

MUNICIPALITIES

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY



(page 1 of 19)

top illustration:
Manatvs gelegen op de Noot Riuier (Manhattan) (1639)
Vinckeboons, Joan (creator)
Includes index of buildings with householders' names
Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA
Call # G3291.S12 coll .H3
Digital ID <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g3804n.ct000050>
<https://lccn.loc.gov/97683586>

As for the cities and boroughs—by royal charters or by the usurpation of small self-elected bodies of burgesses—the choice of members had fallen into the hands of town councils and neighbouring landowners. The anomalous system of close and nomination boroughs which had arisen thus early in English history, was suffered to continue without a check for 400 years as a notorious blot upon a free constitution.

Benton, William (publisher).
Parliament (page 315-1)
Encyclopaedia Britannica (Volume 17: P to Planti)
Chicago/ London/ Toronto: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. (c.1929-1957)

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historical records of US Congress

Dartmouth v Woodward
US Supreme Court (1819)
0.6 mb



Municipal corporation laws of England
Arnold, T.J. (1875)
18.2 mb



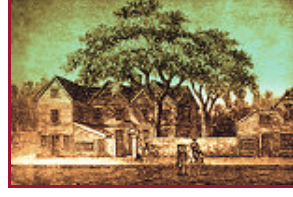
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Baldwin, J. The Mayor. in Wonderful Piper. in Baldwin's Readers, Third Year (1897)
Lund, A.G. Stuyvesant and counsel prepare New York charter 1652. www.digitalgallery.npl.org
Thwing, A.H. Hancock Tavern. in The crooked & narrow streets and alleys of the town of Boston 1635-1822 (1920) [ibid. Liberty Tree](http://www.libertytree.com)
Sanford, J. 1828 copy 1735 plan of New York, detail. www.georgeglazer.com

When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe
Thomas Jefferson (1787)

A genuine quotation slightly altered from the original, which reads: I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries; as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America
When they get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe
Jefferson to James Madison, December 20, 1787, in PTJ, 12:442
http://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/chain-email-10-jefferson-quotations#footnote1_86865q1

Jefferson
quotations from the works of Jefferson
and scenes from places named Jefferson
The thumb is a mural at Library of Congress



Municipalities in pdf format
19 pages



The United States got its cities from England. England got her cities from the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire acquired cities by conquest; and where there were no cities, the Empire established them.

The Roman Empire was a giant machine. It was a tax machine and a piece of very heavy equipment. It borrowed money to bulldoze forward to increase the territory over which it had a monopoly on trade. It then levied taxes on the people it conquered to service the loans.

As the empire grew in size, the administration of it became increasingly difficult. Local governors hooked up with local leaders to cheat and defy Rome. Local commoners usually preferred to speak their own language, socialize with their own people, and practice their own religion. When the Empire was about to break out into its parts and Rome would lose all its power to tax and spend, Rome saw the potential of the Christian phenomenon to perpetuate its greatness. Rome allowed the Empire to break out into principalities and kingdoms after it imposed a unifying religion on all its parts. The religion conferred the absolute power of God on kings and princes to. Each became a big fish in a little pond, in contrast to Roman Emperors, who'd been giant fish in big oceans.

Rome had collected taxes on the principle that Might Is Right. Petty princes collected taxes on the principle that everything on earth is God's property. People inhabit the earth and get a living from it only by God's favor. God costs. The people paid a hefty tax to king and another hefty tax to priests.

Rome chartered cities to be tax collection centers for the surrounding countryside. The story of Jesus's birth incorporates the practice. Most production occurred on surrounding farms. City charters included a small amount of land and established a council to develop the land into homes for tax collectors and shops for the craftsmen who served them. The city council held title to the land, and also the delegated powers of their king, and all other city inhabitants were tenants and subjects of the city council.

The money to pay taxes comes from the sale of agricultural products and a few handmade items. No matter how hard an entrepreneur works and no matter how clever he is in his career as a trader, he will eventually come up against the basics of human nature. Workers want to be paid the maximum for their services. Customers want to be charged the least for the products they want. Eventually profit margins dwindle to a dismaying near zero; and the taxman finds it difficult to extract tax revenues from the countryside.

The entrepreneur relies on an ever-increasing amount of productivity and an ever-enlarging customer base to eke out a few points of profit between the debit and credit side of his ledger.

The taxman must increase the area he taxes to make his revenue what he wants it to be. It's difficult to increase the area because every small jurisdiction is bounded by other small jurisdictions that don't want to relinquish any of their territory.

Thus began the growth of cities. Cities segued from being small tax collection centers to being giant conglomerations of taxable people. Cities satisfied the taxman's lust for gelt, and the people of the countryside got to keep a little more of what they made.

Europe colonized the Americas when its own cities were still relatively small. European monarchs and the governors they appointed to the colonies issued charters to create the first American cities. New York and Boston are among the first American cities. New York and Boston were the starting points for the westward migration of colonists and of the citizens of the new United States.

Making cities seemed normal. Making cities with councils that exerted the delegated absolute powers of King and God also seemed normal. Councilmen as the owners and landlords of all real estate within the chartered limits of a city also seemed normal. Unfortunately for them, the democratic government of the United States had no power to delegate the absolute powers of King and God to anyone else because its officials had none of their own. Furthermore, the laws that the democratic government enacted for the survey and sale of the soil they ransomed from monarchy and made free by the Revolutionary War didn't provide for the chartering or creation of cities. The land was divided into farm-sized homesteads.

English kings had also chartered colleges in the colonies. The charters were like municipal corporation charters. They granted a certain amount of land and established a governing body to run the school and manage the land. When the state of New Hampshire tried to take control of Dartmouth College to get the wealth and power of it, a legal battle ensued, which the trustees of the college eventually won at the Supreme Court level. One of the lawyers inserted a comment about municipal charters in his arguments, and there the facts of US municipal charters have languished ever since.

Massachusetts didn't declare itself a state at the time of the American Revolution as Jefferson and the Continental Congress advised. Massachusetts didn't make itself a state in large part so that Massachusetts bigwigs could perpetuate the royal powers their royal colonial charter gave them. Massachusetts delayed adopting a constitution that would clarify the status of the Boston Town Council. Though the powers of the Council should have been limited to the lots and buildings on the small amount of land described in the royal charter, quite obviously, the Boston Town Council extended its royal dominion over the ever-increasing extent of the city, while the Massachusetts legislature looked the other way.

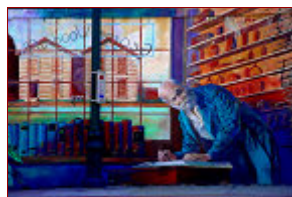
The same thing happened in New York state regarding New York city.

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top illustration:
Exterior view, front (east) elevation. Cardiff Town Hall. Old County Road 109
Birmingham Industrial District. Cardiff, Jefferson County, Alabama
HABS AL-972 (after 1933)
Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
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historical records of US Congress

US real estate documents & data 1774-1850
(includes 1785 Ordinance for the Survey and Sale of Land
and 1787 Ordinance for the government of the Northwest Territory)



Corporation of Town of Detroit 1802-1805
Burton, CM & Detroit Trustees (1922)
2.2 mb



Thumbs:

A sod house in North Dakota (1882). found at lccn.loc.gov/2013646067
Plan of Detroit 1831 Library of Congress Maps item ASP 10604. American State Papers: Public Lands

Europeans had been acclimated to the cities of Empire and Monarchy for thousands of years. To common people, mayors and councilmen were kings. Local police were the kings' men, who saw themselves as The Three Musketeers, all for one and one for all. The homes of common townspeople were apartments in the kings' apartment buildings. They owed the councilmen rent and had to abide by the terms of their leases.

The legalities of property ownership and rights in monarchy didn't, or shouldn't have leaped over the chasm that separates monarchy from democracy. But, upwardly mobile and greedy people weren't going to set straight the common people of the new US. Even today, urbanites, suburbanites and country townfolk suffer gross misperceptions regarding their personal and property rights in relation to their municipal governments.

A cadre of status- and wealth-seekers migrated west from the East Coast. They and their agents established monarchical towns and cities everywhere they went. When the US Constitution and laws served their purposes, they enforced them. When the nation's laws thwarted their plans, they violated the laws with wanton disregard. Then, as now, common people had some sense of right and wrong, but they didn't read law and have licenses to practice law. They were helpless.

The 1785 Ordinance for the survey and sale of the Northwest Territory didn't provide for the survey of town lots. The 1787 Ordinance for the temporary government of the Northwest Territory and its division into states didn't provide for the establishment of towns and the granting of town charters. When government officials of territories and new states granted town and city charters, they plucked the power out of thin air. It didn't exist in law.

The 1787 Ordinance said only that the temporary government of the territory should adopt the laws of one of the original states until it could get a legislature up and running.

Territorial governors adopted the laws of a state that allowed for the chartering of corporations to serve the best interests of the people. The intent was private corporations that supported themselves with fees paid by voluntary customers. The corporations had no power over the property and persons of their customers, let alone of people who chose to not buy their services and products.

Nonetheless, territorial governors seized on the existence of the town of Detroit to charter a town. Royal England had acquired Detroit from royal France; and the US acquired the town from England, including all its monarchical baggage.

Detroit reveals a page in the play book of the robber baron's game. One of their plays has always been to get in on the ground floor and create precedents. Most people assume the precedents are legal; and any wrongs the precedents establish are a done-deal that can't be un-done. Humans waste their time and intelligence on manipulating corrupt systems instead of eliminating them. A similar mind-set prevails when people choose to play games at casinos instead of working harder and controlling their greed.

In the early 1900s, an Illinois judge ruled that the Chicago Water Department has all the attributes of a private corporation, therefore it is a private corporation and must be treated as such. Chicago property owners pay a separate fee for their water. Recently, the Water Department offered to install meters in personal residences like it has always installed in commercial buildings so that the customer pays for only the water he uses. Unfortunately, the Water Department is the source of many jobs and lucrative contracts to private contractors and their employees. Aldermen have blown off the autonomous, private corporation status of the Water Department. The Water Department can be a spendthrift because the aldermen levy taxes to give the department a blank check for the difference between what it earns and what it spends.

Cities are private, for-profit corporations. They make a profit for their investors, the entities that buy municipal bonds. They serve the personal financial interests of municipal employees, contractors, and other beneficiaries at the expense of taxpayers who don't want all the services they're forced to pay for and usually don't get full value from what they do want.

When, at the beginning of a US city's history, real estate speculators owned all the land and held it off the market until they could make a windfall profit, property owners could be considered stockholders in the city. The many small property owners who purchased lots from the speculators aren't stockholders in the municipal corporation. If they were stockholders, they wouldn't be responsible for the corporation's debt, they would merely lose their investment if the city defaulted on its financial obligations.

Nonetheless, the majority of city employees, contractors, beneficiaries, and investors get paid out of a tax on landed property. Collection of the tax depends on a magical lien on privately-owned properties within the city boundaries. The magical lien is enforced with the same rigor and cruelty as the real liens property owners agree to when they sign contracts for loans with private banking corporations. Property owners sign nothing to create the liens from which municipal profiteers get their power and wealth.

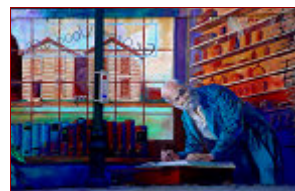
Thus, when wealthy landowners gave up their large colonial estates after the revolution, they seem to have done so less because of an unwillingness to pay a property tax on their large estates and more because of a promise that new state governments would make up for the rental income they'd lose by instituting a system of debt and taxation in which they could invest. The new system gave them easy money and lifted many burdens from their shoulders.

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top illustration:
Jefferson Street Tunnel. Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad; Norfolk & Western Railway main line. Lynchburg (VA)
Photo 1 of 3. HAER VA-9 / Jack E. Boucher (creator/ photographer) (1971 April)

Early rough cut stone railroad tunnel built approx. 1870 or earlier.

Call # HAER VA,16-LYNBU,10—1
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US founders provided for their own capitol city in the 1787 Constitution. In the early 1800s, the US Congress occasionally caved to pressure from the barons and chartered a city here and there. When the barons requested a charter for a town at Chicago in a joint petition with their colleagues in St. Mark's, Florida, Congress denied Chicago, but followed through on St. Mark's.

Robber barons turned to state legislatures to acquire municipal charters. Chicago's first charter was a town charter. It was a doozy of a reprise of medieval life. In old Europe, the barons got their road work done by conscripting peasants and serfs on their estates. In old Chicago, city fathers wrote themselves a charter that conscripted tenants of the few boarding houses that were Chicago at the time.

The handful of boarders were most of Chicago's inhabitants. They weren't qualified to petition the state for a town charter. Chicago founders had duped their tenants into signing the petition for the charter that enslaved them. Somebody noticed that there was a problem. Though Chicago was far too tiny to be a city, the robber barons petitioned the state for a city charter. Chicago's first city charter eliminated the provision for mandatory road work. In this way, grandiose city fathers covered their rumps; but they couldn't control their compulsion to dominate. Their compulsion permeates every part of city government.

It is a sad fact of life that many people who consider themselves qualified to control other people have the least ability to control themselves. They'd have nothing if they didn't jack up others to get everything.

The financial plan of the colonies had been to extract as much raw material as possible from the colonies, ship it overseas to be converted to finished goods in the homeland and other colonies, and then ship the finished goods back to the colonies. Colonial entrepreneurs weren't encouraged to develop competing industries in the colonies.

US founders perpetuated the colonial plan for several reasons. One reason was that they could levy a tax on imports that was consistent with democratic principles, because it was a voluntary tax. Americans could choose to buy or not buy imported manufactured goods.

Because the point spread is small in foreign trade, and the new government wished to collect the largest amount of tax revenue possible, the goal of the leaders of the new nation was quantity. They wanted to get as much product out and as much in as possible.

Therefore, the state and national governments embarked on the building of a vast network of roads upon which to haul the goods. They started by dredging and improving existing rivers because waterways were the traditional highways of Europe. They then dug canals between waterways to increase and expedite the reach of commerce. Waterways freeze in winter and can't carry goods. The invention of railroad steam engines was a God-send to entrepreneurs and tax collectors. Congress eliminated the import tax on everything needed to build railroads. Congress processed many petitions for grants of land upon which entrepreneurs could build railroads. The robber barons were up and running.

The land grants included land on either side of the proposed route, usually the width of a mile for the entire length of the railroad. The argument for Congress's generosity to the barons was that the money they got from selling the land would cover the costs of building the railroad.

When modern Americans drive into rural America, they see a series of grain elevators at the side of a track and a small, mid-sized, or large town spread around it. Robber barons, aka railroad barons, were also real estate speculators, and known as 'monopolists'. The barons owned and sold the land on which the small businesses and residences of townspeople were built. The barons managed sales judiciously. They sold a small number of lots to a few complicit people who then petitioned the state legislature for a town charter. After the charter was in place and a hand-picked town council up and running, the barons sold the remainder of land to innocent people who were helpless to protect themselves from municipal offenses.

Town charters gave complicit officials the power to spend, incur debt, and levy taxes to service the debts. The debts gave the barons something in which to invest, and taxes provided them with interest income on their investments. Town inhabitants bought and paid for absolute ownership of their lots and the improvements on them, but you'd never know it by the additional powers town officials exerted to harass and intimidate inhabitants day after day. The pages of the barons' playbook are the history of all, or almost all, American towns and cities. The barons weren't original thinkers. They merely copied the game plan of the old Roman Empire.

The barons sold the remainder of land along railroads to farmers. The federal government surveyed and sold farmland in the vast heartland beyond the railroads. The farmers bought pie-in-the-sky dreams and expectations of wealth when they bought the land. The economic booms that encouraged farmers to buy more land than they could afford in the long-term and the economic busts that deprived farmers of all that they owned are a well-known feature of US history. There was always a baron or shark ready to loan farmers money they couldn't pay back.

