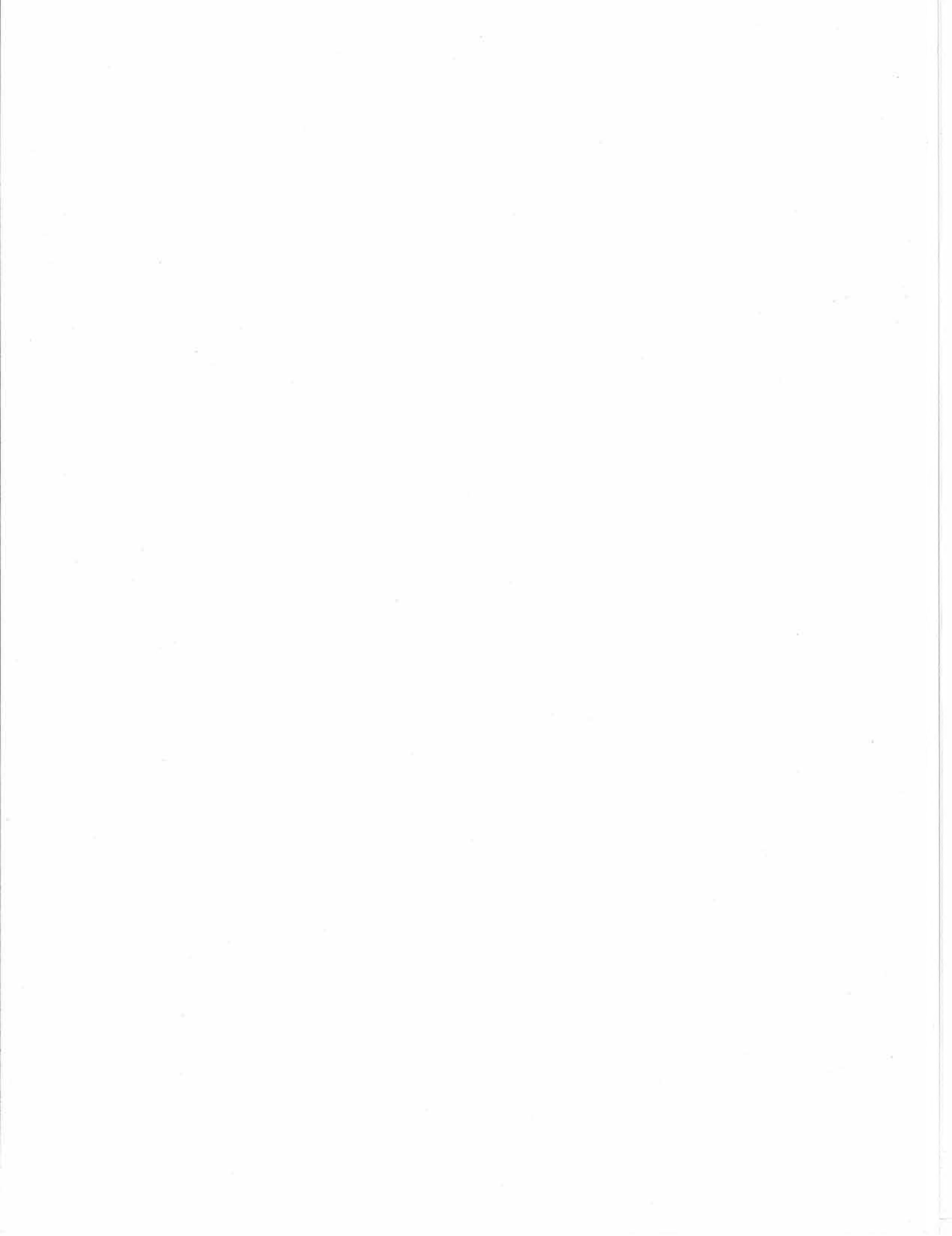


Mill on the Willow

A History of Mower County, Minnesota



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PREFACE

The last page of *Mill on the Willow* is now finished. Very few weeks remain before 1984 will become "Once upon a time."

It was 132 years ago last July 4th when Jacob McQuillan nailed a coffee mill to a tree in Racine Township. This marked the first homestead claim in Mower County. There have been thousands of epic happenings in our county since that date in 1852. In 416 pages we have tried to provide an overall verbal picture of the years. We are grateful for the many stories and pictures which have been volunteered to make this book possible.

There was a common thread which ran through the histories of churches, schools, farms, businesses and villages. They were begun with strong faith and then over the succeeding years they endured hardships. Now present generations look back over the past with gratitude and anticipate the future with confidence. We have a deep respect for the character of those who began and for those who carry on the heritage of Mower County.

We have leaned heavily on many during the months we developed this history. The *Austin Daily Herald* allowed us to dig into their old files and to reprint the stories we found. Mrs. Harold J. Davison, Vern Judd, the Mower County Historical Society and others let us borrow many historic photos. Harold Rochford furnished us much material and assistance. In over four score years Harold has acquired a broad knowledge of Mower County history and the acquaintanceship of hundreds of individuals. His memory of events was infallible and his cooperation was invaluable.

Four hundred plus pages seemed a huge obstacle as we compiled our material. Then, during the final months, the number of pages available became inadequate. Regretfully, there were biographies and stories for which we could not find space.

The people of Mower County are fond of many sports. To do justice to the county sports history we would have required another hundred or more pages. We bequeath the opportunity for a history of Mower County sports to a future historian.

Though we have tried very hard to be accurate, we know there will be errors and omissions. We apologize for the defects and thank the many people who have cooperated with us so freely.

Mower County has a fine heritage with people of character and a future to anticipate.



Richard Stivers



Committee Meeting

Standing, left to right: Richard Stivers, Margaret Merritt, Polly A. Jelinek. Seated: Mike Chaffee, Mrs. Wm. B. Malone.



Nathan Johnson

History Committee

Richard Stivers
Deanne Aherns
Arlene Bonnes
Mike Chaffee
Robert Foss
Eleanor Foss
Mrs. Margaret F. Guckeen
Polly A. Jelinek
Nate Johnson
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Lansing Area
Sales and Distribution
Sales and Distribution
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Austin Schools
Editor
Railroads

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Century Farms
Rural Churches and
Cemeteries
Rural Schools
Austin Businesses
Agriculture
Editorial Assistant
Sales and Distribution
Business Manager
Brownsdale Area

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Mower County/Austin History — Section I

This first section is the story of Mower County and Austin in the early years. In another part of this book a section on Townships will include the histories of towns and villages. Much of the specialized history on farms will be in the Agriculture section. Therefore, this section covers the stories and photos which are of general interest to all readers.

Many times the newspaper editors of the early days wrote in a direct and comfortable style. It might be called journalism with the shoes off. We have adopted this style with the hope that reading it will be like a trip back to the old home-place.

Section I covers a period of years into the 1870's. This provides the background for the remainder of the story. The focus of our history is on the period beginning in 1911. For this reason there is a lapse between the 1870's and 1911.

A thousand pages would not furnish a complete history of Mower County. We know that when this volume is finished we will have omitted more than we have inserted. This leaves an opportunity for the next individual or group to add to the chronicle.

Previous historians have been lavish in their praise of this county and the people in it. We, who have written these pages have developed a new respect for the thousands of people who have made Mower County a good place to live.

E. N. J.

OUR LAND HAD A WILD BEAUTY

It would be difficult to improve on the description of the area which we call Mower County, as given in the 1911 Mower County History.

"The buffalo, the elk and the deer, for centuries roamed the wild prairies and woodlands. Fishes basked in its rippling streams; the muskrat, the otter and the mink gamboled upon the ice in winter. Ducks, geese and other aquatic fowls, in countless numbers, covered the streams in summer. The prairie wolves howled upon their hillocks. Cowardlike, they were always ready to attack and destroy the weak and defenseless. Pocket gophers went on their interminable underground operations. Grouse and prairie chickens cackled, crowed and strutted in all their pride."

"Blizzards and cyclones swept unheeded across its domains. The autumnal prairie fires, in all their terrible grandeur and weird beauty, lighted the heavens by night and clouded the sun by day. Age after age added richness to the soil and prepared it to be one of the most productive fields of the world."

Those Who Claimed—and Those Who Possessed

There were nations which claimed the area which embraces Mower County from the time of Christopher Columbus. Yet the actual use and possession of this region was by various tribes of Indians.

On May 4, 1493, Spain made a papal grant, making indefinite claims to lands north and northwest of her settlements in Mexico, Florida and the West Indies. With the arrival of the English, Mower County was included in their claim to the lands west of their Atlantic coast settlements. Likewise, France claimed this region as a part of the lands south, west and southwest of their Canadian settlements.

The first definite claim to this territory was made by LaSalle at the mouth of the Mississippi on March 8, 1682, in the name of the king of France. Even more

definite was the French claim made by Perrot near the site of Trempealeau, Wisconsin, on May 8, 1689.

In 1763 France turned her authority over to Spain. October 1, 1800, Spain ceded the tract to France. France did not take formal possession until November 30, 1803. Previously, on April 30, 1803, the United States had purchased this territory from Napoleon in the Louisiana Purchase. The transfer from France was completed on December 20, 1803.

In succeeding years this region was part of Indiana, a part of the Louisiana territory, part of Missouri territory and then June 1834, to April 1836, it was a maverick, assigned to no territory but under jurisdiction of Congress.

From 1836 until June 12, 1838, Mower County was a part of Michigan territory, then a part of Wisconsin territory. The territory of Iowa next claimed jurisdiction until December 28, 1846, and was included in the first proposal of the boundaries when Iowa applied for statehood.

Again, from December 1846, until March 3, 1849, Mower County was a land without an official proprietor.

The Minnesota territory was established in March, 1849, and finally on May 11, 1858, Minnesota became a state. Mower County now had formal recognition and a permanent legal status.

Indians Leave Their Hunting Grounds

The area in Southern Minnesota which included Mower County was familiar ground to all the Sioux Indians living along the Mississippi River. Their annual hunting parties visited the region.

Many battles were fought here. The Sacs and the Foxes were not far away, and the Chippewas occasionally braved the wrath of their enemies and came here for game.

The first negotiations with the whites was in 1824. A

delegation of Sioux and Chippewas went to Washington to see the "Great White Father," President James Monroe.

The decisive treaties were the Traverse des Sioux, July 22, 1851, and the Treaty of Mendota, amended and signed by President Fillmore on February 24, 1853.

Under the Mendota treaty the tribes received \$1,410,000, which included funds for the settling of debts, educational funds, and funds for opening farms and for goods and provisions. The balance of \$1,160,000

was to remain in trust with the United States at 5% interest. This provided for an annuity paid annually for a 50 year period beginning July 1, 1852.

The removal of the Indians in the lower counties began in 1853. The Indians went up in detachments to one of the reserves, usually the Redwood Reserve. Some returned to their old hunting grounds in southern Minnesota, only visiting their reservation at the time of annuity payments.

EARLY HISTORY OF MOWER COUNTY

As far as can be determined the first history of Mower County was published in 1876. It was titled "Early History Of Mower County." This book gives a listing of many "first events" in the county. One event they missed was that of Jacob McQuillan as first settler. However, it gives a concise picture of these earliest days. Excerpts from this early history follow.

In the fall of 1852 the first claims in the county were taken by some hunters and trappers from Iowa, along the Cedar River, near where Austin now stands, but they left during the winter.

The first permanent settlers in the county were Hunter Clark, Austin Nichols, Chauncey Leverich, John Tiff, A. B. Vaughan, Woodbury, George Squires, Moses Niles and others in 1853; R. B. Foster, L. Ebbin, Mary and Orlando Wilder, Robert Dobbins, S. P. Bacon, John Robinson, Lewis Patchin and many others in 1854.

The first settlements were made on the Cedar, Upper Iowa and Root rivers. In the year 1855 a tide of immigration set in, and the population of the county began to assume proportions of some magnitude. The prairies became dotted in every direction with claim shanties. Claimants often joined in building a home, locating it where the corner of their lands joined. In this manner one building would answer and hold four claims, as the law required that a building be on each.

The first house built in the county was a log cabin built by Hunter Clark in the fall of 1853, near the bank of the Cedar River and north of the cemetery.

In the fall of 1853 Austin Nichols took a claim and built a log house on the east bank of the river, near where Engle Mill once stood. The next year he improved the water power and built a saw mill. This he sold with his claim to Chauncey Leverich. For a long time Austin was known as Leverich's Mill. His was the first house within the limits of the city of Austin and the first mill in the county.

In 1854 Robert Dobbins took a claim and built a log house where the brewery now stands, and broke some land. This was the first land broken in the city of Austin.

The first deed recorded in the office of Register of Deeds is from Alexander Nigus to B. J. Brown dated March 14, 1856, conveying 3½, NE¼, Section 21, Town 102 Range 18: consideration \$125.

The first bill allowed by the County Commissioners was to Lewis Patchin for four days services as Commis-

sioner on the Rochester and Iowa State line Territorial road, amount \$19.00.

The first Territorial road laid in the county was from Winona to Austin, striking the county at Frankfort and terminating at Austin. This is the road which furnishes a crossing over the railroad track south of the depot, and intersects Bridge St. (2nd Ave. N.E.) at its terminus on the west side of the track in the city of Austin. The road was laid in 1856.

The first death in the county was Mary Robinson, aged two years, in 1855. The first marriage was Caleb Stock to Miss Watkins. The second that of David Aultfather to Miss Phelps, both in 1856.

The first four births in the county were Mary E. Patchin, daughter of Lewis Patchin, March 13, 1855; Annette Powers, daughter of Calvin Powers, Sept. 22, 1855; Colbert H. Lott, son of Abe Lott, Oct. 10, 1855; Austin Bemis, son of Geo. H. Bemis, Dec. 17, 1855.

The first school in the county was taught by Miss Maria Vaughan, in the town of Austin, in 1855.

The first person murdered was Chauncey Leverich, in 1856. He was attacked by two men, Silvers and Oliver, in his own saloon. He ordered them out. They went, and dared him to come out. Just as he stepped out of the door Silvers struck him over the head with a steel wagon spring, from the effects of which he died.

The first church in the county was built at Frankford. The first service preached was by Rev. Mr. Holbrook, of Iowa Conference, M. E. Church, at the house of Samuel Clayton, one mile north of Austin, in the winter of 1854-55.

Cedar Valley University

May 23, 1857, the Territorial Legislature passed an act incorporating the Cedar Valley University, to be established at Austin. A. B. Vaughan, J. F. Cook, V. P. Lewis, R. L. Kimball and sixteen others were the incorporators. This institution has not gotten under way yet.

Also, the same date, an act to incorporate the LeRoy Academy, to be established at LeRoy, in the County of Mower, was passed. The incorporators were N. P. Todd, Wm. Caswell, Wentworth Hayes, S. P. Bacon, W. B. Spencer and George Peck Jr. What became of this institution, whose object was to "promote the elevation of the youth," we know not.

Early Mills

The first mill was of the primitive kind made and used

by the Indians. It was located on the west side of the Cedar River, about twenty rods above Engle & Co.'s mill. A white oak stump was hollowed out in the shape of a mortar, and with a wooden pestle the grain was pounded fine. The first steam mill was built by Asa Marsh and J. Bougard in 1857.

Loyalty and Patriotism

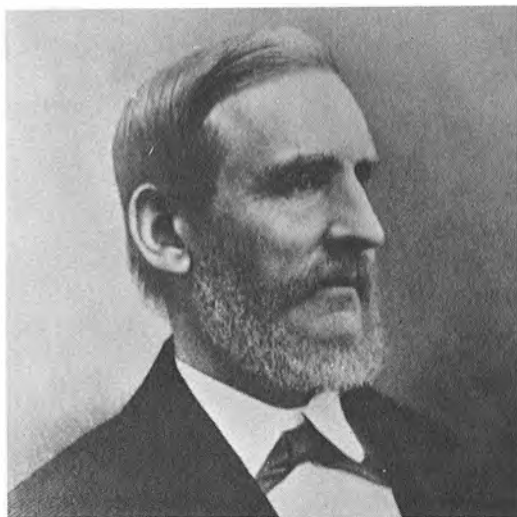
The loyalty and patriotism of Mower County has never for one moment been doubted. Ever since its first settlement the people have not forgotten the noble example of their ancestry, and have never failed to observe the Anniversary of the National Independence. The first celebration of our National holiday in this county was held at Austin, July 4th, 1857. Ormanzo Allen delivered the address. From this time until the present, each return of the day has been observed in some appropriate manner.

July 4th, 1859, D. B. Johnson Jr., was the orator of the day and David Blakely (now of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press and Tribune*) was the reader. I am told he became so strongly enthused with the spirit of 1776, that he read the Constitution of the United States instead of the Declaration of Independence, without discovering his mistake until the next day, when informed by some of his comrades.

When the dark clouds of civil war passed over our land in 1861, and the first call for troops came, Mower County very nobly and cheerfully responded. At that time the county was very sparsely settled by men of moderate incomes, who were just commencing to build and secure themselves homes in this new country. As evidence of their patriotism it is only necessary to refer to the official records, showing a credit of 401 soldiers to Mower County, which offered a bounty of fifty dollars, afterwards increasing it to one hundred dollars, to all volunteers who had or should enter the service, also an additional hundred dollars to all veterans enlisting.

The noble women of Mower County were true and loyal. As a token of their love and fidelity to this noble cause, they presented the first company of volunteers a beautiful silk flag, which afterwards waved over many a hard fought battlefield, from Lookout Mountain, through Georgia to the sea. The remembrance of this "dear old flag" will ever live embalmed in the memories of the few who yet remain of the first company of volunteers from Mower County, and will be treasured up as a relic, to descend to their children who come after them. Its faded folds, now bullet pierced, are carefully preserved by Lieutenant George Baird.

MOWER COUNTY NAMED FOR JOHN EDWARD MOWER



John E. Mower

The second Minnesota territorial Governor Willis A. Gorman signed the act organizing Mower County on March 1, 1856. At the same time the county was named

in honor of John E. Mower, a member of that territorial legislature.

Mower was born in New Vineyard, Maine, in 1815. He was of English heritage. The family left Maine and settled in St. Louis, Missouri. He married Gratia A. Remick there.

In 1843 he and his brother, Martin, acquired a large tract of forest land at St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, establishing themselves in the lumber business.

In 1845 Mower moved to Stillwater, taking his family down the river on a raft of lumber, which was to build their home. It was the second frame building in that town.

The Mower brothers built a large house at Arcola in 1847. This house, of Greek architecture, has been accepted in the National Register of Historic Places.

John Mower was elected to the fifth and sixth Territorial Councils, and again in 1875, was a member of the Minnesota State Legislature. He was a Democrat running in a largely Republican territory.

John Mower died June 11, 1879, and is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Stillwater, Minn.

Researched by Mildred Malone

ORIGIN OF THE NAME MOWER

The following is given in the book of English Surnames by Mark Anthony Lower.

"In the life of Hereward the Saxon, who flourished

about 1070, an opponent of William I in England, one of the last of his race who withstood the Norman conquests, are found several names as Laefrick the Mower, from his

having overcome 20 with a scythe etc. It would appear that the earliest Mower ancestry were of the old Saxon race."

From the book "Mower Family History" by W. L. Mower

ORGANIZATION AND BOUNDARY LINES

Mower County was included in the original limits of Wabasha County (then spelled Wabashaw), which was one of nine counties created by the first territorial legislature in 1849.

Governor Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor, divided the Minnesota territory into three judicial districts. Mower County, then unpopulated, was included in the third judicial district. Court for this district was held at Mendota, with Judge David Cooper on the bench.

Wabashaw County comprised practically all of the southern part of Minnesota. Its northern boundary was the parallel running through the mouth of the St. Croix and the mouth of the Yellow Medicine rivers. Its southern boundary was the Iowa line, its eastern the Mississippi and its western the Missouri River.

In 1851 the territory was divided into 9 counties. Wabashaw County then had a western border just west of Austin, approximately where the Mower County border is today. The county to the west was Dakota. This west border line was defined as "a line running from Medicine Bottle's village at Pine Bend, due south to the Iowa line." The exact line was impossible to verify as Medicine Bottle tepees were differently located at various times, always, however, being within a few rods of the bend in the river.

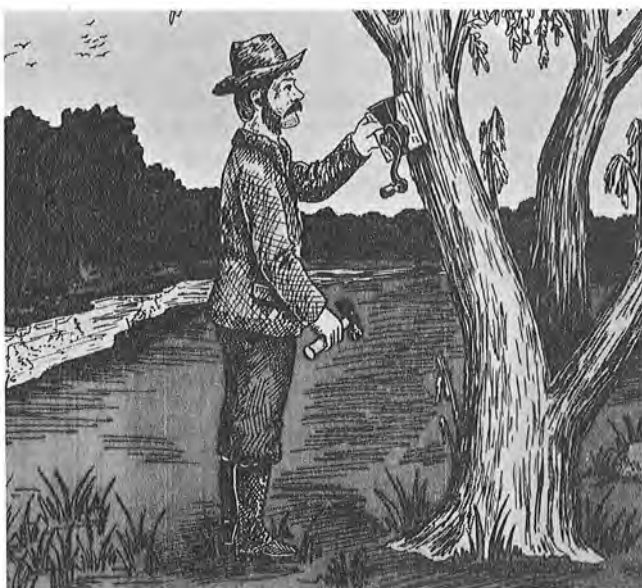
Rice County was created in 1853 and included the present Mower County and also a part of the present Rice County, a portion of Waseca County, most of Freeborn County and Steele County, about a third of Dodge County and small portions of Fillmore and Goodhue Counties.

February 20, 1856, the legislature created Mower County together with 10 others. March 1, 1856, Governor Gorman, "agreeable to the act of the legislature, and upon representations made to him that Mower County was sufficiently populated to warrant its being duly furnished with county government, organized the county, and appointed a temporary board of county commissioners, consisting of George White, Philip Howell and William Russell."

These commissioners met April 7, 1856, in the village of Frankford, and presumably located the county seat temporarily in that place. The only officers appointed were Register of Deeds and clerk of the board of commissioners, Timothy M. Chapman; treasurer, Lewis Patchin; judge of probate, C. J. Felch; surveyer, Moses Armstrong and sheriff, G. W. Sherman.

1911 Mower County History

STORY OF THE FIRST WHITE SETTLER



"Come along, come along, make no delay.

Come from every nation, come from every way.
Our lands are broad enough, so do not be alarmed;
For Uncle Sam is rich enough to buy us all a farm."

The McQuillan party sang this song as their ox-drawn wagons rumbled along the single wagon trail as they headed into Minnesota territory. It was the 4th of July, 1852.

Jacob McQuillan Sr. was 60 years old. His party included his wife, Maria, nine of their younger children, a grown son Jacob Jr. and their eldest daughter together with her husband, Adam Zadyger.

The family had been a long time on the trail from their former home in Delta, Ohio. The previous night had been spent beside a spring at a site which would later become the town of Spring Valley. There had been one settler at that place, a bachelor who lived in a crude cabin beside the spring.

The land in Minnesota territory was not yet officially open for settlement. The Indians had signed a treaty in

1851, but the U.S. Congress had not yet approved it. The official survey would be made in 1853.

Traveling westerly through the prairie grass, the McQuillans came to a valley with a beautiful spring of good water and groves of trees. Mrs. McQuillan made the decision, "We will go no further." They were on a site just across the line from Fillmore into Mower County. It was in the area of the future village of Hamilton.

Before he unhitched his oxen, Jacob McQuillan Sr. nailed their coffee mill to a tree. It was their symbol of "squatters rights" to land, the first claim by a white settler in Mower County. When surveyed the homestead was at Section 1, Township 103, Range 14, Racine Township.

The details of that day were given in a 1935 letter from Franklin P. McQuillan to a nephew in 1935. He said, "We prepared camp for the night, and Father was going to get some firewood from an oak that seemed to be partly decayed at the bottom. When he struck it with his axe a piece came out and it proved to be a bee tree. From that time on we had plenty of honey."

"The coffee mill, which was all iron, had a hopper which would hold one large teacup of unground coffee. Later we had it fastened to the window casing in the kitchen. When grinding, you had to hold a cup or bowl under the mill to catch the coffee. I was only three years old at that time."

The continuing story of the McQuillan experience in Hamilton is given in "A Letter To My Daughters," the story of Lucinda McQuillan Eppard as prepared by May Benson in 1978. Lucinda was a daughter of Jacob McQuillan Sr., and was 10 years old at the time the family arrived by the spring in Hamilton.

"The McQuillan clan set to work immediately to build poplar log shelters on their claim. They then began to break the rich, dark loam, which was 12 to 40 inches deep. With their simple implements and oxen the plowing was not easy.

"Lucinda's father and brothers hunted the abundant game, fowl and elk. She learned the necessary skills of pioneer women: spinning wool, knitting socks and caps, sewing woolsey-linsey shirts, dressing and curing old game, gathering and preserving fruits, nuts and berries.



Jacob and Marla McQuillan

The first spring they found maple groves where the family tapped the syrup.

"The land was surveyed and the McQuillans moved across the line into Fillmore County in 1854. Two parcels of land totaling 600 acres were 'proved up' by Jacob Sr. and Jacob Jr. in Sumner Township.

"Unfortunately, two months after the younger McQuillan claim was filed, the same land was listed to a Daniel T. Booth. This later entry provides verification of the land dispute between the McQuillans and Booth. At one time friends of each prepared to meet in an armed confrontation, until a scout from the McQuillans found out the Booth forces outnumbered them."

"The continuing land disputes over the years are said to have ruined both the old man and his son, and in the end Booth kept possession."

We conclude the McQuillan story with excerpts from a paper titled "Local History—Hamilton Village":

"McQuillan Sr., 'Old Pap' as the newcomers called him, was a wonderful singer and quite religious in his way. When the Methodist Church was established he took a prominent part in the music."

"During their stay on the farm a great misfortune occurred. Their youngest daughter, a girl about 14 years of age, suddenly disappeared. No trace of her was ever found. This may seem strange, but local government was poorly organized. Hunters, adventurers and the Indians were on the constant move along Bear Creek. They were not hostile to the settlers; only a constant annoyance with their begging and stealing. She may have been stolen by the Indians. Her brother, Franklin, later spent considerable time going back to Ohio to see if any trace could be found, but without any result."

"Old Pap went back to Ohio on a visit when he was 75. While he was there he was crushed to death by some barrels of syrup. Mrs. McQuillan went to live with her son in Aitkin, Minn."

After Jacob McQuillan Jr. lost out in the lawsuit over his land, he made application for the position of postmaster. The source of mail and supplies was from Decorah, Iowa. The post office was called Elkhorn, because he had an elk head over the door of his cabin. Later he sold out to Mr. Corey, who took in travelers. He charged 40 cents per night for a room and two meals.



Lucinda McQuillan Eppard
Daughter of Jacob and Marla

The late Ed Plantikow of Austin was a grandson of Lucinda McQuillan Eppard. Two of his children, Margaret Plantikow Bjork and John Plantikow are Austin

citizens. They are great-great-grandchildren of Mower County's first settlers, Jacob and Maria McQuillan.

VILLAGE OF HAMILTON, ITS THIEVES AND VIGILANTES

This village was situated in the southwestern part of Sumner Township, Fillmore County. It lies on the north bank of the middle branch of Root River. Adjoining the town are the "Hamilton springs" that continues boiling up, fresh, clear and sparkling water at the rate of 1,500 gallons per minute.

In location it can truthfully be said the village of Hamilton was a success, and the non-arrival of the hoped for railroad alone blasted its prospects.

The first house erected was put up in 1853 by Adam Zadygar. In 1855 Daniel Booth, from the New England states, arrived and had the village of Hamilton platted and recorded.

Immediate steps were taken to secure a post office, and in 1856 an office was established under the name of "Elkhorn." Jacob McQuillan Jr. was appointed to handle the mail.

Hamilton, in the year 1856, was metropolitan as far as a gang of organized thieves were concerned. They were bound together by an oath that they would support,

stand by, and defend each other. They would steal anything that could be carried off but made horses a specialty.

The gang was made up almost entirely of home talent. It was with the utmost difficulty that the honest members of the community ridded themselves of the pests. They organized what was termed a "vigilance committee."

Upon one occasion this last mentioned association turned out, and after collecting the population of the village together, made the announcement that, as they had received sufficient evidence, they were now prepared to "lynch" those who had committed the depredations. At this, one hundred shooting irons were brought into view. Imagine their surprise when a number of the most influential citizens broke from among the crowd and made for the woods as fast as boots and hair standing on end would take them.

This matter involved not only Hamilton and the town of Sumner, but also this entire portion of the county.

Fillmore County History

THE DRAGOONS CAME FIRST

Even before Austin Nichols there were expeditions recorded into and thru the Austin area. The first was in 1835 when a detachment of United States Dragoons marched from Fort Des Moines through Mower County and on to Wabashaw's village. These were U.S. soldiers assigned to guard the frontier. On their return trip they camped on the banks of the Cedar River, near the present site of Austin.

In the winter of 1836-37 a group of military from Fort Snelling were on a hunting expedition. They camped in the area which was years later known as Horace Austin State Park. This was a 55 acre tract located across the river and west of Hormels, at the south end of Main St.

The hunting party from Fort Snelling included Dr. John Emerson, the post surgeon. His negro slave was Dred Scott. It is interesting to note that 20 years later, a Supreme Court decision regarding Scott's status as a slave was one of the factors leading to the United States Civil War.

In the winter of 1841 a large hunting expedition centered around this same area. The leader was H. H. Sibley, of the American Fur Co. Later Sibley was to become Minnesota's first governor when statehood was achieved.

Sibley had with him a large number of Indians. Their objective was to get skins for the American Fur Co. The Indians built a stockade, the first structure to be erected in Mower County. Their hunt was successful. At the season's end they had more than 2,000 deer, 50 elk, 50 bear, five panthers and some buffalo hides.

In addition to Austin Nichols, another white settler came to this area in 1853. "Hunter" Clark staked a claim and built a log house on a piece of land which is within the present boundaries of Oakwood Cemetery. William Baudler arrived before Austin was platted, and he lived in the cabin with Clark. Later Baudler acquired the farm south of the cemetery. Several of Baudler's descendants continue to live in Austin.

February, 1912—Austin Daily Herald—Freeborn County has a miserable case before it. A lot of hoodlums took the law into their own hands and tarred and feathered a man some months ago. There is no excuse for tar and feathering in Southern Minnesota, no matter how great

the provocation. The arm of the law is long and powerful and criminals get their just dues. It's generally the lawless element that adopts the lawless method of visiting punishment upon offenders.

NOW AND THEN A PANTHER

Step back in time 131 years so that you can have a different look at this land which we now call Austin. The following is the story of a 14-year-old boy who hunted on this site in 1853. His name was S. D. Mead.

"The first white man to come to Austin was Austin Nichols, who came as a hunter in 1852. He built a cabin near the mouth of the Dobbin creek and hunted until cold weather came on. He then returned to his home in Clayton County, Iowa."

"In the fall of 1853 he came back, and I came with him. I was then 14 years old."

"That winter we took nine buffalo skins and many deer, mink, otter and beaver. What I killed, Nichols gave to me. When I reached home I sold them for \$190 in gold."

"I got one elk near where the C.M. & St. Paul depot now stands. It measured nine feet from tip to tip."

"I have never again hunted in a place where game was so plentiful, and where such a great variety was to be found. At that time we could go out and kill a deer in an hour any time of the morning or evening. Prairie chickens were plentiful. Geese and ducks could be found any place in the river. Now and then a panther was to be found. Prairie wolves were everywhere."

In 1855 Mead and his father moved to Austin with four other families, Robert Autis, Lynn Gifford, Wilson King and Widow Lockwood. His story continues.

"O. W. Shaw's residence stands on the east side of the first 20 acres of land ever broken in Austin."

"A little south of where the packing house now stands there was a maple sugar camp where Indians made sugar. The Sioux Indians had their village on the bank in front of the O. W. Shaw residence, a little to the south." (In 1984 that would be approximately where children slide on sleds in winter, near the lagoon.)

In the winter of 1855 and '56 there were 200 Sioux who wintered in the bottom lands back of the Gibson Hotel. There was heavy timber there then. The whites and Indians were always friendly."

There was a Mr. Solner who ventured into this land about the same time. His description follows.

"The Indians were here in large numbers. A camp of the Winnebagos was not far from Six Mile Grove, while the Sioux were near Deer Creek. As each camp numbered four or five hundred Indians, it looked as if there might be trouble. Afterwards we learned that this was neutral ground."

"We saw one buffalo in the section known as the Tow-head, and a herd of two or three hundred elk and deer."

The above narratives were taken from a column of "Reminiscences" which ran in the Austin Daily Herald in a half dozen chapters during 1908.

SETTLERS LOSE PERSONAL PROPERTY IN 1854 FLOOD

In 1854 a few settlers came from Wisconsin. John Robinson settled at High Forest; A. B. Vaughan at Lansing; and a Norwegian, whose name is not remembered, at Brownsdale.

John Robinson had built a cabin. Into this building, not larger than 12 x 14 feet, four families moved and lived with him until they could build houses for themselves.

Thus far, everything had moved along without accident or incident worthy of note. In July of this year there was a heavy rainstorm. Root River, swollen by the rain, overflowed its banks and deluged the surrounding country. It came about three o'clock in the morning, so suddenly that the settlers had barely time to save their

lives. They did so by wading through the water, in many places up to their waists, and carrying their children to dry land.

They lost nearly all their household goods, which at that time, were almost impossible to replace. At the end of a few days the settlers, who had been living in a cellar, returned to their desolated cabins.

As an evidence of the suddenness of the storm, it may be in taste to remark that C. F. Johnson, afterwards proprietor of the Johnson House, did not have time to secure his pantaloons. They were borne away by the turbulent flood, the only pair he possessed at the time.

*Illustrated Historical Atlas,
State of Minnesota, 1874*

IMMIGRANTS INCREASE IN 1855

In 1855 the population of Mower County began to assume proportions of magnitude. During this year the immigrants poured in so rapidly from other states that by the beginning of the next year the county contained about 500 inhabitants. At the end of 1856 there were 600.

With this great influx of settlers, towns became necessary. Austin, High Forest, Frankford, LeRoy, Hamilton and Brownsdale sprang into existence in rapid succession. Many of the lots were sold before the towns were platted, thus laying the vendors liable to a fine of \$25.00.

THE CITY ON A HANDSOME PLAIN

"Austin is on a handsome plain, gradually rising from the Cedar River. In the center it is quite elevated, affording fine views and excellent drainage. Numerous fine groves checker the near and distant landscape, but timber for fuel is not plentiful."

The quotation above comes from a paper bound "Early History of Mower County, Minnesota," by R. N. Paden. It was compiled by authority of the Board of County Commissioners, and printed in 1876, the Centennial year of the U.S. The paragraphs which follow have been taken from Paden's history.

"The original claim on which the city of Austin is located belonged to Austin Nichols, after which the town is named. He took the claim in 1853, and in 1854 sold it to Chauncey Leverich, who entered the land September 14th, 1855."

"At the time these plats were recorded there were thirteen houses in Austin. The location of the county seat at this place gave it a decided advantage over other towns in the county, and since that time it has had a steady growth. The population at the present time is 3,000."

"The city is well supplied with hotels, there being at least five others besides the one at the depot."

"The Cedar River furnishes good water power within

the city limits, on which the first mill of a primitive kind, was made and used by the Indians. It was located on the west side of the Cedar about twenty rods above Engle & Co.'s mill. A white oak stump was hollowed out in the shape of a mortar, and with a wooden pestle the grain was pounded fine."

"In November, 1858, they started up a water mill for grinding corn, and attempted to grind wheat but made rather poor flour. The first wheat ground was for Mr. Rose, of Rose Creek. At that time there was no other mill nearer than thirty miles."

"A. B. Vaughan built the first store in June, 1855, and was the first merchant. Yates & Lewis were the second merchants. The first building erected for a hotel was in 1855, built by C. Leverich on the present site of the Grand Central Hotel. In 1856 the hotel was purchased by Solomon Snow and Geo. E. Wilbour. It was afterwards known as the "Snow House."

"The first public school was in the winter of 1855-56, in a log house on Water Street (4th Ave.), taught by a Mr. Sweton. The first sermon was preached in the old Leverich house, October 26, 1856, by the Rev. Stephen Cook.

CHAUNCEY'S PLACE



The Queen City Flour Mills was an original location of Chauncey Leverich's sawmill, 705 - 4th Ave. N.E., Austin

Austin Nichols sold his land claim to Chauncey Leverich in 1854. For a year or two the emerging settlement was known as Chauncey's Place or the Leverich Mill.

Chauncey Leverich was the founder of Austin. He was a young man, under 30 years of age, tall and powerfully built. He came from Vinton, Iowa, with his young wife, Hannah.

With a sharp eye to business, he pre-empted 160 acres upon which he selected a site for a sawmill. By early 1855 he had completed the mill at a place which would now be

at 705—4th Ave. N.E. The vacant site adjoins the dam on the Cedar River. This land was later to become the location of the Campbell Flour Mill. The Hormel Co. also owned the property at a later date. In the 1960s Clifford Greenman operated his heating and refrigeration business there. Now the site of Chauncey Leverich's mill is owned by HUD.

Austin was laid out in the fall of 1855 by Leverich, A. B. Vaughan and G. W. Mason. They also platted it the next spring, but did not immediately take the plat to be recorded

A Race To the County Seat

In 1856 J. B. Yates solicited the help of County Supervisor M. K. Armstrong in a secretive plan. Armstrong told this story in his personal history of Mower County. It was retold in the 1956 Centennial edition of the Austin Daily Herald.

"Mr. Yates called on me at High Forest, on the 14th of April and wished me to proceed with him speedily and secretly the next day to Austin. By arriving in the night he could lay out his property to enable him to get his plat on record first, as the only village of Austin."

"We started next morning on horseback. The distance was 30 miles, untraveled and uninhabited. The rain had been falling almost incessantly for the last week, and it continued to storm heavily throughout the day. We reached the Cedar River at nightfall, as wet and hungry as wolves."

"Here we stopped and I packed my papers and instruments in my carpet bag to prevent them from being seen

and to give the appearance of a traveler. Yates secreted the tripod in an old hollow tree to avoid carrying it into town. We swam the river and went into the village.”

“That night I examined the ground in order to make a plat for them to take and record in case of emergency. Yates recrossed the bridge and brought the tripod into town unseen.”

“The next morning, when we were seen staking out lots nearly half a mile from the town, the old proprietors ‘Smelt a rat.’ Vaughan and Mason started on foot, with their plat for the county seat of Frankford. They had been gone two hours before Yates and Lewis saw the mischief, whereupon they immediately started on horseback with their plat.”

“Yates and Lewis arrived at Frankford 20 minutes in advance of their fellow racers. Judge Felch was sent for three miles distant, to come and take acknowledgement of the plats. When he got in town, Vaughan and Mason had arrived. They slipped their plat into his hands first. He, however, considered himself employed by the other party first, and accordingly did so.”

Hence the Yates and Lewis map was filed for record as Austin First, at 7 o'clock p.m. The other as Austin Second at 7 o'clock and 30 minutes.

Tragedy Strikes

Chauncey Leverich had erected the first frame dwelling in Austin. The dwelling was also used commercially. There is a question whether it was the hotel, saloon, grocery store or a combination of the three. The location is known. The building was on the southeast corner of the intersection of 2nd Ave. N.E. and 1st St. N.E. This was formerly the corner of East Bridge St. and



Chatham Sts. Most recently the Austin Hotel was on the site.

It is ironic that the man who initiated Austin was also the victim of the county's first murder. There are three versions of how this happened. We will give the one most frequently told.

According to M. K. Armstrong, Leverich had just opened a saloon and was entertaining friends. Two townsmen, Horace Silver and William Oliver, too boisterous. Leverich put them outside, whereupon they began pounding the side of the building. As Leverich stepped outside, one of the men struck him in the forehead with a heavy object and he fell to the ground, his skull fractured. This happened in August, 1856.

Leverich lived for a few days. Silver and Oliver had time to plead guilty to assault and battery. They were fined \$20 and \$10 respectively. They then left town before Leverich died. They escaped the murder charge.

Leverich was buried on the south side of his building. Later his body was moved to Oakwood Cemetery. The place he was buried was unmarked. In the Centennial year, 1956, a trace of records located the site. A marble slab was placed with the following inscription, “Chauncey Leverich.” “Here I Will Pitch My Tent—Here I Will Found A City.” Another plate reads, “Austin, Minnesota Centennial, July 4, 1956.” Just below this inscription, in smaller lettering, “Open Time Capsule In March, 2056.”

Chauncey Leverich's tumultuous two year career in Austin had a positive impact. The settlement he started has become the city he may have visioned.



Chauncey Leverich now lies in Lot #170, Oakwood Cemetery, Austin

ABOUT STAGECOACHES, CORNMEAL AND APPLESAUCE

The July sun shone brightly on a cluster of frame houses and business places. A rustic trail came into the town from the east and then swerved north through the center of the little village of Austin, Mower County, Minnesota. Jim Ackley was hacking down the weeds and

brush on the trail which the villagers called Main Street. L. N. Griffith, the new postmaster, was urging Ackley to hurry. The stage coach was due.

Griffith's little frame post office had just been completed. Jonas Haney was busy installing boxes for indi-

viduals. A newly posted sign announced that the box rental would be ten cents for three months. Complaints had been heard about the high cost. Cash money was not easy to come by in 1857.

Finally there was the sound of wheels and hooves as the stagecoach came down the Territorial road. (2nd Ave. N.E., formerly East Bridge St.) The stage driver, N. M. Wilder, carried the mail pouch into the post office. Griffith unlocked the pouch, took out the Austin mail, stuffed in the outgoing mail and relocked the pouch. It was ready for Wilder when he would pull out toward the north. (The old Territorial road went on 1st Drive N.W., previously called Lansing Ave.)

Meanwhile the stage coach passengers had a story to tell. Early that morning the trail had passed through a swampy area. Unable to get through with his burden of passengers, Wilder had requested the tired travelers to walk. After a one mile hike they had been able to climb back aboard.



(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

**Was this the Snow House?
It was an early Austin hotel**

The dusty and travel worn stage riders headed for Austin's one hotel. The Snow House was operated by Solomon Snow and George Wilbour, who claimed that it was a "first class hotel."

