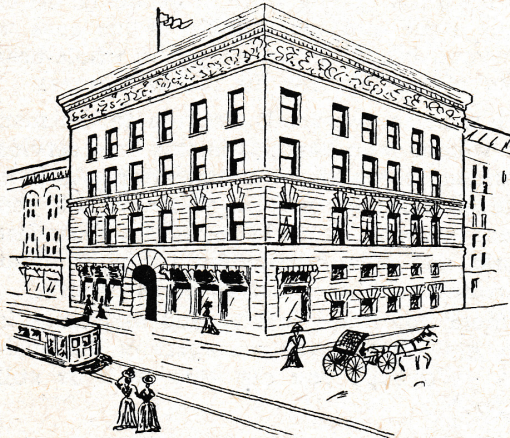


San Diego; California

September; 1945

# Eleven Recall "Old Store"



The Marston's of 1896-1912 Period

## Opens as "Marston's Folly"

Opened three blocks above the main business section, "way up town," surrounded by feed stores, butcher shops, small groceries and the fire company station, the Marston's of the old Stephen Marston Building at the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and C was then considered "Marston's Folly." The whole town turned out for the grand opening, a night opening on the evening of October 17, 1896, with a ride in the elevators as the main attraction. Others came to see the wide aisles, the open court from the ground floor to the roof, the gay decorations, or the crowd itself. All agreed it was the greatest, the most gorgeous show the town had seen since the opening of the Coronado Hotel in the eighties.

Here was the home of Marston's for nearly 16 years, and here was the store in which nine of the present employees of The Marston Company began an association with George W. Marston and his son, Arthur, ranging from over 30 years to more than 40.

## Martinsen's Saga Began in '07 Panic

If anyone remembers the "store across the corner" it is Louis Martinsen, store engineer. "Louie" has less than two years to go before he reaches the forty-year service mark. His first duties as a general handy man took him into every nook and corner of the store building and his interest in things mechanical gave him a thorough

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## Old Timers Reminisce on Forty Years Ago

With three employees at or near the forty-year milestone of continuous service, this month is a fitting time to glance backward with them, and the others still active, who worked in the Marston's of the 1896-1912 period. In addition to Mr. Marston and his son, Arthur, three deserve special mention:—Arthur Stewart, 41 years; Charles Angeir, 40 years; Louis Martinsen, 38 years. Others still active in store work, who served in the former store are, Mrs. Lillie Paul Brothers, Edward Dehm, Edgar Leibey, Miss Clara Sonka, Lyle Carringer and John Hennis, all boasting of records around the thirty-year mark.

## CHARLES ANGEIR STILL WORKING AS AN EXTRA

Charles H. Angeir, affectionately known as "Pop" by his staff, reached the forty-year mark on September 11, with an unbroken record of service since 1905.

Mr. Angeir was engaged by Mr. Herbert, office manager, to fill in temporarily while Miss Louise Krause was on vacation, after which Mr. Marston asked him to "continue on for the time being," and as he recalls it, "Mr. Marston has not yet told me my time is up, so here I am still on a temporary job."

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## Arthur Stewart Started Work as Cash Boy



Arthur Stewart

Holding the record for continuous service, Arthur Stewart began as a cash boy, September 12, 1904, and in those "good old days" being a cash boy meant working from seven in the morning till six in the evening, and included everything from sweeping out to attending store school. Stewart well remembers the old store, particularly Mr. J. T. Wight's classes for store boys. The school was conducted in order that

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## MORE ABOUT ARTHUR STEWART

(Continued from Page 1)

youngsters might work and still have the advantages of an education. Its course of study embraced not only the three R's, but sufficient sugar-coating in the way of spelling bees and lectures to keep the young lads interested both in books and business.

If you want to build up a good case of nostalgia, just sit down with Arthur Stewart and have him tell you some tales of cash boy, to wrapping, to delivery, to stock room, to receiving room. Ask him about the complaints the store received from citizens when the oat-burning delivery trucks hitched too close to cocos plumosas and old Dobbin ate the tender heart out of those prized sidewalk trees. Or get him to tell how "teacher" Wight's voice carried down the center light well from the third floor to the first during a particularly heavy classroom discussion.

Stewart made the move across the corner to the present store building, and graduated from horse-drawn to motor-driven trucks as the new store opened. If you want to brush up on your Marston store history, just ask Arthur Stewart—he was there!

## Mrs. Brothers Rode Bicycle

Mrs. Lillie Brothers, who as Lillie Paul, was first hired to sell notions by Mr. George W. Marston in 1899, came to work on a bicycle which she stood in a rack on C st. next to the old Brewster Hotel.

Her service, though beginning earlier than most



Miss Clara Sonka

## Clara Sonka Drew No Pay as Apprentice

One of seven apprentice girls who started, and the only one who served her three months apprenticeship, Miss Clara Sonka was glad to serve, without pay, for the privilege of learning to be a milliner.

