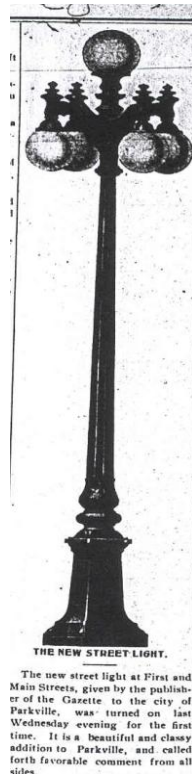


ANOTHER CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

I am often asked if I have any photos of the light pole that used to stand in the intersection of First and Main Streets and if I know when it was installed and when it was removed. I can answer two of those questions in the affirmative.

While looking for something else, I came across this notice in the August 20, 1914 *Platte County Gazette*.



The text reads: “The new street light at First and Main Streets, given by the publisher of the Gazette (J.P. Tucker) to the city of Parkville, was turned on last Wednesday evening for the first time. It is a beautiful and classy addition to Parkville and called forth favorable comment from all sides.”

For many years, at the end of Rush Week, members of Park’s brother-sister clubs would race to the intersection; the first person to touch the light pole claimed it as the property of his or her club and decorated it with the club banner. Then, accompanied by the school band, all would join hands and march around in a circle in the middle of the street while singing club songs. In case you are having a hard time picturing that event, here’s a photo to prove it! The street light is on the left.



I was reminded of the old light when I read the notice that a new street clock will be placed in the triangle at Highway 9 and East streets. What a wonderful improvement! Now, if we could just put the street lamp back in the middle of Main Street, perhaps drivers would actually come to a halt at the big red stop sign at FF and Main.



The question I can't answer is exactly when the lamp was removed. I recall that the concrete base was still there when I was a student at Park in the late sixties. Does anyone know the answer?

Carolyn McHenry Elwess, '71
Park University Archivist
For the Parkville Luminary