

Emmetsburg, an Ideal Iowa City

Don Naus

EMMETSBURG, the county seat of Palo Alto county, is one of the thriving cities of Northwestern Iowa. Among other improvements, it has a \$50,000 opera house, a \$30,000 court house, a \$12,000 city hall, a \$50,000 water works system, including eight miles of mains; a \$35,000 sewerage system, a \$30,000 electric light plant, a \$40,000 brick and tile factory, a large cement manufacturing plant, two marble cutting establishments, one the largest in Iowa; modern, well-equipped flouring mills, three banks with deposits aggregating \$1,000,000, a \$35,000 high school building, two graded schools, a \$10,000 Catholic academy, two Catholic churches costing \$30,000 each, a \$20,000 Methodist Episcopal church, a \$15,000 Congrega-

tional church, an Episcopal church and a Lutheran church, organizations of Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Grand Army of the Republic, Hibernians, Catholic Order of Foresters, Red Men and Knights of Columbus, most of them having women's auxiliaries.

There is in the city a public library, three newspapers, a mutual telephone system, two good hotels, a creamery, two garages, a steam laundry, a second-class postoffice with receipts of \$9,500 a year, four grain elevators, a \$30,000 armory and an efficient fire department. The city's actual indebtedness is \$9,000, and the county has neither bonded nor floating indebtedness. Emmetsburg boasts of its low tax rate and offers liberal inducements to industries seeking location.

Palo Alto county is in the second tier of counties from the north boundary of Iowa and the fourth county from the Missouri river. It is in the fertile Des Moines valley, with a gently rolling surface of rich black loam and a clay subsoil. The Iowa geological report places Palo Alto as one of the four counties having the deepest and richest soil for agricultural purposes in the state. No wonder the farmers here are rich and prosperous. There are fifteen banks in the county with a combined capital stock and surplus of over \$466,000. with total deposits from city and county customers, aggregating \$2,140,000.00. The county is out of debt, owns property valued at over \$61,000, and taxes are low. The wealth of the county has come from its splendid farms.

In social development the record is attractive. There are 133 school houses in the county with a total of 167 teachers. Not a child within the county but is within two miles of a school house. There are twenty-eight churches of all denominations. Rural mail routes and rural telephones form a network of intercommunications. Eight weekly newspapers effectively aid in the general dissemination of knowledge.

Stock raising, dairying and poultry raising are important adjuncts of the prosperous farmer of today. Hardy fruit of all kinds has become a permanent asset of the Northern Iowa farm. Everything grows in Palo Alto, but corn and oats are the staple crops. Iowa land cannot be lost, stolen or imperiled by commercial risks. Where will you find a better investment than in a good, substantial Iowa farm in Palo Alto county. And where will you find a better place to live than in Palo Alto, the land of contentment? A healthy, temperate climate, plenty of sunshine, abundant rainfall, prosperous neighbors, good schools, churches and modern towns within easy reach.

Palo Alto raises as the principal crops corn and oats. Corn on tilled land averages from 40 to 90 bushels, small fields quite often going

as high as 100 bushels per acre. Oats 35 to 85 bushels. Untilled land less. Barley does well, and no county raises better clover and timothy. Potatoes go from 150 to 300 bushels per acre. All kinds of fruit do well.

Emmetsburg, almost in the center of the county is the natural market and the most convenient trading point for this enormously productive area and for the agricultural wealth produced by the sturdy and independent farmers who find in this city their most accessible trading center.

TRANSPORTATION.

Emmetsburg is situated on two trunk lines, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway running east and west from Chicago to Puget Sound and the Pacific coast, and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway running north and south; opening new territory and new markets and providing a ready outlet for passenger and freight traffic. Both roads have through passenger and freight trains to Chicago and the competition keeps the rates low and conditions favorable for passengers and shippers.

Emmetsburg is also at the junction of two great automobile highways; the "North Iowa Pike" extending across the north end of the state, and the "Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Spirit Lake and Sioux Falls Highway" running north and south. These roads are not only the highways for thousands of tourists and those traveling in automobiles for business as well as pleasure, but they also tend to secure better roads, and these insure rapid transit and safe transportation to market. Emmetsburg is also in the direct line of the projected trolley system that will open new territory and new resources, and develop the latent wealth of this rich territory.

INDUSTRIES.

In a business way Emmetsburg is a live progressive town. Its people unite with the Commercial Club and other organizations to build up the community and increase busi-

ness, by enlarging the markets, advance industrial conditions and increase the population. With this environment the city presents the most attractive trade conditions.

