

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 357 West Decatur - Fleur - de Lis.

Legal description:

Assessor's Subdivision of a part of the W 1/2 of SE
1/4 of Sec 15 Township 16 N. Range 2 East of 3rd PM.
20' W & adj N 232' & (Exc W 66-1/2 s. 215.8') of Lot 2.

Date of original construction: 1909.
1910 completion.

Name of original owner: Charles G. Powers.

History: See reverse side.

32-room mansion.

Built at cost of between \$85,000 and \$100,000, in 1909-
1910, by Charles G. Powers.

Charles G. Powers was the eldest son of Orlando Powers
who came to Decatur in 1849, and amassed about 7000
acres of property by exchanging ownership for tiling
and draining. In 1889 Orlando Powers built his first
opera house. Hotel Orlando named for him, had its grand
opening February 17, 1916.

Sunday Herald and Review
July 8, 1973

Owners: 1909 - Charles G. Powers
John F. Wieser of Cleveland.
1935 - J. P. Gobberdiel of Peoria.
1937 - John F. Wieser.
1939 - Sam D. Jarvis.
1953-1961 - Vernon Jarvis occupied the home.
1965- Vernon Jarvis Estate, in trust for five children.
1974- Wayne and Gene Campbell.

Present owners: Wayne and Gene Campbell.

Statement attached to card for 357 West Decatur in office of Decatur Township Assessor (7/30/75).

Copper gutters and downspouts.
Glazed brick wall in kitchen.
Dining room - mahogany wainscoting and beams.
Mahogany beams in living room.
Mahogany hand rails on main stair.
Enamel wainscote on main stairs.
Doors of mahogany on 1st and 2nd.
Recreation room on 3rd floor - 1490 square feet.
4 car garage in basement.
One sectional door w/ auto opener.
Automatic elevator, basement to 3rd floor.
All porches and terraces - tile floor over brick arches turned between steel I beams.
Front porch 24 x 18, has 4 24 inch, round fluted columns w/ carved stone caps 18 feet high.
Side pergola 11'x24', with 9, 13 inch round, stone columns.
Rear porch, 2nd floor, 40 x 10'.
Basement porch, cement floor 37 x 10' and 11 x 10'.
No swimming pool.
2 stories - 13 rooms, brick foundation, brick exterior, central air conditioning, mansard roof, medium pitch, tile roof, 2 open porches, tile-floored kitchen, 4 baths, 1 half-bath.

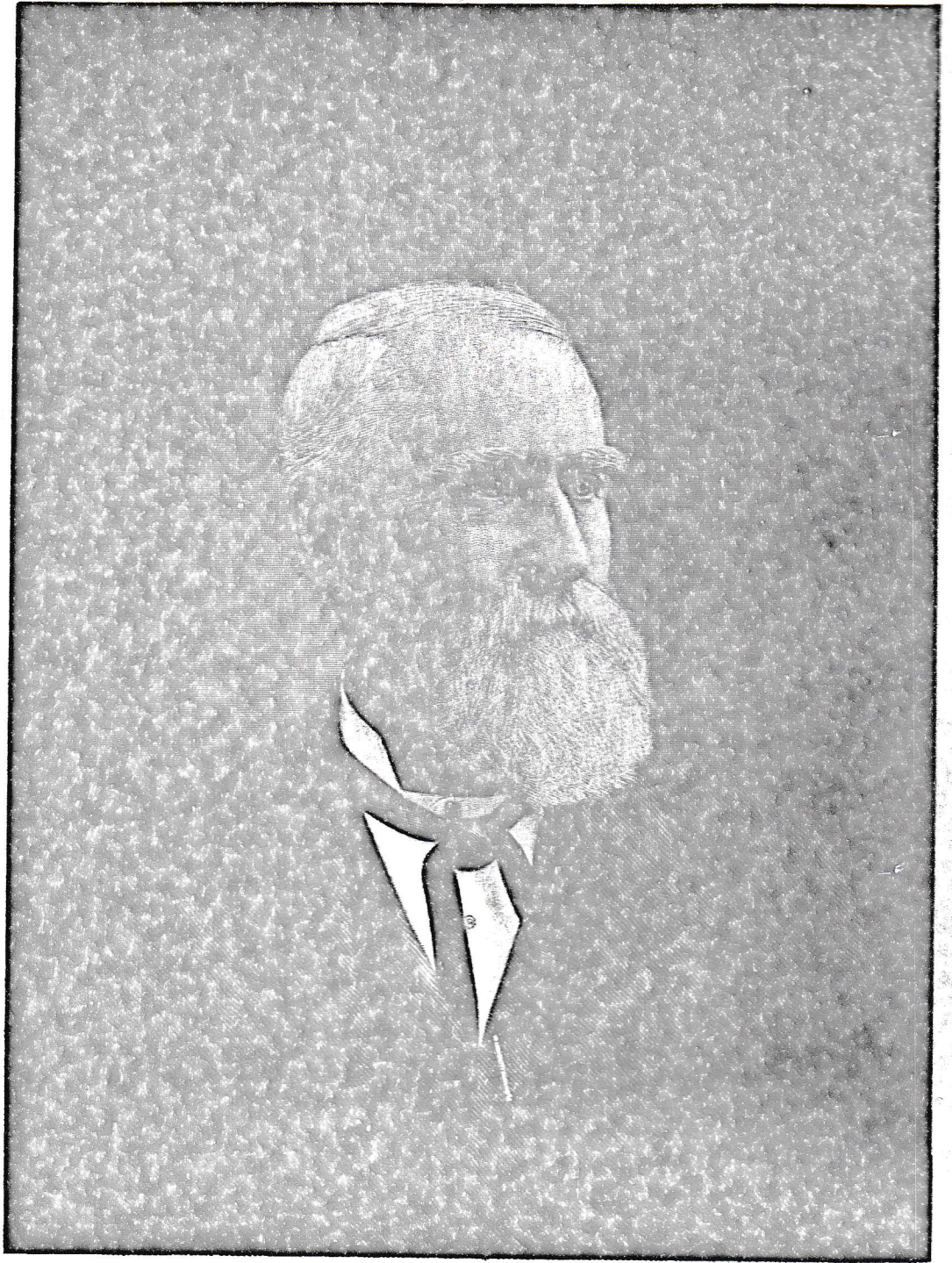
The Powers Mansion is one of Decatur's most distinctive homes. Built in 1910 by a local architect, R. O. Rosen, it has many influences from the Columbian Exposition and the revival of Classical architecture. The home almost monumental in form, is elaborately symmetrical, with clear articulated parts. The central projecting portico clearly dominates the wings and terminal features. Characteristics of the style include Ionic columns, bracketed eaves linteled and arched windows and use of balconies. The structure is typically midwestern because of its long over-hanging eaves, use of large blank spaces and horizontal emphasis.

This house is one of my favorites - very typical homes of the upper middle class, and the stable condition before World War I.

(Bradford Cantrell wrote the above about the Powers-Jarvis House, December, 1975)

357 West Decatur





Orlando Powers

From Past and Present of the City of Decatur and
Macon County, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co.

1903

BIOGRAPHICAL.

ORLANDO POWERS.

Among the eminent men of Illinois whose life record forms an integral part of the history of Decatur, Hon. Orlando Powers was numbered. In his death the city lost one of its most progressive residents and active and honorable business men, as well as one whose influence was felt in marked degree along the line of intellectual and moral advancement. As the day, with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of completed and successful efforts, ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this honored man. His career was a long, busy and useful one, marked by the utmost fidelity to the duties of public and private life, and crowned with honors conferred upon him in recognition of superior merit. His name is inseparably interwoven with the annals of Illinois, with its best development and its stable progress, and his memory is cherished as that of one who made the world better for his having lived.

The life record of Orlando Powers began on the 21st of May, 1812, near the village of Charlton, Saratoga county, New York, and his youth was that of the usual farm boy who assists in the operation of the fields through the months of summer, while in the winter seasons he pursues his education in the common schools. It was in that manner that Mr. Powers passed his boyhood days until he reached the age of sixteen years, when he started for Havana, Cuba, in response to a request of his brother William that Orlando should go to that island and assist him in carrying on his business there. Making his way to New York, Mr. Powers, of this review, took passage upon the schooner Helen, but was

destined never to reach the port for which he sailed, for that ship was wrecked in a severe storm when it had been under way for three days. The rescue of Mr. Powers was almost marvelous. He and Captain Tucker, who commanded the vessel, together with three of the sailors, drifted upon the open sea for eleven days, clinging to the disabled hulk, part of which was out of water. They subsisted upon a scanty supply of sea biscuit and raw potatoes and a very short allowance of water. When nearly famished because of lack of food and almost crazed by want of drink, they were picked up by a French brig bound for Bordeaux and eventually landed at La Rochelle, whence they were taken on to Bordeaux by land. Mr. Powers had no money nor clothing, save that which he wore, and was even without a hat, but found a kind friend in an English gentleman who relieved his immediate wants and cared for him until opportunity came for him to return home. Re-crossing the Atlantic he landed at New York and through the assistance of business acquaintances of his elder brother he was enabled to promptly discharge the indebtedness which it had been necessary for him to incur. He did not tarry long in the metropolis, but proceeded at once by steamer up the Hudson river to his home, where he had been long mourned as dead. After visiting his people he once more made an attempt to enter the business world, and this time sailed from New York to Mobile, Alabama. For some time he remained in the south, being engaged in business enterprises in Alabama and Mississippi in connection with his brothers and brother-in-law, Chauncey Wilkinson, during which

time he conducted operations at Mobile, Tuscaloosa, Prairie Bluff and Aberdeen, and in 1849, on leaving the south, he took up his abode in Decatur.

Mr. Powers had visited this city in 1847, his mother and his two brothers, George and Samuel, having located here some years before. Being favorably impressed with the embryo city and its future prospects he resolved to ally his interests with the place, and up to the time of his death remained a continuous resident of Decatur from 1849 with the exception of a brief period of one decade, which he passed in Jacksonville, Illinois. On locating in Decatur, Mr. Powers became identified with industrial interests as the owner of a saw and grist mill. This he operated for a time and then embarked in commercial pursuits, establishing a boot and shoe store. He became widely known in business circles here and extended his activity into many lines which proved of value to Decatur as well as a source of profit to himself. For many years he was the owner of the only set of abstract books in Macon county. In matters of business his judgment was always sound and reliable and while he was conservative to the point of safety he was also progressive and quick to note opportunities which come to all. In the early years of his residence here he realized that Illinois was destined to become a great and populous state because of the fertility of its soil, which offered splendid opportunities to the agriculturist. Wisely he made investment in real estate, acquiring large property interests, including both farm lands and city realty. As the years passed he improved and developed his property and as he found good opportunity for sale he disposed of his investments at a very desirable profit. His enterprise was also an active factor in the permanent improvement and material expansion of Decatur. In 1889 he erected an opera house, which would be a credit to a

city of much greater size. It is beautiful and artistically decorated and is most complete as to arrangements, thus furnishing a place of entertainment of which Decatur and her people have every reason to be proud. No improvement for the general good sought his co-operation in it and it would be to recount most of the enterprises of Decatur to give a list of concerns which have benefited by his assistance.

On the 27th of September, 1849, Mr. Powers was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte E. Given, of Smithland, Union county, Kentucky. It was while he was traveling on horseback from Mobile, Alabama, to Decatur, on his first trip in 1849 that he met this lady, and the friendship that thus originated eventually led to their marriage. She was a daughter of Herndon Given, of Smithland, Kentucky. Unto Mr. Powers and Mrs. Powers were born four children: Alice, who was born September 30, 1851, and died on the 22d of April, 1878; Charles G., born June 30, 1861; Howard Willis, born June 20, 1864, and now a resident of Decatur; and Anabel, who was born August 18, 1867, and is the widow of Charles Kerney, of Evansville, Indiana. Mrs. Powers died May 3, 1897, and Mr. Powers passed away July 1, 1902, his remains being interred in Greenwood cemetery, by the side of his wife. Charles G. Powers, the elder son, was born in Decatur, June 30, 1861, received his education in the schools here, and when thirteen years of age moved with his family to Jacksonville, Illinois, where he completed his education in the Illinois College, being graduated in the class of 1884. After two years he returned to Decatur and entered the office of Charles Ewing, who was the agent for the Powers properties. In this way he gained insight into his father's business. He also read law for two years, but not with the intention of practicing it. On the expiration of the

period, the family having in the meantime returned to this city, he joined his brother in business, and they took charge of their father's affairs, comprising business interests unsurpassed in volume and importance. Since that time the brothers have continued the management of the estate. They are gentlemen of excellent business sagacity and foresight, and in the supervision of the property interests have shown marked discrimination and unfaltering diligence. On the 2d of June, 1887, Mr. Powers was united in marriage to Miss Effie Rogers, a daughter of Senator Jason Rogers, and unto them have been born two children: Orlando Rogers, who was born January 10, 1891, and died on the 18th of April, of the same year; and John Howard, who was born August 2, 1895, and is now at home. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Powers is serving as a trustee. In politics he has always been a Republican, but has never consented to hold office. Fabel Powers was married June 17, 1890, to Charles Kerney, of Evansville, Indiana, who died August 1, 1902, and she and her brother Howard are living on the old Powers homestead. She has one child, Charlotte Wright, born January 4, 1895. Howard William Powers received his education in Decatur and Jacksonville and is associated with his brother in the management of the estate.

Mr. Powers gave his political support in early life to the Whig party and when Mr. Lincoln was first placed on the Republican ticket as nominee for the presidency he joined the ranks of the new organization, with which he continued to affiliate up to the time of his death. He was a man of generous impulses and gave freely of his means to charitable and benevolent objects, and yet his giving was always free from ostentation or display. He long held membership with the First Presbyterian church of Decatur, and many thousand dollars

found its way from his purse to the church exchequer. He contributed very largely toward the building of the two edifices which have been occupied by this organization and in many church offices he labored for the welfare of the denomination and the extension of its influence. Some years ago he founded a scholarship in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of the Northwest. With Mr. Powers friendship was inviolable and he gained many friends throughout his life, the circle of his friendship being almost co-extensive with the circle of his acquaintances. When those who needed assistance came to him his aid was never withheld, if it could be rendered, and many a business man and firm in Decatur owes its prosperity in large measure to the generous assistance received from Mr. Powers in time of need. His own business career was unassailable. Honor and integrity characterized his every act and he was never known to take advantage of his fellow men in any business transactions. He enjoyed to the fullest extent the respect and esteem of those with whom he was long associated.

SILAS PACKARD.

For seventy-three years Silas Packard has been a resident of Decatur—a record perhaps paralleled by that of no other citizen here. The little village in which his boyhood days were passed has developed into a city of metropolitan proportions and advantages, being among the largest in the state and with its improvement Mr. Packard has kept abreast, always maintaining a place among its leading business men until today he is accounted one of its most prominent capitalists. He early had the sagacity and prescience to discern the eminence which the future had in store for this great and growing country and acting in accordance with the dictates of his faith and judg-

** commonly known as Jack Powers*

Powers Residence Will Be Finest In Decatur

The new residence of Charles C. Powers, at the southeast corner of East and Decatur streets, will be the finest ever built in Decatur and it will probably be a long time before another will be built in Decatur that can compare with it. The work is well under way and people are taking as much interest in it as was ever manifested in Decatur, public or private.

WILL COST OVER \$50,000

The residence will cost somewhere between \$50,000 and \$60,000. That is a good deal of money to put into a private residence, and it is the intention to make this the best that that amount of money will build. While it will not be what is commonly known as fire proof, it will be practically so, precautions being taken against any such risk from faulty construction. The electric wires will be in conduits, so there will be no danger from the wires.

IN COLONIAL STYLE

The general style of architecture is colonial. The width of the front is seventy-two feet and a porch extends entirely across. The north entrance is reached by stone steps, semi-circular in form. A gallery on a level with the third floor is supported by four immense pillars, three feet in diameter and twenty-two feet high. Below this and on a level with the second floor but above the entrance is a balcony. All the exterior floors are to be of concrete.

The walls will be of cream colored brick with white stone trimmings. The roof will be of red tile. The main entrance is on the north side through a vestibule into a large hallway from which a broad mahogany staircase leads to the second floor. The second floor can also be reached by a second set of stairs from the rear porch.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR

On the first floor will be the parlor, living room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, study, library, closets for china, linen, etc. There will be six large bedrooms on

the second floor besides a hall 10 by 12 1/2 feet, sewing room, two bathrooms, closets, etc. The third floor will be practically one large room, to be used as a recreation hall. A glance at the plans will show the convenient arrangement of the various rooms.

FINISH

The reception room will be of empire style, finished in white and gold. The living rooms will be finished in natural color East Indian mahogany. There will be a beam ceiling in the dining room and the floor will be of waxed oak, and the rest of the wood-work quarter-sawn white oak, natural color. The kitchen walls will be white enameled brick. The bed rooms on the second floor will be in birch finished in white enamel. The floor of the recreation room is designed especially for dancing.

FOUR LARGE PORCHES

There will be four porches. In addition to the large front porch there will be a sanitarium south of the living room nine feet wide and forty-eight feet long that will be enclosed with glass in winter and with copper wire screen in warm weather, and the kitchen will open on a latticed porch 8 by 10 feet. On the south is a porch 20 by 20 feet.

Interlocking rubber-tile floors will be used in the breakfast room, kitchen, and vestibule.

GARAGE IN BASEMENT

There will be a garage room in the basement, walled with white enamel brick. This room can be reached by a stairway from the front vestibule. An electric elevator will run from the basement to the third floor. The walls of the elevator shaft will be of white enameled brick.