Miss Sonka soon mastered the trade and became adept at actually making hats, ready to be trimmed. Later, while still a youngster in her teens she took up selling, and while she denies that she actually sewed "the bird on Nellie's hat," she does remember gorgeous creations with bird of paradise trims selling for \$75 and up, as well as those with a bunch of egret feathers for more than \$50. She recalls the eagerness with which customers awaited Mrs. Katherine Cummings' re-

turn from New York with the new models, and says that, "Hats were funny in those days, too! You should have seen them—so huge and heavy you had to turn your head to get on a street car, and that while wearing a hobble skirt."

## FOUNDER THANKS "OLDTIMERS"

GEORGE W. MARSTON, whose thoughtfulness of his early associates inspired this little store paper, and whose ideas were responsible for much of its content, has the greatest wealth of memories of all the "old timers." His interview was the easiest and the most enjoyable of all, for his never-ending store of incidents, his characteristic smile and the twinkle of his eyes went even beyond his words to show the whole-hearted sincerity of his love for his fellow workers.

"I wish to personally express to the men and women who have given this long service to the store my warm appreciation. As it is impossible for me to visit you now will you please accept this bulletin as my heartiest thanks and acknowledgment for your great contribution to the success of Marston's."

"Your continued loyalty and assistance is very gratifying to the managers of the business. We hope you can stay with us still longer."

turn from New York with the new models, and says that, "Hats were funny in those days, too! You should have seen them—so huge and heavy you had to turn your head to get on a street car, and that while wearing a hobble skirt."

Joining the store family in 1907, Miss Sonka has never left the millinery department, except for a ten-year period following 1924, during which she had her own shop in Los Angeles.

## MORE ABOUT LOUIS MARTINSEN

(Continued from Page 1)

knowledge of "what made it tick."

Assigned to the job of cleaning show-cases Martin's duties soon multiplied until he was on call whenever and wherever the mechanical phase of store operation needed attention. He recalls how he and "Mr.

Arthur" pooled their knowledge of electricity to make an emergency replacement of an armature on the old elevator, and confesses, "We were both a little surprised when it actually worked."

He has always been a baseball fan, and remembers when the Philadelphia Athletics were here in about 1908 that he left his work without permission to go out to the old Athletic Park in Logan Heights to see Connie Mack's team play an exhibition. No one would have been the wiser had not Arthur Marston, a baseball fan himself noticed "Louie's" hoarseness the next day. He admits that he "just can't enjoy a ball game without yelling."

The old Horton House had been razed and the foundation was in for the U. S. Grant Hotel when Martin's came to town, and the Panic of 1907 marked the beginning of his store career.



## Arthur Marston Started Business Career in 1903



Like Father Like Son

In the early 1890's, long before he finished his schooling, Arthur Marston often spent his Saturdays as a cash boy in his father's old store at Fifth and F streets, and after the store moved to Fifth and C streets in 1896 he served for several summers as clerk in the store's branch Post Office.

In September, 1903, when he began full-time work, the entire staff numbered only 67 people. A year was spent in receiving and packing, another year in selling cotton goods, linens and bedding, and another in office work. Following this the city made a substantial growth and a full-time superintendent was needed for the expanding store services, an assignment given to "Mr. Arthur," and one which culminated in his assisting in the planning and building of the present store.

The general management was divided in 1921 when Thomas Hamilton joined the executive staff and took over merchandise promotion. Arthur

Marston could then devote more time to policy matters, planning, and store expansion. Through the unsettled years of World War I and the period following, his influence steadily grew until on February 20, 1931, as President and General Manager he relieved his father of much of the responsibility of management, though still retaining the good counsel of his father as Chairman of the Board.

As today's active head of the business, "Mr. Arthur" says, "The last few years, when the store has with reduced force served an expanding community, have been the most interesting. The management well appreciates what the staff have done in difficult times to serve the store's trade and at the same time in carrying on as good citizens in a great war effort."

"Salute! to our men and women in the services, to the old guard from the 'old store' and to all our loyal force of workers."

## More About Charles Angeir

(Continued from Page 1)

In the "old store" out-of-town bills were paid with bank drafts, one of Mr. Angeir's first duties and one which laid the

groundwork for his present responsibilities as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. His early duties included assisting Miss

Kelly on billing and ledger work, Miss Bertha Schiller in the cashier's cage, or helping Mr. Ward in accounting.

He remembers how, "the main office was raised about four feet above the first floor and the customers' accounts were kept on large cards filed in half a dozen large wooden chests. Each night these chests were carried down a flight of four or five steps, placed on a hand truck, hauled to the freight elevator and wheeled to the vault in the basement. The lock on the iron door of the vault was opened with a key which folded up like a jack-knife," and Mr. Angeir is still custodian of that historical old key.

## EDGAR LEIBEY WAS EXPERT AT BUTTON SHOES

Arriving in San Diego "way back" when Marston's store was down at Fifth and F., Edgar Leibey is one of the few who remember seeing the actual construction of the old Stephen Marston Building, as well as the present store home.

