City of Euclid

The origin of the town's beginnings are very vague and uncertain and appear to have been lost with the passing on of the early residents. Some stories seem to agree that a settlement did exist at the present site on or before 1872, when the first railroad was built through this area. The town's present make-up came into being in 1880 when Charles Lockhart and Springer Harbaugh, owners of the new bonanza farm known as Keystone Farm, caused the original townsite of Euclid to be plotted, and donated streets and alleys for public use. The townsite was registered and recorded in Polk County register of deeds office, on July 29, 1880, at 9:30 a.m. The plotting and recording of the Railway Addition on the east side of the railroad took place at 9 a.m., December 15, 1880. The plotting of Stuhrs Addition on the west side of town took place some years later, between 1900 and 1915.

The railroad was purchased in 1878 by Mr. James J. Hill and his associates. A permanent station agent and maintenance crew were made part of the new town. The earliest known agent of the new railroad was a Mr. Blue. No permanent record of others are available until the property assumed the new name of Great Northern Railroad. Upon the purchase of the rail line, Mr. Hill appointed an early-day friend of his as section foreman at Euclid station in 1878. The new foreman, Mr. Coleman Keely, and his wife and family started their new home here. They continued to reside in their original home until their deaths. The property remained as home of one of his daughters and also a son, Martin J. Keely, until his death in August of 1950. Mrs. Coleman Keely was the first known white woman in Euclid and a Mrs. J. A. Hassard later of Denver, Colorado, the second lady.

Upon the death of Mr. Coleman Keely, his old friend Mr. J. J. Hill, at that time owner of the Great Northern Railway Empire, had a special passenger train dispatched to Euclid to carry the body and family of his long-time friend to Crookston for services and burial. The first owner of the general store in the new town is not definitely known. Early stories tell of a Mr. Boutain who lived some ten miles east of Euclid. He traded cordwood for groceries in the winter time at a place of business in Euclid. This business was housed in the late John Goerger home. There was no town closer than Red Lake Falls at that time. This house still stands on the original site across the alley west of the present day St. Mary's Catholic Church. The owner of that business enterprise is not definitely established, but could have been a W. A. A. Perkins, who is known to have been an early merchant of the town. He was one of the first officers when the Presbyterian church was organized in 1880. The alley running between above mentioned house and St. Mary's Church is named Perkins Street.

The owners of the New Keystone bonanza-farming operation, who had plotted the townsite, used it as base of operations for their farm enterprise. They constructed the three-story Keystone Hotel with an accompanying livery barn and blacksmith shop to accommodate the many persons who arrived by train to conduct business on the farm. There were also numerous wealthy friends who visited in the summer months from the eastern seaboard. Many of these found it necessary to stay overnight at the new hotel while waiting for passenger train connections for the return trip. At one time at the turn of the century, when farm ownership had changed and Standard Oil Company of Ohio or Indiana claimed a substantial interest in its ownership, several of the sons of the late John D. Rockefeller spent some time visiting the farm.

One of the first needs of the new town and township was a school for the education of the young people. A petition was made to Polk County Board for formation of a school district. The board granted the petition and records show the former school district Number 47 was organized on March 16, 1881. Shortly thereafter, the original school building, a two-story...