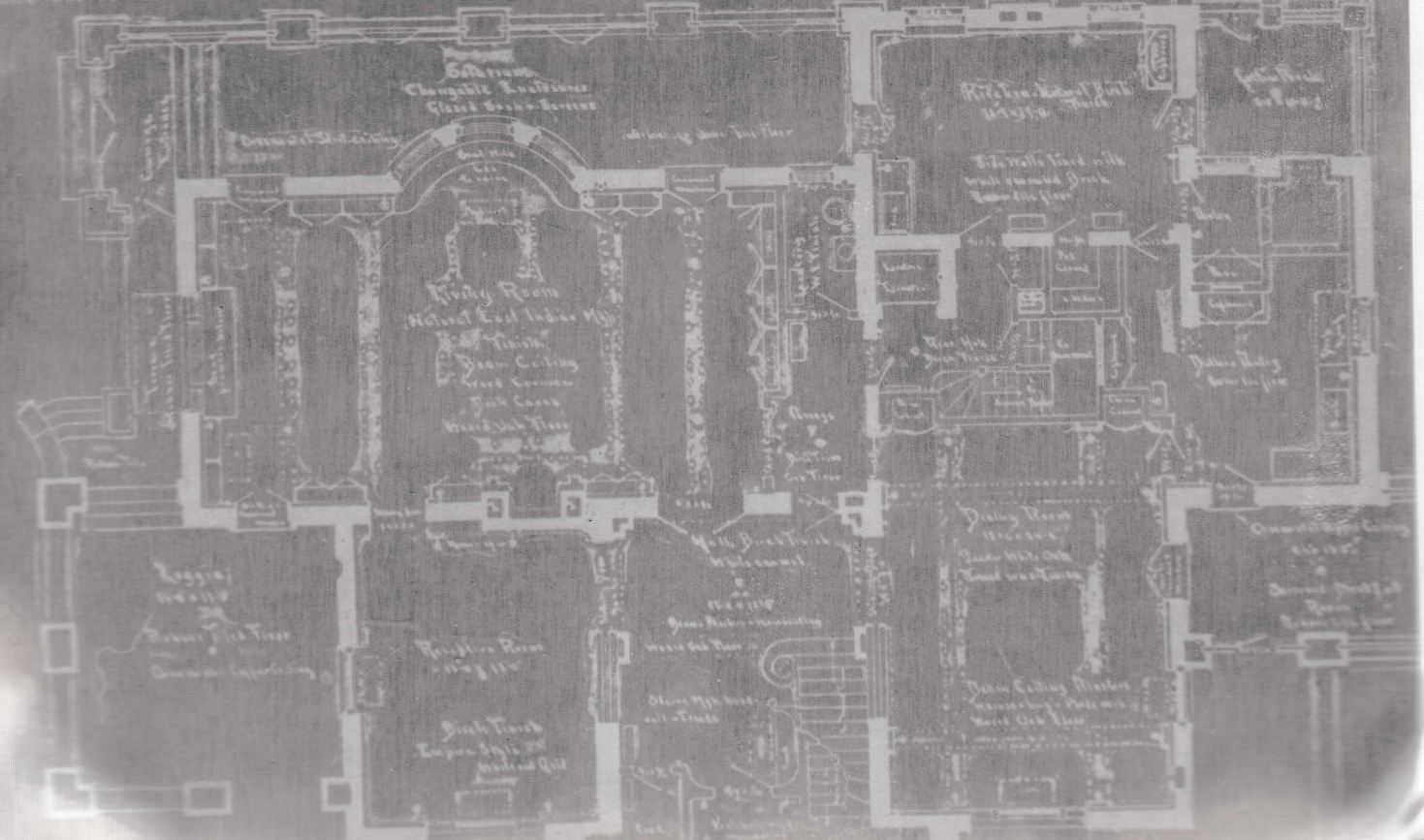
All pipes will be of copper. All porches will have metal ceilings. All steel pipes will be of steel. All cross walls will be of brick.

HOT WATER HEAT

The house will be heated by hot water. The plant will be located in a

basement room, the ceiling of which will be of arched brick, preventing any possibility of the house being damaged by fire.

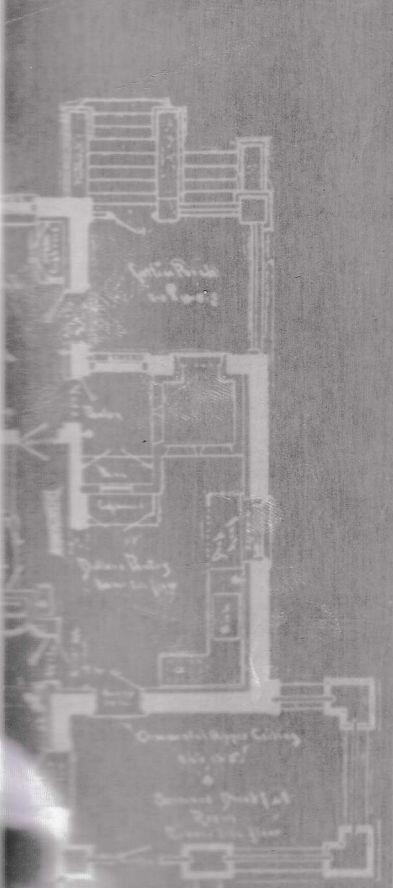
The plans and specifications were drawn by Architect R. O. Rosen and he will superintend the construction of the building.



Decorative



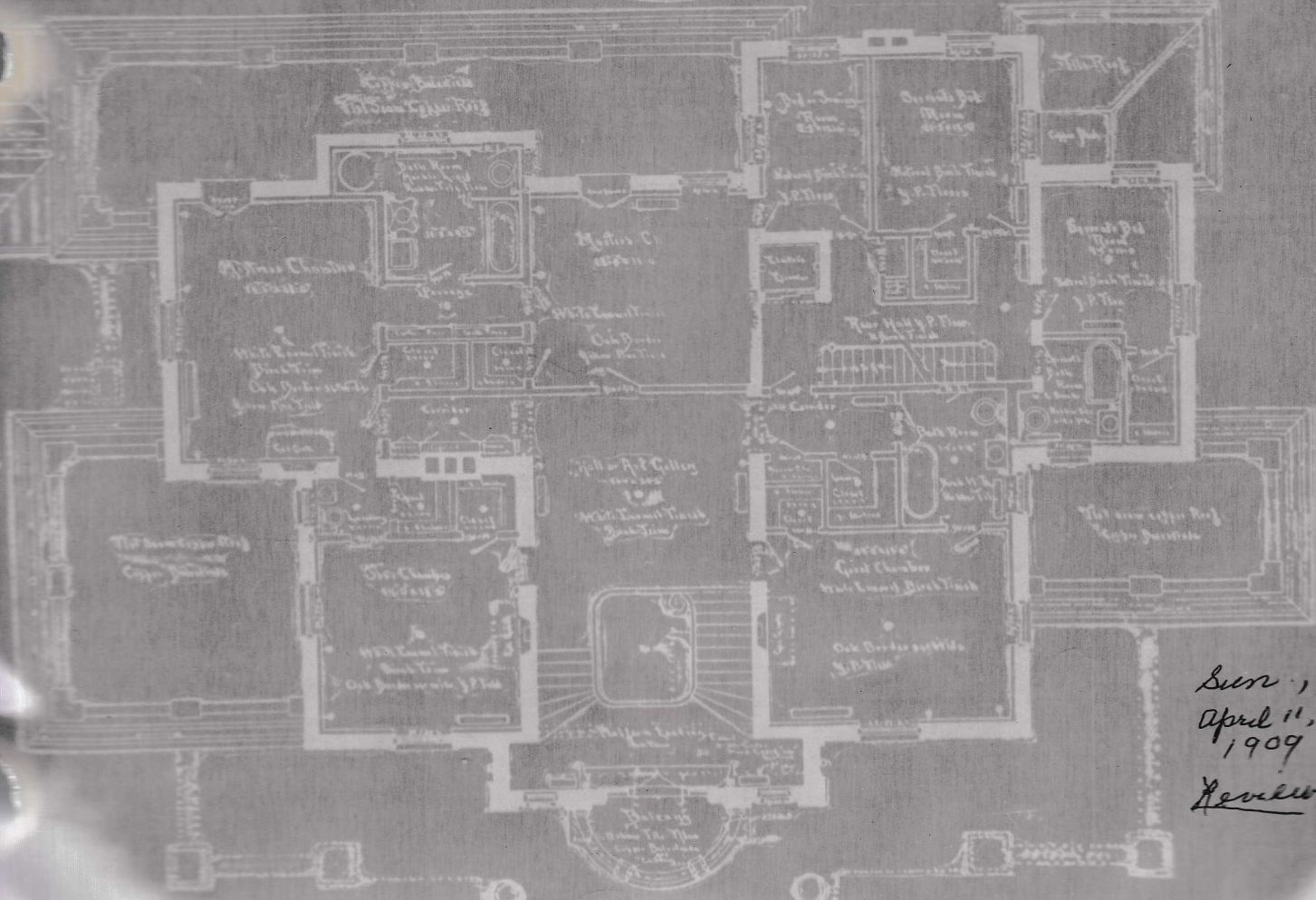
Front Elevation of C. G. Powers' Residence.



East Elevation of C. G. Powers' Residence.



First Floor C. G. Powers' Residence.

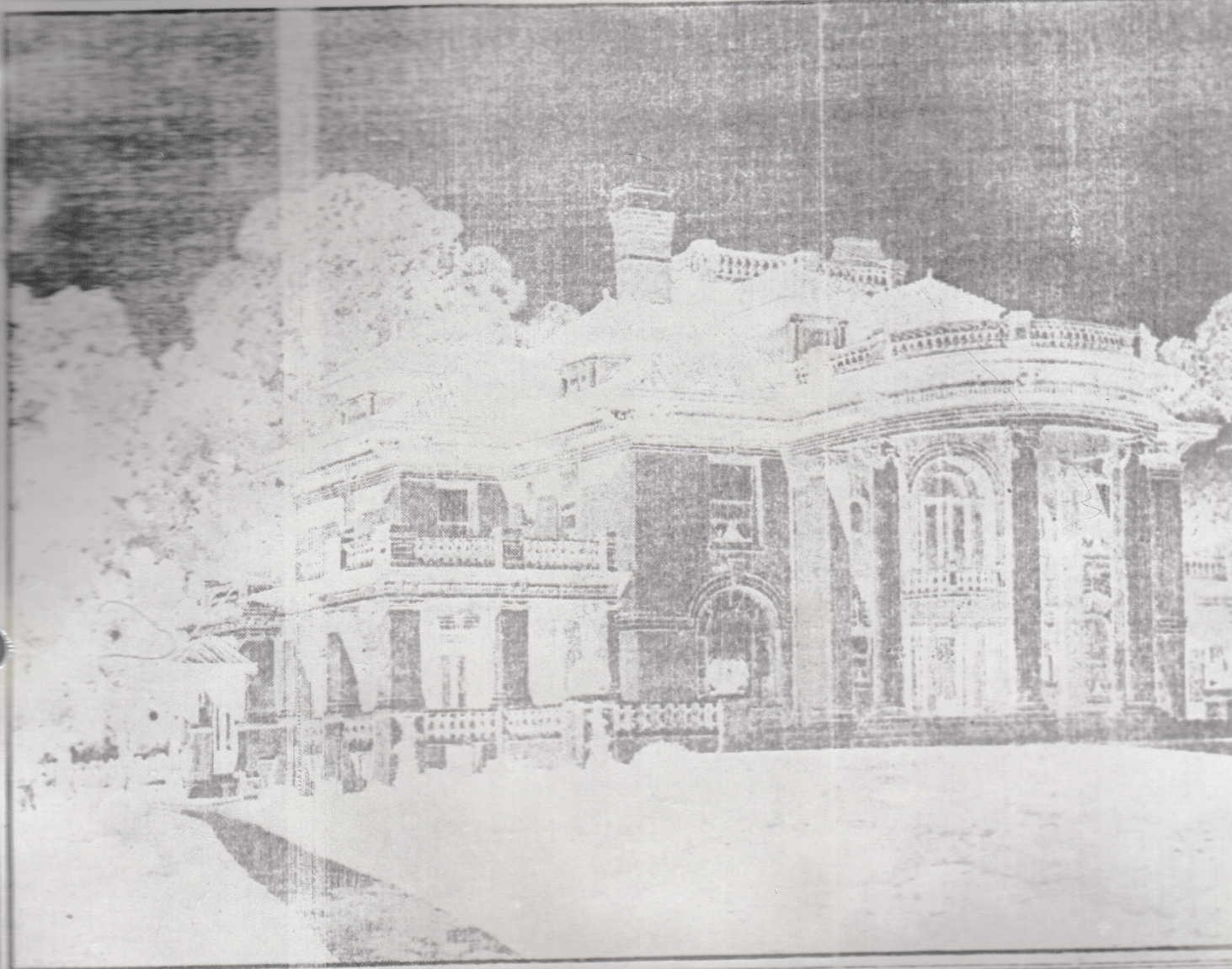


See,
April 11,
1909
Reveler

Second Floor C. G. Powers' Residence.

THE DAILY REVIEW

DECATUR, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31, 1909.



NEW HOME OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES G. POWERS.

Best House so far erected in Macon county and likely to long make 1909 notable as the year of the best house in Decatur. Most houses in Decatur have been included in this one.

BEST HOUSE IN DECATUR

TOGETHER the most pretentious house ever put up in Decatur was started this year and is now near completion. It is the Charles G. Powers residence at West Decatur and South Edward streets. It will be ready for occupancy by the middle of April or earlier.

OBJECT AIMED AT.

When the house is large, costly and comfortable and comfortable and comfortable. The effort has

much of this mahogany, heavy and beautiful after the colonial idea.

The hall from the front entrance will be colonial in white enamel and mahogany.

The reception room, on the left as one enters—the house faces the north—will be a French colonial room in white enamel and gold.

The living room and library will be a magnificent room 35 feet long in mahogany, mahogany, Sheraton fla-

and well equipped with sink, cupboards and closets.

All the downstairs floors will be of red oak except in the kitchen, the boiler's pantry and the porch, where they will be of either rubber or cork tile. The cork tile is a new thing said to outlast the rubber tile.

PORCHES.

There are four porches, the large veranda reaching across the front of the house and terminating on the east in a large loggia, a sun porch, south of the living room, which will be enclosed with wire screen in the summer, an enclosed porch off the kitchen, and a screened porch off the dining room to be used as breakfast porch in summer.

SECOND FLOOR.

The upstairs will be of white enamel with mahogany floors and sills. All the doors will have glass knobs, after

as the room will be excellent for sleeping. In this third floor are numerous windows, in each of which is a cedar lined window seat that serve as a chest for storing clothes like.

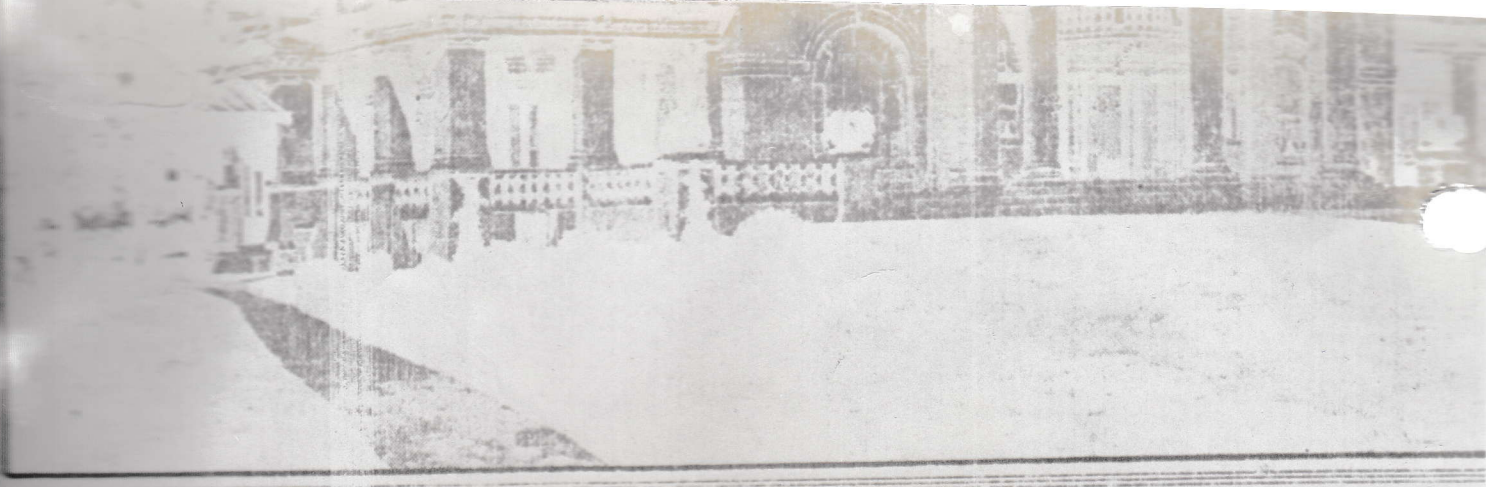
The third floor, too, contains a trunk room.

In the basement there will be a large laundry, the stock room, a drying room, the furnace room, coal room. The garage is extra large.

CONVENIENCES.

Modern appliances and conveniences without number will be used in this house. The chief of these is the motor. It will be electric, operated by a push button, with a car track square, running from the basement to the third story, and will be for passenger use.

A stationary vacuum cleaner will be another feature. It will



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OBJECT AIMED AT.

While the house is large, costly and imposing, it will be a comfortable and homelike dwelling. The effort has been, and will continue to be, for simplicity. The house is pretentious because it is large, and costly because the best materials obtainable are being used for every part of it. Its builder intends it for his own habitation and is therefore endeavoring to make it as comfortable as possible. To that end he is incorporating in it dozens of improvements and conveniences not found in the ordinary fine house of the small city. For these and for its beauty it is unusually interesting.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE.

The house is colonial in style inside and out. The interior finishing, decorating and furnishing will be entirely in keeping with the style of the structure. When Mr. and Mrs. Powers have done they will have a house not only to live in but to be proud of.

EXTERIOR.

The exterior of the house has already been described in some detail. The materials used are vitrified cream brick, colored stone trimmings and large fluted Doric columns for the entrance. The roof is of red tile. The house was designed with a great deal of attention to outside comfort, so it has a wide porch, verandas and loggia. In the rear it has a stone pergola and a handsome grape arbor, leading out in the middle to a rose garden that will be a place of beauty for the landscape gardener has finished his work.

INTERIOR.

At present the carpenters are doing finishing work. The birch has already been put in and the mahogany has been seasoned for months and is ready to be put in place. There is

much of this mahogany, heavy and beautiful after the colonial idea.

The hall from the front entrance will be colonial in white enamel and mahogany.

The reception room, on the left as one enters—the house faces the north—will be a French colonial room in white enamel and gold.

The living room and library will be a magnificent room 36 feet long in East Indian mahogany Shevaton finish. The ceiling will be beamed. Built in book cases will be of mahogany. The fire place, a large one, will probably be of Rookwood tile to suit the scheme of decoration.

The dining room will be a large, handsome room with a mahogany beamed ceiling, high wainscoting and glass doors.

The kitchen will be finished entirely in white tile. The tables and sink will have German Silver tops.

The butler's pantry, connecting with the kitchen and dining room, though not directly, will be exceptionally large

and well equipped with sink, cupboards and closets.

All the downstairs floors will be of red oak except in the kitchen, the butler's pantry and the porches, where they will be of either rubber or cork tile. The cork tile is a new thing said to outlast the rubber tile.

PORCHES.

There are four porches, the large veranda reaching across the front of the house and terminating on the east in a large loggia, a sun porch, south of the living room, which will be enclosed with wire screen in the summer, an enclosed porch off the kitchen, and a screened porch off the dining room to be used as breakfast porch in summer.

SECOND FLOOR.

The upstairs will be of white enamel with mahogany doors and sills. All the doors will have glass knobs, after the Colonial idea. Most of the wood used on the second floor will be birch.

A feature of the second floor will be the family bath room. It will be finished in marble and will have a tile floor. It will have a shower bath as well as a tub. On the second floor are two other bath rooms, one off the guest room and the other connected with the two servant's rooms, which, by the way, are to be finished in hard wood.

THIRD FLOOR.

