

The South Bend Tribune

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, August 17, 1997

1900 - 1919

New century begins with flourish

Business booms, but world goes to war

1900
The early 1900s saw Michigan grow in huge numbers, largely because of European immigration and the availability of work here.
The community had grown 64 percent each decade since 1880, then had a population of 3,852. By 1900, South Bend had 19,000 people.
The early 1900s saw an influx of Austrians, Hungarians and Irish.
The results of a community survey conducted by The Tribune published on the front page of the Jan. 1, 1900 edition showed people were interested in safety, social interests, economy and ethics.
The dream of a new city hall became reality in 1902 when the South Bend architect firm, Preperath and Moser, completed the building. That same year, the Board of Public Health was ordered by charter to regulate births, child deaths, including the cause of death.

Home delivery begins

The Tribune began home delivery by introducing home delivery carriers in 1900. The year later Tribune newsboys began delivering trucks equipped with gas lights in front of houses to turn on the lights and open doors.

The Jan. 7, 1900, edition had the first color comic supplement. This section was not printed at the office, though.
A weekly newspaper, The St. Joseph Valley Register, was purchased by The Tribune in 1907. The Tribune still published a weekly paper at that time to serve outlying communities, but the daily and weekly operations were combined in 1908.

The Tribune was an active Republican newspaper. When the GOP's William Howard Taft ran for president in 1908, The Tribune printed an eight-column headline reading "A vote for Taft is a vote for progress."

The competing newspaper was The News Times, the result of a merger in 1911 between The Morning News and The Times. Two years after the merger, the paper was printed twice a day.

It called its competitor the "Cleveland Tribune," implying that The Tribune was a far more important and widely read publication. But The Tribune had a higher circulation in

1900
City grows to 35,000, a jump of 65 percent in 10 years, while county population reaches 58,000. A total of 2,500 people work on farms or in agriculture related jobs, more than twice as many as do today. U.S. population hits 75.2 million.

1910
Following a wave of immigration, city population reaches 63,000. The number of foreign-born residents jumps sharply to 23,420, an increase of 66 percent. County population is 64,552, and U.S. population is 92.2 million.

the early 1900s.
A popular gathering place was the Oliver Hotel, established in 1902. The building had dance, grand balls, card parties and luncheon. It was the largest hotel in South Bend and included a barber shop, hairdresser, valet service, taxi cab service, public stenographer, newsstand and billiards room.

Vandalia was the entertainment attraction of the Cripple Creek, which opened in 1905.

More parks, no more boats

South Bend had two recreational sites—Loper Park and Howard Park. Pleasant, the county fairgrounds, became South Bend's third park in 1900. This opened the city to the first automobile on North Main Street. But the trains had no protection over the tracks.

White-wine farms of travel were expanded in South Bend, one firm opened. The last riverboat, "May Graham," departed from South Bend in 1908 along the St. Joseph River on her last voyage.
Motorized cars slowly became popular. Leighton Pines was the first car owner in town. In 1900, he bought a steam-powered LaCombe, but he did not think his purchase was practical.
Michigan apparently shared his nostalgia about cars. Only two people owned cars in 1901. Two years later, there were 50 cars in the area.

Studebaker goes electric

In 1901, the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Co. switched from using horse-drawn carriages to vehicles that operated using electricity. When electricity in cars was abandoned in 1912, Studebaker had manufactured 1,940 vehicles.
During this time, Studebaker experimented with vehicles run by gasoline. Between 1904 and 1911, it sold 1,411 vehicles.
In 1904, Studebaker forged an agreement with Everett Messer Foundation Co. of Detroit. The location in Detroit would handle the business, assets and trade names. The agreement went into effect a few years later.
The names of the new corporation did not change until Feb. 14, 1901, when the concern became known as Studebaker Corp. (Studebaker was not the only motor company in South Bend. Simpkins Motor Co. emerged in 1904, producing the Simpkins vehicles in a factory here on South Main Street. By 1908, the company was sold.)
The Studebaker family did not just dabble in cars. In 1905, the company bought the Columbus (Ohio) Watch Co. and moved it to South Bend. By 1908, the South Bend Watch Factory was on Main Avenue.



Studebaker-powered automobiles begin showing up after the turn of the century. This 1902 Roadster may have been one of the 50 or so cars in the area.

November 6, 1912

April 6, 1917



Other businesses flourish

South Bend had other factories contributing to the growing work force. The South Bend Lumber Works, which opened in 1900, employed more than 400 skilled mechanics.

