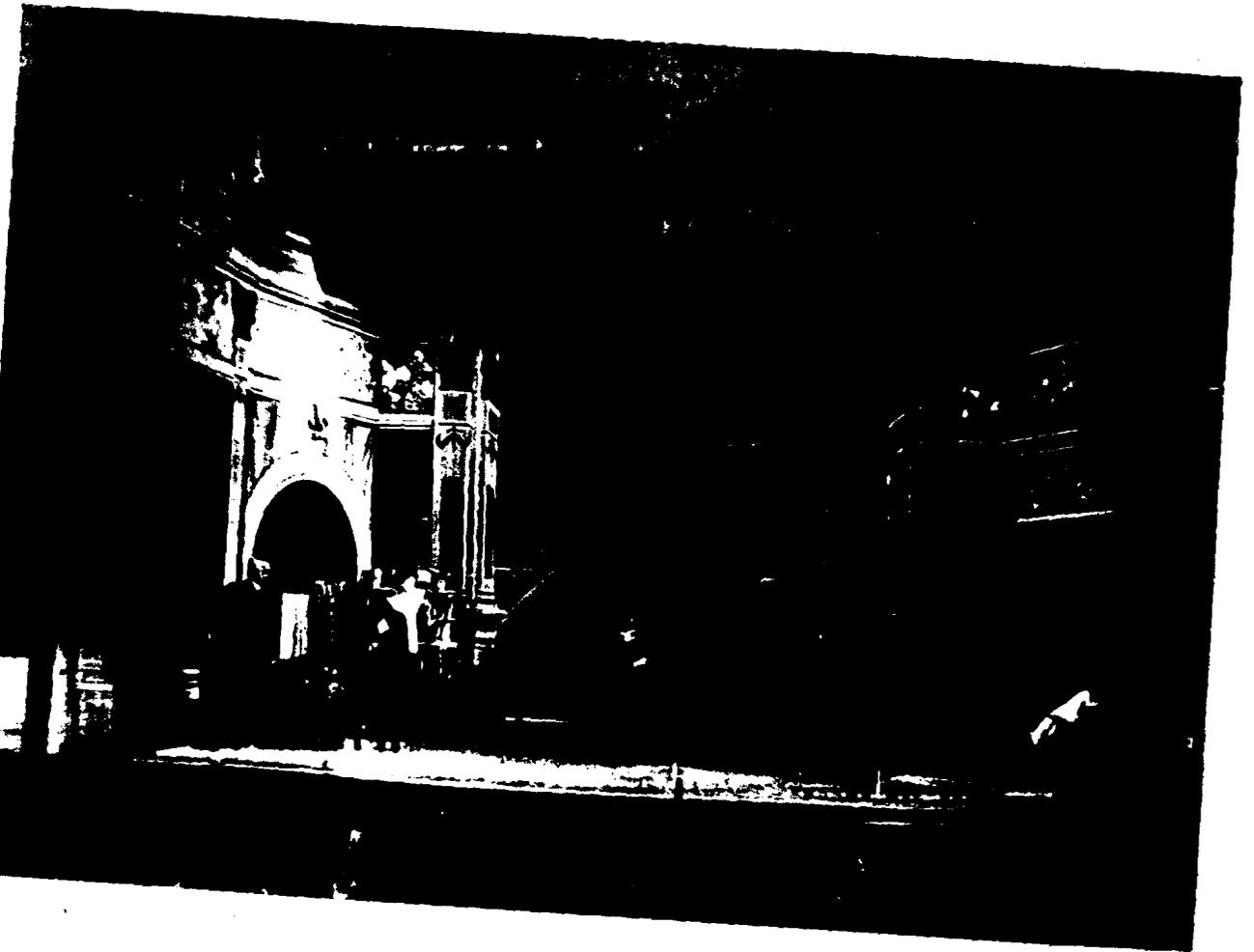


FIGURE 7

STAGE OF THE JUNCTION CITY OPERA HOUSE

*This photograph of the Junction City Opera House Stage was taken in 1904. The play that this interior setting was used for is not identified. The scenery displays the elaborate painting work done to create a realistic picture. Taken from the Pennell Collection in the Regional History Department of Spencer Library at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.