THANKS FOR HELPING - A lot of people helping mean less work for ALL! NH

Hi -

Here's the news paper article from time capsule 1900' - They were big in baseball game -

Idea: We have a book "OAKOPENINGS" which was written for the 100th birthday that SHS could donate.

Idea: put in Tower Times "What would you like in a Time capsule" (Community input)

Idea's: Big changes in last 100 yrs

- Fire station (new)
- New City Hall
- Growth to the west
- Mask - Covid
- ~~Many~~ new schools
- Liverion

- copy of the mural - was created for the 150th B.D. (we have copy at the museum)

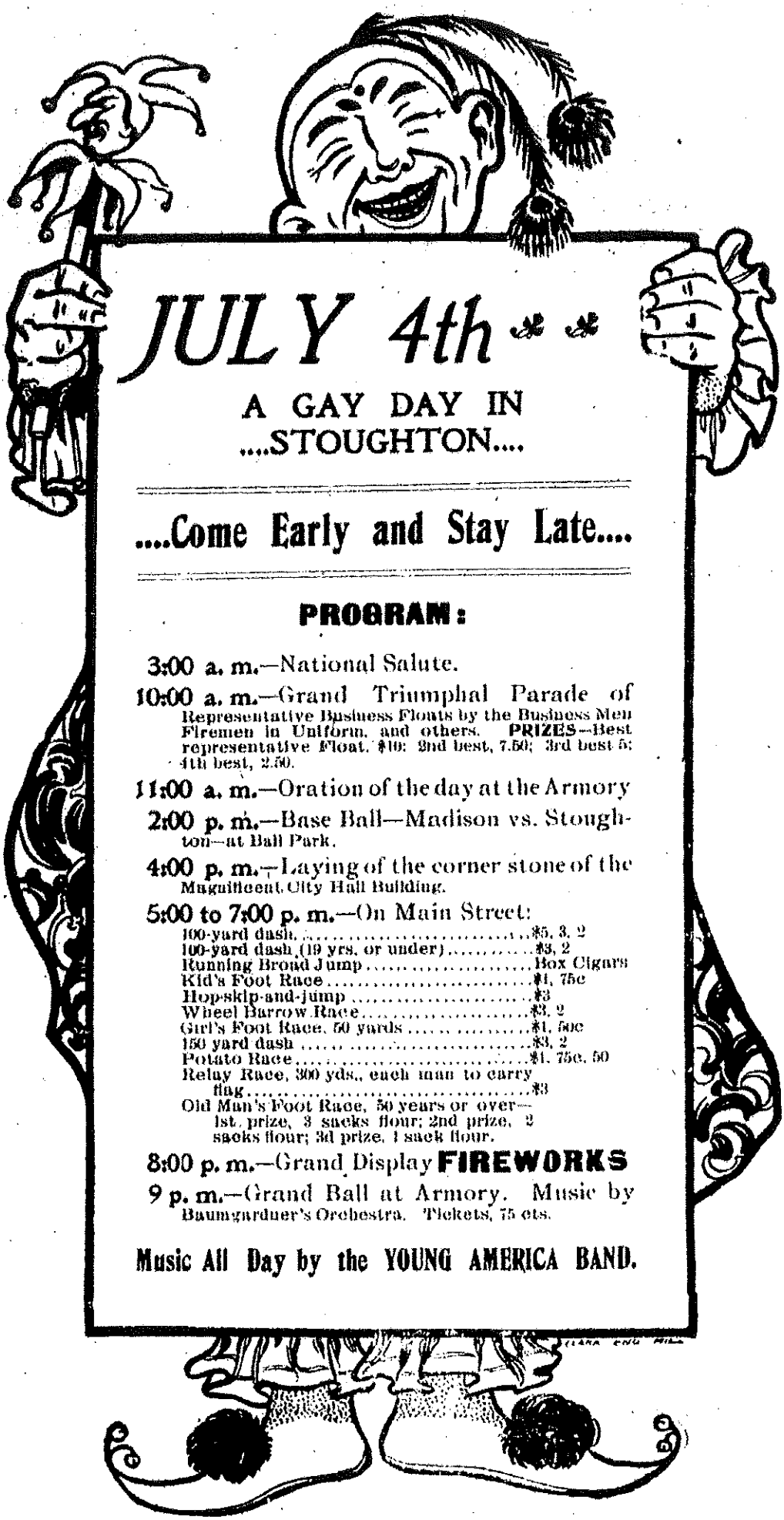
SC 6-22-1900

Mike - Newspaper article of 1900 July 4 on fine cigarette.

A Grand Celebration Assured.

