

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE SCHWINN COLLECTION



Leonard Schwinn came to Red Oak, Iowa from Illinois in the 1880s. Although a businessman by profession, Schwinn spent much time behind the camera, recording the activities of his family and friends in this pleasant Montgomery County community. More than a hundred of the photographer's glass negatives survive, and they provide an unusually candid view of life in southwestern Iowa in the years around 1900. The photographs shown on these pages were printed directly from the original negatives, a gift to the State Historical Society from the photographer's son, Mr. Walter K. Schwinn of West Hartford, Connecticut.

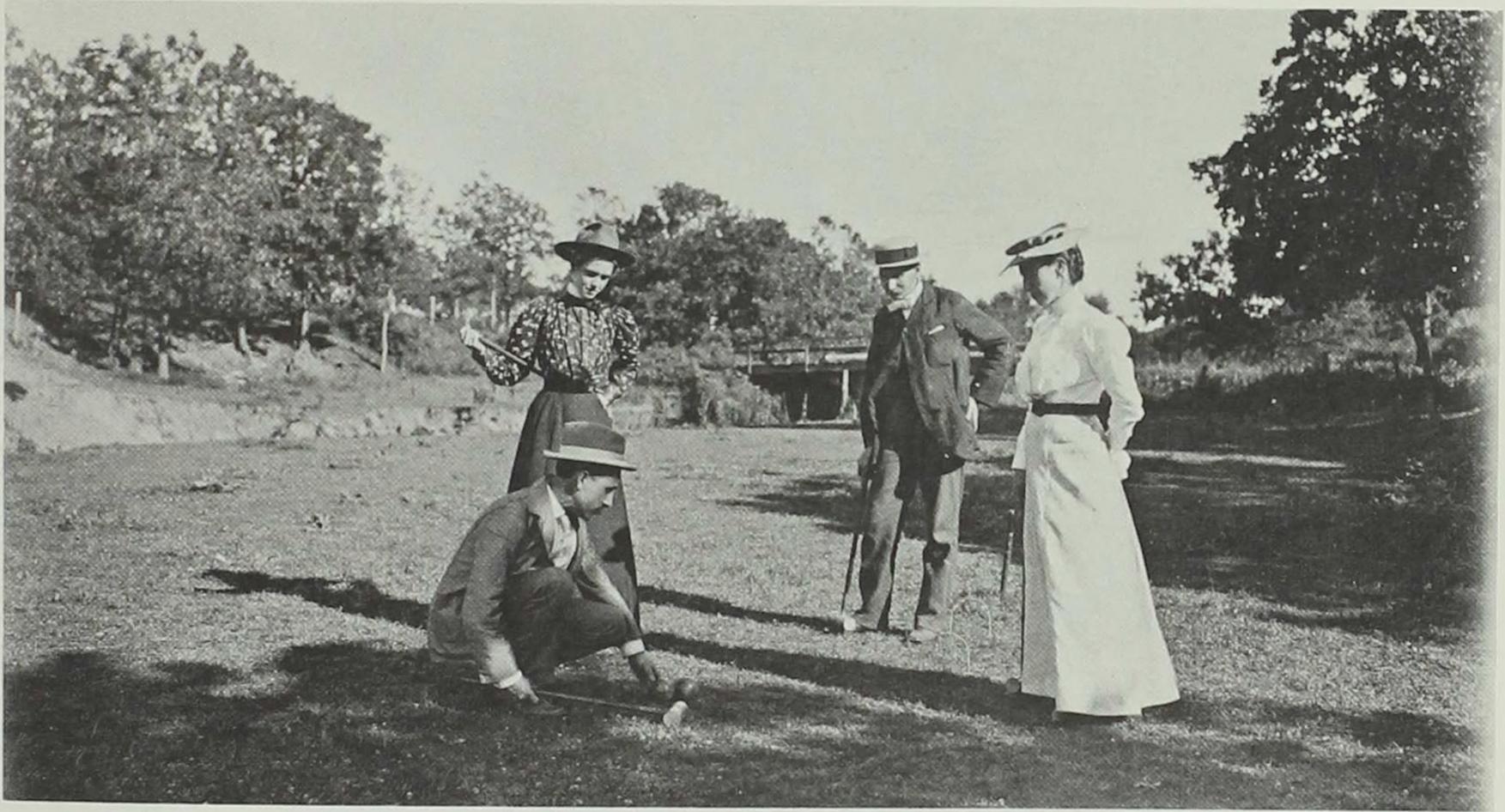


Country scenes appear frequently among the Schwinn photographs: pictured on the opposite page are Schwinn's wife Kate and son Byron in a carriage drawn by Skibo, the family horse; above, the Seeley Flour Mill on the Nishnabotna River. (All photos SHSI)



