

Peeking into the Past: PRETTY AS A PICTURE

By Cara Jensen



A century ago, it did not matter if you were rich or poor, old or a child, whatever the status a person wore a hat. Etiquette articles from the 1900's suggested that it would be "a disgraceful act to venture out of the house without a hat or even gloves". Both men and women changed their hats according to their activity, with ladies of social standing changing them several times daily.

The millinery business was one of the few "respectable" occupations available to St. Louis women who sought employment. Milliners could work in their homes while they raised their families. They were paid by the piece, which provided a very small income compared with factory work. Surely these artists would be pleased to see their creations fetching from fifty to five-hundred dollars on Ebay today!

Here are some milliners who called your neighborhood home:

- Bertha Herman – 2018 Gravois
- Odile S. Beauvais – 1529 Park
- Dorothea Nagel – 2641 Gravois
- Mary DeCaen – 2724 Chouteau
- Mary E. Klein – 1413 Dillon

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