A meeting of the Fourth of July committee was held on Monday evening. The report shows that more than $300 has been raised, a sufficient amount to meet all necessary expenses and to assure a rousing celebration. The committee has secured the Stoughton Cornet Band, engaged J. M. Clancey as the orator of the day, and arranged a fine program of sports and games. A ball game will take place at the West Side Park at 2:00 p. m. and the laying of the corner stone of the new City Hall with appropriate ceremony will occur at 4:00 p. m., after which various games will take place on Main street. A magnificent display of fireworks will take place in the evening followed by a grand ball at the Armory. The laying of the corner stone to the City Hall ought of itself be sufficient to draw an enormous crowd to our city, and with the other amusements the city will be packed.

HUB
Friday
6-29-1900



JULY 4th

A GAY DAY IN ....STOUGHTON....

....Come Early and Stay Late....

PROGRAM:

3:00 a. m.—National Salute.

10:00 a. m.—Grand Triumphal Parade of Representative Business Floats by the Business Men Firemen in Uniform, and others. **PRIZES**—Best representative Float, $10; 2nd best, 7.50; 3rd best 5; 4th best, 2.50.

11:00 a. m.—Oration of the day at the Armory

2:00 p. m.—Base Ball—Madison vs. Stoughton—at Ball Park.

4:00 p. m.—Laying of the corner stone of the Magnificent City Hall Building.

5:00 to 7:00 p. m.—On Main Street:

100-yard dash	$5, 3, 2
100-yard dash (19 yrs. or under)	$3, 2
Running Broad Jump	Box Cigars
Kid's Foot Race	$1, 75c
Hop-skip-and-jump	$3
Wheel Barrow Race	$3, 2
Girl's Foot Race, 50 yards	$1, 50c
150 yard dash	$3, 2
Potato Race	$1, 75c, 50
Relay Race, 300 yds., each man to carry flag	$3
Old Man's Foot Race, 50 years or over—1st prize, 3 sacks flour; 2nd prize, 2 sacks flour; 3d prize, 1 sack flour.	

8:00 p. m.—Grand Display **FIREWORKS**

9 p. m.—Grand Ball at Armory. Music by Baumgardner's Orchestra. Tickets, 75 cts.

Music All Day by the YOUNG AMERICA BAND.

Stoughton Courier
6-29-1900

JULY 4th AT STOUGHTON.

National Salute at Sunrise, guns will be fired at 3 a. m. Grand procession of representative business floats, firemen in uniform, and others at 10 a. m. headed by Young America cornet band. Oration of the day by J. M. Clancey at the Armory at 11 a. m. Base ball at the ball park at 2 p. m., Madison vs. Stoughton. Laying of the corner stone of the magnificient city hall building with oration by J. M. Clancey at 4 p. m. From 5 to 7 p. m. on main street: 100 yard dash, $5, 3, and 2; 100 yard dash (19 years old or under) $3 and $2; running broad jump, box cigars: Kids foot race, $1, 75c: hop-skip-and-jump, $3; wheel barrow race, $3; girl's foot race, 50 yards, $1, 50c.; 150 yard dash, $3, $2; Potato race. $1, 75c, 50c; Relay race, 300 yards, each man to carry flag, $3; old man's foot race 50 years or over, 1st prize 3 sacks flour, 2nd prize 2, 3rd prize 1; best float $10, 2nd $7.50, 3rd $5, 4th $2.50. Grand display of fireworks at 8 p. m. Grand ball at the Armory at 9 p. m., Baumgardner's orchestra will furnish music, tickets 75c.

Stoughton

Stoughton Courier
6-29-1900

—Appropriate ceremonies will be held at the laying of the corner stone of the new city hall on July 4th. In the repository will be stored a complete history of Stoughton, a copy of city charter, the names and photos of the present city officers, copies of the Hub and Courier, and other articles of anhistorical nature. J. M. Clancey will deliver the address.

S.C. Friday 7-6-1900 1 of 2

AN OLD TIME FOURTH.

One of the Best in the History of the Place.

MAGNIFICENT PARADE.

Independence day was celebrated in Stoughton Wednesday in a good old fashioned manner. Large crowds from the rural districts began to arrive early and by 10 o'clock the streets were lined with enthusiastic people. Notwithstanding the intense heat everybody enjoyed themselves to their utmost extent. Everything passed off pleasantly from start to finish, not an accident nor an arrest to mar the festivities of the day. The procession formed at 10 a. m. headed by R. B. McComb, marshal of the day. The Stoughton Cornet Band with new uniforms presented a neat appearance. The parade was one of the best ever seen in this place and would have done honor to cities of more pretentious size, the general verdict of all who witnessed it is "that it was just grand."

Next to the marshal came Chief of the Fire Dep't W. S. Wood, drawn by a pretty pony team belonging to the ocean wave company followed by the fire company in uniform and the new hose cart drawn by a fine span of blacks. Mayor Roe, Speaker and chaplain in carriage. The first float was a representative of the Modern Woodmen and was very attractive and appropriate. Mike Mandt with his force of brick and stone masons drawn on two wagons, all busily engaged mixing morter and laying stone was a fine representative of the profession. Torgeson Bros.' hardware and tinners made a grand display and the novel and unique way in which the horse was dressed created much merriment. H. T. Hanson made a good display having three teams in line representing both the wholesale and retail departments of his grocery store, as well as the salt, lime and stucco department.