He was given his first Marston job in March, 1904 by Omer C. Thompson, who then headed the shoe department, in the days when a button-hook was a necessary part of shoe fitting.

Leibey left after four and a half years as a shoe clerk and did not return until 1918.

In 1918 he was engaged again as a shoe salesman, but there being a shortage of help in men's furnishings, Mr. T. P. Griffith, buyer at that time, prevailed upon Leibey to help out. He is still "helping out" and still insists that he is a shoe man just waiting for an opening to develop.

## Paper Collars Were Dehm's Stock in Trade



Edward Dehm

Back in the days just after the turn of the century, when paper and celluloid collars, puff ties, galluses and derby hats were the stock in trade of the haberdasher . . . in 1901 to be exact . . . began the story of Edward, we call him "Ed." Dehm.

Dehm's record of service was broken in 1910, for a twelve-year period of business-for-himself, returning in 1922. His memory book is a full one, including such unpleasant business memories as the day, "three of us in men's furnishings took in a total of only \$34." He can tell you San Diego's best-dressed man of forty years ago . . . in fact, he sold him the clothes. He remembers how Marston salesmen disappeared into stock-rooms when the poll tax collector came around. So, if you want to get a real chuckle, just get him started talking about the early days in the furnishings and hats.

While Dehm says, "I had no part in it," he does vividly remember the time some of the boys trimmed the girls' night-gowns. It seems that Ray Tyler, now a local business executive, who was

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## MORE ABOUT "ED" DEHM

(Continued from Page 3)

then at the checking desk, discovered a package of Marston store girls' nightgowns which they were taking on a house-party. Whereupon, "The boys spent their spare time trimming them with ribbon and yarn and carefully repacking them." All of which was great fun until the modest young ladies discovered the prank and threatened to resign unless Mr. Marston, "dismiss those ungentlemanly salesmen." As Dehm remembers it, Mr. Marston dried the girls' tears and "had a good laugh over it."

## \$3 PER WEEK WAS STARTING PAY FOR LYLE

Leaving public school in the seventh grade in 1906 to start a business career as a cash boy at \$3 per week, Lyle Carringer completed his grade school studies in the Marston store school and entered high school in 1909 as a full time student. He continued to work at Marston's during his public schooling, working at various times after school and Saturdays as a wrapper, and though not regularly employed at the time, Lyle was one of those who can proudly say, "I helped move into this store building.

In 1914 Carringer returned to a regular job, with duties varied from

helping in the Post Office sub-station, to assisting at the C.O.D. desk and in the cashiers' cage. He was soon transferred to the third floor where he assisted Mrs. Short, Mrs. Burley and Mrs. Cummings as floor man, leaving that position in May, 1917 to enlist in the U. S. Marines.

Lyle returned in April, 1919 to his position as floor man, but at his request was assigned to Mr. Angeir's staff in the office, which duties have been continuous since. Though his service record is broken, Lyle's memories take him well back into the "old timers" classification.

## Herris Here for Opening

When John Herris, who greets employees as they come in each morning, was in the old store back in 1911 the business of selling silk and wool yardage was a complicated job.

He tells of how multi seams, complicated fitting and elaborate trimmings went together to make the stylish fashions of that day, and of the fine taffetas, broadcloths, satins and moires used in dressmaking. Many materials were as narrow as 18 inches, and quantities were used in each garment; often as many as

20 yards were required, and the art of dressmaking was one requiring real skill. The art of selling, too, put the salesman in a position where he must know his fashions.

Herris came to Marston's in December, 1911, staying through the move to the present store building and leaving during 1915, the Exposition year. He remembers the opening day, "There were no goods sold that May Day 1912. It was strictly a reception."

He returned to the store in September, 1921 for an unbroken service record of 24 years, and a total service of about 28 years.

# THE RECORD

## GEORGE W. MARSTON

August 8, 1878 — The grandest "old timer" of them all.

## ARTHUR H. MARSTON

September 14, 1903 — An unbroken service of 42 years, plus after-school odd jobs prior thereto.

## ARTHUR STEWART

September 12, 1904 — 41 years continuous service.

## CHARLES H. ANGEIR

September 11, 1905 — 40 years continuous service.

## LOUIS MARTINSEN

April 22, 1907 — 38 years continuous service.

## MRS. LILLIE PAUL BROTHERS

1899 to 1908 — Returned in 1912 in new store until 1924, intermittent work until 1942, then continuous.

## EDWARD DEHM

1901 to 1910 — Returned December 11, 1922, for unbroken service to date.

## EDGAR LEIBEY

March 28, 1904 — Until September 12, 1908. Returned on May 14, 1918, for a continuous stay.

## MISS CLARA SONKA

1907 to 1924 — Returned July 2, 1934 remaining to date.

## LYLE CARRINGER

1906 to 1909 — Returned in 1914, leaving for service in U. S. Marines in 1917, returning in April, 1919.

## JOHN H. HERRIS

1911 to 1915 — Returned September, 1921, for continuous service.