Manufacturing industries are in their infancy, but liberal inducements are offered to industries and business men seeking a location, hence the resources and the transportation facilities are already attracting the attention of investors and manufacturers.

That it has fine residences and substantial business buildings is evidence of its prosperity. The city owns a \$50,000 water system with eight miles of water mains furnishing pure water at an exceptionally cheap rate. With its excellent standpipe and direct pressure system, it affords ample fire protection. There is a \$35,000 sewerage system, municipally built and owned, which is being rapidly extended to give adequate service to all parts of the city. There is also a \$30,000 electric light plant, with an excellent system of street lights. The telephone service is a mutual system, built by citizens and now using a modern central-energy switchboard. This system gives exceptionally fine service at a low rate. The city has many miles of permanent cement sidewalks, crossings, and the streets are well drained and graded. A \$35,000 court house, and \$15,000 jail and sheriff's residence are owned by the county. The city owns a \$12,000 city hall and a \$50,000 opera house was built a few years ago by the people.

* A \$10,000 Carnegie Library building has just been completed and Co. K, of the 56th Regiment Iowa National Guard is housed in a fine, large armory. Two excellent hotels furnish the best accommodations.

Emmetsburg has for years had a prosperous Building and Loan Association, which is now being reorganized with \$1,000,000 capital.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

Emmetsburg is proud of her school system. Its \$35,000 high school building has a modern

heating and ventilating system, being a state accredited school, universities and colleges admit pupils without examination. In addition to classical courses and ordinary branches, the school maintains courses in manual training, domestic science, and agriculture, and also gives instruction in physical culture, athletics, and it has a normal department maintained by state appropriation. There are two ward schools and also a \$10,000 Catholic Academy, which stands high for efficient work done under its direction. Emmetsburg has two Catholic churches costing \$30,000 each, a \$20,000 Methodist Episcopal church, a \$15,000 Congregational church, an Episcopal and a Lutheran church. There are organizations of Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen, Yeomen, Grand Army of the Republic, Hibernians, Catholic Order of Foresters, Red Men, and Knights of Columbus. Most of these lodges have women's auxiliaries.

Among the clubs there is the Elks, who have comfortable club rooms, the Civic club, the ladies Friday club, the Women's club, both members of the state federation of Women's clubs and the P. E. O. chapter.

The Commercial Club and Ladies Civic Improvement League are each doing much towards building up a bigger, a better and a more beautiful city.

Emmetsburg was planned by its founders along generous lines. With broad streets, spacious lawns, pleasant parks, abundant shade trees, and a beautiful lake within its municipal limits—Emmetsburg has been well called, "The City Beautiful."

CIVIC BEAUTY.

Although its population is only about 3,000, Emmetsburg covers more ground than many cities twice its size. The court house square in the center of city is especially attractive, and the city park, containing over 12 acres,

