



The City of Homes, Schools and Churches

A PICTORIAL STORY OF

VALPARAISO

ITS PEOPLE AND ITS ENVIRONS

BY A. H. READING

Copyrighted 1905 All rights reserved Where songbirds sing and breezes croon Their soothing melodies of June; Where far along the pleasant ways The maples swing their verdant maze, And temple steeples glimmer through, O'erhung with nothing but the blue Of heaven, I in peace rejoice; It is a vale of Paradise. -- "Bob" Harrison

G ENEROUS nature has been aided by the loving labors of man in making of Valparaiso the genuine beauty spot that it is to-day. Within the sound, almost, of busy, bustling and noisy cities, the whistles of factories and the clashing of mills, this little city has succeeded in preserving its original quiet and cleanly attractiveness — a sun-kissed breathing place for those who have tired of the stress and clatter and selfishness of the marketplace, as well as for those who prefer the calm contentment of a beautiful home and God's free air to the sordid strife of the contending clans.

Valparaiso, with its shady streets and wide lawns, its attractive homes and spacious buildings, its great schools and inviting churches, nestles almost lazily among modest hills and rolling plains. Creeks that sing to the moss-clad wheels of creaking old mills take their zigzag ways about the outskirts. A half-hour's ride to the north, a chain of silver, wood-girt lakes stretch irregularly across the country in a connected waterway that presents an irresistible invitation when the heat of midsummer is upon the land. In the summer evenings the sounds of music and of dancing, the voices of gay young folk and care-free elders, from scores of cottages about the lake shores tell how welcome are the proffered retreats and how gratefully accepted. Away to the south, a half-day's journey for the man who is not cursed with the strenuous anxiety to break a speed record, the Kankakee river washes the southern boundary of Porter county, and provides hunting, fishing and boating possibilities that are noted throughout a half dozen States.

Many of the well-known citizens of the world have delighted in the restful sport of the Kankakee for their regular annual outing. The late Gen. Lew Wallace, soldier, diplomat and author, was a faithful lover. Gen. Benjamin Harrison, before and after

he became President, wooed nature here. Dozens of others well known in statecraft, literature, trade, society, the professions, were regular summer courtiers of the goddess of sport in this section. From Pittsburg to Keokuk, they come with unfailing regularity.

The country that surrounds Valparaiso is essentially an agricultural one. Broad farms and well-tilled throw their huge offerings of golden grain and luscious fruit into the city's lap with reckless liberality. Sleek cattle graze upon green acres, and well-bred horses look across the fence-tops at the hurrying trains with unruffled complaisance. Along the roadside in every direction, centered in well-kept yards, modern farmhouses hold forth hospitable invitation.

While by no means a rural town, the city itself has refused to sacrifice its natural beauty and comfort for the sake of the financial temptation. It is in a most unusual and delightful degree a city of homes, of schools and of churches. Broad, well-kept streets are lined by rows of trees that often lock their branches overhead, and always throw cool, wavering shadows across the pavements as well as upon the level lawns behind. Modern homes, substantial and attractive, are everywhere. Palatial residences are not few; modest cottages with vine-clad porches are even more numerous.

As an educational center, the place that Valparaiso holds in the world is remarkable when one thinks of its eight thousand population. For years men and women have come hither from all quarters of the globe to attend its colleges. Valparaiso College, with its steady attendance of three thousand to four thousand, its thirty-five departments and its able faculty, has sent its graduates into the highest position that the world can offer. The Dodge School of Telegraphy, with its newly erected buildings, is already overcrowded; the Polk School of Piano Tuning, the Valparaiso School of Photography, the Northern Indiana Law School, affiliated with Valparaiso College; all these are known widely and well.

The city school system is modern and complete, and housed in handsome and spacious buildings. The new Central High School building is one of the largest and best in the State. The ward schools are models in every respect. Center township also has the finest modern rural school building in the world. It is recognized everywhere as the ideal district school, and has attracted wide attention among educators.

