

Book: Gaslight Memories: A History of Eaton's First Hundred Years

Book Committee. Gaslight Memories: A History of Eaton's First Hundred Years. Eaton, Indiana: Eaton Centennial Committee, 1954. Robbhaas Bk# 3001. 53 pages.

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### Reading Notes - Red Men Fraternal Organization

-- Page 16 -

-- Photo "Street scene with Redmen in Line"

-- Photo "Memorial Day with Redmen"

-- Page 30 - Fire, 1908 - Wilhelm Building damaged - Red Men and others occupied this building

"In 1908, a fire started by the explosion of a gasoline motor in the lighting plant of the Barton Drug Store, spread so rapidly among paints and oils that it soon raged through the entire building. With equipment that was not adequate to fight such a fire, the Muncie fire department was called. They loaded a fire engine, a hose wagon and eight firemen on a special train and sped to Eaton. A line of hose was stretched over 1200 feet to the river and water was pumped on the blaze for over six hours. Completely consumed were the Molsenbocker and Murray buildings and damage to the Wilhelm building in which were housed the Red Men, Brandt Dry Goods . . ."

-- Page 32 - Riverside Park -

The Eaton Riverside Park

Almost as important to Eaton as the gas strike, was the park. The Muncie, Bluffton and Ft. Wayne Traction Company started building the track prior to 1900 and the first run was made in 1901. To stimulate business, a tract of ground was purchased from Carter Bros. Along the river east of Henpeck, on which a park was laid out. Amid a beautiful setting of oak and beech trees at a bend of the river, was erected a pavilion and a hotel. This became a mecca for families from many miles around. There were such amusements as a ball diamond with regular team schedule, skating rink, merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, a slide to the river and a steam boat called the Mayflower which plied the dammed up waters on moonlight cruises; as well as many row boats for the fishermen. Here was held the many family reunions, John's Day celebrations, and later the Mar's Day observations, and Red Men and Pocahontas gatherings. 'Twas a great day when John's Day came around. The crowd gathered early in the morning for the festivities which lasted until late at night. A two-acre parking lot was filled nearly every Sunday with all sorts of horse drawn vehicles and the traction company ran regular excursion cars throughout the summer. A spur line from the main line of the traction, carried open cars down Indiana Avenue to the park. Their two cars were kept busy and often were not nearly enough to carry the crowds that swarmed out to the best recreation spot there was for miles around. The park thrived for many years. Early in the 1920's, there was some dissention among the town people concerning dancing at the park and on July 18, 1923, fire was discovered in the pavilion and refreshment stand. Too much headway had been gained by the flames before the fire department arrived save anything except a small shed. A woman, believed to have been a Mrs. Holman, fell from the hotel roof and was killed during the height of the flames. Many believe that the fire was of incendiary origin. Thus ended another era in the history of Eaton.

-- History of the Park

-- John's Day

-- Red Men & Pocahontas gatherings

-- 18 July 1923, fire destroyed almost all of the buildings

-- Page 33 Red Men Photo [1]

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-- Page 35 - "Organizations in Eaton"

Perhaps the first social group to begin regular meetings in Eaton, was the Ouray Tribe of Red Men which started about 1883. This group prospered for over forty years. In this time, they acquired a meeting room on the second floor of the building at Hartford and Harris streets. Their parades to the cemetery on Decoration Day was a great occasion. Later, a women's group was formed which called themselves the Pocahontas. These organizations continued until the mid-twenties.

-- Page 36 "Red Men's parades on Decoration Day."

"Who Can Remember"

The Redmen's parade on Decoration Day?

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-- Page 33 - Photos [6]

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### **Reading Notes - Eaton Schools**

-- Page 22 - Photos of the School 1885-1908 and the school in 1922

-- Page 23 - Photo of School, 1954

-- Page 23 - Photos of two teachers:

-- Miss Esta P Cochran

-- Mrs Geneva Reynolds [1st grade teacher for Walt Jr ID0001]