In the third floor will be the ball room and gymnasium. Double floors, the top one of maple, have been laid,

so the room will be excellent for dancing. In this third floor are nine dimer windows, in each of which is but a cedar lined window seat that will serve as a chest for storing clothes of the like.

The third floor, too, contains a large trunk room.

In the basement there will be a passage, the laundry, the stock room, drying room, the furnace room and coal room. The garage is exceptionally large.

CONVENIENCES.

Modern appliances and conveniences without number will be used in the house. The chief of these is the elevator. It will be electric, operated by a push button, with a car square, running from the basement to the third story, and will be for passenger use.

A stationary vacuum cleaner system will be another feature. It is expected to be a great labor saver.

Three motors will be used in the house, one to run the elevator, one to run the vacuum cleaner and one to run the rectifier for charging the electric automobile.

A Johnson heat regulating system with thermostat in all the rooms will be installed.

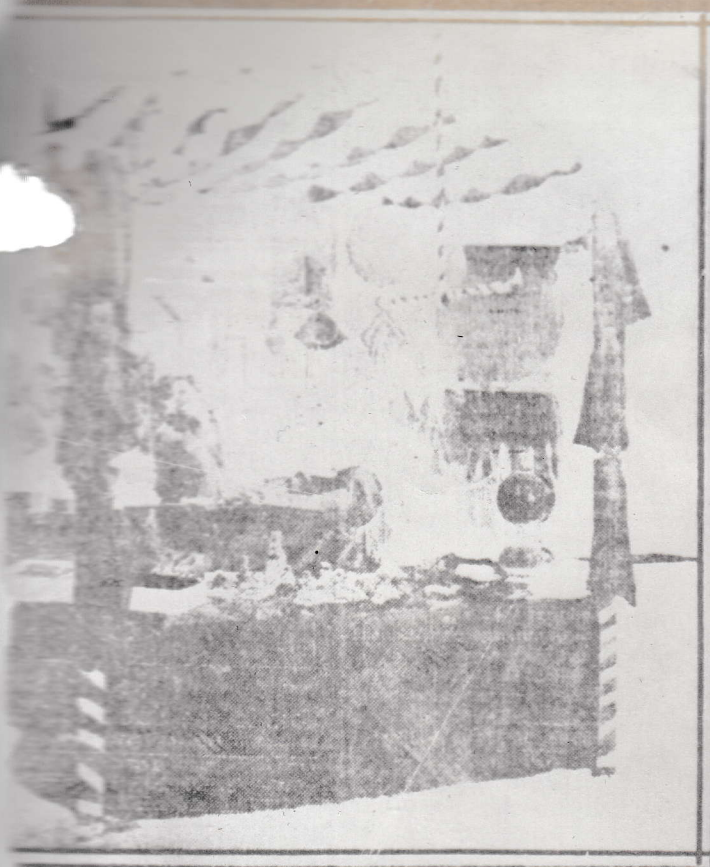
In the walls of three of the rooms are steel safety vaults with combination locks. In them may be kept valuables and other articles of value.

Sashlocks on all the windows will permit the windows to be locked

where in their frames, so that they cannot move or rattle.

Soft water will be pumped automatically to all rooms, with lavatories. There are several of these besides the bathrooms.

Another convenience will be an inter-communicating telephone, by which any room in the house may be reached. The telephone will also have connections with the barn, where the main room will be.



Fancy Booth Work.

... given in the St. James school hall on East Clay street for

SCHOOL WANTS MRS. LOOS-TOOKER

go Conservatory Makes
ffer—Last Recital
Thursday Night.

Carole Loos-Tooker has received
to the Conservatory of Music
Chicago. The call has come un-
favorable conditions that Mrs.
Tooker is considering it rather
However she will not make
for another week and
decide to accept she will

DIES OF PARALYSIS NEAR TAYLORVILLE.

Taylorville, June 22.—Mrs. Emma Lawrence, wife of Jesse Lawrence, died at nine o'clock Tuesday night at her home in the Hewittville suburb, of paralysis. She was stricken with paralysis two years ago and sustained a second stroke Monday. While entering her home after feeding her chickens Monday she fell in an unconscious condition, and failed to revive.

Emma Finch was born at Utica, N. Y., August 21, 1846. Thirty-eight years ago she was united in marriage to Jesse Lawrence, at her home near the Bethany church.

The husband and two daughters, Lillie and Sadie Lawrence, both of Taylorville, are survivors. Two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Hargis of Denby, North Dakota, and Mrs. Anna Pray of Hingham, Wis., are also surviving. She was a member of the United Brethren church.

The funeral services will take place at 1 o'clock Thursday morning at Mound Chapel.

TO MARRY TONIGHT.

A marriage license was issued this morning to Arthur Seay of Guilford, Ind., and Miss Mary Peat of Palmer. The age of the groom is 22 and the bride's age is 23. The marriage will take place at 7:30 o'clock this evening at the home of the bride.

MISS JONES RESIGNS.

Miss May Jones, night toll operator at the Christian County Telephone company's plant, has resigned to accept a position with the Christian County Auto Sales company in their office. She will be succeeded by Miss Margaret Miller.

PENELOPE CLUB PARTY.

Mrs. Charles Sharp will entertain the Penelope club at her home Thursday

200 AT RECEPTION IN NEW HOME

First By Mr. and Mrs.
Charles G. Powers.

FAIRY LIKE EFFECTS.

Most of Women Had New
Gowns for Occasion.

The reception given Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Powers in their new home, "Fleur-de-Lis," 367 West Decatur street, was the largest and most elaborate party given in Decatur in a long time. It was in the nature of a housewarming and the 200 guests took great pleasure in looking through the magnificent new structure. Expressions of admiration were murmured on every side. Not content with seeing the house, the guests explored the new barn and garage, and the men seemed to be as enthusiastic over these as the women did the house.

FAIRY LAND EFFECTS.

The front porch was converted into a palm garden. Electric lights were woven in and out among the palms and the effect was most charming.

The south porch was converted into a smoking room for the men. The yard to the back of the house was a perfect fairyland in colored electric lights and the guests had solid comfort here in the hammocks, swings and easy chairs.

RECEIVING LINE.

The receiving line stood in the rose drawing room. Mr. and Mrs. Powers were assisted in receiving by Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Spencer of Bloomington, Miss Jeanette Rogers and John Rogers. Assisting in the different parts of the house were: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Powers, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Powers, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Powers, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Shellabarger, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Thomas. Misses Marjorie Powers and Charlotte Kerney presided over the punch bowl in the improvised palm garden.

Not much special in the way of decorating was done for the occasion, the house in itself being sufficiently artistic. However, cut flowers were used in the various rooms, the colors in keeping with home decorations.

A two course luncheon was served in the dining room and on the breakfast porch, opening off the dining room. Mrs. Mary E. Hates of Bloomington with her maids did the catering.

GOWNS.

Decatur women were never gowned more beautifully than they were last night. Almost every one had a new gown and she wore it to the best of advantage.

Mrs. Powers was in an imported gown of white embroidered crepe. She wore diamonds and had pink roses in her hair.

Mrs. Spencer's gown was of French lace over silk. Her ornaments were amethysts.

Miss Rogers was in fillet net over silk with blue trimmings.

The opera house orchestra was stationed to the music hall on the occasion

Wednesday,
Tuesday,
22
June, 1910
Daily Review



Wednesday, June 22, 1910.

ALD

...at he would like to, but that he asked the necessary money.

A chocolate soda was served to him and he took a seat at one of the tables, the kind where the seat is pulled out, and when released automatically returns to a position out of the way. The disappearing seat made a decided hit with the brown skinned youngster, and he spent several minutes investigating. He confided to an inquirer that it was the first drink he ever had. Said he: "Gee, ain't it good. I can feel it all the way down."

When told of the cost, he vowed that he would save his pennies secured through the sale of papers, and buy another "soder" sometime. From the air of evident satisfaction, suggested the smile that would not come off, the drug store in question is assured of a steady, though not heavy trade during the summer.

GUESTS THROG POWERS HOME

More Than 250 Persons Inspect Decatur's Handsomest Residence.

SCENE IS MAGNIFICENT

Many Present From Springfield Bloomington and Champaign.

Between 250 and 300 invited guests attended the "open house" and reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Powers in their new home, 357 West Decatur street, last night. The affair was one of the notable social functions of the season, giving members of Decatur's society the first chance to observe the magnificence and splendor of Mr. Powers' colonial home. Many out of town guests from Springfield, Bloomington, Champaign and other cities attended.

In the receiving line were Charles G. Powers, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Spencer of Bloomington, Miss Jeannette Rogers and John Rogers. The hours were from 8 to 11 o'clock, the guests thronging the home all evening in inspection. During the evening music was furnished by the opera house orchestra, which was stationed in the upper hall.

A profusion of cut flowers, smilax, ferns and palms were used in the decorations throughout the house. In the dining room a large bouquet of Kibonnet roses with other kinds of flowers, which were used for decorations. Carnations and other cut flowers were used in various rooms of the house.

From 8 o'clock to the midnight hour the speakers here was a blaze of light. In the various parlors were palm gardens with small colored lights suspended in the palms. Punch was served during the evening in these gardens on the porch. The entire back part was lighted with colored lights and swings and chairs were placed for the comfort of the guests.

Following the serving of refreshments, the younger guests enjoyed a dance in the dance hall.

The owners have recently completed cost \$66,000.

"DEACON" DYER WANDERS ASTRAY

"Rags," the popular mascot of the McKinley Traction lines, has a dis-

TOWN TALK

—YOU PAY A LITTLE MORE FOR CLOTHES THAT DENZ MAKES, BUT—
—MAINTENAL BROS., TAILORS

Powers Theater.
SPECIAL.
JIM JEFFRIES
Ranch Pictures
Today and Tonight
Admission 5c.

—Large size upright piano. Warranted, ed. \$100. Suffern, 349 N. Water St.

—Young's Clothing House is still selling those Porosknit Union Suits, a \$1 value, for 50c. 118 North Water St.

—You can buy Fly Nets worth the money at Dan Tait's 242 E. William St.

—3000 sheets music, 7 cents each. Pianos rented. Suffern, 349 N. Water St.

Recital Tomorrow Night.

—Loos-Tooker School of Vocal Art Song recital Thursday night Central Church of Christ. Admission 25 cents.

Recital Tomorrow Night.

—Loos-Tooker School of Vocal Art Song recital tonight Central Church of Christ. Admission 25c.

con" to the care of Miss Eloise Brownback, who lives nearby. "Deacon" decided Sunday afternoon, that he would take a jaunt down town. Accordingly, when a street car dashed by in West Main street, "Deacon" gave pursuit, overtook the car, leaped to the platform and rode down town. That was the last seen of "Deacon." His return was patiently awaited Sunday evening and all day yesterday. Perhaps, he has started on a tour of the McKinley lines with "Rags."

NO INCONVENIENCE SAY LOCAL OFFICIALS

More than 20 outside electrical workers employed by the Inter-Traction system have gone out on strike called by President F. C. How of District council No. 4 of Greater Electrical workers, according to a statement made last night by that official.

"The strikers are well sheltered over the system," said Mr. How, "and certainly during the next few days they may mean bad all on the southern division of the traction lines between Springfield and St. Louis may walk out. I have presented the nine-hour day schedule to Supt. Grayber of street construction work of the Inter-urban lines, and he has promised to consider the proposition. We are resting easy and I don't think we will experience any trouble in getting a settlement. We don't care how many men the traction company puts to work."

Traction officials in Decatur state that they do not notice any effect of the strike. Most all of the other employees are staying with the company and the strike has not inconvenienced

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Three Boys Arrested.

Henry Sessler, 16 years old of Milwaukee, Wis., William Stewart, Jr., 16 years old, and Fred Wood, 11 years old of this city, were arrested by Detective Parks and Patrolman Drum yesterday charged with the theft of 15 pounds of rabbit metal, lead and other pipe fittings from the city waterworks plant. The boys had gathered the metal in a sack and were making away with it when one of the employees saw them. He gave chase, catching the Wilcox boy with the goods. Later in the evening W. G. Stewart, father of William Stewart, took his son and the Sessler boy to the police station, where they were placed under arrest. The trio were released on bond of \$25 each, for appearance before Justice S. T. Keeler this morning.

Mrs. C. W. Elmers, after an illness of more than six months of chronic stomach trouble, passed away Monday morning at 1:45 o'clock. She was 74 years old.

Mrs. Elmers was born in England, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Elmers. She was married to Mr. C. W. Elmers in 1875. She was a member of the Methodist church, being joined to the church in December, 1881. She was a devoted mother and a kind friend.

Funeral services will be held in the afternoon at 2 o'clock at the residence of Mrs. E. K. Dwyer, 118 North Water street, in Greenwood cemetery.

Frank Weatherford.

Mrs. Frank Weatherford, who has been ailing near steady received a telegram Monday announcing the death of her husband at their home in Tennessee. It came as a great surprise. Mrs. Weatherford had left

10 P

TWENTY-NIN

FIEND ATT
ROBBERY

Explodes Bomb

Then in Tu
Ban

MAKES OFF

Kills Himself a
in Terrible

Pol

FRIEDBERG, He
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afternoon resulted
the wounding of
bomb was exploded
four o'clock in the
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the staircases, de
chairs were still al
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their way out by
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YOUNG THEOD TO TRAV

CHICAGO, Jun
Roosevelt, Jr. ar
the Congress
"William Throop
Philadelphia."
husband eventua
dly.

A tall Iowa,
Pennsylvania an

CONTRACTORS

Following is a list of the contractors that have done work on the house, this being the first list given out.

Brick—Lunn Bros. The brick used was an Ohio vitrified brick that comes from near Columbus.

Carpenter work—Baker Bros.

Lumber—Mills Lumber Co.

Stone—Hadley Stone Co., Bloomington, Ind. The fluted columns in front of the house were furnished by this firm. The shaft of each column is a single piece 13 feet and 4 inches long. The base and capital added make the total length of the capital 22 feet. Each shaft weighs seven tons. The capitals are Ionic.

Iron—Decatur Bridge Co.

Concrete and plaster—E. F. Perry.

Copper—Decatur Cornice Co. A great deal of copper has been used in the house. All the balustrades, deck coverings, and cornices and the marquee are of copper.

Roof tile—Mound City Tile Co., St. Louis.

Porch tile—Morehouse & Wells.

Plumbing—B. C. Adams.

Gas fitting and heating—Field & Shorb. A hot water direct and indirect heating system will be used.

Painting and Varnishing—Spence Bros. & Pease.

Electric wiring—Electric Supply & Fixture Co.

Elevator—Otis Elevator Co.

Vacuum cleaner—American Air Cleaning Co.

Wire screens—E. T. Burrows Co., Portland, Me. All the screens will be of copper wire.

Hardware—Sargeant Co., through Morehouse & Wells.

Refrigerator—Walrus Mfg. Co.

Cork tile—James E. Kennedy Co., Chicago. Cork tile will be used in the kitchen, the front vestibule, the first floor lavatory, the butler's pantry and the mezzanine balcony.

REFRIGERATOR A FEATURE.

The refrigerator is worthy of an article itself. It is now being built to order by the Walrus factory according to special plans. It will be marble outside and will have much nickel work. It will be five feet square and capable of holding 500 pounds of ice, which will be put into it from the outside. Inside it will be furnished in German silver for the sake of cleanliness and effectiveness. It will have combination locks.

Of course there is a complete system of such conveniences as clothes chutes, closets and the like. Everything a house can have in the way of improvements is going into the Powers house.

DECORATING.

The decorating contract was let recently to Scruggs, Vandervoort & Barney of St. Louis. The decorators will begin their work as soon as possible. What art glass is to be used will be furnished by the Schuler & Mueller company of Chicago. Special electric fixtures will be furnished by the Enos Co., New York.

The table is a handsome and strongly built brick structure, finished almost entirely in concrete. In addition to the stables and the carriage rooms, it will have quarters for the man.

GROUNDS.

Howard Weed, a landscape engineer of Chicago, has already laid out the grounds. Of course the result of his work is not yet apparent. He has a splendid foundation to work on, for the house is advantageously set in a group of fine forest trees, practically none of which were sacrificed to make room for the building.

ARCHITECT.

F. O. Rosen is the architect and superintendent and he deserves much credit for the efficient manner in which he planned and carried out the colonnade ideas of the house.

The cost of the house and barn will be approximately \$65,000.

(Continued on Next Page.)

(Continued from previous page)

F. O. Rosen -
Architect
and
Superintendent



Best House In Decatur

(Continued from Page One.)

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The cost of the house and barn will be approximately \$65,000.

Ancient Scottish Game of Golf Brought to Decatur by Couple

By Don Brilley

Birds are chirping, grass is turning green, trees are budding and minds are turning to one of America's and Decatur's favorite sports — golf.

Records show that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Powers first brought the ancient Scottish game to Decatur in 1897 after spending a long winter vacation in Palm Beach, Fla.

They had grown quite fond of the sport and purchased a set of clubs, which stimulated great curiosity among Decatur citizens.

Powers invited a group of friends to accompany him to the Haworth farm near Stevens Creek on the south side of Main Street so he could try out the clubs — and boast a bit in the process.

On subsequent outings, the early golf fans chose "Sherry" Johns' cow pasture as their primitive driving range.

After shaving strips of grass from 30 to 40 feet wide for fairways, placing a makeshift cup in the ground and erecting a flag, the new course was ready for tee-off.

The location of the course naturally presented a few unique problems, such as a hoof print that a wandering cow had thoughtlessly left on the green.

Before long, the popularity of golf brought demands for a country club in the area.

Club Used Johns' Pasture
Incorporated on Sept. 8, 1899, the Decatur Country Club (now the Country Club of Decatur) was temporarily located at Johns' pasture until better facilities could be found.

A few months later the club leased 65 acres of land from D. Maffit along the river on S. Cooper Street (Lake Decatur) not developed until

dedication ceremonies for the new course and clubhouse on July 4, 1900, with club members Dr. Will Barnes, Mrs. W. W. Linn and 16 other members parti-

A newspaper editorial at the time chronicled the advent of the club, declaring "Of this club, great things are expected."

Custom in the early 1900s dictated that each of the nine holes be named to give them a "sporting aspect," so Mrs. Powers dubbed the country club's cups as follows:

First, "See me go!"; second, "tanglefoot"; third, "sleepy hollow"; fourth, "sunnyside"; fifth, "the brook"; sixth, "fairlawn"; seventh, "the baby"; eighth, "longfellow"; and ninth, "home, sweet home."

These names were derived from the character of each hole. For instance, "the baby" was an extremely short drive, whole "longfellow" was quite the opposite.

"Tanglefoot" appropriately was "a jungle of tall, waving grass in which long skirts were bound to tangle in an exasperating manner."

Silver, Pewter — and Tin

Winners and medalists of the day were often presented with silver and pewter cups while an occasional tin cup was thrown in as a consolation prize.

Civic leaders and the wealthy generally were the only

Golf attire then was markedly different from the dress found on courses today.