J. B. Haven was well represented with a grand display of groceries, dry goods, etc. The Stoughton Wagon Co. and the T. G. Mandt Vehicle Co. were both represented in the line with goods of their manufacture. The little "log cabin" of N. Gerard, representing his first lumber office in 1850, was a grand representation and drew the first prize. M. B. Johnson and George Evans had the finest arranged float in the parade and it is generally conceded should have been awarded the first prize instead of the second. Mr. Johnson had a complete blacksmith shop in its entirety. He not only heated his iron, but turned out shoes and shod the horse which was drawn in his rig, while Geo. Evans worked on wheels in the repair shop.

Julius Johnson ran a complete meat market and is being highly complimented for the excellent sausage made and the tender steaks cut during the trip. The Stoughton Mill Co. tested the merits of their unequaled flour by a force of bakers kneading the flour and throwing sandwiches at the crowd. The excellent work done by the Diamond Laundry Co. was shown in an attractive manner. Geo. N. Campbell displayed the Deering machinery and also set tobacco the entire length of the parade with his favorite transplanter. C. T. Johnson's Sad Iron rig with two old maids (Barbra Rollis and Leila Bailey) engaged in ironing showed to the public what his goods would do. That which attracted considerable attention and words of wonderment was the huge boulder drawn by a four-horse team driven by J. L. Townsend, showing the workings of his portable stone lifter.

Andrew Nelson, the old time grocer, advertised to the public that he still did business at the old stand. G. T. Mandt, an old pioneer, drove a fiery steed with a banner which read, "Honest Bob going to the State House." In the line which created much merriment, were darkies, clowns and mules. The Stoughton bottling works was also represented. All in all it was a scene long to be remembered and a parade our people may well be

S.C. Friday
7-6-1900
2 of 2

proud of.

In awarding the prizes N. Gerard 1st, $10; M. B. Johnson 2nd, $7.50; Mike Mandt 3rd, $5; Julius Johnson 4th, $2.50

After the parade Rev. W. A. Hall of Janesville, delivered the oration at the Armory to a large crowd, which was pleasing, instructive and well received. At 2 p. m. a ball game took place at the West side park between the Stoughton nine and the Madison Badgers which was won by the home team by a score of 13 to 5. At 4 p. m. commenced the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new City Hall. After a few remarks by Mayor Roe and music by the band, Rev. D. C. Smith offered prayer followed by the address of Rev. W. A. Hall of Janesville. The copper box containing the history of Stoughton since 1847. when first settled by Luke Stoughton, two volumes of our city charter up to the present time, copies of the Hub and Courier and a copy of the Daily Skandinaven of Chicago, and a copy of the Milwaukee Sentinel of July 3rd, containing the speech of Long Jones of Waukesha, was then placed in the receptacle the mortar spread by Mayor Roe and the top stone placed in position by the aid of a derrick.

City charter

news paper

After the laying of the corner stone the following races took place on Main street:

100 yard dash—Clyde Palmer 1st, $5; Erdahl 2nd, $2; Watson 3rd, $2.

12 year old race—Truman Bjoin, $1; Dennis McCarthy 2nd, 75c; Harry Knight 3rd, 50c.

100 yard dash, 19 year old—Erdahl 1st $3; Watson 2nd $2.

Running broad jump—Erdahl 1st, box cigar; Watson 2nd.

14 year old race—Prentiss Towsley 1st; Willie Solein 2nd; Ole Rasmussen 3rd.

Old men's race—Hans Norum 1st, 3 sacks flour; John Hyland 2nd, 2 sacks flour; Z. M. Palmer 3rd, 1 sack flour.

The festivities of the day ended with a display of fireworks and a ball at the Armory. The celebration is considered by all, both kickers and enthusiasts alike a perfect success and was heartily enjoyed by all.

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

A Fine Day and a Large Crowd.—No Such Parade Ever Seen in Our City Before.

The fine rains the first of the week made our farmers feel well and a goodly number of them came to this city to help us celebrate the nation's birthday. Stoughton had been preparing for a big crowd and from the bridge to the depot Main street was lined with refreshment stands while many had made brilliant window displays in the national colors. What really proved to be the most interesting feature of the celebration was the parade which formed on Main street near the depot at about half past nine in the forenoon and marched as far west as Monroe street. Here it made a circuit of a block and then returned to the starting point. At the head marched our dandy juvenile cornet band, after which came the fire department and then a procession of nineteen representative business floats, most of which gave evidence of a considerable amount of painstaking preparation.