Four lodging rooms held the normal register of guests. When pressed by an increase in guests the "school section" was opened. This would accommodate a number willing to occupy the eleven beds with hay filled mattresses. A total of forty could be taken care of in the Snow House.

The breakfast bill of fare was pork, biscuits and dried applesauce. For dinner there was fried pork, biscuits and applesauce and supper was more of the same. Occasionally they had beef, which qualified their "first class" status.

Waiting For the Wagon

The people of Austin were awaiting another arrival on that July day. Aloysius Brown, the storekeeper, was expected back soon. Two days before he had left for the mill at Chatfield to renew his supply of cornmeal and flour. Supplies in the village were running low. It was



(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

These Austin Citizens may have been waiting for a supply wagon

past midday when Brown's ox drawn wagon moved into sight.

Brown was assured of payment for the supplies he would bring back. On deposit in the store were a number of sacks. Each sack had the name of a resident, the amount of meal or flour needed and gold coins to cover payment. Sometimes the requests exceeded the supply received. Then Brown would distribute as judiciously as possible.

Brown was respected as an honest man by his customers. The first services of the Catholic Church were held in his home.

There was a regular supply of beef for the little town. W. A. Woodson took care of this need from his farm two miles out of Austin. He brought in dressed beef and drove from house to house to make his sales. Steak was selling for 25¢ per lb.



(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

Headquarters building is on left above

Austin citizens took a special pride in a new two-story frame building. Located about 50 yards south of Brown's store, this unpainted structure had an important status in the community. It was called "Headquarters." Most of the social and official functions of the village took place here.

The town's first concert was to be held at Headquarters the next Sunday. Lyman Sherwood and his brother were to sing, accompanied by John Hallot. Already the Congregational and Methodist churches were holding Sunday meetings at the new building. The Baptists were also making plans to meet there.

There was a rumor that a man named Blakely wanted to have space at Headquarters to start a newspaper. The lower floor of the new building was not yet in use, but George Hayes was considering establishing a mercantile business there.

Austin Grew Rapidly

After just two years Austin had over 100 citizens. Two doctors had come in 1856. Dr. Olenzer Allen was the first and was also the first druggist. Dr. J. N. Wheat came shortly thereafter. Life for a pioneer doctor required a rugged routine in keeping with the lifestyle of these early day Mower County inhabitants.

At dusk of this summer's day we look back down the streets of the little town. Mrs. Sarah Bemis is closing her millinery shop, as is George Mitchell at his new furniture store. A clanging can still be heard at Winfield Loveland's blacksmith shop.

The kerosene lamps are lit. Thanks to Aloysius Brown there will be fresh bread on the tables of Austin village tonight.

(Names and many pertinent details were taken from the Mower County Histories of 1884 and 1911.

E. N. J.)

DOCTOR RECALLS WINTER OF 1856

The romance of pioneer life is probably often overstated. The following account, given by one of Austin's first doctors gives a realistic picture of early pioneer life. The doctor's reminiscence was given at a Centennial event held on Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, 1876.

"Dr. J. N. Wheat responded by telling a little of his own experience in the winter of 1856. The snow was four feet deep on the level and drifted badly in places. The snow was so crusted that a man could walk upon it without difficulty, only breaking through occasionally.

"He was called professionally to attend a patient in the Vanderwalker neighborhood, a settlement some 4 or 5 miles northwest of Austin. Here he found 23 persons: men, women and children, inhabiting one log house, 14 x 16 feet, without floor or windows, unless the two small lights of glass framed in the logs might be called such. With stools for chairs and a box-like manger filled

with dried prairie grass for bed, and without bread or vegetables for food.

"Here were three persons dangerously sick. In order to give them proper attention he found it necessary to make the journey every other day on foot, often breaking through the snow crust and sinking to the body. He was in great discouragement.

"Sometimes, though starting from home early in the morning, he would not reach his destination until near noon. Then he would dine with the family on slapjacks and molasses, the doctor being company and expected to partake.

"It is but justice to the doctor's perseverance, if not to his skill, to say that the patients recovered. The inmates of the log house swarmed the next spring as soon as the snow melted and houses could be built. They found homes in about the same neighborhood."

SHOWDOWN AT PATCHEN'S INN

Forty mounted men rode into Frankford on a Monday afternoon in mid-January, 1857. Though tired from two days of travel, they were grim faced and determined. Armed with an assortment of revolvers, knives and rifles, they rode past the cemetery, a log schoolhouse and up to the log structure which was Lewis Patchen's hotel. Facing them were an equally grim group of armed citizens of Frankford. The forty from Austin had arrived to attempt the rescue of their sheriff, and a homesteader, named Bemis.

How had this confrontation of settlers in Mower County developed? Ever since, and even before the organization of the county, there had been a division of two county factions. On the east was Frankford. Thirty miles to the west was the Austin area, the other population center. The struggle for political control of the county had stirred the wrath of the two sides. The immediate bone of contention now was the location of the county seat.

The following paragraphs tell the events leading up to the showdown.

Geographic Division Caused Political Split

Mower County, in the territory of Minnesota, was very young in January, 1857. Just four and a half years earlier the first county settler, Jacob McQuillan, had established a land claim by nailing a coffee mill to an oak tree a half dozen miles north of Frankford. In 1854, Lewis Patchen had been the first settler in Frankford.

In the west of Mower County a frontiersman named Austin Nichols had established a claim in late 1853 or early 1854. Later in 1854 this claim was purchased by Chauncey Leverich. Austin was laid out in 1855 but was not platted until the spring of 1856.

During the years of 1855 and 1856 settlers were rapidly establishing their claims in the Frankford area and the Austin area. Between the two were miles of prairie.

The geographic division became a political split in 1855 at the time of the first Minnesota legislative election. The candidate for the Republicans was A. B. Vaughan, the first Austin storekeeper and postmaster. His opponent was W. B. Covell, a Democrat and Frankford's first lawyer.

First Legislator—Vaughan Won Polls, Covell Won Certification

In October, 1855, the polls for the Mower County legislature were located in High Forest. A board with its ends on two barrel heads was placed, under an oak tree. This was the judge's desk. Ninety-seven votes were polled and Vaughan received a majority. However, Covell quickly went to Houston, received a certificate of election, and reported in at the legislature. Vaughan reported in too late. Covell was qualified as the first legislator from Mower County. These events may well have been the first major reason for the dispute between the east side and the west side of Mower County. All of the political assignments went to the east side. Frankford was designated as the county seat. No doubt this was a new irritant to the people around Austin.

West Side Won 1856 Election

On October 14, 1856, the west side of Mower County proved their numerical superiority. The Peoples Party represented the west side and the Union Party chose candidates from the east side. Out of 374 votes cast the Peoples Party had a majority of forty-six votes. Only the position of surveyor went to the east side.

There is little doubt that at this time the west side rejoiced in their newfound political strength. The new commissioners were George Bemis, the Austin homesteader; William Spencer, LeRoy and Horace B. Blodgett. There was pressure on the commissioners to move the county seat. They were aware that this could not be done legally without a countywide election. Blodgett found a technicality to circumvent the law. His resolution said in effect that the April 7, 1856, county board proceedings had not properly recorded their action to situate the county seat in Frankford. He, therefore, proposed that the county seat should be located in Austin until otherwise provided by law. Bemis and Blodgett voted for this resolution and Spencer was opposed. This action was taken on Monday, January 7, 1857.

The Plot Thickens

The removal of records is based on an old letter written by Mrs. Charles Lamb, Frankford. "Not in the still of the night, but at noonday when the officers were taking their dinner and smoking their pipes in quietude, they came, stealing noiselessly into their vacant rooms and silently marched away with what comprised our county seat."

The action which followed reads like the plot for an early day silent movie. Jesse Yates, A. B. Vaughan and George Bemis were the villains. All were newly elected officials. Yates was yet to be sworn in as sheriff and Vaughan was to be probate judge. Bemis had already acted in the capacity of chairman of the county board. These were the three who took the little tin box and the book of county board proceedings. They climbed in a sleigh and headed for Austin. That night they stayed at the Tattersoll House, in High Forest. Bemis kept the record book under his coat and Yates gave the little tin box to the landlord, Mr. Tattersoll, for safekeeping.

The history book record of the chase reads as follows:

Tin Box Was Elusive

"In a short time Sheriff Sherman arrived with a posse from Frankford. Yates, Vaughan, Bemis and the landlord, Tattersoll, were arrested for grand larceny. He then posted guards around the hotel and went to obtain a search warrant, as the landlord would not give up the tin box."

"While the sheriff was gone, Yates made a bargain with a W. Sykes to remove the tin box from the hotel. The reward to Sykes was to be \$20, with \$5 down.

"The evening was cold and Yates soon induced the guards to come in to take a drink, and they became quite convivial, and supposed as long as they watched the persons under arrest, that their duty would be performed."

To make a long story short, Yates soon walked out of the hotel, eluded the guards who followed, and got the tin box from Sykes. After hiding the box outside, he gave a diagram of the location to John Patterson and C. C. Hatchett. The tin box was carried back to Austin and hidden in the R. L. Kimball hardware store. Frankford officers arrived in Austin with a search warrant, but the tin box was secure in the basement under a few bushels of potatoes.

The next morning Yates and Bemis evaded detection long enough to hide the county's record book in the snow. The spot was marked "by a certain process more effectual than elegant." The book remained there a short time and was taken back to Frankford and carried by Mr. Bemis during the time of his arrest, closely guarded beneath his coat and vest.

Arrest of Yates and Bemis Angers Austin

It was not until the following Saturday that the Austin citizens heard of the arrest of Yates and Bemis. It was then that the forty armed men lit out for Frankford, arriving on Monday, January 14. People from the east side rushed into Frankford prepared for war. For a long time a collision was feared and a guard was placed over the prisoners at night.

At one point during the legal proceedings an offer was made by the west side to return the tin box and record book if Yates and Bemis would be released. The east side refused.

Peace Prevails

Yates and Bemis were bound over to appear at the next term of the Fillmore County Court. They were released on the payment of a \$3,000 bond.

The location of the county seat at Austin was decided by a vote of the people on June 1, 1857. Yates and Bemis made their appearance at the next session of the Fillmore County Court, where the case was dismissed.

In that June election the citizens of Frankford voted for Brownsdale as county seat in one final attempt to displace Austin.

Was the loss of the county seat eventually responsible for Frankford becoming a ghost town? All we know is what is recorded. By 1870 Austin had a population of 2,040. Frankford's population increased to a maximum of about 300.

In September, 1867, the first railroad engine to operate in Mower County reached Austin from Owatonna. Shortly the two were connected.

The coming of the railroad had a great impact on the small towns of Mower County. Many of those towns which had railroad connections grew. Some of the towns

without the railroad declined. Rail lines never came to Frankford. The final question remains. If Frankford had continued as a county seat, would its population have increased to a level which would have insured a rail line? There is no answer.

9TH REGIMENT VOLUNTEERS ENTERTAINED



Mower County Soldiers of Civil War era—Their identity is unknown

(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

Those of the Mower County volunteers who are in the 9th Regiment have been spending a few days with their friends before going South. They left yesterday for Winona where they will take the boats for Dixie.

On Saturday a sumptuous supper was gotten up for them at the Lacy House, which was furnished them free of charge by the citizens of this part of the county. After the supper the boys repaired to the new building of Mr. Lewis' and there tripped the fantastic toe until near Sunday morning.

Just before leaving a barrel of apples was rolled out to them and they departed in good spirits, all well satisfied with the treatment they had received from the good citizens of Austin and vicinity.

Minnesota Courier, October 7, 1863

The *Mower County Register* began publication in Austin on July 2, 1863. The *Minnesota Courier* and the *Register* competed for subscribers in Mower County for six months. Then the *Courier* published its last issue on January 6, 1864.

RIDERS ON THE STAGECOACH HAD ROUGH GOING

A glimpse of travel condition in 1863 is captured in the following item from the October 29th issue of the *Mower County Register*. The editor is commenting on a Preston Republican article which had given a glorified description

of the stagecoach to LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

"Mr. Republican: Do you know what kind of a line the 'Western Line' is? It is simply an imposition, and the persons who stick up posters of the 'splendid lines of stages west to Austin' ought to be booted. There is no stage from Preston west to Austin. It is true that Mr. Phillips runs one horse hitched to an old rickety buggy that is hardly strong enough to carry the driver and mail.

"The western connection is most miserable, and calls loudly for reform. A good line of stages would pay, but they will not pay under such management as this which Phillips has had. Austin people are tired of this imposition and wish a change."

BOUNTY AND VOLUNTEERS

We are in favor of the legislature granting a \$100 bounty to every person who may volunteer for the war from now on. Mower County has given about 325 to the army, more than one third of the voters of the county, and is now draining ourselves of our able bodied population.

In all probability we shall be entirely exempt from the draft by the first of January. We have no large towns, nor rich citizens. Mower County is true to her country, and will make up her quotas by volunteering if sufficient bounty is offered. There are counties in the state which have not furnished half their quota.

Mower County Register, October, 1863

LANSING SOLDIER WRITES OF CIVIL WAR BATTLE

The tragedy of the Civil War reached into the lives of Mower County citizens. The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Platt Dutcher to his father, Silas Dutcher of Lansing. The soldier gives details following the battle of Williamsburg. It was published in the *Minnesota Courier* on May 28, 1862.

"I visited the battlefield this morning, and what a sight. They have been burying the dead for two days, and have not yet buried all. I saw seven dead rebels behind one log, lying just as they had fallen. No one knows yet how many were killed on either side as they are not all gathered in yet. They are scattered all through the woods, and dead horses lay thick around them.

"Our battery was taken and retaken two or three times. They charged upon our battery, coming on the run and yelling at the top of their voices. The Fifth North Carolina Regiment was at the head.

"The Fifth Wisconsin Regiment was deployed as skirmishers in front. When the Fifth fell back on the reserve, they thought they had us certain. But we came up in line and poured into them when only 10 rods from us. Their colonel at their head fell, after which all that were able to turn back went a little faster than they came up. I had a fair view, and they fell like grass before the scythe.

"We took a great many prisoners. They are hard looking fellows. No uniforms at all."

LAND PRICES RISE IN 1861

Mr. Snow of this place sold 40 acres of land, near town, on Monday last for \$12.50 per acre. The same land was purchased a few weeks ago for about half this sum.

We hear of several others who have bought farms in

the county within the past week or 10 days. From present indications Mower County will receive her share of the immigrants that are now pouring into our state.

Minnesota Courier, July, 10, 1861

NEGRO FUGITIVES

On Friday last we learn that two negroes, fugitives from Missouri, passed through town on their way to Canada. They were mounted on horses, which they took from their masters to assist them on their journey.

Those who saw them say they were fine looking fellows, and worth in Missouri, from eight to twelve hundred dollars each.

Minnesota Courier, September 4, 1861

PRIVATE BOUNTY

Editor of the Courier, Sir:

I will give to every Volunteer that may join any Company now forming in this county from Pleasant Valley, Grand Meadow, Racine, Frankfort and LeRoy, a bounty of two dollars for single men, and to every married man,

five bushels of wheat for the use of his family. Volunteering to be from this date to the 31st inst.

Please publish and send me 20 papers.

Respectfully, B. F. Langworthy

Minnesota Courier, August 13, 1862

TO THE GIRLS

In our advertising columns of today will be found an advertisement from a couple of soldiers soliciting correspondence. Now is your time, girls, on your nerve, and our word for it, you will win.

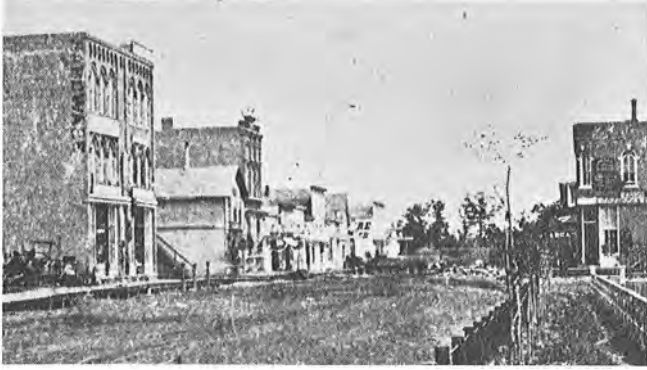
"Wanted—Correspondence. Attention Girls. Pity two of 'Old Rosies Boys' who have served 25 months faithfully and cheerfully for Father Abraham, and whose

trembling hands have penned these few lines for the purpose of winning a correspondence with an unlimited number of the fair sex.

Photos exchanged if desired. Thomas Honey, Stephen Haines, 2nd Minnesota Volunteers, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 14th A.C., Nashville, Tennessee."

Minnesota Courier, August 19, 1863

AUSTIN'S BIG FIRE—MARCH 3, 1869



(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

**Austin's Main Street rebuilt after 1869 fire
1st National Bank on right across Courthouse Square**

It was the night that Main Street burned. A northwest wind had brought subzero temperatures, and most of Austin's citizens were asleep. At 11:00 P.M. one person came down Main Street, glanced in the window of Case and Shepley's Store, saw flames and raised the cry of "fire." From house to house the call was relayed, and men, women and the older children rushed out to battle the flames.

Most of the people carried buckets and a few had tubs. A line was formed and the bucket brigade went into action. The water came from partially filled basements of business buildings. Seepage of water into these cellars had formed natural cisterns.

It was soon apparent that the fire in the Case and Shepley Store was out of hand. The strong wind was

steadily increasing the danger to all of Austin. One band of workers tore down the building belonging to J. F. Atherton, and this prevented the spread of flames in a westerly direction.

The fire swept into the brick building on the corner of Main and Bridge Streets, which had just been purchased for the First National Bank. The danger to East Bridge Street (2nd Avenue N.E.) increased. To save buildings on the street it was necessary to tear down the frame building which was occupied by Friedrich and Sammans Meat Market.

The heat on the west side of Main Street was so intense that it scorched the fronts of buildings from J. Levy's Store to Headquarters. G. Schleuder and Woodward & Dorr began to move goods from their buildings, but the danger passed and the west side of Main Street sustained no further damage.

Finally the disastrous fire of March 3, 1869 was brought under control. Years later, Tom Dugan, the chief of the volunteers, said, "Everything was destroyed in the path of the fire except Bill Simpson's Saloon, and I don't suppose we should have saved that." C. N. Beisecker added, "The water froze in the tubs as we emptied the buckets."

In the wake of the fire the town surveyed its damage. Three two-story brick buildings and two frame buildings were destroyed. The \$50,000 loss was only partly insured. Injuries were relatively minor. George Bishop had one of his hands frozen. Alex Fleck had one of his toes frost-bitten and Major Van Valkenburgh jammed one of his big toes in his hurry to help somebody move a heavy box.

FACTS ABOUT AUSTIN AND VICINITY

1870



(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

**Austin school building built in 1865
This was the first permanent school, later sold to the Methodist Church**



(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

**Three-story school built in 1870
This building later burned. It was located between 1st Ave. N.W. and 2nd Ave. N.W., on the site of the present Austin High School building.**

Reprinted from Nov. 24, 1870—Mower County Register

“First—Austin had an actual population, a few months since, of 2,040 as returned by the census taker. We would be safe, we think, in claiming 2,100.

“Second—With the exception of ourselves, (and one or two others) the people are a mighty good kind of people. Mostly of American descent with a sprinkling of an excellent class of Norwegians and Germans. There are six churches in town, and eight church organizations. The Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans and Catholics each have quite good church edifices in which to worship. The Methodists and Universalists intend to erect handsome buildings next spring. The Baptist, Methodist and Congregational churches probably take the lead in point of membership.

“Third—Our schools are of the best, and liberal wages are paid to our teachers. An elegant schoolhouse is just about completed, at a cost to the town of about \$40,000.

“Fourth—Improved farms within a mile of town are worth about \$50 to \$100 per acre. Unimproved land near town is very high, and but little for sale. Village lots of course vary in price according to location. Residence lots are worth from \$100 to \$300 each; business lots from \$500 to \$1,500 each.



(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

First Courthouse cost \$6,450

This building, built in 1868, is now occupied by Hastings Shoe Repair on the original site, the N.W. corner of Main Street at 1st Avenue.

“Fifth—Building lumber is quite reasonable in price—good commonly being worth \$20 per thousand feet. Mechanic’s labor is worth from \$2 to \$3 per day—the latter figure being freely paid in the fall of the year.

“Sixth—We consider Austin as healthy a town as there is in the southern part of the state. Dry wood is worth \$5 a cord; green can be bought at from \$3.50 to \$4. Coal will soon be furnished us in abundance at from \$5 to \$6 per ton, which will, undoubtedly, be by far the cheapest fuel we can use.

“Seventh—The prospects of a glorious future for Austin, are as brilliant as that of any other Minnesota inland town that we know of. She already has two railroads viz: The Milwaukee & St. Paul, and the Iowa Central.

“The country about, in a circumference of twenty or thirty miles, depends upon Austin as its trading point. The town has doubled in population during the last two years, which we think it is very likely to do again in the next two. Enterprising, energetic, go-a-head men from the East, are invited to call upon us, and see how they like us. We will welcome heartily any number of them.”



(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

**D. B. Smith was first Mayor
Smith is the gentleman in the foreground**

THERE WERE 25 PIANOS IN MOWER COUNTY IN 1870

J. W. McClug, St. Paul, prepared a statistical review of the counties in Minnesota in 1870. His inventory tells an interesting story about Mower County.

He says that there were 2,351 horses, 6,341 cattle, 42 mules, 2,709 sheep, 1,427 hogs, 220 carriages, 165 watches, 25 pianos, 30 church organizations with 10 or 12 church buildings. The Methodist and Baptist were the most numerous.

At that time 384,631 acres assessed at a value of \$3.53 per acre. In 1867 there had been 24,247 acres of wheat which produced 181,494 bushels. There was 3,016 acres reserved for schools.

When the people were counted he found 3,216 in 1860, 5,150 in 1865 and over 10,000 in 1869. At that time the majority were Americans, but there were also over 1,500 Norwegians, over 600 Irish and over 400 Germans.

In the previous national election Mower County voted 1,239 for Grant and 469 for Seymour.

Comparison of Land Areas—1870 With 1984

McClug said that Mower County had 460,000 acres in 1870. About one-fifth of this acreage was timber and oak openings, four-fifths was high, rolling prairies, abounding in springs and streams of living water, but no lakes.

In 1984, Carroll Plager, Austin, prepared a somewhat similar analysis. Now Mower County is known to have 708 square miles, which breaks down to 453,120 acres. Of that total 10,000 acres are occupied by municipalities,

15,000 by roads and streets, 380,000 is cropland and some 50,000 acres for wooded areas and unimproved land.

COUNTY BASEBALL HAD HEAVY HITTERS—1871

A match game between the State Line Club of LeRoy and the Austin Baseball Club was played on the common in Austin, on Monday afternoon last. It was an exciting contest, and some good playing was made. The Austin club won by a score of 49 to 36. A fuller report of the

game is crowded out. Each of these clubs have now won a match game over the other. A third game is to be played in a few weeks.

Austin Register, July 13, 1871

PIONEER FARM LIFE—1874

The following items tell something of the difficulties encountered by the farmers in the early days. They are reprinted from issues of the *August, 1874, Austin Register*.

"About one year ago a financial panic was in order, and things looked pretty blue. If another horse disease, financial panic or something else doesn't turn up before long, people in this section will be pretty well fixed.

"One of the trials and tribulations of the pioneer farmer came under our observation one day last week. A farmer residing 15 miles from Austin, started with a load of hay drawn by one yoke of oxen. He came to market his hay in this city.

"After getting along pretty well on his road, in turning out for another team, the hayrack struck a burr oak, breaking the reach of his wagon. The hay had to be unloaded in order to repair the broken reach. Then it was again pitched on and the farmer proceeded on his journey.

"He reached Austin some time after dark, where he offered his load for sale. With a painful scarcity of

buyers, he finally sold his load for four dollars, two in cash and two in trade.

"Upon driving to the barn to unload, the farmer found that he had lost his pitchfork. Here was another dilemma not anticipated and one that might disgust any man. Not a whimper of complaint issued from the lips of this pioneer farmer. If this is not Christian forbearance we are no judge of the article."

NOTES FROM "MIDDLEMAN," THE LYLE CORRESPONDENT

"After careful examination we think the small grain will yield better this season than many anticipated a few weeks ago. Grain has matured well under the circumstances, and come to reaping, we find that it stands thicker on the ground than expected.

"We were surprised to see so many Sabbath breakers yesterday. We counted five machines at work within an area of three miles. We think if those gentlemen have no respect for themselves, they ought to have for their neighbors."

RATTLESNAKES NEAR LYLE—1874

"While binding oats on Thursday last, we were all at once induced to get around a little livelier than usual by the sight of a rattlesnake, which was crawling out from between my feet. I had just raked up the bundle, put the band under it, bound it and threw it aside, when I was astonished at the sight of the miserable reptile. I at once took revenge by setting my heel over his head."

"We served another likewise the same afternoon. The third one made his disappearance by way of it hole. The

following Saturday afternoon we put five more out of existence. How is that for one-half day in the harvest field?

Mr. Comstock says he likes Minnesota pretty well, but would like it much better if the tormented rattlesnakes would only keep out of sight. He never saw one until he came here last week, and he doesn't wish to see another. Of course they are quite annoying to strangers."

January, 1912—Austin Daily Herald—"I grow tired," said a good active helpful woman of Austin, "hearing about hard times and the high cost of living. Just try to

get someone to do some work for you, or put them in the way of earning some money and you will find how difficult it is and how little interest is taken."

MOWER COUNTY FARMS IMPROVED—GOOD HARVEST EXPECTED—1874

"There have been more improvements made in this vicinity this summer than during the past five years. More land changed hands, more broke up, and a greater number of houses built and repaired. Go where you may and you will see acres upon acres of land newly turned over, new fences built etc. It is safe to say that Mower County is improving fast."

"Barley is about all stacked and a portion of it threshed. Everybody now is busy at work cutting their wheat and oats. Another week hence, fine weather will see the greater portion of small grain in the shock.

"Everything seems to go smoothly. The beautiful weather, who could even wish it more favorable, it being

so cool and mild. Although at the beginning of harvest it was severely hot. The mercury stood at 108 degrees in the shade on the 25th of July.

"Help is plenty. Notwithstanding the crowds of people that come from the grasshopper country, and also from Wisconsin, they command their regular \$3 per day. We think if our brother Grangers would take this matter into consideration they might reduce harvest wages to its actual value. Farmers can't afford to raise wheat at 75 cents and pay such enormous prices for help.

"If they would agree on one price reasonable for both parties, say about \$2.00, which they would pay, and no more, they would get just as much help as they do now."

WOLVES AND SNAKES IN BROWNSDALE

J. M. Weiser was the Brownsdale correspondent to the *Austin Register*. The following two items were in the issue of June 3, 1875:

"On Saturday night this village was regaled with the fiercest wolf music it has ever been our fortune to hear. Some of the howlers passed through Main Street and the row which they raised amongst themselves and the town dogs was fearful to hear."

"On Sunday W. T. Setzer and N. R. Palmetter captured seven young ones on the prairie near Waltham. The demand for them as pets or curiosities is likely to prove as remunerative to the captors as though there was a bounty on their scalps.

"Mrs. Amos Colby, last Sunday morning, while in the cellar picking up potatoes for breakfast, brought her hand unwittingly too near a massasauga, who took her by the hand savagely and then tried to bite her a second time. His length was about ten inches with no rattles. An outside application of tobacco, and internal use of alcohol counteracted the effects of the poison.

"Mr. Reuben Rollings, living half a mile from the Colbys, had one of his cattle bitten about the same time, which we learn has since died."

The above items were reprinted in the *Austin Daily*

Herald in June, 1875. Within a few days a letter was received from Mrs. Harry Skov, Dexter, with a sequel to the item about Mrs. Colby. Her letter follows:

"Mrs. Amos Colby was my grandmother. My mother was Grace Colby Tanner. I well remember my mother telling about that snake bite and how my grandma screamed. Grandpa ran down into the cellar, saw what had happened and killed the snake. He sent my Uncle George who was a small lad then, for help. No telephones then.

"There was a small bottle of whiskey kept for just such things, but the chew of tobacco was furnished by a neighbor.

"Another time grandma had just taken a large pan of cornbread from the oven. She heard sounds and looked up to see three Indians by the window. Quickly she put her two small daughters under the dining room table, telling them to be very very quiet. She then returned to the kitchen, cut three pieces of cornbread and handed each Indian a piece. After they had eaten the pieces one patted his stomach and pointed at the rest of the cornbread. Grandma quickly handed it to him and they left, making a sign of friendship.

"There were many trying times in those days also."

BAD ROADS

Pathmakers in every direction are at work on the highways. For the present such highways are a terror to frail vehicles. If our road workers would heap the dirt so high, and make their roads so narrow, they would have better roads.

"As most of the roads are constructed there is a narrow track in the center with sides so steep that a wagon driven outside of the track is in danger of up-

setting. The consequence is deep ruts and mudholes do there abound. If the same amount of dirt were piled half as high and twice as wide, allowing some escape from a single track, the hole would be packed hard and smooth and ample drainage effected."

J. M. Weiser, Brownsdale correspondent to the Austin Register, 1875

DISCOVERY OF COAL IN MOWER COUNTY—1875

“A few days ago, in digging a well in the eastern part of the town of Pleasant Valley, Section 13, at a depth of 30 feet, a vein of coal five feet in thickness was struck under a heavy bed of clay. The coal, it is said, resembles the soft coal of Iowa, and burns clear and bright.”

“The place of discovery is on the ridge running north and south through the eastern part of Pleasant Valley. It

is about half a mile east of E. R. Campbell’s place. Should this coal vein prove to be extensive, it will be one of the best things that has turned up in this part of the state for the development of Southern Minnesota.

“With all of the money now sent abroad for coal kept at home and distributed among our people, a new impetus would be given to all kinds of business.”

BASEBALL IN LEROY—1876

“Saturday, June 3, will long be remembered by lovers of baseball in LeRoy. The occasion being a match game of baseball between the Champions of LeRoy and the Mourners of Osage.”

“The Mourners came preceded by intelligence that they intended to play a couple of imported players. Our boys have had similar experience, heretofore, and lost no laurels by it. They came on the field confident in their ability to sustain the name they have chosen. And well they did, snatching victory from almost certain defeat.

“At the end of eight innings it was 8 for the Champions and 11 for Mourners. It was here where our

boys showed their indomitable pluck. They went to bat determined to die game, if die they must. The result was four earned runs, leaving them one ahead.

“The Mourners still had their inning to play. Our boys were equal to it. The result being that a man never got to first base.

“The game was characterized throughout by fair playing and friendly feeling. Our boys feel it an honor to have defeated so able a club. They also feel it a pleasure to contend with such courteous gentlemen.”

Austin Register—June 8, 1876



View of Austin in the 1870s
This photo was probably taken from the top of the high school building

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

Austin's First Band
(Vern Judd Photo Collection)





(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

George Baird's home, built in 1859



(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

**Austin's first photographer
Studio was on 1st Ave. N.E., across from courthouse square**



(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

**The Olson Furniture Store
Business stayed in the family through son-in-law W. R. Earl. Location was S.E. corner of Main Street at 1st Ave. N.E.**



(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

**Dr. Samuel Paine Thornhill
One of Austin's early physicians**



(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

Looking down north Main Street, Austin, in the 1880s

THE MOWER COUNTY FAIR



Grandstand—Mower County Fair
photo taken in the 1950s

"Fair time!" Mother, father, sister, brother, each has a special feeling of nostalgia when it is time for another Mower County Fair. It is one county-wide event which is looked forward to and enjoyed by almost everyone; town or country. Anyone who grew up in Mower County can recall events at the Fair which were special.

The Mower County Fair has a story which goes back 120 years. Citizens began to talk about this need early in 1863. County Commissioners R. C. Heath, A. Beach and G. T. Angell called a meeting on September 22, 1863 to discuss the formation of a County Agricultural Society. This was the first step toward getting a fair, as the Society would then be recognized by the Minnesota State Fair. Also, the Society would receive books, agricultural documents and other items of interest.

This Society's purpose was to improve agriculture, create new ideas, develop the county and educate young farmers.

The Society was officially formed at the Austin post office on September 22, 1863. Officers and directors were elected and a formal constitution was drafted. Under this constitution any family could have an annual membership for \$1.00 or a lifetime membership for \$10.00.

The first fair in Mower County was held in Lansing on October 11 and 12, 1864. Every village in the county had the opportunity to offer a premium and the highest bidder would have the privilege of hosting the fair. Much to the disgruntlement of Austin citizens, Lansing offered the highest premium. They hosted the first fair.

People from the surrounding counties were invited to the Mower County Fair. The \$1.00 membership to the society entitled the family to admission to the Fair, and

also allowed the holder to enter livestock and goods. Individuals were admitted for 25¢.

Officers of the Society said that the first fair was a success, and began planning for the following autumn.

The 2nd Mower County Fair was held October 10 and 11, 1865. The grounds were improved to provide a place for exhibiting. A track was added for a women's equestrian display and for exhibition of trotting horses. Public officials addressed fairgoers on agricultural concerns.

In spite of all efforts to encourage participation, the 1865 fair was not a success and the Agricultural Society was dissolved.

The revival came in 1868. A meeting for all interested citizens was held in Austin's brick school house on July 31, 1868. The new Agricultural Society was formed with a constitution and by-laws which promoted agriculture, horticulture, stock raising and the mechanical arts. A county resident could again become a member for \$1.00.

The new Society made sure that agriculture was the dominant part of the revived fair. They offered \$400 in premiums. A race track was provided for the speed trials of "fast nags," but it was strongly stated that the races would not monopolize the fair.

The new society held its first fair on October 14 and 15, 1868. Owing to the short time the society had for preparation, the bad state of the weather, and the exciting political times, it was feared the fair would be a failure. However, the clouds cleared away and the officers prepared temporary grounds on the public square. Then some splendid cattle were brought together with horses, hogs, machinery, wagons, buggies and other products.

The Austin Democrat said, "The fair may be considered as a perfect success. The fact was plainly demonstrated that we can have one of the best fairs in the State next season. Success will attend the Mower County Agricultural Society."

Interest in Fair Again Declines

For several years the Mower County Fair continued satisfactorily, but then interest faded. Then, in 1882, citizens urged the Agricultural Society to join with the Farmers' Alliance. This was a progressive group which promoted farmers' interests.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Alliance on July 5, 1882, the committee voted to aid the Agricultural Society in soliciting funds to purchase permanent grounds for the County Fair.

Fair Grounds Purchased

Early in 1883 the Agriculture Society purchased the Austin Driving Park for use as a county fairgrounds. The cost was \$1,800. Plans were made to improve the fairgrounds by repairing the floral hall, dwelling house, stables and judges stand. They also hoped to erect a new grandstand and 90 rods of board fence. The Society began the sale of membership tickets early to finance the \$600 of improvements. A \$2.00 family ticket entitled freedom of the fairgrounds during all the days of the fair. Family members also could enter goods and livestock without further fees.

Suddenly, on September 3, 1883, the Basford block in downtown Austin crumbled. The premium list was being printed by Mr. Basford, and the type was destroyed. There was not enough time to reprint the 40-50 page book before Fair time. Officers of the Fair decided that this loss, together with accompanying circumstances, required that they cancel the Fair.

1884 Fair was Successful

Finally, in 1884, Mower County's first successful fair was held on the grounds of the former Austin Driving Park. This was the first of a succession of prosperous County Fairs to be held at that location.

Entries at the Fair during this period were in Flowers and Vegetables, Grain, Flour and Seeds (wheat, barley, corn, peas, clover, timothy, buckwheat, flax and hops), Dairy and Household Articles (butter, cheese, honey, molasses, baking and canning, wine—blackberry, grape, gooseberry, strawberry, raspberry, currant, rhubarb, tomato).

Also in Plowing, Horses, Cattle, Poultry, Domestic Manufactures, Farm Implement (democrat wagon, plows, bob sleds), Dairy Household (churn, brooms, cistern pump, washing machines), Furniture, Leather Goods (boots, harnesses, saddles), Carriage and Buggies and Fine Arts (painting, photos, ambrotypes, penmanship, needlecraft).

Through the succeeding years the fair changed in organization, length, style and format. The fair broadened its scope to include commercial and trade concessions. Forms of entertainment were added to broaden interest for the entire family. Circuses, carnivals, rodeos, zoos and other professional entertainment

and novelty items became a part of the Mower County Fair.

1940 Officers

A. O. Starks served as president and Ben Huseby as secretary at the 1940 annual meeting of the Mower County Agricultural Society. Elected to the board then were Herman Lerud, William Murphy, Russell Thompson, Ormanzo Peterson, Gunner Youngdahl, Oscar Erickson, N. C. Goodwin, Alvin Baudler and Richard Rahilly. Alvin Baudler was then elected president; Goodwin, vice president; P. J. Holand, secretary; Lerud, treasurer, Murphy, Thompson, Peterson, Erickson, Youngdahl and Rahilly, directors.

During 1941 a number of improvements in the fairgrounds were made with the help of the NYA. A fire destroyed one of the exhibition buildings in 1942, and it was replaced the following year.

Grounds Expanded and Crane Pavilion Dedicated

The original fairgrounds was 25.6 acres. The Galloway pit was added in 1948 with 5.6 acres, the Dee property in 1949 with 7.1 acres, the city pit in 1951 with 9.4 acres, the Zerkel property, across the street to the south with 5.0 acres and the Mickelson gravel pit of 2.1 acres.

The livestock exhibit building on the fairgrounds was dedicated in August, 1948 and named the Crane Livestock Pavilion. It became the home of the National Barrow Show and of other livestock exhibitions. The building burned in 1955 and was replaced. It continues to be the home of the National Barrow Show and other events.

4H has been a part of the Fair's cooperation with youth for many years. In 1945 the FFA (Future Farmers of America) was invited to participate with livestock exhibits. These programs for the youth continue to be an important part of the fair. The Children's Farm Yard is another feature for the young.

In cooperation with the Hormel Company the Midwest Steer Show, Midwest Market Hog Show and, earlier, the Fat Lamb Show, have been an integral part of the fair.

The Best County Fair Plant in the State

P. J. Holand, secretary of the Fair for 34 years, wrote a news article for the Austin Herald in 1953, Mower County's Centennial year. An excerpt follows:

"It is no wonder that the Mower County Fair is a big institution. The preparations for the exposition are in process all year around. The physical plant is by far the finest county fair plant in the state. Our people have seen to it that it is and what's more—they want to keep it that way."

Many Dedicated Fair Board Members

As previously mentioned, P. J. Holand served as secretary of the Fair Board from December 1940 through 1974. Others who have served on the board since 1940 are: Guy Wold, Lew Reeve, Nordeen Torgerson, Harry Saunders, Carl Kehret, Richard Rahilly, George Reppe, Art Anderson, Myron Aultfather, Roy Miller, Merrill Chesebrough, Dennis A. Deneen, Glenn Jahns, Harvey Sathre, Gene VanDenover, John Halverson, Joe Gislason, Earl Subra, Oliver Hagen, Omer Wangen, John Larick, Don Weseman, Arthur Bustad, Carroll

Plager, Richard Wehner, Dale Rugg, Joe Raine and Harold Mayhew.

Present officers are: Robert Radloff, Austin, president; Jerry MacVey, Brownsdale, vice president; Ella Marie Lausen, Austin, secretary; Roy Hayes, Austin, treasurer; George Moline, Austin; Loren Hanson, Grand Meadow,

Norbert Schroeder, Grand Meadow; Richard Grass, LeRoy; Donald Sorenson, Dexter; and Jack Maas, Austin, directors.

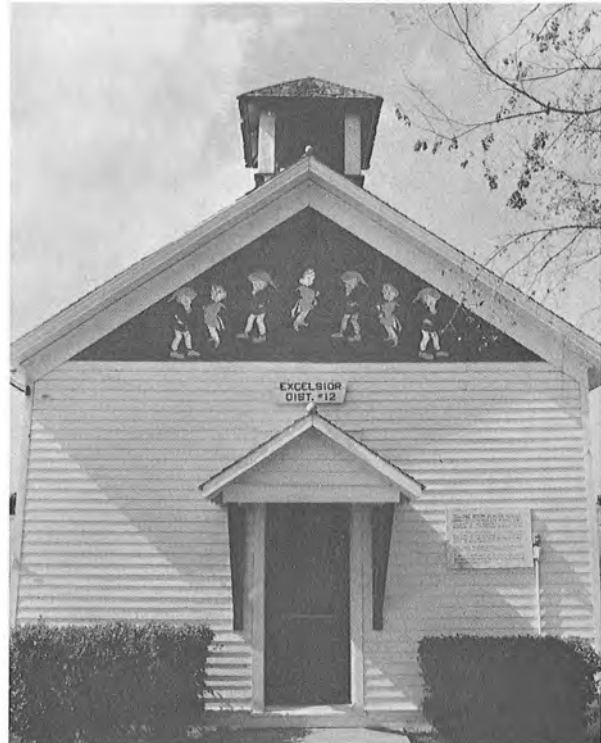
The fair will celebrate its Centennial in 1984. The 100th Fair on the same site.



Early Mower County Fair
No autos in this picture taken around the turn of the century.



Early church Now Fine Arts Gallery
This was formerly the Christ Episcopal Church, Austin, given to the Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Rasmussen.



The Old Country School
Excelsior Dist. #12, built in 1870.



Milwaukee Junction

The board walk leads to the railroad exhibits. The Indian Museum on the right.



Game and Fish Building
Photo probably taken in the 1940s



Young Exhibitors
These boys and young men are showing their calves in the 1920s.

