

If one were to stand on the corner of Front and K Streets in old Sacramento and use a little imagination, you would see and hear what the Christian Brothers student might have experienced on his way to the dedication of Christian Brothers College at 12th and K Street on July 16, 1876.

The quaint horse and carriages would be replaced with the clatter of many hoofs drawing street cars, wagons loaded with goods, omnibuses moving travelers to the various hotels, buggies and carriages full of excited passengers, dressed in their very best, arriving or leaving for far off destinations. You are now in the heart of Sacramento's exciting commercial district.

The California Steam Navigation Company would have built many wharves, piers and docks along the river, to accommodate the increased traffic and freight. The shrill blast of their steamship whistles would break through the din of the horses' hoofs, sounding the arrival of passengers heading East or neighbors arriving home. Hissing steam engines and the clanging of their bells would make you aware of the presence of two busy railroads.

The buildings around you would not be reminders of the past, but some newly built, others not that old, signaling the rapid economic growth of Sacramento.

In order to get to the dedication ceremony, you would jump on the twenty two passenger streetcar at Front and K Streets. The car would be crowded and a real hard pull for the two horses. There will be 5000 people in attendance at the dedication.

As you pass over 2nd Street, S Coldman's family groceries on J St will be having a big sale. For \$1.00 you could purchase any one of the following: 8 pounds of sugar, 5 cans of oysters (2 lbs), 5 cans of blackberries, 5 cans of string beans, 15 pounds of soap or one

box of macaroni (6 lbs). Also on 2nd St. between J & K Sts. is located the Saddle Rock, with lunch and coffee for 15 cents.

You will pass The City Baths, one of many in town, between 3rd and 4th on K Street. One block over on J Street at the Antelope Restaurant for \$5.00 you can have board and room for a week with 3 meals a day.

As you cross over 4th Street look to your left and see Sweetser and Alsip Real Estate Agents with the following properties for rent:

Two fine brick dwellings on M St between 3rd and 4th \$30.00 each;

Brick cottages on 11th Street between O and P Sts. for \$15.00 and \$16.00;

Frame dwelling on I St. between 16th and 17th -5 rooms \$15.00.

On 4th and K Streets notice the advertising at the Metropolitan Theater which in three days will feature Georgia Minstrels - 20 star acts. \$1.00 for general admission and fifty cents for children. Also on 4th Street is the Mechanics Store (later Weinstock-Lubin) which is featuring a set sales price rather than have the customer bargain for each item. This is causing a lot of concern with the other merchants since this method seems to work

Over on 5th and 6th on J Street is the American Clothing House which has the following items for sale: mens black dress suits \$16.00 to \$45.00, white shirts \$1.00 to \$3.00, hats twenty five cents to \$5.00, overalls fifty cents to \$1.50.

Back on K Street, look to your right as we are cross 6th Street and notice Brueners Furniture Store. On the same block on J Street is the Crescent City Hotel, with meals at twenty five cents and board at \$4.00 a week.

The Sacramento Exchange is down the street between 7th and 8th Sts. on J Street with its famous oyster bar: fried oysters fifty cents and raw or stewed oysters at twenty five cents.

McMurry's Pharmacy across the street features: Ayres Hair Vigor at 75cents, Imitation Florida water 40 cents and Burnetts cocaine 75 cents (sounds interesting). Back on K Street you will see the impressive St. Rose Catholic Church at the corner of 7th and K Streets. This was the second church on this site and was dedicated in 1855. It will remain in operation until the Cathedral is completed in 1895. The site will be sold to the government for a post office.

On 8th and J Streets is the Stewart and Co. ladies store, featuring "The ONLY First-class Goods in the market". Skirts will be 75 to 80 cents, chemise 87 cents to \$3.00 and night dresses 75 Cents to \$3.00.

As we moved on our journey, you might have noticed that there are several different types of street surfaces: gravel, two different surfaces using tar as its final coating, and cobble stones which was mainly used on K St. Eventually these would all be changed to asphalt.

As we approach 10th St., the end of the line, you will see the State House with room and board from \$6.00 to \$12.00 a week. Their ad says that "a street car will pass every 6 minutes".

From here you will have to get out and walk. The streets will be rough so watch your step. They will not be graded (11th to 13th Sts.) and surfaced until 1877. Passing the corner of 11th and K Sts. you will see the site of the new Cathedral on which construction will begin in 10 years (1886) and be completed in 1889.

The new school was described by the Sacramento Union as being "plain in style, yet not cold and formal. It is of wood with rustic finish, and is three stories high, with ornamental arched openings and tasteful trimings". The kitchen, storeroom, then the dining room and closets make up the west half of the first floor. Part of this floor is left unfinished for future classrooms. The second floor has two classrooms, the rear stairway and landing, two parlors and the President's room and hallways. On the top floor there are two more class rooms, two dormitories, several rooms for the faculty. In the end of the east wing are built the water closet and wash-room, the latter fitted with seven marble basins. The building is a little like our new science building.

A platform was set up on 12th Street, the shady side of the building and "the immense audience occupied convenient placed benches as seats". The paper went on to say "Gas is in with frequent burners in every room in the house, and in the main rooms handsome chandellers are hung". Speeches were given by Archbihoop Alemany, Governor Irwin and the state Adjutant-General Walsh. After the ceremonies the clerge and fourty guests had dinner in the dinng room.