

When some of the old records of the Commercial club were being moved today to the new quarters a manuscript of yellowed paper fell to the sidewalk.

Picking it up W.E. Richardson, assistant secretary found it to be the first annual report of the Yakima Commercial club submitted by J.M. Gilbert , secretary in 1894.

This ancient paper disclosed that the Commercial club was organized late in 1893 at the suggestion of E.F. Benson and was "born in the conviction that growing interests of Yakima county demanded for their oversight and guidance the concentrated effort and care of her business men."

The report goes on to say: "Throughout a year of unprecedented business depression the club has inaugurated its work and I do not doubt that every member who is familiar with the results attained will voice the sentiment that the organization was justified.

The Commercial club at the time of its organization took over the funds and machinery of the Yakima club which up to that time had been a sort of social group.

The first annual report does not show who was the first president and some of the charter members who are still here do not recall for certain whether the first president was Edward Whitson, W.F. Prosser or William Kerr.

Search of the files of the old weekly Herald disclosed the announcement that the first election would be held on a certain date and the next issue after the election simply recorded the announcement that the first election was held as foretold in

The Herald of last week and fails to give the important information as to results.

The first annual report shows that the origin of the club's interest in the State fair dates back to the first fair which was held

S.J. Small, Jr. field representative of the United States Chamber of Commerce with western district headquarters at San Francisco came to Yakima today to aid the Commercial club in carrying out its plans for reorganizing as a valley chamber of commerce.

Mr. Small is a stranger to Yakima but fought side by side with many Yakima youths in the 146th field artillery of which one battery was organized here, in the Argonne.

Mr. Small will remain in Yakima for several days and begin his service this noon at the meeting of the Rotary club. Tomorrow he speaks to the Lions club, on Saturday meets with the Commercial club's reorganization committee and on Wednesday will speak at the monthly membership luncheon of the Commercial club when the girls glee club of Washington State college will also be on the program.

J.L. Hughes, who has taken the lead in the move to form a chamber of commerce that will be valley wide in its outlook and scope of activity says that he has found great interest in his project in all sections of the valley.--The Yakima Republic, February 5, 1925.

Members now enrolled 874.

Present cash assets \$4,853.

Tourist park investment \$8,002.

Receipts for year \$22,585.

Total club assets \$24,766.

Yakima Commercial club members it was revealed at the annual meeting held at the club last night are in a flourishing condition with support of the club even stronger as shown in the membership dues.

Five directors, F.F. Stubbs, Dr. H.E. Wight, E.M. Fisher, Leo Ross and Erling Helliesen were elected to serve for the coming two years. A.B. Cline, treasurer presented his report.

J. Wood L. Hughes suggested that the time had come for an expansion of the club into a Chamber of Commerce to handle the community's matters for the entire valley. This organization would make it more effective. The club appointed Hughes, Grover Burrows, and A.B. Cline with Secretary Soots to look into the feasibility of making the change.

"Second in importance to serving the fruit growers and agricultural interests (also livestock) is the need for a new community hotel to serve for the next 25 or 50 years.

"A good road to White Bluffs and Hanford will bring immediate and substantial dividends to commercial interests of the city. Early completion of State Road No. 5 to Mt. Rainier and the Mt. Adams highway to connect with the new bridge across the Columbia at White Salmon, were noted as projects in Soots' annual report -- Yakima Republic, Dec. 18, 1924.

Grover Burrows of the Burrows motor company was this noon elected president of the Yakima Commercial club to serve for the coming year.

Commercial club

The annual meeting of the Yakima Commercial club was held on Tuesday when the old officers retired and new ones assumed their duties.

The officers for the ensuing year are J.M. Gilbert, president; G.A. Graham, first vice president; George S. Vance, second vice president; H.H. Lombard, treasurer; A.B. Wyckoff, A.B. Weed, W.H. Redman, W.M. Heiney, F.M. Sain, W.H. Hare, O.A. Fechter, Frank Horsley, W.L. Steinweg and George Donald, members of the governing board; Charles Carpenter, H.B. Rigg, T.G. Redfield Alex Miller, and E.M. Reed, trustees.

Summary: During the year 8,000 handsomely illustrated pamphlets recounting the advantages of the Yakima valley as a home for prospective settlers.

