

From the Fishburn Archives

The Paving of Dow

By Carolyn Elwess
Special to *The Luminary*

As Parkville currently explores a community improvement district, it's always good to sit back and read about the far simpler times.

The following article appeared in the September, 1930 Park Alumnial and was considered important enough to be front page news.

The piece was written by Dr. Howard A. Dean, class of 1897, who wore many hats. He was professor of Chemistry, a fine local photographer, secretary of the Alumni Association, editor of its magazine, an elder in the Presbyterian Church and also served several years as Mayor of Parkville. It is no wonder he was a life-long bachelor -- he was a busy man!

PARKVILLE CHANGES DURING THE SUMMER

"Usually when school closes the little town of Parkville folds itself up for a season of dead quiet with little more exciting than scratching its chiggers and nursing its outbreaks of poison ivy. The chief occupation was scraping off the mud if it rained or striving to negotiate the dust when the wind swept it into the air from the streets. Not so the past summer.

On April 1st the populace voted itself a bond issue of \$20,000 for street improvement. By June, the necessary routine had been negotiated and the machinery oiled for action. Such a tearing up of as the old town has not seen in twenty years was begun.

Many were the complaints as homes were rendered inaccessible, streets blockaded and traffic stopped, while scarifier, steam shovel and paver held the right of way. Direful were the visions of a long drawn out disturbance and possibility of a winter of torn up streets and inconvenience. But not so, for modern methods and machinery had to be reckoned with. The work went through on schedule time and by July 19, the work was completed.

On August 8th and 9th the town of Parkville celebrated the opening of the streets

for traffic with a dance at the south end of Main Street. Such a numerous crowd gathered as the old town has not welcomed for a long time.

Meanwhile, another improvement broke out and resulted in the erection of a fine modern garage which is located on the east side of Main where the old building of the Park Bank once stood. (the building still stands at 2nd and Main).

Parkville now has its Main Street paved from the railroad tracks to the intersection with the state highway at the north city limits and Mill Street paved from Main Street to the west city limits.

If you visit the town now you can negotiate the streets without fear of being stuck in the mud or choked by dust. Mr. Robert Hauetter can take care of your car in his spacious new steam heated garage and since the state highway is now complete from Kansas City to St. Joseph through Parkville you can come and go in all kinds of weather.

With the state highway passing over East Street with its heavy traffic, the summer solitude seems to be forever broken."