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ZANERIAN MEMORIES from J. T. Stockton

To see Mr. J. T. Stockton, President Emeritus of Illinois Business College., handle his two saddle horses so expertly, one would never guess his age to be that of a man who has lived through over half the presidential administrations of the United States. Every morning neighbors around his little "dude ranch" just south of Springfield, Illinois, see the retired, venerable educator riding "high in the saddle" as he trots off to get the mail or more frequently to tell the admiring small fry of the area he will let them ride his beautiful pony in the afternoon.

Now over 85 years of age, Mr. Stockton looks back on a long and busy life and declares, "I regard my attendance at the Zanerian College as one of my most profitable and pleasant experiences."

Prior to the summer of 1895, as a young business school teacher, Stockton had already had considerable experience in penmanship, particularly flourishing. "But", he writes, "my pen was more flourishing than my bank account!" So in that summer he enrolled at Zanerian to receive instruction in engrossing. Of his experiences he reminisces:

"The versatile and highly capable leader of the faculty, Charles Paxton Zaner, was ably assisted by his partner, E. W. Bloser, an expert in his special type of pen art. I shall never forget the pleasing personality of another instructor, C. E. Doner, and his remarkable skill. I had arrived in a strange city, and he took a personal interest in securing lodgings for me. Mr. Zaner frequently accompanied classes to one of the lovely parks in Columbus for an afternoon of sketching from nature. He had the happy genius of imparting knowledge and entertaining his pupils while teaching."

After the course Mr. Stockton returned to Bryant and Stratton Business College, St. Louis, and spent seven years as a teacher of penmanship and accounting. Not only did engrossing skill augment his earnings appreciably, but this study led to an interest in disputed handwriting, in which field he later qualified as an expert and built up an impressive record of successful court cases in* the middle west.

At the turn of the century the Stockton Brothers "C. N. and J. T.", as they were affectionately called formed a corporation known as the Illinois Business College. This partnership lasted for nearly 50 years. The college thrived and attained acknowledged leadership not only for the quality of instruction and the positions of eminence attained by its graduates, but because of its philanthropic program of scholarship aid to deserving students.

The specimen of flourishing on this page attests the skillful hand of J. T. Stockton a hand still steady and still producing works of beauty, due largely, as he avers, to the fact that he "found exactly the training necessary at Zanerian."

Reflecting on a lifetime spanning over four-score years, Mr. Stockton says, "My first formal schooling was obtained in a log cabin; my homework was done by candle light. The world has changed more in these 85 years than in any other period in history, but the drama of life is much the same, and its fascination is unending. I prefer the automobile to the horsecar that used to rumble on the streets of St. Louis, and I'll be at the ticket window when reservations are received for space ship travel!"