Summer fun: members of a fishing expedition pause on the banks of the Nishnabotna (left), and a nutting party in a Red Oak park (below). Kate Schwinn's brother Walter Kelly also lived in Red Oak. Kelly's children pose for their uncle (right); (top right) the Kellys play croquet.

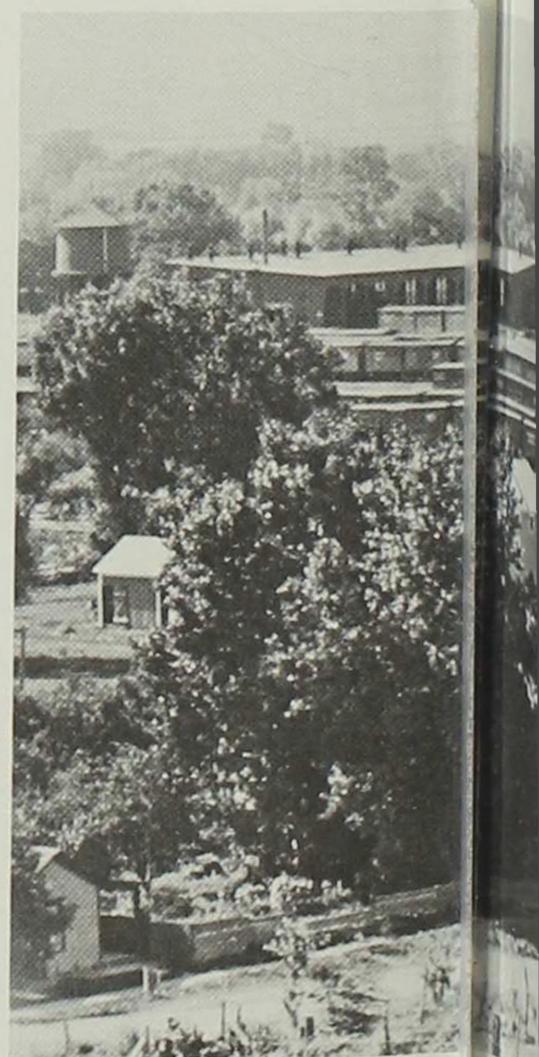
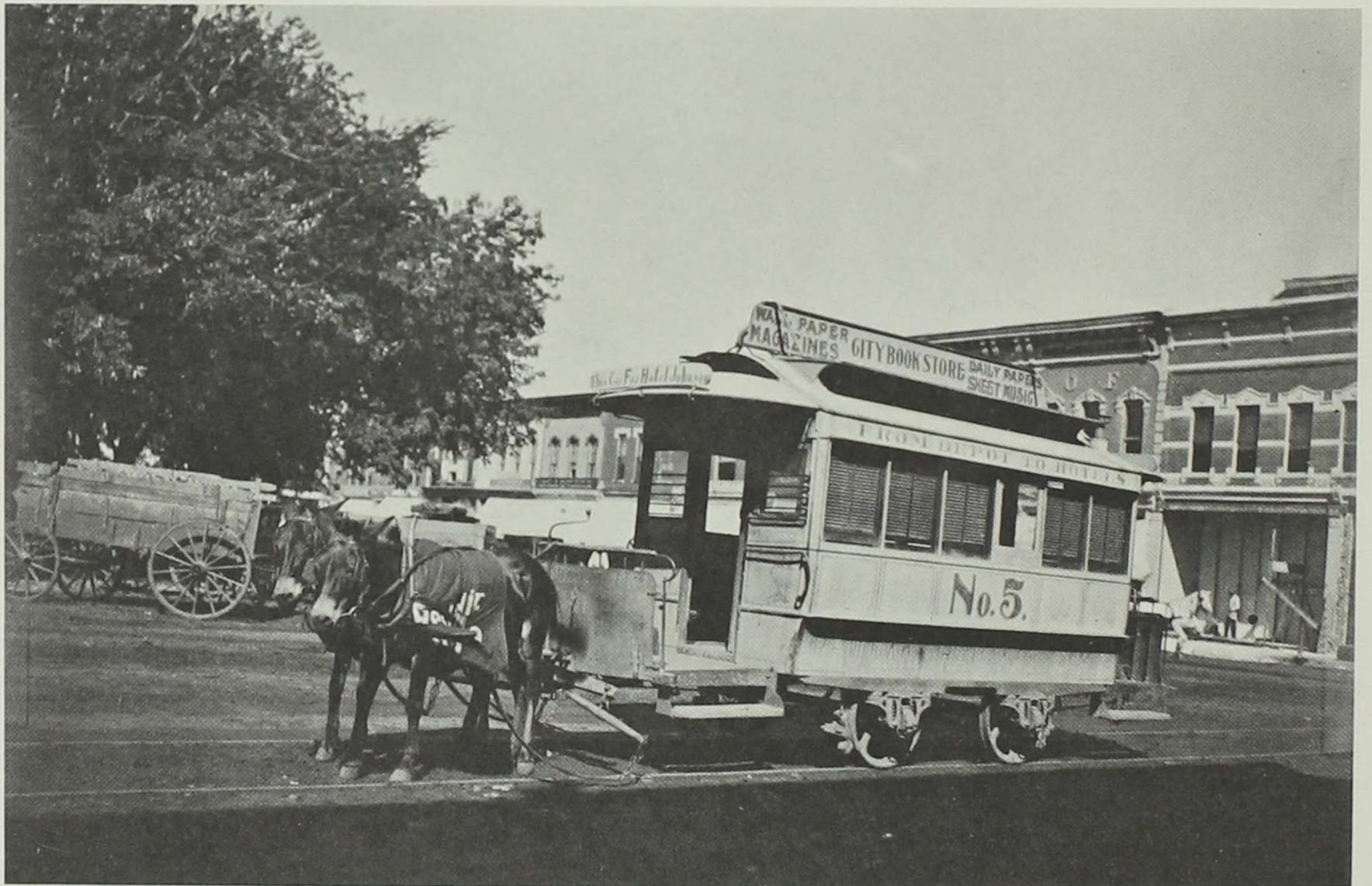






