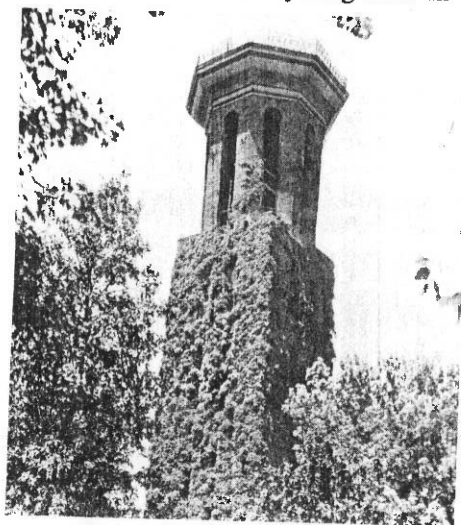


"Ladies in brown" in snow

group, usually to (Downtown) Presbyterian or McKendree Methodist. There were football games at Vanderbilt; and for cultural stimulation, there were trips to the Vendome Theatre where opera, the latest stage dramas, and concerts were presented. On some occasions, there were science lectures at Vanderbilt.

Sometimes there were trips out of town. Mammoth Cave was a two-day excursion by train. By 1900, the college was conducting three-month tours to Europe. The group would meet in New York at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel before setting sail together. Louise Davis relates an experience in Paris when they had been unable to get tickets to see Sarah Bernhardt in *L'Aiglon*. The actress heard of their disappointment and wrote each of the girls a special invitation to attend the performance. The girls saved those notes with her signature for their children and grandchildren.

Rules for the young women entrusted to the keeping of Belmont College were strict. (See rules reprinted from catalogue) Walking to the front gate without permission was considered "astonishing liberty" which called for reprimand. One young lady who waved at a young man in a



"It was the tower that did it."

The Way It Was: Nashville in 1890

- "An overgrown country town" Nashville had a population of 76,168.
- The school rosters showed 9,000 students in 20 schools.
- The Governor of Tennessee was Robert L. Taylor.
- January 1—The *Evening Herald* celebrated its first year of publication.
- "West Nashville" was the city's fastest growing section. "Belmont Park" was the newest section, just beginning to develop. Ads lured prospects with talk of idyllic suburban life, "The prettiest and most desirable residence property in the South. It overlooks the entire city. Accessible by Electric Car Service." It also advertised "served by two 80-foot-wide boulevards macadamized and...rolled as smooth as a dancing floor with the best stone curbing and sidewalks."
- Vanderbilt University, established in 1875, was 15 years old.
- The first Jackson Day Ball and Reception was given by the Ladies Hermitage Association on January 8.
- The "in" place to meet and to entertain was The Maxwell House Hotel.
- January 28—City Council granted a franchise to United Electric Company to control the transition from mule-drawn carts to electric cars for public transportation. By January 1, 1891, the Company was considered the most up-to-date in the country with 17 lines operating with more than 50 miles of track and 4 additional lines being constructed.
- May 12—The first granite paving in Nashville was laid on Church Street from Vine (7th Ave.) to Cherry (4th).
- During the summer of 1890, workmen put the finishing touches on the enormous Union Station train shed. The grand train station had just been finished at the end of 1889.
- October 16—The new Jubilee Singers leave for tour to raise funds for the theological seminary at Fisk.
- November 3—Jubilee Singers gave first local concert.
- November 27—College football was introduced to Nashville when Vanderbilt University played the University of Nashville (later to become Peabody Normal) at Sulphur Springs bottom. Vanderbilt won, 40-0.
- The newest sports "fad" is the "safety" bicycle. Livery stable owners report a decrease in business due to this new attraction. Speaking against alcohol, a temperance advocate said, "Bicycle riding is a first-class antidote for drinking. The bicycle is spoiling the business of the drinking shops and low variety theatres. It is heaven's way of helping people to have a good time without using stimulants. It is a splendid thing to abolish drink by indirection."
- A popular event for ladies charities, to which tickets were sold at 50¢ each, was the "bonnet party."
- December 1—Vine Street Christian Church was dedicated.
- A young man starting out in business could expect a salary of approx. \$20/month.
- Prices:
 - a gentleman's summer-weight flannel shirt, 65¢.
 - India Wash Pongee, 9¢ a yard; velvet, silk, satin more expensive, 25¢ a yard.
 - a lady's fine straw hat with lace ribbon, 95¢.
- Real estate, which was aggressively advertised by full-page newspaper ads, handbills handed out on trolleys and on busy street corners, and posters:
 - choice, modern brick residence on N. Vine St. (7th)—\$12,000
 - (same) on S. Spruce St. (8th), \$8,000
 - fine, brick house on Demonbreum, lot 60' x 170', \$4,500; \$800 down, balance \$38.50 per month.
 - half interest in grocery store doing good business—\$500

Church St., looking west from 5th Ave.