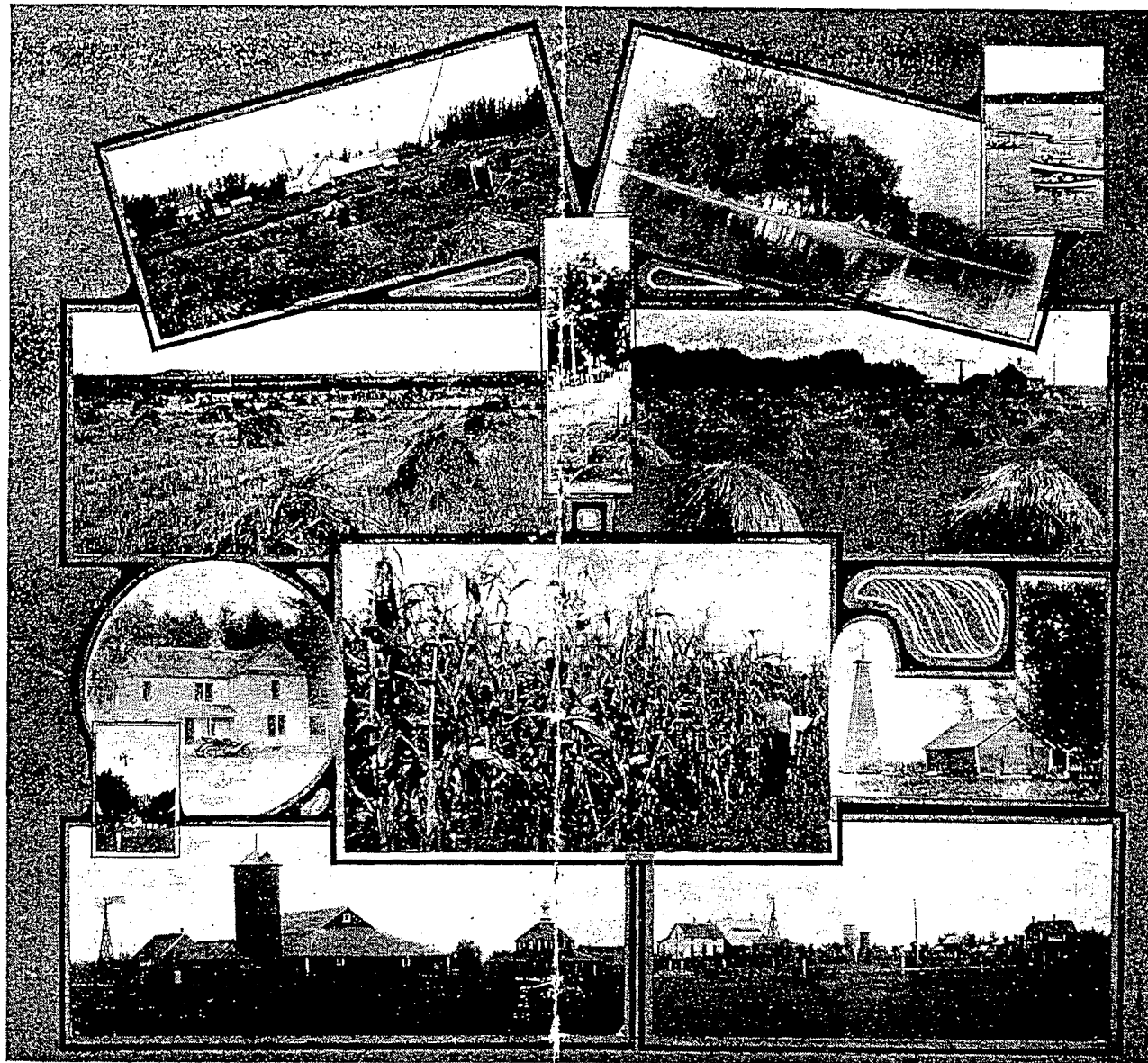
In one of the beautiful garden spots of this great state, at the junction of two trunk railway systems, stands the City of Emmetsburg, the seat of Palo Alto county and the liveliest, the most enterprising business point in Northwestern Iowa.

Palo Alto county is the choicest section of the rich and fertile valley of the Upper Des Moines River and, by Iowa State Reports, is declared to be one of the four counties having the richest soil in the state. It is in the heart of the great corn belt where climatic conditions are favorable and production is sure. The crop averages are regular and certain. Stock raising of all kinds, dairying, poultry-raising and fruit ranching add to the resources of the county. Diversified farming is a success in Palo Alto county. A healthful and temperate climate; plenty of sunshine, abundant rainfall, prosperous neighbors, good schools, churches and large modern towns and cities within easy reach make of Palo Alto county a land of contentment and prosperity.