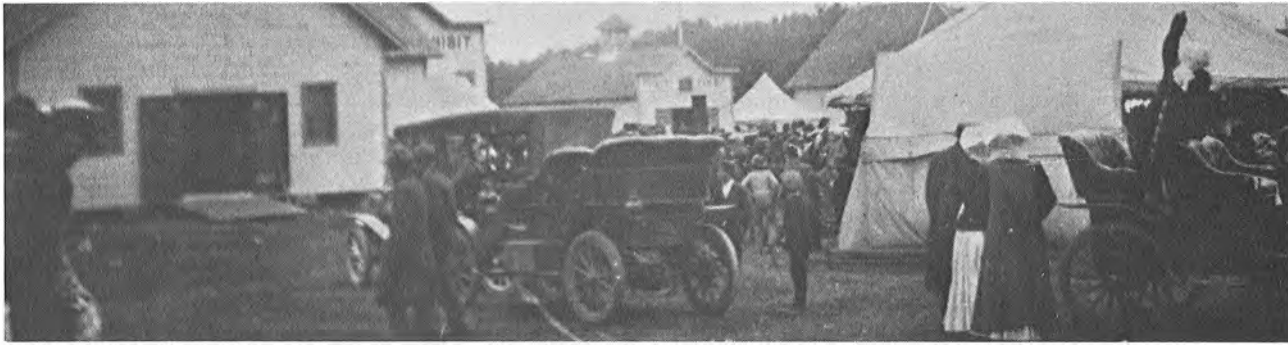


Rahilly Museum

This building displays the Johnny Mears collection of horse drawn vehicles.



The Dairy Cattle Barn



Mower County Fair—1910

MOWER COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Mower County Historical Society Museum

Dedicated in 1949, this building honors the G.A.R. Civil War veterans and the pioneers of Mower.

The Mower County Pioneer and Historical Society had an unusual beginning. It came about because of an idea suggested at an honorary dinner.

In August, 1947 the Mower County Fair acknowledged and honored the farmers who had resided on their farms in the county for a half-century. Portraits were taken of these fifty-two farmers, men and women. Then they were the featured guests at a dinner. Minnesota's Governor Luther Youngdahl was the main speaker.

During the course of the dinner the suggestion was made that a pioneer association be organized. This idea was then presented to the honored guests, and they enthusiastically endorsed it.

On September 30, 1947 a group of half-century farmers and Austin businessmen met at the Crane Pavilion on the fairgrounds. At that meeting they formed the Mower County Pioneer and Historical Society. They also discussed the possibility of erecting a pioneer building. Those at the meeting were Richard Rahilly, John Skinner, Mrs. Clara Sayles, J. H. Aultfather, Mrs. S. H. Warrington, Jay Daane, George Reppe, Guy Wold, Robert Bagley, Nels Goodwin, Gunnard Youngdahl, Charles Fox, N. F. Banfield, Leonard Decker, Will Phillips and P. J. Holand.

A committee was appointed to draft by-laws, make plans for a pioneer building and to work out membership plans. This group included Richard Rahilly, chairman; N. F. Banfield, Mrs. Clara Sayles, J. H. Aultfather and Mrs. S. H. Warrington.

Between the years of 1945 and 1947 the historical mementos were displayed in a large tent at the east end of the fairgrounds.

On October 8, 1947, in the Austin High School auditorium, Richard Rahilly was elected temporary chairman and P. J. Holand, temporary secretary. George Reppe was appointed finance chairman and instructed to begin plans for a membership and fund drive. The goal was construction of a pioneer building on the fairgrounds. As a result there were soon 900 names on the active and honorary membership roll.

In 1948 GAR funds were contributed to the building fund through McIntyre Post #66, W.R.C. Judge Martin A. Nelson was instrumental in arranging this gift.

Bids were let for the Mower County Pioneer and Historical building on April 26, 1949. The building was dedicated August 9, 1949. Present at the dedication were Judge Nelson, Governor Youngdahl, former governors J. A. A. Burnquist and Hjalmer Peterson. Father D. A. Cunningham gave the dedicatory address. A dinner followed at the Queen of Angels hall. Speakers were Will Phillips, a 50 year farmer, J. H. Skinner for the pioneers and Roy T. Anderson, who represented the war veterans of the county.

This new Historical Building fulfilled a dream for the half-century farmers and was also a Minnesota Territorial Centennial project for Mower County.

Assignments for the Society's committee were made in October, 1947. Serving with Richard Rahilly and P. J. Holand were Walter Varco, Myron Aultfather, Robert Bagley, Will Phillips, Art Anderson, Mrs. C. B. Sayles, John Skinner and Mrs. S. H. Warrington.

On November 12, 1949 the first permanent establishment of the Mower County Historical Society was formed. Officers were Richard Rahilly, president; Mrs. Charles Gilligan, vice president; P. J. Holand, secretary, Ella Marie Lausen, assistant secretary; Guy Wold,

treasurer; Anna Roble, Lucy Touissant, Mrs. C. B. Sayles, Mrs. S. H. Warrington and Mrs. Henry Arett, directors.

Over the years the county events were commemorated by additions to the new Historical Center. The Christ Episcopal Church, one of the early Austin churches, was placed in the Center in 1953 as a Township Centennial project. A granite fountain, which had at one time served at the head of North Main St., was placed in the Historical Center in 1955. It commemorated the Territorial Act which defined the boundaries of Mower County. In 1956 the 100th anniversary of Mower County's government was honored by the dedication of a horse drawn vehicle museum. An M4 Sherman Tank was the Minnesota Centennial project of 1958. It was dedicated to the desire for world peace.

The GAR Post building in Grand Meadow became a part of the Historical Center's properties on March 18, 1960. This building remains at its original Grand Meadow location.

The Historical Center, in the southeast corner of the Mower County Fairgrounds, now includes twenty nine exhibits. Some of the buildings have been moved into the Center, while others have been constructed on their site. In addition to exhibits mentioned previously the Center displays the following:

A log cabin from Frankford Township.

One room rural school built in 1870.

Windmill used on a farm from 1922-1971.

Replica of Six Mile Grove Lutheran Church, Nevada Township. This replica was a Bicentennial project of the Six Mile Grove congregation.

The Kehret Wayside Chapel, moved in from the Kehret farm west of Austin.

The original farmhouse which remained on the fairgrounds when Mower County purchased the grounds in 1883.

Original Hormel building, built in the 1890s as a part of George A. Hormel Packing Co.

Losby Communication building, erected in 1975, it contains old and new telephones and the extensive equipment required.

Herald Williams Sr. Indian Museum, contains a rare collection of Indian artifacts.

Fire-fighters gallery of fire fighting equipment and tools.

Early heavy construction equipment.

The Milwaukee Junction depot, railroad section crew vehicles, boardwalk, suburban train coach, baggage coach, steam locomotive, Hormel refrigerator car and a caboose.

1884 Mower County courthouse dome, with courtroom furnishings.

Blacksmith shop, which houses blacksmith equipment from the Hormel Co.

Old Headquarters Building, built in Austin in 1856. A community center, which housed the city's first churches, school, newspapers etc.

One of the original fair buildings.

The following are persons who have served the Historical Society in many ways such as the historical board, committees etc. Celia Patch, Mrs. S. L. Young, Mrs. Richard Rahilly, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rasmussen, Martin Bustad, Mrs. Merle Lamon, Doris Harder, William Sucha, Mrs. Bert Roebuck, Mrs. Willis Danielson, The Geo. A. Hormel Co. and the Milwaukee Railroad. They have worked for the betterment of the Mower County Historical Society.

The 1983 Board of Directors is Gene VanDenover, president; Roxanna Weseman, vice president; Ella Marie Lausen, secretary and treasurer; Jerry Wesley, Jiles Baldus, Ross Graves, Geraldine Rasmussen and Arthur Christgau.

HERALD J. WILLIAMS SR., MUSEUM

Herald Williams found his first arrow in 1890. He was helping to spread gravel along the new Milwaukee railroad tracks in the right-of-way between Granada and Fairmont, Minnesota. The arrow he found at that time is marked, and can be found in the center of a large frame of arrows in the museum at the fairgrounds. The finding of this arrow led to a passion for collecting other Indian artifacts.

After moving to Austin he found many arrows in this vicinity. There had been several Indian campsites in the area along the banks of the Red Cedar River. Large ones were located at Todd Park and the present site of the Queen of Angels Church. Most of the arrows he found along the Cedar River were on the east side. Also many between Todd Park and the LaBar Fur Farm. One of the choicest arrows was found at Martin Lake near Fairmont.

Williams and his wife, Floy, traveled all over the United

States in search of artifacts. They also dug for some pottery at a site near Hot Springs, Arkansas. Just south of Custer State Park, Nebraska he found a metal arrow imbedded in a vertebra in a sandblow.

Metal arrows, spears, knives and scrapers were fashioned by the Indians out of metal barrel bands which had been discarded by the soldiers on their way out West. Discarded metal snoose box covers were also used by the Indians to make decorations for their costumes.

The secret in making arrowheads is almost a lost art. The Indians from North and South Dakota migrated to Wisconsin in search of flint to use in making spear points and arrows.

As Williams collection grew it was meticulously placed in large frames and cases and housed in the basement of his family home. He spent hours showing his fine collection to local groups and visitors.

Feeling that his collection should be more accessible

to the public, Williams donated it to the Mower County Historical Society. The county fulfilled an agreement to build a brick building in the Historical area at the Mower County Fairgrounds.

Included in the Williams collection are many beautiful spearpoints from the Easter Islands, valuable bowls, Pipestone pipes, beadwork, grinding bowls, axes, hammers and tools and clothing used and worn by the Indians. There is also a 10 foot canoe which was built by the Cree Indians in the Hudson Bay area of Canada.

Along with his fine collection of Indian artifacts, Mr. Williams also donated a beautiful rock collection and a large collection of sea shells.

Many rifles were made in Milwaukee and shipped up the Missouri River to the Indians. The rifle on display in the museum was found under a dead horse after the Battle of Custer.

The wooden Indian was given to Mr. Williams by Jay Hormel and the totem pole was carved by Ernest Story of Austin.



Herald J. Williams Sr.



Williams' Indian Museum



Air View of Mower County Fairgrounds

January, 1912—Austin Daily Herald—How would you like living in a tent in this weather? Down by Dobbins Creek bridge, one man fighting tuberculosis, has lived in a tent all winter. His little canvas home is banked with

snow to the eaves, a path shoveled to the highway and the smoke from his fire rises cheerfully each morning to tell the passerby that he is still keeping up his brave fight for existence.

THE MOWER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1972 marked the beginning of an organization, the first one ever in the County of Mower and the city of Austin.

THE MOWER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was initiated by a group of eight people with the chief aim to stay together and thus help each other with our Family History researching and encourage many others with same interests to join with us.

In the Constitution the purpose of this group is stated thus: **TO STIMULATE EDUCATION, INTEREST AND RESEARCH IN GENEALOGY.**

The first officers elected were: Pres. Mrs. Roy King, Vice Pres. Mrs. Rachel Holt, General Secretary Shirley Thompson, Corresponding Genealogist Mrs. Rachel Holt, Historian, Richard Hall, Parliamentarian, Mrs. Dick Conway.

During the years members have participated in many worthwhile projects. The society has recorded information from tombstones in all cemeteries in Mower County and has published the recorded vital statistics information in volumes, **TOMBSTONE TRAILS**. These are available for researchers with ancestral roots in **MOWER COUNTY**.

The Society and its members have provided the Mower County Public Library at Austin, with books, microfilms, magazine subscriptions etc. to further genealogical research and family history discovers for many library patrons.

The Mower County Genealogical Society publishes a newsletter in Nov., March and July which is sent to many gen. societies, libraries, including the Library of Congress, in Washington, D.C., Historical Societies in the U.S.

The Publication contains many interesting materials and research helps for genealogists as well as local club news. Co-editors are Mildred Malone and Monica Lonergan.

A very successful Southern Minnesota Genealogical Conference was sponsored by our society and held at Austin Community College. This offered an opportunity for many attending to learn more to help them in their Genealogical Researching.

Every year an interesting exhibit is provided for the Mower County Fair where members can display their research accomplishments and offer help to those viewing the display.

Our society is not only geared to Genealogy alone, much emphasis is placed on gaining historical facts which is an integral part of family history research. Therefore many of our members were anxious to volunteer their services in researching material for the preparation of this County History Book, "**MILL ON THE WILLOW.**"

Our society has grown through the years and as it has grown so has the knowledge in and practice of family history research by the people of Mower County who have received help and encouragement from the members of The Mower County Genealogical Society.

*Mildred R. Malone
Historian for MCGS.*

THE MOWER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CHARTER MEMBERS

Mrs. Douglas Nielson	Mrs. Rachel Holt
Mrs. Hope Buringa	Mrs. Roy King
Mrs. Richard Conway	Roy King
Mrs. Beulah Duholm	Mrs. W'm B. Malone
Mrs. Audrey Fell	Holly Newman
Mrs. L. M. Flannery	Mrs. Robert Qual
Mrs. Stanley Grundy	Mrs. John Thill
Mrs. Lawrence Guckeen	Mrs. Edna Thomas
Richard Hall	Mrs. Benny Thompson
Mrs. Richard Hall	

1983-1984 OFFICERS MOWER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

President	Lillian Fetterly
Vice President	Jim Burroughs
Secretary	Thelma Hamilton
Corresponding Sec.	Monica Lonergan
Parliamentarian	Richard Hall
Historian	Mildred Malone
BOARD MEMBERS	Eunice Harris
	Pamila Ross

The following item is taken from the March 25, 1875 issue of the Austin Register.

"The enterprising officers of the First National Bank of this city have recently had attached to their fine new burglar proof safe a new patent lock, additional to the regular safe lock. It is regulated by a chronometer, which is set at the time the bank officials desire to open the safe—say nine o'clock a.m. Until that set hour arrives, no human power under heaven can unlock that safe. It is a big thing and will pretty effectually do away with the

necessity of Mr. Burglar's holding a pistol to a bank official's head in the dead of night accompanied with the very mild request, to "go down at once and open that safe, or I will blow your brains out." It would be very hard on the bank man if he should carry his threat into execution—but that can't be helped. The safe is locked for the night, and threats and violence will avail the burglar nothing. The list price of this little protection is \$450. It is a very fine piece of mechanism, and is as accurate in its workings as the finest kind of watch."

POOR FARM-COUNTY HOME



Painting Windows shortly after purchase - 1971

Prior to 1868 the poor people of the county were cared for by citizens and reimbursed by the county. At that time a 155 acre tract of land was purchased in LeRoy township and equipped with all necessary buildings. In this way the "paupers," as they were called, could have a suitable home at a lesser cost to the county. It was called the "Poor Farm." In 1876 this property was exchanged for a similar farm in Lansing Township, three miles north of Austin.

A new facility was given the more dignified name of "County Home." The County Commissioners provided fuel and repairs for proper upkeep. The inhabitants, however, raised many garden crops. In a large measure they produced their own food supply, and enjoyed doing it.

This arrangement continued until 1964. At that time there was less need for a County Home. The facility was then judged a suitable facility for delinquent and homeless boys. It became the Minnesota Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

MINNESOTA SHERIFFS BOYS RANCH



New cottages and school building at Austin Boys' Ranch - 1973

The Minnesota Sheriffs Boys Ranch was the brainchild of the State Sheriffs Association. They formulated the idea of a home for delinquent and homeless boys in 1962. In September, 1963 they appointed a Boys Ranch Committee; by-laws were drawn up and the

Minnesota Sheriffs Boys Ranch was incorporated.

The first annual meeting of the Board of Trustees was held September 27, 1963 and officers elected. A site committee was appointed to find a site for the proposed Boys Ranch. Sheriff Doyle Lindahl of Mower County

served on that committee, and together with Commissioners Werner Wuertz and Ralph Turner met with the site committee at the KSTP Radio Station. They prepared a presentation, complete with photos, of the County Home and the city of Austin. The committee was impressed and agreed to a ninety-nine year lease from Mower County. The lease was signed March 18, 1964.

In the summer of 1965 the Minnesota Sheriffs Boys Ranch in Austin was opened with two boys enrolled.



In 1963 Sheriff Carmen Halstenson (on right) and three members of VFW Post #1216 present a pony to four early residents.

On November 22, 1972 Minnesota Sheriffs Boys Ranch purchased the property from the county of Mower. The purchase agreement was signed by R. C. Buechner, chairman of the County Board; Graham Uzlik, County Auditor and Donald Eustice and Kermit Hedman, President and Secretary respectively of Minnesota Boys Ranch.

In 1972-1973 the organization built two new living units, a school and an arts and crafts shop building. Buildings carry the names of people that have played a prominent role in the development of the Ranch. The main building, the former County Home, carries the name of Carmen Halstenson, formerly Sheriff of Mower County. Other buildings were named after Kermit Hedman, Sheriff of Ramsey County, Donald Eustice, Sheriff of Waseca County, Stan Hubbard KSTP and Hubbard Milling and Hormel for their contributions.

In 1974, the organization became Minnesota Sheriffs Boys Ranches with the addition of a boys ranch in Isanti, Minnesota. This ranch was built on the site of a former NIKE missile base. Through the efforts of Senator Hubert Humphrey and others, the site was acquired from the federal government. In 1976, a Girls Villa was opened in the former St. Augustine convent in Austin. In 1981, the organization became Sheriffs Youth Programs of Minnesota with the addition of a family counseling office in the metropolitan area and the licensing of six continuing treatment foster homes around Southern Minnesota. June 1, 1982 marked the opening of the newest branch, a short-term intervention program for children and families, which serves sixteen boys and girls.

The organization now has holdings worth several million dollars, employs over 100 persons and serves approximately 150 different children each year. Approximately forty boys are in residence at the Austin Ranch at all times.

James E. Fischer is the current Executive Director of Sheriffs Youth Programs and has headed the organization for twelve years. Ira Rogers was the first director and was followed by Charles Carver in 1967. The Austin Ranch celebrated its fifteen year reunion in September, 1980 with sixty-five boys and staff members present.

AUSTIN IN 1876

A reporter from Dubuque wrote a story about Austin in 1876. It was published in the *Austin Register* on April 27th.

"In the southern part of Minnesota, on the banks of the Cedar River, is Austin with a population of 3,000 people."

"The residences are principally frame buildings, but some of the finest are of brick. There are large, imposing structures enclosed with lattice work fences or substantial iron, which presents a very citified appearance. The lawns in front of these dwellings tell plainly what care is taken of them.

"The walks in front of the residences are splendid, but in the business part of the city they are a little shaky, and need new ones in many places. No advice do I wish to offer the citizens of Austin, but I think it would be a good

plan to level the sidewalks on the principal business streets.

"In the western part of the city stands the schoolhouse, a magnificent brick building three stories high. As you near the city from either point of the compass this building is the first to salute your gaze.

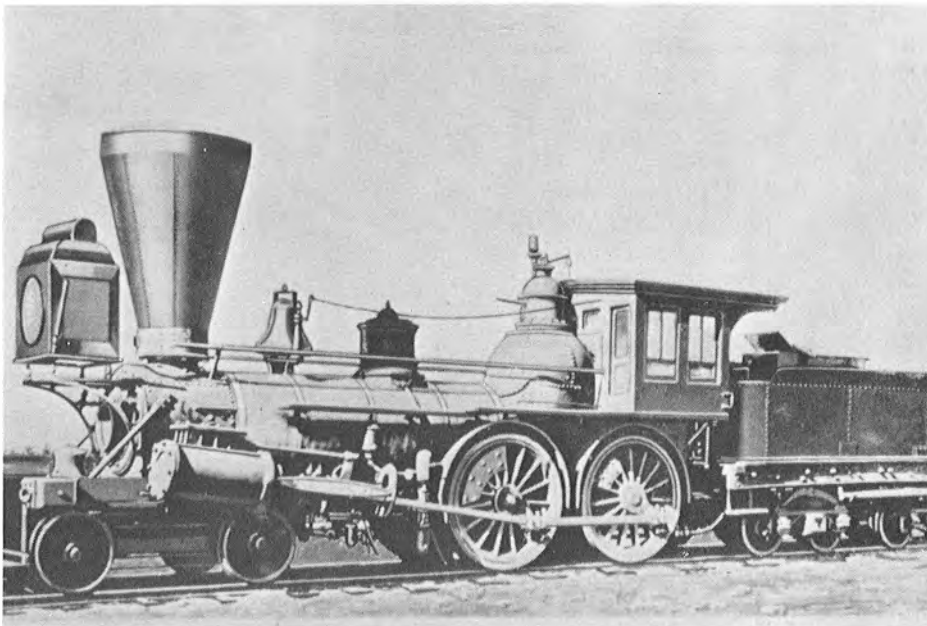
"In speaking of the business houses of Austin, I will simply state that there is room for doubt whether any town in Minnesota, not larger than Austin, can equal it for the beauty of its fine brick blocks. The town has a metropolitan look about it, and is surely on the way to metropolitan fame."



HISTORY OF
THE MILWAUKEE ROAD

IN MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

BY KEMMA JOHNSON



Old No. 1. This was the first locomotive of the Milwaukee Road. It was built in 1848 by the Norris Works, Philadelphia, PA.

THE MILWAUKEE ROAD

Pioneering Then and Now — 1867 to 1984

Today the quadrangular red Milwaukee Road logo is a familiar sight to the people of Mower County, Minnesota. It is the trademark displayed on all the equipment of the railroad which has served the community for over one hundred years. This logo has undergone a number of changes over the years, just as the railroads made rapid strides to meet the needs of a virgin land through the period of settlement, development and industrialization.

When the railroad arrived in Austin in 1867, the population of the entire Minnesota territory was somewhere near 15,000 settlers. Most of these were land-hungry adventurers from the eastern states of New York, Pennsylvania and New England who swept over the state with the first land sale in 1848.

Because of the adaptability of the rich soil to agriculture and grazing, very soon the need for a mode of transportation to open areas of commerce arose.

Immigration and the great westward push was in progress. The settlers had arrived by covered wagon. Now they also had the railroad for themselves, their livestock and their personal property. Swiftly the railroads met the needs of our pioneering, westward-ho, people. If ever there were mixed trains, then these railroad cars must have been a prime example. Women and children occupied the coach cars while men rode with the livestock.

We are not told much about meals in those early days. Apparently, before the advent of dining cars, stops were made where there was a cafe. Many used the covered wagon dining method, they brought with them dried meats and hard bread.

In May of 1857 the Minnesota territorial legislature approved an act creating four railroad corporations and granting them alternate sections, six miles in width on each side of the roads (in line with the debated liberal land grant of 1854).

The Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railroad, incorporated on March 1, 1856, was the first predecessor of the Milwaukee Road in Minnesota. It was formed to build a railroad from the Iowa state line near the Cedar River through the Straight Valley to Minneapolis. About \$600,000 was expended for grading and masonry work between Minneapolis and Faribault. However, combined problems of fraud, mismanagement and default led to foreclosure.

On March 10, 1862, the Minneapolis, Faribault & Cedar Valley Railroad was incorporated and acquired all the rights and property granted by the state of Minnesota to the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley. On February 1, 1864, the name was changed to Minnesota Central Railway.

The Minnesota Central meant business, and in 1864 built from Mendota to Wescot (Radio Center), from Mendota to Minneapolis and Wescot to Faribault in 1865; from Faribault to Owatonna and Mendota to St. Paul in 1866. That same year the Minnesota Central was sold to the McGregor Western, and in 1867 became a part of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

MOWER COUNTY WAITED FOR RAILROAD

Meanwhile the Mower County Register had been encouraging the dreams of a railroad for this area. The following are excerpts from that paper;

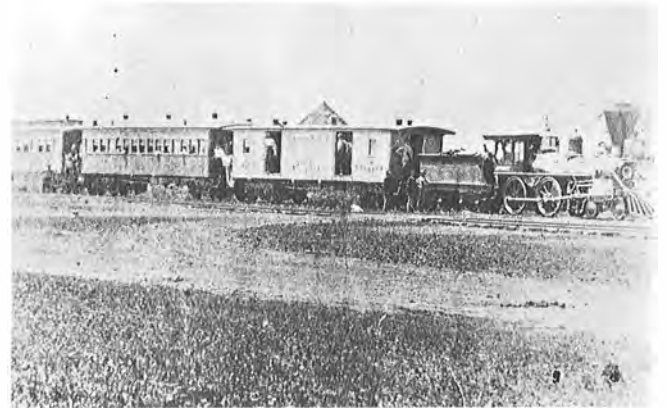
October 14, 1863

Chief Engineer Shepard of the Minneapolis and Cedar Valley Railroad, informs us that M. Chamberlain has purchased seven thousand tons of iron for the road, and that the same will be shipped as early as possible next spring.

April 4, 1867

A correspondent of the Milwaukee Sentinel writes from Cresco, Iowa as follows: The railroad stopped here last November because overtaken by the frosts of winter. With the first balmy breath of spring it will gather up its skirts and march on to the goal at Austin, just across the line, in Mower County, Minnesota. There it will connect with the Minnesota Central, from St. Paul and Minneapolis.

No time will be wasted in this operation. The contract to Austin, 55 miles, is let to the Iowa and Minnesota Construction Company, and by them sub-let to Messrs. Green & Mather. During the winter ties are being unloaded at the rate of 1,000 per day.



Two views of first train in Austin. The wide smokestack was used for wood burning locomotives. (Davison Photo)

FINALLY THE BIG DAY

Finally, on September 16, 1867, the long-awaited first regular passenger train arrived in Austin. It was close on the heels of the gangs who had just completed the laying of the rail from Faribault to Austin.

The story of the arrival was in the *Mower County Register*:

OUR RAILROAD—FIRST TRAIN. On Monday evening the first regular train arrived at our depot. The track had been laid since Thursday, but none other than the construction train had greeted our vision. We could but faintly realize the fact.

A ten year's residence in Austin without railroad advantages, yet not without plenty of promises, led us to insanely wonder if it were not a dream. But at this present writing we are satisfied it is a reality! We have seen the locomotive, the long train of cars attached, heard the whistle loud and clear, seen the iron rails upon which they move, the depot buildings, round house, water tank, etc., stare us full in the face, and we know it cannot be otherwise than true.

We welcome this great developer and civilizer, heartily, sincerely, and wish our railroad folks much prosperity.

Selah Chamberlain, President of the Minnesota Central, and also one of the directors of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, came in upon that train in company with Superintendent Shepard. They departed the following morning for a trip along the line of the uncompleted section of the road. Mr. Chamberlain stated that the connection would be made in thirty days, without fail. He was referring to the line building up from Iowa by the McGregor & Western to a meeting point with the Minnesota Central. That did



D. C. Shepard, First Superintendent I. & M. Division.

happen within the thirty days, and on October 14 of that year when the Minnesota Central passed over the connecting rails at Adams, Minnesota, joining the two roads that had been building toward each other for two years, the identity of the road of which Mr. Shepard was Superintendent was lost, and it became a part of what was known as the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system.

The line work to Chicago was accomplished on November 18, 1867 and that completed the I & M Division of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, the first and only railroad from the Twin Cities and the Northwest to Chicago.

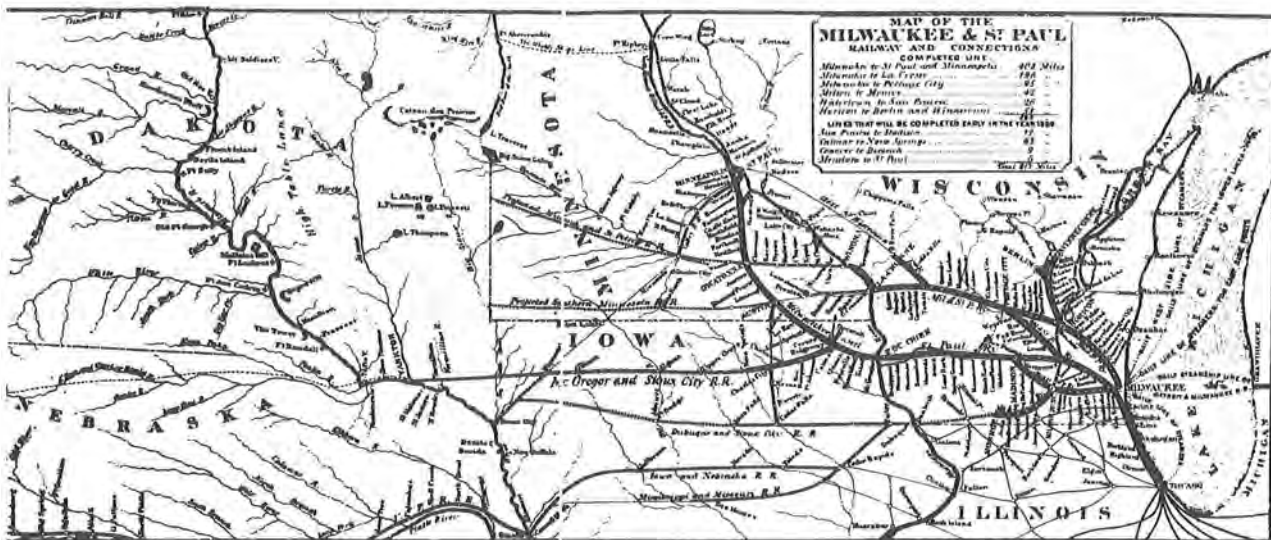
Also in 1867 the line between Owatonna, Minnesota and Cresco, Iowa via Austin was completed. Through train service from the Twin Cities via Austin, Cresco, Prairie du Chien and Milwaukee to Chicago was established—the first Milwaukee Road main line between the Twin Cities and Chicago.

EARLY HARD TIMES RECALLED

The Milwaukee Magazine, in 1922, had an article telling about conditions in the early days of railroading. It was written by S. S. Johnston, Secretary of the Minnesota Central and McGregor Western Railroad Veteran's Association. The following paragraphs are excerpted from this 1922 article.

Railroading in the early days and now are very much different. In those days the engines were all wood burners and an average of 30 miles to a tank of wood was good and on some occasions we had to dig the wood out of the snow and throw it once or twice over before tossing it up on the tank. Some work for the train crew.

A full month meant 31 days and 31 nights and you had to work out your own salvation and occasionally at the end of a 24 hour day you had to turn around and make the return trip without the required rest. No crew would be sent to relieve you, get back as best you could as at that early day we did not have good and competent dispatchers and operators to assist us over the road. In the



Map of the Milwaukee Road in 1868

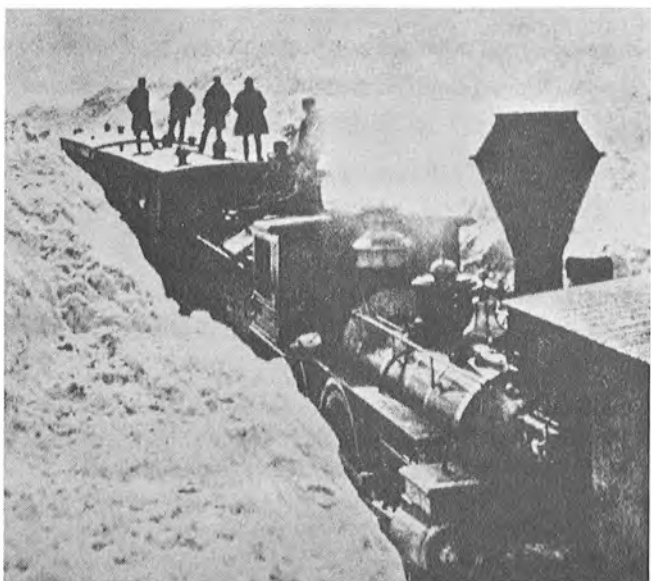
early days salaries ranged from \$40.00 to \$80.00 per month for the highest paid men.

TWENTY FIVE DAYS TO MAKE A ROUND TRIP OF 100 MILES

The early history of railroading records some instances of unprecedented hardships and encounter with the raw elements, and victory over it through the sheer might of brawn and will. Such is an early account from the Milwaukee Employee Magazine of April 1914.



Burled in the Drift



Snow troubles began early for the railroads. This old picture from the Milwaukee Road archives shows what railmen were up against in the early days. This scene is somewhere on the former Iowa and Minnesota Division.

January 7th and 8th, 1873, will be remembered as the greatest blizzard Minnesota and the northwest has ever experienced since railroads entered that territory: That winter stands today as the biggest fight against cold and snow, the longest blockade and the greatest mortality

among those unfortunates who were caught in its awful fury.

In those days we had only the pilot plows, flat car plows and shovels with which to fight the snow. Even now, should its like occur again, the wonderful rotary would find itself up against a hard proposition to get through the monster snow banks of '73.

On January 7th, train No. 1 on the I&M Division came to Austin on time, stopped twenty-five minutes for dinner and changed engines. The thermometer was hovering around 50 degrees and everyone thought that winter was going to leave. We pulled out for St. Paul on time, 101 miles distant, with five cars and little Niles engine 41, a 14 x 22, 24-ton. Running time was four hours and forty-five minutes with fifteen stops. We had about 100 passengers.

The I&M, like most prairie roads of that day was laid on top of the ground over hill and dale, with some pretty deep cuts. When about half way to the first station north of Austin, I called my fireman's attention to a very dark streak across the northwestern sky, and remarked that it was coming up fast. In less than ten minutes the storm struck us in all its fury.

STORM INCREASES—DIFFICULTIES MOUNT

The wind was not less than sixty miles an hour and almost stalled us in spite of the little engine working to its utmost. We arrived, however, at the station and found it almost impossible to stand up against the gale. I was obliged to hold on to the cars to reach the baggage car to confer with the conductor. The snow was hard and sharp and it took the combined efforts of the crew to get the spout down for water.

The next station was eighteen miles away, with numerous deep cuts, but mostly downhill. My supply of wood was low for such a storm, but we lit out and were one hour and twenty-five minutes going the eighteen miles. Neither of us laid off a minute, stopping several times to clean out the ash pan and to shovel out the cuts which were filling from the north side. The little Niles got all there was due, with 130 pounds of steam—the last stick of wood went in when we were two miles from Owatonna and we got there with very little fire or steam. It was ten below zero, with the blizzard and cold increasing. The way freight was at Owatonna, and all hands concluded the best thing to do was to tie up, but headquarters advised us to try to get through with the two engines. So with the freight engine, a 16 x 24 30-ton engine, which we considered a great deal of power, and by setting out one coach, we thought we could go through anything. After an hour of freezing, hard work piling both tenders high with dry oak wood and a big supply in the baggage car for the coaches, we started. You must remember that in those days there were only wood stoves in each end of the coaches, which took constant firing to keep the passengers warm. There were no storm windows or vestibules to protect against wind or snow and the engines had no side curtains. The wood in the tender was buried in snow, and the windows frozen over so that it was a case of head-out-of-window to see anything ahead. In the increasing storm it was impossible to see anything or to look out more than a minute or so, against the cutting

wind and snow. For seven or eight miles we did fairly well, but the first cut stalled us and then all hands and some passengers took shovels and we finally dug out. Then we backed up a mile or so and went for it, got through and that's all. We repeated this several times and at the end of two and a half hours, we reached Faribault. There we replenished our wood and water supply and got orders to take the wood train engine which laid up at that point. We set out another coach to make another try. It was now 28 below zero, and the storm fiercer than ever. The snow was so hard you would not break through anywhere, walking over it. A number of our passengers left the train, concluding it was better to remain in a hotel than to take the chance of being laid up in a snow drift. With three cars and three engines and the balance of the passengers, we made for it again. The next fifteen miles was in our favor as the country was thickly wooded, and we made the run to Northfield in good time. Then we began again the previous experiences of digging out, bucking and backing with the little pilot plow, robbing the station agents of their wood, etc. We finally reached St. Paul at 3:00 a.m. We were three hours housing the engines and before the close of the day the snow was ten feet deep against the engine house doors, and it was 35 below zero. All business was suspended, trains were abandoned, with dead engines in some cases. One train was two days with its passengers in a huge drift without food, except what lunches they happened to have and the fuel exhausted in an effort to keep the women and children from freezing to death.

SHOVELING OUT BEGAN

The third day it let up, cleared off and all hands went to work shoveling out the yards, engine house, depots, streets, etc. The wind had been so strong that in many instances, the real estate from neighboring fields was packed in with the snow so tight that it took picks as well as shovels to remove it. On the fourth day, with a crew of two hundred men, four engines and supplies, we tackled the main line, and this was the hardest proposition of snow bucking we had ever been up against. In some places the wire on the telegraph poles was just visible. Three engines and a big crew were working towards us from the east and after three days we got together, took what people they had and went back congratulating ourselves that once more the main line would again do business between the Twin Cities, Prairie du Chien and Milwaukee. But all signs fail in good weather for before midnight it began again, almost as bad as the first storm. For a day and a night it raged, with the thermometer going down to its old lowest mark. We kept undercover until the worst was over and then started out to do all over what we had accomplished in digging out the road before. We were, however, worse off this time on account of the previous deep cut with perpendicular sides, so that we had to dig out and load the snow on flat cars and haul it out to a fill where we shoveled it off. This took us until February 3, when we started our first trains through.

RAILROAD MEN PLAYED A HEROIC ROLE

Those were days of dreadful suffering throughout the country. Almost every town ran entirely out of the neces-

sities of life. Numberless instances of heroism on the part of the railroad men were reported. I remember one in particular. Our train No. 2 left Austin with about fifty passengers and fought the storm as far as Ridgeway, stalling a few miles east of there in a long cut. For fifty hours it was at the mercy of the elements, the crew giving their attention to caring for the passengers. On the second day a party of seven or eight was formed to go to the relief of this train, each man carrying a sack of food strapped to his back. After two or three miles of almost superhuman work, all gave up the task but two, James Wilson, conductor, and his brakeman, whose name, unfortunately I have forgotten. They continued on, tied together with a rope, over two hundred feet long. One would go forward until he found a telegraph pole and then signal to the other to come on. In this way, despite the blinding blizzard, they reached the train with badly frozen faces and fingers. They were joyfully welcomed. General Lawler was on the train and rewarded the men handsomely for their heroism. The passengers and crew were relieved the next day when the railroad company sent sleighs to take them to Calmar. *Twenty Five Days Making a Round Trip of One Hundred Miles* by B. N. Lewis, Engineer, I. & M. Division, 1866-1886.

BACK SHOP AND ROUNDHOUSE BUILT IN EARLY 1870S

The back shop at Austin was built in 1872, with additions made in 1904 and 1911. In 1874 a thirteen-stall roundhouse was constructed. Seven more stalls were added later and an electrically operated turntable was installed. The Austin shops became major repair center, and the roundhouse crews were pressed into long hours of service because of the many locomotive repairs made there. Austin was indeed a railroad town with two passenger trains daily north to Minneapolis and south to Chicago, as well as several freight trains.

By August 1879 the Southern Minnesota line boasted two Minneapolis to Chicago trains. The original line via Austin-Calmar became a secondary line, with Minneapolis-LaCrosse to Chicago having become the main line. Sleeping car service was available on overnight portions of the trip. Jackson to Austin trains connected with LaCrosse.

The "Through Express" passed Austin about noon in both directions, and thirty minutes was allowed in Austin for meals. An Austin-Mason City daytime passenger provided connections at Austin. Also, there was an overnight train between Mason City-Austin and the Twin Cities passing Austin northbound at midnight and southbound at 3 a.m. These trains carried coaches only, and did not operate on Sunday. (History from Jim Scribbins' *Passenger Trains Serving Austin*, published in Rail Fan Magazine.)

The Southern Minnesota Railroad was bought by the C.M. & St.P. in 1880, and taken over for operation in August, 1880.

SHOPS RELOCATED IN AUSTIN

In 1886 the C.M. & St.P. moved its shops from Wells to Austin and built a wye track at Ramsey to provide a turnaround for locomotives to run into the Austin



Milwaukee Roundhouse Crew in 1884

Standing: John Howells, Frank Otterstrom, Bill Todd, Pat Caine, Mike Mayer, Chas Miller, Ira Padden, Cogswell, Ivar Thompson, Frank Kenney, Darby McDermott, Hugo Auer. Sitting: Gus Lunberg, Chris Carlson, Chas Ople, John Effinger, Jake Mauch, Dave Turner. Back: Godfrey Lauffie. (Davison Photo)

Gen'l No. 988 File 1 No. 1

City of Austin, Minnesota
with
C. M. & ST. P. R. Y. CO.

AGREEMENT, September 15, 1886
FOR Removal of Machine Shop
from Wells to Austin
1. City agreed to remove machine
shop and erect building
to the east of bridge and
to donate \$10,000.
2. Company agrees to remove its
shop and provision station
and to maintain the bridge.



In 1909 the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound Railway was established to operate rail facilities in Washington, Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas. Borrowing the parent railroad's trademark, the Puget Sound railroad used this symbol until it was absorbed into the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul in 1912.

Agreement for Removal of Machine Shop Wells to Austin, Sept. 15, 1886

Agreement for Construction and Maintenance of Overhead Foot Bridge - July 9, 1895

Gen'l No. 605 File V No. 67

C. M. & ST. P. R. Y. CO.
with
City of Austin, Minnesota
Agreement
For Construction and Maintenance
of Overhead Foot Bridge
across Station Grounds and
Track of St. Paul Co. at Austin
Minnesota

Copies of Subsequent Correspondence Attached:

Letter Nov 11, 1947 re: obligations
R.R. Co will assume to maintain
structure as well as letter from City
of Austin concerning their part of mntce
letter Feb. 22-1947
Dated July 9th 1895

terminal. The city of Austin gave \$10,000 and ten acres of land to the railroad as a bonus for locating the shops at Austin. In 1895 the city of Austin and the C.M. & St.P. entered into an agreement for the construction and maintenance of the overhead walk bridge which spans the tracks and yards on Austin's east side. That bridge, incidentally, still is maintained under the original agreement, and provides access for the community east of the yards for pedestrian traffic to the downtown area and schools.

There were 500 employees on the Austin payroll of the C.M. & St.P. by 1890. Stations in Mower County were at Lansing, Austin, Lyle, Adams and LeRoy. Major ship-

ments out of Austin were agricultural products, and packinghouse products from the George A. Hormel Company. Mr. Hormel arrived in Austin from New York in 1887 and established the plant which became the backbone of the economy of Austin and area people.

The network extended westward with a day local between Austin and Woonsocket, South Dakota in 1895, also to St. Louis and Kansas City. The interline services were via Iowa Central and the Wabash south of Mason City. There were four trains daily between Minneapolis and Austin. There was a morning departure from Austin to LaCrosse for evening arrival in Chicago.