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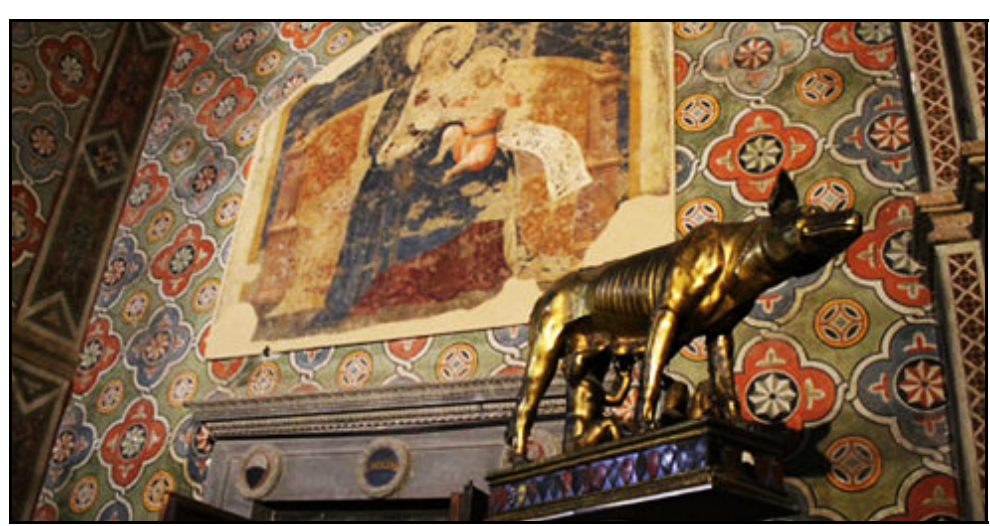
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top illustration:
Fresco of Our Lady, Palazzo Pubblico (City Hall), Siena, Tuscany, Italy
Lorenzetti, Ambrogio (painter) (1338-1339)
www.discovertuscany.com/siena/what-to-do/museo-civico-siena.html

The portrait of Our Lady seems to be entirely religious, but it warns government to act with humility and justice
Mary says, I will answer your prayers, but if the strong molest the weak, your prayers will go unheeded
www.burtwolf.com/program-blog/tt-607

The Guelphs, a German tribe, commissioned frescoes about good and bad government when they ruled Siena in the 1300s
In bad government, dishonest public officials, pride, greed, mismanagement, and special interests
bring tragedy to the city and countryside. In a well-governed city, life is peaceful and work progresses

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detail of the Tyrant in the Allegory of Bad Government
www.poderesantapia.com/images/art/ambrogio Lorenzetti/allegoryofgoodgovdet1700.jpg



Effects of Bad Government on City Life
www.poderesantapia.com/images/art/albadgovernment700.jpg



Farmers wage war and destroy the countryside
thepeasantandthepriest.com/fresco/full/evilcity_countryside.jpg

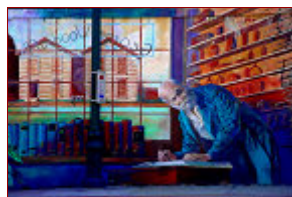


Under good government, commerce thrives, laborers keep buildings in good repair and girls dance in the street.
classconnection.s3.amazonaws.com/6/flashcards/3604006/png/untitled18-140BC80AFE44E4EE7F.png



Under good government, fields flourish and farmers produce much food for the city
thepeasantandthepriest.com/fresco/full/good_countryside.jpg

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As soon as the American Revolution ended, a young German entrepreneur named John Jacob Astor traveled to New York city, in the new nation with a pack full of small musical instruments. He'd been staying with an older brother in London who had a piano company. He would be staying with an older brother in New York who had a butcher shop. He'd heard that money could be made buying beaver pelts from the Amerindians. Astor expected to convert the musical instruments to cash and start buying pelts.

He traveled up through the areas where pelts had been traded since the 1600s, and continued north into Canada, where he lived the dream of rugged outdoorsmen. He rode with French voyageurs and with Amerindians through their hunting grounds and trading posts. He got into the Great Lakes and as far as Chicago.

It's almost certain that when US officials scheduled a big treaty in Greenville, Ohio in 1795, an odd provision in it originated in Astor's mind. Though Greenville, Ohio is far from Chicago, Illinois and no Indian tribe inhabited the stinking bog that spread around the mouth of the Chicago River at Lake Michigan, US officials located a tribal leader willing to claim dominion to a 6-mile-square tract and sign it over to the Americans.

The Americans built a fort over an old French trading post and traded furs for other goods to while away the time until the robber barons could get Chicago up and running. By this time, Astor had gotten across the Mississippi and extended his fur business to the Missouri River, as well as around Panama and over to Oregon. Then he quit and left the business to others so he could devote full-time to buying New York real estate low from farmers and selling it high to new urbanites as the city expanded and spread up its rivers.

The robber barons wanted Chicago to be a big transportation hub in world trade. When an Army engineer arrived to reverse the flow of the Chicago River and begin work on the harbor, he was shocked to discover the location of the 6-mile-square. The area where the Calumet River emptied into Lake Michigan was much better for a harbor. We might never know who made the mistake, the Americans or the Indians, but Chicagoans are stuck with it still.

Some Indians took offense and delayed the survey and sale of all land that would be located in the future city of Chicago. By the mid-1830s they'd worked out their differences and land went on market. The robber barons did a double-play. First they bid up the price of the land far beyond the ability of anyone to pay. Speculators who were outside, rather than inside traders, bought it, defaulted on the loans they took out to buy it, and wound up bankrupting the entire nation. Banks crashed all around. Then the inside traders were able to buy the land cheap.

They held most of the land off the market from the mid-1830s to the early 1920s. They pulled their usual get-in-on-the-ground-floor stunts. They started with a half-mile rectangle of land, acquired another square mile of land, and established a city government with immense powers before there was anyone to govern. They began to acquire the remainder of the 6-mile square treaty land and they picked up pieces of surrounding 6-mile-square townships. In the 1880s, they made a big move and annexed most of the 6 1/2 townships that disappeared to make the Chicago of today.

In the 1830s they used their influence on the Illinois General Assembly to get a law to establish a tax on landed property state-wide. There wasn't anyone in Chicago to know their rights one way or the other. Downstate farmers had original patents signed by US presidents. They knew their property rights. They protested and the law was revoked. Nonetheless, the damage was done. A precedent had been established that a state legislature can enact a tax on landed property to be collected by county officials.

Downstate farmers tend to work cooperatively with Chicago officials for their mutual benefit. If downstate farmers hadn't gotten the property tax revoked, Chicago speculators would have been stuck paying it while they held most of Chicago real estate off the market.

Though the big plan for the US was to extract as much vegetable wealth from the soil as possible and ship it overseas to get the money to buy imported manufactured goods and pay the tax on them, real estate speculators had a lot of land to unload for a profit and needed fools to buy it.

Americans could buy land direct from the US government. They didn't have to pass through Chicago and other city speculators. They didn't have to buy tiny lots on which you can't raise a family like a family should be raised.

The only option for speculators was to build factories, lobby for immigration laws in total defiance of the 1787 US Constitution and other considerations, and sell the little lots at high prices to their low-paid industrial slaves. Domestic industry finally developed.

Now, in the post-industrial age, we know that industrialization was an aberration in the barons' plans for the US. Industrialization got first mortgages on the lots and houses. Thereafter, factories were unnecessary. The barons could make more money perpetuating mortgages on houses forever, marketing imports, and expanding the debt-financing on purchases.

Stable neighborhoods were a threat to the plan because, sooner or later, even the lowest paid person can pay off his mortgage and live rent free forever after, passing his home down through the generations of his family. The barons brought in wave after wave of incompatible foreigners to bust every block in established neighborhoods and force the pre-existing population out to the ever-expanding suburbs where the barons also had interests.

Downstate Illinois farmers didn't mind. Theoretically, every nation on earth should be able to feed itself instead of paying through the nose for imported food. The bigger a US city's imported population, the bigger the domestic market for farmers.

The original states had once been private for-profit corporations granted to European nobility. The US organized after the revolution to retain the status in practice, though not in name. To organize all the states so they could be profitable to foreign as well as domestic barons, gave government officials a commodity to sell locally as well as on the world market. States are big and only a few entities can afford them.

Cities are smaller and can be marketed more easily. In the realm of education, when children don't learn because teachers think they're stupid, the problem is called 'self-fulfilling prophesy'. Urban problems are similar. Because US municipal bonds are sold all over the nation and world to people who don't inhabit the cities in which they invest, people with clout encourage urban problems because they lead to more debt, more taxes, more kickbacks from contractors, and more interest income for investors.

Cities aren't self-fulfilling prophesies. They're self-fulfilling cash cows. If schools were appropriate for the education of children, they'd quickly become obsolete. Educated parents don't need schools to educate their children. Ignorant immigrant parents have needed schools in the past. Now, the television and PC can do all the teaching their children need, making schools obsolete once again. If the king's men in US cities did what police are paid to do, they'd become obsolete even faster than teachers, and certainly less numerous and expensive.

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top illustration:
Indian at the bus stop
Grant Park, Michigan at Randolph, Chicago, Illinois

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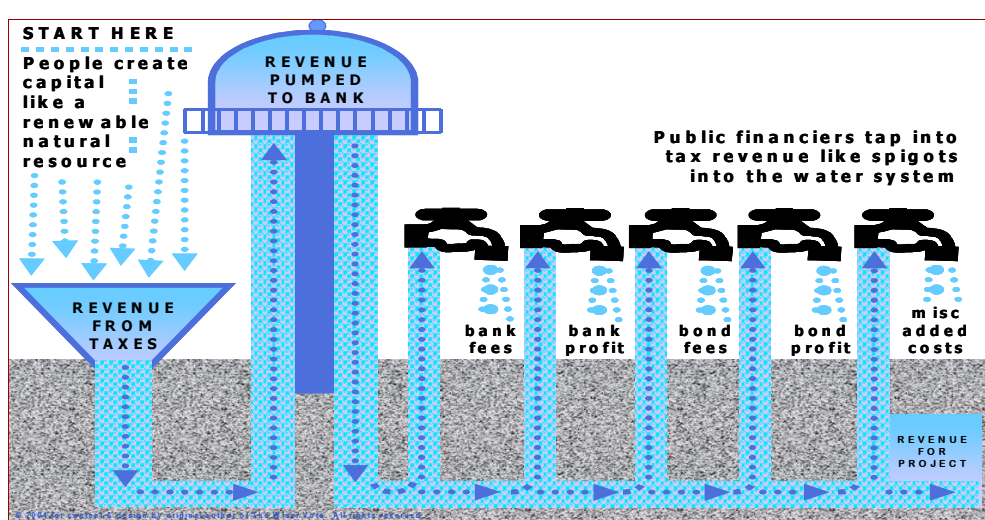
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In 2004-2005, I wanted to illustrate my understanding of municipal bonds and public finance generally with a picture of a water tower, including how the water got in and where the water flowed when it left the tank. Where the water flows when it leaves the tank is important. Government employees are forever complaining that they're underpaid, though most get more and do less in the public sector than they would in the private sector. However, though government employees are the excuse for taxes, a long list of private professionals take a cut of tax revenues and government employees get only what's left.

I went out to take pictures of water tanks as models for the graphic. Taking photos of water tanks filled my life for a year. On too many occasions, I got to a water tank just before it and the factory it sat on were demolished. I found this out because I'd failed to write down identifying information the first months I took pictures. Several tanks were gone when I went back to get the name and address of the factory. It turns out Chicago officials were also interested in water towers. Chicago officials are forever looking for excuses to impose more taxes on residents and use the revenue to reward friends and buy votes. They awarded grants to Chicago's much-compromised community of artists to paint the few towers that survived. Hey. The rent on lofts is high; and most common people can't afford to buy original paintings.

I got interested in public finance because when I was fired in retaliation for blowing the whistle on Chicago Public School violations of the rights of students and parents, the executives of three multi-national banks sat on the Board, as well as the founder of a neighborhood bank, a woman who described herself as a public financier and had a home in France as well as a North Shore suburb. The other two board members were an immigrant South Asian doctor involved in an HMO that got paid out of tax revenues but put its own name on the titles of the buildings it bought with tax money. Charter school corporations do the same. Last but not least, a former public relations officer of a national garbage recycling corporation who was Mayor Daley's Gal Friday. Everything's all about image, spin, and false narratives.

INFLATION UP. INDUSTRIALS DOWN

part a, 9.7 mb

part b, 12.4 mb

part c, 10.5 mb

part d, 14.9 mb

part e, 27.8 mb

part f, 33.0 mb

part g, 13.0 mb

part h, 15.5 mb

part i, 32.9 mb

part j, 4.6 mb

part k, 9.8 mb

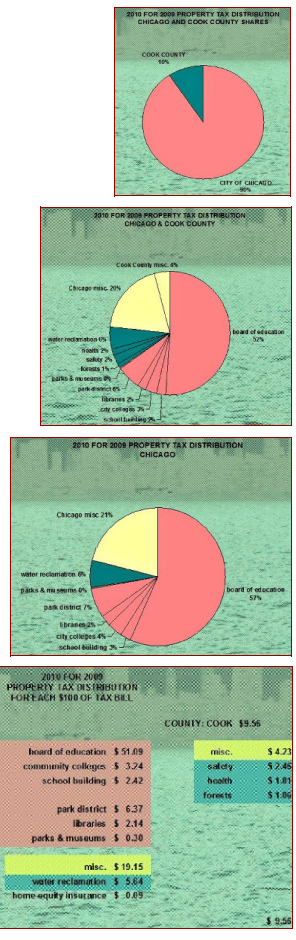
part l, 27.3 mb

Part L explains how to figure out your neighbor's Cook County property index number
The Assessor's website also allows you to enter an address to get the PINs you want
When you have the PINs, you can figure out if the CCRDP is or isn't buying a particular neighbor's vote with fraudulent tax breaks

Graphs of 2009 property tax billed in 2010

When the internet bubble burst in the late 1990s, many investors moved funds into municipal bonds. Fund managers who did so included those who manage endowment funds of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. They saw the bubble-burst coming and moved university money before any of it was lost. Thus, a typical low-income homeowner in the hinterlands of Chicago is being hit up for the pricey educations of intellectual and social elites. It should be obvious to all that the inflation of the values of deteriorating old Chicago houses was fraudulent and that it was engineered to maintain the wealth of the wealthy.

A researcher who studied the property tax pie nationwide saw that education is getting an increasing cut. By 2000 it exceeded 50%. Cook County tries to obscure the fact by breaking out the total cost into line items: school operating costs and school construction, some of both of which are redundant to parks and park construction, libraries and library construction. In this way, Chicago property owners and renters finance jobs for construction contractors and laborers, many of whom live in the suburbs. Many are immigrants who claim to be in the US because they do jobs US citizens won't do but in practice they pull a lot of stunts to squeeze US citizens out of jobs, which eventually squeezes Americans out of their homes. Facilities and services financed by tax revenues are also redundant to private charities that wealthy entities use as deductions on their income taxes.



The website is a work in progress.
All texts are drafts.
The author takes it for granted that you can say the same things better, and will.

updated 2018 October

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I work alone on a small, fixed personal income. If you appreciate my work, take advantage of it, and are able, please make a financial contribution.

Laurel Lee
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City officials are an elite clique in the vast middle school we call the world. They have their fads and fashions. If one city gets a zoo, they all get a zoo. If one gets a ferris wheel, they all get a ferris wheel. If one rehabs its obsolete waterfront wharfs to attract tourists to make up for income lost by post-industrialism, they all rehab their decaying wharfs. If one gets an interstate to whisk old residents out to the suburbs so new mortgages can go on old properties, they all get an interstate. If one realizes it was a mistake and markets new lofts in old warehouses to attract suburbanites back to the city, every city on earth does everything it can to make lofts the trendiest residences on the planet. Thus, most cities are now carbon copies of each other, like a herd of zebra or a school of fish.