Because of weak ankles, high shoes were worn by many, although oxfords were not infrequent. Instead of metal cleats which screw into leather

soles, "hobbies" of leather pegs were tacked into the sole.

Many times, quarter-inch strips of leather were attached in a corrugated manner across the sole to insure a firm stance when addressing the ball.

Long skirts, the vogue of the day, provide at least one humorous, but equally sad, story.

An unnamed local man had beautifully chipped onto the ninth green of the country club course one summer afternoon for a score of 32, a remarkable feat in those days.

Sitting on the clubhouse porch was a woman who caught wind of the excitement and wearing "a skirt which swept the ground some two feet in the back, dashed down off the porch and across the green to congratulate the young man.

"The ball had not been sunk and was lying peacefully on the green when one of the swishing skirts caught the ball and rolled it away. When the players found it, the ball was lying completely off the green."

Assuring the young lady that it was perfectly all right and without saying another word, the man stalked into the clubhouse.

"Reports have it that the young man's language upon reaching the seclusion of the clubhouse was simply terrible and not fit for feminine ears."

In fact, Mrs. William Barnes, Gussie Gorin, Ethel Baldwin, Fannie Johns Sedgwick, Jeanetta Rogers, Corrine Shellabarger Ramsey, Mrs. George Stanton and others often were found on the links.

Mrs. Barnes was the first women's champ, capturing that title in 1903.

Six of these prominent women represented Decatur against Bloomington and Springfield teams when the first inter-city golf tournament in Central Illinois was held at Decatur's facilities, also in 1903.

Amazing growth has characterized Decatur's interest in golf since its introduction here, as the Decatur Herald editors pointed out years later.

"What reason was there to suppose that an exotic sport, just then being advertised as a sort of fad among the elite, would become the one game played by more Americans than any other, engaging the interests of all classes and calling for the investment of untold millions in playing grounds?"

The golfing enterprise in Decatur also grew astronomically. The Country Club of Decatur bought more riverside land, but within a few years was faced with heavy tax bills.

Urban expansion had filled the original Johns' site with homes, whose owners had long since successfully petitioned for annexation to the city. This in turn brought city taxes as well as higher operational costs for the course.

Club Found a Home in 1928

In 1928 the club purchased its present land on North Country Club Road and built a \$50,000 clubhouse that was dedicated July 4, 1929 — exactly 29 years after the original one.

Three more courses were added in the first quarter of the century. Southside Country Club was formed in 1904, Sunnyside was established in 1920 and later became Scovill under Decatur Park District management in 1924. Nelson was developed shortly after the formation of the park district.

Sun Decatur H & R₁ Diary

Sun, March 21, 1976

Decaturites having the time or money to invest in the development of their golf games.

Some early membership rolls of the country club show these names: Will Ennis, S. W. "Sherry" Johns, Frank Powers, Dr. Will Barnes, W. A. Hammer, R. P. Vail, Orville B. Gorin and Douglas Cadwallader.

But sexual discrimination was never in evidence on club links — at least to the point that women were not allowed to golf a round in the afternoon, as was considered "stylish."

Intimated that Mr. Powers' death had been greatly complicated by his inability to sleep well and rest that he needed. However, he was able to go out each day to his car, he having sent the car ahead of him resting ready for the trip to Florida.

Jack H. Powers left Tuesday night for West Palm Beach to accompany his mother and the body of his father home. It is expected that the funeral will be held in Decatur Saturday afternoon.

BORN IN DECATUR

Charles G. Powers was born in Decatur June 30, 1861, and this has always been his home. The years seemed to sit lightly on him and his appearance was more that of a man of fifty than of sixty-five years. Mr. Powers and Miss Ethel Rogers were married June 20, 1887. Their home at 357 West Decatur street is one of the most beautiful in the city.

MANAGED POWERS ESTATE

After the death of his father, Orlando Powers, and for many years prior thereto, Charles G. Powers had the management of his father's estate, which not only included a large amount of city property, but several acres of firm land in Macon county.

When the Powers block, which included the Linn & Spruick store, the Powers Grand opera house and other buildings, was destroyed by fire in 1914, Mr. Powers began rebuilding almost before the ruins had stopped smoking. He first erected the Powers office building, later known as the Standard Life building.

BUILD ORLANDO

For several months he was undecided whether to rebuild the Powers theater. In the mean time plans for the Lincoln Square theater had been developed and he abandoned the idea of a theater in the Powers block and instead built the fire-proof Hotel Orlando. The two buildings represent an investment of practically \$1,000,000, not counting ground value. Mr. Powers allowed nothing but the very best of materials to enter into the construction of those buildings. The management of the estate during the last few years has been turned over in a large measure to Jack H. Powers.

GAVE TO J. M. U.

Mr. Powers was always kind and courteous and was public spirited in a high degree. He contributed liberally to every worthy cause. He was one of the first to contribute to the fund for the establishment of the James M. Hill university and the Decatur and Macon County hospital. He gave much to charity.

LOVED SPORTS

He was fond of sports, especially base ball and golf. He attended all the ball games possible, and when unable to be present he always asked for the score. He was more enthusiastic over golf, for that was a game in which he could participate. He, with other Decatur men played

together at the Decatur Club links whenever possible. They had been doing this for the last fifteen years.

KNOWN TO COMMUNITY

Mr. Powers was a life-long active member of the First Presbyterian church. He was also a member of the Decatur club, the Sunnyside Golf club and the Decatur Country club. He was known to almost everybody in the community and no one was held in higher regard by the people generally. He is survived by his wife and one son, Jack H. Powers of Decatur, and a sister, Mrs. W. A. Tilley of Long Beach, Cal.

Feb.
3,
1926

Kindness, courtesy and generosity first come to mind when one thinks of Charles G. Powers, whose unexpected death Tuesday night has shocked the community.

With many calls to give many of them with no justification claim to his attention, he was always courteous, thoughtful, attentive, and when there was reason that he should give, generous and liberal.

A committee of prominent citizens or a workingman in blue overalls got the same reception, so far as greeting and attention went. That was the way he felt. He had a kindly spirit, the basis of real courtesy.

Builder of the Orlando Powers office building and the Orlando hotel he did much to build up Decatur. The hotel was one of the biggest things done for the city in many years. He will long be remembered for the characteristics first mentioned, and the city will long benefit from the building of the hotel.

Decatur Public Library
Decatur, Illinois

Powers Home, One of City's Finest, Is Sold

**J. P. Goberdiel Buys
Residence, Built at
Cost of \$100,000, for a
Home.**

J. P. Goberdiel of Peoria, a former Decatur resident, has purchased the former Charles M. Powers home at 357 West Decatur street, one of the finest residences in the city, from John F. Wieser, Cleveland banker. The price was not disclosed.

Mr. Goberdiel, general manager of the Chicago Securities corporation, is buying for a home and after some alterations and improvements in the house will move to Decatur in about a month. Mrs. Goberdiel was formerly Miss Sylvia Fisk of Decatur, at one time on the staff of the Millikin Conservatory of Music and later with Decatur Musical College.

Now Lives in Peoria

Mr. Goberdiel made his home here from 1923 to 1929 during most of which time he was engaged in manufacturing lines and had the contract for furnishing all ornamental street name signs in the city. He also engaged in a finance and brokerage business.

His present work requires his presence in Chicago about two days a week and most of the remaining time is required in traveling to other cities in the state. He has maintained his home in Peoria but preferred Decatur as more convenient

POWERS RESIDENCE HAS NEW OWNER



The Charles M. Powers residence at 357 West Decatur street, built 28 years ago at a cost of between \$90,000 and \$100,000, was sold last week to J. P. Goberdiel in one of the largest residential transactions ever negotiated here. —Herald and Review Photo.

and desirable location. He has had workmen engaged for several weeks in going over the Decatur street property, making installations and changes.

The sale of the Powers home is one of the largest residence sales ever made in the city. The house was built 28 years ago at a cost of between \$90,000 and \$100,000.

Was Foreclosed

The home, built by Mr. Powers, became involved in Florida land investments of the owner with its resultant loss to a Cleveland insur-

ance company. Bid in by the company at a low figure, the transaction ended in a compromise court verdict for a deficiency judgment against the former owners.

The residence is situated in one of the city's most attractive residential sections and is imposing. It is built among large forest trees on a spacious tract of ground. The tract has a frontage of 150 feet on Decatur street and originally was 448 feet deep along Edward street. However, in later years a tract 216 feet along Edward street by about 67 feet in depth was taken out of

Built of Brick, Stone

The house is of buff brick and stone construction with a red-tile roof. Large porches with concrete floors almost surround it and to the east side, the drive passes under a portico. Balconies extend over the porches with a small sub-balcony above the main entry.

On the first floor a large open hallway leads from the vestibule and off the hall is a large living room with window benches, huge

from this hall. These rooms are trimmed in mahogany as is also the broad winding stairway leading from the hall to the second floor.

In the first floor rear is a large kitchen with white tile walls from floor to ceiling. The house has five fireplaces.

Other Features

Included in features of some of the first floor rooms are beamed ceilings. Others have artistically decorated canvassed ceilings and walls.

On the second floor are seven rooms, chiefly bedrooms, and three bathrooms.

The third floor is one large room, about 43 by 32 with high ceiling. It was formerly used principally as a gymnasium and game room. In the basement is a garage that will accommodate seven or eight cars.

Still another feature is an electric elevator serving all of the floors.

The Goberdiels have a small daughter who, with a son of Mr. Goberdiel, and Mrs. Goberdiel's mother, will comprise the family to occupy the home.

All of the negotiations in connection with the transaction was handled by C. N. Gorham and Son.

Aside from the sale of the Powers residence, farms comprised the bulk of the realty transactions here last week.

Decatur Marble Limestone
Decatur, Illinois

Powers Mansion Sold to Oil Man

Jarvis to Start Remodeling at Once on Decatur's Most Imposing Residence

By JAMES H. BEAUMONT

Of The Review Staff

Sam D. Jarvis, who has reaped fortune from the oil fields of northern Illinois, has purchased the Powers mansion at 357 West Decatur street for a home, it was announced today by H. W. Moss, local realtor.

Mr. Jarvis said today the house would be remodeled completely. Plans already have been drafted and work is scheduled to be put under way immediately.

Built 30 Years Ago

Mr. Moss said Mr. Jarvis bought the house in a cash transaction. Built 30 years ago by the late Charles M. Powers, the mansion was reported to have cost more than \$100,000. Several years ago the home became involved in a Florida land investment deal with resultant loss to a Cleveland insurance company.

The new owner, Mr. Jarvis, left Decatur a number of years ago to take part in oil activity in Kansas and Oklahoma, but returned to Illinois three years ago when oil lay struck this state. He brought his family back to Decatur and within a few months gained valuable oil leases in Southern Illinois and soon became the largest independent operator in the basin.

At one time he operated a street car here and for a while he was an automobile salesman. One of his present holdings, obtained on a relatively small investment in Fayette county, is now too valuable to be determined. He is married and has a 15-year-old son.

Most Imposing In City

The large residence, which soon will become the Jarvis home, probably is the most expensive in the city. Imposing and of costly construction, it is located on the southeast corner of Decatur and Edward streets. Resting picturesquely among large forest trees, it has spacious grounds.

The house is of buff brick and stone construction with a red tile and copper roof. The copper has been estimated to be worth more than \$12,000. Large porches with concrete floors almost surround the residence, while on the east side a drive passes under a glass-roofed portico. Balconies extend over the porches.

Fronting on Decatur street, the porch is surrounded by four giant columns. When these were put into place in 1909, it took a crew of men a day and a half to swing each of the seven-ton pillars into position, while a gallery of spectators watched.

Much of Woodwork Mahogany

A heavy oak door, on which is an imposing lion's head knocker, swings into a small vestibule entrance to the house. On the first floor a large open hallway leads from the vestibule and off the hall is a large living room with window benches and a huge stone fireplace. The beamed ceilings of the living room and the woodwork of almost the entire first floor are mahogany, as is also the broad winding stairs and staircase. The upper half of the dining room walls is covered with tapestry, which, despite its years, is in remarkably good appearance. Both living and dining rooms have numerous bookcases with leaded glass fronts.

Also on the first floor is a fanciful "gold room," which is decorated in a gilded style, adding to the romance and glamor of the rooms.

The imposing residence at 357 West Decatur street, which was built by Charles M. Powers 30 years ago at a cost of about \$100,000, has been sold to Sam D. Jarvis, largest independent oil operator of Southern Illinois, who new owner has not decided on whether he will use it.

The basement of the home consists of a garage, in which seven or eight cars can be kept, and several other rooms. Among these are a laundry room, furnace room and wine room. The wine cellar is large and although long empty of supplies which it once housed, its cabinets with bottle holder shelves still remain intact.

Each room of the residence has a separate thermostatic heat control unit. Although it now is heated by coal and gas, Mr. Jarvis, naturally, will install a new oil burner, keeping the individual room control unit.

plans complete remodeling of the house and of the grounds. In a cash transaction, handled by H. W. Moss, realtor, the property was sold by C. G. Powers, Jr. (Herald-Examiner)

A sleeping porch, which was added to the house in more recent years, will be torn off at the west side, Mr. Jarvis said. A telephone system, which runs through the residence, also probably will be removed.

The deal for sale of the mansion started several weeks ago, but tangled deeds and negotiations delayed completion. Final papers were drawn and payment for the house was made yesterday. In addition to Mr. Gorman, Mr. Thomas was represented by the law firm of Denz and Buckner.

Dec 23, 1935



ORLANDO POWERS DEAD

July 1, 1902

End Came About 1 O'clock on Tuesday Afternoon.

HE WAS PAST 90 YEARS OF AGE.

Half a Century One of Decatur's Most Prominent Citizens.

Orlando Powers died a few minutes before 1 o'clock Tuesday. News of his death will come as something of a surprise, for



ORLANDO POWERS.

while it has long been known that he was extremely feeble, it was not generally known that his death was expected.

Mr. Powers died of a general breaking down, induced principally by old age. There was kidney trouble in his final illness. He had been sick for three weeks. The end came at 12:40 p. m. on Tuesday.

At the time of his death he was surrounded by his children, Charles Powers, Howard Powers, Mrs. Charles Kersey, Mrs. Charles Powers was also in the death chamber, as was also the physician, Dr. John T. Miller.

LAST ILLNESS

The end came very peacefully. Mr. Powers had been unconscious for twenty-four hours, and preceding that he was in a state of semi-consciousness for forty-eight hours. He realized when he was lying with fainting spells three weeks ago that the end was approaching and had his daughter sent for.

He had been ailing more or less for some time. He had a paralytic stroke in the winter of 1891, he had another stroke in California. There were no convalescence in the last attack; the end came as a surprise. The final illness was of the nature of heart failure.

illness. His death has been expected for two weeks. Several nights it was thought he might not live until morning. He had a remarkable physique and was very active until quite late in life. This is all that saved him for the last few years.

He is survived by the three children mentioned above as being present at the deathbed at the time of death. He had but one other child, Miss Alice Powers, who died April 27, 1878, then 21 years old.

FUNERAL

The funeral will be held from the residence on West Decatur street Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The officiating minister has not been selected yet. The burial will be at Greenwood.

HIS CHARACTER

Mr. Powers came to Decatur in 1847 and for more than half a century was one of Decatur's most prominent citizens. He built the opera house and that block, the Orlando Powers office building, and other buildings. He at one time owned several thousand acres of land in Macon county and had more land than any one else in the county.

The buildings that he put up will long stand as monuments to his life work, but more important than brick or stone, richer than the broad acres, he leaves a name that has always been above reproach, that is better than any monument made with hands.

It is rare indeed for one to live as long as Mr. Powers, and to give occasion for such little criticism. He has been all his life universally well thought and spoken of.

BIRTH PLACE

Orlando Powers was born in May, 1812, in Charlton, Saratoga county, New York. His family was of sterling old New England and New York stock. His father, William Powers, at one time lived in New York city but had moved to Saratoga county and was engaged in farming at the time Orlando was born. The young man got as good an education as was to be obtained, and it was much above the average. In the schools and academies near his home. When about 16, he decided to go to Havana, Cuba, and join his brother, William, who was then in charge of a big branch of a New York bank there.

WRECKED AT SEA

Took on the schooner Helen, in which there were but two passengers, himself and one other. When they were well on towards the end of their voyage, their boat became disabled in a storm and water lodged, floating in that way for several days. At the time of the accident Orlando and the passenger were in the cabin. When it filled with water Mr. Powers swam out but the other passenger was drowned. The passenger and crew were left on what was a mere bundle of wreckage. They floated that way for eleven days with very scanty supplies of water and provisions. In that time they braved all the terrors of starvation.

Finally they were picked up by a French bark bound for France and carried to Bordeaux. There Mr. Powers was landed without a cent of money, almost no clothing and without any acquaintances. He was befriended, however, by an English gentleman, who provided him with clothing and assisted him in returning to America. Arriving in New York, he paid a short visit to the house represented by his brother, William, and then took passage on a sailing vessel up the Hudson for home. When he walked into the presence of his family, they learned for the first time that he was alive and not at the bottom of the Atlantic ocean as they had feared.

HIS SPAN OF LIFE

In those early days there were no steamships, railroads or telegraph, so that people were frequently for months in uncertainty as to the movements of their friends. An illustration of the difference between those times and ours and of the long and remarkable life of Mr. Powers, is given by an incident described by a friend which occurred at the World's fair. The two gentlemen were standing in the transportation building looking at the locomotive Rocket and some of the strange old fashioned cars that stood with it. Mr. Powers remarked, "I have ridden in that train when it was still in active service."

There he was near the end of the century, an absolute eye-witness to the entire development of the railroad systems of the world. He had seen grow from its very beginning to what can be considered almost perfection, the most marvelous



O. POWERS OFFICE BUILDING. One of His Monuments.

improvement in all the history of human progress.

After a short stay at home Mr. Powers went to Mobile and went into the mercantile business extensively with his brother-in-law, Chauncey Wilkinson. They opened houses in Mobile, Tuscaloosa and one or two other cities there. They remained there for several years and until the death of the members of the firm led to the closing up of the business.

CAME TO DECATUR

His mother and brothers, George and Samuel, had come to Decatur to reside. Orlando Powers followed in 1847, making the trip on horseback. He was very fit part of the time and had to be assisted in mounting and dismounting.

the invitation of James McMillan, who graphed for him to come. A threatened on the bank. Hammer & Co. had closed their doors, banks had temporarily suspended.

Mr. Powers always got a great deal of pleasure from his opera house. It is said that though it cost him more enjoyment out of the investment, and therefore valued it more than any other investment he ever occupied his private box at the opera of the stage, and while he set everything in the theatrical line good, he was particularly partial to opera and farce comedy.

FLAG HALF MAST

The flag on the Orlando Powers building was put at half mast yesterday afternoon.

J. Fred Given, manager of the opera house, has been in New York for several weeks. It is expected that he will be home tonight.

SCRAPS OF NEWS

WIDOWS' PENSIONS

Widows' pensions have been granted to Elizabeth Mowry of LaPlace and M. Merriman of Clinton.