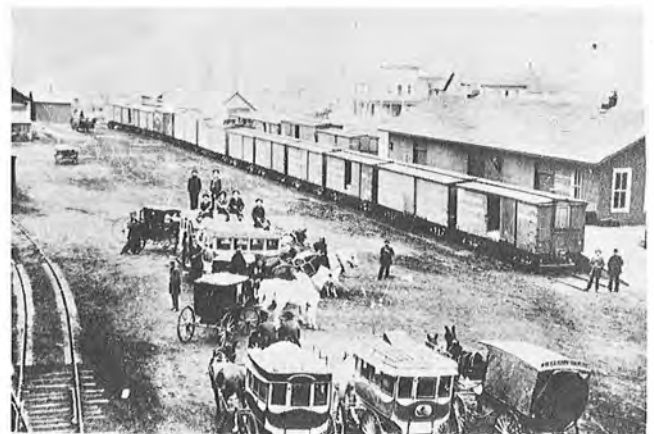


In 1925 the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul went bankrupt. On March 31, 1927, it was replaced by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Co. In January of 1928 this trademark bearing the new company name went into use.

Milwaukee Road yard at the turn of the century. (Davison Photo)



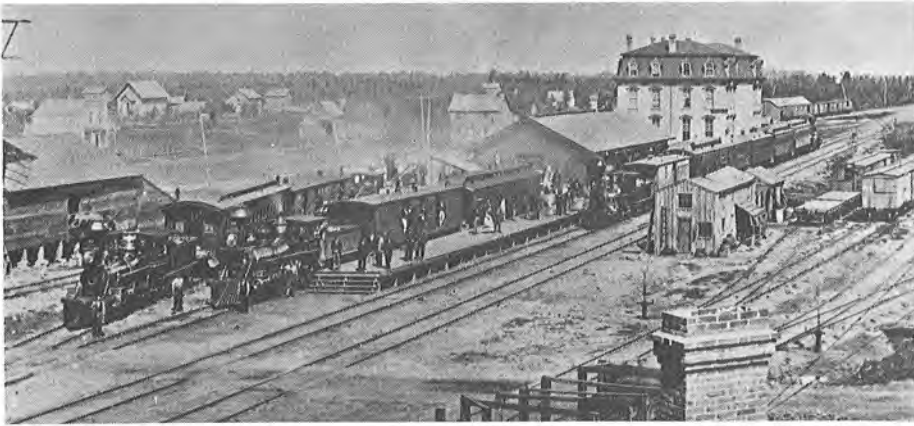
This is the Railway Hotel, Ramsey Junction. (Davison Photo)



Each hotel had hacks to meet the train. Those with the white horses were owned by Tom Rochford, father of Harold Rochford.

In July, 1922, this modified trademark appeared in advertisements, boasting of the railroad's two recent achievements.





On the left is Engine 180, a 21-ton Rhode Island 14 x 24, B. N. Lewis, engineer. Along the platform is Engine 24, a Baldwin 14 x 24, John Morgan, engineer. In front of the depot is train No. 2, Engine 9 attached, J. V. Durgin, engineer. (Davison Photo)

CHANGES IN SHOP AREAS

Austin was the crossroads of the railroad in the late 1800's. In 1872 the Milwaukee constructed a 20-stall roundhouse, had a force of somewhere near one hundred locomotive maintenance and repair crews. Austin was operating full steam ahead—and the terminal grew. New facilities were constructed—the sandhouse in 1901, the coal shed in 1910 and the water tank in 1912.

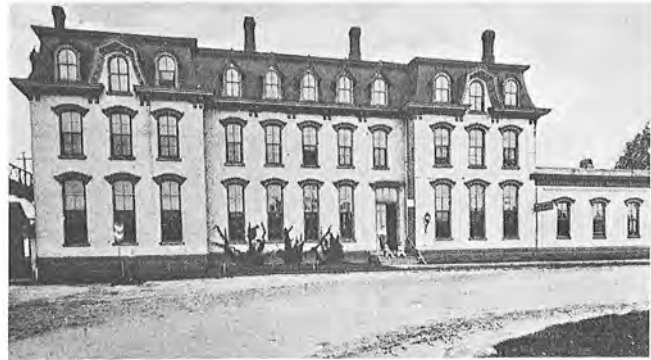
FROM 1911 COUNTY HISTORY

The *Austin Daily Herald* recently wrote about railroads in Austin, "According to the 1911 Mower County history 'Austin is one of the big railroad centers of Minnesota.' It continues: 'Here passengers change cars going north, south, east and west, for Austin is the division point of six divisions of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. Through the heart of the city runs the through line of the Chicago, Great Western between St. Paul and Omaha. Through the city will pass the fast freights from Puget Sound to Chicago over the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road. Fourteen passenger trains and forty freight trains run into and out of Austin on an average everyday in the year. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company pays from \$23,000 to \$25,000 every month to its employees in this city. The shops and roundhouse of this company give employment to a large and increasing force of the best mechanics, for here every engine on 1,000 miles of road comes to be repaired and refitted at stated intervals. Forty six of these iron horses are cared for exclusively in these shops.'"

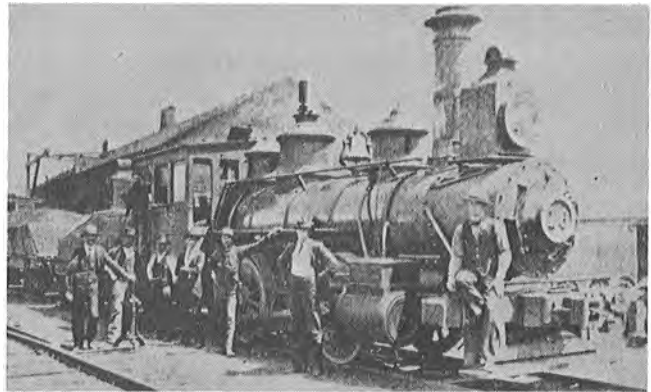
In 1920 Austin became Division Headquarters of Southern Minnesota Division when offices were moved from LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The years that followed were ones of growth and prosperity. The Locomotive Department at Austin was recognized for efficiency.

AUSTIN DEPOT

In the early 1900's the Milwaukee Road depot, hotel and restaurant was probably the epitome of dining out experience. Handsome and showy, and serving good food, one can well imagine that the hotel found a place on the "want" entertainment list much as a trip to Chanhassen or the Carlton in Minneapolis would be today.



Austin Milwaukee Depot



Switch engine at Austin, Minn., the time, 1898. From left: Sam Collins, Mike Feeley, John Ober (in cab), John Meehan, Pat Burns, Chris Boone, Fred Laufle and August Bushman. Pat Burns, retired engineer of Rochester, Minn., is believed to be the only member of the crew still living. Old No. 16 was built by the Rogers Locomotive Works in 1881 and originally put in service as No. 311.

It had the advantage over other hotels in that it could readily accommodate those passengers who were laying over. Over the years it established a reputation as a good place to stay. Another hotel located just across the street is still serving the Milwaukee Road people and the public as Harry's Cafe.

With the first through trains and the advent of the automobile, the early glory of the hotel faded. The

building was changed over to office space and more modern facilities to serve the growing divisions. The hotel was replaced with the new brick depot complex in the early 40's.

Originally, the long gray, two-story building with the sign on the north end reading "Freight House," housed the Superintendent's office and clerical forces on its second floor.

FREIGHT SHIPMENTS INCREASE

The entire downstairs level was used for storing shipments, for delivery to furniture stores, clothing stores, general merchandise stores and individuals.

There were also two freight offices. The south end of the building had an attached extended unloading dock, probably about 100 feet long, and covered. There is no record of early freight shipments, but in 1922, S. S. Johnston wrote in *The Early History of the I&M Division* — "The business of the road increased from day to day and year to year, and it was a regular day's work on the old I&M to leave Mendota with 16 way cars and on many a trip the same 16 cars would arrive at the division end, and had been unloaded and reloaded on the trip. We never set out a car with under 5,000 pounds of local freight in it, but would, as stated, unload and reload it and I have helped to pile the long platforms at Farmington, Northfield, Faribault and Owatonna with local freight so that it was nearly impossible to get thru it."

Eugene Kelly, Yardmaster at Austin, recalls that about the late 1930's and in the 40's it was the norm to switch in 21 carloads of freight to the unloading docks at Austin. There were three foremen and three crews working around the clock in 8-hour shifts.

HORMEL SHIPMENTS GROW

At about that same era of the early and middle 1900's, the Hormel Company was receiving 30 to 40 carloads of livestock a day. They would be spotted 18 at a time at the Hormel livestock unloading, nine on each side. Switching was done every half hour or so.

Sometimes on a mixed train there would be stock behind the passenger cars and upwards of 20 or 30 carloads of stock and perishables. Much of the perishables came into Austin from Hollandale, Minnesota, a flat open marshy area inset with a rich peat soil, much as sand and coal deposits are found in specific areas. This rich soil was conducive to the growth in particular of potatoes, onions and cabbage, and that constituted the large part of the perishable shipments. Incidentally, the Hollandale Line was sold to the Pillsbury Company in about 1978.


NEW METHODS

In competition with the trucking industries, the Milwaukee Road sought new and better ways to compete. The early 60's saw the beginning of a "Piggy Back" type of service and the Milwaukee Motor Transport trucking system especially equipped to transport a loaded refrigerated trailer (TOFC-trailer on flat car) from shipper to rail where two such cars could be loaded on a flat car. Shipments were made from and to the Hormel Company in this manner. Austin terminal received 30 to 40 piggy

back carloads at a time, but the operation was not so successful because cars loaded at Bensenville would be in a backward position for the Austin ramp, and required turning. This resulted in quite a time delay. That operation continued at Austin until in about the early 1960's when it was moved to St. Paul.



Steam Train #328 - Northfield, Minnesota, Jesse James Days

THE MARQUETTE 

Chicago - Madison - Janesville - Mason City
Chicago - Austin - Faribault - St. Paul - Minneapolis

Whether you travel on business or pleasure
 you will like the Marquette.

Convenient schedules . . . comfortable,
 modern air-conditioned equipment.

Low priced meals.

This ad appeared in the June-July, 1938 issue of the Milwaukee Road passenger timetable.

**MINNESOTA MARQUETTE IMMORTALIZED

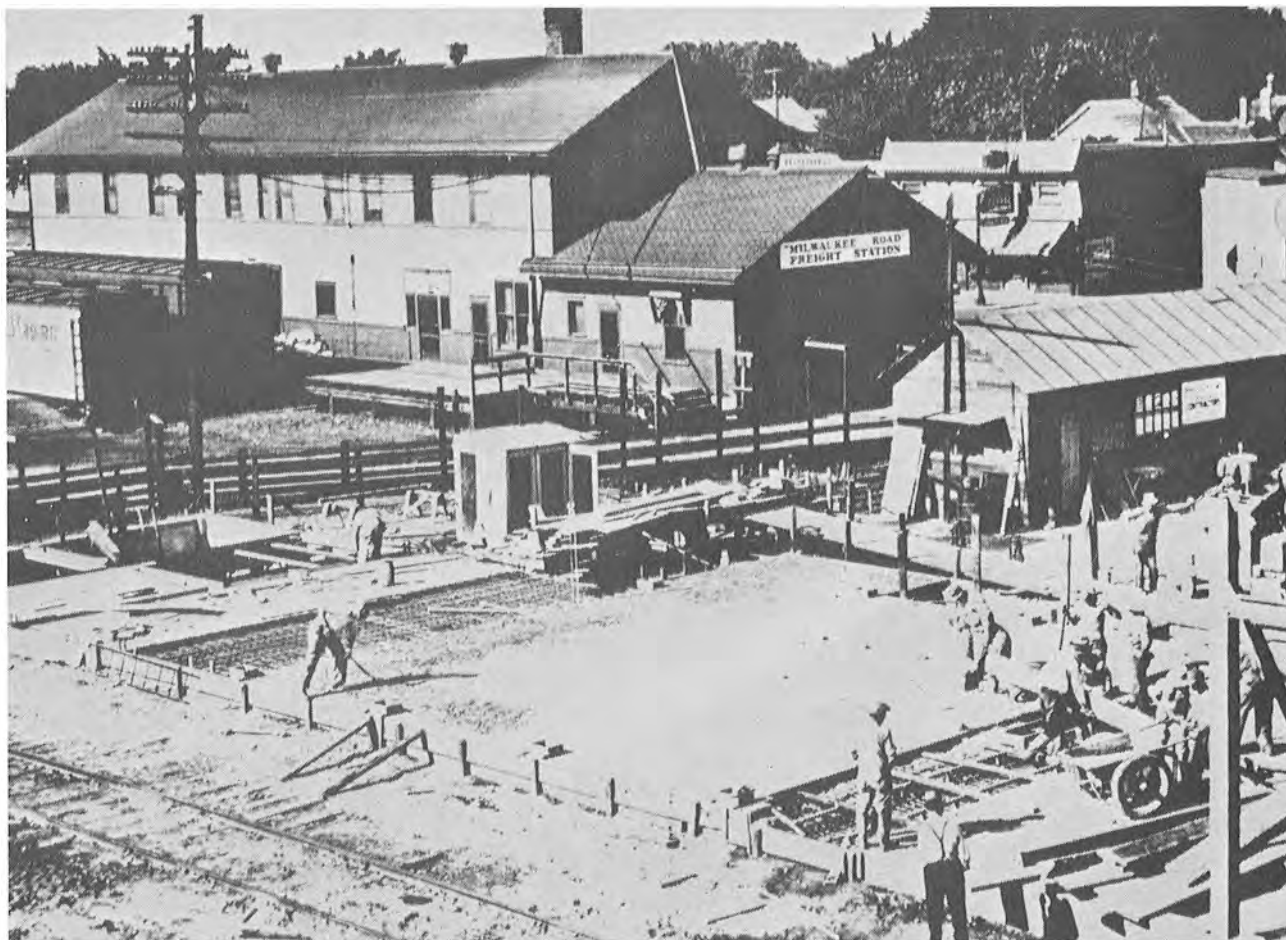
A newly instituted event, which had its origin on September 11, 1982 at Northfield, Minnesota, is the very popular Steam Train 328 which again took place in 1983 in connection with the city's annual celebration of Jesse James Days (commemorating the bank robbery there and the defeat of the notorious band of outlaws).

In March of 1938 I&M passenger service through Austin was at its height in service to the traveling public, offering the completely air-conditioned Minnesota Marquette route each morning from Minneapolis to Chicago, via Calmar, and carrying a cafe-parlor-observation car. At Calmar it connected with a fast Mason City-Chicago afternoon train. All passengers changed at Calmar.

In June 1942 the cafe-parlor car was removed from the Minnesota Marquette. On July 15, 1945 sleeping cars were prohibited on order of the Office of Defense Transportation on runs of less than 450 miles so as to have a

greater supply of sleepers to use for military movements, and all sleeping car service Chicago-Minneapolis was eliminated until the order was rescinded in February of 1946. By the summer of 1946 things were back to normal with streamlined "recliner seat lounge" coaches on north-south trains through Austin, when new cars rolled from Milwaukee Shops.

During the last great coal miners' strike in the fall of 1949, the Minnesota Marquette was suspended partially to conserve fuel, and operated only between Minneapolis and Austin.



Work is in progress on the new Austin passenger station in this 1941 scene. The new depot was placed on the site of the old building.



Switching at Hormels, June, 1942

SHIPPING DEVELOPED

The Hormel Company, and other shippers such as the Wilson Company at Albert Lea, found new and better ways to ship their products. Instead of the refrigerated cars equipped to handle fresh meat in a hanging position, Hormel began to wrap and pack meat in containerized manner, using large cans and boxes. These were priority shipments for connection with trains at Chicago. The trucking industries enticed much of this business because of the more direct service and the faster time schedule—both so important in the handling of fresh products. By the middle of the 1970's the railroad lost most of this traffic to the trucking industries. The same was true of LCL freight shipments.



A new passenger station made its debut on April 15, 1942 with an open house. A four-piece orchestra played chamber music as crowds viewed the new building.

OLD DEPOT REPLACED

The new passenger depot was completed in early 1942 and the Superintendent's office was moved into the new office quarters. Regional Data was installed in the old Freight House building, and a room was air-conditioned for the operation of key punch machines. That office disbanded shortly before the division change in 1975. The old Freight House building stood until about two years ago, when it was torn down.

With the coming of the Division Engineer's office in 1957, changes were made in the new depot, remodeling the former waiting room and north end containing the Railway Express Company into offices for the Division Engineer, dispatchers and trainmaster. (The Railway Express, owned by 60 railroads, was advertised for sale, and that business is now handled for the most part by bus lines out of Austin.)

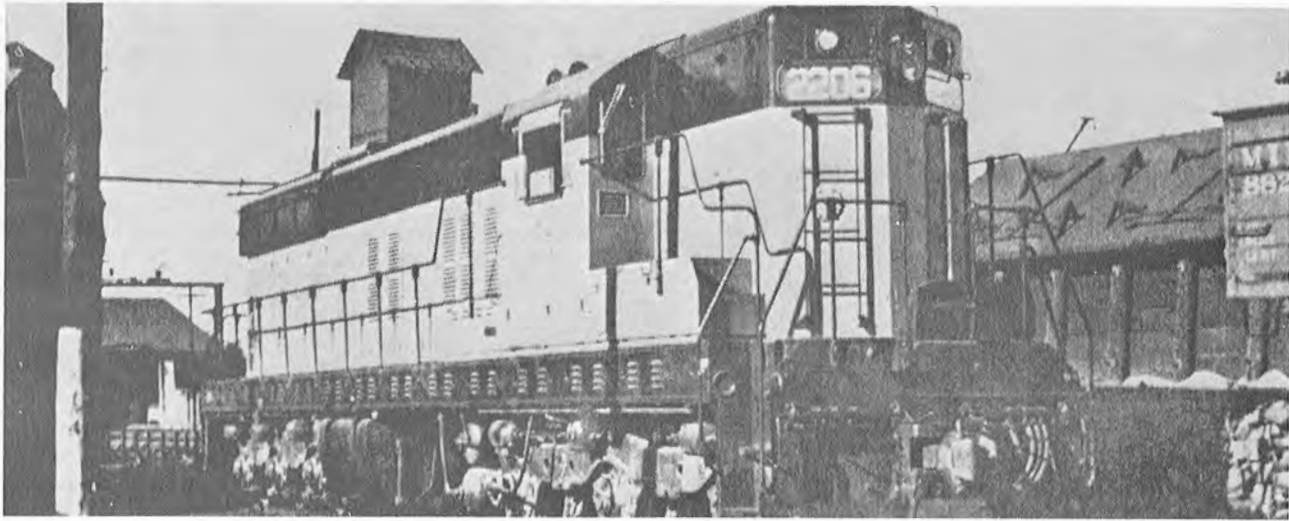
In June of 1975 when the Superintendent and Division Engineer offices were closed at Austin, the engineering work went to Minneapolis under E. C. Jordan.

In June of 1954 the Milwaukee Road was beginning a plan for conversion to diesel power within the next year at a cost of \$70,000, part of a modernization program of the road. Austin was put on notice that the steam locomotive shop would be discontinued and the roundhouse would probably be torn down because the division would need more yard room.

In September of 1955 the demolition of the 83-year old roundhouse began—part of the Milwaukee Road plan to consolidate its Iowa & Southern Minnesota Division terminal at Austin. At the same time the coal shed, water tank and sand house were razed.



The 1004 began life as a class B-4 4-6-0 (Baldwin, 1901). It was rebuilt at the Milwaukee Shops in 1920 and emerged as No. 2604, a class G-8 and received the current number in 1938. The 1004 holds the distinction of being the last active steam locomotive on the Milwaukee. It was steamed up to handle the Austin-La Crosse passenger train (Nos. 158 and 157) on March 16, 1957. A month later it was retired from active service and soon thereafter placed on display at the Mower County Fairgrounds in Austin. (Davidson Photo)



SD7 No. 2206 was brand new branch line power in 1953 when this photo was taken at Austin. Note the use of the old style logo on the cab. Converting to diesel power.

DIVISION CHANGES

On October 28, 1956, the I&SM Division was changed to Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota with 1,646 miles of railroad in operation, indicative of the strides made possible by improved motive power, communication and other modernizations. The number of divisions would be reduced from 16 to 15.

The cost of conversion to diesel power was considered to be more than offset in view of the longer and faster trains with less need for servicing, resulting in longer divisions and faster, more direct, more centralized dispatching.

CENTRALIZED TRAFFIC CONTROL

In the fall of 1961 Centralized Traffic Control came to Austin, a system operated from the division dispatcher's office whereby one operator can track train movements, can signal train crews to back up, take a passing track, etc., and even throw a switch by means of an electronically operated board. This automation eliminated the station at Ramsey, about a mile north of Austin, where a custodian had been on hand to throw switches manually. Centralized Traffic Control is commonly known as CTC.

By 1975 there remained 8 divisions—the IM&D was eliminated and became the Minnesota Dakota Division headquartered in Minneapolis.

On December 19, 1977 the Milwaukee Road filed bankruptcy. Subsequently, there were any number of line abandonments and force reductions in the reorganization effort.

On January 1, 1983 the remaining 3 divisions were reorganized and became 2 divisions—Northern and Southern, and Austin became part of the Northern Division headquartered at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

RAILROAD PERSONALITIES

There is an intangible something about a railroad which is appealing to just about everyone. Once you are under its spell, you join the ranks of many, none of whom can define the peculiar magic of that restless, indomit-

able locomotive, the whine of the engine, the shriek of the whistle and the smell of the shops. It's a sort of malady for which there is no known cure.

THE KELLYS

The Kelly family of Austin might be able to shed some light on the subject. Eugene Kelly, a third generation railroader, and recently retired Yardmaster at Austin, is one of three brothers who made railroading their lifetime career. They are sons of Roy Kelly, who worked for the railroad for 53 years and 8 months as a conductor and served in that capacity on the last passenger train out of Austin. He has been retired for nearly twenty years. Roy Kelly died in November, 1983, at 90 years of age.

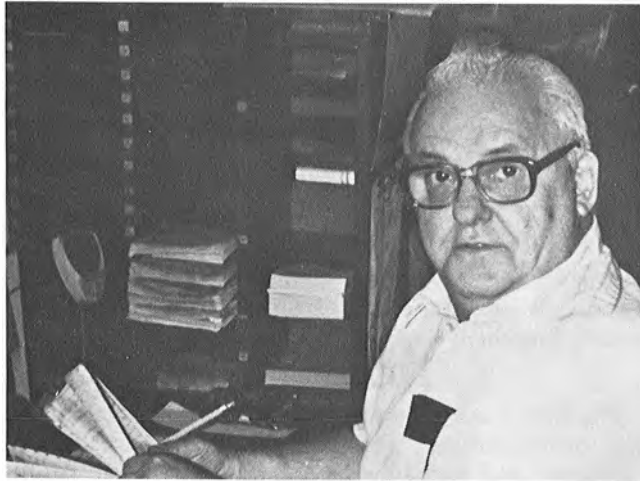


Roy Kelly employed with Milwaukee Railroad for 53 years, 8 mos.

Eugene, more commonly known as "Lefty," was Yardmaster at Austin for 17 years, and worked before that as a switchman. His brother, Claude, worked for the Milwaukee for 44 years as Unloading Dock Chief Clerk and as a switchman. Another brother, Kenneth, worked



Five Brothers Employed at Milwaukee R.R.
 Left to right: Richard, Jerry, Gene, Ken and Claude Kelly



Gene Kelly retired recently

for the railroad for 25 years as a switchman, and retired due to ill health.

It was not unusual for the three brothers to work on

the same 3 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. switch crew. At one time there would be found a Kelly working on the railroad 24 hours of the day, seven days a week.

Two other brothers, Jerald and Richard, worked for the railroad briefly—Jerry for about 5 years before going to Hormels and Dick for several years on the loading dock before going to work as a postman.

Lefty remembers the time when it was an ordinary event for the Hormel Company to ship out 100 carloads of meat, hides and lard in a single day. Shipments were made twice a day—on the noon train out to Chicago and again in late afternoon. Lefty has long been a champion of sports and has coached a boys baseball team for several years—and winners they are!

EARLLONG

Earl E. Long, who began his railroad career as a Roadmaster at Austin in 1946 brought his son, Larry, up in the true railroad tradition. Now an Assistant Vice President of the Executive Department in Chicago Corporate office, Larry had his early training in Austin as a locomotive fireman. Earl and his wife, Leone, are retired and for the most part make their home in Salem, Oregon.

When the Milwaukee Road donated steam locomotive 1004 to the railroad museum at the Mower County Fairgrounds, which is across town on the southwest area of Austin, Roadmaster Long directed the movement from the roundhouse out along the streets. There were problems extending the track and navigating sharp corners, and an air compressor was used instead of steam to propel the engine as it moved forward toward the fairgrounds. The Austin Daily Herald covered the event and published a picture with the article.

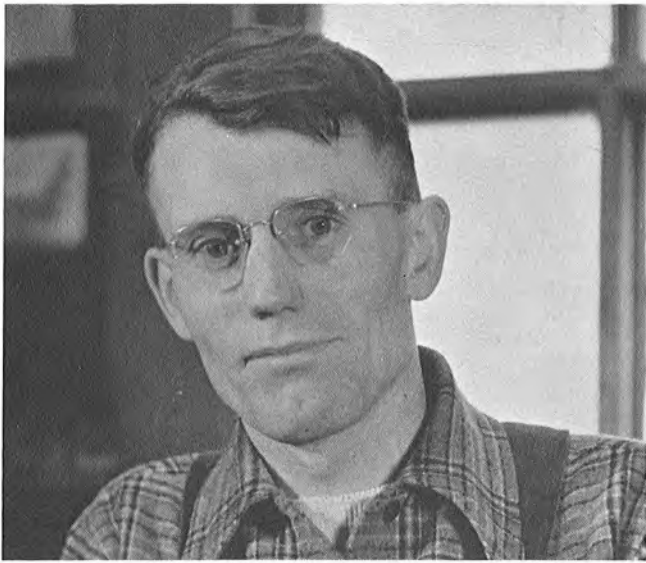
SOME OF THE RAILROAD VETERANS IN 1948-49



Boomer Camhern, Andrew Erickson and Butch Thompson in November, 1948.



In November of 1928 this revised trademark replaced the one adopted earlier in the same year. The word "St. Paul" was straightened and a curve was put in the "Pacific."



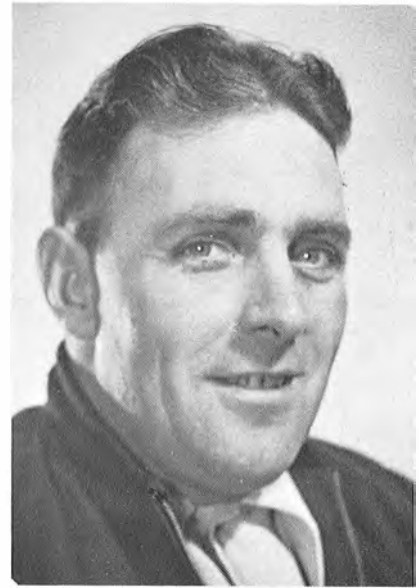
Ed Carroll - 1949



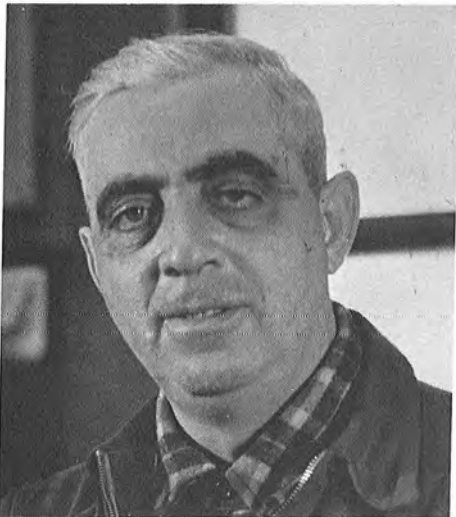
Matt Darr - 1949



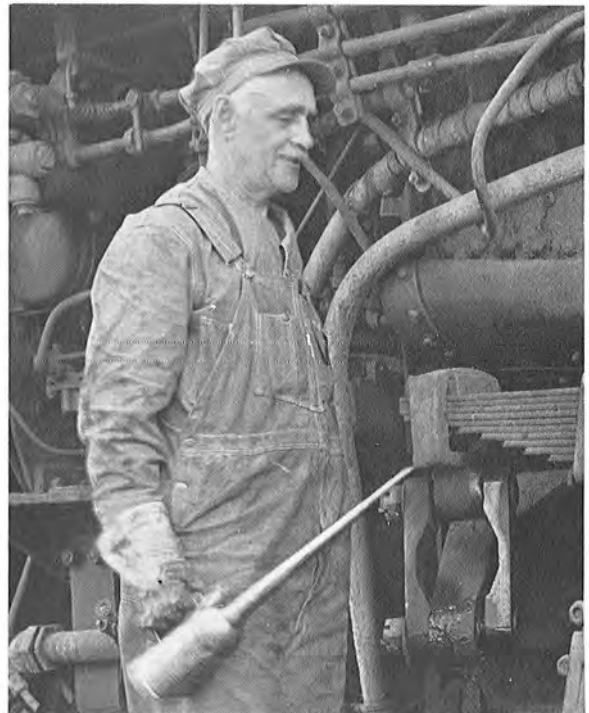
Roy Harrington—1950-51—was a tough winter.



Mike Jones - 1949



C. M. Hogan - 1949



Peter Pauley - 1949

RICHARD FAIRFIELD

Richard Fairfield, who was Assistant Superintendent at Austin in the late forties and who died while employed in the Twin Cities as Superintendent, will be remembered by Austin golf enthusiasts because of the Dick Fairfield trophy; an honorary highest award at the annual golf tournament held at the Ramsey Golf Course. This event is orchestrated each year by W. J. (Bill) Cassidy, formerly Signals & Communications supervisor at Austin, with the assistance of a committee of railroad people.



Curtiss E. Crippen, upon assuming the presidency of the railroad, looks over a familiar map.

CURTISS CRIPPIN

Another local son, Curtiss E. Crippen, began his career in the Austin area and eventually became President of the Milwaukee Road. Born and educated in Austin, he and his brother, Donald, were active in scouting, played in the scout band, and both were Eagle Scouts.

His first employment on the Milwaukee Road was with line construction work at Hollandale during summer vacation from the University of Minnesota. He worked in Austin as an engineer for about a year. He then advanced in various locations until 1966 when he became President. Since retirement, Mr. Crippen and his wife continue to live in suburban Chicago.

F. F. HORNIG

A Milwaukee employee who was well known in Austin and on the territory who remained in Austin after retirement is F. F. Hornig, Division Engineer at Austin for thirteen years. He came to Austin in October of 1957 when they established the Division Engineer's office here and had the responsibility of trackage from LaCrosse to Rapid City, involving administration of the Maintenance of Way forces and also involved problems such as derailments, washouts and snow fighting.

After retirement, Mr. Hornig worked for some time for an outside engineering firm and enjoys a volunteer job of delivering hot meals to shut-ins—continuing his always active life.

* * *

The Milwaukee Road has played a starring role in the lives of many local families, and while some of Austin's people have attained special relationships with the road, all of them have contributed to the making of an especially close work and social group within society—a microcosm—a special breed of people.

THE SCENARIO TODAY

The Milwaukee Road is the remaining railroad in Mower County providing service. Although lines and forces have been greatly reduced, there remains a business office and an agent at Austin, as well as two clerks, a roadmaster and fifteen train and enginemen.

Of the two divisions which have evolved as a result of the reductions, the Northern and the Southern, Austin is part of the Northern Division which extends from the east-west Marquette to Sheldon line northward as far as Duluth and eastward to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which is headquarters for the entire Northern Division.

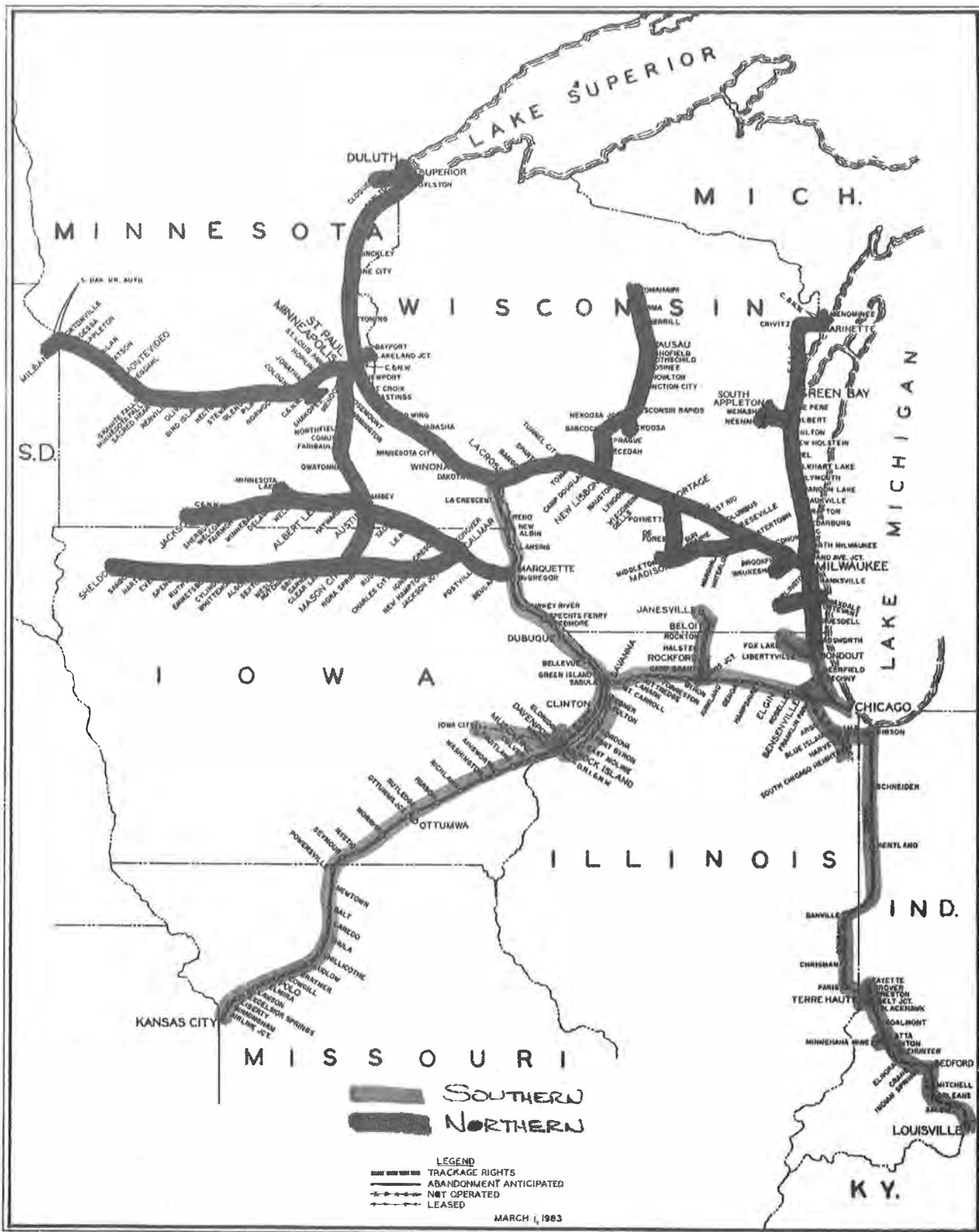
It is our belief that in the writing of a history, it should be remembered that history is not only yesterday, but it is also today—and every day in the future as it becomes yesterday.

The Milwaukee Road has come a long way since those early pioneers—changes are still coming rapidly, maybe more rapidly than any time in the history of civilization. Our present day technology in all fields has resulted in a dazzling computerized age—one in which railroads are finding a place of survival, not only survival, but improvement in the area the Milwaukee does best—service to the shipping public.

Still, heading out as pioneers, the Milwaukee Road survived most recently a bankruptcy which was publicly declared on December 19, 1977, and a reorganization resulting in a drastic reduction of lines and forces. Southern Minnesota has felt its impact as distinctly as all surviving lines. The reduction in service resulted in anxiety and dismay among shippers, particularly grain



Worthington L. Smith, President Milwaukee Road, speaking. On the left is U.S. Senator Dave Durenburger and on the right is Forrest Mariner, Pioneerland Shippers Assn., at Jackson, MN line rehabilitation celebration. October 14, 1982.



Routes of the Milwaukee Road in 1983

shippers. But, under the tireless leadership of shippers and industry, and with a banding together, the development of a core to finance line upgrading resulted in a triumph for shippers and the railroad, too.

A good example of what happened at Austin, and also on the Minneapolis to Ortonville line, is the celebration which took place in Austin and at Jackson, Minnesota on October 14, 1982 upon the completion of line rehabilitation.

REORGANIZATION REDUCES LOCAL STAFF

The Division Manager for the Minnesota Dakota Division was B. J. McCanna. Headquarters were in the beautiful old depot building located downtown on 3rd

Avenue and Washington. Under gradual changes in reorganization and the reduction to two divisions instead of three, the Minneapolis depot was sold and in August of 1983 the last remnant of office force was moved to new headquarters in the northwest building at St. Paul.

At Austin, after the division change of 1975, staff consisted mainly of a roadmaster, time revisors, dispatchers and clerks. Time revising went to Minneapolis, as well as dispatching, and the brick building, originally constructed with a flat roof with a view to eventually adding a second floor of office space, was vacated and put up for sale. Remaining staff moved across the tracks to a small rented building.



Superintendent B. J. McCanna attends a retirement party for Operating Department personnel. Retirees include: L. Quick, G. Jorgenson, E. Wagner, R. Hodges, R. Conroy, D. Meixner, R. Hilary, and N. Kelly.

END OF AN ERA

A year later, on December 1, 1983, service on the Austin to Calmar Line came to an end. To quote an employee at Aberdeen, South Dakota, upon the travail of lines west cut off in 1981, "Sic transit gloria mundo"—thus passes the glory of the world—certainly reflecting something of that feeling with the reduction of service, closing of stations, removing of lines and subsequent loss of employees. Particularly, now, Austin is witness to the ending of what was so laboriously attained and joyfully welcomed on that September day, 1867.

WRITER'S COMMENTS

It has been my rare privilege to attempt a recording of the history made by the many railroad personalities of the Milwaukee Road in Mower County from its beginning to our present day.

It is not done without thought for the responsibility of this writing or the inclusion or unintentional omission of facts or personality. For any that may be felt, I sincerely ask your forbearance.

For the joy of putting this history together, and with acknowledgement to the Ruler of the Universe and the guide of pioneers everywhere, my gratitude.

Kemma Johnson



A black and white border was put around the trademark in September of 1929. According to original instructions, which are followed today, the black and white border lines should each be the same width as the upright lines of the "U" in the word "Milwaukee."



This "Running Indian" trademark made its appearance in advertisements for the railroad's Hiawatha passenger service in the 1950s and '60s.



The last change came on Feb. 2, 1953, when the railroad's popular nickname was made part of the official trademark. The proportions of the sides of the red rectangle are 5 to 7 and the trademark is properly displayed when the word "Milwaukee" is horizontal.

THE HISTORY OF THE MOWER COUNTY CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS 1917-1983

(by *Opal W. Rabideau, Executive Director*)



Mower County Chapter, American Red Cross Headquarters Building, 305 NW 4 Avenue, Austin, Minnesota, completed in October of 1973 and dedicated on May 17, 1974.

The Mower County Chapter, American Red Cross, was founded on June 12, 1917, and chartered on July 3, 1917. Members of the Austin Floral Club were instrumental in the formation of the chapter, enlisting the aid of the Art and Travel Club, and business and professional community leaders.

Officers named were Z. T. F. Runner, Chapter chairman; C. F. Cook, Vice-Chairman; Miss Anna G. Merrick, secretary; and Everett C. Banfield, treasurer. Other charter members of the Board of Directors included Mrs. W. H. Albertson, Mrs. A. W. Allen, George Anderson, Hon. John H. Anderson (Mayor of Austin), Mrs. H. A. Avery, L. D. Baird, Mrs. John T. Boylan (President of the Austin Floral Club), Mrs. G. J. Butzke (who later served for 20 years as treasurer after her appointment in 1929), E. C. Campbell, Judge S. D. Catherwood, Mrs. C. A. Davison, E. M. Doane, J. J. Furlong, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Hare, Mrs. C. A. Hegge, Mrs. Royal S. Holmes, Mrs. George A. Hormel, J. N. Nichol森, J. E. Ober, Mrs. O. W. O'Berg, Mrs. P. A. Reilly, J. Z. Rogers, E. G. Rutherford, H. W. Schleuder, John H. Skinner, Mrs. George Sutton, W. W. Walker, Mrs. Henry Weber, Col. & Mrs. C. L. West, Miss Ethel Wold, Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Wright.

The original organization was an Austin Chapter with fourteen county branches. At the close of World War I, the name was changed to the Mower County Chapter with headquarters in the Baird Building, 110 E. Water Street (now NE 4 Avenue). Over the years the chapter was given space in the Buttrey Building, above Decker Hardware, and the Mower County Courthouse, until

October of 1973, when the Red Cross Headquarters Building, 305 NW 4 Avenue, was completed. Mr. George M. Elsey, President of the American Red Cross, was the keynote speaker at the dedication of the chapter's first permanent headquarters on May 17, 1974. The building was made possible by a bequest to the National Red Cross from the Marion S. Jenks Estate and it is maintained by a fund established by Miss Gertrude S. Banfield, Miss Helen S. Banfield and the Hormel Foundation. The principal remains in perpetuity with only the interest to be spent on building repair and maintenance.

Five days after its founding, the chapter launched its first "War Fund Drive," raising \$17,000. Among the women who organized volunteer corps to knit, sew, roll bandages and fill comfort kits were: Mrs. A. P. Mackie, Lansing, who volunteered for 55 years; Miss Anne Elizabeth Price, LeRoy; and Mrs. Fred TenEyck, Austin. Others who were active included Mrs. C. S. Ashton, Mrs. W. D. Bennett, Mrs. R. P. Crane, Mrs. George A. Hormel, Mrs. Archie Lane, Mrs. C. C. Leck, Miss Esther Sheedy, Mrs. Guy Wold and many others.

Funds for supporting the work of the Red Cross in the first two years of World War I were raised in a variety of ways and totaled \$112,000. Mrs. George A. Hormel organized teas with those attending contributing to the Red Cross in the amount of \$1,000. The Girl Scouts raised money and the College Girls Red Cross Unit from the University of Southern Minnesota held fund raising events. The Forty Club, whose members gave up dancing for a year, contributed their membership fees, and the Happy Hour Club of District 101 raised chickens and

sold them at auction contributing the proceeds to the Red Cross.