World War I was a pivotal event in world history. For city officials, it was the era in which they organized. They formed professional associations. They published periodicals. They created university departments and endowed professors. They scheduled seminars, and they met by the hundreds in conventions. Their proceedings were an all-out war on the personal and property rights of their current and future constituents. World War I seems like a horrible mistake, until you consider that it might well have been developed as a diversion from the real war. World War I yielded 20-year bonds for people who invest in government debt. The new and burgeoning cities yield a perpetual roll-over of investment opportunities that can finance a dynasty forever.

By the end of the war, the US had fully transitioned from 80% rural to 80% urban, and boatloads of new immigrants continued to arrive every day to stock municipal ponds. Most immigrants from the early 1900s to the present time are Catholic. They don't have a history of incredulity and the questioning of authority. They come from places where the Roman Empire was strongest and their languages, though disparate, are variations on the Latin tongue. Before they came to the US, they'd been brainwashed for centuries to think Protestants are devils. In this way, the absolute monarchs of Europe waged war on Protestant America. They used their redundant peasants to eliminate the foreign threat to the absolute powers that Popes conferred on kings and kings delegated to their nobles and their municipal governments.

When Constance Lindsay Skinner wrote that the Bourbons of France and Spain had their fingers crossed behind their backs when they ceded territory to the US, she'd probably found the best available sources and drawn the best possible conclusion.

I've come across mention of a complicating factor in the problem in two books. It was said during World War I, that German leaders promised the US to the Mexican elite. Mexican machismo is a cover for Mexican cowardice. Mexico didn't enter the war on the German side, but it also didn't assist the US. Because dynasties survive many more generations than the families of common people, it can be argued that the current invasion of the US by redundant Latin-Americans is simply the great-grandchildren of the Latino aristocracy collecting on unpaid World War I promises.

The cost of Chicago government has gone up immensely since the in-migration of Latin-Americans. That old colonial gold is almost certainly reaping dividends because of it.

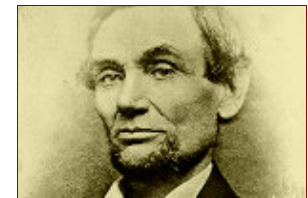
Municipal history & organization of Chicago
Sparling, S.E. (1898)
7.7 mb
well worth the cover price of \$0.75



Charters of Chicago part 1 (1833-1837)
James, E.J. (1898)
3.7 mb



Charters of Chicago part 2 (1838-1851)
James, E.J. (1899)
2.8 mb



The robber barons of Chicago created Abraham Lincoln and made him president with help from their east coast colleagues. Lincoln used the war to push through the first immigration law

Ordinances of the municipal corporation of Chicago
(a selection of local laws reformatted for careful study)
If your neighbor can't do it to you directly, your neighbor can't empower his state representative to tell city officials they can do it to you. Nor can aldermen get proactive and grant themselves the power without going through the state



Misc. documents: US municipalities
45.5 mb
2014 June 30



Misc. documents: Chicago
48 mb
2014 June 30



Ratio of Chicago police to the general population of Chicago

The data includes 911 employees after creation of 911 facilities. Previously police officers and firemen answered phones in police stations. The data excludes most private security employees, some of whom work for companies with city contracts and all of whom do what people pay police to do. Police have been cherry-picking their job descriptions to minimize their responsibilities.



The ratio of police to people increased 600% 1970-2010. The ratio of police to people had remained low and constant during the in-migrations of European ethnics and southern blacks. The ratio increased during Hispanic in-migration which, though huge, didn't offset the out-migration of whites and blacks, that reduced Chicago's population significantly. Thus, the data indicates that Hispanics are criminal and rude. They make bad neighbors and they are a financial burden on the pre-existing population. In Chicago, fraudulent real estate inflation was effected in large part by Hispanic immigrants who signed contracts for mortgages to finance sticker prices they couldn't afford. In my neighborhood, city officials do everything they can to keep Hispanics from defaulting on the loans and revealing how fraudulent the valuations are.

The sanctuary status of Chicago encourages Hispanic immigrants to believe they're above the law and under the protection of the local monarch. My neighborhood has a disproportionate number of white police officers. They are useful because police pay and pensions are far more generous than your typical punk with a badge and gun can earn in the private sector. They'll do what they're told. They have to worry about losing their jobs because of accusations of racial profiling, so they have a hands-off policy on Hispanics. In so doing, they tamper with the database of criminality and pander to the wish of Hispanics to be seen as model citizens and superior people. The policy reduces revenue from fines and threatens employment levels in the Cook County State's Attorney office and in the jails and prisons. To keep those numbers high, police fabricate and solicit unfounded complaints against blacks and whites, so that the number of defendants in local police courts and the criminal courts is disproportionate to the percentage of their race in Chicago's population. I started blowing the whistle on Hispanic criminal and uncivil acts in the 1980s and on the malfeasance of police obliged to get them under control. I've probably suffered more unfounded retaliatory complaints than any other person in the city. I know I'm experiencing idiots because the evidence I've compiled for more than 30 years doesn't vanish because people defame and degrade me. They have to change. I don't.

I took offense in the 1980s when I heard Hispanics accuse whites of racism, but all the racism I saw on my block was Hispanics attacking whites. When my white neighbors moved away to escape the attacks, I decided to stay and document who really does what to whom. I could survive false accusations because my record on racism is really, really clean. Interestingly, when I was on the internet to get the name of one of the schools Hispanics refused to attend because of black students, forcing the construction of new schools such as Juarez, Clemente, and New Little Pilsen, I stumbled on a website by a white Chicago police officer. It records the growth and mortality of the Gaylords when Puerto Ricans from Humboldt Park targeted the Northwest Side for takeover. (www.gaylords712.com) The territoriality of Puerto Ricans is obscene. They've fought tooth and nail to monopolize Humboldt Park, which, historically, was the entry for immigrants from everywhere, including Jews. You can still see Hebrew letters and the Jewish Star engraved on synagogues that Puerto Ricans have re-purposed.

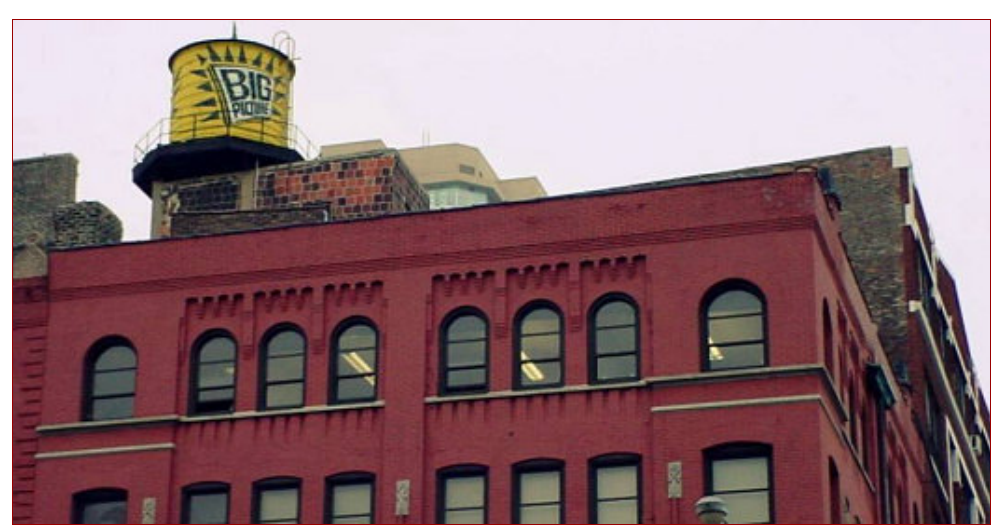
(continued on page 6 of 19)

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MUNICIPALITIES

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY



top illustration:
Boylston Building
Illinois Street 116-122W
Chicago, Illinois
2005 February 1
Industrial/warehouse property converted to charter school (Big Picture) administrative office

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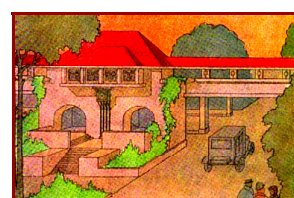


essays, tutorials & books



historical records of US Congress

City Residential Land Development: Studies in Planning
Yeomans, A.B. (1916)
11.3 mb



Yeomans made a book of entries in a City Club contest for ways to lay out housing and amenities on a quarter section of land. Real estate speculators bought the quarter sections cheap in the 1830s, traded them like baseball cards up to the 1920s, at which time they divided their tracts into lots and sold the lots with and without houses on them. All the evils of city life follow on their refusal to accept reasonable guidelines. Instead, they created small narrow lots that make inhabitants feel like caged animals or prisoners and act accordingly. The more recently that a family or individual lived on a farm, the more caged and angry they feel in the city.

Jefferson Township original sales
65 kb
2010-01-14



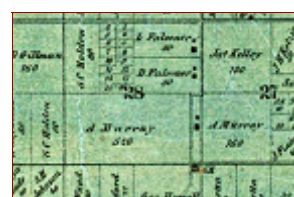
Memories
39.3 mb
2010-01-15



Jefferson Township
part a, 5.6 mb
2010-01-15



Jefferson Township
part b, 7.3 mb
2010-01-15



Jefferson Township
part c, 37.9 mb
2010-01-15



Jefferson Township
part d, 26.0 mb
2010-01-15



Jefferson Township
part e, 47.8 mb
2010-01-15



The CAPs (community action policing) model requires police to be out in neighborhoods where they can become familiar with the people and places. When police are familiar with communities, they can be pro-active. They have a mental image of how things should be; and they can step in to stop trouble when things are wrong. The CAPs model doesn't allow police to cruise past trouble and wait for residents to call them.

Police in my neighborhood have been providing services with what I call the Pizza Parlor model. Proactive isn't in their vocabulary and as a concept, it isn't in their minds. They cruise past dozens of ticket-able offenses a shift and let them ride. Because most offenders are Hispanic and most people who suffer the offense are white, police have come up with the following statement, 'We're not concerned about that and you're this close to being cited for racism.'

Employees of Chicago's Human Rights Commission have said that the offenses, though outlawed by ordinances and statutes, are 'cultural' and whites just have to get used to them.

In reality, the offenses are deliberate and malicious attacks on whites to force them out of their homes and extend Hispanic territory on US soil. Collectively, the offenses got a name in the 1950s and 1960s. They're called blockbusting. They are pages in the blockbusters' playbook and they explain why Chicago has ethnic neighborhoods. Immigrants don't really want to leave their homelands. They leave because they've lost out in the local competition for space. In many homelands, a person has to have a house in town and a farm in the country to be a somebody, but as population increases, the homeland can't provide status to everyone, and many people have to settle for being nothings and nobodies. As chauvinists, they accept defeat by their own people but refuse to play second fiddle to Americans, whom they despise, as they should, for letting them in the US in the first place. In the homeland, they learned every trick in the book to force people out of their homes as victims. In the US, they use the tricks as offenders. Their need for status is immense, and they cluster with their own people because their own people have the same values and ideas of status. There's no point to fighting viciously for the visuals of status if they don't say 'status' to the people who see them.

I've personally suffered every offensive page of the blockbusters' playbook, as have many other Chicagoans, though perhaps not as intensely. When I first experienced the offenses, they felt wrong. When I looked them up in the ordinance and statute books, they are, indeed wrong. They are grieve-able, prosecutable offenses.

Police wait for victims to call in a complaint even though they aren't blind or deaf and can see and hear the offenses. The failure to be proactive puts an unconscionable burden on victims. Police dawdle and malingering when they receive the call. They cop an attitude when they arrive on the scene. If they can blame the victim, they save themselves a lot of trouble. They do everything they can to make the victim eat ka-ka and discourage him/her from ever calling in a complaint again. When offenders see the police response, offenders are emboldened to repeat their offenses time and again. If the victim dares to call 911 or the local station time and again, police can label the victim a 'chronic complainer' and blow off the complaints.

When a victim such as myself sees the writing on the wall, buys audiovisual security equipment and develops the skills to use it, police inexplicably see the victim as a 'snitch' or a 'rat' and do to the civilian what they do to whistleblowers in their ranks.

Thus, though the Preamble to the 1787 US Constitution promises American people domestic tranquility, and police take an oath to uphold the Constitution, they violate it every damned day they're clocked in. They create conflict instead of prevent it.

In my neighborhood, offenders make most of the calls to 911 to intimidate and discredit their victims as witnesses. Police have passed out business cards among them to encourage the calls. When police passed out We Call Police placards, the most offensive neighbors put them in their windows. The wires in their brains are crossed, and they reverse roles. They turn truth inside-out and upside-down.

I know the offenders well enough that they've screwed up their lives and their homes are pressure-cookers. They need to explode. As co-dependents with their offensive spouses and children, they prefer to explode on innocent victims to preserve the family on which they depend. As narcissists, they prefer to explode in public so they can star in their own melodrama. At their core, they commit offenses to force victims to call police, so the curtain can go up and the play begin. Life in the homelands tends to be boring, and local spectacles the only diversion.

The volume of calls and the number of line-items on police call logs at the district office can be attached to requisitions for more police officers. In the final analysis, the Pizza Parlor model is just another way police rip off the people they're supposed to protect. The call logs justify a bigger payroll and more overtime.

From the offenders' viewpoint, they paid for a giant homestead when they bought their 25x100 foot lot in Chicago. If they have to commit offenses on their neighbors' property to get what they paid for, so-be-it. Historically for all Americans, and currently for most immigrants, common people didn't own property themselves, but their lords and masters allowed them to roam their vast estates like free-range chickens. In urban areas in foreign countries, a monarchical town council owns the plaza and all the streets, pastures, and recreational areas. Trespassing isn't a concept, because most land that doesn't have a 10-foot tall, two-foot thick wall around it is 'public' property.

Chicago speculators built-up the city dramatically in the 1920s. The land they'd bought wholesale was usually a quarter-section that measured a half-mile square, the area that extends between the intersections of two busy streets and the next two busy streets on a diagonal, such as the area between Addison-Western and Irving Park-California.

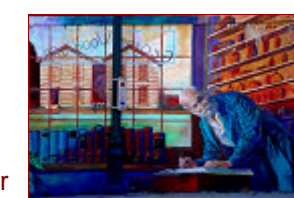
Concerned citizens could predict what would happen when and if the developers divided their quarter-sections into tiny lots; and the concerned citizens did what they could to prevent it. Prevention isn't what municipal profiteers had in mind. The more trouble they could provoke, the more excuses they had to issue bonds and buy them.

When blockbusters target a particular block, the first reaction of the pre-existing population is usually to organize a block club and petition police. When police blow them off, the club sends a delegation to the alderman. People put their houses on the market when the alderman blows them off. The last gasp of a busted block is to post signs that list dos and don'ts. Police drive by the signs day-after-day and refuse to get the hint. Block signs are grave-markers on a community that is no more.

Occasionally, the neighbors find out that offenders are a patronage worker and his family. Aldermen have co-dependent relations with patronage workers and can't offend them. If the goal of blockbusting is to increase municipal debt, the patronage worker/ blockbuster is instrumental to achieving the goal.

(continued on page 7 of 19)

The website is a work in progress.
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MUNICIPALITIES

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY

top illustration:
block club sign in Ward 31, Police District 25
Chicago, Illinois

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Cook County original sales
from US public lands database accessible at Illinois Secretary of State's website
uploaded 2010 January 14
(The illustration is from a history of Township 40N, Jefferson Township.
When in doubt, begin at the beginning.)



Chicago founders
uploaded 2010 January 23



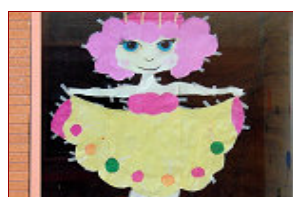
Levi Leiter and George Curzon
uploaded 2010 January 25
(Leiter was Marshall Field's CFO. He bought Chicago real estate with money he got selling
British imports to Chicago shoppers. The profits bought him a permanent invitation
to Buckingham Palace, where his daughter met and married the future viceroy of India and
became the vice-queen.)