BOYS AND PICKETS

Boys in the south part of the ward have been maliciously demolishing picket fences. Several fences on Colfax street have been nearly destroyed. Their amusement is to wrench the pickets off or to break the tops of the top rail. One new fence built has had nearly all of the pickets thus broken. The police say they will line on the perpetrators and are run them to ground.

FIRES

Fires and steam heat were quite comfortable this morning. Grate fire lobbies last night were centers of attraction.

GOES TO PANAMA

Miss Bessie Lutz of Decatur will summer go to Panama on Thursday week to teach pupils on piano organ.

TIME OF HIS LIFE

B. F. Snipley will no doubt have a fine time of his life on the Fourth. Charlie Bliss and Tom Merritt make speeches at a big celebration. Ramsey, Bliss is the scholarly editor of the Montgomery County News. He is president this year of the Illinois association. Tom Merritt was former member of the legislature and a conspicuous figure in southern politics. The three gentlemen are old friends.

CARRIERS TO VISIT

Davidson branch No. 861, N. A. C. will attend the ball game between the letter carriers of Danville and Decatur July 4. George Davidson, Division branch will play with Decatur team.

ONLY ONE

M. C. Davenport, who is so well known to New Orleans to go into the business, will be associated with J. Smith of Springfield. The statement made that there is no abstract book in New Orleans at the present time was one set of abstract books which had been brought down to New Orleans and company purchased the books. The first work will be to bring them to date.

business extensively with his brother-in-law, Chauncey Wilkinson. They opened houses in Middle Tennessee and in other parts of the state. They remained there for several years and until the death of the members of the firm led to the closing up of the business.

CAME TO DECATUR

His mother and brothers, George and Samuel, had come to Decatur to reside. Orlando Powers followed in 1847, making the trip on horseback. He was very ill part of the time and had to be assisted in mounting and dismounting.

About that time he visited at the residence of Dr. Joseph Holt in Union county, Tenn. There he met Miss Charlotte Given, a niece of Dr. Holt, and afterwards married her in September, 1849. Soon after that they moved to Decatur, where Mr. Powers operated a flour mill, located near where the tray factory now is, but on the west side of the little brook in that vicinity.

Mr. Powers was engaged in several business enterprises in the early years of his residence in this city. Among other things, he made the first set of abstract books ever made in the county. The set is still in good preservation and clearly made with great care and accuracy.

Some time before the war broke out Mr. Powers became engaged in the boot and shoe business and operated a store for many years. In 1874 he moved to Jacksonville to educate his children, of whom there were four, two boys and two girls. The family moved back to Decatur in 1884. The elder daughter died in 1878.

The three children living are Charles M. and Howard Powers and Mrs. E. E. Kearney.

THE OPERA HOUSE

One of the most important undertakings of Mr. Powers' later years and the one that has interested all modern Decatur directly in his life, has been the erection of the opera house. Work began on it June 17, 1888, and it was opened Sept. 9, 1889.

The people of the vicinity fully appreciate the fact that Mr. Powers has given them one of the handsomest opera houses in the country and that he has done it without any prospect of pecuniary reward or benefit. By building such a magnificent house he did much to add to the importance and good name of the city, not only in the state, but all over the country. It was characteristic of his liberality and public spirit to rebuild the opera house burned down on the same scale it was before.

ABOUT HIS WEALTH

Mr. Powers was perhaps at one time the largest land owner in the county, and among the wealthiest of our citizens. Much of his property he acquired by inheritance from his brother, William, referred to above as having been in business in Havana, Cuba. Orlando Powers, however, managed his affairs with singular foresight and good judgment, and though liberal in all good works that came before him, by wise investment added to his means.

His character is well known to all the people of Decatur. It was marked by liberality, unselfishness and the strictest integrity. He did a great deal by the mere force of his character and presence in 1877 to arrest and avert a financial panic that promised the most serious results to the community. Though he lived in Jacksonville at the time, as soon as he heard that one Decatur bank was in financial trouble and another was on the point of being wrecked, he came here and personally agreed to be responsible for its heaviest obligations. The fact that he took this position and had placed himself back of the institution did more than any one else could possibly have done to avert disaster. His action allayed the excitement of the time and restored confidence.

Mr. Powers came from Jacksonville at

OUR REVIEW 7/1/1902

the invitation of James Millikin, who telegraphed for him to come. A run was threatened on the bank. Hammer, Rucker & Co. had closed their doors and other banks had temporarily suspended.

Mr. Powers always got a great deal of pleasure from his opera house. It is said that though it cost him \$85,000, he got more enjoyment out of the investment, and therefore valued it more, than any other investment he ever made. He occupied his private box at the east side of the stage, and while he appreciated everything in the theatrical line that was good, he was particularly partial to light opera and farce comedy.

FLAG HALF MAST

The flag on the Orlando Powers office building was put at half mast this afternoon.

J. Fred Given, manager of the opera house, has been in New York for several weeks. It is expected that he will start home tonight.

Sam Jarvis, 62, Wealthy Decatur Oil Operator, Dies

July 31, 1953

Heart Attack Fatal While on Trip In South Dakota

Sam D. Jarvis, 62, operator of oil properties and refineries in Southern Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana, died this morning in St. John's Hospital, Rapid City, S. D.

Mr. Jarvis suffered a heart attack about 1 a. m. at a motor court in Custer, S. D., where he had been staying since Sunday. Custer is 40 miles from Rapid City.

With him on the trip were friends from Evansville, Ind., and the party had been attending rodeos in the west.

Notification of his death came to friends here and to his attorney, A. K. Swan, Evansville, Ind.

Mr. Jarvis' son, who has been in California purchasing antique cars for the Jarvis quarter-million-dollar museum in Silver Springs, Fla., is en route from California to Silver Springs. He had not been located at noon today.

Mr. Jarvis' death was sudden. Friends had not known of a heart ailment although in recent years he had stayed in the West during the winter months because of an arthritic condition.

Mr. Jarvis, who reaped a fortune from oil properties in Southern Illinois, extended his holdings into Indiana and Kentucky.

In partnership with his son, Vernon, he owned the Jarvis Refining Company, Troy, Ind.; a refinery at Somerset, Ky., and the South Kentucky Purchasing Company at Somerset. The firm has offices in Decatur and Albion, Ill., Evansville and Troy, Ind., and Somerset and Monticello, Ky.



Sam D. Jarvis

In recent months Mr. Jarvis had been in semi-retirement and had turned his interest to the collection of antique cars.

Although Mr. Jarvis maintained a home in Decatur—the old Powers mansion, 357 W. Decatur St., he spent most of his time in Florida since the death of his wife four years ago.

In 1938 Mr. Jarvis struck oil in Fayette County near Vandalia. This pool was extended immediately into one of the biggest drilling campaigns in Illinois and resulted in the opening of the Loudon pool.

He continued to secure leases in other counties and to handle the oil. He organized the Pana Refining Company at Pana and the Loudon Pipe Line Company. Later he moved operations into the oil field around Evansville, Ind.

About 1945 he extended operations still further securing properties and operating refineries in Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee and Wyoming.

Mr. Jarvis was born near Latham and spent his early life there. As a young man he went to the oil fields of Oklahoma and Kansas and returned to Decatur about 1939.

He leaves the son, Vernon, and two sisters, Mrs. Fred Klück, Warrensburg, and Mrs. John Giddens, Clarksville, Texas.

Decatur, Illinois, Thursday, May 6, 1965.

Obituaries

Vernon D. Jarvis Dies

Vernon D. Jarvis, 40, of 357 W. Decatur St., died of a heart attack at 9 a.m. Wednesday in Somerset, Ky.

An oil producer, Mr. Jarvis died while in an automobile near Louisville, Ky.

He was president of the Jarvis Corp., the Somerset Development firm and the S.D. Jarvis Co. of Decatur, an oil production and refining firm.

A Decatur resident most of his life, he was born Aug. 19, 1924, in Arkansas City, Kan., son of Samuel D. and Dortha Shyer Jarvis.

He was a graduate of the University of Iowa and a veteran of World War II. He operated the Decatur Flying Service at the Decatur Municipal Airport in 1957-58. He then entered the oil producing business.

Mr. Jarvis lived in the Powers-Jarvis mansion, although he auctioned off the major household furnishings and jewelry in 1961.

He was a flying enthusiast and a collector of antique cars. He opened a museum of antique cars and horse-drawn vehicles in Silver Springs, Fla., in 1954.

Herb Shriner, comedian from "Hometown Indiana," was a friend of Mr. Jarvis.

He married Lois Elizabeth Driver, a model and once a cover girl for Ladies Home Journal, April 9, 1950, in Mt. Dorn, Fla. They were divorced in 1961.

He leaves five children, Samuel D., Frank A., Sandra D., Elizabeth Ann and Carrie Lee, all at home.

The body is at Brintlinger's Funeral Home. Arrangements are incomplete.

*Sunday
Herald and Review
Aug. 9, 1959*

257 West Decatur

**a majestic setting . . .
a beautiful home . . .
for someone who appreciates
the finest . . .**

THE HOME . . .

Words cannot start to adequately describe this magnificent home . . . we can only list some of it's outstanding features.

The first floor has an entry room, vestibule, powder room, circular open staircase, huge living room, music room, walnut paneled dining room, adjoining screened porch, breakfast room, and complete kitchen with adjoining ceramic tiled half bath.

The second floor includes a hall room, master bedroom with adjoining marble bath, three other large bed rooms, all with adjoining baths, connecting halls, nursery room, and a maids area with 2 bedrooms and bath.

The third floor is completely finished with a large ballroom or play room, and a smaller room.

The basement has a five car garage, a furnace and storage room, laundry room, and a play room.

This home is heated with a dual system of forced air for the first floor and a hot water system for the second and third floors. All three floors are served by an elevator.

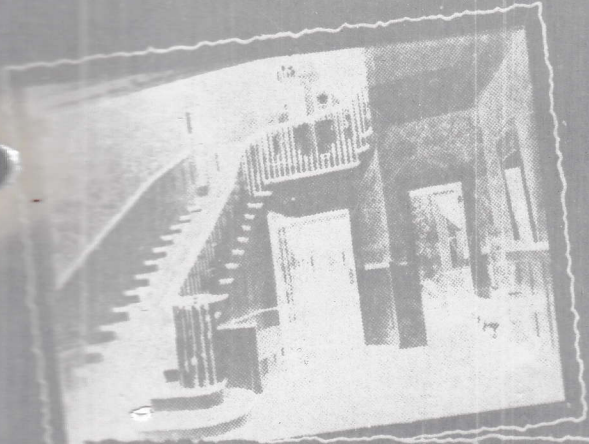
AS AN INVESTMENT . . .

This home is one that will create tremendous interest from a standpoint of converting it to luxury apartments. City zoning is "D" apartments and it is located on a 150' by 448' lot.

FOR AN APPOINTMENT . . .

. . . to inspect this home please call 8-4481. This home will be shown by appointment only.

P. H. Sproat & Co.



100 Items Sold in Morning Auction

Nov. 13, 1961

Mansion Sale Begins

By Cynthia M. McCormick
Of the Review Staff

By noon today more than 100 items of household furnishings and jewelry had been sold in the auction at the Powers-Jarvis mansion at 307 W. Decatur St.

About 600 more items are left for the sale which will continue all week, ending with the auction of the house and property Saturday at 2 p.m.

About 130 people paid the \$5 admission fee for the first session which began at 10 a.m. today.

E. A. Scudder, auctioneer in charge, said people had come from Atlanta, Ga.; Washington, D.C.; New York; Philadelphia; Chicago, Indianapolis; Columbus, Ohio; North Carolina and Florida.

Several members of the well-dressed gathering were reportedly buyers from the larger cities. Most of the group were women.

A ladies' dinner ring with 33 diamonds is up for sale today along with a tan leather waste basket.

Everything in the 32-room house will be sold, from the plush rugs underfoot to the antique ashtrays.

Scudder, of Silver Springs, Fla., is a personal friend of the owner of the mansion, Vernon D. Jarvis. Scudder said he could not comment on Jarvis' present residence or why he was having the house and furnishings sold.

According to Jarvis' friends and employes, he is not in town for the sale.

The auction is being held on the third floor of the mansion in a room designated as the "Banquet Hall." Sessions run each day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Last Friday, Saturday and Sunday an open house was held at the mansion, built in 1909 by the late Charles G. Powers, who also built the Hotel Orlando.

Sam D. Jarvis, major independent Illinois oil operator bought the house in 1939. After his death, his son Vernon became owner in 1954.

The property was put up for sale in 1959 after Vernon Jarvis bought out the Albert M. Marcell oil holdings and moved his headquarters to Southern Illinois.

He and his wife had moved to Evansville, Ind., in 1952, although they spent some time in the Decatur home after that.

In 1959, the late P. H. Sproat listed the house and grounds at a market value of about \$85,000, according to the P. H. Sproat & Co. agency.

The agency said Jarvis has been interested in selling the property ever since then, although it was not until after real estate listing.



Herald and Review Photo

Silver, china and jewelry up for auction.

E. A. Griswold Dies at 80

Earl Atlas Griswold, 80, who was president of the Cerro Gordo State Bank for 25 years, died at 2 p.m. Sunday in Carle Hospital, Urbana, after being a patient there three days.

He lived in the Greenbriar Manor Nursing Home in Champaign for one month but prior to that, was a Cerro Gordo resident.

Mr. Griswold was with the bank for 50 years, the last 25 as president, before retiring in 1953. He also had farming interests in the Cerro Gordo area.

Mr. Griswold was born Sept. 10, 1881, in Cerro Gordo, a son of John and Emily Peck Griswold.

He leaves his wife, Harriett, who is a patient in Lakeshore Manor Nursing Home, Decatur; a son, John, Norwich, Vt.; a daughter, Mrs. James Allan, Urbana; a sister, Mrs. John Slough, Lewington; a grandson.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Cerro Gordo Methodist Church.

MU CHEST DRIVE TO BE RESCHEDULED

Milikin University's Campus Chest, which was also one of the football team's victims, will be rescheduled during the next several months.

Dean of Students Byron L. Kerns said Campus Chest activities would be held as the school calendar permits rather than during a specific week. A committee is expected to meet this week to set dates for the carnival, dance and other activities.

Originally scheduled for last week, Campus Chest was postponed because of mounting interest in the football team's quest for the ICC championship.

Town Relief Load Higher

Decatur Township relief cases increased by five cases in October, Roscoe W. Graves, Decatur Township supervisor said today.

Graves said there was an increase of 34 cases over the same period a year ago. There were 65 cases carried over into October.

In 1954 he was defeated in the Democratic primary in an election contest with Robert W. McCarthy, now state senator from the 28th District.

Two years later he and McCarthy won the two Democratic nominations but he lost in the four-way race for three 47th District seats in the November election.

In 1958 Ferguson came in third behind McCarthy and John W. Alsup in the Democratic primary. Then in 1960 Ferguson came in third, behind Alsup and Herman L. Dammerman of Lincoln, in the five man Democratic primary race.

Expected to Run

Dammerman and Alsup, now serving in the legislature with Republican Hilmer C. Landholt, are expected to seek re-election to the General Assembly next year.

The three most important items before the legislators this year and in the next session, according to Ferguson, are congressional reapportionment, legislative reapportionment, and a new revenue article.

Congressional reapportionment is now the subject of a committee of the special session. No one knows whether the state will get redistricted to 24 congressional seats or not.

(A suggested congressional redistricting plan, proposed by Ferguson, is on page 2 of this newspaper.)

The revision of the revenue article may become the subject of another special session. If it doesn't, Ferguson says it will be pursued at the next regular session.

Reapportionment of the seats in the lower house of the state General Assembly will be a very important item in the next regular session and Ferguson said he wants to exercise the same leadership in getting an equitable job done that he has exercised in the past.

DIRECTOR FOUND

Tryouts Scheduled for Drum, Bugle Corps Members

The drums and bugles and band uniforms that needed a music director have one.

He's Dean Walker of 1944 E. Decatur St.

Following a newspaper story Oct. 31, Walker offered his services to American Legion Castle Williams Post 105.

The post announced it had about 35 drums and bugles and three complete sets of band uniforms and was interested in sponsoring a junior drum and bugle corps for local teen-agers. All that was missing were corps members and a director.

Dean L. Woodbridge, post member working on the project, said about six or seven persons have volunteered to take part in the band.

Meetings will begin Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the American Legion Post, 1335 S. Lusk Bridge Road.

the past history of democ... He indicated the... the supply catching... demand soon was... the production of... more than a... Although Decatur... apparently not... more than norma... fluenza, there is... is now increasing.



Candidate

Paul H. Ferguson is a candidate for a Democratic nomination for representative.

'Army' Toys Sites List

Have any toys? The Salvation Army "Toys for Tots" program glad to receive all kinds starting Nov. 20.

Riding toys like tricycles, wagons, pedalers, sleds and rocking chairs be taken to any fire houses.

The addresses are Franklin Streets, 500 St., Main Street and nue, and Jasper Streets.

Bring small toys to the Army Citadel, 20 St.

Besides repairing the riding toys, the D. Fighters Local 565 plan cash donation to the buy small toys.

The Marine Corps also announce collection. Final date of acceptance will be Dec. 15. They tributed at a Christmas about Dec. 21.

Annual Concert

One of the... country, the... Band, will present concert...

Powers-Jarvis Mansion Familiar Landmark

By Claudia Lovelace

The Powers-Jarvis mansion located at 357 W. Decatur St. is one of Decatur's historical landmarks.

The first floor has an entry room, vestibule, powder room, dining room, adjoining screened porch, breakfast room, complete kitchen with adjoining half bath.

The second floor includes a hall room, master bedroom with adjoining marble bath, three other large bedrooms, all with adjoining baths, connecting halls, nursery room, and a maids area with two bedrooms and bath.

The third floor is completely finished with a large ballroom or playroom, and a smaller room. The basement has a five car garage, a furnace and storage room, laundry room and a playroom.

All three floors are served by an elevator. The estate is located on a 150 by 448 foot lot.

The mansion is of buff brick and stone, with concrete porches nearly surrounding the house. The red tile and copper roof alone is estimated to have cost \$12,000 when built.

The entrance on Decatur Street is set off by stone columns, each of which is said to weigh seven tons. Much of the woodwork is mahogany, and the bathrooms and kitchens are tiled.

The Powers-Jarvis mansion was built by Charles G. Powers, who also built the Hotel Orlando, in 1909, reportedly at a cost in excess of \$109,000. Sam D. Jarvis, major independent Illinois oil operator bought the house in 1939. After his death, his son Vernon became owner in 1954.

The property was put up for sale in 1959 after Vernon Jarvis

Sun., April 6, 1975

Decatur Diary

bought out the Albert M. Marcell oil holding and moved his headquarters to Southern Illinois. He and his wife had moved to Evansville, Ind., in 1952, although they spent some time in the Decatur home after that. In 1959, P. H. Sproat listed the house and grounds at a market value of about \$65,000.