The city is not unknown in the world of commerce and manufactures. Three great trunk railways enter the town and a half dozen more skirt its suburbs. Several important manufacturing institutions are located here, including Powers, Higley & Co., makers of a wide line of educational specialties; the Chicago Mica Company, producers of mica for all purposes in great quantity; the Charles H. Parker Paint Company, whose products are known the country over; the H. J. Upthegrove Company, whose garments are worn by sportsmen and hunters wherever wild game invites pursuit.

Socially the Vale has much to offer. Its people are cultured and refined. Numerous social clubs aid the work done in this field by the various progressive lodges. Among the leading orders represented here are the Masonic fraternity, with its attendant bodies, the Commandery, Chapter and Eastern Star; The Odd Fellows, with the Canton of Patriarchs Militant and the Daughters of Rebekah; the Knights of Pythias, the B. P. O. Elks, the Knights of the Maccabees, the I. O. Foresters of America (organized in Valparaiso) and the I. O. F., the Modern Woodmen, Royal Arcanum, the Knights of Columbus, the Alpha Epsilon and Epsilon Phi Sigma fraternity at the college, and others. Of the patriotic organizations are the G. A. R., Women's Relief Corps, Sons of Veterans and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The clubs, both social and literary, are numerous and influential. The Professional Men's Club maintains splendid quarters; the Civic Women's Club devotes its energies to civic betterment; the Woman's Club of Valparaiso has departments devoted to work in literature, music, art and education; the Mathesis Club has a strong course of study, and at the Saturday Evening Club social, civic and economic topics are discussed. The Valparaiso Athletic Club does not overlook its social possibilities, while the Rump-tee-Dee, the Clover Leaf, the Teutonia Verein and its feminine auxiliary, and a half score others are purely social. The Mendelssohn Musical Club is the leader in its important field.

Valparaiso has furnished its quota of men and women whose work has been worth while in literature, in politics and in statecraft. The late United States Senator Gilbert A. Pierce, one-time editor of the Chicago *Inter Ocean* and ambassador to European countries, won wide note as a novelist, a journalist and a diplomat. Former Congressman Mark L. DeMotte, a man whom his State and city have alike delighted to honor, has spent a notable life among varied paths of progress. As the founder and dean of the Northern Indiana College of Law; as an author, magazinist and lover of literature; as a public speaker and *raconteur*; as editor, Senator and Congressman, he has made an enviable mark. The late ex-Congressman William H. Calkins was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington. Hubert M. Skinner, former State Superintendent of Instruction, now located in Chicago, has done much good work in literature. Ex-Representative Elden Small, now connected with the Detroit, Michigan, *Times*, is the author of "At the Court of Bohemia" and "Along the Way." In Mrs. Eva Marble Bondy the city has a writer of dainty verse. Charles Gerhart Ericson, the author of "Local Poems," is now in Toronto, Canada. G. Robert Harrison, song writer, has "Old St. Joe," "Some Day, Sweetheart," and other tuneful ballads, to his credit. Besides these, President H. B. Brown, of the college, with other members of the faculty, have written several important educational works.

The world of art is the better off because of H. H. Cross, noted painter of Western scenes and animals; Prof. Charles Crocker,

artist and instructor; Mrs. John B. Dolson, art director of Valparaiso College, and A. H. Reading, who has broadened the field and scope of artistic photography to as great a degree as did the pioneer who supplanted the daguerreotype.

The musical colony is extensive and unusually worthy of attention — a fact that is recognized in Chicago and a host of the greater cities. Among the better-known musicians now resident here in the various lines of vocal and instrumental music are Mrs. Jennie Thatcher Beach, soprano; Prof. August Wolf, violinist and composer; Mrs. Harriet Bruce Roe, soprano; Lulu Grace Miller, soprano; Miss Mabel Spooner, piano; Mrs. Anna Ward Marony, pipe organ; W. Huntington, pipe organ; Prof. and Mrs. W. F. Gaskins, vocal and pipe organ; Prof. and Mrs. R. D. Cadwell, violin and piano; Prof. Harry Polk, piano and pipe organ; the Lyric Quartette, vocalists; the Salisbury Family, a widely known and remarkable group of vocal and instrumental musicians, and others.