Those who participated in the parade were:

Modern Woodmen, Forester's camp; J. B. Haven, groceries and dry goods; H. T. Hanson, groceries and dry goods; H. T. Hanson, lime; M. B. Johnson and Geo. Evans, horse-shoeing and repairing; Mike Mandt, mason contractor; C. L. Dearborn, flouring mill; Vehicle Co., T. G. Mandt Wagon; Stoughton Wagon Co., Democrat wagon and prairie schooner; Stoughton Bottling Works; Julius Johnson, meat market; J. L. Townsend, stone puller; E. H. Gerard, log cabin of 1850; Torgeson Bros., hardware and tin shop; G. N. Campbell, farm implements; Diamond Laundry; Andrew Nelson, groceries; Sad Iron Factory

As deserving of more than passing notice were the Woodmen float representing a group of loggers eating dinner under the shade of forest trees; the float of Johnson & Evans on which was a complete blacksmith shop with a live pony which Mr. Johnson was shoeing; the log cabin representing E. H. Gerard's lumber business; the double float of Mike Mandt with Mike himself hard at work cutting stone while his crew mixed mortar, etc.; Julius Johnson's meat market, complete even to rings of wiener-wurst along the sides, and others, to mention which would take up too much space. The prizes were awarded as follows: 1st, E. H. Gerard; 2nd, M. B. Johnson & George Evans; 3d, Mike Mandt; 4th, Julius Johnson.

At 11 o'clock Rev. W. A. Hall, of Janesville, delivered at the armory a highly pleasing address full of excellent thoughts. Rev. Hall is a fluent and pleasing speaker and was frequently applauded.

After dinner the base-ball boys, preceded by the band, marched to the ball park where the game was called at about 2:30. Each side piled up four runs in the very first inning, but after that the visiting Madison team was able to score but one run while our boys increased their score to 14. The game was, in fact, too much one-sided to make it very interesting. Below are the names of the players and the score by innings:

Stoughton.		Madison.
Solbraa	c	Hyland
R Palmer	p	Coon
Buche	1b	Sander
Cole	2b	Olson
Drotning	3b	Musser
Erdahl	ss	Whitley
Ruh	rf	Chamberlain
C Palmer	cf	Kane
Hansen	lf	Gaffney

Score:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Madison:	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	—5
Stoughton:	4	5	1	0	0	1	2	1		—14

HUB Friday 7-6-1900 2 of 2

Before the game was over the band was hurried away to take part in the exercises at the laying of the corner stone of the new city hall. After several band selections and prayer by Rev. D. C. Smith, Rev. W. A. Hall addressed the people for a few minutes, emphasizing in the course of his remarks the truth that progress necessitates outlay of some kind or another and commended Stoughton for thus erecting a public building of which her citizens can well be proud. Mayor Roe concluded the ceremony by placing in a cavity in the corner stone a sealed copper box in which had been placed copies of our local papers, a copy of our charter and ordinances, and a history of the city from the days of Luke Stoughton in 1847. Directly over the corner stone lies the massive base block which will support the left pillar of the heavy entrance arch.

After these exercises were over the crowd repaired to the lower part of Main street, near the bridge, where the races took place. Of these the old men's race and the 100 yard dash for all under 19 years of age created considerable interest. In the first-named race George Patterson had all but won and was looking over his shoulder to see if the others were coming when he stumbled and measured his length on the pavement. In the 100-yard dash for those under 19, Louis Erdahl and Louis Watson tied for first place. The tie was run off and resulted Erdahl's getting first.

The results of the different contests were as follows:

For boys under 12.—1st, Thurman Bjoin; 2d, Harrison Knight; 3d, Dennis McCarthy.

For boys of 14 and under.—1st, Prentiss Towsley; 2d, Will Sollien; 3d, Olaf Rasmussen.

For old men of 50 and over.—1st, H. Norum; 2nd, John Hyland; 3d, Z. M. Palmer.

100-yard dash, free-for-all.—1st; Clyde Palmer; 2nd, Louis Erdahl, 3d, Louis Watson.

100-yd. dash for all under 19.—1st, Louis Erdahl; 2nd, Louis Watson.

Running broad jump.—1st, Louis Erdahl, distance 18 ft. 11½ in.; 2nd, Louis Watson, distance 18 ft. 7 in.

The celebration wound up with fireworks, if indeed such can be called the poor and dingy assortment of rockets and roman candles sent skyward for the space of a scant half hour.

The ball was given in the armory under the auspices of the base ball boys, but the weather was too hot for dancing and the attendance was small, although the music, which was furnisned by Baumgardner's orchestra, was excellent and gave perfect satisfaction.