Memorializing the legislature on the subject of reduction of freight rates and bringing to the attention of railroad officials the need for a new depot.

A large number of stereoscopic views of Yakima county were made to illustrate lectures given in the east on Washington and Yakima was advertised by means of large placards on 100 carloads of potatoes shipped to eastern states.

The assessor was assisted in the work of getting statistics on products of the county and J.D. Medill is now completing his extensive work upon which he has been engaged for some time, showing the acreage of various fruits grown in Yakima.

A remonstrance was sent against the proposed increase in the freight rates on hops.

Yakima fruit samples were sent to the Minnesota state fair and the fair held at Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Photographic views of Yakima were sent to the Franklin

Commercial club

The annual election of the Commercial club was held on Tuesday evening resulting in the following choice:

President, Edward Whitson; first vice president, W.H. Hare; second vice president J. Lovell Smith; treasurer, H.H. Lombard; governing board, J.M. Gilbert, G.A. Graham, G.S. Rankin, W.H. Bogle and Alex Miller.

One more member will make the board complete but there was a tie between Phil Ditter, I.H. Dills and E.B. Watt which will be settled at the next meeting--Herald, Jan. 28, 1897.

North Yakima--Historical
Commercial Club

The governing board of the Commercial club met as usual in the rooms of the club Saturday evening with President Steinweg in the chair and Messrs G.A. Graham, Phil Ditter, W.H. Bogle, Frank Horsley, George Hough and A.E. Larson and Matt Bartholet present.

...It was proposed that steps be taken to have the prefix "North" dropped from the name North Yakima.

The proposition created a great deal of discussion and was finally referred to the committee on city interests--Yakima Herald, March 3, 1898.

Commercial Club. Vice president Matt Bartholet presided over the deliberations of the governing board Saturday night and Messrs Ditter, Larson, Horsley, Hough and Bogle responded to roll call.

Secretary Fechter read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Edward Whitson, chairman of the committee on city interests to whom the matter had been referred, reported that the word "north" cannot well be dropped from the name of this city unless the name of the post office is changed to "Yakima" and this name already belongs to Yakima City. The report was accepted...Yakima Herald, March 17, 1898.

(1945)

Commercial Club

The third annual meeting of the Yakima Commercial club was called to order Tuesday night by Hon. Edward Whitson, president and after the reading of the minutes of the last meeting called for reports of the secretary and treasurer.

The Yakima Commercial club has completed its fourth year and stands today as one of the substantial institutions of the community and is recognized abroad as a leading factor in the development of Yakima county.

...Perhaps no more important matter has been taken in hand by the Club at any time than the building of a wagon road to the Gold Hill country mining district. This was started by the club at whose solicitation sufficient funds were pledged to go a long way toward building the road.

Largely as a result of this work sufficient state funds were appropriated to complete the road and today the work is nearly done and stands as a monument to the energy and push of the people of Yakima county. As a trade avenue the importance of this road to North Yakima cannot be overlooked.

Realizing the fact that all of Yakima's interests depend on the products of the soil the Club gladly assisted the Northern Pacific Railway Co. in inducing farmers all over the county to take part in the sugar beet experiment that has been so successful during the past year. The results have been satisfactory, so much so that the State Agricultural College at Pullman has seen fit to issue a special bulletin on the subject showing the very high grade of sugar beet that has been produced here and the establishment of a beet sugar factory in this country is quite likely to follow in due time. Five hundred of these bulletins have been bought and will be carefully circulated where they will do the most good..

The Commercial club would confer a boon upon the community by making steps to procure a government building in North Yakima. This city is entitled to a building at once and the comfort and convenience of the public, to say nothing of the officials makes such an improvement imperative.

The spectacle of a dozen government officials huddled together in the small and illy adapted land offices is not an edifying one. Here in this city are the register and receiver of the land office, the United States commissioner, deputy United States marshal, county deputy internal revenue collector, three Indian commissioners (occasionally) and the postmaster without adequate accommodations.

The probable addition of a federal court here with its numerous retinue of officials all combine to make such a building indispensable, both now and in the future. Let us have some expression of our citizens on this subject--Yakima Herald, Dec. 1, 1898.