Guests at the home during the years of Jarvis' ownership included Gov. John Stelle in the early 1940s and television comedian Herb Shriner.

Furnishings, including antique furniture, china and silver and oil paintings were to begin auctioning Nov. 13, 1961. The real estate would be sold Nov. 18.

About 120 people paid a \$5 admission fee for the first session of the auction on Nov. 13, 1961. F. A. Scudder, auctioneer in charge said people had come from all around the U.S. for the auction. Most of the group were women.

Everything in the 32-room house would be sold, from the plush rugs to the antique ashtrays. A hand made platinum diamond necklace with nine pear shape cuts, 55 baguette cuts, 30 marquis cuts and 164 brilliant cut diamonds sold for \$28,000.

Robert C. Ellsworth, head of the state Department of Tourism, was in Decatur May 22, 1969, to discuss state and

federal aid for the mansion's renovation as a general museum, under sponsorship of People-to-People.

Ellsworth planned to meet with leaders of the Museum for Decatur Committee. The committee hoped to apply for federal aid amounting to about \$100,000 to cover acquisition of the building and its improvement. The committee did not buy the mansion because of the price.

In March 1970, the mansion caught fire. Flames shot out of the attic windows on the west side of the house. Police and fire officials investigated for possible arson.

Don R. Livergood sought to rezone the vacant mansion for professional offices in October 1972. The suggestion was denied.

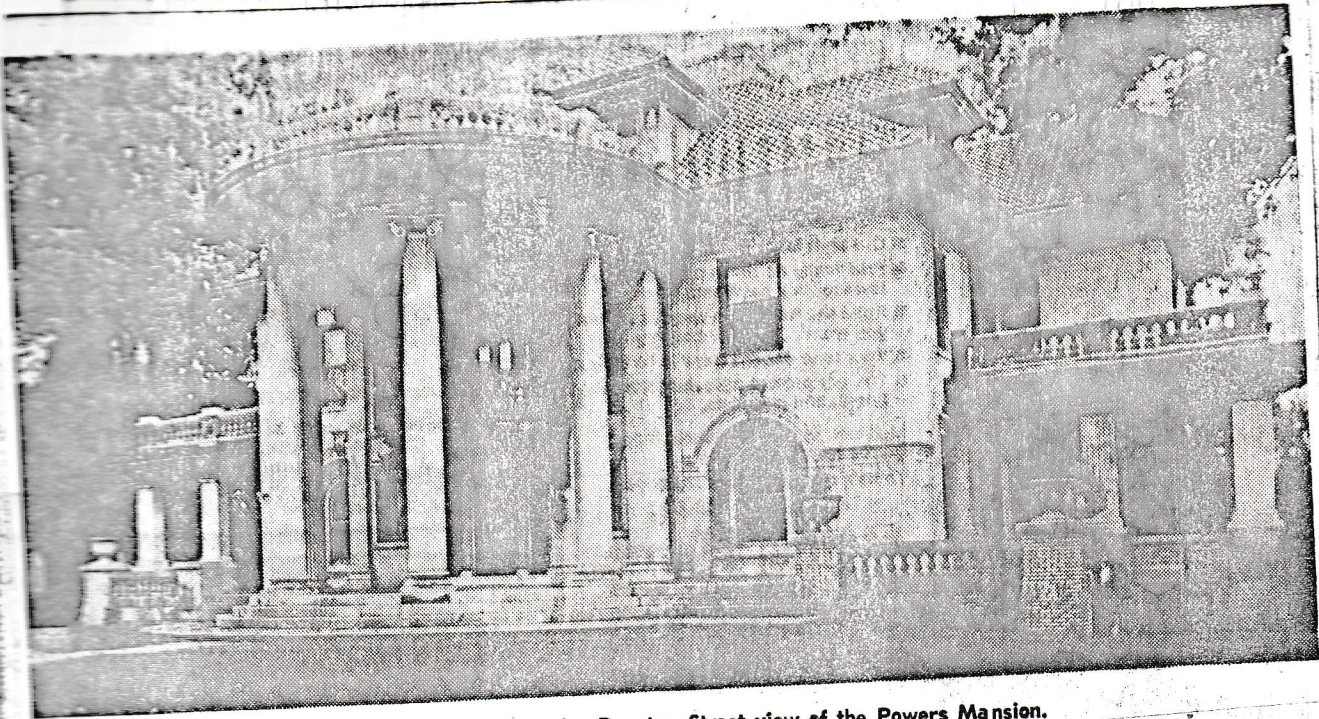
Wayne and Gene Campbell, Decatur real estate businessmen and a group of other persons purchased the mansion in May 1974. The property was purchased for an undisclosed amount with plans of converting it to an apartment building or condominium. Their plans did not go into effect.

Ark of the Covenant, Inc., planned early this year to convert the mansion into a Christian center. The Christian group's program resulted in the resignation of a director and treasurer, because of a change in direction of the project. The change would encompass the development of a youth center.

Mrs. Russell Gilbert, wife of one of the directors, said recently that plans for the center would not change significantly and it would be open to persons of all ages.

The Powers-Jarvis mansion

remains empty since Vernon Jarvis' death in 1965.



Stone columns dominate the Decatur Street view of the Powers Mansion.

Conversion Planned ^{2/13/75} *Decatur Review* Mansion to Be Christian Center

Conversion of the Powers Mansion, 357 W. Decatur St., into a Christian center is planned by a Decatur nonprofit corporation.

The corporation, Ark of the Covenant, Inc., was formed recently and has an option on the Powers Mansion, Norman E. Gaddis, one of the corporation directors, said today.

Plans for converting the 65-year-old mansion into a Christian center include establishing a coffee house called "The Catacombs" in the building's basement.

Two chapels, a music room and a conference room on the first floor and a prayer room, counseling rooms and an apartment for a director of the facility on the second floor are being proposed.

The corporation plans to change the third-floor ballroom into a chapel called The Upper Room, which would seat 120 persons, and a recording studio for a gospel singing group known as The Journeymen.

Gaddis said the house will be

designed to serve the needs of all people in the community, regardless of age.

Directors of the Ark of the Covenant include Gaddis of 405 S. Monroe St., William Winnett of 1911 N. Edward St., Tom L. Mears of 1090 W. Main St., Russell Gilbert of 470 Powers Lane, Edward Suey of 2130 N. Main St., Floyd Beard of Stonington and Elwood Curtsinger of 2152 N. Union St.

The Powers Mansion was constructed in 1910 at a cost of \$83,000 by Charles G. Powers, eldest son of Orlando Powers and one-time owner of the Powers family downtown real estate.

The mansion was purchased in 1939 by oil speculator Sam D. Jarvis some time after it passed out of the Powers' estate.

It has been vacant since Jarvis' death in 1965, and in 1974 was purchased by a group of Decatur businessmen, including Wayne and Gene Campbell, real estate businessmen.

File

CENTRAL ILLINOIS MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY
SCIENCE and the Arts.

July 7, 1969

This is the Decatur Chapter of People-To-People project,
Mr. Charles Gallagher President.

The Museum for Decatur Committee was originated by a group of
People-To-People Members.

Dr. John E. Erickson Vice-President of 1969 PTP Decatur Chapter
and Mrs Nelson Lovelace Past President of PTP Decatur Chapter
were authorized by the PTP Board of Directors to contemplate in
search of a museum location for the City of Decatur, Illinois.

The Power Mansion is the No. 1 in the list of site selection.

Corporate status was granted by the State of Illinois to the
Central Illinois Museum of Industry, Science and the Arts.

The Corporated Board members are:

Mr. Charles Gallagher, Mrs Victor Dewein, Dr. John E. Erickson,
Mrs John E. Erickson, Mr. Ralph Owen, Mrs Nelson Lovelace, Dr. Hubert
Magill, Dr. Vernon Powell, Mrs William Gerstner.

The Attorney for the Corporation is Mr. Albert Hurt.

The Corporation Board elected the following Officers:

Dr. John E. Erickson	President
Mrs Nelson Lovelace	Secretary
W. Ralph D. Owen	Treasurer

The History of the Powers House

Address 357 West Decatur Street

In 1906 Charles G. Powers purchased from a Dr. Curtis the Southeast
corner of Decatur and Edward Street. This lot is 150 feet wide
and 440 feet deep, excepting a lot 40 feet East and West and
220 feet North and South on Edward Street. James Moore owns a
brick house on the last described lot.

In 1910 Charles G. Powers employed R.O. Rosen, architect, to draw the
plans for the house that now is situated on the Southeast corner
of Decatur and Edward Street. The house is a three story one
with full basement and is approximately 105 feet wide East and West
and 60 feet deep North and South.

The basement walls are 16" brick walls. The First and second
floor walls are 12" brick walls faced with cream colored hard pres-
sed face brick with buttered white joints. The outside walls of
the first and second floors are lined with 2x4 studs upon which
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All the gutters, downspouts and fancy railings are copper.
There is an observation deck 10x20 on top of the roof with access
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All of the floors in the house are wooden and covered with
hardwood flooring. All of the trim (except the window frames) is
stone, including the large columns on the front of the house.

2 cont- 357 West Decatur ,the Powers house.

There are 3 separate porches. The porches and the terrace are all covered with red tile.

There is a press button elevator running from the basement to the third floor. The basement has a large laundry, wine room, large driving room, a large utility room and a garage for four automobiles

Entering the house from the North is a reception hall, from which a beautiful mahogany stairway lead to the second floor. To the left of the hall is the music room, to the right of the hall is a dining room. The hall leads into a living room 20x36, there is a sunroom and a toilet in conjunction with the living room. The back hall leads into a white faced, glazed brick kitchen and breakfast room.

The stair to the second floor land in a square reception hall off of which there are 4 bedrooms with 3½ baths. Off of the back hall on second floor is a sewing room, two servants rooms and bath.

The third floor consists of a large ballroom with two separate storage rooms.

There is an entry driveway on the East side of the house with a porte-cochere. The driveway has a circle behind the house. South of the circle was a vegetable and flower garden, South of which was a small orchard.

The cost of the house was \$ 83,000, beside the cost of the lot.

The Central Illinois Museum of Industry, Science and the Arts, Committee, has the contract of purchase for the Powers Mansion. The next step of this Committee will be to engage an architect and 3 contractors to make a careful appraisal of what needs to be done to make the structure safe and suitable for a museum. Then the Committee will meet again to decide a definite understanding to be reached as to how this capital expenditure will be met.

The objective of our proposed museum is clearly defined, as the Central Illinois Museum, because we wish for communities near-by us to bring collections to our museum, for it will be a museum for central Illinois, and we encourage other communities to take part in making this museum effective.

The subjects of this museum extent of display will be .. Industrial exhibits, scientific exhibits, based on the principles and method of science, and exhibits of the arts, specific skill in paintings, sculptures and craft.

However the basic objective of the Central Illinois Museum, is to collect, preserve, study and exhibit significant objects of various central Illinois communities, and provide related educational services in order to increase public knowledge and stimulate creative activity, in the field of industry, science and the arts.

The Board of Trustees and Director of our Museum will choose and adapt methods which seem most practical in terms of the interests and attitudes of our community.

The Federal Internal Revenue Service permits the deduction, in income tax returns, of gifts to educational, non-profit organizations

3 cont- 357 West Decatur, the Powershouse.

within legal limits.

We would like to give the opportunity to the citizens of this community to provide sources of income for our museum. We need funds to purchase the Powers Mansion, a dependable annual financial income sufficient to meet the expenses of running the organization.

The potential sources of our museum income may be grouped under the following categories:

1. Proceeds from endowment funds
2. Membership fees
3. Appropriation from tax funds
4. Organization grants
5. Fund raising activities
6. Private gifts
7. Admissions, sale and rentals

Our Central Illinois Museum will concentrate upon rendering services designed for children. It is also possible that our museum will include activities for children which are conducted outside of school hours. This activities may include classes in painting, modeling, ceramics, various crafts and nature study. However we will develop a method of encouraging children to participate in museum activities.

We hope to have lecture hall or study room available on an organized schedule to regular meetings of the astronomy club, the stamp club, the numismatic society, the natural history society, the print club, the art league, the craft guild, and similar organization. For we feel that this hospitality is a cultural service to the community.

The variety of the possible interpretive activities of a museum seem almost endless in scope and character.

We are convinced that the people of this community will welcome the services offered by a good, though presently small, museum.

Prepared for Press Conference of Monday, July, 7, 1969.

Adriana M. Lovelace
Adriana M. Lovelace
Secretary
Central Illinois Museum
of
Industry Science and
the Arts



Sports in REVIEW

BY FORREST R. KYLE

Jack Powers a Key Figure in Building Memorial Stadium

One of the historic events of all times was Gene Sarazen's double eagle two on the par five 15th hole at Augusta National during the playing of the 1935 Masters.

This one dramatic shot enabled Sarazen to tie Craig Wood over 72 holes. The next day he beat Wood in a playoff.

Sarazen once said he had met and shaken hands with at least 10,000 people who claimed they saw the shot.

A few weeks ago, when Sarazen was at Pinehurst, N.C., to be enshrined in the new golf Hall of Fame, he talked of the witnesses to his feat.

Sarazen was playing with Walter Hagen and at the 15th tee the late New York sports columnist, Joe Williams, left for the clubhouse. He had been the only one following the famous pair.

"We walked down the fairway (after the famous shot and there was no one there," said Sarazen. "Just the two caddies. We looked down on the green and counted the people. There were 23 there."

Eleven years before Sarazen's amazing shot another event took place which, in its way was just as unbelievable. And, through the years, the number of people who said they saw the remarkable show staged by a football player named Harold (Red) Grange has reached the hundreds of thousands.

There were, officially, 66,609 spectators the day in 1924 that Memorial Stadium was dedicated . . . the day the junior halfback from Wheaton ran 95, 67, 56 and 44 yards for touchdowns in the first 12 minutes of play and later ran 13 yards for a fifth and passed for a sixth.

It was a fantastic climax to a drive which had started three years earlier — to build a stadium which would hold the fans who wanted to see the Illini.

It also was necessary to have much larger accommodations for spectators to get the guarantee visiting teams were demanding. The best Illinois could do in those early 1920s was \$15,000. Big Ten teams were asking for \$45,000.

The drive for funds to build Memorial Stadium was led by Athletic Director George Huff. He was one of five on the Board of Directors of the Athletic Association.

The other members of the board were Prof. Goodenough, dean of engineering; Judge

school; Eugene Burke, president of the Citizens Bank of Champaign, and Jack Powers of Decatur.

"For three years the board of directors carried the whole load," Powers noted the other day, "and submitted plans to the Board of Trustees. The stadium finally was financed and built."

Powers also noted that he and Mr. Burke, now 96, are the only two living members of the board today.

Naturally, Jack was among those who saw the game.

"Senator McKinley provided a private car on the Illinois Traction for my mother and father to take a crowd of Decatur People to the game," Powers recalled.

"It took us as close to the stadium as it could get, then we walked the rest of the way."

Powers said the years from the time the drive for funds to build the stadium started until its dedication were "hellers."

"We were scared to death of it," he said. But, with \$700,000 pledged by the students as a starter, the five directors went to work.

"All of us but Huff did a lot of traveling," Powers said. "Zupke was the main one we took along."

One feature of the campaign, which was nationwide, was to guarantee each person who donated at least \$100 a seat for life at Illinois home football games.

"We wanted to be sure we would have people in all those seats we were building," Powers said.

To this very day those who donated are guaranteed a seat — the same one if they want it — for any or all games they wish to attend.

And now Saturday, 50 years and 227 games later, the Golden Anniversary of the dedication will be celebrated and Grange, the man who electrified the crowd with his running and, with it, earned the nickname "Galloping Ghost," will be back.

If guaranteeing alumni seat reservations for a donation didn't guarantee big crowds, the feat of the man who wore No. 77 did.

Grange often has been asked how he happened to get No. 77, his jersey number now retired.

"Zupke had the best answer to that," Grange said. "He would say 'Grange got 77 because he was behind the guy who got 76 and in front of the

10/24/74

Grand Marshals Chosen

Powerses to Lead Yule Parade

The Old Fashioned Community Christmas parade in Decatur will have an experienced hand at the helm as one of its grand marshals.

Longtime Decatur residents Mr. and Mrs. Jack Powers of the Hotel Orlando, will head the parade Saturday, Nov. 23, just as Powers had done after World War I.

Powers, 79, and a former owner of the hotel, said, "Major Lutz Krigbaum, who I feel was one of Decatur's greatest war heroes, and I were assigned comarshals of the parade after World War I. Since then, I must have been in at least 20 parades."

Plans are continuing for the first Christmas procession in the city in several years.

Powers is a charter member of the Downtown Decatur Council, coordinators of the parade, as well as past president and is a permanent council director. He is a Decatur native.

He also has served in civic activities such as Macon County Mental Health Association, American Legion, Decatur Baseball and the University of Illinois Athletic Association.

Mrs. Powers has been active in the building committees of the First Presbyterian Church and Pi Beta Phi sorority and also in the Girls' Welfare Home.

Besides the experience of the Powerses to guide it, the parade will include many other attractions.

Bill Madlock, Chicago Cubs third baseman from Decatur, will return to appear in the procession, and elsewhere among the cars and floats will be Ronald McDonald, the television clown.

Children also can look forward to some other familiar faces, with many of the same cartoon characters that appear annually in the Macy parade in New York City on hand for the Decatur Christmas celebration.

The costumes for the characters will be shipped into Decatur for its parade, then sent back to be used in the New York parade the next week.

A float competition will be held for entries by religious and non-profit organizations, based on the parade theme, Christmas Past - Christmas Present.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Powers

Jan. 9, 1975

Civic Leader Powers Dies; Services Friday

John Howard "Jack" Powers, 78, former owner of the Hotel Orlando and a long-time civic leader, died at 4 a.m. Wednesday in Decatur Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday in the Dawson & Willett Funeral Home, where friends may call 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

Mr. Powers, associated for many years with the hotel, which was built by the Powers family, also was active in downtown Decatur promotion, in mental health work and in his church.

Mr. Powers was born Aug. 21, 1896, in Decatur, a son of Charles Given and Effie Rogers Powers.

He was a member of a pioneer Macon County family which settled here in 1839.

His grandfather, Orlando Powers, built the Powers Grand Opera House in 1899, which featured many New York stage successes.

After a second fire in the opera house, it was not rebuilt and the family built the hotel instead in its place with it opening for business in 1911.

Mr. Powers graduated from the University of Illinois in 1917 and spent a year and a half in the Army. Upon his return to Decatur in 1919, he became manager of the farms of the Orlando Powers estate.

He was commissioned a captain of infantry in the Illinois National Guard and promoted to major in command of the First Battalion of the 10th Infantry in 1922.

Mr. Powers' business career took him to Chicago in 1929 where he first worked for the Coltext Co. as a fiscal agent. He was with General Electric Co. from 1932 to 1937.

He left there to go into hotel work which included the Blackstone and Drake hotels and later Kirkeby hotels. He was general manager of the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago when he returned to Decatur in 1946 to take over operation of the Hotel Orlando.