2-15-1901
1 of 3

On the corner of Main and Fifth streets where once, some thirty years ago, stood the old frame furniture store of Frank Scherer, now stands the imposing new City Hall, a good cut of which we this week present to our readers. The site is an excellent one and leaves nothing to be desired, for the corner marks the highest point within the business section of the city, which gives to the building a most commanding appearance, the view from the depot being particularly fine. Through the many years that Mr. O. M. Turner has owned the corner he has always looked forward sometime to see erected upon it a building that would do credit to the city and to the location, and during the closing year of the 19th century he was finally to see the realization of his hopes. For the greater part of Stoughton's existence as an incorporated city, which dates back from 1882, municipal legislation has been transacted in a dingy and uninviting room on the second floor of the fire-engine station on Main street, almost opposite the new structure, while justice has been meted out and offenders brought to see the error of their ways in the old wooden shack on the market place, called by courtesy, the "town hall." In recent years the question of erecting a suitable city building has been periodically agitated and in the fall of 1899 a protracted discussion resulted in action being taken in the matter by the city council, which availed itself of its statutory right and passed an ordinance "providing for the purchase of a site and the erection thereon of a city hall and engine house." The site was purchased, but the bond issue of $10,500 provided for by the original ordinance was seen to be altogether inadequate for the purpose and during 1900 the ordinance was revised and changed until it authorized the issue of 3½ per cent city hall bonds to the amount of $24,000.

With the question of finance thus out of the way, the next matter to occupy the attention of the council was the adoption of plans for the proposed building. It was the opinion of the majority of the aldermen that, in addition to quarters for city and judicial officials, a fire department room and a jail, the hall should also include a reading room and library and an up-to-date auditorium. F. H. Kemp, a well-known young architect of Beloit, who had designed large buildings in various cities, submitted a sketch embodying all of these ideas and he was commissioned to draw up working plans which, with some changes, were adopted by the council. On May 16th the bid of Bonnett & Michie, of Milwaukee, for the erection of the hall, was accepted, and work was commenced about the first of June. On the Fourth of July work on the foundation had progressed sufficiently to allow of appropriate exercises being held in celebration of the laying of the corner stone. The exercises took place in the afternoon, the main feature being a genial address by Rev W. A. Hall, of Janesville, after which Mayor Roe deposited a sealed box containing copies of local papers, our charter and ordinances and other documents, in a receptacle in the stone upon which rests the massive base block of the left pillar of the entrance arch. The frequent and heavy rains during the latter part of the summer seriously delayed the work on the building and it will not be fully completed until sometime this spring.

While there is nothing elaborate in the style of architecture of the new hall, the spectator is unconsciously given an impression of solidity and strength, an impression to which no small share is contributed by the handsome tower of rock-faced Bedford stone which projects from the north-east corner of the building, the masonry reaching a height of about seventy feet. From the roof of the conical slate roof four gables jut out affording places for the 4-foot dials of the tower clock. The facing of the foundation wall and all stone trimmings are the same as in the tower, Bedford stone. By the original contract ordinary brick was to be used for the entire building but the committee wisely changed this to St. Louis red pressed brick for the facing of the two walls fronting on

the streets, a change which added immensely to the appearance of the structure.

One of the handsomest features of the building is the massive arch through which one enters the hall. The arch, which looks as if it might endure for ages, has a span of 12 feet and is supported on heavy fluted pillars surmounted by carved capitals. From the open vestibule, paneled throughout with oak, one passes up a short flight of stone steps into the hall way, from which access is had to every room on the first floor. By the first door to the left one enters the council chamber, a spacious, well-lighted room about 20x28 feet, finished as is the rest of the building in adamant plaster and oak, the walls being calcomined a rich dark red. An open fire place was put in this room for use in the chilly fall evenings before the heating plant is put in operation. In the council chamber hangs the handsome master clock which regulates the working of the clock-hands in the tower above. No furniture has yet been purchased, but whatever is selected will, undoubtedly, be in keeping with the room. Adjoining the council chamber and connecting with it, is the clerk's office, the size of which is 20x14 feet. This room is also finished in dark red. At the south end of the hall way are the firemen's room and the court room, which together occupy the entire width of the building and can be made into one hall 52x24 feet by letting up the rolling partition which divides them. A door from the firemen's room leads to the apparatus room, a large apartment 37x32 feet, which is not yet fully finished. Connected with the engine room is a hose-dryer shaft extending to the roof of the building. From the court-room access is had to the jail, a cozy little place 12x25 feet, and apparently strong enough to hold the most desperate criminal. Solid brick walls are on every side and the cement floor rests on steel arches, while overhead brick forms the arched ceiling. Three double steel cells are to be put up, affording ample room for six offenders, as large a number as are ever incarcerated at any one time. A jury room and a justice's office take up the rest of the first floor.