McCormick Reaper: history
uploaded 2014 July 2
(graffiti on railroad embankment at Blue Island and Western, former site of
second McCormick Works after first facility on Water Street burned in the 1871 Chicago fire.)



McCormick Reaper: essay on anarchy
uploaded 2014 July 10
(display in dormitory window at University of Chicago)
(Emma Goldman, who's buried in a Forest Park cemetery said,
If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution.)



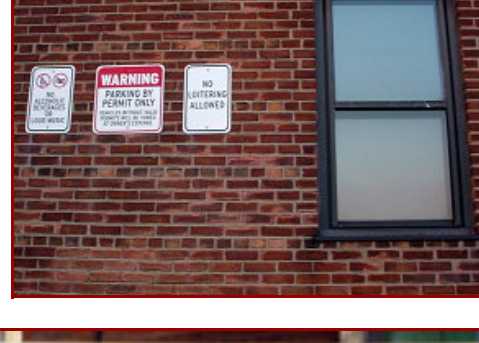
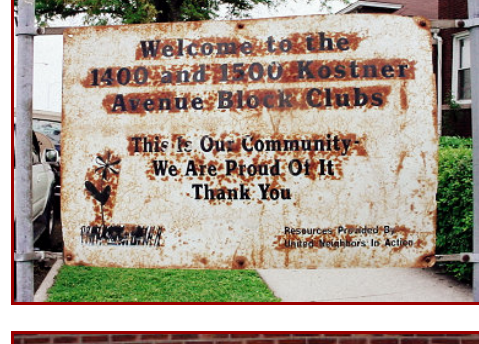
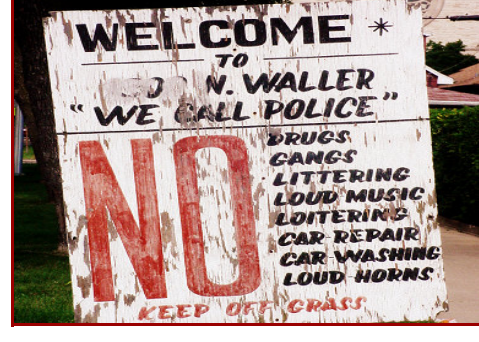
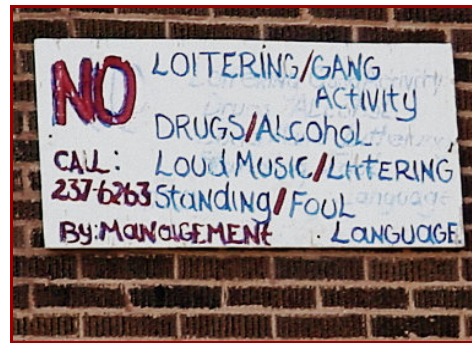
Capone
uploaded 2014 October 2
When government officials get a monopoly on law enforcement and justice
gangsters are motivated to get a monopoly on government officials.
My Sicilian neighbor said, 'Things were better under Capone.
At least you knew who to go to for help.'



Representation Chicago-style
uploaded 2010 February 26
(mural in railroad underpass at Blue Island and Throop)

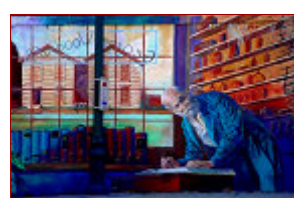


Block Club. 47th at Hoyne. Chicago, Illinois



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The only argument for tax-financed schools is a provision in the 1787 Northwest Ordinance that tells
territories and states to 'encourage' education. US founders made it clear that they meant
moral education and churches were best prepared to provide it.

A notoriously corrupt Puerto Rican alderman grandstands and politics at the Catholic church where the two signs to the right are posted.



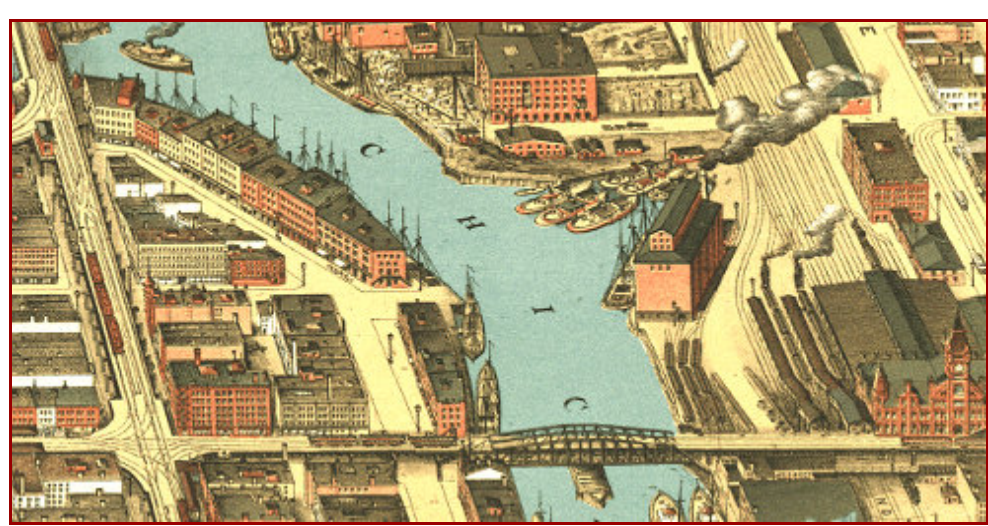
All over Chicago, private property owners use creative landscaping to deter incivilities at their little castles and sanctuaries.
One homeowner took advantage of the construction of a new development on the site of an old factory next door to dead-end
the sidewalk at his house.

In 2007 May, the alderman came to my house in his chauffeur-driven sedan along with two non-English-speaking Streets and
Sanitation workers to rip out the fence I put on my tree lawn. He wanted to provoke me and had two uniformed police women
in an unmarked car waiting at the alley to arrest me. They believe their own lies. I did what I always do. I aimed a video camera
at him and got his license plate. He'd sent 5 to 7 other Streets and Sanitation workers to harass me the previous few days
and I got their plates, too. He went away, leaving the fence in place. He lost face and a lot of retaliation ensued. On my part,
I began to take pictures of violent and hysterical Hispanic females who must have inspired the lies and influenced his impression
of women. I also took a lot of photos of tree lawn landscaping. A professional photographer might make some money
producing a coffee-table book. The ward isn't the alderman's kingdom; and he can't make laws to suit himself. The ward is
one of 50 geopolitical divisions of one city. The divisions exist only to elect representatives to the city's legislature to make all
the laws for the one city, for better or worse. I don't think most constituents and patronage workers know it. In recent years,
in yet another attempt to avoid being proactive and still look busy, district police are holding so-called CAPs meetings where
they encourage attendees to involve them in their vendettas. They have to make up yet another set of bogus laws to do it.

(continued on page 8 of 19)

MUNICIPALITIES

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY



top illustration:
Bird's-eye-view of the business district of Chicago
Chicago (IL): Poole Brothers (1898)
Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, DC. 20540-4650 USA
g4104c pm001530
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4104c.pm001530>
#G4104.C6A3 1898 .P6

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Moments after a Water Department truck closed a hydrant and installed a tougher lock, the cousin of the wife of a Puerto Rican Cook County police officer came out and beat on it with a wrench.

When I moved around to get a photo of the offender's face, he punched me in the face. I called police. When police arrived, the Cook County police officer ran out and said I punched the cousin, and police took me into custody. Block-busting was not yet complete, and one of the few good neighbors came out and set the Chicago police officers straight. The cousin gaped through the squad car windshield throughout the incident. Though police could have easily grabbed him, they didn't. On the bright side, nobody has turned on the hydrant since. Previously, the cousin got the wrench from the sheriff's police at 9 am every summer morning and left it on through evening rush hour two years in a row. When the car brakes of that time got soaked, they didn't work. The situation was dangerous because of a stop sign up the block.

Supposedly, the hydrants go on so kids can have fun. The Mexican girl wanted the hydrant on because it drew out white girls and put them within range of her foul mouth and baseball bat. The white girls had fun for approximately 15 minutes before the Hispanic girls went at them. I've got video of the Hispanics all grown up in a racist mob action against me two decades later, and of a punk cop's response. And of the all-out war his sergeant and fellow officers waged to intimidate me for his protection. You'd think they'd figure things out, but the war persisted within camera range another eight years.

I remembered an experience I had as a substitute teacher. I was sent to Schurz for one day, but the office clerk asked me to come back for a month. On the second day, the students were obstinate. One boy told me I should be grateful to them for the job—it was available because they'd devoted themselves to driving the regular teacher crazy. They'd succeeded, and she was on leave.

The teacher was a 30-something mother. I told the students that they are in school by their parents' choice. Their parents have the option of educating them at home. If their parents don't take the option, the students have nobody but their parents to blame for their ordeal in school. They shouldn't use their teachers for scapegoats. I then reacted strongly to some bad behavior. Word got down to the office, and the clerk told me to not come back the next day. The inmates are running the asylum; and I escaped.

Cops display the same cockiness. Some of the officers I cope with look like the students at Schurz. The problems for the general population are (a) the law is written and the people who enforce it must be highly literate and not the kids who sat in the back of the room and razzed the teacher, thinking nobody would notice their basic skills are lousy. (b) Police officers have gotten a monopoly on composing the reports that initiate prosecution, even though they can't write from dictation, they make things up, and their reports are a mess. (c) Somebody must be tampering with the answer sheets to the tests they have to take to get in the Academy. (d) Police officers identify more with punks than with normal people. They stand aloof from the general population because they alienated themselves from it a long time ago. and (e) The city hasn't kept its promise to put recruits through rigorous psychological testing.

City's Open Hydrants. Hunter Clauss and Darnell Little. 2011 July 21.
www.chicagonewscoop.org/open-hydrants-defy-city-efforts-to-close-them/

A plume of water sprayed high near Augusta and Mozart where adults illegally opened a fire hydrant. Antonio Gonzalez (aged 46, of Puerto Rico) stood outside a convenience store watching a summertime ritual that he said will continue long after he's gone. He said, "That kid right there, he'll open them when he grows up."

The city's Department of Water Management says 18,095 fire hydrants were illegally opened in 2010. An open hydrant loses 34,000 gallons per hour, and the costs of lost water and closing hydrants is hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Open hydrants endanger children and hamper CFD efforts to put out fires.

Chicago Park District and Water Management data show that nine of the top 10 wards with the most opened hydrants have at least one recreational water facility located in them. A Park district spokeswoman said the agency couldn't find a connection between the number of opened fire hydrants and a lack of water recreational facilities.

26th Ward alderman, Roberto Maldonado said he receives calls from residents complaining about low water pressure in their apartments as a result.

He says it's difficult to eradicate this long-cherished ritual of summer. "It's a tradition of decades and decades."

In 2010, 1,591 hydrants were opened in the 26th ward. The other top five open hydrant wards were the 22nd (1,550), the 12th (1,399), the 25th (1,270), and the 14th (1,136).

Maldonado said gangs open hydrants with keys they obtain on the black market. He doesn't see the gangs as modern-day Robin Hoods. "A responsible Robin Hood would open them up and shut them down."

Donny Bercedonis said, "If you're watching the (children), they shouldn't be able to get hurt. I don't know no kid who doesn't have a scar."

He said he opened fire hydrants as a kid, but he doesn't open the one in his neighborhood now. Bercedonis said, "It could be any one of us. Whoever gets out here first."

A police officer drove by. Bercedonis waved, and the officer waved back before driving through the gushing water and north on Richmond.

Crews Need Police Escort To Shut Off Fire Hydrants. CHICAGO (CBS). 2011 July 22.
chicago.cbslocal.com/2011/07/22/crews-need-police-escort-to-shut-off-fire-hydrants/

As the Department of Water Management turned off 1,921 hydrants, a police SUV followed a city crew that included Richard Quarles, a 20-year DWM veteran.

A group of people surrounded Quarles and dumped water on him.

Quarles said, "The gangbangers and the neighborhood tough guys, they could crack you over the head with something. Anything can happen."

City officials warned residents that turning on hydrants is a safety problem. Cars have a hard time seeing kids playing under the water in the street.

The open hydrants can also flood basements, parked cars and significantly lower water pressure, which could hamper firefighters.

South Side resident Patrick Strange said, "Actually I feel it's great for the kids - to stop all the negative behavior that's going on out here."

www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/preparedness/alerts/2012/jun/tips_on_protectingyourselffromextremeheat.html

An open fire hydrant hinders the Fire Department's ability to fight fires, reduces water pressure to your home and is illegal.

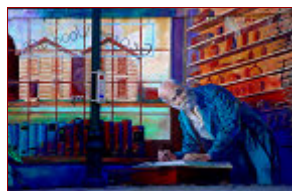
An open fire hydrant is a dangerous place for children to play.

The City of Chicago's Water Quality Report (2005) (page 2)
Daley, Richard M (mayor) and Murphy, Brian S (commissioner)

Things you can do to conserve water. Look for opportunities to create green space, or replace concrete with permeable paving material.

(continued on page 9 of 19)

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top illustration:
private stable conversion
opposite 27th ward offices of Jesse White & Walter Burnett, Jr.
in the Marshall Field Garden Apartments
Blackhawk at Sedgwick
Chicago, Illinois
2013 July 26

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historical records of US Congress

Banks v. Ogden
69 U.S. 2 Wall. 57 (1864)
supreme.justia.com/us/69/57/case.html
www.timefordemocracy.com/tutorials/
banks v ogden 1864.pdf



Illinois Plat Act
765 ILCS 205
enacted and revised 1874-1995



commercial stable conversion
Menominee at North Park (321 W)
Chicago, Illinois
2013 July 26



commercial stable conversion
Menominee at Lincoln Park West
(1765-1767 N)
Chicago, Illinois
2013 July 26



sign posted on tree on tree lawn
Cedar at Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois
2013 April 14



Real estate developers created tree lawns and planted them with trees to disguise the small size of the lots they sold. Trees are expensive to maintain. Purchasers complained; and the aldermen enacted an ordinance that converts the trees to city property so that the generality of taxpayers would be stuck with the bills for tree trimming. The aldermen also outlawed the posting of signs on their trees.

When I took on my neighbors and the city, I took on a gang mentality that permeates human society. In the 1960s, I was a guest for Thanksgiving dinner at the home of the Assistant Superintendent of Police. He blurted out that Chicago police are the biggest gang in the city. Another man of his stature said the same thing in the 2010s but added that Chicago police are worse than ever before.

Several years ago, a black bus driver and an unemployed Puerto Rican passenger had a conversation and discovered that they had in common that they'd both done prison time. They were in their thirties and they reminisced about the old days when they were in gangs and ruled the streets. The black man remarked that you could go into the territory of other gangs as long as you were respectful. The Puerto Rican man remembered that his gang used to hunt down a gang of white guys but could never catch them. The white guys had long legs and could run faster. The attacks by Puerto Ricans against whites occurred at the intersection where Schurz is located.

When I worked at Clemente, and my students talked about gangs, I got the impression that the gangs weren't about cocaine and other banned substances. Drugs were just a way for gang members to support themselves while they did what gangs really do. They protect territory so that their girls have a place to raise their babies. They also protect the girls.

Reproductive instincts are violent and dangerous. To the extent that police aren't gang members, they are sexual beings and have the same territorial urges as other humans. The territorial imperatives of gangsters are in conflict with the rights of private property owners. Street gangs and gangs of civil servants are on the same side against property owners in the war for the streets. They disagree only about which has the stronger claim to monopolize them.

Most of the trouble at my property originates when my neighbors grossly abuse their minor rights to use the street, tree lawn, sidewalk and alley at my house. They tell me that the areas are 'public property'. The term doesn't exist in legal dictionaries, but does exist in Chicago ordinances. Chicago uses the term 'parkway' for tree lawns, though parkway has two other definitions in city documents: streets that go to parks, such as Diversey east of Damen; and park-like strips of land in the middle of some streets, such as Wrightwood east of Cicero.

