

worn which might be a different and lighter shade. The white vest with a dark suit was popular, and it could be white linen or pique for summer wear. Toothpick shoes, fleece lined underwear and heavy socks were in order. Only the "Dude" wore garters to hold his socks in place. Black patent leather was popular and high button shoes with cloth tops were quite the rage.

Canes were carried in some form or another by every man claiming to be a gentleman. Hair was parted in the middle and slicked down on the forehead. Mustaches were heavily waxed. There was no difference between summer and winter suits; the second best did service on week days the year around, and the Sunday suit was resurrected once a week, good weather or bad.

The earliest method of lighting was by candles which were made at home. The candle mould consisted of 12 long tubes of tin or zinc joined together, and was a necessity in every home. Early lanterns were made of cylinder of tin with little jagged holes punched through, large enough to let thin glimmers of light come through and small enough not to let the wind blow out the candle which stood in a socket inside the cylinder. Next came the coal oil lamp made of plain glass with a wick of red flannel. Later came ornate ones of painted china, wall lamps with reflectors, and finally the hanging lamp, suspended from the ceiling at the middle of the room and raised and lowered by a small chain or pulley.

The adaptations of electricity for house work began to arrive in 1900.

The 90s was a picturesque time, a time of gaiety, a time of gorgeous colors, a time of great leisure. Life itself had a gentle pace; social intercourse a more genial temperature.

The Shelbina fire equipment of today has come a long way from the fire equipment of 1888. At that time the equipment consisted of a pump 12 ft. long with two hoses attached. One hose would be dropped in a well at the scene of the fire, the other was used to extinguish the fire. There was a pump bar on each side of this apparatus which would accommodate 6 men to the side. The pumping was done entirely by hand.

In case the water supply was exhausted from the well, then a neighbor's well was used. Fires down town were fought from deep wells, there being three, all on Center street. (During the drouths and water shortage of 1934 and 1936, two of these wells were opened, it being necessary to drill through the concrete pavement.)

This equipment was on a car, a large rope being used to pull it by volunteer men if a team did not arrive soon enough. The fire bell, rung by hand, was located in a cupola on the building where the present fire station is located. The first team of horses arriving at the fire station pulled the cart and hose to the scene of the fire. Everyone felt it their duty to help. Usually the team of Dan Tillitt's or Bill Faulk's dray were the first on the scene, but in some cases the cart was pulled by grocery, delivery teams of "Spur" Parsons, J. M. Dean or Ves Bryan.

Dick Thomas was fire marshal from 1888 to 1906. The first self-operating engine was bought second hand from the Quincy, Ill., fire department. The story is told that when Shelbina was through with this engine it was returned to Quincy and then sent to Chicago for exhibition purposes.



1905 — This is said to be the largest amount of dressed turkeys ever seen at one time at one store in Northeast Missouri. In the display are several hundred dressed turkeys. The weather was pretty warm and the turkeys had to lay out all night. The building is that now occupied by Al's Electric and the Mary Lou Beauty Shop.