Jack Powers

In 1956, the Hotel Orlando was leased to Boss Hotels Co. of Des Moines, Iowa. It reverted to the Jack Powers trust partnership after the lease by William Keim and Boss Hotels expired.

Mr. Powers also was operator of the Motel Orlando in South Shores, which has been razed.

The Hotel Orlando was sold to Archie Cremeens in 1973.

Mr. Powers served as president of both the Downtown Decatur Council and the Downtown Development Corp.

In April, 1962, Mr. Powers was honored for his efforts to expand the mental health facilities in Decatur.

In February, 1964, he was one of those cited by Gov. Otto Kerner at the groundbreaking of the Adolf Meyer Center for his work in raising funds for the site and obtaining the site.

He was also a former president of the Macon County Mental Health Association.

In October, 1962, Mr. and Mrs. Powers gave an electric pipe organ to First Presbyterian Church in memory of their son, Rogers K. Powers, who died in 1927.

On Jan. 22, 1964, Mr. Powers was honored at the church's annual congregational meeting with the distinguished senior churchman's award.

His church work over the

years was cited at the presentation. His activities included teaching classes, serving as chairman of the building committee, chairman of 100th anniversary celebration committee, chairman of renovation committee and chairman of the worship division of the session.

Mr. Powers was also active in other areas.

In 1957, he served as cochairman for the St. Mary's Hospital building fund campaign.

In 1960, he was given an alumni association loyalty award by the University of Illinois Alumni Association in recognition of his loyal and continuing service to the university.

Among his university activities was that of being a member of the athletic association board of directors and involved with the building of Memorial Stadium.

He received the Golden Merit Award from the University of Illinois Grants-in-Aid Department at a kickoff meeting of the Illinois Quarterback Club for his many years of work on behalf of the university.

Another honor came in January, 1963, when he was named outstanding citizen of Decatur by the Illinois Association of Real Estate Boards.

Other activities included serving as president of Greenwood Cemetery Association, Eminent Commander Beaumanoir Commandery, district commander of American Legion and elder of First Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Powers was an outspoken proponent of building a civic center in the downtown area.

In October he presented a proposal to the Decatur City Council for a feasibility study to be undertaken by the city regarding the possibility of the city's building such a center.

No decision regarding the study has been made by the City Council.

In November, 1974, Mr. Powers added yet another activity. He and his wife served as grand marshals of the Christmas parade.

Mr. Powers was married to Helen Kenney in Decatur on Sept. 12, 1917. She survives, along with a daughter, Mrs. Richard (Virginia) Reising of Decatur; grandchildren, Richard Powers Reising of Decatur, John Howard Reising of Milwaukee, Wis., Lance Marshall Reising of Atlanta, Ga., and Stephen Lee Reising at home; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorials: First Presbyterian Church, Decatur Memorial Hospital or St. Mary's Hospital.

An Influence That Will Be Missed

*Sun. Herald
and Review
Jan. 12, 1975*

AN ERA ended in Decatur last week with the death of Jack Powers, for there are few in the community today with the long history of interest and participation in community affairs which Mr. Powers compiled.

Formally, his name was John Howard Powers, but to Decatur he was Jack, and with him goes a name important to Decatur from the middle of the 19th century when Orlando Powers arrived.

The family interests have ranged from the city's most celebrated opera house to its largest and best known hotel. Most people in the community associated Jack Powers with the hotel. He was owner and manager for many years, when the hotel was a focal point for community activities.

Mr. Powers was an active promoter of downtown Decatur, though he was at odds with

proponents of the Landmark Mall because he thought it ought to follow the original concept — which was considerably diminished in final plans.

He was a longtime advocate of a civic center in the downtown area and as recently as last October was urging the City Council to make a feasibility study of the idea.

But Mr. Powers' interests ranged much wider than business and public works, including educational institutions (primarily the University of Illinois), mental health hospitals, and his church. He played active roles in all.

He was one of a group of five who undertook to raise funds for Memorial Stadium at Illinois, and was honored by the university for his continued interest and activity in alumni affairs.

More important for Decatur, he was one of those instrumental in obtaining Adolf Meyer Center, a facility of the state Department of Mental Health, in Decatur.

He was an example of those who find time to do many things simply because they think these things ought to be done — no matter how great their other responsibilities may be.

Mr. Powers was a vigorous exponent of what he thought would be good for Decatur, and he did not hesitate to debate with those who believed otherwise.

Some of his dreams have not come true and some may be not too far across the horizon. But over the years, Mr. Powers was a stimulating influence in the community.

That influence will be missed in the years to come.

357 West Decatur Street

In 1906 Charles G. Powers purchased from a Dr. Curtis the Southeast corner of Decatur and Edward Streets. This lot is 150 feet wide and 440 feet deep, excepting a lot 40 feet East and West and 220 feet North and South on Edward Street. James Moore owns a brick house on the last described lot.

In 1910 Charles G. Powers employed R.O. Rosen, architect, to draw the plans for the house that now is situated on the Southeast corner of Decatur and Edward Streets. The house is a three story one with full basement and is approximately 105 feet wide East and West and 60 feet deep North and South.

The basement walls are 16" brick walls. The first and second floor walls are 12" brick walls faced with cream colored hard pressed face brick with buttered white joints. The outside walls of the first and second floors are lined with 2x4 studs upon which is placed a fireproof wallboard and smooth plaster. The third floor walls are 2x4 studs with fireproof wallboard and smooth plaster. There are 5 dormer windows in a hard tile red roof.

All of the gutters, downspouts and fancy railings are copper. There is an observation deck 10x20 on top of the roof with access from an iron stairway.

All of the floors in the house are wooden and covered with hardwood flooring. All of the trim (except the window frames) is stone, including the large columns on the front of the house. There are 3 separate porches. The porches and the terrace are all covered with red tile. There is a press button elevator running from the basement to the third floor. The basement has a large laundry, wine room, a large drying room, a large utility room and a garage for four automobiles.

Entering the house from the North is a reception hall, from which a beautiful mahogany stair-way leads to the second floor. To the left of the hall is the music room, to the right of the hall is a dining room. The hall leads into a living room 20x36, -there is a sunroom and a toilet in conjunction with the living room. The back hall leads into a white faced, glazed brick kitchen and breakfast room.

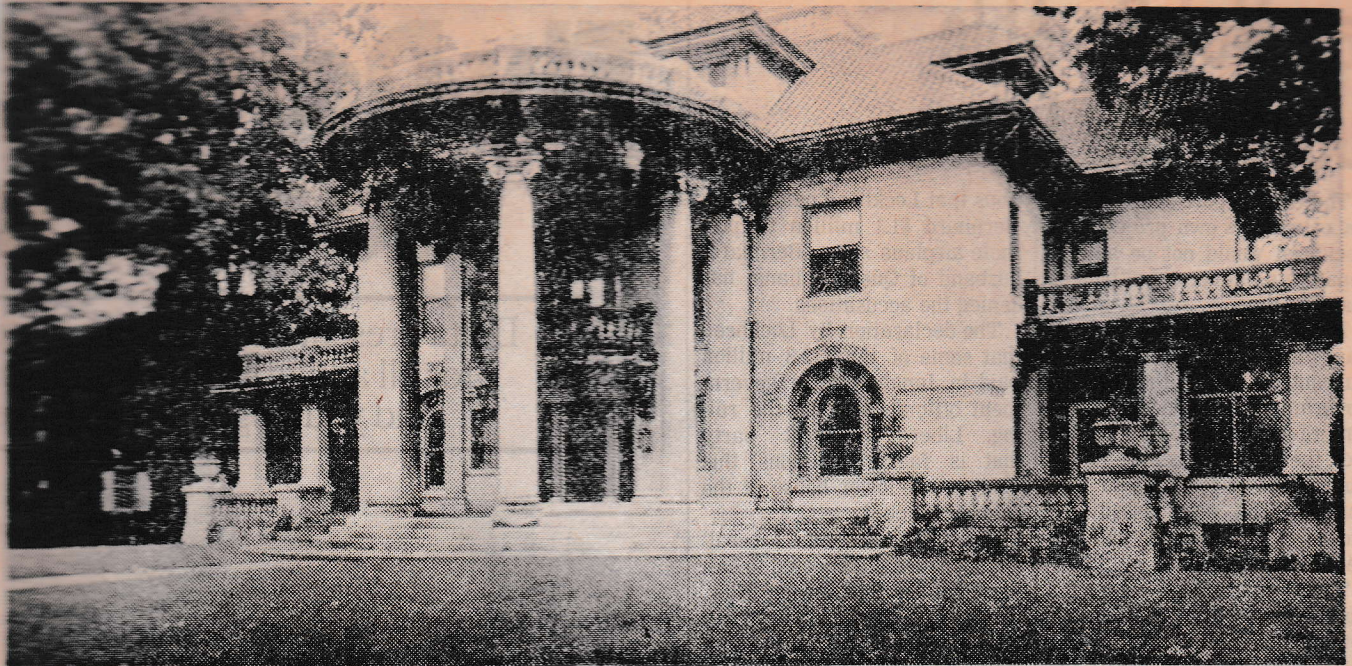
The stairs to the second floor land in a square reception hall off of which there are 4 bedrooms with 2½ baths. Off of the back hall on second floor is a sewing room, two servants rooms and a bath.

The third floor consists of a large ballroom with two separate storage rooms.

There is an entry driveway on the East side of the house with a porte-cochere. The driveway has a circle behind the house. South of the circle was a vegetable and flower garden, South of which was a small orchard.

The cost of the house was \$83,000, besides the cost of the lot

Dictated by Jack Powers to his secretary, Leone Thompson, not too long before his death. Mrs. Thompson made some extra copies and gave this one to us 9/16/55



Powers-Jarvis Mansion, a Decatur landmark, slated for razing as part of housing project.

Off-Street Parking Snag

Housing Project Would Raze Mansion

City planners have expressed some reservations about a 110-unit apartment complex for the elderly proposed for the site now occupied by the Powers-Jarvis Mansion, 357 W. Decatur St.

The \$2.7-million development would result in razing of the 66-year-old mansion and construction of a three-story L-shaped building in its place.

Off-street parking is becoming into the major snag.

The Oxford Group, an Indianapolis, Ind., firm proposing to construct and manage the building, has asked the city to approve a 75 per cent reduction in the number of required off-street parking spaces for the project.

But the city's Department of Community Development has concluded that 28 parking spaces, particularly in that neighborhood, are not adequate, says chief planner Robert R. Menzies.

Menzies emphasized, though, the city has ranked low-cost housing for the elderly as a top priority.

And the city, he said, will work cooperatively with the developer.

Planners were prepared to recommend the Decatur Zoning Board of Appeals deny the Oxford Group's request for the parking variance, Menzies said, but the firm, upon hearing that decision, asked the petition be tabled.

Sherman Troy, a vice president of the firm, said alternatives will be considered.

He hopes the city will not take an arbitrary stand that could jeopardize the project, saying he does not want to "see it go down the drain."

Troy said the firm has a contract to purchase the mansion and the Illinois Housing Development Authority, a state agency that loans money to private investors for low or moderate income housing projects, has approved the site and Oxford's plans.

Since 1974, the property has been owned by Wayne and

Gene Campbell, Decatur real estate businessmen.

Rent for the one-bedroom units that will compose the project would be \$312 a month, Menzies reported.

Noting the figure appears high, he explained it is based on government information supplied to The Oxford Group.

Admission would be based on income levels.

A relatively new federal program — the Housing Assistance Plan — would supplement the rent tenants are able to pay.

It replaces former federal programs used to construct projects such as the Concord and the Hartford, two local housing facilities.

Menzies said the city will likely seek a commitment that the project be designated for elderly or handicapped tenants for several years.

Also, he added, the staff has concerns regarding emergency access to the complex.

Troy said his firm considered rehabilitating the mansion but it was not economically feasible and would not result in sufficient space.

3/4/76

Decatur, Illinois

Buy Interest in Mansion, Group Advised

By Jan Gilarski
A Decatur attorney said Wednesday night that persons wanting to save the Powers-Jarvis Mansion should try to obtain enough money to buy an interest in the building and "have a direct say-so in its fate."

And John Fick said he would contribute his services as an attorney to the cause "within reason."

Mrs. April Weigers, chairman of a group calling itself the Community Cultural Council, said she has received verbal pledges of \$20,000 from persons interested in saving the mansion at 357 W. Decatur St.

She would not disclose any names.

Charles Cherches, director of the city's department of community development, and Chief City Planner Robert Menzies

attended the meeting Wednesday night which was organized by the council.

They answered questions about plans of The Oxford Group, an Indianapolis firm, to raze the mansion and construct a 110-unit apartment complex.

Cherches said the firm probably would abandon its plans if its request for a parking variance is denied Tuesday by the Decatur Zoning Board of Appeals.

Fick said the cultural council should obtain a charter as a non-profit corporation, after which it could receive donations and buy an interest in the property, currently owned by Realtors Wayne and Gene Campbell.

"Over a specified period of time, you might be able to generate sufficient monies to pay the balance," he said.

Mrs. Wiegiers said a price of

\$65,000 for the mansion has been quoted.

Fick also suggested persons interested in blocking The Oxford Group's plans write to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Illinois Housing Development Authority, which has promised to fund the apartment

complex geared for the elderly or handicapped.

He acknowledged, though, that the group is acting "at the eleventh hour."

If the plans to build the apartments fall through, the Community Cultural Council has prepared a list of activities which would bring in money to

restore and maintain the mansion.

Some of these ideas include: charging artists to exhibit their works in the building, charging a rental fee for meeting rooms, soliciting charter members who would pay a yearly fee and charging admission for touring exhibits.

Latting Denial May Not Save Mansion

*Decatur Recorder
March 10, 1976*

Oxford Group Could Change Plan

By Jan Gilarski

Executives of The Oxford Group were to meet this afternoon to discuss alternatives for a housing complex for low income elderly persons on the site of the Powers-Jarvis Mansion.

A decision Tuesday by the Decatur Zoning Board of Appeals to deny the firm a parking variance for a three-story wood frame structure has not ruled plans for developing the site at 57 V. Decatur St.

During an emotional 90-minute hearing Tuesday, at least 10 objections were raised to constructing housing on the site.

Objections ranged from feeling that the mansion is a historic site and should be preserved to the fact that The Oxford Group's projected \$312 a month rental fee for each unit is too high. Rental subsidies would be provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Chief Vice President Sherman Troy said today an alternative to build a six-story complex, which would not require a parking variance, could result in monthly rents some \$25 higher than the \$312 projection.

Stronger building and fire

codes for a six-story complex would require the use of more expensive building materials and safety features, Troy said.

"It is a shame we are now forced to go to a more expensive solution," he said.

He cited a list of reasons which went into the

determination of the \$312 a month projection.

Among them were that the rent includes utilities, elevators, safety features to accommodate elderly and handicapped persons, projected increases in construction costs, financing costs and "red tape" associated with a government

program, he said. And he said the fee was projected for renting the apartments some 28 months from now.

The property currently is zoned for an apartment complex, and if The Oxford Group developed an alternative which provided a parking space for each unit, zoning board approval would not be needed.

The Oxford Group has the option to purchase the property, currently owned by Realtors Wayne and Gene Campbell.

And Troy said the firm probably would seek approval of the realtors before any steps would be taken to demolish the building.

He indicated that decision could be made this afternoon.

Troy said the emotional issues surrounding the proposal to raze the Powers-Jarvis Mansion contributed to the zoning board's decision not to grant the variance request for 48 parking spaces.

"There is no way the board would have approved it," he said.

The final vote was 5 to 1, with A. J. Devereaux the only board member voting in favor of the variance.

Historic Site Designation Could Prohibit Razing

The possibility that the Powers-Jarvis Mansion is a national historic site could prohibit its being razed and a federally subsidized housing project being built in its place.

Roy Reaves, executive order consultant for the Chicago office of the U.S. Department of the Interior, said the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development would be mandated to seek a historic determination on the building before a proposed federal housing project for the elderly is built on the site.

Dr. Lachlan F. Blair, a University of Illinois professor, told the Decatur Zoning Board

of Appeals Tuesday he believes the mansion is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

But actual inclusion in the register is not required for the executive order to be in effect.

Reaves said if there is any question a building or site is of historic value, the federal funding agency must have it checked with the state Department of Conservation or the federal Department of the Interior.

Inclusion in the national register carries a requirement that strict zoning be maintained near the site so as not to jeopardize its historic characteristics, Blair said.

Housing Units Suggested For Powers-Jarvis Land

By Ron Ingram

Support for razing of the Powers-Jarvis Mansion and construction of a housing complex for low income and elderly persons was voiced Thursday night by Decatur Human Relations Commission members.

The commission did not vote or otherwise take any formal position, but Housing Committee Chairman Edward Stevens and Commission Chairman Levanter Robinson left little doubt about their feelings.

Robinson said he is sure many people who signed the petition to save the mansion as a historical landmark are not

aware of the critical housing shortage in Decatur.

Robinson said he feels nothing toward the old mansion. Each time he drives by it reminds him of slavery, he said, of the old mansions in the South.

Commission members agreed they should meet with the Decatur Zoning Board of Appeals and with the Macon County Historical Coordinating Council.

Robinson asked Charlie Jackson, community relations director, to arrange the meetings today so the commissioners' concerns could be made known to the groups involved.

Mansion A 'Potential' Historic Site

By Earl Merkel

The Powers-Jarvis Mansion has apparently been listed as a "potential" historical site since March 2, according to an official of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

John Patterson of the state Department of Conservation said that his office has on file letters from the National Park Service seeking "consideration" of the Decatur landmark for possible inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Sites.

"It's dated March 2," Patterson said, "and I would assume that to mean that the mansion has been determined to be a possible historical site since then."

As such, Patterson said, "it's my guess that it has been under the same protection as other 'potential' sites up for registry nomination since then."

Such "protection" includes a ban on demolition of the "potential" historic site without consulting the department, if the developer of the site receives federal funds.

However, Patterson said that his office had not received a formal application for consideration of the site's historic designation from any Decatur group.

A meeting of the department's advisory committee — which screens nominations of historic sites — is scheduled for March 19 and 20, he said.

But he added, "We usually require a month's notice to put an item before the advisory committee."

Thus, unless "it is a 'hurry-up,' or emergency, situation, I'd think the first meeting they could consider the Powers Mansion would be in June," he said.

The Oxford Group, an Indianapolis firm which proposes to raze the mansion and construct a housing complex for the elderly on the site, has announced it will delay its plans until the end of March while seeking an acceptable alternate site.

However, Patterson speculated that the "potential historic site" designation would delay any demolition work.

In other developments, the Community Cultural Council, the group seeking to preserve the mansion, officially changed its name Thursday to the Powers Community Cultural Council after receiving permission from a member of the Powers family.

A petition was filed Thursday with the U.S. Department of the Interior by the council seeking an "historic area" designation for a 20-block section of "old Decatur" surrounding the mansion.