Thus, an ordinance that tells people they can't play team sports with more than X number of people on a parkway can lead some people to think they can gang up and play football on a 9x30 foot tree lawn at their neighbor's house, even though they won't play football in good faith, but only to throw the ball wild accidentally on purpose to create an excuse to rampage on what they know is the neighbor's private property.

The ordinance is one of several that erode private property rights.

Another ordinance tells dog toileters that they must clean up after their dogs when they drop a load on the neighbor's yard, or pay a fine. The city gets the money. The property owner doesn't. The ordinance gives dog toileters permission to trespass on private property, the sanctity of which the city was chartered to protect. First the dog toileter lets the dog trespass. Then the human trespasses to clean up. Dog toileters vote. Aldermen pander to them to get their votes. Aldermen should pass an ordinance that tells dog toileters that they will be prosecuted and fined on behalf of property owners for trespass and conversion, which are criminal offenses defined by Illinois statute.

I knew from the research I'd done on the history of US soil, that in the past, private properties abutted one another. If a property was boxed in, the owner and other people who needed to get on and off it had a narrow easement across their neighbors' properties to get to the highway or the waterway. The easements are public ways, but not public property. The title to the easement remains with the property owner. He is obligated to maintain the public way and keep it unobstructed, but it is his and his alone. For the people who needed the easement to get where they were going, all they could do on the easement was go from Point A to Point B as quickly and with the least trouble possible. They couldn't hang out or invite friends and family over for a picnic or a ballgame.

Because the federal government sold land in quarter sections and not in city lots, the public ways remained private property when developers divided their land into lots and sold them. It was in a developer's personal financial interest to put in streets because his lots wouldn't sell without them. Usually, developers paid out of pocket to put in streets, tree lawns, and sidewalks. They calculated their cost into their selling price, and passed the cost to purchasers. Then purchasers owned streets, tree lawns and sidewalks.

Chicago enacted an ordinance that told developers their streets had to be of a certain width, but the ordinance wasn't enforceable and wasn't enforced.

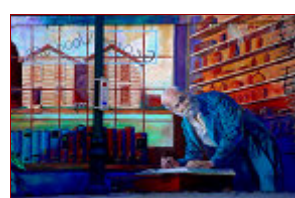
Cities and streets preceded the invention of the internal combustion engine and the mass production of personal cars. The invention and production of cars didn't create a right of car owners to park on and obstruct public ways, especially at the curb of properties they don't own. There was no history of street parking; and in many old cities there's no room to park on streets. Chicago aldermen pander to car owners by allowing them to park on streets, at the properties of others as well as their own, though there is no legal precedent for it.

Prior to cars, people got around on horses or rode in horse-drawn carriages and hauled things in horse-drawn wagons. It was cruelty to leave horses outside all night. Rude isn't a strong enough word for letting your horse drop his poo at the curb of somebody else's home. Some city dwellers had wide lots and could access their own stable from the street. Some developers put in alleys so that people with narrow lots could access personal stables through the alley. Entrepreneurs built private, fee-for-service stables and barns for people who didn't have the space for horses and buggies on their own lots. People who couldn't afford horses and buggies could rent them from commercial stables.

Given the precedents, why did my neighbors think they could park at my house, call over the kid, tell him to bring the soccer ball and the dog, pop the hood, and work under it the rest of the day, throwing his rags and oil bottles on my tree lawn for me to clean up? The video of the incident I'm thinking of shows that the curb was vacant at the neighbor's house, and he has a two-car garage behind it. This particular neighbor was untouchable because he'd paid an outrageous price for the dumpiest house on the block, giving the Assessor a reason to raise assessments all around to finance raises and pensions for patronage workers, and get their votes.

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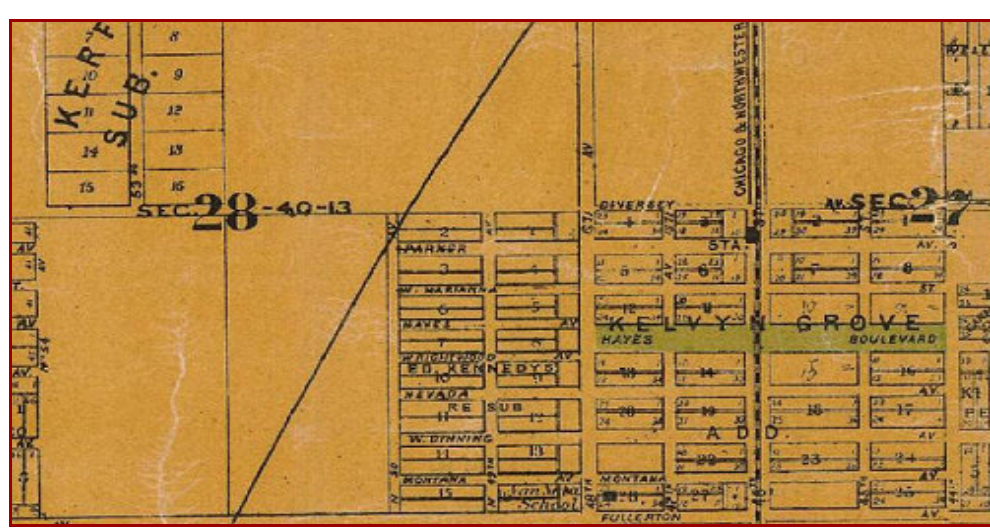
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top illustration:
Sections 27-28, Township 40N (Jefferson Township)
Mitchell's Map of Chicago and Suburbs (1902, 1903)
www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/maps/chi/1900/G4104-C6A1-1903-M5-1of8/

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historical records of US Congress

It turns out that the Supreme Court had visited the topic of Chicago streets during Abraham Lincoln's administration. In the case of Ogden v. Banks, they determined that property owners have fee simple from the middle of the street to the middle of the alley for the width their property abuts it. Ogden was a robber baron who came to Chicago to represent the interests of his demographic. He bought a large amount of Chicago land from the federal government. He sat on the boards of several railroads. He was Chicago's first, or one of the early mayors. He sold one of his lots to Banks. It was located by a landfill in Lake Michigan. Banks thought he bought the fee simple to the middle of the street on the landfill. He sued Ogden for his loss because Chicago claimed to own the street.

The Justices said the only thing standing between other property owners and their fee simple on the street is the Illinois Plat Act. I read it. It's an example of how Chicago politicians and downstate farmers find common interest at the expense of Chicago property owners.

Members of the Illinois General Assembly have repeatedly made more work for themselves than they should. Where one statute should be enough, they write two. They write one for Chicago and one for every other municipality and geopolitical division in the state. The phenomenon is fairly recent. Back in the mid-1800s, the assemblymen simply included disparate provisions in one statute.

The Illinois Plat Act generally tells real estate developers that when they divide their quarter sections into town lots they must formalize the process on a survey plat and file it with the county recorder.

A provision for Chicago only, says that if the developer wishes, he can donate a part of a street, or a whole street, or all the streets of his subdivision to an entity of his choice, such as a school or a church. If he makes a donation, the municipal corporation of Chicago gets control of it and the fee simple. The developer can also donate his streets to the city directly.

I queried the attorney of the municipal corporation of Chicago several times about my rights and the rights of my neighbors to the street, tree lawn, sidewalk and alley at my house. She didn't respond. I then exerted my fee simple, my ownership of the land in question, and began to bill my neighbors for their unlawful use of it. All hell broke loose, because what is a gang if it doesn't have a street to make it a street gang?

A television news reporter appeared at my house and acted in a less than respectful manner. I queried the city attorney again, making special reference to the Plat Act provision. She responded. She'd gone to the Recorder's office and said the developer had signed my street over to the city.

The room for fraud in the Plat Act is immense. The statute doesn't provide oversight. Nothing stops friends of Chicago in the Cook County Recorder's office from forging donations and signatures on every plat ever filed.

In the meantime, I see No Parking Overnight signs in most of the towns I visit. In Chicago, I see signs prohibiting through traffic and scavenging in the alleys of privileged people.

Of special interest is alley closings. Several banks and at least one local franchise of a national chain have purchased both sides of an alley and then closed it to traffic. Some add the alley to a parking lot. Others build on the alley.

The alley is an easement for people who have property on it. Chicago skates on thin ice when it issues a permit to the commercial property owner. In the three cases I've looked at, property owners can get to their garages another way but it's more limiting and inconvenient. It leads to more conflict over the right-of-way in the traffic lane.

I think the more serious problem is the issuing of the permit. The permit gives the impression that the city owns the alley, but the issuing of it confirms that the property owner has the fee simple. If he didn't, he couldn't inconvenience his neighbors and deprive them of their well-established right-of-way.

When the city erects Disability Parking signs at residential properties, the reserved space is almost always redundant to a garage at the rear of the property that is easier for the handicapped person to access. A reserved space makes sense when a block is lined with apartment buildings. It doesn't make sense when a block is lined with single-family homes and two-flats. I can deduce only that the city knows that the applicant has fee simple to the curb lane and a right to keep other people off it. The city hopes nobody will figure it out.

Several of my neighbors have applied for and received reserved spaces at their homes as a defense against neighbors who commit incivilities. They increase the problems for other victims instead of working together to end them. The city provides cowards many ways to wiggle out of doing the right thing, so nobody has to speak honestly about who does what to whom.

I know the voting habits of two of the three neighbors who've had long-term reserved parking spaces at their properties. Two voted for the notoriously corrupt Puerto Rican alderman. The third probably did, too. At one property, the sign remained in place for more than two years after the disabled person moved away. He lived at the property only two months. The family passed him around so they all got reserved spaces. They also got disability tags they could use to access reserved parking at the mall. My neighbor usually left the space vacant to brag about her clout. On one day that she was parked in it, a relative had picked up the disabled man and drove him home. The reserved space was for him. The neighbor didn't vacate it. The driver parked at the fire hydrant and the allegedly disabled man had to walk a long way home. He moved out a few days later.

At another property, the signs remained in place a year and a half after the disabled person died. She had an alley house on a double-wide lot. The garage was next to the house, the curb was a long walk further. At the third property, the signs are still in place two years after the last of three morbidly obese homeowners died, and three years after the death of one with a driver's license.

Because the Plat Act discriminates against Chicago property owners, it violates the provision in the Illinois Constitution that guarantees equal protection of the laws to all people.

A review of documents from the early 1900s indicates that long after the Plat Act was enacted, the city didn't exert rights to the streets. When the city wanted to make an improvement to a street, it asked property owners for their consent, and then billed them directly for the cost. The practice was known as 'special assessments'. Over the course of several decades the city's respect for private property owners deteriorated. At first, the city needed the consent of 100% of property owners with fee simple to the street, and eventually reduced the requirement to 50% and then to 0. Now the city does what it wants when it wants without consent, and gouges taxpayers without their consent for what are usually unnecessary and exorbitant costs.

The erosion of the municipality's respect for property owners and their fee simple on streets coincides with the period during which real estate speculators divided and unloaded their quarter-sections on the unsuspecting immigrants they'd imported for exactly this purpose.

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top illustration:
Aztec Materials
Emerald 4041 South
Chicago, Illinois
2005 March 15

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historical records of US Congress

Potter, John E. (postmaster-general)
The United States Postal Service:
An American History 1775-2002
(pages 20-21 establish a time-line link between post office rules for home delivery and cement brokers who profited from sidewalk construction during and after the great expansion of densely populated urban and suburban areas.)

Kahn, E.J. Jr.
Profiles: The Absolute Beginning: Dwayne Orville Andreas
The New Yorker, volume 62, issue 52 (1987 Feb 16), p 41-68
(available for a small fee at The New Yorker website)
(Chicago Public Library cardholders can print a copy free with the microfilm machines at regional libraries.)

Kahn, E.J. Jr. Profiles: The Absolute Beginning: Dwayne Orville Andreas. The New Yorker, volume 62, issue 52 (1987 Feb 16), pages 41-68.

Pages 59-61 record a conversation between Gorbachev of Russia and Andreas of Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM) at the Kremlin in 1985.

Gorbachev:
Andreas, after we talked a year ago, I reported the contents of our conversation to the Politburo, whereupon we decided to make a study of the efficiency of our meat production (animal feeding) program. We found by comparing the United States program to ours that you get approximately 20 percent more meat from a pound of feed than we do.

By far the most important reason appears to be that your country uses one part of protein to six parts of grain. We use only one part of protein to 24 parts of grain. I simply cannot understand why our people, who have to import both, have been importing feed grains when it would be far more profitable to import protein. We need, theoretically, 17 million tons of soy meal per year to balance the grain that is available to us.

Andreas:
Mr. Secretary, your calculations are absolutely correct. As you know, my company (ADM) is a major processor of oilseeds and producer of protein. Together, with others, we can go a long way toward solving your problem. First, my company and others have excess oilseed-processing capacity in Europe. It is at your disposal. We can sell you any part, or all of the production, or you may buy soybeans anywhere in the world that fits your purposes – Brazil, China, the United States, Argentina - and ship the soybeans to crushing plants in Europe.

The beans can arrive in your own ships, and we can load the resulting protein into your ships of all sizes to move regularly into all of your ports. In addition, we can process soybeans in the United States. We, together with our competitors, could provide you with 10 million tons. In addition, our German affiliate and other trading companies could coordinate all of that with five million tons or more from Brazil and Argentina.

Gorbachev:
Our people say that it is difficult to handle soybean meal in the ports and railroads because it blows in the wind and leaks out of cars.

Andreas:
The solution is very simple. Buy it in pellets. In addition, Mr. Secretary, we would be willing to exchange team agronomists with you for the purpose of developing a soybean crop in the Soviet Union. They would come from U.S. processors, the University of Illinois, and Purdue University. Your potential for producing soybeans is limited but there are several places in the Far East and perhaps in the Southwest where significant quantities can be produced. It would take several years. In these 10 to 12 localities we would like to build for you regional 100,000 to 300,000 ton plants. The program would require the cooperation of our government.

Gorbachev:
I am eager to get on with this. Since this program envisions continued heavy imports for an economy short of dollars, could you help it along by buying something from the Soviet Union?

Andreas:
Well, for one thing, I also have a substantial interest in a very large cement company. We could use over a million tons of cement and bring it to the United States as ballast in empty soybean meal ships. Do you have it to sell?

Gorbachev:
Yes.



Benjamin Franklin is credited with inventing sidewalks. The purpose was to attract shoppers to the business district of his East Coast city. Horses and carriages made a mess of the dirt streets. Ladies and gentlemen didn't want to get their hems and shoes dirty, so they minimized their shopping. Raised wooden boardwalks kept the street at a distance and protected pedestrians from splashes and flying debris.

Abraham Lincoln began his political career with a US post office job. He didn't make his customers pay for the stamps he gave them. In this way, he bought some votes. Later, he had to pay back his debt.

USPS offered home delivery in urban areas on the condition that property owners put in sidewalks, clear snow in the winter, and keep them unobstructed. The offer created jobs. It was also a reason to hire cement contractors to build and pave sidewalks. The offer bought votes, too.

A Chicago ordinance that requires property owners to remove snow from their walk in winter is a follow-up to the USPS rule. The ordinance works to the good of everyone, but it is meant to keep mail carriers employed. When residents pick up their mail at their local post office, they have more opportunities to meet and talk things over with other members of their larger community. Home delivery obstructs the development of real communities and the passing of the gossip and news-sharing that is essential to informed communities.

Chicago gives a nod to the fee simple that property owners have on the sidewalks their lots abut. Chicago offers to replace sidewalks; and gives the property owner the option to say no. If a property owner says yes, the city says it will split the cost 50-50. In reality, the property owner pays 100%. He pays 50% out-of-pocket up-front; and he pays the other 50% through his taxes.

