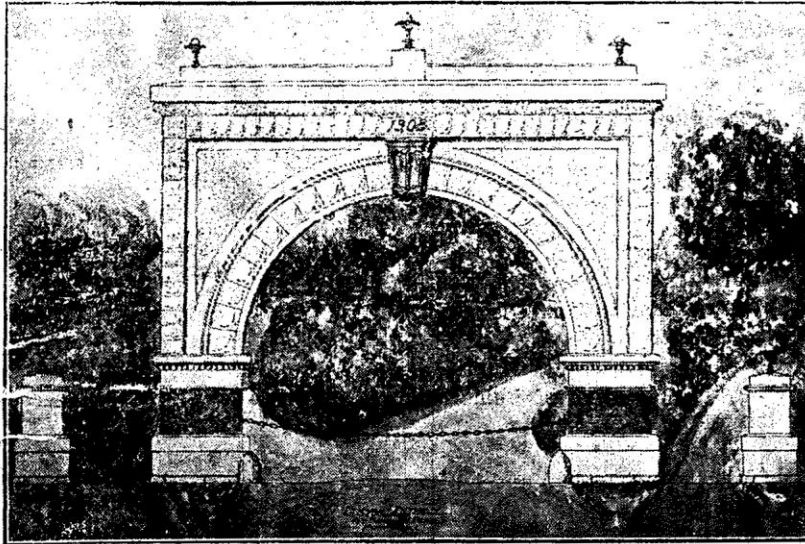


RILEY COUNTY RAMBLINGS – 100 YEARS AGO

By Cheryl Collins, Riley County Historical Museum

From the *Manhattan Republic* September 8, 1908

The Proposed Entrance to City Park



AN ENTRANCE ARCH.

Proposed Ornamental Arch to City Park—Money Being Raised.

An effort is being made to raise sufficient money, probably a thousand or more dollars, to place an ornamental arch at the east entrance to the city park. Mr. Allman, the park police, thinks that he will have no trouble in raising the money. The accompanying design was drawn by Architect Harry Hill. The arch is capable of any amount of carved and dressy work. Native limestone will be used, except for special ornamental stones. It has been suggested that the masons

lay one corner stone, some other fraternal order another, and that each order place one specially carved stone in the structure. The dimensions are 24x24 with 16 feet in the clear.

This arch will probably be followed by arches at the other entrances to the park and by many other special ornaments.

If the park acquires this arch along with the new drinking fountain, it would be doing fairly well for one year.

The people of Manhattan will undoubtedly see that this arch is built this fall.

Note: This entrance was not built. Architect Harry Hill was the son of Dr. Mark A. Hill, a Manhattan physician. In 1908 Harry Hill was a Junior at Kansas State Agricultural College in Architecture. He married Grace Hawkins in December 1908. He and his bride moved into a house Harry designed at 724 Laramie in 1909. Harry Hill also planned the George Hopper residence at Fremont and Manhattan (no longer standing), the Hole residence at 1204 Bluemont and a number of other houses in Manhattan. Harry Hill left Manhattan around 1910 and later practiced architecture in Texas, Kansas City, and Arkansas.

From the *Manhattan Republic* September 18, 1908:

New Business College

Note: The Cooper Building is at 421 Poyntz. By 1912 Manhattan Business College was being run by L.W. and J.N. Nutter. By 1914 the College was gone. Sacred Heart Academy opened in 1908 and offered a commercial course.

From the *Manhattan Republic* September 15, 1908:

For Mrs. VanZile.

Mrs. Mary VanZile, the new professor of domestic science at the college, was the interesting inspiration for a delightfully informal thimble party given yesterday afternoon by Miss Josephine Harper. The flowers of the season contrasted effectively with dainty greenery in Miss Harper's parlors. Light refreshments were served by the hostess. The guests who had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. VanZile included the wives of the various professors and assistant professors of the college.

NEW BUSINESS COLLEGE

New Institution Will Open in October
—H. A. Andreson of Abilene at
Head—Will Occupy
Cooper Building.

H. A. Andreson of Abilene, and head of the Abilene Business college and of the Salina Commercial school, was in Manhattan Wednesday and closed a lease for rooms in the Cooper building, opposite the court house, in which he proposes to open a business college. The move has been considered for some time and the school would have been opened last year but for the panic. Mr. Andreson has been very successful in this work, the business college at Abilene having an enrollment of nearly 300 and the one at Salina being as large or larger. He regards the field here for a business college as especially attractive. The college atmosphere is already here and that is attractive to students. The accommodations for a student body are already provided, and he expects that many K. S. A. C. students will want to supplement their work with a business course.

Altogether, the prospects for the new school are very bright. It will be open next month. Note their adv. in this issue.

Note: Mary Pierce Van Zile was elected Professor and Head of Domestic Science in July 1908. She was also appointed the first Dean of Women. In 1912 when the Division of Home Economics was created, Mrs. Van Zile was appointed Dean of that Division as well. She stepped down as Dean of Home Economics in 1918 but continued as Dean of Women. The first dormitory for women, constructed in 1925, was named Van Zile Hall in her honor. She retired in 1940 and died November 11, 1949. She is buried in Winfield, Iowa.

Mary Pierce was born February 7, 1872 to Lyman B. and Lea Ann Pierce. Her father served for a time as Superintendent of Manhattan schools. She attended Kansas State Agricultural College 1889 to 1890 and then served as Principal of Wayland High School in Wayland Iowa 1891 – 1892. In 1892 she married Gilbert VanZile. They had two sons, Ralph and Loren. Gilbert Van Zile died in 1899. In 1904 Mary graduated from Iowa College and then taught High School Domestic Science in Illinois 1904 – 1908.

Josephine Harper was Mary Pierce Van Zile's cousin. Josephine lived in the stone house at 221 S. 8th with her father, Judge R.J. Harper. The Harper home is still standing in 2008.