

*The Eldorado Bee, June 6, 1909*

## UNIVERSALISTS

Lay Cornerstone of New Church—Exercises  
Impressive—Everybody Pleased

Last Sunday at 2 p.m. the formal ceremonies connected with the laying of the cornerstone of the new Universalist church now in process of erection, were held.

The foundation of the church having been completed; a temporary floor laid; and everything in readiness for the occasion, was cause for congratulation to those having the work in charge.

The exercises were of a character to make the day long to be remembered, not only by the people of Eldorado, but by those who were present from the neighboring towns and churches of Palestine, Greenville, Eaton, New Madison and Paris.

Promptly at 2 o'clock Mr. Clem McKee as Chairman, sounded the gavel which called forth the profoundest of attention, while all joined in singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name." A prayer that touched all hearts was offered by the Rev. J. H. Blackford, followed by a few fitting Scripture passages read by the pastor, Rev. Sara L. Stoner. Dr. B. F. Beane reviewed briefly the basic principles of Universalism and outlined the real purpose of the Christian church. He voiced the gratitude of the Eldorado Parish for the deep interest and cordial co-operation shown by our citizens in the work of building the new church. Dr. Beane's remarks were followed by a 30 minute address by Rev. Sara L. Stoner on "Corner-stones and Foundations." The address from beginning to finish held the closest attention of all present. Lack of space forbids citation of the many excellent thoughts embodied in the address, all of which were most appropriate to the occasion.

After singing by the Young People's Christian Union (Y.P.C.U.), a Historical Sketch of the church, together with its work in past years was given by Rev. J. H. Blackford, who was the beloved pastor for nearly a quarter of a century. His words, uttered with deep feeling, brought tears to many eyes.

Not the least impressive part of the program was the placing of numerous articles in the Corner-stone by the members of the Young People's Christian Union. Each one, as they placed a given article in the box, gave brief explanatory word concerning the article placed. The box includes membership lists, a picture of the old church, photographs of its ministers, tracts, constitutions, all of the Universalist newspapers, a copy of

the *Eldorado Bee*, together with copies of the county papers. A parchment roll of the Y.P.C.U was presented by Mr. Falienstark of Cincinnati. This with its colors of blue and white will be preserved in the corner-stone.

Dinner and evening luncheon were served in the dining room of the K. of P. (Knights of Pythias) hall, thus making possible a social hour which was greatly enjoyed by out-of-town friends as well as the home-folks. All in all, the afternoon was pleasant and profitable.

The work of completing the building will be pushed as rapidly as possible and all are looking forward to the dedication in October.