The product was 400,000 feet per month. In 1901, the Sengler Lumber Co. moved to the area. The Sengler Lumber Co., the oldest lumber dealer in South Bend, the new company provided the city with the first commercial lumber delivery and a modern woodworking mill.

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St. Joseph's Hospital, South Bend's oldest hospital, opened in 1900 but moved to another building—its present location at Notre Dame Avenue and Cedar Street—in 1903. In 1904, there had been 146 patients. A year later, the number jumped to 360.
And St. Joseph's Hospital, the first major Memorial Hospital, opened its new building on Oct. 1, 1901, at Main and Monroe streets after getting the start in the spring of 1900.

—Merry Portashuk

SPORTS

THE 1900s

South Bend High School football team was a powerhouse on the field in the early years. Although competition was not from South Bend, it was from the city of South Bend.

Chief Crow was the high school star in 1900. In 1901, he became a freshman. Notre Dame player of age 14.

Basketball, football and track became regular activities in the high schools, although basketball play in basketball did not start until 1901.

As the Tribune grew in size and sports news became better or gained.

Australian Pat O'Donoghue came to the Notre Dame campus from Wisconsin as the football coach in 1901 and 1902. He was moderately successful. During that period, **Lois "Red" Salmons** from Syracuse, N.Y., was the first All-American because the first Notre Dame player recognized as an All-American, a fullback named Walter Camp. Salmons coached the team in 1901 and 1902.

Notre Dame gradually became a national power and was recognized as "Champions of the West" after beating Michigan, 13-0, in 1900. Basketball had begun at Notre Dame in 1900 with **Frank Horne** as coach but lasted only two seasons. The

team that was reconstituted in 1907. In the next five years, under Coach Bert Mearns, the team won 76 games and lost 20. In 1908, the team played 40 games.

Nationally, both boxing and baseball were regularly scheduled. The newly formed **National League** was the first of the established **National League** World Series play between the leagues began in 1903. The Chicago White Sox, established more years as a rival of the Cincinnati Red Stockings, were in the new league. As both would have it, the team played the Chicago Cubs in the fall series. The White Sox won the series, but the Cubs were an early power in inter-league play.

The Cubs won successive **World Series** in 1907 and 1908, but have not won since.

From 1900 until 1902, the **South Bend Green Stockings** played in the professional Central League that included such teams as Toledo and Fort Wayne. For some games, the Greens played in **Springbrook Park** along the St. Joseph River.

THE 1910s

The Tribune began running college sports stories, both in and out of season, on **Notre Dame, Indiana, Purdue** and the other Midwest schools, including the Big Ten.

Star **red Knute Rockne** apparently had played enough to have shot the correct spelling of his name as a player, to write Tribune articles.

There was no Sunday paper then, but the Monday story after the **1913 Army game** was more than a column long. Along with it was a piece by Walter Edwards from the Chicago Tribune, opining that the Notre Dame victory demonstrated the high caliber of football played in the Midwest.

In 1904, the Irish head coach sport was turned over to assistant and track coach Rockne, but a nationwide influenza epidemic curtailed the season.

The new manager of the city endorsed a series of boxing matches, not **Teddy**, for the city.

When the 1910 football season arrived, **George Gipp** was absent for the first two weeks of practice, missing a foot with his. He arrived and moved to the lineup for the second game. The Irish traveled to Nebraska with just 11 players, and finished the season 19-0.

The World Series between Cincinnati and the **Chicago White Sox** was a lopsided victory (later of course, this was the series supposedly "thrown" by some White Sox players).

The Picture of Success

South Bend Tribune
1872-1997

CONGRATULATIONS
For 125 years of service to the community.

From our family at...

50th
1947-1997

Osco Drug
and the South Bend Tribune...
Partners in the Community Since 1955

In July of 1955, Osco Drug opened its first South Bend area store at 128 S. Michigan Street in downtown South Bend. Osco's affiliation with the South Bend Tribune helped to grow in the community from one downtown store to nine active South Bend area locations.

July, 1955	Downtown	August, 1984	McKinley Avenue
August, 1973	Stoddard Mall	August, 1984	Portage Avenue
March, 1979	University Park Mall	September, 1991	Ironwood & S.R.23
June, 1979	Ironwood at the River	September, 1991	Bitterweet Road
July, 1984	Western Avenue	December, 1995	Cranger

Congratulations on 125 years to South Bend's Number One Newspaper from South Bend's Number One Drugstore

Osco Drug