A stairway on each side of the entrance doors leads to the fine auditorium, which, with the exception of a couple of offices, occupy the whole upper part of the building. At the time the building was planned there was somewhat of a sentiment against incorporating a theatre into the city hall, but as an auditorium was the only part of the building from which any revenue might be derived, and as without it there would have been no necessity for anything except a one-story structure which would have looked somewhat squatty, the majority carried the day, and Stoughton now has one of the finest auditoriums in this section of the state. The body of the hall is 48 feet from entrance to the orchestra pit, its breadth being 52 feet. The floor is sloping and is seated with 401 handsome opera chairs of quarter-sawed golden oak, manufactured by the Manitowoc Seating Works. The large balcony, which comes almost to the middle of the hall and extends in a half-circle along the sides to the boxes, is fitted up with 230 mahogany finished opera chairs. Back of the chairs raised platforms afford additional room for a considerable number of spectators.

The boxes are eight in number and from three to six persons can be seated in each. Box draperies, window shades and isle carpets are not yet in place but the contract for furnishing these has been given to P. I. Hale, which is a guarantee of good material and artistic work. The hall will be splendidly lighted with 80 incandescent lamps, 36 of which are placed in the main chandelier. The light fixtures throughout the building are of oxidized copper and those in the auditorium are all of the combination kind, furnished with both electric lamps and burners for acetylene gas, for the generation of which a plant has been purchased and placed in the basement. The number of lights given above does not include those in the orchestra pit, the 36 foot-lights, nor any of the lights back of the curtain. The stage is fair-sized, the proscenium measuring 25 feet 8 inches, while the distance from the foot-lights to the rear wall is about 24 feet. The scenery, with which

2-15-1901
3 of 3

the stage is well equipped, was furnished by Sosman & Landis, of Chicago, and no attempt at description can do justice to it. The drop curtains, of which there are two, run on wires and, being counterbalanced by means of weights, are very easily operated and glide up or down noiselessly. The chief curtain is a superb piece of landscape and drapery painting and cannot fail to please the eyes of any audience. Directly behind this is hung the advertising curtain, which is to be used between the acts, and which, for its kind, is also a very pretty piece of work. There are four dressing rooms on the stage, and a hand-power elevator in the extreme south-west corner of the building facilitates the getting of baggage on to the stage.

The opening of this auditorium, of which Stoughton can be justly proud, will occur next Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22d and 23d, and as large numbers from our neighboring cities have signified their intentions of attending, the hall will, no doubt, be filled to its utmost capacity. "The Doctor's Warm Reception," a high-class comedy, played by a strong aggregation, will be rendered both evenings.

Occupying relatively the same position in the basement that the council-chamber and clerk's office do on the first floor, are the library and city reading room. These rooms are well supplied with large windows, and at night will be lighted by twelve incandescent lamps. The wood-work in the basement is also of oak and the rooms are finished in every respect as those in the rest of the building. The space in the basement under the vestibule stair-case is occupied by a roomy vault for the storing of documents.

The boiler in which the steam is generated for the heating is located in a large room on the west side of the basement, which also contains the acetylene gas machine. The boiler is of the firebox tubular pattern, 46 inches in diameter, with a capacity of 3,300 feet of radiation. The heating plant was put in by W. O. Havey and the plumbing in the building was also done by him. In the boiler room is also found the air-compressor which virtually runs the clock in the tower and which is operated by water pressure. By the triumph of modern mechanics, a little machine, situated below ground, is thus able to operate a clock distantly located in a high tower. These clocks are manufactured by the Johnson Electric Service Co., of Milwaukee.

As Contractor Bonnett has not yet made his final settlement with the city, and as there still are some things to be provided, we are not at this time able to state the exact cost of the building, but would venture to place it at between $30,000 and $35,000, which estimate includes the cost of the site. It is true that this amount greatly exceeds what at first was thought would be the cost of a suitable structure, but it is equally true that that is an experience met with in the erection of all buildings, whether public or private, and our citizens can rest assured that no extravagance has been indulged in by the council. Everything that has entered into the construction and furnishing of the building has been selected with an eye to solidity and lasting qualities—things to be considered above everything else in a public building.

Stoughton's new City Hall is, therefore, certain to stand for decades as a monument to the spirit of progress for which our city is noted. The council had small realization last spring of the drudgery involved in directing the construction of such a building, but the mayor and aldermen have ungrudgingly devoted their time to the task and they have done their work well.

For the Opening Nights.

Word was received last Friday from Manager Brown, of the Davidson Theatre, that a company playing the comedy, "The Doctor's Warm Reception," had been secured for the opening nights of the City Hall Auditorium next Friday and Saturday evenings.

As the proceeds of the opening play at the new auditorium will go into the city treasury, the management has decided that to auctioneer the seats would bring the greatest returns, and auction sales of boxes and seats for Friday evening's performance will therefore take place at the armory Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock and Tuesday evening at 7:30. Seats not disposed of at the auction will be sold at prices to be fixed hereafter. Take an hour off and come down to the sale.