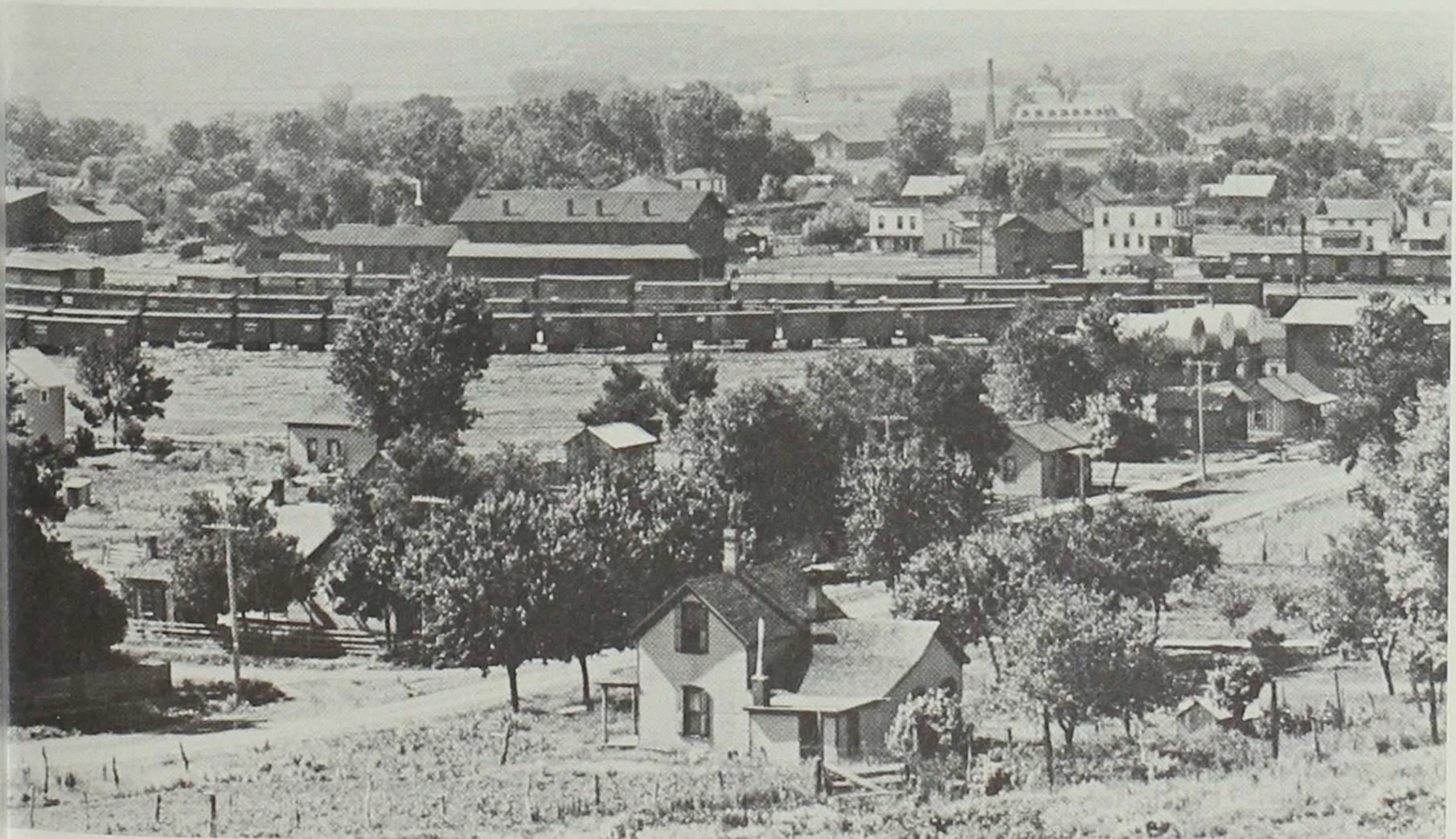


A party in a melon patch; photographer Leonard Schwinn stands second from right.

