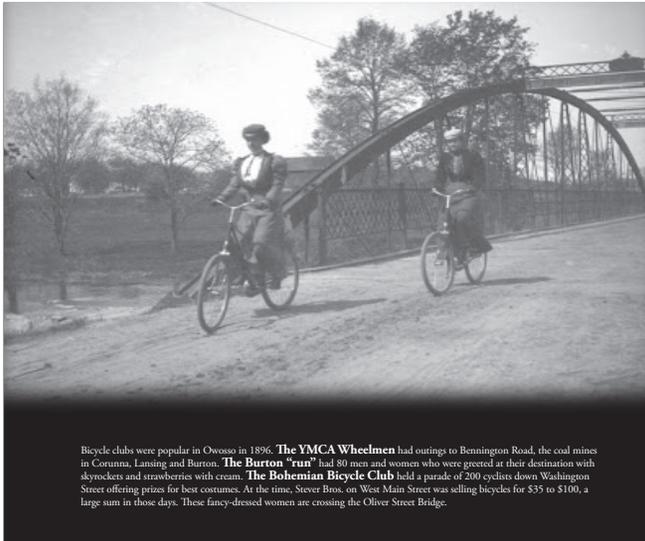


35 x 6.6

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Owosso has had an abundance of lodges, clubs and organizations over the years, a few of which are mentioned.



750SQI

Bicycle clubs were popular in Owosso in 1896. The YMCA Wheelmen had outings to Bennington Road, the coal mines in Corunna, Lansing and Burton. The Burton "run" had 80 men and women who were greeted at their destination with skyrockets and strawberries with cream. The Bohemian Bicycle Club held a parade of 200 cyclists down Washington Street offering prizes for best costumes. At the time, Steyer Bicycles on West Main Street was selling bicycles for \$35 to \$100, a large sum in those days. These fancy-dressed women are crossing the Oliver Street Bridge.

30 x 25

330SQI

- The Old Serder's Society was organized in 1872.
- The Owosso Lodge, No. 81, Knights of Pythias was established in 1887 and by 1936 had 120 knights.
- In 1907 the Shiawassee County Chapter of the D.A.R. was founded with Louise Van DeVenter Fletcher the organizing regent.
- In 1917 the Shiawassee County Chapter of the American National Red Cross was chartered.
- In 1918 Patterson-Dawson Post 57 of the American Legion was founded, named in honor of Sgt. Arthur Patterson and Sgt. Albert Dawson. Owosso suffered more casualties in WWI than any other city of its size in the U.S. The first Legion Home in Michigan was built in 1926 on the northeast corner of Mason and Park.
- In 1921 the Shiawassee County Sportsmen's Association was organized with 25 members pledging to support the conservation of natural resources.
- Also in 1921, the Owosso Rotary and Owosso Kiwanis Clubs were organized.
- In 1924 the Owosso Country Club opened north of the city.
- The Salvation Army has been a part of Owosso since 1899. The citadel was built in 1957 on East Exchange Street, which had been the site of Charles Shattuck's home.

30 x 11




The Masonic Lodge is the oldest fraternal organization in the city having formed in 1859. Brothers A.L. and B.O. Williams, founders of Owosso, were among the organizers.

After years of meeting in rooms above stores in the downtown area, including 30 years above the Citizens Savings Bank, the Masonic Temple was built in 1926 at the northwest corner of Mason and Washington Streets.

Large torches, now gone, were evenly spaced around the roof line, fueled by gas and lit for important events, sending plumes of tall flames into the night sky. The building has a simple yet elegant design with ornamentation cleverly placed to create the outline of a temple on the upper floors.

In 1901 the **Owosso Elks Lodge No. 753** was organized. In 1904 the club purchased the old Merrell Hotel on North Washington Street.

In 1937 the building was gutted by fire and then rebuilt. In 1973 it was torn down to make way for a parking lot.

33 x 19"
627SQI



The Dorcas Society, founded in 1894, purchased the home on North Hickory Street. The Dorcas House was home for dozens of children over many years.

11 x 16

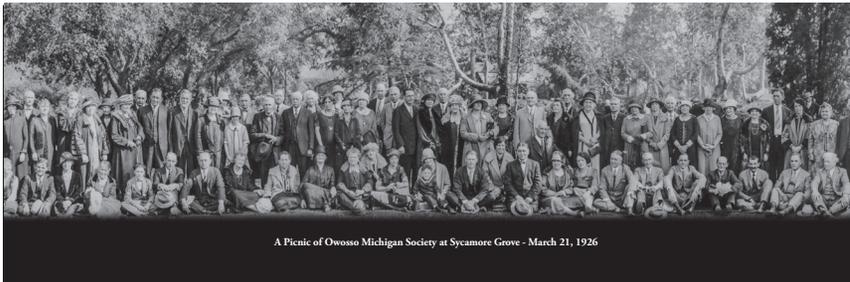


The **Current Topic Club** originated in Owosso in 1893 and continues to this day. Members of the club are shown c.1942 at Sadie Woodard's home on West Oliver Street. Sadie is seated in the first row on the left and her daughter-in-law, Virginia (Dolly) Woodard is seated next to her.

176SQI

thermostat

516.75SQI



A Picnic of Owosso Michigan Society at Sycamore Grove - March 21, 1926

39.75 x 13



The **YWCA**, organizing in Owosso in 1906, occupied a house at 209 East Exchange Street (now part of the Argus-Press parking lot). The organization then occupied the former Gallagher house, pictured at 218 West Oliver Street, from 1952 to 1968. This is the former site of Dr. John Barnes' home. Issac Keeler, the organizer of Citizens Bank, built the house in 1896. William Gallagher, one of the founders of State Savings Bank, bought the house in 1907. It was torn down in 1969 to make way for a church parking lot.

The YWCA moved into the Calvin Bentley house across from Central School in 1969.

209SQI

11 x 19