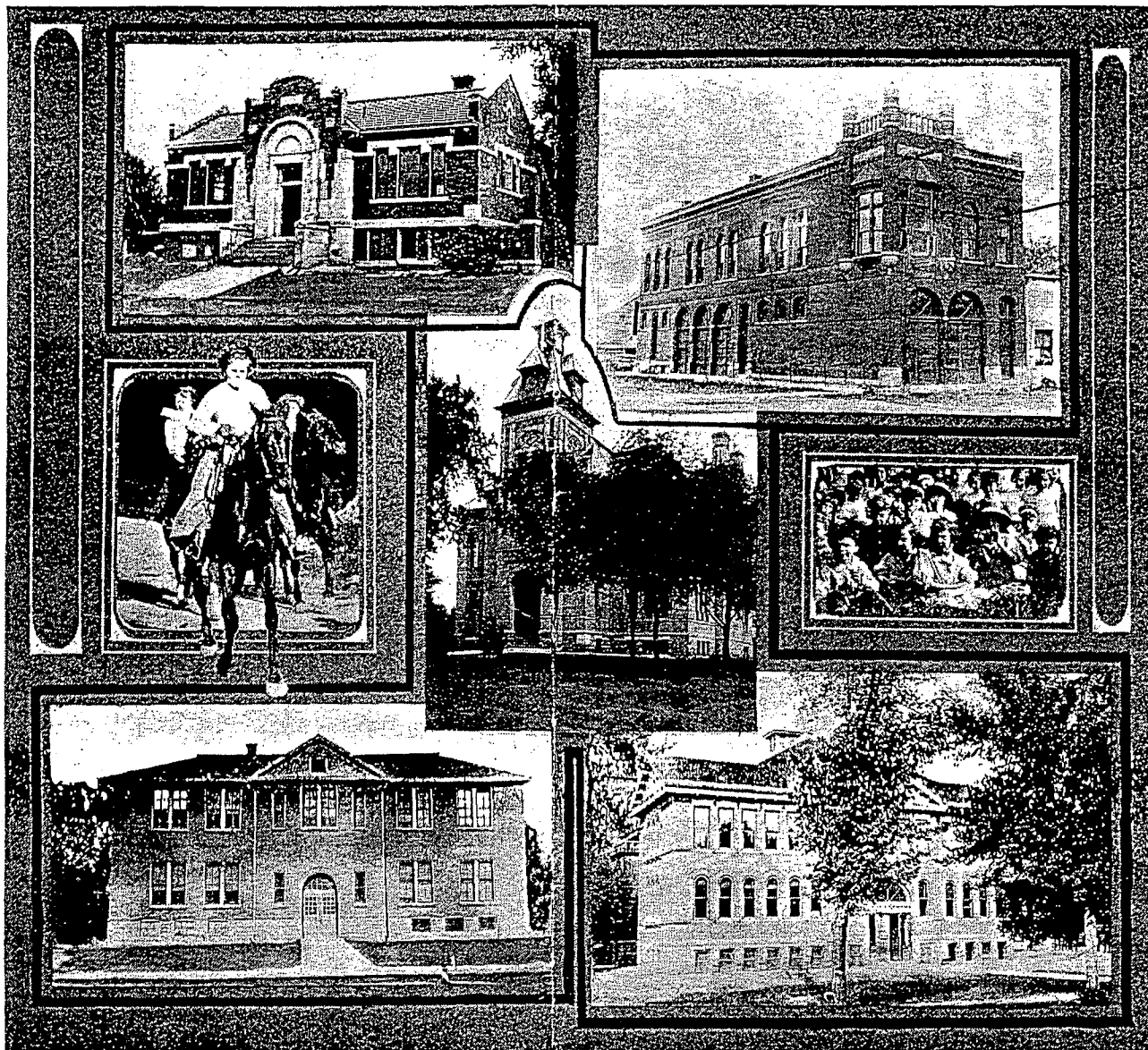
In the early days when the homeseekers first gazed upon the gentle rolling prairies of this county and saw the luxuriant grasses growing in its fertile soil, and the fine groves of natural timber along the lakes and streams, they involuntarily exclaimed: "Here we will make our home." Time has proved the wisdom of their choice and fulfilled their fondest expectations. It is a county of fertile farms, dotted with cozy groves and ample buildings; its people prosperous and contented. Situated in the great corn belt, there has never been a crop failure in Palo Alto county. Now again other homeseekers are beginning to turn their eyes toward Palo Alto. Its growth has been quiet and substantial. There has been no noisy publicity nor false booms to unduly inflate prices. But the time has come for the cutting up of some of the large farming areas and today improved farms can be bought at prices much lower than any other county in Iowa for the same class of land.