Ovid Demaris, author of Captive City, tells of the sweetheart deal that Cook County officials developed with Henry Crown, owner of Materials Service Corporation. The officials had dominion over vacant county land suitable for quarries. They sold and leased it to Crown for a pittance. He hired people and bought equipment to quarry the material and then sold it back to the city, the county and many other municipalities and private companies for a huge profit. His wealth was sufficient to buy him a special place in the hearts of some US congressmen and an investigation by others.

Russian premier Gorbachev cut a deal with Dwayne Orville Andreas, who represented downstate Illinois soybean farmers in the 1980s.

Illinois soybean farmers would eventually help Russia build up their own soybean production. In the meantime, they had a lot of soybeans to unload, and Gorbachev had a use for them. Unfortunately, Gorbachev didn't have any money to pay for the soybeans. However, Gorbachev had an excess of cement.

Illinois could load soybeans into a boat and send it to Russia. Russia could unload the soybeans and fill the hold with cement and send the boat back to Illinois.

The busy street near my house is a nightmare because it is dug up and re-paved every few years on a variety of excuses. Sewers. Water mains. Gas mains. Electricity conduit. There might be some phone lines under there.

The street I live on was repaved two or three years ago. Just this month, the new paving was stripped off for Water Main replacement, and then the street was repaved.

When Gorbachev and Illinois soybean farmers cut their deal, the Commodities Exchange was still located in Chicago and hadn't yet moved to New York. Commodities brokers must have a lot of clout, because there's been no end to the breaking up and replacing of paved surfaces all over Chicago. It works to the financial advantage of other people, but not to me. Because many Hispanic immigrants find jobs in the cement industry in Chicago, the city's sanctuary status might exist to serve soybean farmers and the materials supply industry.

The police focus on cocaine dealers in Hispanic communities seems false to me because it is the excuse for a lot of government jobs and huge taxation to support them. I don't think I have a right to tell other people what they can and can't put in their bodies; and vice versa. I don't know from whence that right materialized. It doesn't seem to be God-given. People use cocaine because something was wrong in their upbringing. If you want to eliminate cocaine, figure out what went wrong and don't do it again. The noise about cocaine tends to mollify and distract taxpayers from the failure of police to do all the other things they're supposed to do. From where I see things, police look like 8-year-olds playing cops and robbers when they go after dealers. It's just a game.

The partnership between politics and crime begins with the seizure of a city such as Chicago, by bosses who have risen to power in their party on the backs of the boys in the bad lands of a town that has been the dumping ground for criminals of all classes from all over the country. (Anonymous Chicago judge, in a radio address on February 19, 1926)

Everywhere we went the committee found a certain amount of political immorality, but in Chicago the rawness of this sort of thing was particularly shocking. There was no doubt in the minds of any of us, after the sort of testimony we heard in Chicago, that organized crime and political corruption go hand in hand, and that in fact there could be no big-time organized crime without a firm and profitable alliance between those who run the rackets and those in political control. (Estes Kefauver, Crime in America, 1951)

A civil service inquiry into police practices was the most unnerving event of Harrison's fifth term. Every known method of bribery and intimidation was employed to thwart (successfully) the investigation. The inquiry was followed three years later by a grand jury investigation of the First Ward organization. This probe disclosed that precinct captains and other ward heelers had generally infiltrated every sensitive organ of the law enforcement body.

Political control of Cook County very often includes the state of Illinois. Since Governor Otto Kerner's election in 1960, Daley has governed the Statehouse from City Hall. The General Assembly is Dick Daley's legislature. The mayor's control derives not only from the fact that he approved nominations and supported campaigns, but from something a great deal more convincing. Of the 47 Democratic candidates from Chicago who were elected state representatives in 1964, 27 held full-time jobs with the city or other local governments. According to State Senator Paul Simon, a Downstate Democrat, the theme song of precinct workers during election campaigns is, Never mind the issues, how many jobs can you get us?

This is not only Chicago's problem, but, in various degrees, America's. The question is what are we going to do about it?

pages 93, 99, 190-191, 320
Captive City
Demaris, Ovid
New York: Lyle Stuart, Inc. (1969)

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Laurel Lee
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Chicago, IL 60647-7235

PREVIOUS

NEXT

IT WAS TIME TO GET OUT OF TOWN. I'M ON A ROAD TRIP,
STOPPING AT ALL HISTORICAL MARKERS ON THE WAY.
DAY 4

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY MUNICIPALITIES OMAHA

The first legal entry of land made in Nebraska was in March, 1857. The first public sale of Government lands to the highest bidder was made on the 5th of July, 1859. Colonel A. R. Gilmore was the first Receiver of the United States Land Office at Omaha, and Colonel John A. Parker was the first Register.

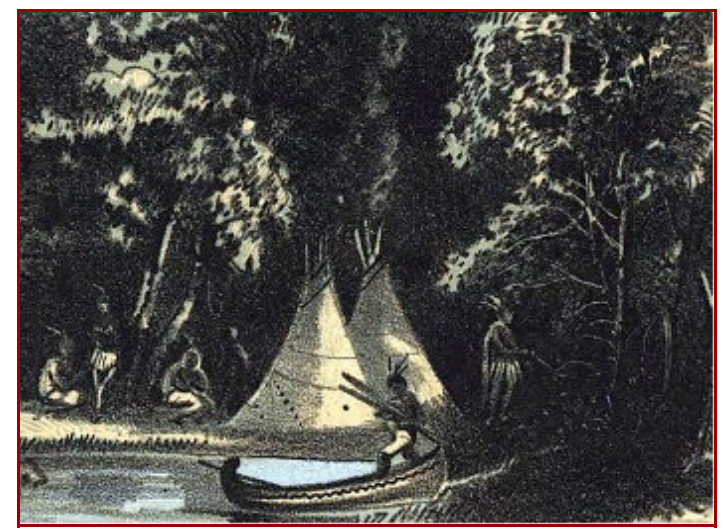
The land covered by the site of Omaha was granted in two patents—one to John McCormick, May 1, 1860, the land having been bid off by him at the public sale of July 5, 1859, acting as trustee, and the other to Jesse Lowe, Mayor, October 1, 1860, on the entry made March 17, 1857.

The panic of 1857 is a subject upon which the old settlers dwell with considerable interest, as not one of them escaped the disastrous effects of that memorable collapse.

There was a great inflation of the currency at the time, and prosperity continued throughout the early part of 1857; but the Ohio Trust Company's failure late in the summer started a panic, and then ensued a long period of depression. Banks all over the country rapidly suspended one after the other. Most of the financial institutions in the West in those days were of a 'wild cat' character, and Nebraska had its share of them. The most extensive banking institution in Nebraska at that time was the Western Exchange Fire and Marine Insurance Company. Leroy Tuttle was the cashier, and A. U. Wyman was the teller. Each of these gentlemen afterwards filled the high and responsible position of treasurer of the United States, and Mr. Wyman is now vice-president of the Omaha National Bank.

Omaha illustrated: a history of the pioneer period and the Omaha of today embracing reliable statistics and information, with over two hundred illustrations including prominent buildings, portraits, and sketches of leading citizens. Omaha (NE): D. C. Dunbar & Co. (1888) Gibson, Miller & Richardson, lithographers (Pages aren't numbered in digital file)

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Bird's eye view of the city of Omaha, Nebraska 1868. Chicago (IL): Chicago Lithographing Co. (1868). Ruger, A. Ruger map collection no. 145. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA. Call # G4194.O4A3 1868 .R8 Rug 145. Digital ID: g4194o pm004670 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g4194o.pm004670>. Also found at: <http://www.history-map.com/picture/004/pictures/Nebraska-Omaha.jpg>

Ibid, lower right hand corner

Group of Euro-American and Lakota (Brulé, Miniconjou, and Oglala) men: Two Strike, Crow Dog, Short Bull, High Hawk, Two Lance, Kicking Bear, Good Voice, Thunder Hawk, Rocky Bear, Young Man Afraid of His Horse, American Horse, W.F. Cody (Buffalo Bill), Maj. J.M. Burk, J.C. Craiger, J. McDonald, J.G. Worth. Grabill, John C. H. (photographer) (1891 January 16). Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA. Reproduction #: LC-DIG-ppmsc-02618 (digital file from original print) LC-USZ62-27931 (b&w film copy neg.) Call # LOT 3076-11, no. 3630 1/2. 3a28717r

Squaws visit home of Mrs. American Horse in hostile camp. Grabill, John C.H. (photographer) (1891). John C. H. Grabill Collection. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 Call # LOT 3076-2, no. 3638 Reproduction # LC-DIG-ppmsc-02520 (digital file from original print) LC-USZ62-749 (b&w film copy neg.). 02520v

Squaw dance. Pine Ridge S.D., Sioux women, standing in the background, facing front, wearing headdresses, and a group of Sioux women sitting in the foreground turned away from the viewer; in the middle distance a group of Sioux men are crouched in a circle. Chief American Horse (Oglala Lakota) is standing on the left, facing front. Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Inscribed on negative: Chief American Horse Good Indian. Butcher, Solomon Devore (photographer) (1856-1927) (1908 May 15). Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA. Reproduction # LC-DIG-ppmsca-08386 (digital file from original photo). Call # LOT 12749. 08386v

An unidentified Native American Dakota Sioux man sits on the lawn with a woman leaning on his shoulder; facing another man and a pile of newspapers, Omaha, Nebraska. Chanute, Octave (1832-1910) (photographer) (1898). Reproduction # X-31608 Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, 10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80204. Digital ID codhawp 10031608 <http://photoswest.org/cgi-bin/imager?10031608+X-31608>

U.S. allotting surveyor and his interpreter making an American citizen of Chief American Horse, Oglala Sioux. (copyright H92549) Truman, Edward (photographer) (1907). Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington (DC). Reproduction # LC-USZ62-115669 (b&w film copy neg.). Call # LOT 12900. 3c15669v

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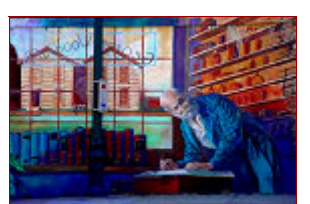
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DAY 5

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY MUNICIPALITIES OMAHA

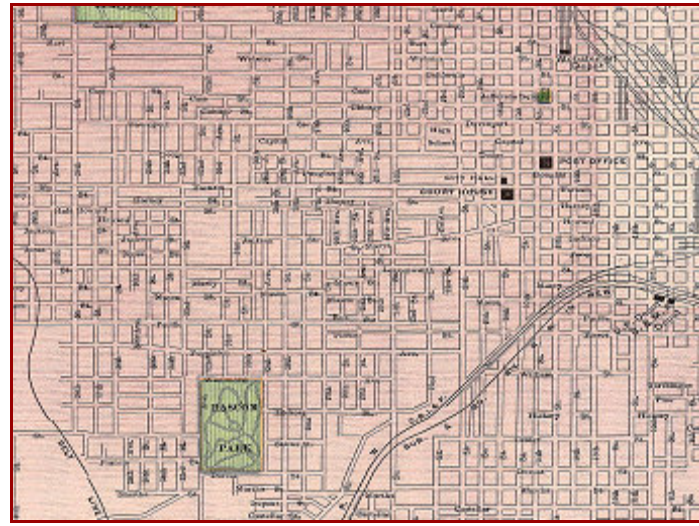
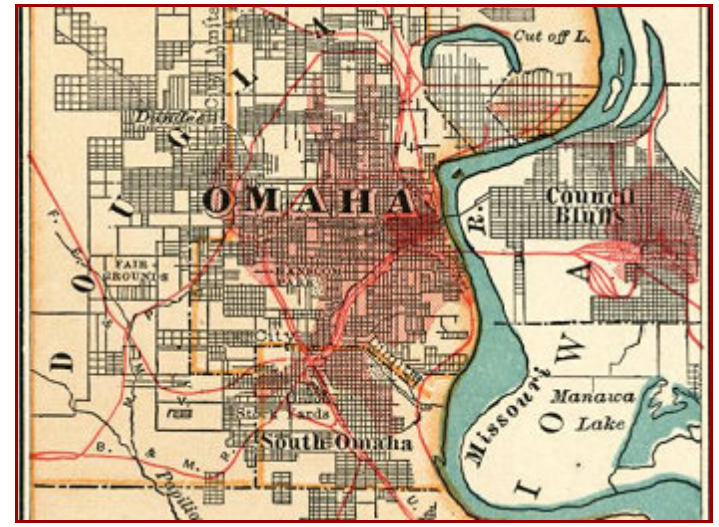
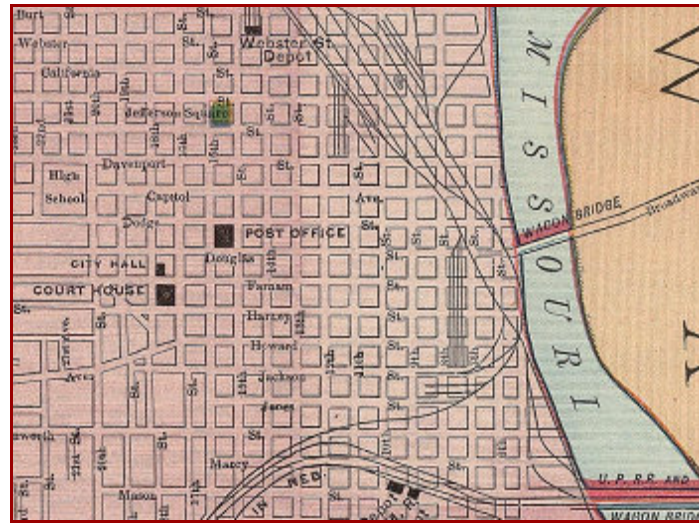
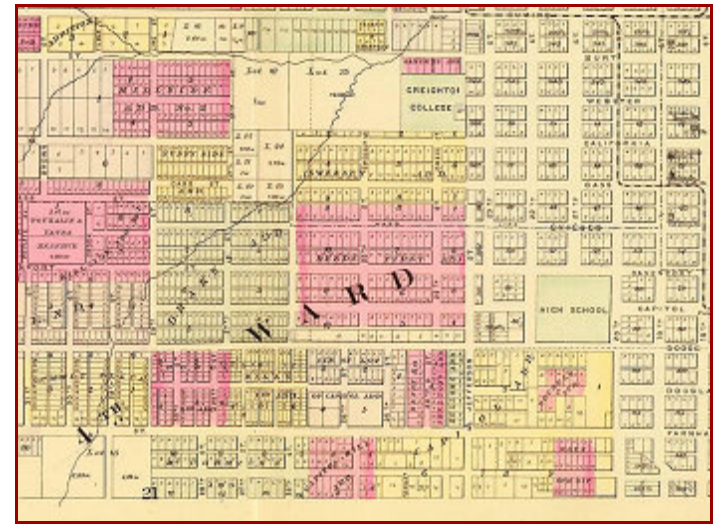
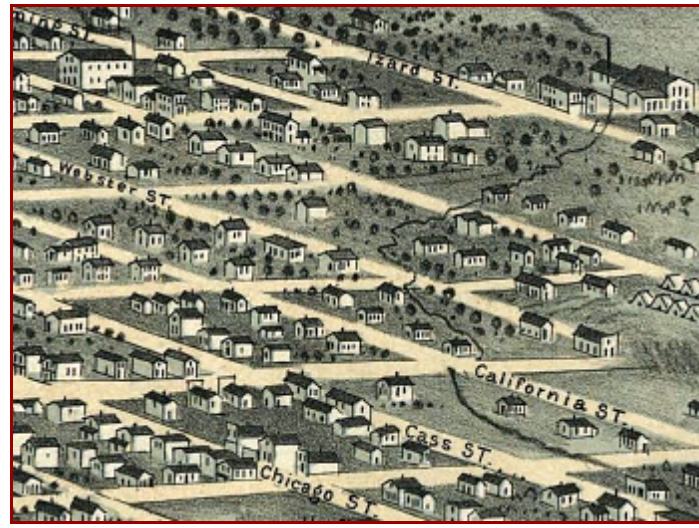
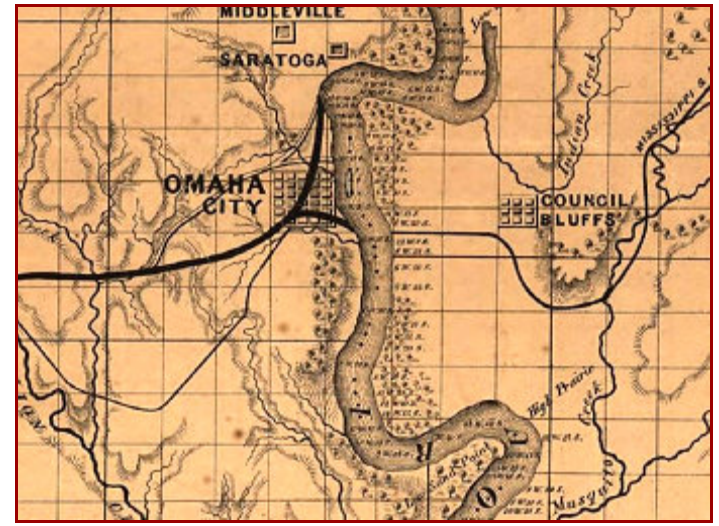
The Western Exchange Fire and Marine Insurance Company's bank failed in October, 1857, and within a few months thereafter every bank in Nebraska, with the exception of two or three, closed its doors. The Bank of Dakota, operated by Augustus Kountze, was one of the very few financial institutions that weathered the storm. It redeemed its entire circulation at par.