2-15-1901
1 of 3

On the corner of Main and Fifth streets where once, some thirty years ago, stood the old frame furniture store of Frank Scherer, now stands the imposing new City Hall, a good cut of which we this week present to our readers. The site is an excellent one and leaves nothing to be desired, for the corner marks the highest point within the business section of the city, which gives to the building a most commanding appearance, the view from the depot being particularly fine. Through the many years that Mr. O. M. Turner has owned the corner he has always looked forward sometime to see erected upon it a building that would do credit to the city and to the location, and during the closing year of the 19th century he was finally to see the realization of his hopes. For the greater part of Stoughton's existence as an incorporated city, which dates back from 1882, municipal legislation has been transacted in a dingy and uninviting room on the second floor of the fire-engine station on Main street, almost opposite the new structure, while justice has been meted out and offenders brought to see the error of their ways in the old wooden shack on the market place, called by courtesy, the "town hall." In recent years the question of erecting a suitable city building has been periodically agitated and in the fall of 1899 a protracted discussion resulted in action being taken in the matter by the city council, which availed itself of its statutory right and passed an ordinance "providing for the purchase of a site and the erection thereon of a city hall and engine house." The site was purchased, but the bond issue of $10,500 provided for by the original ordinance was seen to be altogether inadequate for the purpose and during 1900 the ordinance was revised and changed until it authorized the issue of 3½ per cent city hall bonds to the amount of $24,000.

With the question of finance thus out of the way, the next matter to occupy the attention of the council was the adoption of plans for the proposed building. It was the opinion of the majority of the aldermen that, in addition to quarters for city and judicial officials, a fire department room and a jail, the hall should also include a reading room and library and an up-to-date auditorium. F. H. Kemp, a well-known young architect of Beloit, who had designed large buildings in various cities, submitted a sketch embodying all of these ideas and he was commissioned to draw up working plans which, with some changes, were adopted by the council. On May 16th the bid of Bonnett & Michie, of Milwaukee, for the erection of the hall, was accepted, and work was commenced about the first of June. On the Fourth of July work on the foundation had progressed sufficiently to allow of appropriate exercises being held in celebration of the laying of the corner stone. The exercises took place in the afternoon, the main feature being a genial address by Rev. W. A. Hall, of Janesville, after which Mayor Roe deposited a sealed box containing copies of local papers, our charter and ordinances and other documents, in a receptacle in the stone upon which rests the massive base block of the left pillar of the entrance arch. The frequent and heavy rains during the latter part of the summer seriously delayed the work on the building and it will not be fully completed until sometime this spring.

While there is nothing elaborate in the style of architecture of the new hall, the spectator is unconsciously given an impression of solidity and strength, an impression to which no small share is contributed by the handsome tower of rock-faced Bedford stone which projects from the north-east corner of the building, the masonry reaching a height of about seventy feet. From the roof of the conical slate roof four gables jut out affording places for the 4-foot dials of the tower clock. The facing of the foundation wall and all stone trimmings are the same as in the tower, Bedford stone. By the original contract ordinary brick was to be used for the entire building but the committee wisely changed this to St. Louis red pressed brick for the facing of the two walls fronting on

2-15-1901
2 of 3

the streets, a change which added immensely to the appearance of the structure.

One of the handsomest features of the building is the massive arch through which one enters the hall. The arch, which looks as if it might endure for ages, has a span of 12 feet and is supported on heavy fluted pillars surmounted by carved capitals. From the open vestibule, paneled throughout with oak, one passes up a short flight of stone steps into the hall way, from which access is had to every room on the first floor. By the first door to the left one enters the council chamber, a spacious, well-lighted room about 20x28 feet, finished as is the rest of the building in adamant plaster and oak, the walls being calcomined a rich dark red. An open fire place was put in this room for use in the chilly fall evenings before the heating plant is put in operation. In the council chamber hangs the handsome master clock which regulates the working of the clock-hands in the tower above. No furniture has yet been purchased, but whatever is selected will, undoubtedly, be in keeping with the room. Adjoining the council chamber and connecting with it, is the clerk's office, the size of which is 20x14 feet. This room is also finished in dark red. At the south end of the hall way are the firemen's room and the court room, which together occupy the entire width of the building and can be made into one hall 52x24 feet by letting up the rolling partition which divides them. A door from the firemen's room leads to the apparatus room, a large apartment 37x32 feet, which is not yet fully finished. Connected with the engine room is a hose-dryer shaft extending to the roof of the building. From the court-room access is had to the jail, a cozy little place 12x25 feet, and apparently strong enough to hold the most desperate criminal. Solid brick walls are on every side and the cement floor rests on steel arches, while overhead brick forms the arched ceiling. Three double steel cells are to be put up, affording ample room for six offenders, as large a number as are ever incarcerated at any one time. A jury room and a justice's office take up the rest of the first floor.