Medium Lake, Emmetsburg and Scenes of its Reclamation



Farm Views and Agricultural Scenes in Palo Alto County

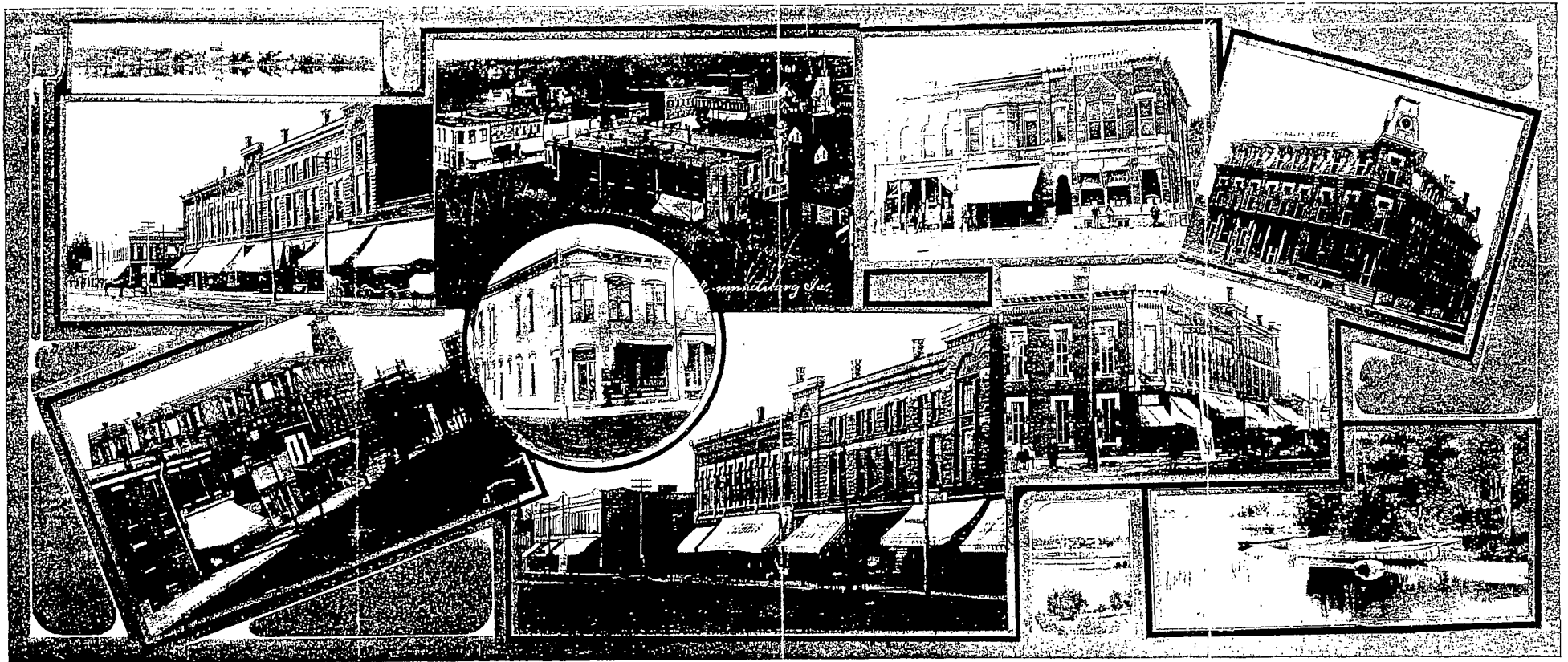


OLD CITY
HALL

Carnegie Public Library
East Side School

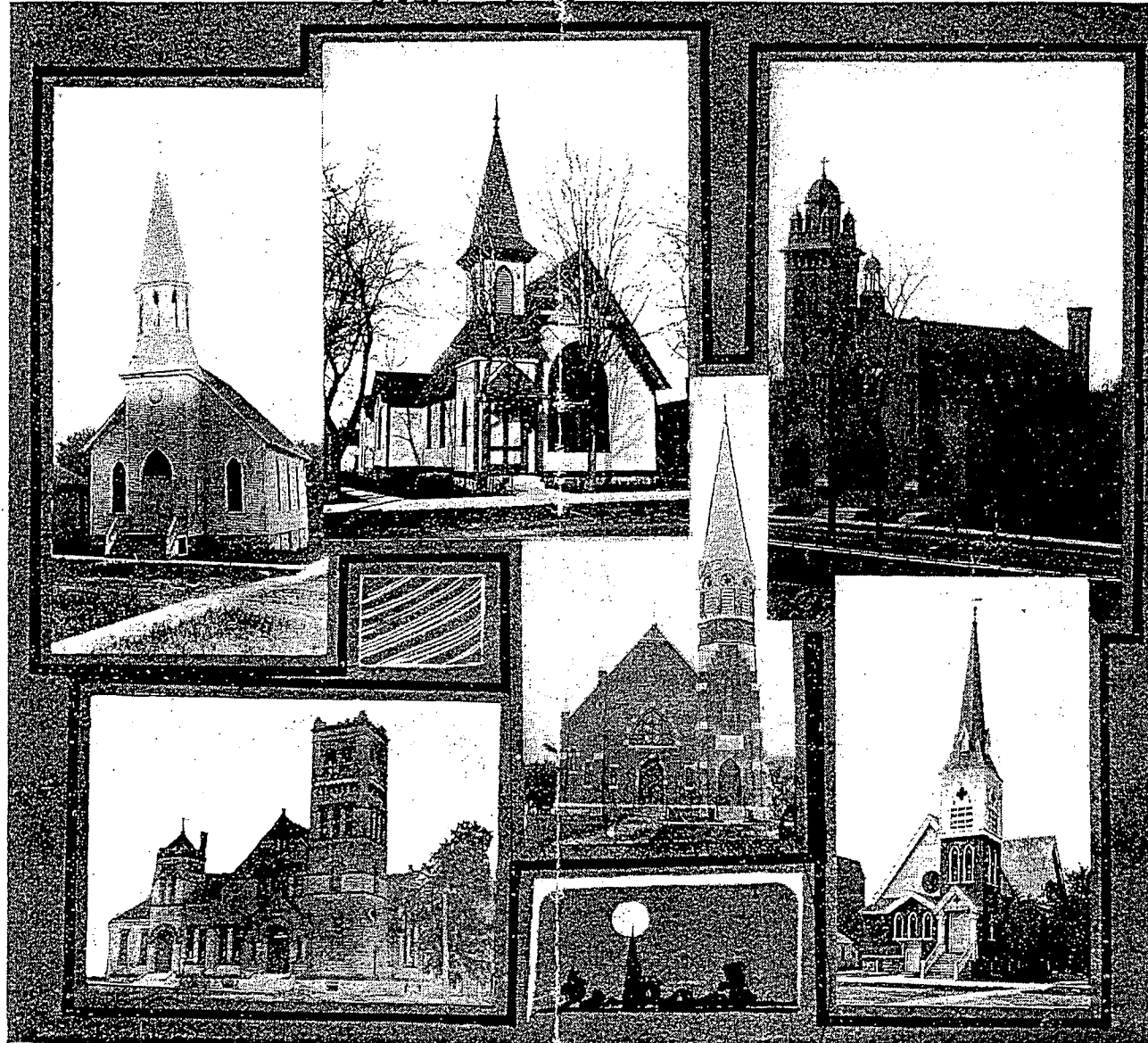
Palo Alto County Court House

Emmetsburg City Hall
Emmetsburg High School



Business Buildings and Street Views of Emmetburg and Thumb Nail Pictures of Medium Lake