In the fall of 1918, forest fires raged in Northern Minnesota leaving hundreds of people homeless. The chapter responded promptly to this disaster, shipping several freight cars of clothing. Mr. Baltz Capretz donated the use of his trucks, which he loaded and unloaded and hauled for shipping almost entirely by himself.

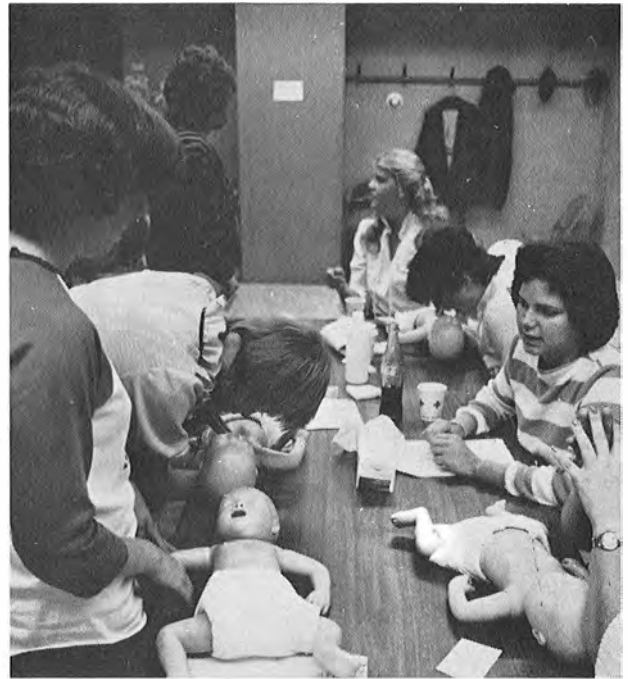
The chapter organized a Junior Red Cross in January, 1919, throughout the county schools, assisted by teachers Martha Carberry (Mrs. Frank Kearns), Mary S. Cotter, Eunice Rice, Louise Smith and Edith Vest. The students made hospital booklets, mouth swabs, hot water bottle covers, comfort kits for soldiers, knitted and made squares for afghans for wheelchair patients, and provided toys to be distributed in disaster areas. Miss Ella Marie Lausen served for many years as Junior Red Cross Chairman as did Miss Rachel Anderson. Mrs. Ray Wescott is the present chairman.

Also in 1919, the Board of Directors voted to hire a county nurse and provide her "with everything essential to her work, including an automobile." Between World Wars I and II, the chapter concentrated its efforts primarily on health programs. Some of these Red Cross county nurses mentioned in old records were Miss Diederich, Mrs. Helen McGillvray-Boday, Frances Michie, Mrs. Marie Rettig-Coffman, Miss Deebach and Suzanne Rademacher. Among others who assisted the County Nurse Program were James Morrow, M. D., Chester Sheedy, M.D., Miss Irene Hart, Helen Drost-Loomer, Leota Crilley-Reinartz, Mrs. Lydia Schneider and Miss Edith Vest.

The chapter sponsored the County Nurse Program until the mid-thirties, at which time the government appropriated money to finance the public health program. However, the chapter continued to contribute \$750.00 annually to the County Nurse Program for remedial help for small children until 1943. In other health services, the chapter provided medical and dental aid to children from low-income families who were not welfare clients; sponsored classes in home hygiene and care of the ill.

Swimming, Lifesaving and First Aid Classes were initiated in the thirties. There are no records of the First Aid Instructors, but in Lifesaving and Swimming Classes, active instructors named were: Dr. Greene, Henry Oots, Erling Runquist and Robert L. Smith. Later records list Duane A. Rasmussen as having served as Water Safety Chairman from 1956 to 1964. During those years Emmett Phifer, Carl Johnson and Norman M. Sollie were First Aid Chairmen, preceded by Emerson Cady, Earl Blowers and Marvin Brill.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was added to the chapter's Safety Service Courses in 1976 through the efforts of Mr. Sollie. A Rotarian, Sollie convinced the Austin Rotary Club of the need for recording manikins before teaching the course could become a reality. The Rotary began what has become an annual affair, the chicken and corn dinner in support of the program. The Hormel Foundation purchased the first recording manikin to kick-off the Rotary Project. Gerald G. Dimit and Richard C. Guckeen, Safety Services Co-Chairmen,



Students are learning infant life support techniques in a Red Cross Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Class. Classes in CPR and First Aid are taught by volunteer instructors at the Red Cross Headquarters Building September through May.

along with 92 other First Aid and CPR Instructors, teach each year from September through May, giving hundreds of volunteers hours in the interest of personal safety.

Service to Military Families and Veterans case records begin with World War II. Rodney A. Dunnette recorded his experiences while serving as chairman from late 1940 until October 1944. He paid tribute to the many volunteers who assisted him in contacting servicemen's families and assisting with their needs: J. E. Erickson, Waltham; N. W. Fedson, Lyle; J. W. Heydt, Sergeant; H. G. Hill, Brownsdale; Mr. Lagervall, Taopi; George Reppe, Grand Meadow; Joe Roy, LeRoy; F. F. Struck, Rose Creek; Albert Temanson, Grand Meadow; N. V. Torgerson, Adams. From Austin: Mrs. Ernest Anderson, George Anderson, Clarence Burgeson, Mrs. Rose Butzke (who was also treasurer for 20 years, beginning in 1929), Ben Huseby, Paul Knopf, Miss Matti Lang (Dunnette's secretary who worked evenings and weekends as a volunteer), Mrs. R. Norman Miller, Mrs. O. W. O'Berg, Mrs. Mable Robinson, Marion Sherman, Paul Sommers, Mrs. Stanley Stephenson, Mrs. Fred TenEyck and Mrs. Bess Terry. Philip Richardson has served as chairman since 1947.

The kinds of services caseworkers perform include: sending rapid communication emergency messages by telephone to the Red Cross Telecommunications center (AMCROSS) in Washington, D.C., to be relayed by military wire to Red Cross Station Directors overseas and to ships at sea. Red Cross does not have Station Directors aboard ships and these messages are sent directly to ship's captains. When the request for an emergency

message pertains to a serviceman stationed within the United States, the chapter contacts by telephone the Station Director at the serviceman's base. Emergency messages include births, deaths, and serious illnesses of immediate family members; health and welfare inquiries on servicemen who have not communicated with their families for some time and who normally have a weekly writing pattern; transmittal of funds from family to serviceman; and in any situation of stress for servicemen or their families. Messages are also initiated by Station Directors on behalf of servicemen or service families living on base. The Station Director contacts the chapter by the same telecommunications network as the chapter used in contacting him. Red Cross provides verified information that assists the military authorities in determining leave decisions. It is important to remember that Red Cross can neither grant nor refuse a leave; only the military has that authority.

Mrs. Ernest Anderson was appointed Dunnette's successor and hired as the chapter's first professional staff member. She resigned in October, 1949. Chapter executives who followed her were: Mrs. Stanley Stephenson, resigned May 1954; Mrs. Russell Thompson, resigned July 1955; Mrs. Ruth Ramsey, resigned December 1957; Mrs. Edna Riskedahl, resigned June 1960; Mrs. Fred Kee, resigned due to ill health February 1961; Mrs. E. Douglas Brigham (Chambers), released to National Disaster Reserve Duty and resigned in 1965; Mrs. George H. Rabideau, February 1965 to the present.

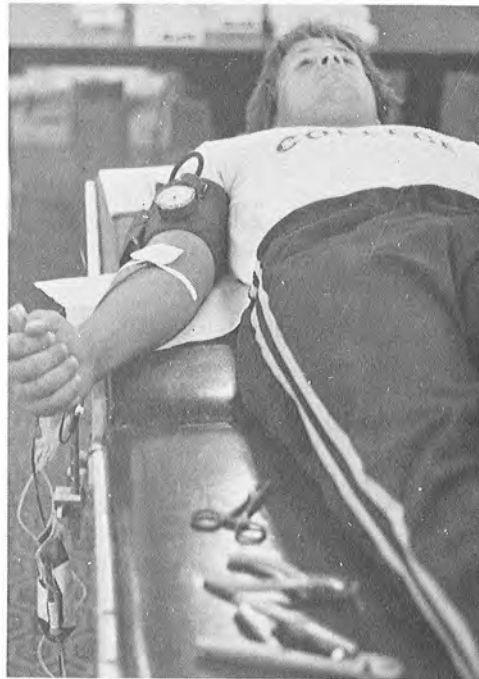
Disaster Services assist county families who are burned out with the immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter. Ladies of Holy Cross and St. John's Lutheran Churches provide quilts and the Dorcas Society of the Seventh Day Adventist Church contributes sheets, blankets, pillows and layettes for the victims of local



One of the five mobile vans used in the 1978 flooding to deliver meals three times a day to disaster victims and clean-up workers. A fixed feeding station was located in the Austin High School Building shown, where all food was prepared by the cafeteria staff serving as Red Cross volunteers.

disasters. Following the 1978 floods in Austin and Mower County the National Red Cross sent caseworkers, five vans to distribute meals, cleaning supplies and comfort kits; and disbursed \$66,402.00 in direct relief to

the victims. Disaster assistance is not to be repaid, and no one is ever charged for any assistance he receives. Disaster Chairmen were not recorded until 1948, with Miss Gertrude S. Banfield serving until 1951, followed by Chester Ullman, Jack McGrew, Darwin Gray, Erling Runquist, Ernest Diederich, Clarence Smith, Melvin Haldorson, Orlin Larson, L. Clark Tollefson, Arthur Scherer, L. D. Howells, James Gable, and the present chairman, James H. Grunewald serving since 1978.



Jim Ingersoll, shown donating blood at a Red Cross Bloodmobile operation, is one of hundreds of students who faithfully give blood to ensure that blood will always be available to Mower County residents when needed. In the fiscal year 1982-83, 1,098 volunteer donors provided 1,897 units of blood in three bloodmobile visits to cover the blood requirements of the 40,390 people who live in Mower County, according to the 1980 official census figures.

The St. Paul Regional Red Cross Blood Center was established in January, 1949. The chapter's Blood Services were inaugurated with the first bloodmobile visit to Austin in February, 1949. Residency in Mower County is the only requirement for receiving blood at no cost for the blood itself, because of the chapter's affiliation with the Blood Center. In three visits yearly, the bloodmobile collects approximately 2,000 units. This amount is also required each year by Mower County residents.

Mrs. Oliver Nasby was appointed Blood Services Chairman in 1949 and served the fiscal 49-50; Mrs. Clifford W. Hildreth, 50-51; Mrs. Thomas M. Seery, 51-52 through 53-54; Mrs. K. K. McMillan, 54-55 through 56-57; Mrs. Harold J. Lamon, 57-58 through 65-66; Mrs. Christy Hansen, 66-67; Mrs. Harry Spahn, 67-68 through 69-70; Mrs. Ray Wescott, 70-71 through 72-73; Mrs. Harold J. Lamon, 73-74 through 77-78; Mrs. James D. Ingersoll, 78-79 through 80-81; Mrs. James D. Ingersoll and Mrs. Thomas M. Seery, Co-chairmen, 81-82 to the present.



First Aid Station at the Mower County Fairgrounds, where each year during the Fair minor cuts and bruises are treated with tender loving care by Red Cross volunteer nurses and Safety Services Instructors.

Nursing Services today involve staffing the Bloodmobile operation, First Aid Station at the Mower County Fair, Immunization and Crippled Children's Clinics, Blood Pressure Screening, teaching First Aid and CPR, and responding to other community organizations' requests for volunteer nurses. Mrs. Earl H. Holdgrafer and Mrs. Omer M. Wangen are Co-chairmen of Nursing Services, and Fred H. Bogott, M.D. is Medical Advisor.

The "I'm O.K." Program was inaugurated in January, 1975, for residents of Twin Towers and later provided for the residents of Rose Haven, Rose Creek; Grand View Apartments, Grand Meadow; St. Marks Apartments, and Pickett Place. A joint venture of Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and the Mower County Chapter, the purpose of the door hangers is to bring an otherwise undetected problem to the attention of others who can help. Door hangers are placed on all door knobs at a specific hour and removed at a designated time, both determined by the residents as a group. If one is not out or removed by the appointed time, a floor monitor checks. A door hanger insert supplies identifying health



Mrs. Robert Bateman, Mrs. William J. Nierengarten, Mrs. Victor Himmler, Mrs. Esther Hildreth, and Mrs. R. Norman Miller, St. Olaf Hospital Volunteers, who also volunteer in many other Red Cross services. Collectively they have given 173 years and 26,551 hours of community service.

information, name and phone of physician, and whom to notify in case of emergency.

Red Cross Volunteers serve at the information desk, St. Olaf Hospital, Mrs. Larry Daigneau, Chairman; Hospital Floors Patient Service, Mrs. Victor Himmler, Chairman; Staff Aides, Mrs. Robert A. Bateman, Chairman; Meadow Manor Nursing Home, Grand Meadow, Mrs. Francis Peterson and Mrs. Alvin Skaran, Co-chairmen; Adams Health Care Center, Mrs. Richard C. Knight, Chairman.

There are few records available between 1920 and 1930, and none listing chapter chairmen. Z. T. F. Runner served as chapter chairman for one year and was succeeded by the following gentlemen: C. F. Cook, O. W. O'Berg, and A. C. Richardson (who served one year terms); Rollin C. Alderson, 1932-34; Rev. J. S. Morgan, 1934-35 (Rev. Morgan was transferred to another parish and was replaced by Bernard Kough who finished out his term); Jacob Herzog, 1935-36 (Mr. Herzog resigned as his work kept him out of town and was replaced by J. J. Morrow, M.D.); George Anderson and Paul Knopf, one year terms; Marian Sherman, 1943-45; Ben Huseby, 1945-47; George Reppe, 1947-50; William P. Bennett and Glenn Kelley, one year terms; Burt Plehal, 1952-54; Merlin Vanderwege 1954-56; Emmett Phifer, 1956-58; Gene McLaughlin, 1958-61; L. E. Wiersig, 1961-63; A. V. Highum, 1963-66; Donald J. Sandeen, 1966-69; Philip Richardson, 1969-71; Joseph M. Collins, 1971-76; A. Daniel Miller, 1976-81; Chester L. Cottingham, 1981-83; and I. J. Holton, 1983 to present.

Today the county is represented by a 50-member Board of Directors. The officers for the fiscal year 1983-84 are: I. J. Holton, Chapter Chairman (Finance & Personnel Committee, Planned Giving Committee); Robert A. Morgan, D.D., Executive Vice-Chairman (Finance & Personnel Committee, Building Screening & Scheduling Committee); Mrs. William J. Nierengarten, 2nd Vice-chairman, (Office Staff Aide, Service to Military Families Caseworker, Speakers Bureau, member of original class of Gray Ladies, Territorial Field Service Chairman of Volunteers, Member of Territorial Council, Territorial Generalist, served on Nominating Committee selecting members of the National Board of Governors, Member Chapter Planning Committee); Miss Mary Yocum, Recording Secretary (Blood Services Volunteer); Erle G. Jorgensen, Treasurer (Building Superintendent, Office Staff Aide, Blood Services Volunteer, Finance & Personnel Committee, Disaster Services Volunteer); and Mrs. George H. Rabideau, Executive Director (Ex-Of-ficio member all committees).

Additional members of the Executive Committee are Joseph M. Collins (Finance & Personnel Committee Chairman, Nominating Committee member); Chester L. Cottingham (Immediate past Chairman, Service to Military Families & Veterans Caseworker, Disaster Caseworker, Finance & Personnel Committee); Earl E. Hallum (Youth Services Chairman, Nominating Committee member, Territorial Council member); Mrs. James D. Ingersoll (Co-Chairman, Blood Services); A. Daniel Miller (Van Control Committee, Youth Services Committee, Speakers Bureau, First Aid & Cardiopul-

monary Resuscitation Instructor); Philip Richardson (Service to Military Families & Veteran Chairman, Veterans Administration Head Injury Study Interviewer); Donald J. Sandeen (Finance & Personnel Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Red Cross Representative on United Way Board of Directors, formerly Division Membership & Funds Chairman and former Member of the Division Council); Mrs. C. Edwin Schrafel (Planned Giving Committee Chairman and has, in her 57 years with the Red Cross, served on every committee); and Mrs. Frank Tomaschko (Office Staff Aide, Service to Military Families Caseworker, Chapter Planning Committee member, Territorial Field Service Volunteer Consultant in Service to Military Families and Veterans, Member Territorial Council, served as Chairman Division Council and Division Conference, Mid-western Field Office, St. Louis Advisory Council Member, and member of the 1984 National Convention Committee on Resolutions).

Other members of the Board of Directors from Austin are: Miss Lorna Bates (Hospital Volunteer); Fred H. Bogott, M.D. (Medical Advisor to the Nursing Services); Richard L. Crane (Alternate chapter representative on United Way Board of Directors); Miss Marguerite P. Daily—Honorary (Former chapter treasurer, office staff aide); Gerald G. Dimit (Co-chairman Safety Services, First aids and CPR Instructor, CPR Instructor Trainer, Van Control Chairman, Speakers Bureau); Mrs. L. L. Edwards (Chapter Planning Committee Member, Service to Military Families Caseworker); Robert M. Fitzgerald (First Aid & CPR Instructor, Chapter Disaster Services Committee Member, National Volunteer Disaster Services Specialist, Building & Grounds Committee Member); Harold A. Frederick (Building & Grounds Committee Chairman); James H. Grunewald (Disaster Services Chairman, Member of Van Control Committee); Richard C. Guckeen (Safety Services Co-chairman, First Aid and CPR Instructor, Speakers Bureau); A. V. Highum; Stuart H. Lane (Public Relations/Public Information Consultant, Nominating Committee); Miss Judy A. McDermott (Public Relations/Public Information Chairman); Mrs. Helen McMillan—Honorary; Mrs. R. Norman Miller (In her 44 years as a Red Cross volunteer, Aileen has served as Board Secretary, Chairman of Volunteers, Hospital Volunteer - member of first class trained as Gray Ladies, Chairman of Recognition); Raymond B. Ondov (Member Planned Giving Committee); Rev. Charles J. Quinn; Arthur Scherer; Richard Schlange; Norman M. Sollie (First Aid and CPR Instructor, Speakers Bureau); Mrs. Harry M. Spahn (Blood Services Committee Member, Hospital Volunteer); Mrs. Ray Wescott (Youth Services Chairman).

The following county members of the Board of Directors serve as liaison between the chapter and the areas they represent: Rodney J. Burrington, Grand Meadow (Service to Military Families & Veterans Caseworker, former CPR and First Aid Instructor, Disaster Preparedness Committee, Grand Meadow Fund Campaign Chairman); Mrs. Howard Curley, Grand Meadow Township (Fund Raising); Mrs. M. E. Halverson, Rose Creek

(Rose Creek Fund Campaign Chairman, Nominating Committee Chairman); Mrs. Earl Holdgrafer, Windom Township (Co-Chairman of Nursing Services, Blood Services, Volunteer R.N., former Chairman, Windom Township Red Cross Fund Campaigns); Mrs. Byron J. Huseby, Adams Township (was Fund Chairman prior to combined solicitations in the township); Douglas E. Hutchins, LeRoy (Member Buildings & Grounds Committee, First Aid and CPR Instructor, Disaster Preparedness Committee, and Service to Military Families and Veterans Caseworker); Mrs. Rudy Jech, Dexter and Dexter Township (Fund Campaign Chairman, St. Olaf Hospital Volunteer); Miss Ella Marie Lausen, Nevada Township (Formerly Red Cross Youth Chairman and member Nominating Committee); Mrs. Lee Littlefield, Elkton and Marshall Township (Fund Campaign Chairman, Elkton); Mrs. Harold Luecke, Lyle and Lyle Township (Volunteer R.N., Blood Services, Nursing Services, City of Lyle Fund Campaign Chairman); Mrs. James Osmundson, City of Adams (Fund Campaign Chairman, Adams Health Care Center Volunteer, Member Chapter Planning Committee); Mrs. Everett M. Rugg, Red Rock Township (Former Fund Campaign Chairman, Nursing Home Volunteer); Mrs. C. Edwin Schrafel, Austin Township; Mrs. Omer Wangen, Lansing and Lansing Township (Co-Chairman Nursing Services, Volunteer R.N., Blood Services, Mower County Fair First Aid Station); Mrs. Sanford Westin, Waltham and Sargeant Townships; Mrs. George E. Winn, Udolpho Township (Former Chairman of Volunteer Services, Blood Services Committee Member; Fund Campaign solicitor); and Mrs. Duane Wolgram, Frankford and Racine Townships.



Mrs. Cecile Wold and Mrs. Ida TenEyck, 50-year volunteers for the Mower County Chapter, meeting with "Duke" Hendrickson, American Red Cross Field Representative.

No history of the Mower County Chapter, American Red Cross, would be complete without special mention of the contributions made by Miss Gertrude S. Banfield, who served as a member of the Chapter Board of Directors from 1946-1967. During those years in addition to serving as a full-time office volunteer; Gertrude, a regis-

tered nurse, chaired Nursing Services, Disaster Preparedness, and Members and Funds Committees. She served on the Service to Military Families and Veterans Committee and as a caseworker, was a member of the Blood Services Committee, and Chapter Board Secretary.

Unfortunately, space does not permit a listing of the thousands of volunteers who have served since 1917, including the 1,000 presently serving countywide. These volunteers exemplify Gertrude Banfield's personal philosophy that "there is no greater satisfaction than being of service to others." It is they who have in the past, or are presently, responsible for the sustained excellence of service provided the residents of Mower County by the Mower County Chapter, American Red Cross.



Joseph M. Collins, former chapter chairman, shown presenting Robert Hays, Director, Austin Public Library, with a copy of the Centennial Issue, *History of the American Red Cross*.



I. J. Holton, Chapter Chairman, shown presenting Red Cross posters to Miss Ella Marie Lausen, Mower County Fair Board Secretary, for permanent display in the Historical Building.



Erle G. Jorgensen, Treasurer, standing beside a Centennial Display. Founded in 1881, the American Red Cross celebrated its 100 year anniversary with special events throughout 1981.

RAMSEY LADIES CLUB

by Ruth Knoble and Nancy Giovannetti

Ladies Club at Ramsey was organized about 1948. Before that, a few played golf together and brought sack lunches.

There were about 16 women when it started. Ethel Haase was the president and got things rolling. We grew and invited bridge players to join us. They would come for lunch and play in the afternoon.

We only had nine holes then. The golfers played nine holes and their score qualified them for the second nine. We put numbers in a hat and drew for foursomes. The ladies took turns serving on the lunch committee.

Blooming Prairie didn't have a course then. Ten or twelve ladies from Blooming would drive over and were members of our club until they got their own. We also

started inviting other clubs. Our prizes for guest days were things like vases, flowers, pretty dishes, etc.

We also had "two ball foursomes" with our husbands; followed by a potluck.

We now have close to a hundred members. Our president this year is Pearl Mauer. We have a 18 hole course, and Joanne Potter, the cook at Ramsey, serves all the meals.

We have Guest Days that draw about 100 people from as far away as St. Paul. We have Club Tournaments, Mother-Daughter Tournaments and Grandmother Tournaments.

Working ladies play on Monday nights, and call themselves Toiling Tillies.

MOWER COUNTY FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

A meeting was held at the Courthouse in Austin, September 16, 1885 to organize a Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. The new group was called to order by W. D. Medberry. R. Eckford acted as clerk.

The following persons were present: S. B. Woodsum, H. W. Lightly, M. W. Rogers, R. H. C. Dinsmoor, T. Varco, J. C. Hawkins, W. D. Medberry, E. S. Hoppin, R. Eckford, Daniel Williams, W. P. Hoppin, J. J. Furlong, J. A. Thompson, G. Seebach, A. Dickinson, C. H. Huntington, G. L. Case, J. S. Decker, Benjamin Wright, D. E. Loe, O. J. Bragen and Ole Finhart.

Elected as directors were: G. L. Case, Robert Eckford, H. W. Lightly, J. J. Furlong, G. Seebach, J. A. Thompson, Daniel Williams, Ole Finhart and E. S. Hoppin.

The name chosen for the association was the Austin Farmers Fire and Storm Mutual Insurance Company. G. L. Case was chosen as president, Robert Eckford as secretary and E. S. Hoppin as treasurer.

Only the townships of Austin, Windom, Lansing, Lyle, Dexter, Racine, Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley and Frankford were included in the company at the time of its organization. Farmers in those townships were the only ones eligible for insurance in the newly organized company. About two years later the entire county was included. In 1895, the east tier of townships in Freeborn County was added to our company.

Article 2 of the Corporation reads: "The business of the Corporation shall be the insurance of the members thereof against the loss or damage by fire, hail, lightning and storm."

In addition to those in attendance at the first meeting, the names of C. W. Shapely, D. Hagen, John Schroeder and John Frank were added to the list of names of incorporators.

In the original by-laws \$3,000 was the limit that could be written on one risk and no building could be insured for more than three-fourths of its value. Whenever a fire loss occurred the board would meet to assess the loss and an assessment would be sent out to the members to pay the loss. Windstorm and hail losses were assessed October 1st of each year.

The first loss paid by the company was to Thos. Malone who lost a four year old mare and sucking colt struck by lightning July 8, 1886. The amount paid was \$200.

By a unanimous vote, the hail and cyclone departments were discontinued by the company on May 20, 1891.

At the annual meeting in 1896, it was decided to insure country churches, schools and halls at two-thirds of their value, and charge one and one-third rate on these buildings.

At the meeting held May 21, 1900, J. J. Furlong made a report on his attendance at the Annual Convention of Township Mutual Insurance Companies held in St. Paul. He reported that after listening to the discussions at the convention he concluded that our company's methods were as good or better than those of other companies.

In February, 1901, Attorney Lafayette French was

hired to draw up new articles of incorporation and by-laws for the company. These were unanimously adopted as presented on May 20, 1901. Since that time only a few minor changes have been made in these articles of incorporation and by-laws.

The name of the company was changed from Austin Farmers Fire and Storm Mutual Insurance Company to the Mower County Farmers Fire and Lightning Mutual Insurance Company, a name it carried until 1957 when it was again changed to Mower County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

The territory in which the company could do business was enlarged to include all of Mower County and the townships of London, Oakland, Moscow and Newry in Freeborn County. Later the township of Westfield in Dodge County was added. In 1904 the townships of Vernon, Rock Dell, High Forest, Pleasant Grove and Orton in Olmsted County along with Sumner, Spring Valley, Bloomfield, Beaver, Jordon, Fillmore, Forestville and York Townships in Fillmore County and Blooming Prairie Township in Steele County were added to this list of territories.

The Minnesota Standard Policy was adopted on January 8, 1957 and used until they again adopted the 1960 revised Minnesota Standard Policy.

On October 30, 1957 it was decided to write insurance in villages up to the population stipulated by the State Insurance Commissioner, which was 2500.

In January, 1958, the first reinsurance program was negotiated with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, Iowa. A reinsurance program has been carried with them continuously. This has provided great stability to the association and security for its members, as well as allowing a much larger scope of operation and coverages.

In March, 1973, the company decided to provide package policies combining fire, wind and liability coverages to be handled out of the Mower County Farmers Mutual Office with combined billings coming from the same. The purpose of this was to make things more convenient for our insureds.

July 18, 1973 fire destroyed our adjoining businesses leaving our office at 224 2nd Avenue N.E. with severe smoke and water damage forcing us to find a new office. September 18, 1973 we moved to 509 East Oakland Avenue where we have remained since.

Now, in 1982, we have adopted the new easy-to-read Minnesota Standard Policy. We hope we will be able to serve our insureds with broader coverages. We have experienced good times and bad times, problems and competition, but through the efforts of able, honest and sincere officers and directors over the years, we have been successful.

In 1985 we will be celebrating our 100 years of continuous operation and service to the people of Mower County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

The present officers and directors of Mower County Farmers Mutual are: Stanley Gronseth, president; Byron J. Huseby, secretary; Clifford Christianson, assistant

secretary; Robert J. Murphy, treasurer; Kenneth Corson, assistant treasurer; Richard C. Baudler, Donald C. Haug and Norbert Schroeder. Helen J. Huseby, office

manager and Ann Bellrichard, office secretary. We are proud of our company, and we hope our insureds are too.

HISTORY OF INGVALSON EGGS

In the early 1950's, Neil Ingvalson owned 200 laying hens on his dairy farm ten miles north of Austin. His business of delivering processed eggs began by a request from an Austin grocery store that he fill in as their egg supplier until another could be found. A restaurant in Austin also asked for his services. To this day Ingvalson Eggs supplies both places with fresh AA eggs twice each week.

In the first years, a barn and another building were remodeled and converted from a dairy herd to laying hens. In 1956 a pole-type building, 40' x 140', was erected to hold 2,000 chickens. Automatic feeders and waterers were installed in both buildings to cut down on labor. Neil and his wife, Nina, had three children to help gather eggs. Neil's mother, Levena, and Nina, candled and cartoned eggs in the basement of the house for the growing number of stores and restaurants needing fresh eggs in the area. They used a table top six-case-an-hour grader. In 1964 a grading room was added to the chicken house to hold the twelve case "aquamagic" grader. This was the first grader that could candle, wash and size the eggs all in the same machine.

In 1968 a 33' x 224' building was erected on an adjoining farm for 9,600 birds. This was the first house in which hens were confined to cages. Later the pole building was converted to cages also. Hens in the new house were cared for by Neil's oldest son and daughter-in-law, Naven and Diane and later Neil's mother. Neil and Nina now had six children with three at home.

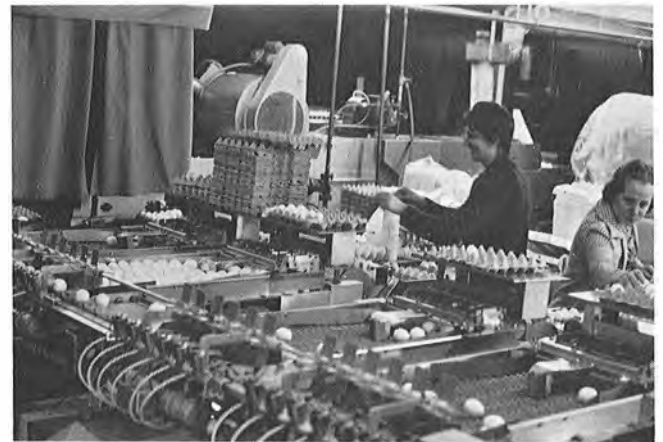
The first employees outside of the family were hired in 1969. In 1974 the grading room was remodeled to accommodate a thirty-five case Seymour Eggomatic grader. Two more employees were hired.

In 1973 Neil was selected by his fellow producers in District I to serve on the Minnesota Egg Promotion and Research Council. He served in this capacity until 1981.

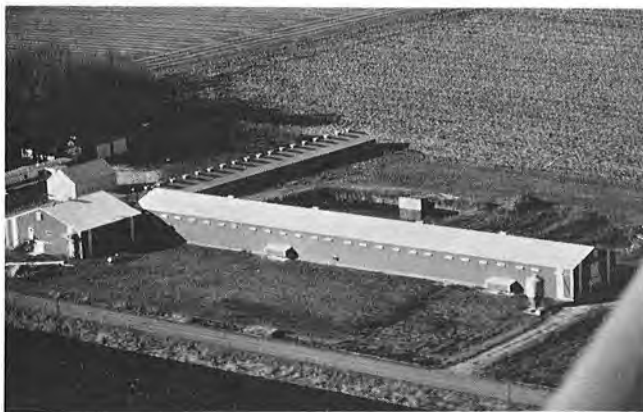
His daughter, Lisa, has continued as a member of that council.

In 1976, Lisa married Mark Wiese and they took over operating Ingvalson Eggs. They live on a farm east of the home place.

As the business increased, an 18,000 bird high-rise laying house was built and a 64' x 64' grading room added on the Wiese farm. By 1979 both of the older buildings were abandoned.



Photos show the cartoning of eggs from 80,000 birds



18,000 bird laying house and 64' x 64' grading room

Ingvalson Eggs presently cartons eggs for over seventy-five accounts within a sixty mile radius. They carton eggs from 80,000 birds; 18,000 of their own. Mark and an employee, Gary Kaplan, deliver eggs to stores, restaurants and institutions. Lisa supervises the cartoning. Both Mark and Lisa share bookkeeping tasks. Brent Lunde is the full time trouble shooter. The new seventy case Seymour Eggomatic grader is his prime responsibility.



Lisa and Mark Wiese Manage Ingvalson's Eggs

Retha Farrell manages the cartoning of eggs. Cheryl Williams, Catherine Andree and Gayle Gullickson help with candling and cartoning. Brad Braaten is in charge of maintenance and gathering eggs.

Ingvalson Eggs maintain the high standards that built the business. They also strive to provide good service to their customers. A state inspector routinely inspects the eggs at the packing plant and in the stores, to insure the customer a quality egg.

Visitors are welcome on cartoning days for tours. Call Ingvalson Eggs for the best time to come.

AUSTIN DENTAL SOCIETY

by T. S. Thompson, DDS

The Austin area dentists were first organized as the Mower County Dental Association November 1, 1910.

Charter members were Doctors H. A. Avery, A. M. Lewis, M. J. Hardy, C. G. Gillam, R. A. Barnitz, Fred L. Rayman, Fay W. Rayman, Austin; E. J. Van Bronkhorst, Grand Meadow; C. E. Bennett, Adams; and A. A. Lee, Lyle.

Local anesthetics (novocaine) were reportedly first used in southern Minnesota by Dr. C. G. Gillam, September, 1914.

Hypnotism was first used in dental services in June, 1913, by Dr. Fred Rayman, Sr. as taught by a Professor Kidso.

The association was reorganized in May, 1930 and since that time has been known as the Austin Dental Society.

School dental examinations for oral hygiene were initiated in October, 1930. November, 1935, the Henion Gas Machine for the Administration of Nitrous Oxide Analgesia and the Burton Diagnostic Light were introduced and demonstrated to society members.

After serving many years as the Austin Schools dentist, Dr. A. M. Lewis resigned in early 1940 and the school board appointed Dr. Fay Rayman as his replacement. Rayman resigned in 1945 and the position was discontinued.

The Society proposed a fluorine clinic for the Austin Schools, December, 1946. The Austin High School conducted classes (night) for training dental assistants in October, 1947.

January, 1951, the Society adopted a resolution for the fluoridation of the Austin Communal Water Supply. The resolution was sent to the Water and Light Board, County Board of Commissioners, and the Mower County Medical Society. Fluoridation of Austin city water began June, 1952.

A five year program of dental inspection of school children, grades K-10 was initiated May, 1952, to gather information for statistics on the anti-caries (decay) effect of fluoridation.

Sodium Fluoride was removed from the city water supply by referendum in 1956.

St. Olaf Hospital Staff privileges were officially granted on application by dentists who could certify their qualifications in 1958.

The air-driven high speed handpiece was introduced in 1958.

The Austin Dental Study Club was organized in 1969. This was the first dental organization to be accredited by the Minnesota Committee on Continuing Education. Charter members were Drs. Mistretta, Thompson, Mlinar, Behning, Schindler, Sitz, Schmitt, and Herrick.

The hospital dental emergency staff was organized by volunteer dentists in 1971, and in 1972 the Austin Dental Society registered with the Minnesota State Committee on continuing education.

Memberships have been accepted into the Austin Dental Society as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| B. T. Johnson - 1914 | C. W. Sandahl - 1949 |
| H. R. Fenton - 1914 | R. L. Downing - 1950 |
| F. P. Meany - 1916 | E. M. Behning - 1952 |
| M. E. Cook - 1919 | T. S. Thompson - 1952 |
| A. G. Patterson - 1920 | R. Huebner - 1955 |
| R. L. Bolton, Adams - 1923 | R. Krumholz - 1957 |
| R. A. Anderson - 1923 | F. Requa - 1957 |
| V. R. Cullen - 1923 | J. F. Sperry - 1958 |
| J. H. Pekarna - 1928 | D. D. Claussen - 1958 |
| R. Randall - 1930 | R. R. Dahl - 1958 |
| G. G. Ellis - 1932 | C. W. Schindler - 1963 |
| R. L. Lang - 1933 | N. Schmitt - 1966 |
| C. D. Sitz - 1936 | J. V. Herrick - 1967 |
| J. B. Price, Blooming Prairie-1934 | J. H. Nelson - 1972 |
| B. D. Betlach, Blooming Prairie-1934 | D. A. Elrod - 1974 |
| W. A. Brennan - 1932 | J. Sherwood - 1974 |
| G. Biederman - 1939 | S. Jenkins - 1976 |
| W. M. Leebens - 1939 | D. E. Bierne - 1979 |
| H. Swift - 1940 | H. Gibson - 1979 |
| O. F. Vandewalker, Grand Meadow - 1940 | D. W. Ryan - 1980 |
| P. Barth - 1945 | K. Amundson - 1981 |
| J. McGuinness - 1946 | R. Ogle - 1981 |
| J. Mistretta - 1946 | R. Gores - 1981 |
| A. J. Lee - 1946 | L. J. Kreuger - 1981 |
| F. L. Rayman, Jr. - 1948 | P. B. Green - 1981 |
| D. G. Mlinar - 1948 | K. S. Potach - 1982 |
| | D. P. Leonard - 1983 |
| | R. Nustad - 1983 |
| | G. Fortman - 1983 |

COUNTRY LIFE



Carroll R. Plager

For the past two years Carroll Plager has been enthusiastically studying the life and times of farmers in Mower County. He has enlisted the help of many of his friends in one objective: the gathering of information for a detailed story of Mower County agriculture.

Plager's approach to this task has been unusual. Not only has he prepared a record of farm life as it used to be, but he also shows how farms function in 1984.

There is one unique feature of this record of Mower County history. The man who tells the story has been a central figure in farm accomplishments here for 53 years.

Carroll Plager's personal story reached one of its climaxes this spring, on March 8, 1984. On that date he was inducted as a charter member of the Pork Industry

Hall of Fame at the American Pork Congress in Kansas City. He was given this honor "for a lifetime of dedication to the improvement of the pork industry. Carroll's career can best be categorized with these words, Leader, Judge, Innovator," read the citation.

The unusual part of this presentation was that the other three inductees to the Hall of Fame were two of Carroll Plager's brothers and a brother-in-law. His brothers, Russell and Wilbur, were inducted posthumously. Dr. James Hillier, a university educator from Stillwater, Oklahoma, is Carroll's brother-in-law. There will be others who will go into the Pork Industry Hall of Fame in future years, but the Plager family monopolized the first awards.

Plager was an employee of George A. Hormel and Co. for 40 years. As manager of the company's Livestock Extension Service, he initiated the National Barrow Show, and was its superintendent for 25 years.

In 1970 American Agricultural Editor's Association gave him their Distinguished Service Award as "the man largely responsible for bringing the meat type hog into reality."

All of these 53 years Plager has been with the Mower County Fair. In 1981 a new exhibition building at the Fairgrounds was dedicated in Plager's honor. He continues in 4H and other agricultural programs.

We are omitting details on the many awards and citations which have recognized Plager's brilliant career. In our estimation he is the frontrunner in agricultural achievement in Mower County and in the Upper Midwest.

THE OLD AND THE NEW STORY OF AGRICULTURE IN MOWER COUNTY

The typical settler who came to Mower County in the 1850s or 1860s began farming with a minimum of equipment. He had a wagon, a team of horses or a yoke of oxen, a plow, a harrow and hand tools such as pitchforks, scythes, grain cradles and flails. He dug a well by hand and usually found water within fifty feet. Water was drawn by bucket without a pump or windmill.

The Homestead Act of 1862 provided free land, yet the acreage available was reduced by railroad grants and grants to schools. Lands vacated by the Sioux and Winnebago Indians in southern Minnesota were exempted from the homestead and were sold at public auction.

Disasters plagued the farmers in the 1870s. The grasshopper plague wiped out crops, and prices for produce were falling.

New mechanical equipment became available during these years. Horse-drawn reapers, mowers, seed drills, hay rakes and threshing machines were available to the up-to-date farmer of the 1880s. Many farmers mortgaged their property for their purchases and were heavily in debt by the end of the decade.

By the 1890s farm prices were falling again. Improved transportation, storage and distribution created a world market, and the production from all these areas created a glut of grain and food products.

The early years of the twentieth century saw steady growth in agriculture and farm markets. Then came a major change for the farmer. Gasoline driven tractors began to replace the horse. By 1935 the readjustment was almost complete.

During this same period there was a revolution in organization and business methods. It was marked by the growth of marketing cooperatives and producer's associations. Farm parity and government regulations became a way of life on the farm.

Mechanization made farm life easier in a physical sense and also more complex. Larger machines required greater acreage to support the cost of their operation. Larger farms also reduced the farm population.

This trend continued to accelerate after World War II. Farming is now a technological business, taking advantage of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and ever larger machinery. Profits in livestock depend upon the use of vitamins, special feeds and controlled environments. There is a mini computer in many farm homes.

Mower County farmers, the old and the new, have had their part in each phase of the agricultural evolution.

EVOLUTION OF FARMING IN MOWER COUNTY

by Carroll Plager



Model Mower County Farm—1904

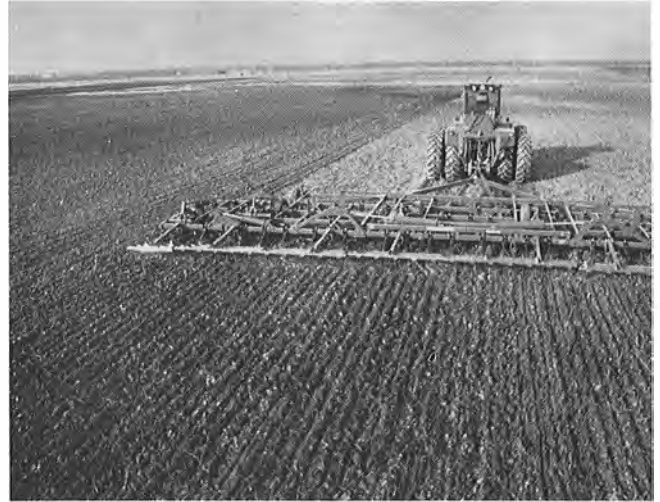
The Mower County farm of 1904 had traditional requirements for that era. Note the large two story home, with wrap-around porches, the windmill, the barn with doorway to the haymow. The horse and buggy is also gone now. The 1984 farm has two Harvestor silos which were not available in 1904.