The Commercial club elected new officers on Tuesday night as follows:

O.A. Fechter, president; Frank Horsley, 1st vice president; George S. Hough, second vice president; governing board Messrs Medill, Hartung, Cline, Hunter, Watt; treasurer, G.C. Wallace.--Yakima Herald, Feb. 2, 1899.

Digging down into their memories and the musty record books 10 past presidents of the Yakima Commercial club last night at the housewarming smoker in the new quarters vied with each other in bringing to light accomplishments of their administration.

It turned out that Oscar Fechter who was president in 1898, and was the ranking past president on hand had a distinct advantage over others. A diligent search of old minute books failed to uncover one for his administration, leaving him free to depend entirely upon memory.

It was developed that Fred Chandler, who was secretary at that time, was present but maintained silence.

None of the presidents who served during the next five years were present but A.E. Larson, 1904 president had a bit to say about the record. Chandler was still secretary, his salary being 12 1-2 per cent of all the collections of dues at \$1 per month and he was just as loyal to Larson as Fechter.

Larson built the foundation structure by the improvement of city streets and roads running into his town. His administration forestalled the plan of the Northern Pacific to build straight through from Lind to Ellensburg thus putting Yakima on a stub line.

Then came a jump to 1909 when Alex Miller directed the club. His year in office saw the rapid strides toward reclamation development. He recalled that in the old days the Commercial club was a social group as well as business and he had a faint recollection that there had been such a thing as lockers in the club room.

W.L. Lemon, who served in 1910 said his term stood prominently in history of the club that he wouldn't run the risk of starting arguments by being too specific. Robert Rundstrom, 1911, told of raising \$6,000 for publicity to bring people to the valley. The hardest job he had though was raising \$2,500 with which to pay a debt due a furniture company.

Commercial club

New quarters for the Yakima Commercial club formed the chief topic discussed by the board of trustees this noon at the Commercial hotel.

Nothing definite was decided but a building committee, composed of Grover Durrows, Frank H. Sharkey and Jacob Lentz was appointed to investigate and report at the next meeting.

The club could build a structure adequate to its needs for \$25,000, containing an auditorium capable of seating 400 persons and two or three offices, O.C. Soot, secretary said. In his opinion the club should not delay longer acquiring its own quarters.

The lease on the present location on the fifth floor of the Masonic temple building expires December 1. Whether the club will erect a building or lease space in another business block will have to be determined soon.

A.B. Cline suggested a community clubhouse housing the American Legion and the Commercial organization.

Between Dec 1, 1923 and Nov. 1, the club's receipts totaled \$28,008.15 and its expenditures \$27,358.68 Soots said. Of the receipts \$3,000 represented securities which had to be cashed leaving the financial standing the past year in the debit column. Expenses the past year have been heavy, due to entertainment and donations and disbursements. Approximately \$1,000 of the club's money was spent in donations and \$2,200 was lost on the harvest festival, he reported.

The committee voted to pay the annual dues of \$50 to the state chamber of commerce--Yakima Republic, Nov. 5, 1924.

Joseph F. Barton, A.B. was last evening elected secretary of the North Yakima Commercial club to succeed Dr. H.P. James, the latter not being a candidate for reelection.

The campaign has been a warm one for the past 30 days but when the trustees dog down to real business it did not take long. But two ballots were taken. The first was informal and showed that Mr. Barton had a majority of the trustees with him and one on the second ballot, which was formal, he was declared duly elected.

..Yakima Herald, February 21, 1912.

Commercial club

H.L. Cahalan's proposition to remodel his building in the 400 block on East Yakima avenue near the YWCA so as to include suitable quarters for the Commercial club was accepted at the governing board luncheon today noon in the Commercial hotel.

The entire second floor of the structure will be used by the club and the lower floor will be rented to commercial firms. It is estimated that from \$10,000 to \$8,000 is needed to repair the building.

Tentative plans call for completion of the new club home Feb 1. The club plans to retain its present headquarters in the Masonic temple until the new one is ready. R.M. Hardy and O.C. Soots, secretar were added to the building committee consisting of F.H. Sharkey, Grover B.,rrows and Jake Lentz.--Yakima Republic, Nov. 19, 1924.