A stairway on each side of the entrance doors leads to the fine auditorium, which, with the exception of a couple of offices, occupy the whole upper part of the building. At the time the building was planned there was somewhat of a sentiment against incorporating a theatre into the city hall, but as an auditorium was the only part of the building from which any revenue might be derived, and as without it there would have been no necessity for anything except a one-story structure which would have looked somewhat squatty, the majority carried the day, and Stoughton now has one of the finest auditoriums in this section of the state. The body of the hall is 48 feet from entrance to the orchestra pit, its breadth being 52 feet. The floor is sloping and is seated with 401 handsome opera chairs of quarter-sawed golden oak, manufactured by the Manitowoc Seating Works. The large balcony, which comes almost to the middle of the hall and extends in a half-circle along the sides to the boxes, is fitted up with 230 mahogany finished opera chairs. Back of the chairs raised platforms afford additional room for a considerable number of spectators.

The boxes are eight in number and from three to six persons can be seated in each. Box draperies, window shades and isle carpets are not yet in place but the contract for furnishing these has been given to P. I. Hale, which is a guarantee of good material and artistic work. The hall will be splendidly lighted with 80 incandescent lamps, 36 of which are placed in the main chandelier. The light fixtures throughout the building are of oxidized copper and those in the auditorium are all of the combination kind, furnished with both electric lamps and burners for acetylene gas, for the generation of which a plant has been purchased and placed in the basement. The number of lights given above does not include those in the orchestra pit, the 36 foot-lights, nor any of the lights back of the curtain. The stage is fair-sized, the proscenium measuring 25 feet 8 inches, while the distance from the foot-lights to the rear wall is about 24 feet. The scenery, with which

2-15-1901
3 of 3

the stage is well equipped, was furnished by Sosman & Landis, of Chicago, and no attempt at description can do justice to it. The drop curtains, of which there are two, run on wires and, being counterbalanced by means of weights, are very easily operated and glide up or down noiselessly. The chief curtain is a superb piece of landscape and drapery painting and cannot fail to please the eyes of any audience. Directly behind this is hung the advertising curtain, which is to be used between the acts, and which, for its kind, is also a very pretty piece of work. There are four dressing rooms on the stage, and a hand-power elevator in the extreme south-west corner of the building facilitates the getting of baggage on to the stage.

The opening of this auditorium, of which Stoughton can be justly proud, will occur next Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22d and 23d, and as large numbers from our neighboring cities have signified their intentions of attending, the hall will, no doubt, be filled to its utmost capacity. "The Doctor's Warm Reception," a high-class comedy, played by a strong aggregation, will be rendered both evenings.

Occupying relatively the same position in the basement that the council-chamber and clerk's office do on the first floor, are the library and city reading room. These rooms are well supplied with large windows, and at night will be lighted by twelve incandescent lamps. The wood-work in the basement is also of oak and the rooms are finished in every respect as those in the rest of the building. The space in the basement under the vestibule stair-case is occupied by a roomy vault for the storing of documents.

The boiler in which the steam is generated for the heating is located in a large room on the west side of the basement, which also contains the acetylene gas machine. The boiler is of the firebox tubular pattern, 46 inches in diameter, with a capacity of 3,300 feet of radiation. The heating plant was put in by W. O. Havey and the plumbing in the building was also done by him. In the boiler room is also found the air-compressor which virtually runs the clock in the tower and which is operated by water pressure. By the triumph of modern mechanics, a little machine, situated below ground, is thus able to operate a clock distantly located in a high tower. These clocks are manufactured by the Johnson Electric Service Co., of Milwaukee.

As Contractor Bonnett has not yet made his final settlement with the city, and as there still are some things to be provided, we are not at this time able to state the exact cost of the building, but would venture to place it at between $30,000 and $35,000, which estimate includes the cost of the site. It is true that this amount greatly exceeds what at first was thought would be the cost of a suitable structure, but it is equally true that that is an experience met with in the erection of all buildings, whether public or private, and our citizens can rest assured that no extravagance has been indulged in by the council. Everything that has entered into the construction and furnishing of the building has been selected with an eye to solidity and lasting qualities—things to be considered above everything else in a public building.

Stoughton's new City Hall is, therefore, certain to stand for decades as a monument to the spirit of progress for which our city is noted. The council had small realization last spring of the drudgery involved in directing the construction of such a building, but the mayor and aldermen have ungrudgingly devoted their time to the task and they have done their work well.

For the Opening Nights.

Word was received last Friday from Manager Brown, of the Davidson Theatre, that a company playing the comedy, "The Doctor's Warm Reception," had been secured for the opening nights of the City Hall Auditorium next Friday and Saturday evenings.

As the proceeds of the opening play at the new auditorium will go into the city treasury, the management has decided that to auctioneer the seats would bring the greatest returns, and auction sales of boxes and seats for Friday evening's performance will therefore take place at the armory Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock and Tuesday evening at 7:30. Seats not disposed of at the auction will be sold at prices to be fixed hereafter. Take an hour off and come down to the sale.