Apartment Complex 3/30/76

Group Accepts Alternative Site

By Jan Gilarski

A 4.5-acre parcel of land on the city's north side has been selected by The Oxford Group as an acceptable alternate site for an apartment complex for the elderly and physically handicapped.

The firm's original plans called for building the complex on the site of the Powers-Jarvis Mansion, 357 W. Decatur St.

Oxford Vice President Sherwin Troy said today the new site plans are subject to approval by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IDHA), which loans money for construction of such projects.

Troy declined to identify a specific tract, only saying it was near Decatur Memorial Hospital.

"It is appropriately zoned and hopefully will accomplish what we propose to do," he said.

Troy said to make up for some time the firm has lost, the design of the complex will be the same as a project the firm is now building in Champaign.

If those plans are approved by IDHA, the project may be under construction this summer, Troy said.

The Champaign complex is three stories and has 156 apartments — 46 more than originally proposed for Decatur.

The site identified by Troy was the last of several sites he viewed during a visit to Decatur last week.

But Troy noted that if the site plans are not approved by

IDHA, the firm will proceed with its original plans to raze the Powers-Jarvis Mansion.

The Oxford Group decided to seek an alternate site after objections were voiced to the razing of the mansion and the question brought up as to whether the mansion could be protected from demolition because it is a "potential" historic site.

The state Department of Conservation has sent a letter to city officials advising that the mansion is "within the boundaries of a proposed National Register historic district," according to Bill Farrar, coordinator of the department's office of preservation services.

Farrar said today the letter is only an "opinion based on an inventory of the entire state."

The home's possible eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Sites would prevent another federal agency — in this case the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development — from jeopardizing its existence.

Charles Cherches, director of the city's department of community development, said today he would have to be satisfied the city would not violate any state or federal regulations before it would issue a demolition permit to the development firm.

"We are going to have to have a clear cut legal path to follow before taking any action," he said.

Cherches said he had not received the letter from the Department of Conservation as of this morning.

Which Is Which?

I was wondering about the large mansion on West Decatur Street known as the Oglesby Estate. I'm not quite sure of the name.

Could QUEST give some information as to how old it is and its history? — Mrs. Ronald Clapp, Decatur

The large residence on West Decatur Street is known as the Powers mansion. You have it confused with the Gov. Richard J. Oglesby home at 421 W. William St.

Construction of the Powers mansion was begun in 1909 and completed the next year. The cost was said to be \$83,000. It was built for Charles G. Powers, eldest son of Orlando Powers and one-time owner of the family's downtown real estate.

The Powers' called the home "Fleur-de-Lis," and it was formally opened in June of 1910 with a reception attended by about 200 persons. A lavish affair, the open house was one of the most elaborate parties ever given in Decatur. For the event, the Powers Opera House orchestra was stationed in the upper hall on the second floor and played all during the evening.

The Powers family ownership was ended when the home was mortgaged and subsequently lost to a Cleveland bank in a Florida land investment deal.

The owner then was a John F. Wieser of Cleveland, but he never occupied the home.

It next was sold to a J. P. Gobberdiel of Peoria in 1935. He returned it to Wieser in 1937 because his company required him to reside in Chicago.

The next owner was Sam D. Jarvis, an independent oil operator. The purchase was made in 1939 for an undisclosed sum.

Mr. Jarvis died in 1953, and the home was part of the estate inherited by his son Vernon D. Jarvis. The younger Jarvis occupied the 32-room mansion until 1961.

That year, Jarvis put the furnishings and the property on the auction block. Apparently, however, the sale was not completed because of low bidding. The highest bid was made by Jarvis' attorney and the property remained in Jarvis' hands.

The younger Jarvis died in 1965, and under terms of his will, his entire estate was put into a trust fund. Beneficiaries of the trust were listed as his five children.

In more recent years, an attempt to purchase the large mansion for use as a museum was made.

In 1969, a Decatur museum committee offered \$55,000 and later upped that to \$62,500, but both figures were rejected. The asking price was \$70,000, and a representative for the owners said they did not feel they could accept any lower price.

So, the home remains empty.



10/11/71

This is the Powers-Jarvis mansion on W. Decatur Street.



10/11/71

At 421 W. William St. is the Oglesby home.

Twenty Years Ago—1939

The residence at 357 West Decatur street, built 30 years previously by Charles M. Powers at a cost of about \$100,000 was purchased by Sam D. Jarvis, oil operator.

Rain had fallen every day for the last eight days and a total of 16 days for the month.

A crew of six state highway patrolmen arrested 14 in Decatur who had failed to secure their 1939 auto license plates.

New owners hope to restore the former Powers-Jarvis Mansion to its former grandeur.

Decatur Herald

Thurs, July 22, 1976

Dream Come True' for Dorseys

Area Family Buys Powers-Jarvis Mansion

By Joan F. Padden

A woman and James and Patsy Dorsey of Moweauqua have purchased the two-decked Powers-Jarvis Mansion at 557 W. Decatur St.

The Dorseys already have rolled up their sleeves and began the task of making the mansion their new home while restoring it to its former grandeur.

The stately 12-room home that was built in 1908 for Charles H. Powers has been admired by the town for more than 60 years.

Dorsey said when he first saw the house he said, "That's the house I'm going to buy."

"I was a blessing of God I got this house," Dorsey said. "The house was for sale at the right time and I feel it was meant to be. It means me why I bought it for so long."

"This house is less a fantasy or dream come true," Mrs. Dorsey said.

"We'll have no problem occupying the house," she said.

The Dorseys have four children: a son, daughters ages 17 and 15 and sons ages 14 and 12. They also have a 22-year-old grandchild.

She said there will be a bedroom for each of the children.

One of the remaining rooms upstairs will be dubbed "Pat's creative room," she said, for such activities as sewing and quilting.

The large rooms on the main floor will be filled with furniture and other items that Dorsey has collected for more than 20 years.

Mrs. Dorsey added they have some items that came from the

Powers Estate, such as a long sofa. "We never knew they would come back home," she said.

She added they are interested in buying furniture originally from the home.

The third floor, which was once a ballroom, will be "Jim's museum," Mrs. Dorsey said.

Portions of the basement will be used to house her husband's cars, as a recreation room for the children and to store canned goods, she said.

The Dorseys, who have lived in Moweauqua for 16½ years,

plan to move into their new home within a couple of weeks.

Dorsey says he is "just a factory worker" at the Decatur Caterpillar Tractor Co. plant. Mrs. Dorsey is an assistant activities director for the Eastern Star Home at Macon.

As luck would have it, Mrs. Dorsey said they purchased the home just as she and her husband began their two-week vacation, which enables them to get a fast start on making the home livable.

Immediate attention will be given to replacing broken win-

dows and redecorating the downstairs.

Mrs. Dorsey said she is seeking information on how the home was decorated in its earlier years.

Outside work will include repairing the bricks on the house and painting.

They hope to have the restoration complete by next summer.

"Normally when someone undertakes a big job like this, people say you must be crazy," Mrs. Dorsey said. "However, people have been giving us their blessings and say they hope everything turns out all right."

Historical Groups to Offer Help in Restoration Work

The presidents of two local historical groups have voiced excitement that the Powers-Jarvis Mansion has been purchased and will be used as a private home.

The home was purchased by James and Patsy Dorsey of Moweauqua on Friday.

"I'm thrilled it's going to be a private home," said Julia Meyer, president of Powers Community Cultural Center which was formed earlier this year to save the mansion.

She said a meeting will be sought with the new owners to find out how the group can be of assistance. She said the organization can help locate some of the original furniture and gather history on the home.

"We'd like to get the house back together, but it depends on how much help they (the new owners) want," she said.

Mrs. Meyer added the organization will have to meet and

decide what to do with the money raised so far in their own efforts to buy the mansion.

The group organized when it was proposed the home be razed and an apartment complex constructed there.

Mrs. Amelia Mulrooney, president of the Macon County Historical Coordinating Council, said, "I am very happy somebody is going to have it for a home."

Mrs. Mulrooney said her organization will offer its help "in any fashion."

"I'm glad the home is saved. Now the character of the neighborhood is going to be retained," she said.

She said the plan to raze the home made residents aware that part of their heritage was going to be destroyed.

"They got behind the project when they realized something old and fine was going down," she said. "Too few people realize the value of restoration."

"We want to make it into something we, as well as the community, can be proud of," she added.

"I hated to think of this place being torn down," Mrs. Dorsey said.

In February a plan was disclosed to raze the mansion and construct apartments for the elderly and physically handicapped.

However, The Oxford Group, a Indianapolis development firm, canceled its plans after citizens organized to save the mansion.

The Oxford Group found another location near Decatur Memorial Hospital to build the complex.

The mansion was purchased from Gene and Wayne Campbell for an undisclosed amount.

Wayne Campbell of Gene and Wayne Campbell's Real Estate, said, "We made an effort to find a buyer who would restore it to its original condition and make a home out of it."

Sun. H and R.

October 24, 1976

Powers Mansion

After pop's built the opera house what do you do for an encore?

If Charles Powers, son of Orlando, upstaged his dad, it was the Powers Mansion he built in 1909 that did it.

When the home's first occupants weren't idling winters away at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla. they were introducing grand scale lavishness to Decatur.

Depending on which sidewalk supervisor you talked to during its construction, you might learn the mansion cost anywhere from \$50,000 to well over \$100,000 to erect.

And well it might have when you counted four porches on a scale as large as 9 by 48 feet, an electric elevator, basement garage housing eight or nine vehicles, a sweeping mahogany staircase and copper cornices.

Glorious times revolved around the house as its owners introduced golf to the town, twirling clubs in a Johns Hill pasture, and Mrs. Powers' reputation waxed as a founder and patron of the Decatur Art Institute.

The carefully constructed dream came crashing down when the mansion was mortgaged and lost in a Florida land investment.

Latham native Sam D. Jarvis, the next long-term owner of the house with leaded glass bookcases and lion's head door knocker, bought it in 1939.

A street car operator and auto salesman, he eventually became an independent oil man

made wealthy by Southern Illinois oil discoveries.

Having once chauffeured a Latham banker in a 1909 White Steamer, Jarvis in later life built the Carriage Cavalcade museum of antique autos and horse-drawn carriages in Silver Spring, Fla.

The stately buff brick residence passed to his son Vernon upon Sam's death in Custer, S.D. in 1953 while attending rodeos.

Vernon's family occupied the mansion sporadically during the 1950s. Under clouded circumstances the family auctioned it and all its contents in 1961.

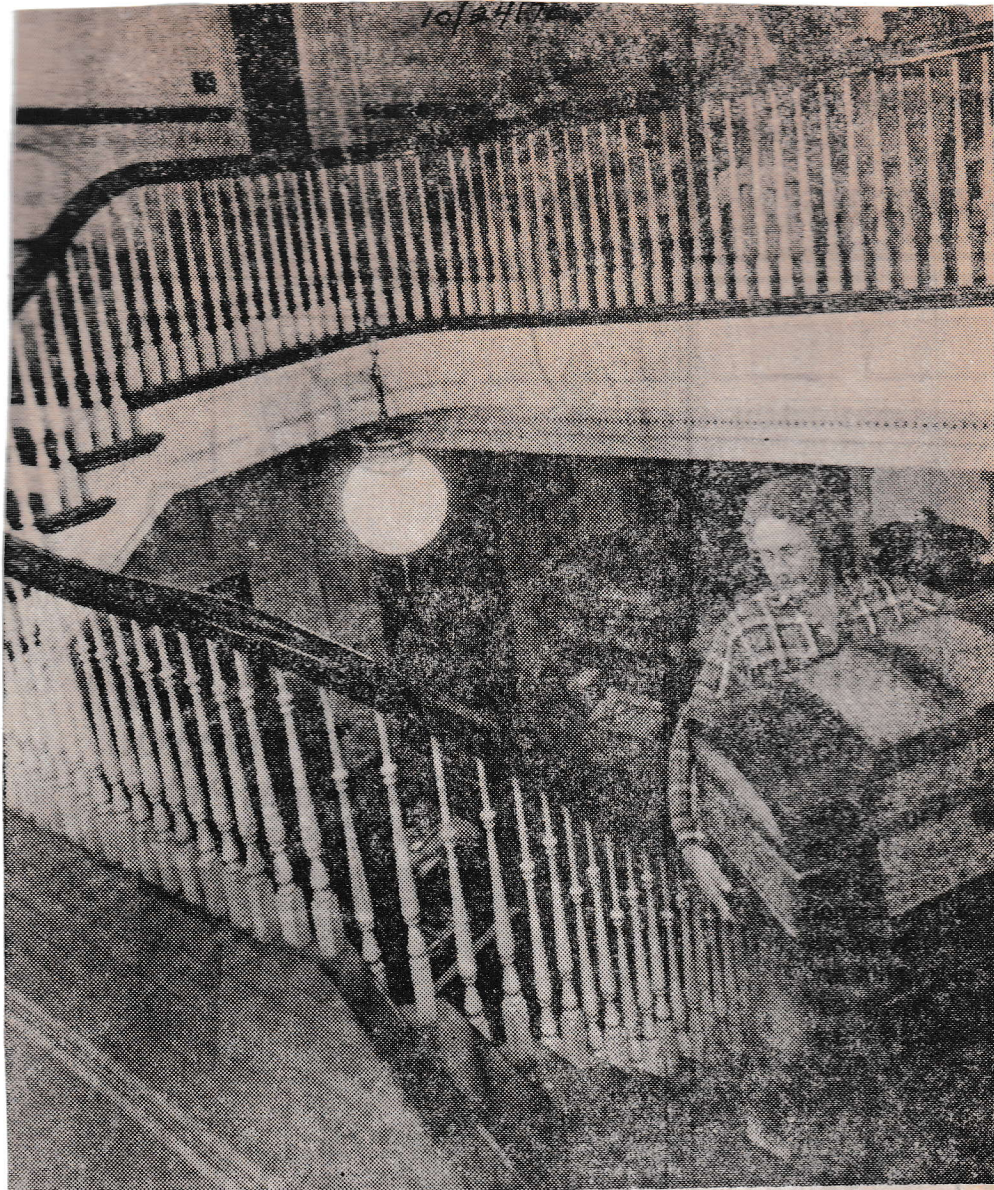
For 10 per cent down and the balance in 30 days, bidders could have Item 638 in the bidder's book. No one was willing to pay a price below the highest original building cost guesses, though.

(P. H. Sproat listed the building and grounds at a market price of about \$65,000 in 1959).

The week-long auction in the third floor banquet hall lured well-dressed buyers from the south and east coasts to bid on such items as an expensive diamond dinner-ring set.

In more recent years attempts to buy the fabled house for a museum and religious purposes failed as did plans to raze it for an apartment complex for elderly and handicapped.

Wayne and Gene Campbell and others purchased it in 1974, then sold it to Jim and Pat Dorsey in July.



Sun. Decatur H. & P.
10/24/76

EVEN IF IT is paradise, leaves still need raking at the Dorsey (alias Powers) Mansion, top. So owners Pat and Jim do groundskeeping duty like other folks.

THE PLUSH red dining room rug gets a vacuuming from Pat while Jim's mother Jennie Dorsey and a daughter relax, far

IT'S GO IT-YOURSELF in the kitchen, too. Daughter Sherry clears the stove and Susan fixes a tuna sandwich.

ANTIQUE don't magically appear in place in the period mansion either. Fin angles around and a treasure trunk in the grand staircase leading to the second floor bed-



Landmark Bought as Promise-Come-True

By Ruth Heckathorn

No one paved paradise.
No one put up a parking lot.

So Jim Dorsey in red plaid flannel shirt and jeans pads at will through his dining room.

His East Indian mahogany-beamed dining room with 11½-foot ceiling.

And Pat Dorsey wanders in a backyard sunken garden rimmed by pines.

Simply because no one got around to paving paradise with a parking lot.

The Dorseys and their children, you see, call the Powers-Jarvis Mansion at 357 W. Decatur St. home.

It's a matter of distinctly non-receiving-room-type people in perhaps the most pretentious of Decatur dwellings, a landmark abandoned to windowpeepers and picturesnappers.

Empty since 1965, the structure has gone strictly private and, for the curious, that takes some getting used to.

Is there anyone in Decatur who hasn't tiptoed across its four porches and squinted into the dark interior?

Is there a soul who under the spell of its spent elegance hasn't heard in his mind's ear the strains of the opera orchestra that played for the 1910 grand opening of the mansion called *Flour-de-Lis*?

Or imagined the splendor of that evening, the palm garden

Decorated Sunday Herald and Review
10/20/77

Women's Scene

Section 3

and fairland of colored electric lights?

Visitors still come, the Dorseys have discovered, ever since they moved from Mo-weaqua during the summer.

"Sometimes Saturdays consist of nothing in the world but people coming," says Pat.

"Honestly, you'd never believe how many people come peeping in the windows and trying to open the door."

They're genuinely interested, she knows, and the hollered 'Hey, lady, I like your house' does buoy spirits momentarily laid low by the awesome task of making livable what some say are 13 and others insist are 32 rooms. Dorsey says 18.

"This house has plenty of noises if you want to get spooked," says Dorsey. The ticking of grandfather clocks, acorns pelting tile roof and copper guttering.

ones, Dorsey fills the lot of a Caterpillar tractor. On one lot containing two antiques, "I've got it all on me and her I don't tell anyone your dad has dolls," he admonishes a year-old Susan.

His liking for more space than an eight-room country home with lake in rural Mo-weaqua could offer made the mansion appealing, too.

He has bigness now, 63 windows and 22 outside doors worth of bigness.

"You have to be half crazy," Mrs. Dorsey says.

Maybe even that helps when you tackle repairs, many the result of "souvenir" hunting expeditions.

Window panes had to be replaced. And every light fixture, too. The summer breakfast porch screen was in shreds and walls were scribbled.

An ornamental pillar has topped in the front yard, 63 front railing turnpieces are gone.

"The worst thing missing and I'd give a reward to get it back is a wrought iron lantern," says Dorsey, explaining it matches another fixture that remains.

Then there's the porch brickwork to redo and scraping paint from mahogany trim in front entry, living and music rooms.

"It doesn't look like we're getting much done, but there are 24 hours to a day and we both work," says Dorsey, a little papering and painting.

"When we get discouraged I pray to God for someone to come around and encourage us. If we hang on and have patience it'll all take place."

The red carpet in the dining room's a start. There'll be matching red curtains and lots more.

Eventually Pat may quit her job as assistant activities director of the Eastern Star Home in Macon to speed the restoration.

"We thought maybe we were even out of place in talking about buying it. It's almost a magic story," says Pat.

It began as a whim of Jim's.

"Now that's the home I'm going to buy for you," he exclaimed as they drove by as newlyweds.

The feeling never left.

"For two cents I'd just go up and buy the Powers Mansion to make Jim happy," Pat said more than 20 years later.

They wanted the house. But all that work!

"We decided it was the basic thing you'd do anyway, paint and paper," he says.

"We prayed about it. We felt it was God's will we should come up here."

Even paradise can use a little papering and painting.

