

not sent  
BROWN

February 6, 1940

Interview: Mr. Tom Brown  
Stecher-Traung Lithographic Corp.  
274 N. Goodman St., Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. Brown came into Colonel Solbert's office in answer to a letter, sent him by Col. Solbert, in which he was asked for any information he might have which would be of interest to an author - if and when a book might be written on the life of George Eastman.

Mr. Brown is an elderly gentleman, 75 years or so.

In 1878, Mr. Brown, then a young boy of 12 or 14 years, worked for Steele and Avery, proprietors of a book store on State Street, a site opposite the present E. & B. Building. At that time bookstores were the meeting place for the *intelligencia* residents of the city, and the firm had given over a small space in the store as a waiting room in which people could rest or browse or wait for friends. Many prominent Rochesterians did this, and Mr. Brown mentioned ~~George Eastman~~, Bishop McQuaid, Bishop Cox and J. Breck Perkins among these.

Mr. Brown especially remembers George Eastman coming in often to browse as he frequently had to go to the basement to light the gaslight and get down the Encyclopedia Britannica, dust it off - a job he didn't like, for George Eastman to peruse. This Encyclopedia was probably his best source for the technical information he needed to carry out his experiments in photography. Too, being a poor boy, George Eastman could not afford to buy books on photography. He went in often and perused both old and new books for photographic information. George Selden, originator of the Selden truck, with whom he worked on photography, also came in to browse.

Mr. Brown's comment on his days spent working for Steele and Avery was:

"The were the happiest days of my life, had I only realized it then. I earned a dollar and a half a week and worked long hours, one week from 7:30 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night and the next week we could get away in the evening at six."

Mr. Brown happened to be in New York City many years ago and breakfasted with Mr. L. B. Jones (now deceased) who handled the advertising for the Kodak Company. Mr. Jones had brought his mail to the table and was opening it when he came to a letter from Geo. Eastman telling him that his salary had

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been raised (Mr. Brown said the increase was a considerable amount) and he thought Mr. Jones would like to know it while he was in New York City so that he could celebrate! Mr. Jones said he had no idea that this was going to happen. It should be mentioned here that Mr. Brown was now working for the lithographic firm doing the work for the E. K. Co. but he didn't come in direct contact with G. E. His contact was with Mr. Jones whose office was near G.E. in an early Kodak building. Mr. Jones went over the work and then took it to Mr. Eastman for the final OK. Mr. Brown mentioned that G.E. was definite when a job was to his liking. He went into every word and line of advertising and his famous green pencil left its mark on every copy. If Mr. Eastman didn't like the copy, he indicated it very decisively.

Mr. Brown told of he and Mrs. Brown being invited to a tallyho party (1905) which was a jolly, happy tour through the Genesee and Wyoming valleys. On this tour, the party went from town to town, spending a night here and there as at Avon, Geneseo, Mt. Morris, Portage, etc. The stops were not planned ahead and arrangements for rooms, etc., were telephone for a day ahead. In the party on this tour were George Eastman, Colonel and Mrs. Strong, Al Pritchard, Mrs. Dickman, Mr. and Mrs. Achilles (relatives of Strongs) and the Browns.

The only incident marring this jolly excursion was a message telephone to Mr. Eastman, reaching him in Caledonia, N.Y., by Miss Alice Whitney, his secretary, to the effect that the old Brick Church in Rochester was burning.

Note:

Mr. John Morey was an old time friend of Mr. Eastman. He was the proprietor of the evening newspaper, the "Union and Advertiser," and later this paper became the "Times."

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