In politics, this town has furnished diplomats in foreign courts, United States Senators and Congressmen, governors and men who "did things." At the present time, Chief Justice John H. Gillett, of the Supreme Court, Congressman E. D. Crumpacker, and Representative J. N. Patton are noteworthy contributions to the public service. Postal Inspector Laurence L. Letherman, formerly in charge of the postal service of Cuba, is now at the head of the Boston district. Ex-Senator N. L. Agnew is the present grand commander of the Knights Templars of Indiana. Gen. I. C. B. Suman, commander of the famous old "Bloody Ninth" regiment during the Civil War, has been mayor, postmaster and otherwise notable in peace as in war.

The churches of the Vale are large, handsome, and their pulpits filled by an exceptionally able coterie of churchmen. The number includes several whose names are familiar throughout the country, but who recognize the importance of the local field because of the large student body here. They are eloquent, brilliant and powerful men, whose presence is an honor to the city.

Two excellent newspapers, both having daily and weekly editions, are serving the field well. The *Vidette*, Republican organ, is one of the pioneers of this part of the State. It was founded by the late Judge William Cole Talcott, author, reformer, editor, and is at present edited by John M. Manty, who is assisted by Charles H. Crisman as city editor. The *Messenger*, Democratic, is still in the hands of its founder, E. Zimmerman, a trenchant editorial writer and a jovial gentleman. The active management of the paper is to a great degree in the hands of his son, Arthur F. Zimmerman.

The venerable Judge Talcott, founder of the *Vidette* and its editor for many years, filled a unique niche in the history of the city and county. His long life was in the main a busy one, ten years being spent as a preacher, fifteen years as a judge upon the bench, twenty-five years in active editorial work, and the last few years of his useful life being unselfishly devoted to the introduction of several reforms in spelling, religion and morals. He was the author of several books in prose and rhyme. "Uncle Joe" Marks is

another pioneer whose advocacy of unusual theological tenets and his striking personality have made him a part of the town's history. John H. Sullivan, "Broncho John," is a typical cowboy of the days now almost forgotten by a hurrying world. He is at the head of a "Wild West" show company, but still retains his residence here. He has been for many years connected with the United States Governmental service as a scout, and is still subject to call in case of need. During the Cuban War he was with Gen. Fitzhugh Lee as chief of transportation. Hon. N. J. Bozarth, commander of the G. A. R., is known as the youngest soldier to be regularly enlisted and carry a musket in the Civil War. A dozen or more college presidents in various institutions of recognized merit in the country are Valparaiso men. Capt. Lewis Mandeville, retired for these many years, was the first photographer west of New York to make "paper pictures" in place of the daguerreotype.

In a word, Valparaiso is an example of the most attractive type of "home city," wherein nature has been generous with her gifts and even the most ambitious energy of men has not drowned out the song of the soil and the melodies of restful peace. To the person who has spent many years in its contented ways, and who goes away to larger and busier scenes, there must always be a discordant note in the world's chorus, and never will the old town, its beauties and its myriad attractions, be quite forgotten or replaced.

Out of the bustle and crash and roar Of the hurrying city street, There's a way leads back to a Yesterday Where Peace and Memory meet. There's a song of love in the kindly air, And a bird song in the tree; And no matter where I may chance to fare There is only one "home" for me! For, waking or sleeping, my tired thoughts go To the dear old town that I used to know.

- E. Elden Small.













-













Memorial Opera House



Dodge's Institute of Telegraphy -G.M. Dodge, Pres. CILLO MALLICE CONTRACTORIO





.



Fpiscopal Church ~~~~ 2 Rector Applegate.



First Presbyterian church. Rev. C.B. Beckes













.

•




.





-





.





















Science Hall



East Hall



College of Law



14.14 M

Music Hall



Interior of Library













-

















J. U. Sieb's Residence.






