Well Landscaped Farm—1984

Farming has changed from horsepower to tractor power. All of the jobs which were done by horses are now done by tractors. Many acres are soon ready for seeding with the modern equipment shown here.





It is difficult to say in which era the most improvement has been made, but the contrast here is sharp. The team of horses pulls a two row corn planter. The tractor pulls a 12 row planter. Some planters are twice as large as the one shown here.



The seeding of small grain and legumes has moved from the time when seed was thrown by hand to the drill seeder that does a uniform job over a large field in a relatively short period of time.

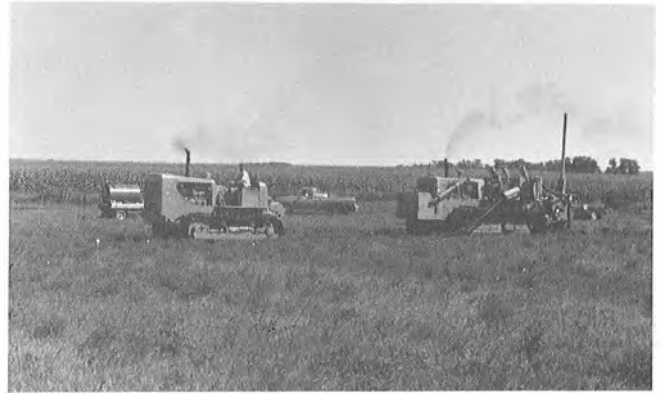


Corn cultivation has moved from the single horse cultivator, which did one side of a row, to the tractor with the multi-row cultivator, and finally doing it by plane without a machine of any kind coming into contact with the ground.



Tiling is an important means of preparing the ground for the growth of crops. As shown in the photo taken in 1913, it was originally done manually with a tile spade.

At the present time tiling is done with a machine aided by a laser beam. As many as 20,000 feet of tile can be laid in a single day.

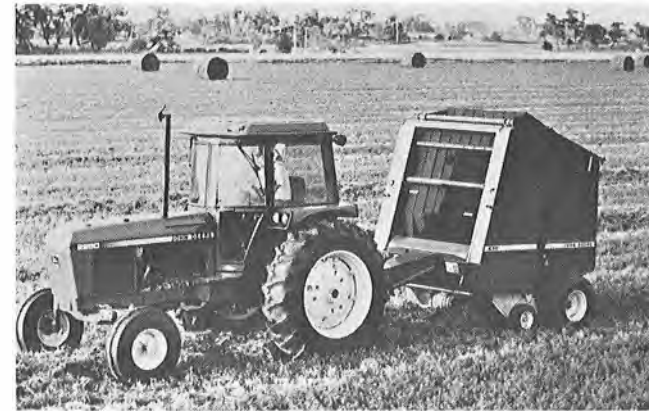
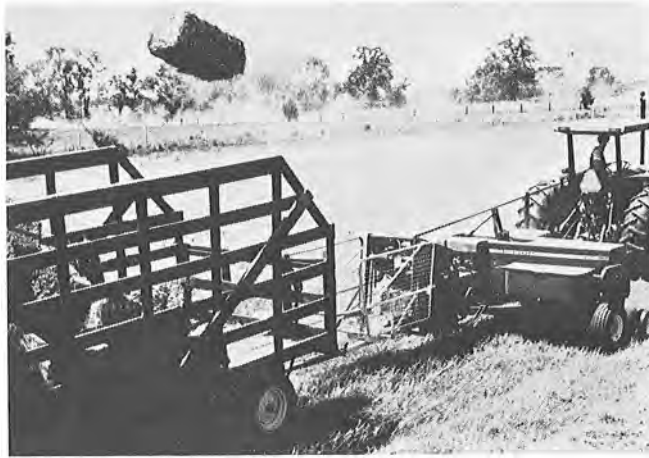


The handling of silage and manure has always required labor. Originally it was done with the pitchfork and now it is done with the scoop on the tractor.



The ole cliche, "for land's sake," is pictured above. Manure was formerly distributed by the horse drawn

manure spreader. Now the slurry from pits in the confinement lots is spread by mechanical equipment.



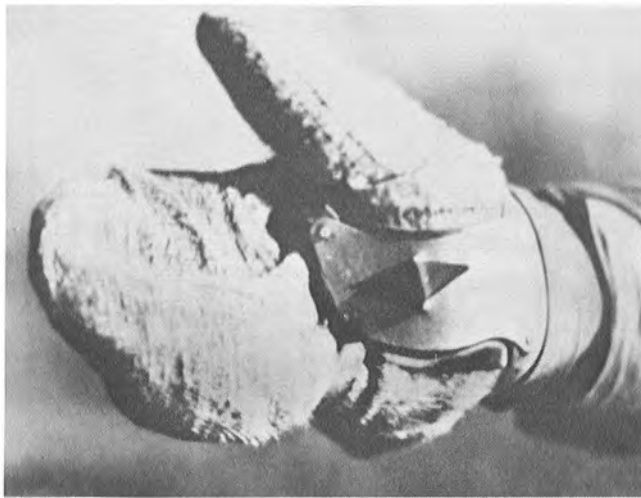
The hay crop has gone through many changes in procedure for harvesting.

We see the horse drawn mower, following the contour of the land. Then the man and his wife loading the hay, the wife driving the team and her husband bucking the loader.

Next the hay is transferred into the barn by the grapple fork. The single and double harpoon fork were commonly used and sometimes the sling.

Raking the hay is now a chore that can be done by the tractor. The lady is at the controls in the above photo.

Baling is a popular method of preparing the hay for storage now. In photo, middle right, the bale is being thrown in to the hayrack which is being pulled. Photo, lower right, is big baler which leaves large round bales in the field for movement to the feedlot at a later date.

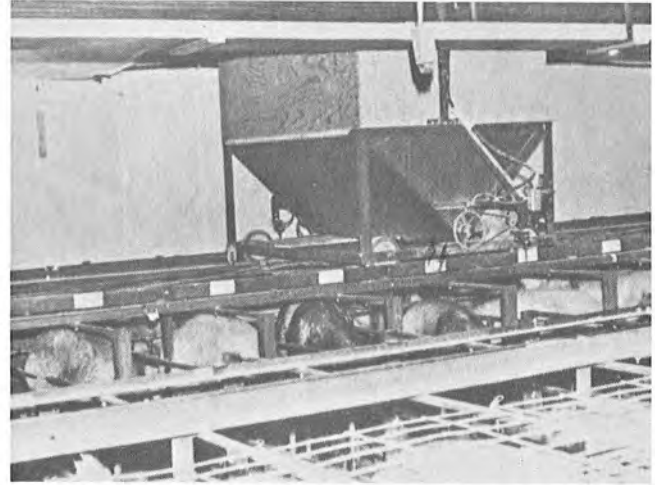


Corn has been the big crop in Mower County for a number of years. Harvesting used to be done manually. The corn husker used either a peg or a hook on his gloved hand to remove the husk from the ear, and then threw it against the bang board in the wagon.

Often the wife would help unload the full wagon and assisted in moving it into the bin by the elevator.

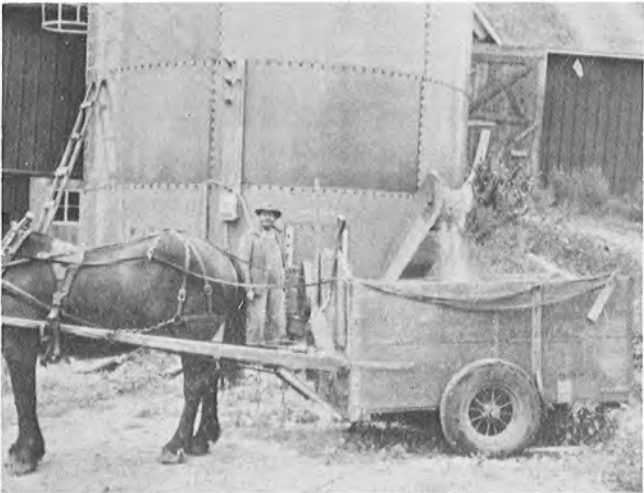
More recently the corn is picked by machine in the 1953 photo at middle right.

In lower right photo the whole stalk and ear is harvested and prepared for ensilage.



The easy way to harvest corn was to turn the hogs into the field to "hog down" the corn. Above photo depicts the automatic dropping of feed from above the hog pens.

Each hog is rationed exactly the amount needed for proper development.



The job of feeding livestock has been made easier. In above left photo the horse drawn cart is used to remove the feed from storage facilities to the feed bunk. Now the

tractor drawn wagon is placed in position and the feed is augured into the fence line bunk.





In former days the harvest time called for a horsedrawn binder. The bundles were formed into shocks by manpower. Then the bundles were pitched unto racks and they either went directly to the threshing machine, or were placed in cone shaped stacks for threshing later.



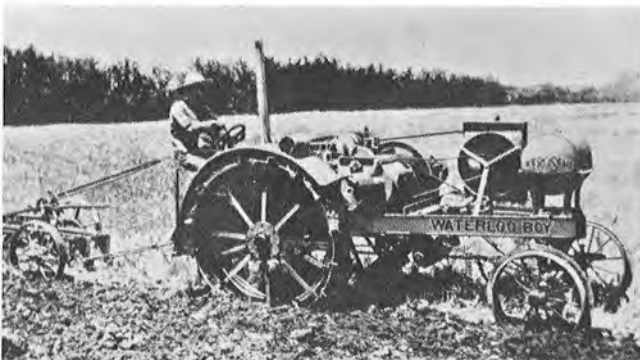
The job of threshing separated the grain from the straw and was made into stacks shaped to shed water. Now the grain is fully ripened, cut into swaths that are picked up by the combine machines with the threshing done in the fields. The straw is picked up later for baling.



The shelling of corn was once done with a hand sheller. Later the sheller was powered with a gas engine, but the corn went through the sheller a single ear at a time. Then



the sheller was hauled from farm to farm, and neighbors helped move the corn into the sheller, and one could shell a whole crib in a single day.

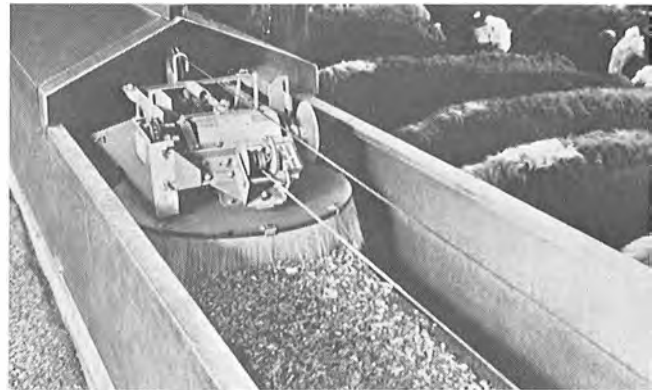




When tractor farming first came into the picture there were a number of crudely made tractors with steel cleats instead of the rubber tires currently used.

As time passed the tractors grew larger. They pull equipment which does three or four times the work

performed by the earlier models. In the air conditioned cabs the controls are within easy reach of the operator, and appear almost as complicated as the controls on a modern airplane.



Feeding has moved from transfer by wagon or sled to moving the feed by conveyer belt. Large amounts of feed can be moved to feed lots with the push of a button.

COUNTY WOMEN AFTER BILLBOARDS

"In her paper before the Federated Women's Clubs of Minnesota held at Rochester last week, Miss Clara Aultfather of Austin said that country women intended to conduct a campaign to relegate billboard advertising to its proper place — the newspaper.

"Our country's highways are defiled by unsightly billboards covered with advertising," she said. "It is time we did something to regulate advertising. It does not belong on roadways, obscuring the landscape and being an eyesore to travelers." Well said.

"Mower County Transcript," May 7, 1913

Spectators on the corner of Main and Lansing on May 5, 1909, received quite a shock when they witnessed an unusual accident which the Herald described as follows:

Bill Brown and F. E. Kendall were gliding down Lansing Avenue in their new Pierce-Racine automobile. At the same time Roy Duholm was driving up Main Street with the Austin Furniture Store's wagon loaded with six coffins. They met at the intersection. The horse became frightened and started away on a mad run. The driver jumped. As the horse turned a corner, the wagon tipped and coffins were scattered into the street. It gave spectators a frightful shock until they learned the boxes were empty.

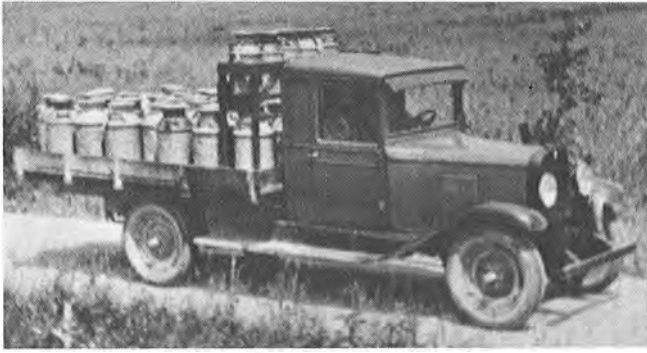


The traditional method of feeding hogs was to slop them. The V shaped troughs were commonly used to hold the slop for the pigs to consume.



The common method now is to use self-feeders. The pigs crowd around, and each one helps himself as shown in photo above.





The dairy farm has moved from hand milking to machine milking. The hand milking was done by the light of a lantern. Currently it is done under electric lights. The milk was then separated into skim milk and the cream which was for sale. The cream was put into 5 gallon cans and hauled to the creamery.

Now milk trucks pick up the milk daily, transferring it from the farmer's stainless steel storage tank to the stainless steel tank on the truck.



Almost all the farms had poultry a few years ago. Usually it was the farmers wife who cared for the flock. The hens laid eggs in nests and did their own hatching.



Now egg production is done in incubators in large numbers.



Corn was commonly stored in cribs with slats which allowed the air to flow through and dry.



Now much of the corn is harvested with picker-shellers. The shelled corn may then go directly to a drier if needed to reduce the corn moisture to storage levels. Finally it is placed in large bins such as in above photo for easy removal.



The harvesting of timber was done with large saws and a lot of muscle. In the upper photo it was done with a cross-cut saw.



Now the same job is done with chain saws. The man in the bucket can raise, lower or move his position so that he is in the exact position for easy cutting.



The splitting of wood for the fireplace or kitchen stove was formerly done with a single or double blade ax. Now



wood is split mechanically with a log splitter, including those logs formerly thought too difficult for splitting.

The Austin nurses met as an organization for the first time in September 1935. Mrs. Rose Lewis invited nurses to meet at her home and plan their club. Charter members were: Rose Lewis, Helen King, Betty Burgeson, Anna A. Olson, Irene Holst, Arelia Haas, Mabel Hansen, Louise Bloomfield, Hattie Rost and Gertrude Shinnick. The Austin Nurses Club supported cancer and heart funds before regular drives and campaigns were organized. They have purchased an incubator and other large hospital equipment for St. Olaf Hospital.

NEW FIRM

Frank Mayer of the G. F. Baird Undertaking establishment for many years, has severed his connections with that business and has gone into partnership with the Austin Furniture Company to carry on his undertaking business. He will be assisted by William Anderson, a licensed embalmer. Mr. Mayer has been with Mr. Baird for fifteen years.

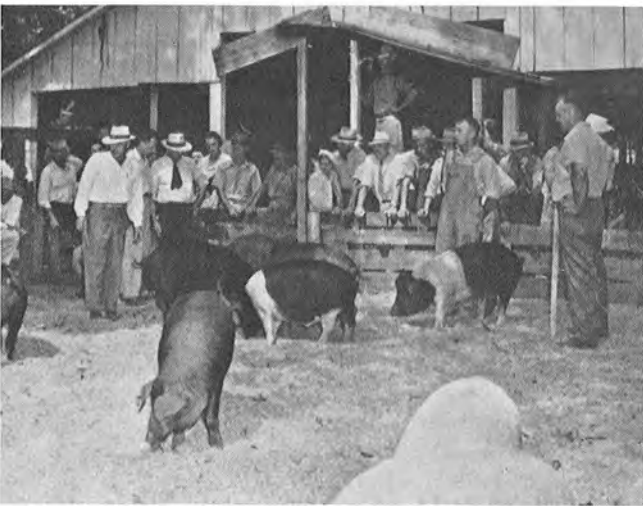
"Mower County Transcript-Republican," Jan. 5, 1916



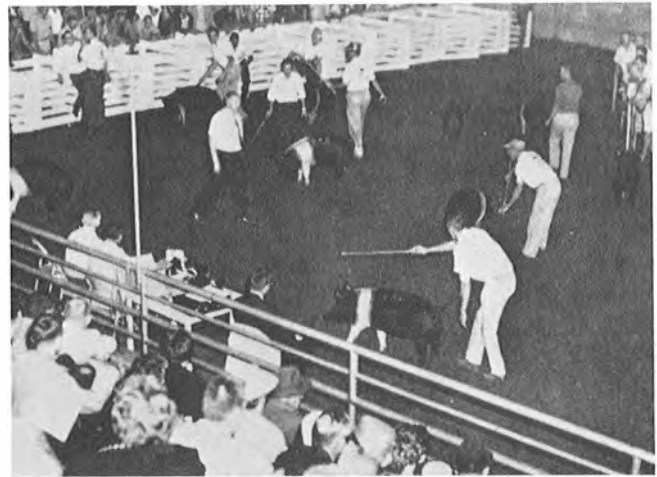
Lawn mowing was done for many years with a hand pushed, reel type mower. In above photo the lady is operating a power rotary mower which cuts a swath six feet



wide. The farm yard is mowed clear to the roadside in a relatively short period of time.



Prior to the National Barrow Show, the hog shows were in an area close to the sheds. Left photo was taken at the 1945 hog show, Mower County Fairground.

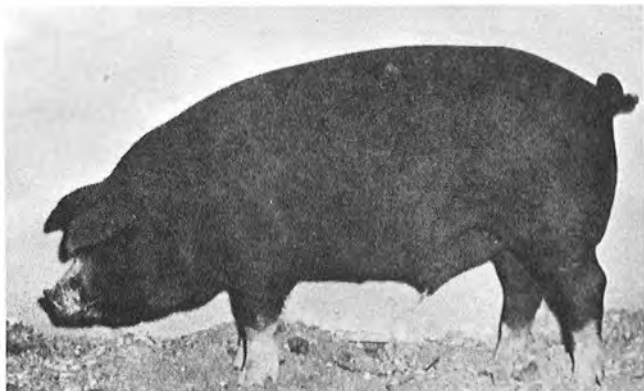


Right photo was also at the Fairground. It is the same type of hog show, but this National Barrow Show is in the spacious Crane Pavilion.

May, 1919—Austin Daily Herald—Saturday night A. C. Page, who heads the republican ticket, met M. S. Fisch, head of the democratic forces. They shook hands and said they were going through the campaign so that at the close the two could shake hands again, the winner giving the loser a cigar. That's the only way to go into the contest. In as friends and out as friends.

The only joke of the campaign thus far is the man who said he couldn't vote for the head of the democratic ticket because election comes on Tuesday and he "only votes for fish on Friday."

Taps were sounded for the only surviving member of McIntyre Post G.A.R., May 17, 1943, when rites with all fitting military honors what could be accorded a true soldier were observed for Comrade William A. Roebuck. An escort of veterans from other wars assisted the services, and the colors he loved and served well were borne ahead of the solemn funeral procession by officers of the W.R.C. Taps were sounded at sunset at the graveside, commemorating the passing of one who had known almost 90 eventful years of life.



The change in the type of hogs produced is graphically shown in the above photos. Left photo was taken in 1946, and shows the first champion at the National Barrow Show. Right photo is the 1968 champion.

Even the uninitiated observer can see the difference in shape and streamlining of the modern day hog.



The job of maintaining farm equipment can be very expensive. It is advantageous for the farmer to have a shop equipped with tools which can keep his machinery in good repair. This is as true today as it was in the past.



In left photo the farmer is sharpening his sickle before cutting weeds.

In right photo the gentleman has a shop sufficiently well equipped to take care of most of the repairs necessary to keep his equipment in operation.

Until as late as 1927, Austin automobiles were shipped by freight to Owatonna on trips to the Twin Cities. The Austin Daily Herald reported in April of that year that several city motorists loaded their autos into freight cars at the Milwaukee station.

Quite a number of auto owners had "go through the roads" in this manner, Joe Ober, Milwaukee Road agent, reported.

Before the Highway north of Owatonna was paved. The stretch from Austin to Owatonna was a nightmare to all motorists in this area. It consisted of numerous sharp turns and washboard gravel—except in rainy weather when the cars broke through the gravel and became mired in mud.

MINNESOTA LIVESTOCK HALL OF FAME



John J. Furlong

Four men from Mower County have been inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame. John J. Furlong was a charter member, and the first selected from Mower County. John was born in Tipperary County, Ireland in 1849. He came to Austin in 1857 and was educated in the Austin public schools. His 320 acre farm, three miles east of Austin, was called the "Columbian" stock farm. He was a purebred breeder of Poland China hogs, Shorthorn cattle, Cotswold sheep and Percheron horses. He won a \$1,000 prize offered by James J. Hill for having the best farm in the First Congressional District. The following offices held by John attest to his interest in livestock and willingness to serve as a leader: state treasure of the World's Fair Commission in 1893, executive board member of the Minnesota Sheep Breeder's Association, president of the First Congressional Live Stock Breeder's Association, president of the Minnesota Live Stock Sanitary Board, president of the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs, president of the Mower County Farmers' Mutual Fire and Lightning Company, president of the Mower County Agricultural Society (15 years) and vice president of the Minnesota State Fair Association.



James H. Aultfather



Carroll R. Plager

James H. Aultfather was born in Austin Township in 1874. His early education was received in rural schools in the Austin area, and his advanced schooling in the Northwest College of Commerce in Austin. James operated a 640 acre farm. He specialized in Red Poll cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses. Many honors were won for his exhibition of cattle and hogs at both County and State Fairs. His swine herd received recognition in swine testing association programs for heavy litters at weaning age. Purebred cattle and hogs were shipped to nearly every state in the nation. "Jim," as he was more commonly called, served his community as town supervisor and treasurer. He was an early member of Farm Bureau and local cooperative enterprises. He also served as a director of the Red Poll Cattle Club of America. In 1928 he was named Master Farmer for Minnesota.

Carroll R. Plager was born in Grundy Center, Iowa in 1909. His schooling consisted of a one room rural school, Grundy Center High School and Iowa State University, from which he graduated June 17, 1931. His employment in the hog buying department of George A. Hormel Company began the following day. He served in this department until 1945. During that time he assisted in the development of Hormel's system of grade and yield purchasing of hogs. In 1946 he was named manager of Livestock Extension. The same year he was selected to be superintendent of the newly formed National Barrow Show. Both positions were held until retirement in 1971. During his career he wrote a showmanship manual for swine, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and horses. This manual is an aid to 4-H and FFA members. In 1948 he invented the Hormel Computing Slide, which is used nationwide for rapid and accurate scoring of judging contests. He served as a judge of livestock at many county fairs, and of hogs at state and national shows in twenty states and Canada. Honors received include Minnesota FFA, American Farmer by National FFA, Minnesota 4-H, Iowa 4-H, Iowa Master Swine Producer, Minnesota Swine Honor Roll, National Hog Farmer Award, National Agricultural Editor's, Who's Who in the Midwest and the initial inductee into the Iowa State University Animal Science Hall of Fame.

Frank A. Duerst was born in 1902. He attended a local rural school and graduated from the Lyle, Minnesota High School in 1920. He began farming with the pur-



Frank A. Duerst

chase of two purebred heifers and two cows of the Red Poll breed. One cow family in the present herd traces to this original purchase. Red Poll cattle and Poland China hogs have been Frank's livestock projects with major emphasis on Red Poll cattle. His policy has been to select the best of home raised females and mate them to the best bulls available. He has exhibited at the Mower County Fair and Minnesota State Fair for more than forty years, and has shown more champion bulls than any other breeder. He has served as director of the Minnesota Beef Improvement Association, director of the Red Poll Cattle Club of America, president of the Minnesota Red Poll Cattle Club and president of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association.

January 1898, Austin Herald — The Ku Klux Klan met at Miss Clara on South Chatham St. last week. A very pleasant time was had by all present.

January 1898 Austin Herald — From Mower County Commissioner's Proceedings. N. J. Strever was paid 50¢ for taking a family to the poor house.

How about the coed daughter who returns home from college broke. Is that a chick returned for insufficient funds?

Russ Godfredson allowed me to borrow his 1911 Ford Times. If you were around then you could purchase a Model T Torpedo for \$500. Equipment included 4 cylinders, speedometer, automatic brass windshield, two six inch gas lamps, generator, three oil lamps, horn, tools and a magneto built into the motor.

*"He is now fast rising from affluence to poverty."
—Mark Twain*

"Get your facts first, and then you can distort 'em as much as you please." — Mark Twain



Many of the changes in farm management are made with on-farm inspections. The pertinent subjects are discussed on the spot, as in left photo.



However, more and more farm management problems are reviewed at institutes. There specialists can give the latest information for improvement to large numbers.

FARM METHODS AND PRODUCTION IN 1984

One of the goals of this history is to record where we are today as well as where we were yesterday. Carroll Plager selected five of the outstanding family farms in Mower County for his research. With the cooperation of these farmers he has told their stories in detail. Each represents a different type of agriculture.

A history is a story of constant change. The farmer's production methods will be different in the year 2000, and changed again by 2050. We hope that this section will provide a clear picture of Mower County farm methods in 1984.

CATTLE FEEDING AT THE OLSEN FARM



The Christy Olsen Farmstead in Udolpho Township

Christy and Helen Olsen moved from Algona, Iowa to their present Udolpho Township farm in 1949. Presently they own 910 acres, rent another 160 acres and have 2500 cattle on feed.



Christy Olsen

The first three years their livestock program consisted of hogs and a small herd of cows. Cattle feeding on a business basis did not begin until 1954. That first group consisted of 300 steers and heifers. Since 1958 almost all of the feeders have been heifers. Christy says they fatten a little faster than steers.

It takes a lot of equipment and feed for this number of cattle. They have three Harvester silos. One, 20' x 50', was built in 1957. The other two, each 25' x 90', were added in 1973. Two of the four 22' x 60' cement stave silos were constructed in 1958. Another was added in 1966 and the last one in 1969. There are also two trench silos which accommodate 8,000 tons of corn silage.

About 700 feeders have the use of open sheds and lots that are concrete and clay mounds. Each of these have fence line bunks for convenient feeding. The other 1,800 heifers are housed in a 102' x 465' confinement building built in 1973. It is divided into 20 pens. The aisle is solid concrete. The part occupied by cattle is slatted. The pits are ten feet deep. They are emptied each fall.

As you might surmise, it takes a lot of feed to keep 2,500 cattle well fed. Christy raises 900 acres of corn each year. 300 to 350 of those acres are used for silage. The rest is harvested as high moisture corn by combine. Olsen finds that it is necessary to buy an additional 150,000 to 200,000 bushels of high moisture corn. All three Harvestors and one of the cement stave silos are used for the grain storage. The other three cement silos and the two trench silos accommodate the corn silage.

The cattle are fed twice daily. Christy has the corn rolled as it comes out of the Harvestors. Corn silage and high moisture corn is rationed at 40% corn to 80%. The ratio depends on the kind of cattle, and how near they are to the end of the feeding period. The high percent corn is fed near the end of the feeding period.

The feeders are bought weighing about 700 pounds.



At a Beef Picnic, left to right: Helen Olsen, Luann (Minnesota's Beef Queen) and Christy.



Partners, Christy Olsen and son Don

They are fed 120 days, and are marketed at approximately 1,050 pounds. They grade 80% choice.

Christy and Helen have five children. Chris and Sheri are medical doctors. Arlie farms nearby and Don is a full time partner with his father. Luann recently served as the Minnesota Beef Queen.

SAYLES DAIRY FARM SUPPLIES 4,258 PEOPLE DAILY

The Ray Sayles and Sons dairy farm has a three generation heritage. Ray's father, David, was one of the eight sons of Mr. and Mrs. Cy Sayles. David Sayles had the top producing dairy herd in the county for a number of years.

Ray Sayles has continued his father's tradition. He is in partnership with his sons, Wayne and Dean. They have consistently had a dairy herd which ranks with the most high producing in the county. They also have one of the largest herds in the county with 160 cows being

milked. The Sayles herd, together with other high producing dairy herds, have records which are improving each year.

When David Sayles operated the farm it was customary to have a large herd grazing in the pasture. This has changed. Instead, three cement stave and two Harvester silos tell of a modern dairy farm. The silos store a variety of feeds, including high moisture ear corn and shelled corn, corn silage, haylage and oatlage. The herd has been in complete confinement since 1970.

The total forage production is greater when the cattle are restricted from the fields. Waste is collected in pits and applied to the 500 acres of cropland each spring and fall. That is about a million gallons each year. This provides all the phosphorus and potassium needed for good crop growth. Only nitrogen needs to be added.

The Sayles brothers have individual responsibilities. Wayne is the nutritionist. He makes certain the rations are balanced and include all the essential ingredients, and that they match the productive ability of the cows.

The herd is divided into four groups. The 54 highest producers are in one group. The next 54 highest producers are in the second group and the remaining cows in milk are in a third group. The dry cows and replacement heifers are in the fourth group.

The first two groups are fed three times daily. They receive rations which are higher in protein and energy than the others. The balance of the herd is fed twice daily.

Corn is rolled as it is removed from the silo. It is then mixed with silage, haylage and supplements, and moved by conveyers to feed bunks as a complete mix.

Dean supervises the breeding program. All breeding is with artificial insemination and has been so since 1948. All cows are identified by neck chain numbers. The aim is to maintain a high conception rate from the semen of the best bulls available.

A two months rest period between lactations is standard. Heifers are bred to freshen at two years of age. About 55 are brought into production each year.

There is no room for poor producers. The rigid policy for both heifers and cows is to produce, or else. Pregnancy tests are conducted every thirty days. It is a constant process, with cows freshening every month of the year.

The milking begins at 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. The milking parlor accommodates six cows on each side. The routine is to wash each cow's udder, dry it with a clean towel, squeeze two or three squirts from each teat and attach the teat cups to begin milking.

The milk flows through pipes directly to the stainless steel bulk tank, which is in a separate room. The tank has a 14,000 lb. capacity.

Release of the milking machine at the completion of milking is automatic. Each teat is then dipped in a teat cup containing a solution to combat bacteria count while the teat canal closes. The cows are then released to return to their feeding area and free stalls. There are no stanchions or ties.

This return trip forces the cows to step into a shallow

vat containing a solution to control footrot. The milking parlor and all equipment is sanitized twice daily.

The milking chores last about three and a half hours. Approximately 3,500 lbs. of 3.8 butterfat milk are collected at each milking. That is a base for a lot of dairy products. The 7,000 lb. daily production, times 365 days per year, brings the annual production to 2,555,000 lbs.

There was a time the average farmer produced enough food for four people. Now the farmer produces enough for 73 people.



Ray and Dorothy Sayles



Wayne and Dean Sayles

The Sayles annual milk production meets the per capita consumption rate of dairy products for 4,258 people. A total of 221 lbs. is consumed as fluid milk, 200 lbs. is converted to 19.6 lbs. of cheese, 93 lbs. is used for 4 lbs. of butter, 50 lbs. becomes 17.5 lbs. of ice cream and 36 lbs. of milk converts to 4.3 lbs. of cottage cheese.

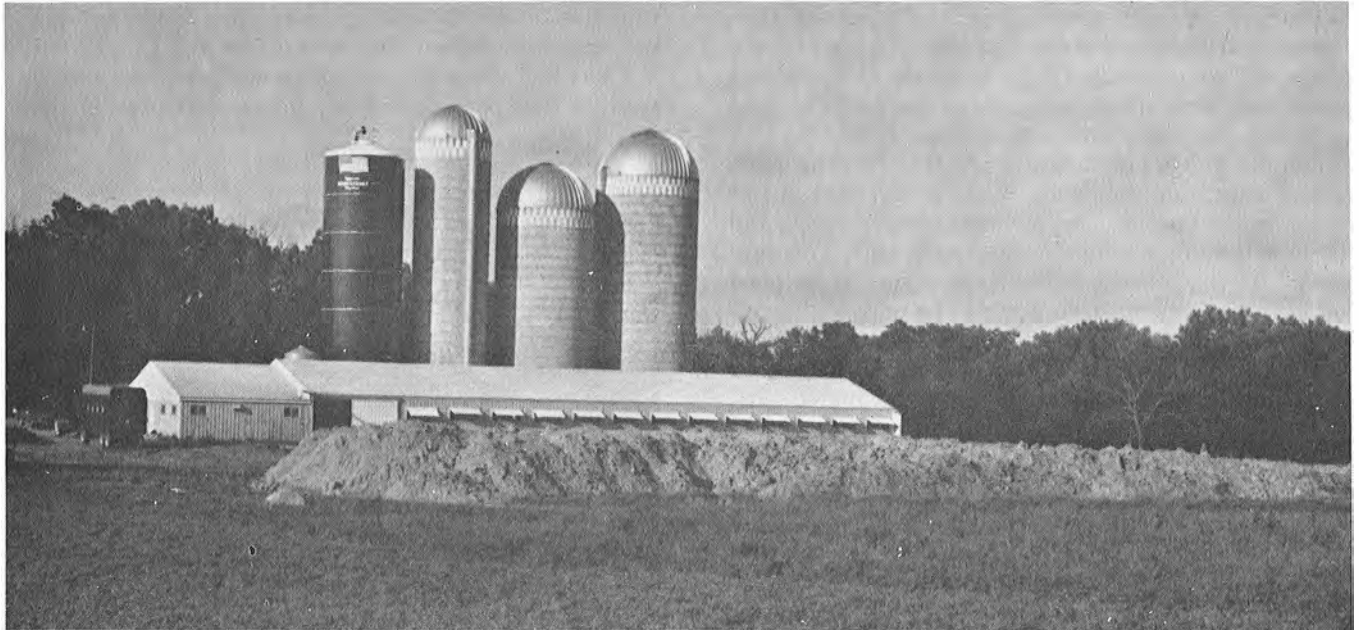
The statistics above show that each person consumes 600 lbs of milk; either as fluid milk or processed dairy products. Thus, the Sayles production of 2,555,000 lbs., divided by 600 lbs. per capita, shows that they supply dairy products for 4,258 consumers. That is roughly 10% of Mower County's population.

A Mid-America tank truck stops at the Sayles farm daily to receive the day's collection of milk. This is a far cry from the milk cans that were lifted by strong arms into the trunk of a car or unto a truck. That system was

designed to make a man of you, or stunt your growth.

Ray and Dorothy Sayles have three sons and three daughters. Wayne is single and lives at the home farm.

Dean is married and lives on a nearby farm. Mark is deceased. The daughters are Mrs. James (Judy) Bartlett, Mrs. Rick (Karen) Sundberg and Rhonda.



Silos and Confinement Facilities on the Ray Sayles and Sons Dairy Farm. Two Confinement Buildings and another Harvester Silo have been added since this photo.

THE LARSON FARM JUST GREW AND GREW



Lyall and Florence Larson



Joanne and Vance Larson



Suzanne and Larry Larson

There are 1,800 acres in the farm belonging to the families of Lyall Larson and his sons, Vance and Larry. They raise 210,000 turkeys and 5,000 hogs each year. In addition they operate a million bushel grain elevator in Sargeant, Minnesota. One cannot help but wonder how all of this got started.

On February 2, 1938 Lyall Larson borrowed \$2,500 to purchase 12 cows, 5 heifers, 5 brood sows, 250 hens, 5 horses, some necessary horse drawn machinery and a

supply of corn, oats and hay. A young lady, Florence Wilson, agreed to help Lyall pay back this loan. They were married June 7, 1938.

A 160 acre farm was rented on a share basis. The Larsons furnished all of the seed and fertilizer. When they had harvested the crop they kept 60% of the proceeds.

Market prices were relatively low in 1938. The price for a bushel of corn was 35¢ and for oats it was 25¢.

Butterfat sold for 17¢ per lb., eggs were 12¢ a dozen and hogs between \$5.00 and \$6.00 per hundred weight.

As was the policy on many farms at that time, the egg money bought the groceries. The budget was tight. The farm supplied milk, eggs, meat, chicken and vegetables. The windmill pumped water for family and livestock. The cold water tank served to keep the milk and cream fresh until the Vernon Creamery truck from Hayfield came to collect it.

1946 was a banner year. It was then that electricity was first introduced as their power agent. It was also the year that they purchased the farm. Lyall took a job maintaining township roads to supplement income from milk and hogs. He used a horse drawn blader.

In 1953 the Larsons started to raise turkeys with a 4,200 batch. Three batches per year brought a total of 12,600.

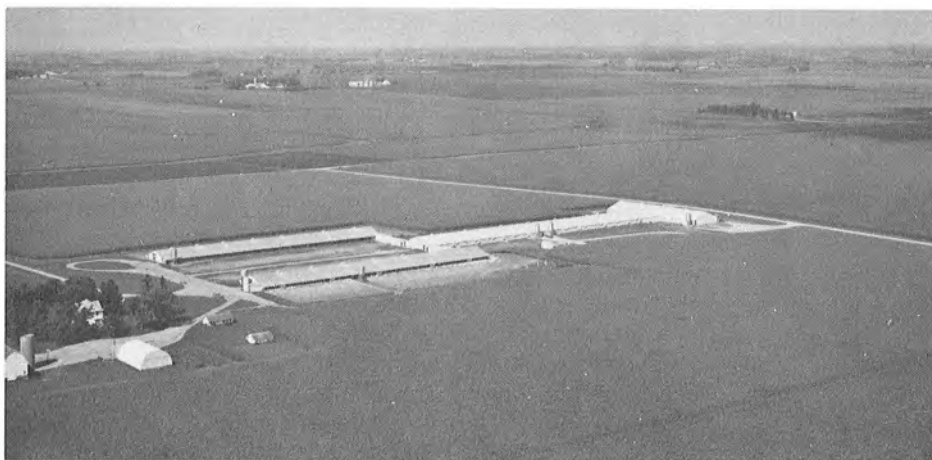
Another 120 acre farm was purchased in 1957, and the

barn was remodeled for turkey and hog production.

Vance returned from service with the Navy Air Reserve in 1960. Larson Products Inc. was reorganized to bring Vance into the farming operation. That fall they began an 1,800 hen turkey breeder operation.

In June 1964, Larry became the third member of the firm, after his graduation from the University of Minnesota. In February, 1965, another 160 acres and the grain elevator at Sargeant was purchased. Subsequently the Larsons have acquired more land bringing the total to 1,500 acres. They also rent another 300 acres.

Vance now serves as president of Larson Products Inc. and Larry is president of the Sargeant Grain Co. While the entire family is involved in the operation, Vance supervises the turkeys and crops and Larry manages the grain elevator and the hogs. Lyall, who had served as president and general manager of the entire operation, is now gradually retiring.



Turkey Building on Larson Farm

The Turkey Business

The turkey hen breeder flock has 4,300 Nicholas hens, which lay on an average of 121 eggs each during the period from November 15 to June 1. The eggs are sold to Jerome Hatchery, Rochester, MN. The hens are artificially inseminated 37 times during the 28 week period. 90 poults, newly hatched turkeys, are produced from 121 eggs. The incubation period is 28 days.

One day old poults are purchased from Jerome Hatchery in groups of 20,000. They are sexed, and only toms are accepted. Then they are debeaked with a laser beam and placed in the first of the three buildings they will occupy before market. The buildings are connected by tunnels, and vary in size to furnish adequate space as the birds grow.

The young turkeys spend 40 days in the first building, reaching a weight of 3½ lbs. They then spend 38 days in the second building and 62 days in the third building. The turkeys are then ready for market at 23 to 25 lbs.

Six and a half groups, approximately 130,000 turkeys, pass through the three buildings each year. Similar buildings on two other farms accommodate another 80,000.

Wood shavings are used in the buildings for bedding. The room temperature for the new arrivals is 85 degrees. It is gradually reduced until at 140 days the temperature is 55 degrees.

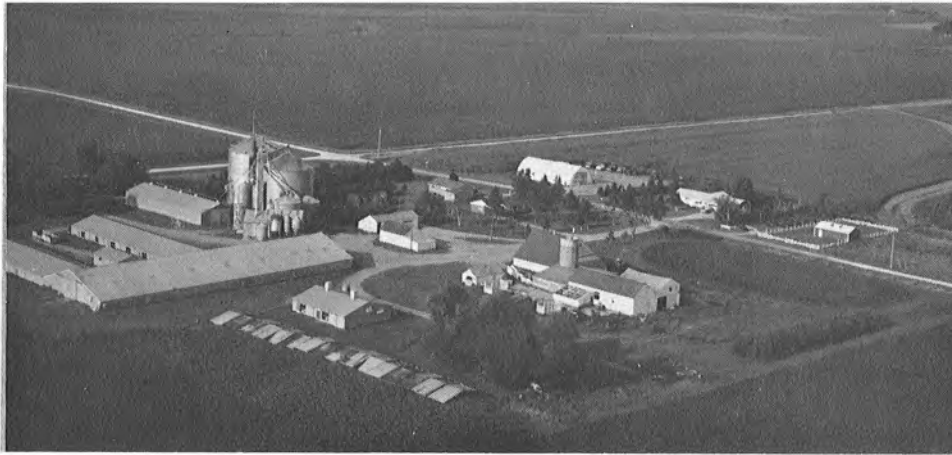
Total confinement is practiced for all birds during the seven coldest months. Poults over 9 weeks old have access to an outside lot during the summer. The mortality loss has been held to 7.8%. Facilities are cleaned and disinfected after each group is moved.

The finished turkeys are sold to the Jerome Processing Plant, Faribault, Minnesota. 82% meet the top grade standard.