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

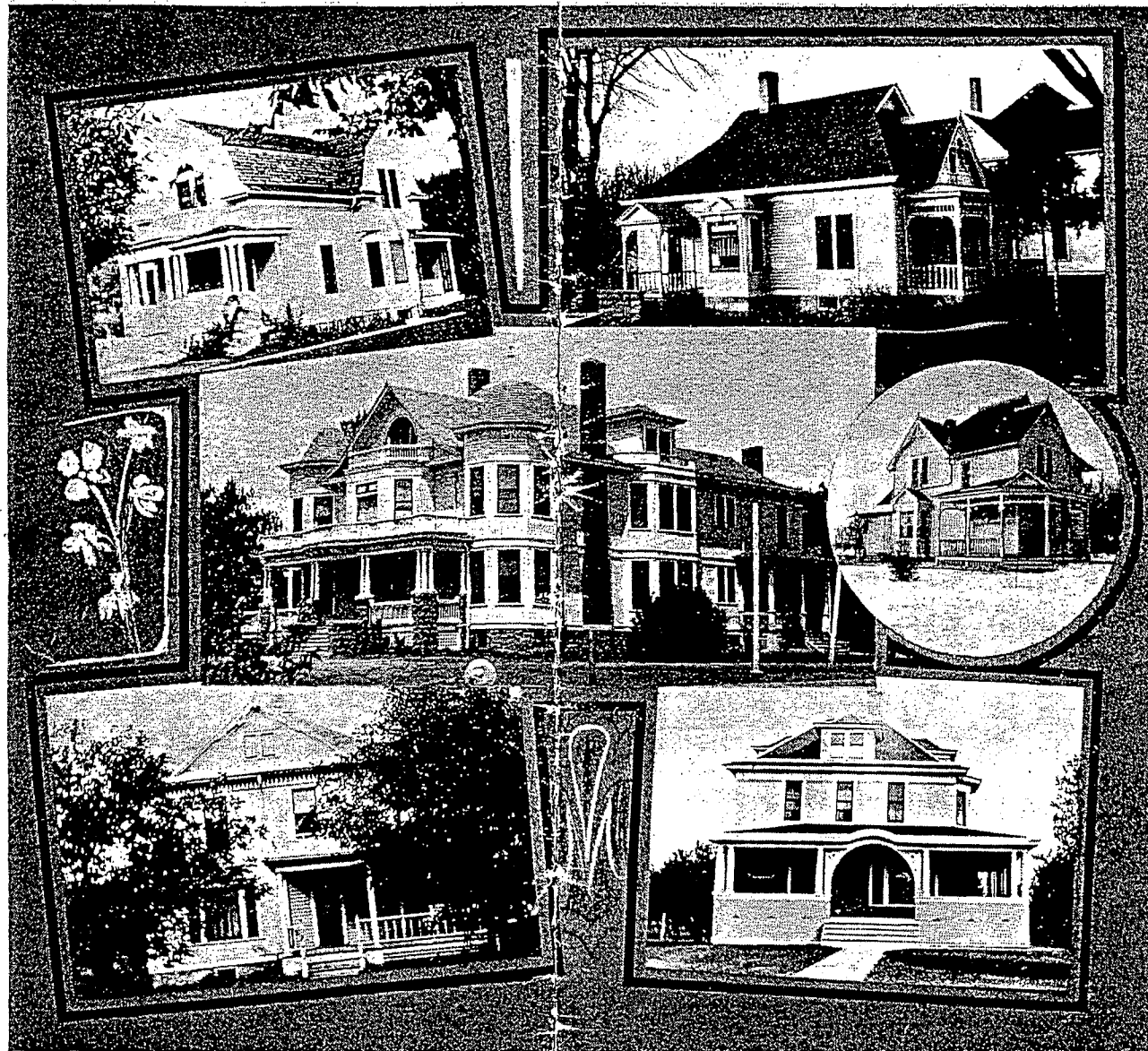


St Thomas

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Emmetsburg Possesses a Fine Moral Tone Almost Every Religious Denomination is Represented

ASSUMPTION CHURCH



LARRY
JOYCE'S

COZINE

Emmetsburg is a "Home Town." Comfortable Cottages and Handsome Residences are Built Side by Side