The city of Omaha issued, during this year, \$100,000 in city scrip for the completion of the Capitol Building. This scrip, which passed current when first issued, gradually depreciated until it became almost worthless. It was never redeemed except in the payment of taxes, for which some of it was used. This of course added to the general depression in Omaha, which continued throughout 1858. Men who but a short time before were in prosperous circumstances, found themselves financially embarrassed, business came to a standstill, real estate declined to nominal figures, and a despondent feeling everywhere prevailed. The population of Omaha decreased during the years 1858-59, and it was not until about 1861 that the city resumed its growth in any noticeable degree.

Previous to 1882, from which the Omaha of today is commonly dated, the transactions in Omaha real estate did not foot up \$1,000,000 a year. In 1883, the first year after Omaha began its public improvements, the total of real estate transactions footed up \$3,763,964. In 1885 the total reached \$6,157,040. The year 1886 showed even a more marked increase, the total reaching \$15,080,685, and 1887 makes an enormous showing, the total approximating \$35,000,000.

Omaha illustrated: a history of the pioneer period and the Omaha of today embracing reliable statistics and information, with over two hundred illustrations including prominent buildings, portraits, and sketches of leading citizens. Omaha (NE): D.C. Dunbar & Co. (1888) Gibson, Miller & Richardson, lithographers (Pages aren't numbered in digital file)

<http://www.archive.org/details/omahaillustrated00omah>
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Residence of Marx Stuhr. Official State Atlas of Nebraska. Everts & Kirk (1885).
Compiled from government surveys, county records, and personal investigations. The map shows the relative position of each county (as divided up to the adjournment of State Legislature of 1885), the location of Railroads, Cities and Villages, the principal Streams and much topography, not heretofore obtainable. The state map is followed by separate maps of the different counties of the State drawn on a much larger scale, on which the details are more thoroughly given. There are also plans of the leading Cities and Villages which have been carefully prepared from the official records of each. Much information has been gleaned from conversations with the best informed people and oldest residents of the State.
http://www.rare-maps.com/maps_pic/NEB-1885-STUHR.jpg

Union Pacific Rail Road, map of a portion of Nebraska Territory, showing surveys and location of lines. (1865).
The connection of the line with the Central Pacific at Promontory, Utah, completed the first transcontinental railroad in 1869.
Dey, Peter Anthony (1825-1911).
Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA
Call # G4191.P3 1865 .D4 RR 588. Digital ID g4191p rr005880 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g4191p.rr005880>

Bird's eye view of the city of Omaha, Nebraska 1868.
Ruger, A. Chicago (IL): Chicago Lithographing Co. (1868).
Ruger map collection no. 145. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA.
Call # G4194.O4A3 1868 .R8 Rug 145. Digital ID: g4194o pm004670 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g4194o.pm004670>.
Also found at: <http://www.history-map.com/picture/004/pictures/Nebraska-Omaha.jpg>

Map of Omaha City. Central part.
Man, Adin (1816-1903) (civil engineer, artist), Smith, George (Douglas County surveyor), and Bemis, George P. (assistant).
pages 194-195. The official state atlas of Nebraska. Compiled from government surveys, county records and personal investigations.
Philadelphia (PA) Everts & Kirk (1885)
Shows wards, tracts, block and lot numbers, railroad, etc.
David Rumsey Historical Map Collection. List # 2719.181. Series #185. Copyright 2005

Rand, McNally & Co.'s Omaha. Page 323. Rand, McNally & Co.'s New Business Atlas (1898)
David Rumsey Collection. 2844067.jpg

Omaha. In Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. (1900).
found at www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic-art/428196/130047/Map-of-Omaha-Neb
24189-050-D6CFC150

Omaha. page 323. Rand McNally & Co.'s Enlarged Business Atlas And Shippers' Guide (33rd ed). Chicago: Rand McNally and Company 1903).
David Rumsey Historical Map Collection. List # 2844.067. Series # 182. Copyright 2009.

Boys playing in alley, South Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November)
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF33-001293-M1 [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8a03868 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8a03868>
Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001293-M1 (b&w film dup. neg.) LC-DIG-fsa-8a03868 (digital file from original neg.)

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DAY 6

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY MUNICIPALITIES OMAHA

This great increase in real estate transactions had, of course, something of the speculative in it, but nothing beyond the legitimate. Values were increased, but not inflated. In instances, extremely desirable business property in the heart of the city attained a value of \$2,000 per front foot, but the average business lot in the business area has not attained a value above from \$1,200 to \$1,500. The best criterion to be cited is that the highest figures yet put upon Omaha realty still prevail, and are yet lower in proportion than prices on similar property in Kansas City, St. Paul, Denver or other western cities of Omaha's class.

The outlying realty—that fitted for residence purposes — is not proportionately less valuable than property in the business portion.

Judicious investments of capital in street transit lines have made almost every portion of the twenty-five square miles area of the city readily accessible. There are at present twenty-seven miles of horse railway in operation, six miles of cable railway and twenty miles of motor line in course of construction. Besides these, the Belt Line railroad circles the city and has stations at various points, and the Union Pacific and Burlington roads have hourly trains to South Omaha.

There are other lines projected to further provide citizens with means of rapid transit from their homes to the central portion of the city, all designed upon a comprehensive plan contemplating Omaha as a city of half a million souls before the close of the century. The investments already made in street transit lines are placed at \$3,000,000, which amount will be increased next year by another million, if projects now in contemplation are carried out.

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Salesman and two buyers. South Omaha stockyards. Nebraska. (1938 November). Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Other title from Documenting America, 1935-1943 / edited by Carl Fleischhauer and Beverly W. Brannan. Berkeley: University of California Press in association with the Library of Congress, 1988, p. 104.
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008902-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14234 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14234>
Reproduction # LC-USF34-T01-008902-D (b&w film dup. neg.)

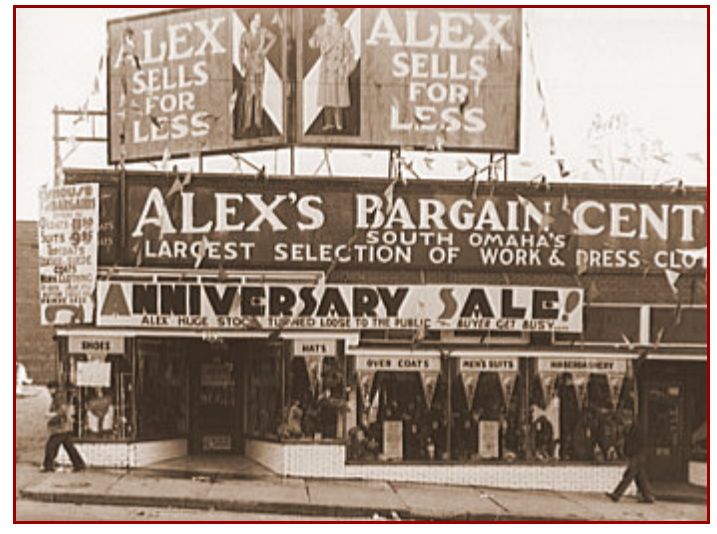
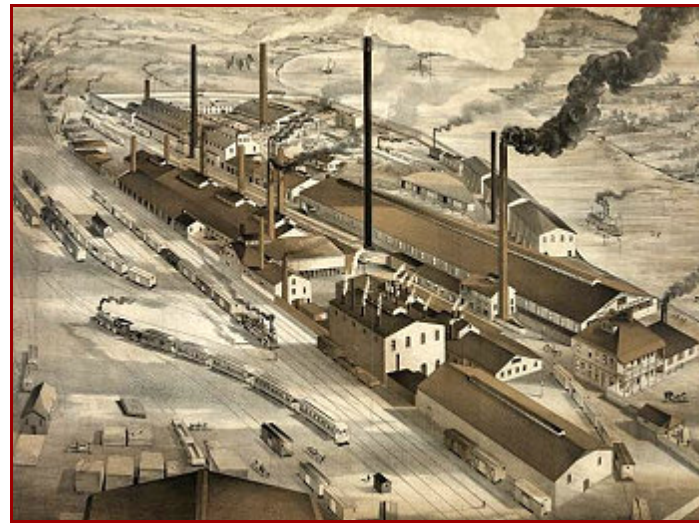
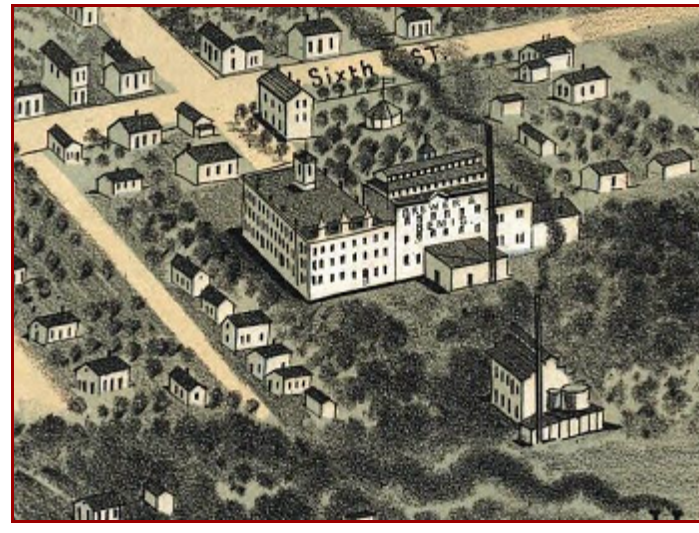
Cattle in stockyards. South Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November). Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008901-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14233 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14233>
Reproduction # LC-USF34-008901-D (b&w film neg.)

The Omaha and Grant Smelting Company, Omaha, Nebraska. Rees Print & Lithography Company.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
LC-DIG-pga-02461 (digital file from original print) LC-USZ62-42010 (b&w film copy neg.)

General W.W. Lowe property, southwest corner 16th and Harney Streets, now site of Burgess-Nash store.
Page. 219. Wakeley, Arthur C. (supervising editor). Omaha: The Gate City and Douglas County Nebraska, Volume 1. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company (1917).
From New York Public Library
Digitized by Internet Archive (2008). Sponsor: Microsoft Corporation
Digital file omahagatcitydou01wake

Woodman of the World bldg., looking north on 15th St., Omaha, Neb. View of 15th (fifteenth) Street, Omaha (Douglas County) Nebraska, stone and brick buildings in a commercial business district; shows Woodman of the World building, men and women in street, horse-drawn wagon, streetcar tracks, and neon sign: "Auditorium Annex, [D]rug Beer" and "Hotel".
McClure, Louis Charles (1867-1957) (photographer). Number 80.
Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, 10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80204.
Reproduction # MCC-3891
Digital ID codhapp 00073891 <http://photoswest.org/cgi-bin/imager?00073891+MCC-3891>

Store in south Omaha which caters to farmers of surrounding area. (1938 November) Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008927-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14259 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14259>
Reproduction # LC-USF34-008927-D (b&w film neg.)



Detail. Brewery. Bird's eye view of the city of Omaha, Nebraska 1868. Ruger, A. Chicago (IL): Chicago Lithographing Co. (1868).
Ruger map collection no. 145. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA.
Call # G4194.O4A3 1868 .R8 Rug 145. Digital ID: g4194o pm004670 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4194o pm004670>.
Also found at: <http://www.history-map.com/picture/004/pictures/Nebraska-Omaha.jpg>

The Horses Market, South Omaha, Nebr. (copyright 1914).
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Reading Room, Madison, LM337
LC Control # 2007661786. LCCN Permalink: <http://lccn.loc.gov/2007661786>. Call # PAN SUBJECT - Groups no. 220

Freight car and grain elevators. Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November). Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Other title from Documenting America, 1935-1943 / edited by Carl Fleischhauer and Beverly W. Brannan. Berkeley: University of California Press in association with the Library of Congress, 1988, p. 104.
LOT 0412 and LOT 2301. Call # LC-USF34-008906-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14238 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14238>. Reproduction # LC-USF34-T01-008906-D (b&w film dup. neg.)

Counting sheep as they enter the stockyards. South Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November) Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008852-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14188 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14188>. Reproduction # LC-USF34-008852-D (b&w film neg.)

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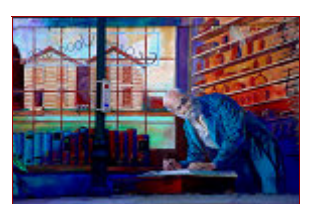
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Quite as important a feature of urban life is brought to attention in the city water works, for which ground was first broken in 1880. The system now has seventy miles of pipes and a daily output of 8,000,000 gallons of water. The system is a combination of the direct pressure and reservoir systems. The latter being used for domestic consumption and the direct pressure for fire protection. Two reservoirs have been provided, each with a capacity of 11,000,000 gallons. Into these the water is pumped on alternate days, from the Missouri river. Much of the sediment common to the river water is thus settled and the water in a measure purified. No pains are spared to preserve the water from organic taint, and the city may be said to be particularly fortunate, from a hygienic point of view, in its water system.

For fire protection there are six hundred hydrants distributed about the city. From these the water is taken directly into the hose by the fire department, the pressure being supplied by a special direct service engine at the water works, the pump having a capacity of 2,000,000 gallons.

The works have a total daily capacity of 30,000,000 gallons. The corporation owning the works has been very enterprising, the annual increase made in its plant amounting to 30 per cent, the total value of the investment being at present not far from two million dollars.



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Douglas County Courthouse. D.C. Dunbar & Co. Omaha illustrated: a history of the pioneer period and the Omaha of today embracing reliable statistics and information, with over two hundred illustrations, including prominent buildings, portraits, and sketches of leading citizens. Gibson, Miller & Richardson, lithographers. Omaha (NE): D. C. Dunbar & Co. (1888). (Pages aren't numbered in digital file.) <http://www.archive.org/details/omahaillustrated00omah> contributed by Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne (IN). digitalized by MSN

Names in Omaha politics, South Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November. Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer). Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA Call # LC-USF33-001278-M1. Other # G 673 Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001278-M1 (b&w film dup. neg., 70mm size) LC-USF3301-001278-M1 (b&w film dup. neg., 4x5 size). 8a03804r

Barber and shop, South Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November. Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer). Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA Call # LC-USF33-001281-M1. Other # G 6488 Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001281-M1 (b&w film dup. neg.) 8a03818r

Headquarters of truck drivers' union, Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November. Omaha is very little unionized. Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer). Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA Call # LC-USF33-001283-M1. Other # G 661 Reproduction # LC-DIG-fsa-8a03826 (digital file from original neg.) LC-USF33-T01-001283-M1 (b&w film dup. neg.). 8a03826r

Truck carrying poster, Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November) Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer). LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF33-001282-M1 [P&P] Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA Digital Id fsa 8a03823 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8a03823> Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001282-M1 (b&w film dup. neg., 70mm size) LC-USF3301-001282-M1 (b&w film dup. neg., 4x5 size) LC-DIG-fsa-8a03823 (digital file from original neg.)