Hog Production

Larry Larson supervises the "farrow to finish" hog program. The farrowing house was consumed by fire in 1967. The replacement houses 48 farrowing crates. This building, combined with 15 crates in another building, makes it possible to farrow enough pigs to keep the finishing units full.

The navels of newborn pigs are swabbed and teeth clipped the day they are born. The third day, iron shots are given, tails docked and boar pigs castrated. Gilts in



Hog Facilities

the best litters are ear notched for identification as prospective replacement stock.

The sows are fed in the stalls until the pigs are weaned, which takes place at 25 days. The sows are then rebred.

The weaned pigs are placed in an isolated pre-nursery for two weeks, 8 to 10 pigs per pen. They then go to a grower nursery until they weigh 50 to 60 lbs. From there they move to a finishing barn.

The creep ration is 19% protein. This is gradually reduced to 14%. Feed efficiency for the entire feeding period, including sow herd, has improved from 4.2 to 3.5.

The Larsons keep meticulous records. All market hogs are sold Grade and Yield at 225 lbs. They have graded 20% No. 1, 60% No. 2 and 20% No. 3. The average yield has been 74.78%.

Sows are artificially inseminated at the first sign of heat, and three more times at twelve hour intervals. All gilts are mated at eight months. An adequate gilt pool is maintained. One third of the sows are replaced each year. Two sow lines are kept. The "white line" is designed to improve the litter size and mothering ability. The other is to improve market grades.

Larry has not been partial to any breed. His boar

battery has included Chester White, Duroc, Berkshire, Hampshire, Yorkshire, DeKalb and Babcock.

The breeding herd is vaccinated for PRV, erysipelas, leptospirosis and transmissible gastroenteritis. The market hogs are only vaccinated for erysipelas. The young pigs are wormed twice in the nursery. All are treated for mange and lice as needed.

All facilities are either partially or fully slatted and have pits. One unit has a lagoon off the pit. The liquid waste is either irrigation piped or hauled to the fields.

The Elevator at Sargeant

The growth of the elevator business has paralleled the turkey and hog expansion. The elevator had a capacity of 120,000 bushel when purchased in 1965. It now accommodates a million bushels of grain. The turnover is a million bushels of corn and a quarter million of beans.

Services rendered include feed grinding, corn drying, ration formulation and the sale of feed supplement.

The Larson Family

The Larsons have served in church, community and trade organizations. Lyall has served as president of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Assoc., and as a director of the National Turkey Federation. He was a member of a

Larson Grain Elevator



rural school board for 16 years and Hayfield 6 years. Lyall is currently president of Best Turkeys Inc., director of Minnesota and National Corn Growers Assoc. and director of the First American State Bank, Sargeant. He is listed in Minnesota's Who's Who.

Florence has also been active in many activities in church, civic and agriculture.

Vance served as president of the Hayfield FFA and was a Chapter Star Farmer. He has been president of the Midwest Federation, Secretary-Treasurer of the National

Turkey Federation board and in several other church and civic activities. Vance and his wife, Joanne, have four children: Randall, Mark, Chad and Rochelle.

Larry was president of the Minnesota Pork Producers in 1982-83. He was named to the Minnesota Swine Honor Roll and as Minnesota's All American in 1980. He, also, has been active in church and civic affairs. Larry and his wife, Suzanne, have three children; Dean, Ann and Don.

JOHN AND MARLYS LARICK RAISE LAMBS FOR PROFIT



John and Marlys Larick in familiar surroundings.

Many think of sheep as scavengers; animals which keep weeds under control. This is not true on the farm of John and Marlys Larick. Sheep account for a fourth of gross income on their crop and general livestock farm west of Brownsdale.

The Laricks work 120 acres of their own land and 197 acres rented. Approximately 35 of the 120 acres are untillable creek bottom, used to pasture the sheep.

A crossbred beef cow-calf herd is managed on 60 acres of the rented land. Hampshire hogs are also raised. The crop land consists of 70 acres corn, 70 in soybeans, 30 acres of oats and 50 of alfalfa.

When John Larick began farming in 1962, sheep were the first livestock purchased. Bred ewes were relatively inexpensive. The short term turnover of dollars made lamb production inviting. The first bred ewes cost an

average of \$10.00 per head. Purchased in December, they produced 66 lambs from 60 ewes in February, and were ready for market the middle of June. The wool clip averaged 8 lbs. per head, which sold at 48¢ per lb.

Improvement is reflected in the 1982 record, when 220 ewes lambed with a 160% lambing percentage when weaned and marketed. The wool clip averaged 7 lbs. per head and sold for 33¢ per lb. on average. There has not been much inflation in the wool market.

The breeding flock consists of Suffolks, Hampshires, Southdowns and Finn-crossbred. With the exception of the Finn-cross ewes, the Southdowns have had the highest lambing percentage.

Facilities for the sheep consist of a pole building, 56 x 80' and an old fashioned barn. The program is labor intensive with a minimum of equipment and buildings.

The ewe's ration consists of pasture in summer and autumn, then hay, corn and protein during gestation and lactation.

The lambing season begins in January and continues into May. The highest number of ewes lambing is in February and March. No artificial heat is used. Lambing time is an around-the-clock job.

Ewes are placed in individual pens. The newborn lamb's navel is dipped in iodine. Ewes with twins or triplets are penned for 3 to 5 days. Singles just a day or so, depending on the need for pens.

The ewes and lambs are then isolated for a few days. They are grouped when the lambs get older. Lambs receive Bo-Se shots (vitamin E and Selenium) for white muscle disease soon after birth. They are docked and the ram lambs castrated at 10 days to 3 weeks of age. The lambs have access to a creep feeding area at two weeks, continuing until weaned. They are weaned at 40 to 60 lbs.

Orphan lambs or small weak lambs are bottle fed a special formula milk replacer. They are fed every four hours until they are ready for creep feed and hay. Thereafter, three times daily until weaned at 30 pounds.

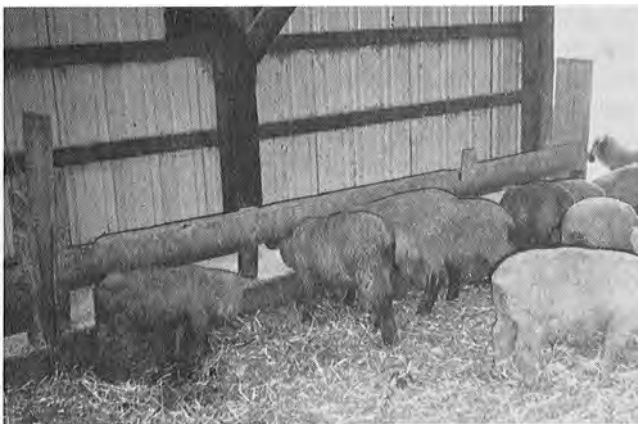
A high energy ration is fed at all times. Most lambs reach the market weight of 100 to 110 lbs. in 100 to 150 days. Lambs are marketed through Corn Belt Electronic Marketing Association, or direct to the packing house in Albert Lea, MN.



Marlys feeds an orphan lamb.



Ewes and lambs eating leafy alfalfa.



Lambs eating creep feed.

The Laricks have had the reserve champion carcass and a third place carcass at the Minnesota State Fair, with 50 to 60 competing. Lambs are also tested and shown at the National Lamb Show. Top wethers are sold to 4-H and FFA members and are shown by these young owners.

In 1977 John Larick was awarded the first Minnesota "Silver Bell" for outstanding sheep production.

Broiled or roasted young lamb is one of the tastiest meats available. If you haven't tried lamb—perhaps you should.

ON FARM BEEF CATTLE TESTING

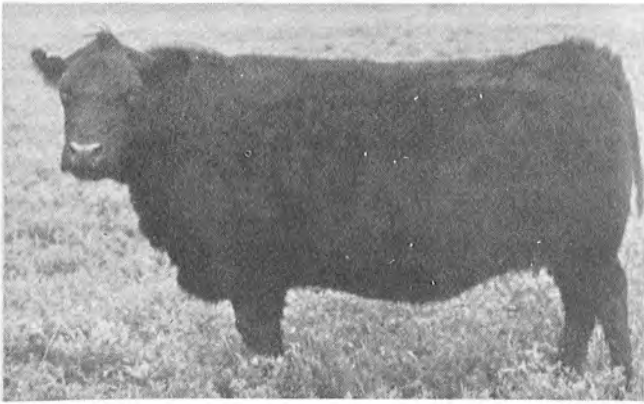


Kenneth and Lillian Sprau, Elkton

Kenneth Sprau, Elkton, Minnesota, is one of the leading beef cattle producers in Mower County. He, together with a number of other beef cattle producers, enrolled in a farm testing program. This is the story of that program.

The testing program called for the individual identification of bulls and cows. Brands, ear tags, neck chains and tattoo numbers were used as a means to this end. The birth date and sex of each calf were recorded at birth. In addition, the record included the name and/or number of both sire and dam.

The first progress report came at approximately 205 days following birth. The weight of the calves at that time were recorded as the weaning weight. Adjustments were made if the weights were taken a few days before or after 205 days. Adjustments were also made to the age of the dam. First heifer calves are not expected to do as well as those from older cows.



Mother of Angus steer which was champion of 1966 Midwest Steer Show, both the Live Show and Carcass Show, the only time this has happened.



Several of the top winners at the Midwest Steer Show came from the Sprau herd of Angus. The bob tailed cow, pictured here, was the mother of the 1966 Midwest Show champion. This steer also won the carcass contest. Her heifer calf, dropped in 1967, weighted 517 pounds at weaning. A full brother of the 1966 champion showed at the 1968 show.

All of Sprau's breeding herd trace back to five cow families. The production testing program determines which ones earn the right to remain in the herd.

The index number earned by each calf is a combination of weight for age, and a score for body conformation. Prime calf grades are scored 15 through 17; choice grades—12 through 14; good grades—9 through 11 and standard—6 through 8. The Sprau herd had an average of 14.4. The average 205 day weight was 446 lbs. This is well above the 420 lb. state average.

The 11 calves were sired by three different bulls from the ABC breeding herd. Four calves from one bull weighed an average of 472 lbs. Three from another had a 446 lb. average and four from the third bull averaged 422 pounds. The difference can be attributed to sire influence.

The benefits of this testing program are twofold. The best are sorted out for future propagation. Of equal importance is the elimination of non-breeders and low indexing individuals.



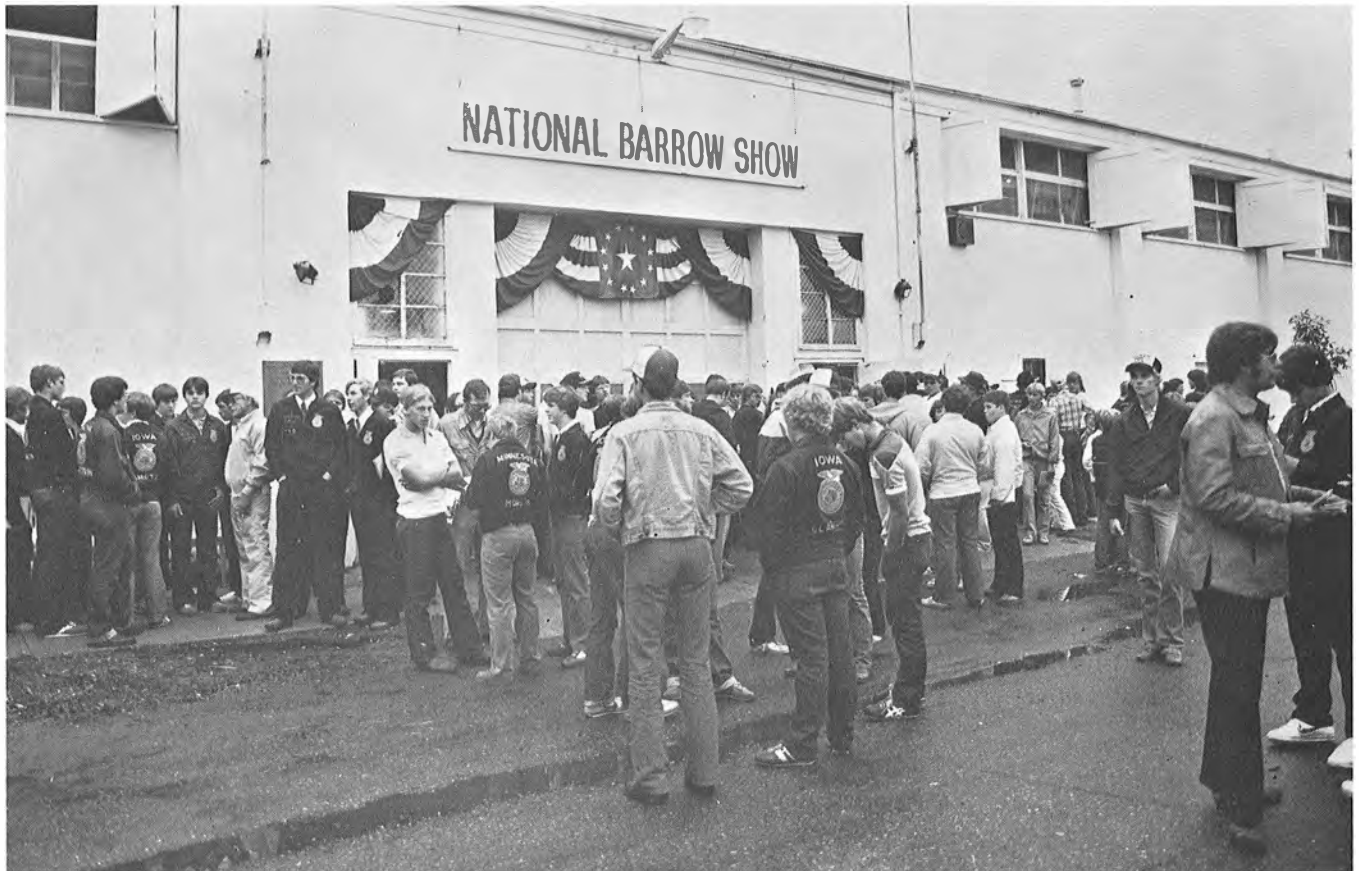
Pregnancy testing is practiced from 90 to 120 days following breeding. This enables the owner to cull early. This eliminates the costly feeding of those animals which will not pay their way.

Full benefit from the program is achieved by following through with carcass data on heifers and steers that are marketed. In this way the participating members become more particular about their next sire purchase. How he looks is not good enough. His production record should be an improvement.

March, 1912—Austin Daily Herald—St. Patrick's Day Celebration. The event of each March in Austin for several years has been the St. Patrick's Day parade. This parade is one that attracts considerable attention and is much commented upon by the press of the state, because it is unlike any St. Patrick's Day parade that passes through any city.

In Austin it is temperance day and the parade of the total abstinence society of St. Augustine's church is always impressive.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McCain on Thursday evening, just before midnight, November 11, 1918, occurred the marriage of Miss Catherine McClanahan and Mr. J. A. Ranum; Rev. J. N. Brown of St. Olaf Lutheran Church officiating and Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Hacmac acting as witnesses. The groom was in charge of manual training in the Austin High School. The unusual hour of the wedding was chosen that the event might take place on the day when peace was being celebrated.



THE NATIONAL BARROW SHOW

by Carroll Plager

The National Barrow Show, an annual event, has been the top attraction in Austin, Minnesota since its beginning in 1946. More people attend than for any other function.



Barrow Show's Organization Committee

Back, left to right: H. B. Lidstone, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Carroll Plager, Hormel Livestock Extension Mgr.; George Davies, Sec. Poland China Record Assoc.; Jim Henderson, editor of Hog Breeder; Lester Drennen, secretary Chester White Breeders; Rollie Pemberton, secretary, Hampshire Swine Registry; Lew Reeves, Hormel, head hog buyer.

Front, left to right: S. T. Neveln, supt. Austin Public Schools; P. J. Holand, adult agriculture instructor, Austin; Ralph Daigneau, vice president of Hormel Co.; Levi Moore, secretary Chester White Record Assoc.; B. R. Evans, secretary, United Duroc Swine Registry.

National Swine Shows had been held periodically beginning in 1927 in conjunction with State Fairs, but not at any one location on a permanent basis. The NASR (National Association of Swine Records) is an umbrella organization that includes all of the breed associations. They met with pork industry interests and decided to select a permanent site. They also resolved to redesign the show so swine production would move in the direction of efficient market hogs with less fat and more muscle (red meat). Both goals were believed attainable and were clearly the qualities in demand by consumers.

The Hormel Company showed more interest than any other meat processor. This was a major factor in selecting the Mower County Fair grounds as a permanent site for an annual national barrow show. To accommodate the event the Crane Pavilion was constructed at a cost of \$42,000. It is named as a memorial to a prominent Austin citizen, Ralph Crane. On April 20, 1955 the building was struck by lightning and destroyed in the ensuing fire.

A new Crane Pavilion was rebuilt in time for the September, 1955 National Barrow Show.



Truckload Competition

Prize money is substantial. The breed associations supply the trophies and most of the special prize monies, which total about \$3800. The Hormel Company contributes the regular premiums, which total in excess of \$11,000.

Sponsors of the show are the National Association of Swine Records, Mower County Agricultural Society, Austin Area Chamber of Commerce and George A. Hormel & Company in association with Cooperative Extension Service in Agriculture & Home Economics at Iowa State University and the University of Minnesota.

A problem that surfaced early was the frequently asked question, "What's a barrow?" Technically, a barrow is a young male hog that was castrated when he was a small pig. The definition that received the most appreciation, however, was "A barrow is a young male hog that follows the herd in an advisory capacity."

National Barrow Show was selected as the name for the new show because the market hog is the end product. It takes superior boars and gilts to produce superior market hogs. Thus, classes for both boars and gilts were included. They are subdivided according to age. The show is held during the second week of September and all hogs shown are farrowed during the spring of the same year. Barrows must be farrowed on or after March 1.

The National Barrow Show has been held annually

since its beginning with one exception. That was in 1952, the year of the VE (Vesicular Exanthema) epidemic. All exhibitions of swine were prohibited that year.

Six breeds have participated in individual and truckload competition every year. They are Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Poland China and Yorkshire. The Spot breed participated in 1946, withdrew until 1953, and have participated ever since. The Landrace breed began in 1957 and have continued. Three other breeds Hereford, OIC (Ohio Improved Chester) and Tamworth began in 1946. They discontinued because they were not able to meet minimum entry requirements. The Hereford and OIC breeds dropped out in 1955 and the Tamworths in 1961. Crossbreeds participated in the truckload division, beginning the first year. Individual competition began in 1953.

Judging contests are the feature the first day of the show. The Junior Division consists of 4-H and FFA members, the College Division of college students. Contestants test their skill on the same classes at the same time. More than 1000 contestants compete each year. This feature began in 1948 and remains a prime attraction. In the Junior Division four contestants compete, with the three scoring highest contributing to the team score. In the College Division the high five of seven scores comprise the team score.



College Contestants Test Judging Skills

Women attend in large numbers. Porkettes is the name of their organization, and like the producers, they are organized at the county, state and national level. They are active throughout the year, but especially so the week of the National Barrow Show. Ladies programs began in 1949.

In 1960 the Barrow Show began the annual selection of a National Pork Queen. Each year a new queen serves as a valuable ambassador for the entire pork industry.

The tempo of competition has picked up over the years. Producers who exhibit at other shows save their best for the National Barrow Show. It is frequently called the "World Series of Swine Shows." Hogs are exhibited from as many as twenty-four states.

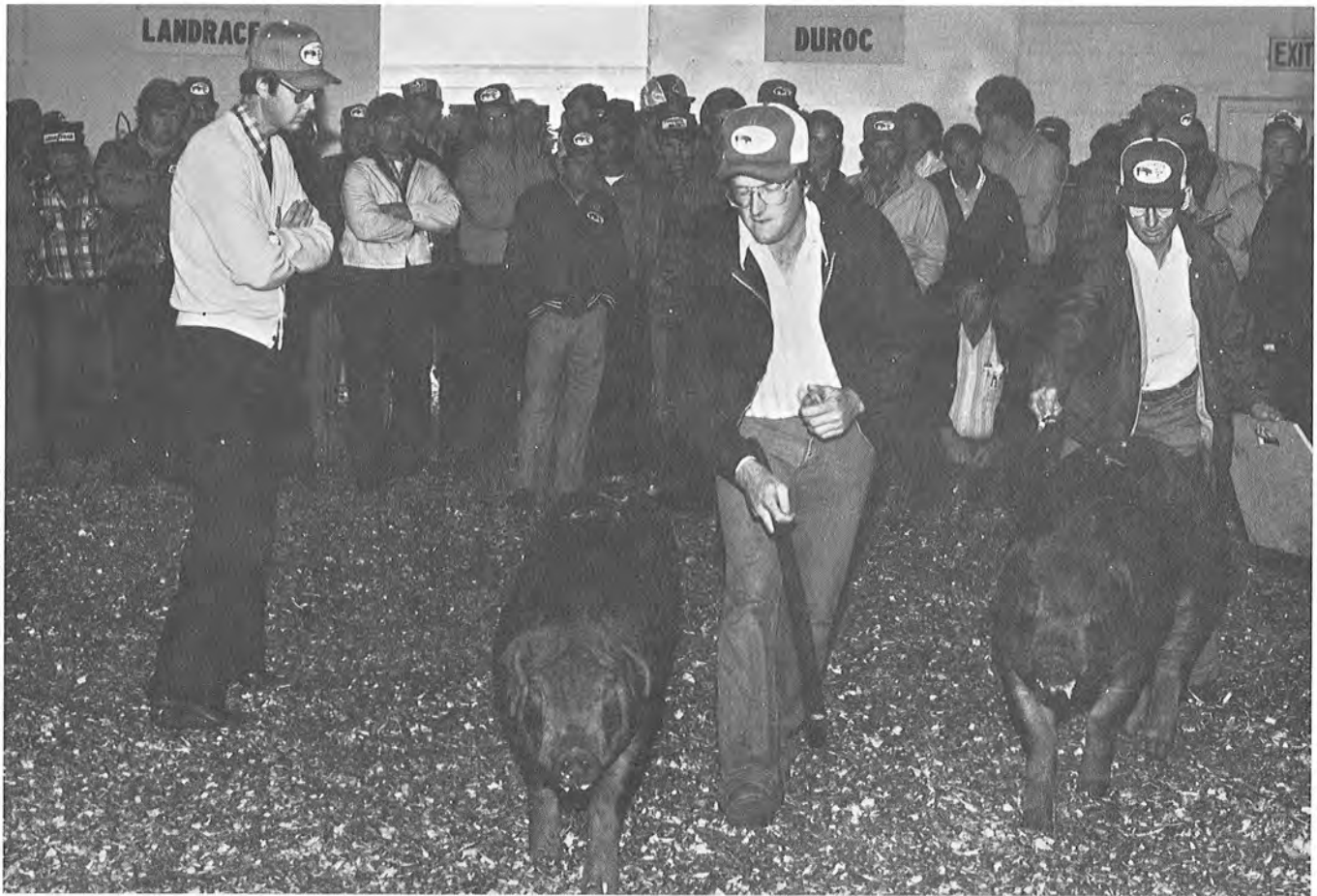
All prize winning boars and gilts are required to sell at public auction. Buyers come from across the nation and from a number of foreign countries. Japan, Mexico and Canada have figured prominently in these sales. The highest price paid for a boar was \$38,000 in 1973. It was a Duroc produced by Forkner Farms of Richards, Missouri, and purchased by Soga-no-yo Farms of Japan. The highest selling gilt was a Yorkshire produced by Eddie Brothers of Storm Lake, Iowa, and bought by Dick Kuecker of Algona, Iowa for \$11,500 in 1975.

Carcass Contests began in 1948. The show reports data on all participants. This report card has served to point the way for much of the improvement that has been

made. Backfat measurements of two inches had been common. The best now measures an inch. Loin-eye areas had been 3½ square inches or less. Five and six inch loin-eyes are common now. Carcass length was twenty-eight inches and less. Now we have measurements of thirty-two or more. A wide variety of measurements and calculations have been used to determine carcass excellence. They include average backfat, backfat thickness at the tenth rib, loin-eye area, percent lean cuts, ham-loin index, percent skinned ham, carcass length and muscle quality.

Show management has been hard pressed to provide adequate space for commercial exhibits of hog equipment, housing, feed, medication, management and evaluation programs. Exhibit space is sold out long before the show begins. Some large exhibits rent space outside of the exhibit buildings.

Show policies are evaluated annually and changes introduced for further improvement. One of the major changes took place in 1973. Each exhibitor was required to deliver a weanling pig about the middle of May to a Production Testing Station at the Dave Hinman farm near St. Ansgar, Iowa. The pigs were grouped by weight, fed a standard ration and brought to the National Barrow Show for competition if they had reached market weight by that date. A new testing station was built by the Minnesota Pork Producers at New Ulm, Minnesota



Barrow Show Entries get Individual Inspection in Show Ring.



1973 National Pork Queen with John Phillips, Show superintendent.



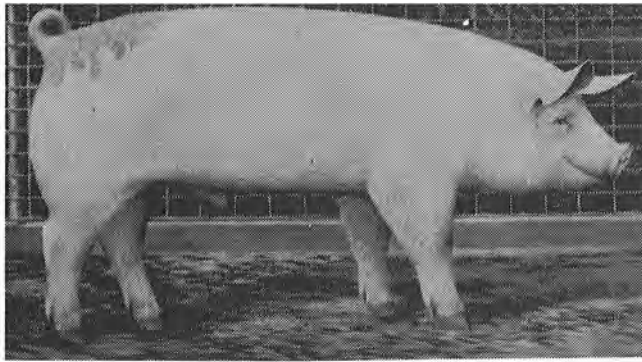
Ladies Registration Day

in 1980 and it now serves as the official testing station. A number of the pigs reached weights far beyond top market weight by the date of the show. The new policy is to take the pigs off test as they reach 220 pounds and evaluate their carcasses. Top honors are based on a combination of excellence. They are soundness, growth

rate and carcass merit. This proving center receives national attention.

The National Barrow Show annually brings together the finest hogs in the nation, the very latest in commercial aids and the most skilled people involved in swine production and the pork industry.

by Carroll Plager



"SYMBOL"
The Model Barrow for 1983

A team of pork producers, seedstock breeders and university specialists designed a 1983 All American model. His name is "Symbol." He is a barrow from a litter of 10 pigs marketed, and has a feed efficiency of 2.5# from birth to market at 150 days. At slaughter his last rib fat depth measurement is .7 of an inch and his loin-eye area 5.8 square inches. His 180 pound carcass is .32 inches long and yields 105 pounds of lean pork.

"Symbol" was designed to meet specifically predetermined genetic requirements. The history of livestock production is filled with a number of type changes. Most have been in response to changes in demand. The most fascinating feature of each change has been the uncanny ability of producers to develop the new model in record time. All they need is a specific target. New advancements in the field of genetics makes it possible to complete the change faster than ever.

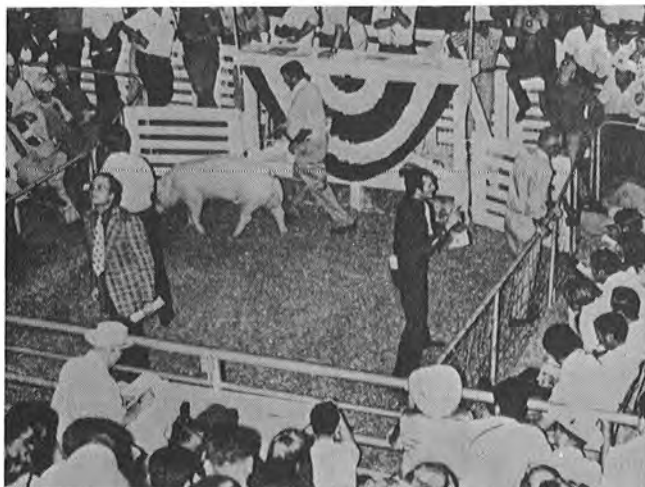
It remains to be seen how soon "Symbols" will become commonplace.



Time for serious judging by junior contestants at the Barrow Show.



Barrow Show visitors from Japan make a pre-sale inspection.

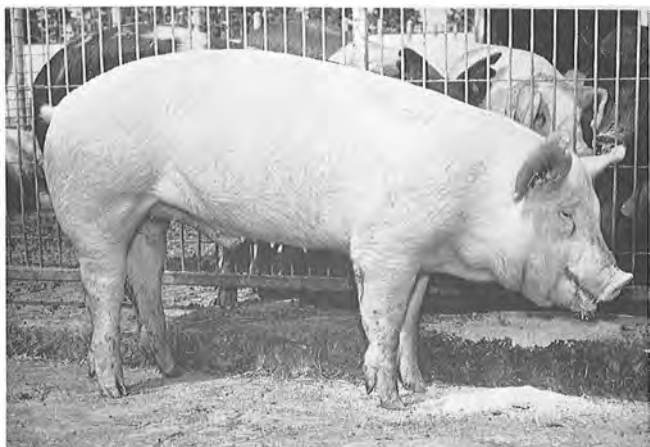


Sale time for prize winning boars and gilts at the National Barrow Show, Austin.

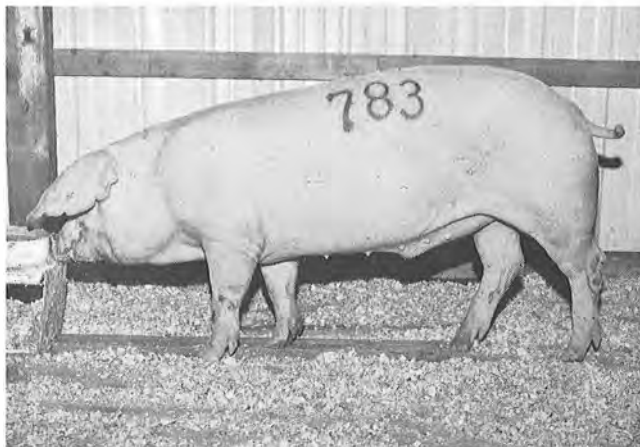


Measurements for Carcass Data

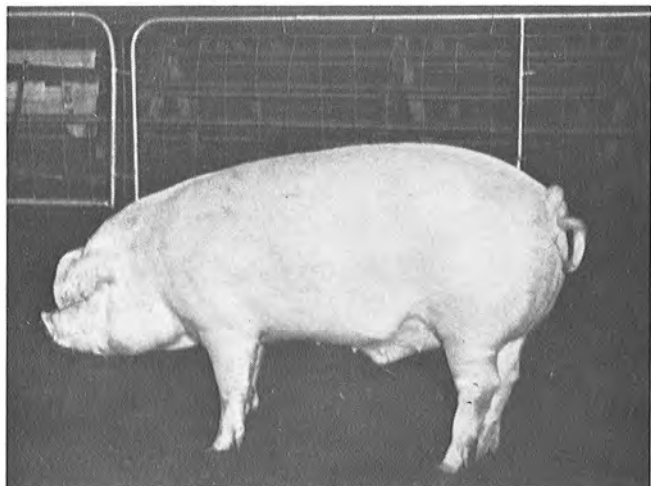
PHOTOS OF THE VARIOUS BREEDS OF BARROWS SHOWN AT THE AUSTIN SHOW



YORKSHIRE barrow, Twin Pine Farm, Greenville, Ohio. National Barrow Show breed champion in 197



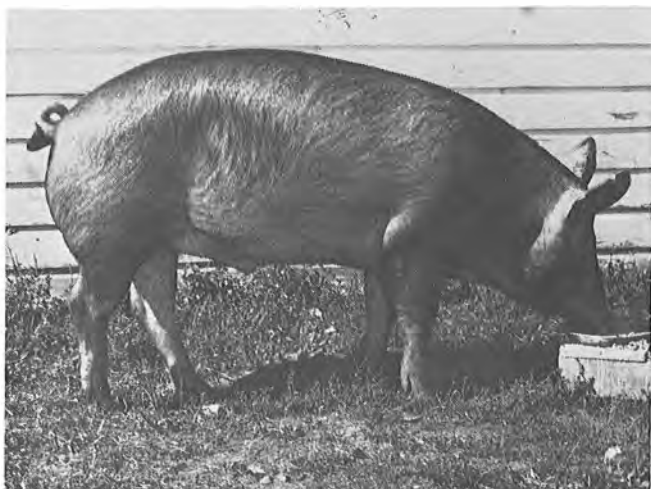
LANDRACE champion barrow, Hinds Farms, Willow Springs, Missouri



O. I. C. (OHIO IMPROVED CHESTER)



HEREFORD

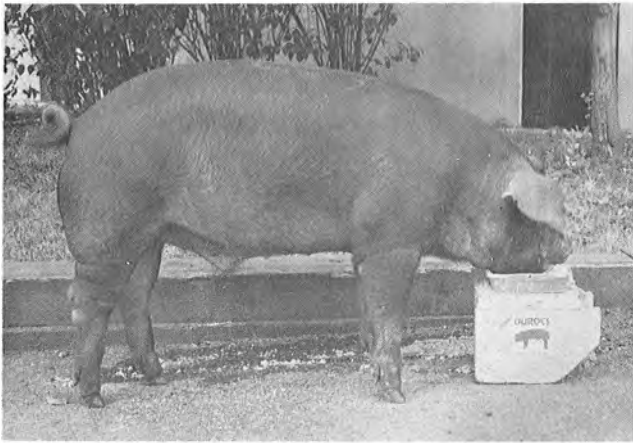


TAMWORTH



CROSSBRED

PHOTOS OF VARIOUS BREEDS OF BARROWS AT AUSTIN NATIONAL BARROW SHOW (continued)



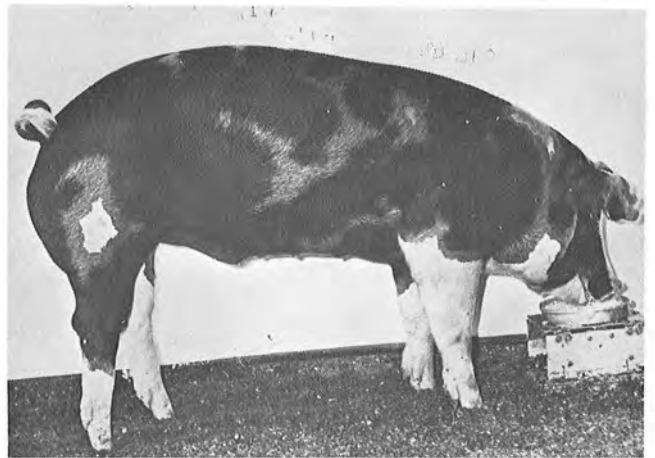
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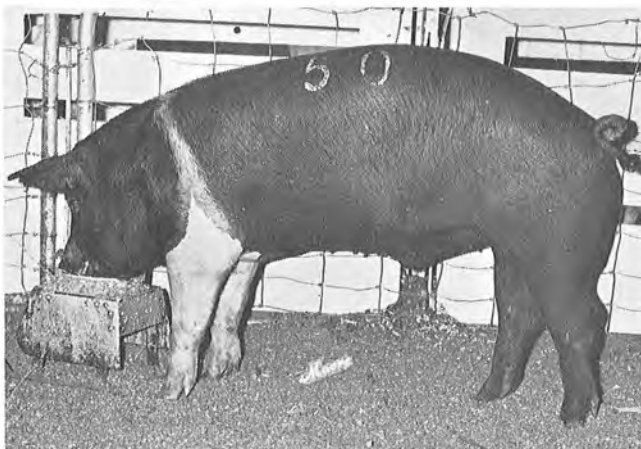
CHESTER WHITE



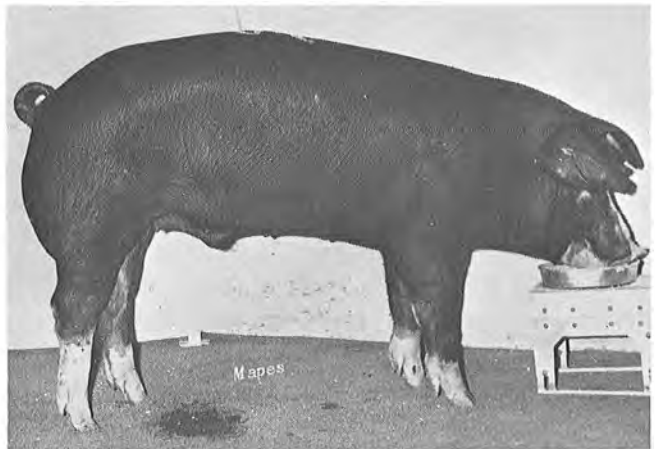
BERKSHIRE



SPOT



HAMPSHIRE



POLAND CHINA



CREED

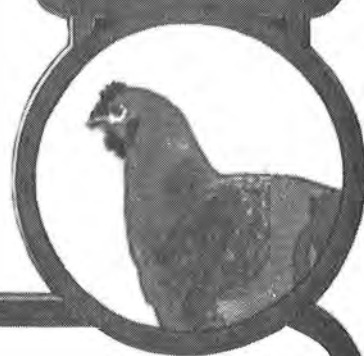
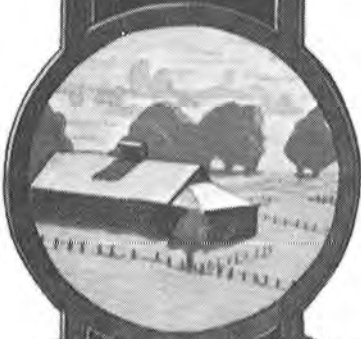
I BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF FARMING, with a faith born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I BELIEVE THAT TO LIVE AND WORK on a good farm or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuit, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I can not deny.

I BELIEVE IN LEADERSHIP FROM OURSELVES and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I BELIEVE IN LESS DEPENDENCE on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I BELIEVE THAT RURAL AMERICA CAN AND WILL hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.



FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Mower County, Minnesota



First Place Team in 1982—National Ag Mechanics
Left to right: Eugene Van Anker, Firestone Rep., Dan Arndofer, Clarke Nelson, Scott Sheely and Richard Schaufler, Advisor.

FFA in Mower County began the day that Austin received its charter, July 25, 1930. Adams received its charter in 1936, LeRoy in 1939, Grand Meadow 1955, Lyle 1959 and Elkton in 1965. In 1973 a merger created the LeRoy-Ostrander chapter. That same year Elkton merged with Adams, and became known as the Southland chapter. Lyle became inactive in 1972 and Grand Meadow in 1982.

There were classes in Agriculture in the high schools before the FFA. When the charter was received, most students in agriculture became members of the new FFA organization. Students elected their officers and took on the responsibility of programs. Vocational agriculture teachers served as advisors.

FFA was for boys only at the beginning in 1928. In 1969 the rules were revised and the girls could also become members.

An attractive National blue jacket with an FFA emblem identifies FFA members. The emblem is made up of 5 symbols: the owl, the plow and rising sun, within the cross section of an ear of corn. This is surmounted by the American eagle. On the face of the emblem are the words "Vocational Agriculture," and the letters "FFA."

The owl is a symbol of wisdom and knowledge, the plow signifies labor and the tilling of the soil, the rising sun is emblematic of progress. The sun also reminds of the new day which will dawn when all farmers are trained and cooperate with each other. Corn is native to America, and is grown in every state. Therefore, the ear of corn in the emblem represents our common agriculture interests. The eagle indicates the national scope of the organization.

The FFA motto reveals the FFA philosophy. It is:

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve.

There are four grades or degrees of active membership: "Green Hand," "Chapter Farmer," "State Farmer" and "American Farmer." The accomplishment of definite requirements are necessary for each of the degrees.

A local member submits credentials and applies for the first two degrees, and is then elected to that status by the local chapter members. The State organization selects youths for the State Farmer degree, and the National organization awards the American Farmer degree.

Factors considered in these various degrees are: competence in farming, earning, investment, leadership and scholarship. Only 3 percent of the membership may receive the State Farmer Degree. The American Farmer degree is awarded to one in a thousand.

The highest single state honor is State Star Farmer, and American Star Farmer is the highest National honor.

Awards are made in the following categories: Agricultural Electrification, Mechanics, Processing, Sales or Service, Concrete Improvement, Crop Production, Farm Safety, Diversified Livestock Production, Fish and Wildlife Management, Forest Management, Floriculture, Parliamentary Procedure, Nursery Operations, Fire Prevention, Soil and Water Management, Turf and Landscape Management and State Fair Premier Exhibitor. Awards are also made to individuals who are producers in one of the following: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Horses, Poultry, Sheep and Swine.

Contests are conducted for team and individual honors in the following: Dairy Cattle Judging, Livestock Judging (beef cattle, hogs and sheep), Meat Judging and Identifi-

cation, Poultry Judging, Cow Clipping, Creed Speaking and Milk Quality. Also in Dairy Foods, Horticulture, Agricultural Mechanics, Farm Business Management, Public Speaking, Talent and Tractor Driving.



Children's Farmyard—Mower County Fairgrounds

The Children's Farmyard has a popular appeal at the Mower County Fair. It is sponsored by the FFA. It is a miniature zoo, featuring the mother and her young of domesticated and wild animals and fowl. It was started by the Austin FFA in 1944. The Children's Farmyard has now become a feature at many county and state fairs across the country. The public watches with awe as the chicks emerge from their shells.



1969 National Champion Swine Judges

Left to right: Dana Petersen, Dick Miller, Don Ritland (coach), Gary Parmenter, Dave Baldner.



1975 State Champion Meat Judging Team

Left to right: Mike Murray, Don Pickett, Mark Petersen and Coach Don Ritland.



1971 National Champion Swine Judges

Left to right: Brian Weness, Mark Gerber, Dave Hill (high individual), Noel Larson, LeRoy Swanson (coach).



1975 National Dairy Cattle Judging Champions

Left to right: Coach Don Ritland, Darwin Hanson, Rick Rugg, Jeff Rugg, and Jan Wefslid, Comm. of Agriculture, Minnesota. Center—Governor Anderson.



1977 State Star Farmer—Mark Schaefer

On his left, LeRoy Swanson and on the right, Curt Schaub.