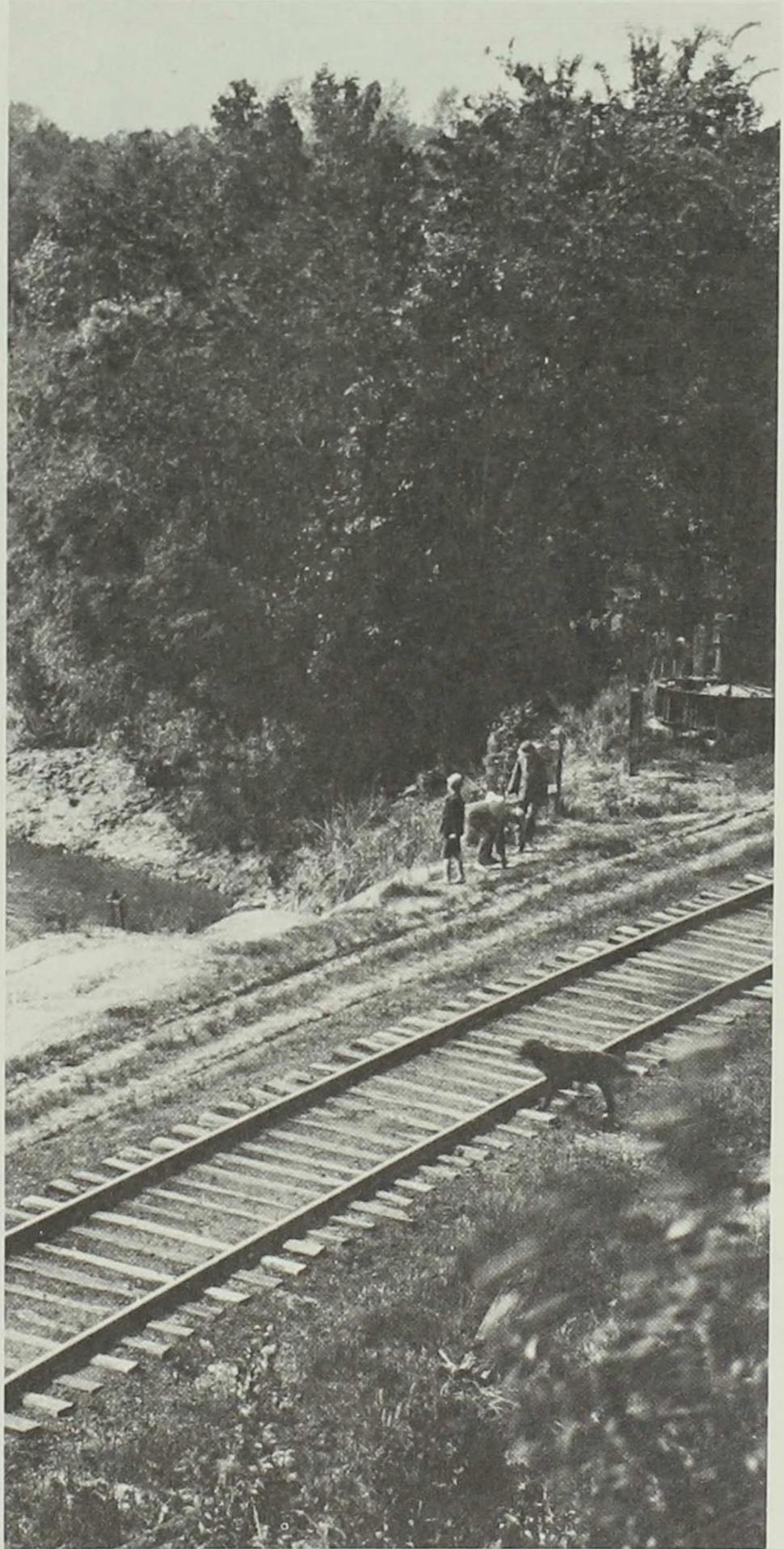
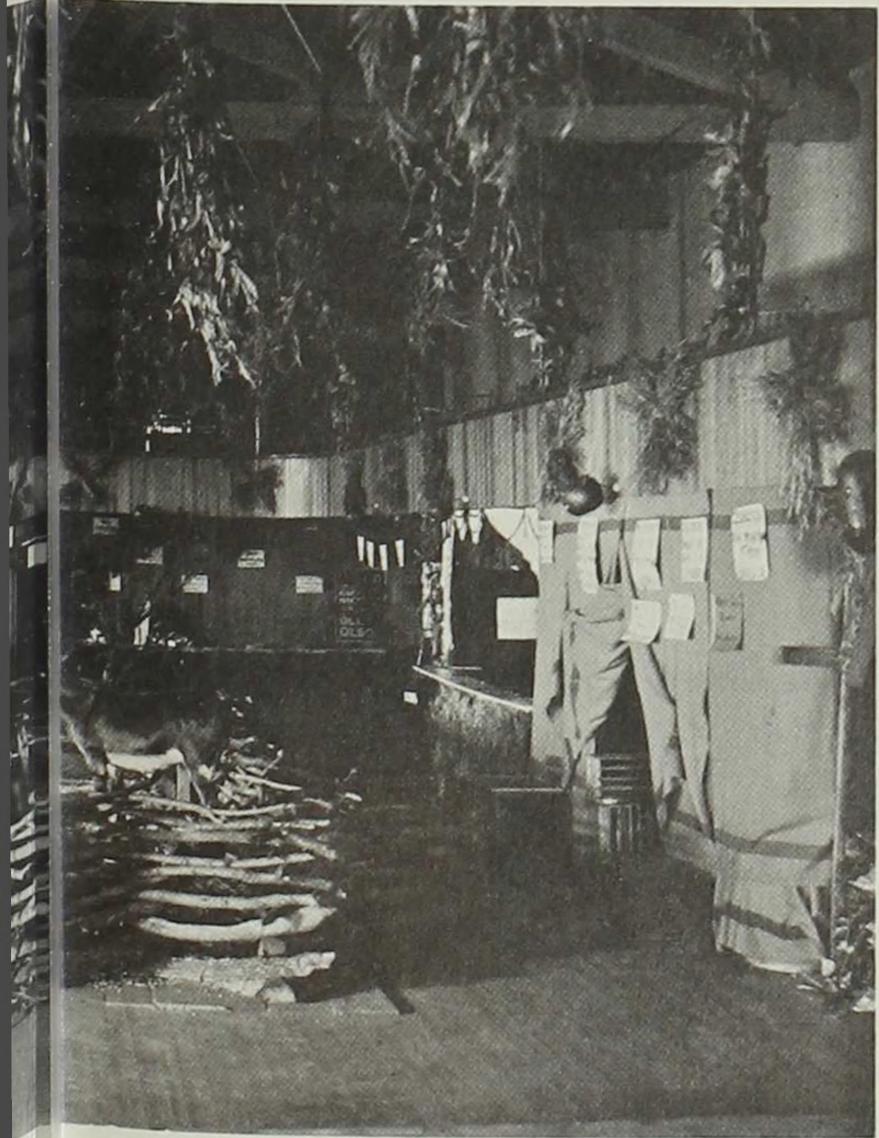
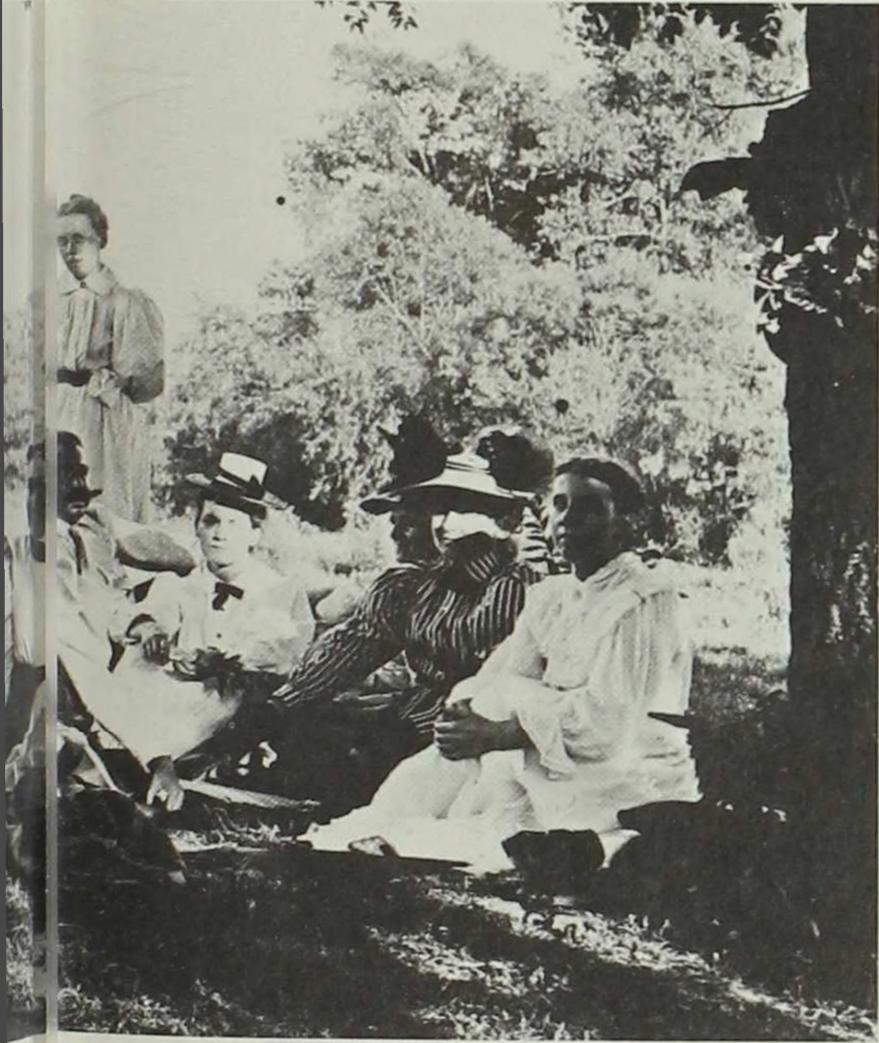




In and about Red Oak: a panorama of the village (below right); a horse-drawn trolley (left); picnickers in the park (right); and the home of Schwinn's father-in-law, Charles Kelly (below left). Sitting on the porch are (from left) Kelly's daughters Virginia, Kate (Schwinn), and Jessie. Young Byron Schwinn watches his father from the top step.







A final quartet from the Schwinn Collection: a summer outing (upper left); the armory at the Montgomery County fairgrounds (left); riders stop on a country lane (far left); and three boys play on the railroad tracks near the South Mill (above).