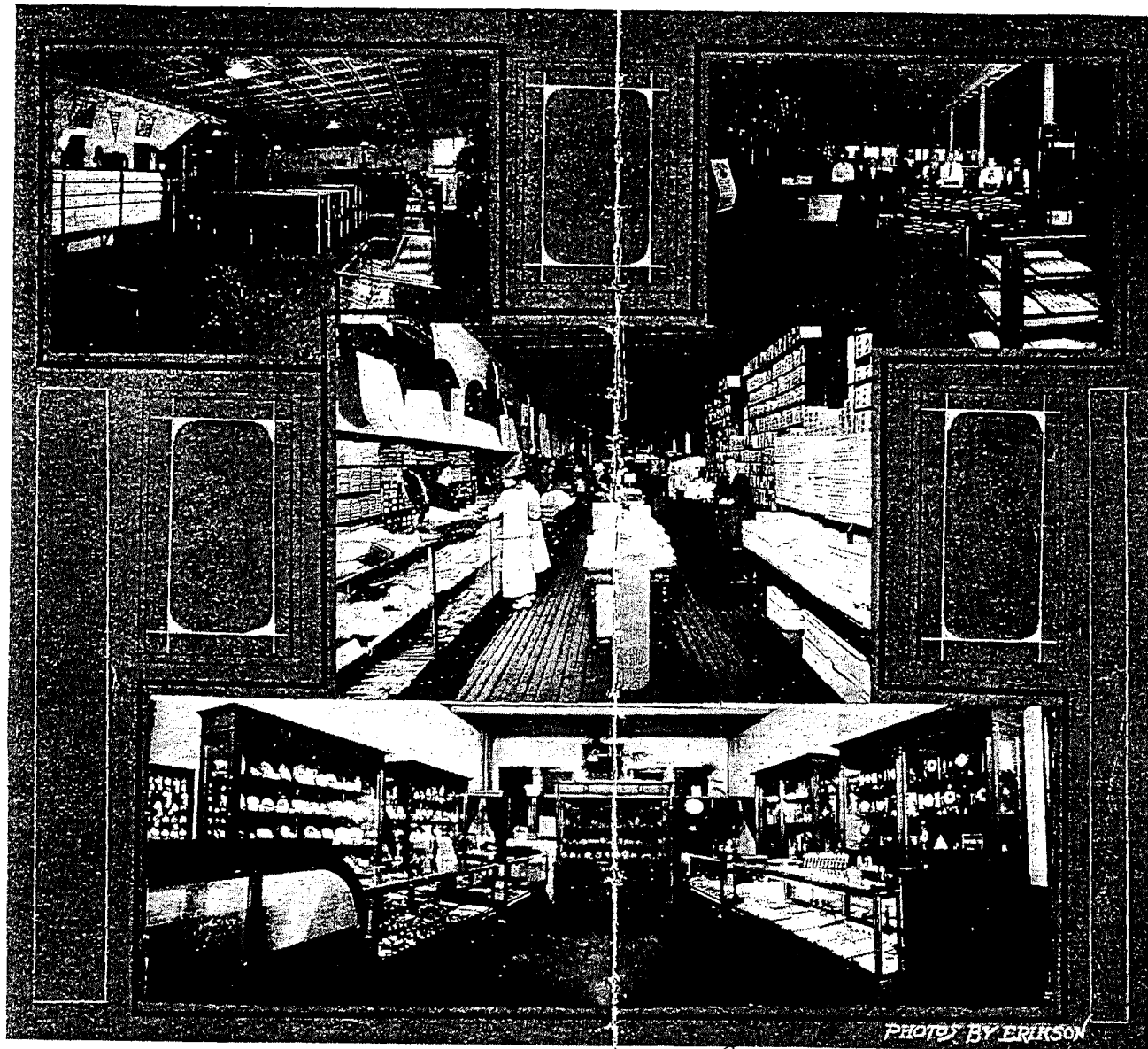
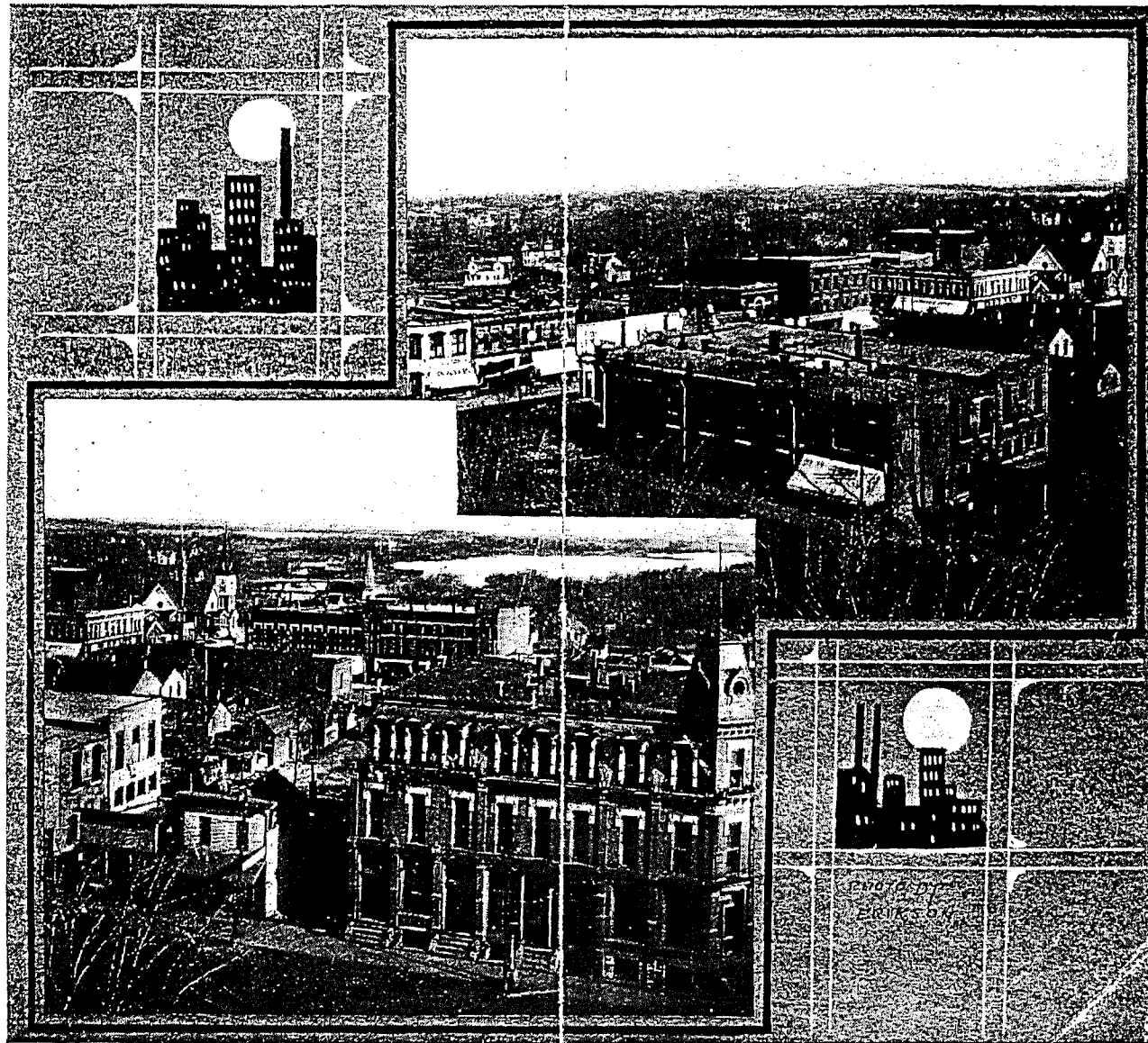


PHOTO BY ERIKSON

POTTER'S ?

Emmetsburg is a Trade Center. The Purchaser has his Choice from Complete Stocks in Every Line



WAVERLY HOTEL

Emmetsburg is Located at the Exact Center of a Tremendous Trade Area