Detective H. Rogers of Omaha Police Department (right) with friend, Omaha, Nebraska (1938 November) Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer). LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008855-D [P&P] Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA Digital Id fsa 8b14191 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14191>. Reproduction # LC-USF34-008855-D (b&w film neg.)

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Original site of "Boy's Town." Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November) Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer). LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008969-D [P&P] Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA Digital Id fsa 8b14302 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14302> Reproduction # LC-USF34-008969-D (b&w film neg.)

Hospital on lower Douglas Street. Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November) Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer). LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008955-D [P&P] Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print> Digital Id fsa 8b14287 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14287> Reproduction # LC-USF34-008955-D (b&w film neg.)

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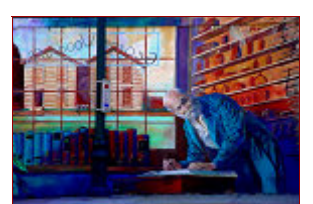
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Laurel Lee
Time For Democracy
Box 477235
1704 N. Milwaukee
Chicago, IL 60647-7235

IT WAS TIME TO GET OUT OF TOWN. I'M ON A ROAD TRIP,
STOPPING AT ALL HISTORICAL MARKERS ON THE WAY.
DAY 8

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY MUNICIPALITIES OMAHA

Those other accessories of municipal life which contribute so largely to public and private comfort — gas and electric light — have been amply supplied. The city pays for over one thousand street gas lamps which are lighted from darkness till daylight; and there are, besides, over four hundred electric lights of 2,000 candle power each distributed about the city by public and private enterprise. Indeed, it can well be said that Omaha is an exceptionally well lighted city.

St. Joseph's Hospital, in charge of the Sisters of Mercy, and largely sustained by the generosity of the Hon. John A. Creighton, is an institution of a semi-religious, semi-public nature. It is conducted under Catholic auspices, but is non-sectarian in its good and charitable work.

There is also in the city a free dispensary where the needy sick can receive medicine and attention.

A bureau of charities has just been organized for the purpose of concentrated and systematic dispensing of assistance to the worthy poor. Leading citizens are enlisted in the movement and are giving it needed and hearty support.

Life and property are well conserved in Omaha so far as public accessories can command. The city has a metropolitan police force guided and controlled by a police commission, the members of which are appointed by the Governor of the State, and are thus independent of local political influences.

Omaha illustrated: a history of the pioneer period and the Omaha of today embracing reliable statistics and information, with over two hundred illustrations including prominent buildings, portraits, and sketches of leading citizens. Omaha (NE): D.C. Dunbar & Co. (1888) Gibson, Miller & Richardson, lithographers (Pages aren't numbered in digital file)

<http://www.archive.org/details/omahaillustrated00omah>
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Mayne Residence.
D.C. Dunbar & Co. Omaha illustrated: a history of the pioneer period and the Omaha of today embracing reliable statistics and information, with over two hundred illustrations, including prominent buildings, portraits, and sketches of leading citizens. Gibson, Miller & Richardson, lithographers. Omaha (NE): D.C. Dunbar & Co. (1888). (Pages aren't numbered in digital file.)
<http://www.archive.org/details/omahaillustrated00omah>
contributed by Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne (IN). digitalized by MSN

Home in "Happy Hollow," better residential district of Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November)
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF33- 001286-M4 [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8a03837 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8a03837>
Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001286-M4 (b&w film dup. neg., 70mm size) LC-USF3301-001286-M4 (b&w film dup. neg., 4x5 size) LC-DIG-fsa-8a03837 (digital file from original neg.)

Slum houses, Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November.
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Call # LC-USF33- 001301-M4. Other # G 222. Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001301-M4 (b&w film dup. neg.). 8a03906r

South Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November.
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Call # LC-USF33- 001293-M3. Other # G 2566. Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001293-M3 (b&w film dup. neg.). 8a03870r

House in the old part of town, Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November.
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Call # LC-USF34- 008953-D. Other # G 2332. Reproduction # LC-USF34-008953-D (b&w film neg.). 8b14285r

Liquor store, Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November.
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Call # LC-USF33- 001287-M4. Other # G 6416.
Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001287-M4 (b&w film dup. neg., 70mm size) LC-USF3301-001287-M4 (b&w film dup. neg., 4x5 size) 8a03842r

Credits continued in left column

Lower Douglas Street is one of the hobo centers of the West, Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November.
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Original caption before agency editing: Lower Douglas St., where Omaha's bums hang out. Omaha is one of the hobo centers of the West.
Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Call # LC-USF33- 001307-M2. Other # G 211. 8a03929r

Nebraska is the white spot of the nation: no luxury tax, no bonded debt, highways all paid for, Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November.
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Lot 0412. Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Call # LC-USF33- 001295-M3. Other # G 5104
Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001295-M3 (b&w film dup. neg., 70mm size) LC-USF3301-001295-M3 (b&w film dup. neg., 4x5 size). 8a03880r

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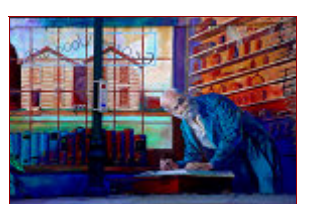
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DAY 9

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY MUNICIPALITIES OMAHA

The police force comprises at present about fifty well-disciplined, uniformed men, including a chief, a day and a night captain and three sergeants. Patrolmen receive \$70 per month; sergeants, \$85; captains, \$100, and the chief \$150. The department has all the accessories of alarm boxes, patrol wagon, etc. It can be said, too, that in view of the great increase of Omaha's population, including people of all classes, that the city has been very well policed. During the past year great crimes have been few and rarely have offenders of any grade escaped the law.

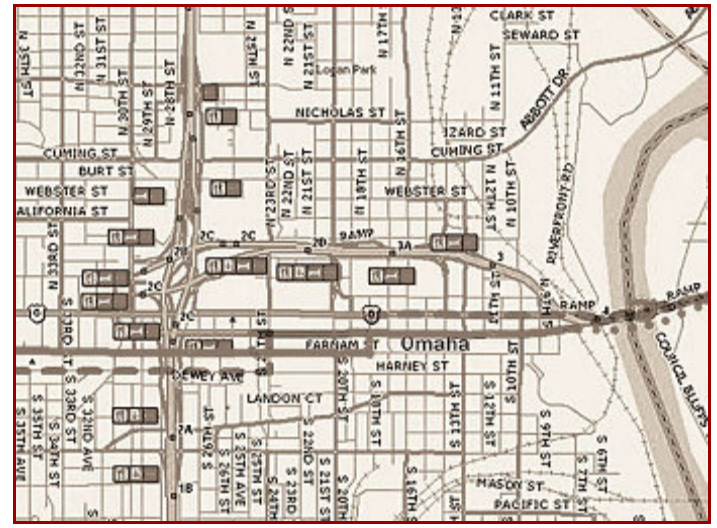
Omaha's paid fire department is something of which its citizens are particularly and justly proud. In point of equipment and efficiency it is not excelled in any city in the Union. It, too, is under the control of the police and fire commission, but its excellence can be most largely credited to its brave and efficient chief, John J. Galligan, who is excelled by none as a firefighter.

When it is stated that the total fire losses for 1887 have been less than \$200,000, while the insurance companies have reaped over \$900,000 in premiums it will be understood that the city has first-class fire protection.

The department has a total of 52 men, including a chief, his two assistants, a superintendent of fire alarm and 48 men distributed at six hose-house stations in desirable parts of the city. The department has two steamers, a chemical engine, and about 10,000 feet of hose. The steamers are never used, however, as the direct pressure pump of the City Water Works furnishes force enough to carry streams of water over the loftiest structure in the city.

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Cars parked diagonally along parking meters. Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November)
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34-008964-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id ppmsca 10438 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.10438> fsa 8b14296 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14296>
Reproduction # LC-DIG-ppmsca-10438 (digital file from file print) LC-USF34-T01-008964-D (b&w film dup. neg.)

nopump_white_rose
<http://lincolnhighwaynebraska.com/graphics.html>

LincolnHwy25
<http://lincolnhighwaynebraska.com/graphics.html>

LHN-MAP
<http://lincolnhighwaynebraska.com/graphics.html>

Welcome. Lincoln Highway, Omaha, Nebraska.
<http://lincolnhighwaynebraska.com/graphics.html>

Dodge, 28th Streets interchange planned to tie downtown to Expressway.
Omaha World Herald (1958 July 6).
<http://segonku.unl.edu/~nswiercek/images/news.owh.19660724.jpg>

Omaha, Nebraska (2008 December 13).
Swiercek, Nicholas D.
3116840170_76807dac89_z
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/25679135@N04/3116840170/sizes/z/in/photostream/>
swiercek@unl.edu
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

North Omaha Redevelopment Project
1301 Harney
Omaha, NE 68102
www.ProjectNorthOmaha.org

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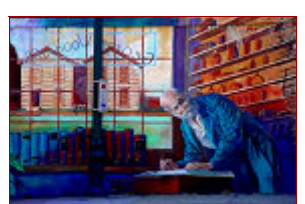
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DAY 10

TIME FOR DEMOCRACY MUNICIPALITIES OMAHA

Excellent equipment and capable efficient men have combined to give such an excellent protection from fire that in 1886 the underwriters made a reduction in insurance rates and still another reduction was made in 1887.

While the police and fire departments are under the immediate direction of the police and fire commission, appointed by the Governor of the State, they are also measurably controlled by the Mayor and Council, in whom control of the city finances is vested. The Council regulates, subject to the Mayor's approval, all expenditures of public moneys, except those devoted to educational purposes which are in charge of the Board of education.

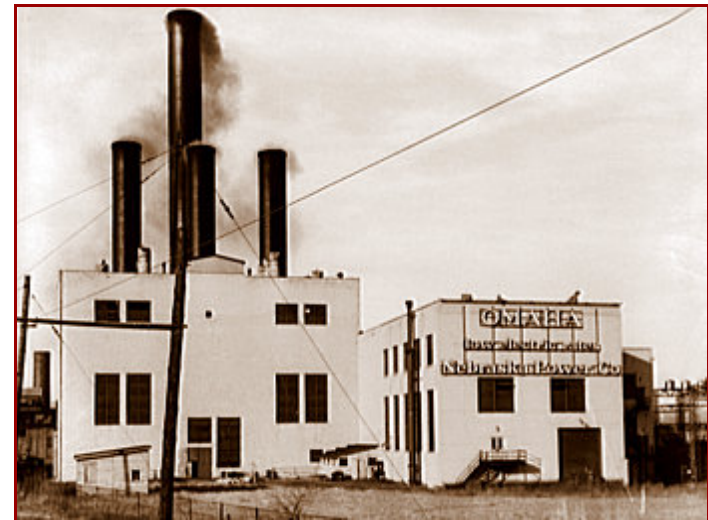
It may be appropriate here to give a summary of the city government. The Mayor is elected by the voters for a term of two years. The Council is composed of eighteen members, elected for two years, nine of whom are elected at large one year, i. e. by vote of all the citizens, and the other nine the next year by the respective wards. The City Treasurer, Comptroller and Police Judge are also elected by popular vote.

The City Attorney and Assistant Engineer, Gas Inspector, Street Commissioner, Board of Public Works (three members), are appointive by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the Council.

The City Clerk is elective by the Council. The Mayor, the president of the Council and the City Clerk constitute the license board.

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1913 Omaha Nebraska Easter Tornado Photo Gallery
Mr. & Mrs. Dozier on the site of their former home at 3812 Davenport. The entire family was more or less bruised, but none of them seriously. National Weather Service Central Region Headquarters Regional Office. 7220 NW 101st Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64153
Photos Courtesy of the MARDOS Memorial Library. www.MemorialLibrary.com housed at USGenNet.org
http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/archive/1913_Omaha_Tor/1913dozierhome.jpg

Tornado at Omaha, Nebraska - Desolate waste at 30th and Hamilton Streets (copyright 1913 April 26)
Call # LC-USZ62-89114 (b&w film copy neg)
Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Reading room, Madison, LM 337
<http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3b35506/>. Call # SSF - STORMS--TORNADOES--NEBRASKA--1913. 3b35506r

Old building being razed. Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November).
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34- 008958-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14290 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14290>
Reproduction # LC-USF34-008958-D (b&w film neg.)

Old livery stable. Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November)
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34- 008941-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14273 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14273>. Reproduction # LC-USF34-008941-D (b&w film neg.)

Residential district, Omaha, Nebraska. 1938 November.
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
Lot 0412. Call # LC-USF33- 001289-M2. Other # G 2332
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Reproduction # LC-USF33-T01-001289-M2 (b&w film dup. neg.). 8a03850r

Nebraska Power Company, Omaha, Nebraska. (1938 November)
Vachon, John (1914-1975) (photographer).
LOT 0412. Call # LC-USF34- 008867-D [P&P]
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA
Digital Id fsa 8b14204 <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/fsa.8b14204>. Reproduction # LC-USF34-008867-D (b&w film neg.)

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DAY 11

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The president of the Council is acting Mayor when the Mayor is absent from the city or incapacitated for duty.

There are besides a number of minor offices, Building, Boiler, Sewer and Paving Inspectors, Viaduct Tenders, Special Police, etc., appointive by the Mayor, and subject to the approval of the Council.

So wisely are the duties of the several city officials regulated, so many are the checks and counter checks placed upon them all by the municipal charter that Omaha is a very well governed city—none better in fact.

One of the potent forces in bringing Omaha to its high estate as a city, has been the Board of Trade. It was organized in 1877, by the businessmen and leading citizens for the purpose of advancing and building up the city's interests, and was always an effective agency. In 1885, when Omaha's position as a great city was beyond dispute, the Board was reorganized, the membership fee increased from \$125 to \$250, and much new blood introduced.

Through the efforts of the Board of Trade, Omaha has been widely advertised in the East and many enterprises induced to locate here. The Secretary of the Board is constantly replying to inquiries from parties looking for a place to locate and in compiling and sending out statistical information concerning the city's standing and advantages.

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Omaha Quartermaster Depot General Storehouse Building Number 21. Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.
The Quartermaster Depot, historically known as the 'Old Corral', played a significant part in late nineteenth and early twentieth century local and regional history, and today remains as a remarkable cohesive example of the changing role played by the military and railroad in the development and 'westward expansion' following the Civil War.
Built 1904. Demolished 1982.
National Register of Historic Places NRIS Number: 79003685
Historic American Buildings Survey. Call # HABS NEB,28-OMAH,2A- (Photo 4)
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/NE0040>. 103395pv

The Great Plains Windmill, pasture, northwest of Hazard, Nebraska.
<http://www.nctc.net/hazard/photo/windmill/windmill.JPG>

Dust Bowl Nebraska 1935
gsmith.mysite.com/images/kansas_dust.jpg

Dust bowl farm, Dainart, Texas, 1938.
<http://web.rollins.edu/~jsiry/DustbowlFarmNrDalhartTexas1938.jpg>

Carhenge
2141 County Road 59, Alliance, Nebraska, 69301,
<http://www.jour.unr.edu/goldbaum/photos/roadside/images/carhenge.jpg>

Carhenge
2141 County Road 59, Alliance, Nebraska, 69301
http://www.sorabji.com/2002/road_trip/nebraska/alliance/

Carhenge (2007 November 10).
2141 County Road 59, Alliance, Nebraska, 69301
Rochkind, Marc (photographer)
http://basepath.com/galleries/Carhenge/MJR_20071111_0690.jpg

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