**1979 State Crops Proficiency Winner
Jeff Babb receiving trophy**



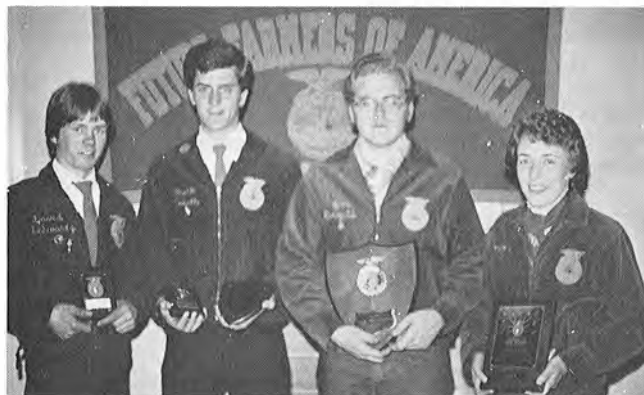
**1980 State Farm Management Team
Left to right: Mike Finbraaten, Jim Kramer, Mark Meany, Mike Boe**



**1979 State Dairy Proficiency Winner
David Miller receiving trophy**



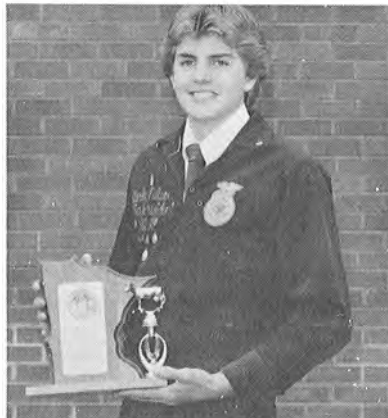
**1980 National Ag Mechanics Team
Honored at LeRoy Commercial Club Dinner
Left to right: Ed Koppen (Commercial Club Pres.), Mark King, Bob Bunne, Mike Fjetland, Richard Schaufler (advisor).**



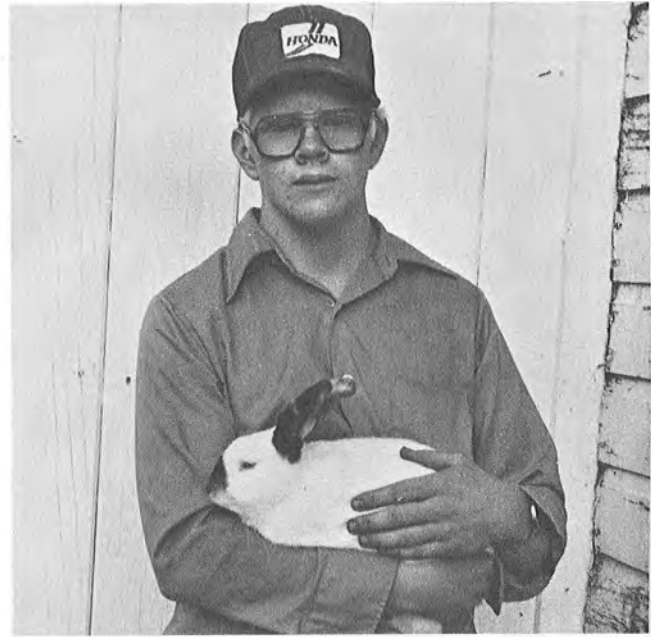
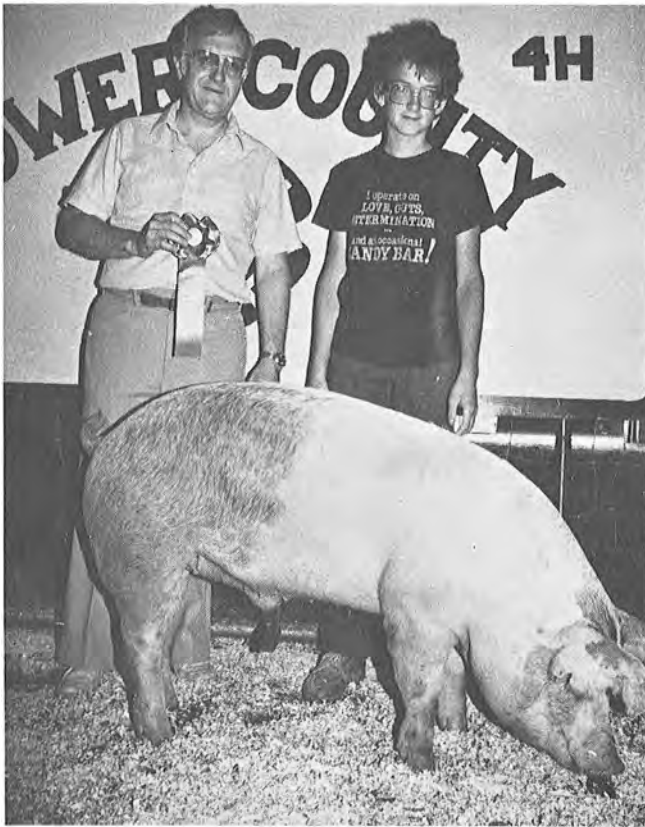
**1983 First Place State Farm Management Team
Left to right: David Schwartz, Mark Haseth, Jim Angell, Tonja Rolfson.**



**Carolyn Dahl (center) receives State Fruit and Vegetable Award—
1983—On left is Byran Stamps, and on right is James Lindsay.**



**1983 State Champion
Cow Clipping
Clarke Nelson**



Upper left - Bruce Baumgartner, Red Rock Rangers, showed his Grand Champion barrow to purchaser Dale Madison, Brownsdale Businessmen's Association.

Center left - 4-H Dog Showmanship Winners. On the left is Reserve Champion Becky Hoevet. On right is Kerri Trom, with Grand Champion honors.

Bottom left - Top Demonstration Team. Four from Windom 4-H club. Left to right: Jane Hayden, Stephanie Larson, Beth Hayden and Gwen Larson.

Upper right - Damon Morgan, Brownsdale Livewires had Grand and Reserve Champion rabbits in 4-H rabbit show. He is pictured with his California rabbit, the Grand Champion.

Center right - Heather Anderson, on left in picture, was Grand Champion in photography. Nicolle Harty, on right, was Grand Champion in geology. Both were from Red Rock Rangers 4-H Club.



1983 National Titleholders—Ag Mechanics Team
 Left to right: Eugene Van Auken, Firestone Rep., Dennis Vogt, Pat Miller, Chris Gerber, Larry Oudekirk, Dale Drees (advisor).

STATE FARMERS

Adams-Southland

Virgil Bergene	1941
Paul Larson	1941
Edgar Meister	1942
Larry Seidel	1955
Morten Keliogg	1956
Paul Winkels	1957
Lester Goergen	1960
Daniel Smith	1961
Thomas Mullenbach	1962
Erlin Weness	1962
Stanley Gerhart	1963
David Weness	1963
Roger Weness	1964
Robert Jax	1965
Thomas Retterath	1965
Lynn Sathre	1965
Kent Bergene	1966
Dale Himebaugh	1966
Lester Loecher	1966
Paul Meyers	1966
Duane Schneider	1966
Ronald Alberts	1967
Dave Gilgenbach	1967
Ronald King	1967
Ken Rauen	1967
Melvin Schneider	1967
John Sathre	1968
Gary Thome	1969
Gary Weness	1969
Gary Gilderhus	1970
Tom Mandt	1970
Ronald Wolff	1970
Paul Lammers	1971
Richard Mandt	1971
Richard Oxley	1971
Tom Bissen	1972
Noel Larson	1972
Alan Steinkamp	1973
Jody Thome	1973
Russell Chapek	1974
Larry King	1974
Sheila Thome	1974
Steven Vangness	1974
David King	1975
Terry Schaefer	1975
Doug Schneider	1975
Richard Thome	1975
Mark Weness	1975
Brian Bergene	1976
Kent Knutson	1976
David Vangness	1976

Gerald Shurson	1977
Mark Schaefer	1977
Rod Chapek	1978
David Kasel	1978
Leroy Kilgore	1978
Brian Meany	1978
Russell Severson	1978
Diane Shurson	1978
Brenda Sorensen	1978
Kendall Klaehn	1979
Steve Schroeder	1979
Mark Meany	1980
Rick Smith	1980
Mike Boe	1981
Terry Ruechel	1981
Kelly Lonergan	1982
Colleen Hoffman	1982
Mark Haseth	1983
Anne Thome	1983
Jeff Kinney	1983

STATE FARMERS

Austin

Norman Goodwin	1930
Victor Marsh	1931
Clyde Gleason	1932
Donald Himmer	1934
Ervin Denisen	1937
Keith McFarland	1938
Harlow Sayles	1938
Gene Dufty	1939
Nathan Goodwin	1939
Lyle Jolson	1939
Arthur Olson	1939
Arnold Christianson	1940
Richard Arett	1940
John Goslee	1945
Harold Lunde	1945
Robert Pyburn	1945
Donald Angell	1946
Hollis Jacobson	1946
Jewayne Baumgartner	1947
Melvin Haldorson	1947
Richard Magee	1947
Dale Lukes	1949
Dean Lukes	1949
Kenneth Magee	1949
Raymond Miller	1949
Wayne Miller	1949
John Register	1949
Dale Rugg	1949

Donald Hanson	1950
James Helgeson	1950
Howard Legried	1950
Dahlard Lukes	1950
Mason Mace	1950
Richard Goslee	1951
Nordeene Haldorson	1951
Carl Kehret Jr.	1951
Charles Smith	1951
John Larick	1952
Paul Lightly	1952
Robert Miller	1952
Stuart Warrington	1952
Robert Holst	1953
Myron Jensen	1953
Dale Neitzel	1953
Ordean Oakland	1953
John Ulland	1953
Donald Chapek	1954
Sheldon Lukes	1954
James Lyle	1954
Bernie Ryks	1954
Russell Wambeam Jr.	1954
Marlow Anderson	1955
Paul Anderson	1955
Charles Lightly	1955
Bernie Moucha	1955
Leo Bridley	1956
Duane Carroll	1956
Roger Jensen	1956
John Lyle	1956
Jay Fawver	1957
Robert Kurth	1957
Gerald Miller	1957
Fred Radloff	1957
Richard Smith	1957
Jerry Lenz	1958
William Lewis	1958
David Lyle	1958
Burton Magnuson	1958
Robert Radloff	1958
Douglas Riskedahl	1958
Gary Braaten	1959
Ronald Hoag	1960
Oliver Hillier	1961
Gerald Denisen	1963
Leon Dibble	1963
Gregory Hanson	1964
Rodney Thompson	1964
Robert Anderson	1965
Larry Noble	1965
David Huinker	1966

Dave Morse	1966
Darrell Denisen	1967
Bruce Hovland	1967
Wm. Ryther	1967
Wayne Strouf	1967
Sheldon Sayles	1968
Greg Rugg	1969
Wayne Sayles	1969
Bradley Rugg	1971
Gary Parmenter	1972
Brent Petersen	1975
Mark Petersen	1975
Raymond Wicks	1975
Dan Hayes	1977

STATE FARMERS

LeRoy-Ostrander

James Hale	1955
Everett Wherry	1956
Donald Barber	1957
Kenneth Stockdale	1957
Jerry Hale	1960
Gene Rick	1960
Richard Bhend	1961
Leo Runde	1961
Richard Leslie	1963
Stanley Bergan	1972
Paul Batt	1973
Rodney Batt	1975
Vance Losey	1975
Becky Eastvold	1976
Rich Granahan	1976
Rick Miller	1976
Rick Roe	1976
Todd Stockdale	1976
Craig Forland	1977
Doug Wherry	1977
Mike Arndorfer	1977
Jeff Babb	1978
Paul Hamlin	1978
Philip Hansen	1978
David Miller	1979
Craig Schaefer	1979
Gaye Stockdale	1979
Mark Arndorfer	1980
Tony Arndorfer	1980
Robert Bunne	1980
Mike Fjetland	1980
Mark King	1980
Wendy Stockdale	1980
Fran Wherry	1980
Kenneth Kling	1981

Tim Koch	1981	Carolyn Dahl	1983	<i>Grand Meadow</i>		Neal Kenyon	1963
Leonard Soltau	1981	Clarke Nelson	1983	Patricia Snyder	1974	Ronald Miller	1963
Dan Arndorfer	1982	Mike Norby	1983	Richard Gehling	1975	Lynn Balgeman	1964
David Dahl	1982	Curt Sheely	1983	<i>Lyle</i>		Jerry Reuter	1964
Bonnie Speer	1982	Scott Sheely	1983	Tom Nelson	1962	Robert Norregaard	1965
Vicky Stockdale	1982			David Howard	1963	Dean Hanson	1966
Pat Arndorfer	1983					Robert Balgeman	1970

AMERICAN FARMERS

<i>Austin</i>	
Norman Goodwin	1931
Ervin Denisen	1938
Harlow Sayles	1939
Gene Dufty	1940
Dale Rugg	1950
Jim Helgeson	1951
Dale Lukes	1952
Mason Mace Jr.	1953
Richard Goslee	1954
Paul Lightly	1955
Don Chapek	1956
Sheldon Lukes	1957
Gary Parmenter	1975
<i>Adams-Southland</i>	
Lynn Sathre	1968
Ronald Alberts	1970
Paul Lammers	1974
Jody Thome	1976
Mark Schaefer	1980
Kendall Klaehn	1982
<i>LeRoy-Ostrander</i>	
Kenneth Stockdale	1961
Paul Batt	1977
Richard Granahan	1977
David Miller	1981
Tony Arndorfer	1982
Mark King	1983
STATE STAR FARMERS	
Richard Goslee	1951
Austin, Lee Arneson & Don Ritland	Advisors
Mark Schaefer	1977
Southland, LeRoy Swanson	Advisor

STATE PRESIDENTS

Clyde Gleason	1934 & 1935	Austin
Keith McFarland	1938	Austin

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

TEACHER of the YEAR

Joe Raine	1977	Austin
Don Ritland	1980	Austin

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL

INSTRUCTORS

<i>Austin</i>	
W. G. "Gary" Wiegand	1923-1944
Harold Radke	1944-1949
Lee Arneson	1949-1957
Jim Dice	1954-1958
Don Ritland	1949-1980
Steven Maley	1980-
Instructors of Adult Classes—P. J. Holand, Chas. Painter, Arthur Sievers, Ron Hayes, Joe Raine, Loel Gordon and Don Walker	
<i>Adams</i>	
Paul Kunkel	1925-1929
Harold Beane	1928-1932
Wm. Grussendorf	1932-1934
Stanley Doten	1934-1935
Allyn Hagen	1935-1937
Roland Brooks	1937-1939
Noel Hatle	1939-1941
Edwin Lentz	1950-1952
Merle Schwartzau	1952-1953
Norm Haugaard	1953-1954
Lloyd Hoberg	1954-1956
Dan Garry	1956-1957
Arvid Anderson	1957-1959

Dwain Vangsness	1959-
Lynn Lagerstedt	1964-1965
LeRoy Swanson	1965-

Elkton

Lynn Lagerstedt	1965-1973
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Southland(Adams & Elkton)

Dwain Vangsness	1959-
LeRoy Swanson	1965-
Wayne Pike	1975-1979
Curt Schaub	1975-1978
Dale Drees	1978-
Gary Thome	1979-

Grand Meadow

Herman Winkles	1954-1956
Wm. Turgeon	1957-1968
Terry Adams	1969-1976
Roger Cyr	1979-1982

LeRoy-Ostrander

Arnold Schroeder	1934-1953
Wallace Shodeen	1954-1963
David Haugland	1964-1968
Don Haugland	1967-1968
Roger Johnson	1968-1971
Richard Schaufler	1972-

Instructors of Adult Classes—Terry Phillips, Gary Luebke, Randy Sternberg and Walter Hulstrand

Lyle

Eugene "Curt" Stillwell	1959-1963
Pete Godfredson	1963-1965
Roger Ruehling	1965-1966
Ross Peterson	1966-1972

MOWER COUNTY FARMERS UNION

The Farmers Union was one of the national voices for American agriculture half a century before it became active in southeastern Minnesota. The organization was designed to help farmers by promoting legislation and other activities of benefit to farmers, promoting the interests of small farmers and tenant farmers with cooperative buying and selling.

The first meeting of the Mower County Farmers Union took place November 24, 1953 in the Mower County Courthouse. Officers elected were: Harold Murphy, president; Robert Baudler, vice president and Dean Lukes, secretary-treasurer.

The first annual Mower County Farmers Union banquet was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Adams on April 9, 1957. Robert Handchin, Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association was the featured speaker.

Speakers at subsequent banquets and public functions included such well-known Minnesota Farmers Union personalities as Russell Schwandt, Ed Christianson, Archie Bauman, Ray Grasdahlen, Robert Handchin and Cy Carpenter.

One of the initial activities of the county organization was Farmers Union Insurance. In 1954 Marion Peterson, Joe Lickteig and Maurice Bulson were authorized as agents.

For several years the union manned an educational booth at the Mower County fair. Each year the union also has a prominent display at the Minnesota State Fair. The state organization has been active in conducting hearings and providing tours to the state capitol and Washington D.C.

AUSTIN FFA ALUMNI

Fifty three members were chartered into the Austin FFA Alumni on March 6, 1979. The new group began their activities with a major project, the 50th Anniversary celebration for the Future Farmers of America club in Austin in 1980. The event was held at the Mower County Fairgrounds.

Three hogs, donated by alumni members, were roasted and served with FFA grown sweet corn. 425 FFA alumni and friends attended the gala affair. The speaker of the day was W. G. "Gary" Wiegand, the instructor at the time the local FFA received its charter.

The Regional Livestock and Meats Judging Contests are another annual project. The Alumni secure the needed livestock and truck it in. During the contest, which is held in the Crane Pavilion, the Alumni served as squad leaders, timekeepers and helped tabulate the scores.

Five Alumni members were charter members of the Austin Chapter FFA in 1930. They are Winslow Casey, Chester Coddington, Henry Medgaarden, Sanford Smith and Chester Taylor.

The following are the charter members of the Austin FFA Alumni:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jim Archer | Henry Medgaarden |
| Darrell Armstrong | Dick Miller |
| Roger Bastyr | Francis Miller |
| Gordon Bau | John Miller |
| John Beckel | Patti Miller |
| Winslow Casey | Wayne Miller |
| Chester Coddington | Dave Morse |
| Alton Davis | Charles Painter |
| Gary Davis | Douglas Parmenter |
| Larry Dunn | Gary Parmenter |
| Charles Golden | Carroll Plager |
| Helen Halverson | Robert Radloff |
| Dan Hayes | Joe Paine |
| Ronald Hayes | Don Ritland |
| Tom Hayes | Dale Rugg |
| David Hillier | Harlow Sayles |
| Larry Houstman | Sheldon Sayles |
| Brian Johnson | Sanford Smith |
| Ramsey Johnson | Dr. John Stevenson |
| Vern Kehret | Wallace Stucke |
| William Klingfus | Chester Taylor |
| Ella Marie Lausen | Kenneth Trom |
| Paul Lightly | Don Walker |
| Dean Lukes | Ralph Waters |
| Sheldon Lukes | Raymond Wicks |
| Dave Lyle | Dale Wynia |
| Richard Magee | |

Local FFA Alumni Officers

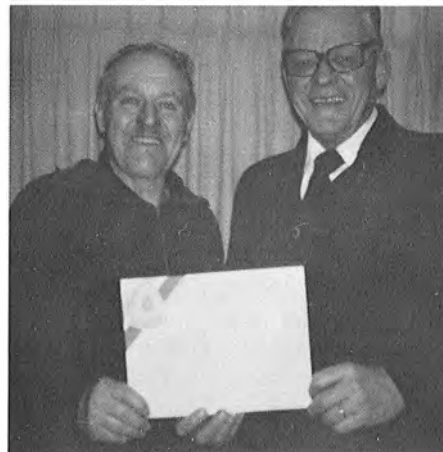
Dave Hillier, Vice President, Ron Hayes, Sec.-Treas. and Sheldon Sayles, President.



Left to right: Henry Medgaarden, Sanford Smith and Chester Taylor —Charter members of FFA and Alumni.



Left to right: Harold Pollock, Emmert Meyer and Winslow Casey



National FFA Alumni Convention 1980
Left to right: Harlow Sayles and Don Ritland—Legion of Merit Award Winners.



MOWER COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE



Mower County Extension Staff — 1983

Front row, left to right: Harland Johnsrud, Mary Ellen Miller, Ron Seath. Back row, left to right: Vernece Beckel, Ruth Jaeger.



County Extension Committee — 1983

Front row, left to right: Carroll Plager, Mrs. Gerhardt Schumann, chairperson, Mrs. Ed Ivers, Art Vogel. Back row, left to right: Duane Hanson, Aaron Huseby, Harlow Sayles, John Grass. Not pictured Graham Uzllk.

1914 was a significant year for United States agriculture. Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which made Cooperative Extension a reality. The purpose of the act was to "aid in diffusing useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage application of the same."

The new program combined the efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, the county government and the farm people. The county staff, consisting of the County Agent, the Home Agent and the 4-H Agent were hired by local committees. These committees received aid and advice from the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service.

Mower County began plans in 1917

At a meeting of the Mower County Commissioners, November 17, 1917, the board members were presented with a proposal by a committee of local citizens, Mrs. A. W. Allen, Mrs. S. D. Catherwood and W. A. Nolan. They requested the authority and financial aid to hire a County Conservation Agent. The previous April the U.S. had become engaged in World War I. The slogan was, "Food will win the war."

The board approved the expenditure of \$25.00 per month for a six month period. Mrs. Rosamond Adams was hired, and thus became Mower County's first extension employee, and the first Home Agent in Minnesota. This was unusual. For most counties their first extension employee was the County Agent.

County Agent Authorized

At that same November meeting the Mower County Commissioners heard a proposal by Frank E. Bolmer, from the U.S. Agricultural Extension and Food Administration. He requested that the county match funds of the USDA to employ a County Agent. After careful con-

sideration the board passed a twofold measure. They approved \$1,000.00 for a County Agent for one year. They also approved \$1,000.00 for the second year with this provision. A Mower County Farm Bureau Association was to be organized with a membership of at least 400. 300 of these members were to be farmers. The new Farm Bureau was then to raise \$800.00 for the work of the new County Agent for each of the following two years.

A committee with John Christgau, chairman, and Ben J. Huseby, Hans Johnson, J. W. Hare, W. A. Nolan and Gus Jacobson organized the new Mower County Farm Bureau Association. On March 15, 1918, B. F. King and Earl Padelford, the president and secretary of the new association, appeared before the County Board of Commissioners. They reported that 400 members had each paid their \$2.00 annual membership dues. The new Mower County Farm Bureau Association had complied with the requirements needed to receive the \$1,000.00 appropriation for the County Agent.

County Extension Service Had Opposition

There was a group which was opposed to the hiring of a County Agent, and to the appropriation from county revenues. They presented the commissioners with 5 petitions signed by 400 county residents, urging a "no" vote. There was a lively discussion, but it was a day of decision. Charles L. Schwartz, John H. Krebsbach and A. Hotson voted for the appropriation. W. H. Goodsell and Peter Lausen were opposed.

W. L. French was hired as the first County Agent, and began his duties on April 1, 1918. A demonstration plot was planted on the present site of Wescott Athletic Field. The area was also used to demonstrate the value of liming and application of fertilizer.



These Mower County Commissioners authorized first County Agent in 1918
 Front, left to right: Charles Schwartz, O. J. Simmons, Al Hotson. Back, left to right: Peter Lausen, W. H. Goodsell, John Krebsbach

Duties of Staff Outlined

The staff duties assigned in 1918 have remained basically the same over the years. Established agricultural facts of value are demonstrated, experimental results are made available if applicable to local conditions, successful farming practices are publicized, the potential of volunteer leaders is developed to aid in reaching all in the farming community, cooperation among rural people is stimulated, and in all efforts the aim is to make farming an attractive and profitable business. Over the years the program has been broadened to give emphasis to forestry, family living, youth development, community resources and public affairs. The County Agent is also the office manager.

County Has Had Four County Agents Since 1918

Only four men have served our county as County Agent or Extension Director. They are: W. L. French, 1918-1919; F. L. Liebenstein, 1921-1954; Donald Hasbargen, 1955-1970; and Harlan Johnsrud since 1970. Both F. L. Liebenstein and Donald Hasbargen received the Distinguished Service Certificate awarded by the

N.A.C.A.A. (National Association of Agricultural Agents).

4-H Programs Were Begun in 1918

Jessie R. Partridge was the organizer of the 4-H program in Mower County. In 1919 five schools approved the expenditure of \$150.00 each for a 4-H leader. The schools were Grand Meadow, Dexter, Rose Creek, Adams and Blooming Prairie. All were in Mower County except Blooming Prairie, which was in Steele County. The U.S. Department of Agriculture gave a like amount, and the funds covered the salary and travel expenses for Miss Partridge.

Six clubs were organized from the five towns. There were the "Meadow Stick Tights," "Center Club of Dexter," "Rose Creek Jolly Workers" and "Adams Full of Pep Club." In Blooming Prairie there was the "Summer Time" club for 4th thru 6th grade and the "Can't be Beat" club for young people over 6th grade.

Miss Partridge traveled by train from town to town, spending one day a week in each club. A total of 276 members enrolled in gardening, sewing, canning, bread-

making, poultry, baby beef, lamb and pig projects. County Agent French helped with the livestock projects and Mrs. French helped with breadmaking.

The top winners earned trips to the Minnesota State Fair, the Junior Livestock Show, South St. Paul, the Horticulture Show in St. Paul and the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago.

The 4-H Program a Success

After the initial six month program was completed, the school officials were so pleased that they renewed the arrangement through the first seven months of 1920. Miss Partridge received a substantial increase in salary.

New projects in 1920 were corn, dairy calf, livestock judging, rabbits and bees. Hilda Thurston of Blooming Prairie won the state championship in breadmaking. Her expenses were paid to the International Exposition in Chicago.

In 1921 the Blooming Prairie clubs transferred to Steele County. Brownsdale formed a new club and Grand Meadow divided into "Junior Stick Tights" and "Senior Stick Tights."

F. L. Liebenstein Begins 34 Year Austin Career

April 15, 1921, F. L. Liebenstein assumed duties as County Agent. W. L. French had resigned in 1919.

Liebenstein increased the emphasis on livestock projects. Mower County's exhibit won first place at the State Fair. Lloyd Vermilyea had a champion Holstein heifer. Audrey Pulver, Genevieve Fink and Lila Rogers won championships in both state and national competition for their dried peach shortcake.

4-H clubs received funds through the Farm Bureau, the schools and women's groups from 1922 until 1928, at which time the Farm Bureau assumed full responsibility. Lansing and Elkton formed new clubs. A total of 16 demonstration teams, and several individual demonstrators were trained.

In 1922 Mower County had the second largest delegation at the State Fair. Stanley Hillier had the champion Jersey heifer and won a gold watch. Eugene Summy won a trip to Chicago with his state champion pig.

Under Jessie Partridge's leadership 4-H in Mower County had a remarkable performance. In a 5 year period members won 130 trips, 9 of them to the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. Projects completed had a value of \$40,307.00 and a profit of \$16,996.00. State championships were won in projects such as gardening, cake making, dairy calves, market pigs, and the dried peach shortcake national championship.

In every way the Mower County 4-H club members have fulfilled their pledge, "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living for my home, my club, my community, my country and my world." Their motto is, "To make the best better."

4-H Membership Increased Steadily

Membership in 4-H clubs increased steadily to a peak of 1,227 in 1964. At that time there were 31 clubs, 221 adult leaders and 263 junior leaders. Boys led in enroll-

ment until 1950. The number of girls has exceeded boys since that date.

The gradual reduction in the number of Mower County farm families has caused a similar decrease in 4-H club membership during the past 20 years. In 1982 there were 667 members in 22 clubs.

There has been a continuing increase in number and variety of projects. Such new projects include goat, horse and dog in the area of livestock. There are those who find instruction in forestry, agronomy, conservation, needlework, home environment, fruit, geology, shop, aerospace, food education, clothing and child development. They also compete in showmanship, herdsmanship, club booth and club banner.

Adams "Full-O-Pep" is the one club which has been active since 1919. The 21 others are: Brownsdale "Livewires"; Austin "Chaparel"; Adams "Country Aces"; Elkton "Upstreamers"; Austin "Enterprise"; Grand Meadow "Frankford Boosters"; Grand Meadow "Jolly Youth"; LeRoy "Wide Awake"; London "Willing Workers"; Adams "Lucky Clovers"; Lyle "Nevada Wide-Awake"; Racine "Ramblers" and "Rockets"; Austin "Ramsey"; Brownsdale "Rangers"; Sargeant; Rose Creek "South Side"; Austin "Telstar"; Blooming "Udolpho"; Austin "Windom"; Lyle "Woodbury"; and Oak Grove "Stars."

Outstanding 4-H Member Awards

The awards for the outstanding 4-H members were given by the Liebenstein family.

1955-64 the Denisen family, 1965-73 the Sayles family from 1979.

1955 - Virgil Narveson	1969 - Sue Reding
1956 - Myron Dammann	1970 - Bernadine Reagan
1957 - Anita Eblen	1971 - Ruth Christians
1958 - Paul Schottler	1972 - Jaael Bendtsen
1959 - Paul Ulwelling	1973 - Marilyn Adams
1960 - Marlys Dammann	1974 - Luann Anderson
1961 - Jean Grundy	1975 - Sheri Olsen
1962 - John Grass	1976 - Margaret Dooley
1963 - Wayne Schottler	1977 - Peggy Slowinski
1964 - Richard Grass	1978 - Jill Akkerman
1965 - Lynn Balgeman	1979 - Brenda Sorensen
1966 - Mary Dooley	1980 - Sue Opsahl
1967 - Mary Frances Dvorak	1981 - Mary Laack
1968 - Keenan Saman	1982 - Troy Nelson

Honorary 4-H Leader Awards

This recognition has been awarded by Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Plager.

1972 - Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Denisen, North Star Club
1973 - Norbert Schroeder, Racine Ramblers and Mrs.

Raymond Schaefer, Country Aces

1974 - Barry Kramer and Mrs. Joe Schneider, Country Aces

1975 - Joseph Jax, Country Aces and Mrs. Rudy Jech, Elkton Upstreamers

1976 - Mr. and Mrs. John Ulland, Telstar

1977 - Don Sorensen, Dexterous and Mrs. Gerald Meier, Lucky Clovers

1978 - Joe VanHooser, Nevada and Mrs. Norbert Schroeder, Racine Ramblers



1957 4-H Dress Revue

Standing, left to right: Janet Schottler, Linda Eblen, Mary Fawver, Marlys Dammann, Delores Schottler, Janet Adams, JoAnn Williams, Merrilee Larson, Janice Hayden. Seated: JoAnn Eblen, Linda Rockers, Patty Anderson

1979 - Ray Schaefer, Country Aces and Mrs. Richard Jax, Red Rock Rangers

1980 - Jerry MacVey and Mrs. Dennis Nelson, Brownsdale Livewires

1981 - Mr. and Mrs. Dale Akkerman, Ramsey

1982 - James Hayden, Windom and Mrs. James Read, London

Home Agent's Role in County Extension

Leadership training is a vital part of the Home Agent's duties. Workshops have been conducted from the beginning. Key leaders have emerged in the women's groups. Beginning with food preservation, the first program, education has advanced into dietary planning, fiber facts, food sanitation, whole grain cookery, canning, home furnishings and furniture, flower arrangements, landscaping, folk art, finance management and many others. By attending conferences the Home Agent is able to relay new technical information and techniques through the leaders. She also issues press releases to the media.

In addition to her work with the women of the county, the home agent also gives guidance and encouragement to the 4-H girls. All staff members work with the 4-H. These future leaders in agriculture, the 4-H, are given all the training and encouragement possible by the staff.

The 4-H year is climaxed by the exhibit displays, livestock awards, 4-H dress revue, food show and demonstrations at the Mower County Fair. The purple ribbon and the right to advance to state and national competition is prized more highly than monetary gain.

Liebenstein Hall

4-H has its own headquarters on the grounds of the Mower County Fair. The need for such a facility was recognized in the late 1940s. Funds were raised through a wide variety of projects. The most prominent was the 4-H lunch stand operated by members and parents during the Mower County Fair. A group of businessmen solicited funds throughout the county. 500 4-H members, parents and friends built the building using materials provided at cost. Completed in time for the 1950 county fair, the new 4-H building was appropriately named in honor of the long time county agent, F. L. Liebenstein.

4-H Auction

The 4-H Ribbon Auction came into being after other means of rewarding 4-H members had been tried. It was held annually until 1958, and did a good job of stimulating interest in market livestock projects. However, it did nothing for dairy and non-livestock projects.

Often businessmen would bid enthusiastically on a

calf, pig or lamb regardless of the merit of the animal. Sometimes, therefore, a red ribbon animal would bring a much better price than a superior blue ribbon animal. As it was a public auction there was no way to control prices.

4-H Incentive Programs Were Improved

The program which was begun in 1958 was far more educational and did away with the inequities of the live auction. Clubs and businessmen who had been patronizing the 4-H sale were asked to give equivalent cash into a 4-H Foundation Fund. This was used, without prejudice, for a wide range of 4-H activities. The weakness in the plan was that the donor did not receive the recognition he had in the auction. Support diminished.

A new type of 4-H auction was begun in 1975. The inequities of the old type of auction was solved by club members being paid a previously set amount in accordance with the color of the ribbon won. Purple ribbon winners got more than blue, blue more than red and red more than white. Additional monies received went into the 4-H Foundation Fund. Each member is entitled to one animal in the sale, and the bidding is for the ribbon only. Club members retained possession of their animals. Club members are then free to sell grade & yield or any way they wished.

As much as \$14,000 has gone into the 4-H fund in a single year. After 8 years of experience this program is deemed a success.

Keefe Brothers of Rose Creek shipped 100 carloads of potatoes by railroad in 1921. Today such a record is unheard of. In the first place, 100 carloads is a lot of potatoes, and in the second place trucks do most of this kind of hauling these days. Even in 1921, 100 carloads was a lot of potatoes.

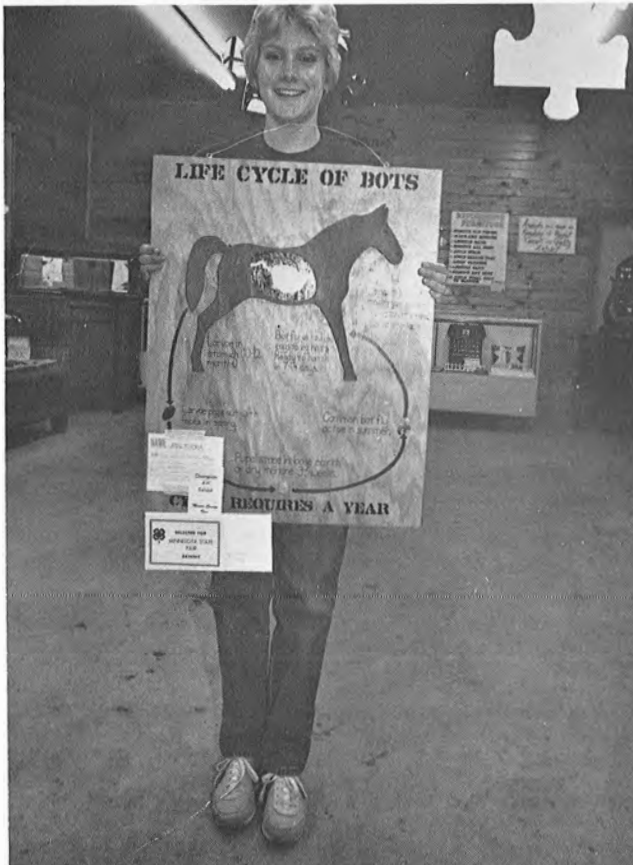
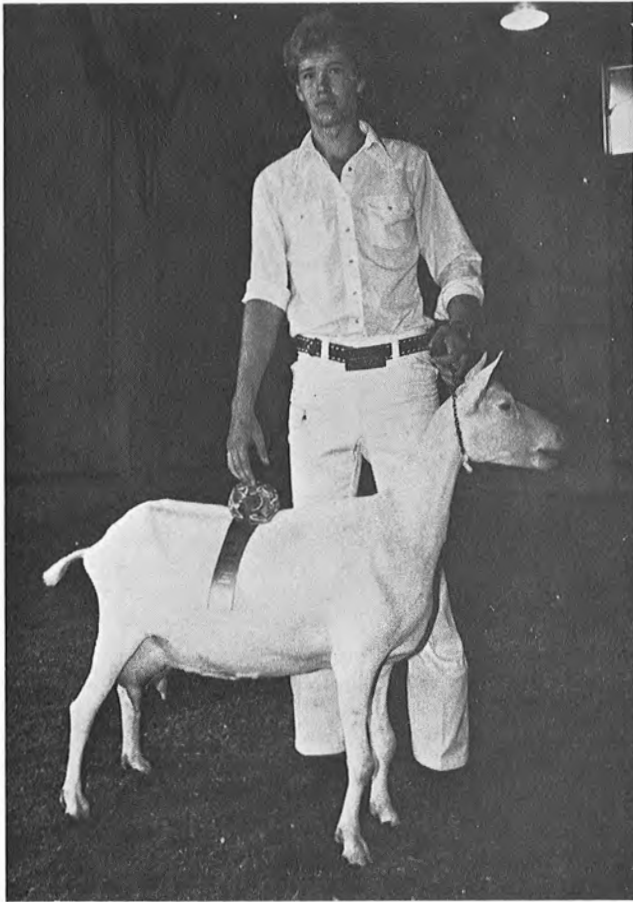
Mower County ranks as the breeding place of the finest livestock in the country. Among its individual attractions in 1928 was the world's champion yearly butter producing Holstein cow, "May Walker Ollie Homestead," with a record of 1,523 pounds of butter and 31,611 pounds of milk.

FAIR TIME IS SHOWTIME FOR 4-H MEMBERS

Pictured in the following 3 pages are recent winners in a variety of 4-H projects at the annual Mower County Fair



Holly Hayes of the Telstar 4-H Club with her Grand Champion market lamb. Hayes also showed the Grand Champion ewe and lamb.



Upper left - Jared Jacobson, LeRoy Wide Awake 4-H Club displays his Grand Champion dairy goat.

Lower left - The 4-H Grand Champion in the Veterinary Science class was Ann Mudra, London Willing Workers.

Upper right - Nita Swendiman, left, won Reserve Champion honors in conservation and Grand Champion in needlework. Sarah Swendiman, right, was Grand Champion in the forestry division. Both are members of the Ramsey 4-H Club.

Center right - Todd Rolfsen of the Elkton Up-streamers 4-H Club, won Grand Champion honors in the Aerospace class.



Top photo - Stacy Kuther took Grand Champion honors in overall junior competition and Reserve Champion in the performance class at the 4-H Horse Show, Mower County Fair.

Center left - Neal Anderson, Red Rock Rangers 4-H Club, had a pen of Grand Champion breeding chickens in the poultry show.

Tim Andree's ducks brought him a Reserve Champion ribbon at the 4-H Poultry show. He is a member of the Brownsdale Live Wires.

Sara Schiesher was the Grand Champion in the 4-H demonstration contest. She also received a trophy and cash award from M. C. Pork Producers for being the top contestant using pork in her demonstration.

COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE IN ALL PHASES OF FARM LIFE



The two-row corn cultivator

Change in Farming Methods is Continuous

Corn rows, fence lines and the plowed field. Those were the 3 criteria for rating the good farmer in the early years.

Corn rows should be straight as an arrow. Fence posts must be perfectly aligned, and the wires tight. Plowed fields should show no evidence of plant growth. If a farmer could qualify in these three areas he was fully qualified.

Open pollinated corn was planted by the two-row horse drawn planter. It was cultivated three or more times. In the fall the corn was put in shocks and fed in bundle form. Or it was husked by hand with the aid of a hook, and then shoveled into cribs. If the corn was not fed in ear form it was shelled, often with a hand sheller.

Now the tractor pulls a six-row drill planter. Some even use 24 row planters. Where contour farming is practiced, the rows are far from straight.

Hybrid seed, nitrogen starters and anhydrous ammonia application gives the crop a fast start. Herbicides control the weeds, so little, if any, cultivation is needed.

Mechanical pickers replaced hand picking, and now sheller combines do the harvesting. Dryers are used to reduce the moisture content before storing. Some is not dried, but placed in a Harvestor silo and fed as high moisture corn.

If the farmer is not a livestock feeder the corn is hauled from the field to the local elevator.

Many fences have been removed to enable big farm machinery to maneuver readily.

Much of the fall plowing has been eliminated. Plowing which is done leaves much plant residue exposed to combat wind and water erosion. The disc has replaced the plow on many farms.

Corn silage was the only type of silage in upright silos, but now oats and hay have been added to the list. Frequently silage is placed in trench silos covered with plastic.



Changeover from threshing to combining grain came in the late 1930s

Wheat is No Longer a Major Crop

Wheat was once the primary crop in this area. We were part of the wheat belt. Only a trace remains. Barley acreages are also reduced, and no flax is grown. The drill has replaced the broadcast seeder. Varieties are vastly improved.

Harvesting procedures are fully changed. Once the grain was cut with a binder which tied in bundles. Shocks were set up for curing and later threshed. Threshing equipment included the separator, which separated the grain from the straw. It was powered by the steam engine, which itself required a coal wagon and a water wagon. Ten or more neighboring farmers comprised a "threshing ring," which moved from place to place.

The threshing crew included 8 to 10 men for the bundle racks. The basic crew included the engine man, the separator supervisor, a blower man and a stacker. The stacker arranged and tramped the straw so the stack would have straight sides and shed the water. A huge fan in the separator forced the straw out of the blower as it rotated in a quarter circle arc.

The wife of the farmer who's grain was being threshed had a large responsibility. She had her own crew preparing noon and evening meals for the threshing crew. The strenuous work gave big appetites. Each housewife wanted to be remembered as a good provider, so meals were excellent. That is the origin of the saying, "he eats like a thresher."

Nowadays the grain is left standing until fully ripened before cutting and leaving it in a swath. The combine then moves astraddle the swath, collecting the grain in a hopper and leaving the straw in the field. Later the straw is baled.

Modern harvesting is done by a single man. The threshing circuit is no more.



Farm wives make their plans for threshing day



Threshing crews had hearty appetites

The Hay Crop

Alfalfa has replaced red clover as the standard crop. It is preferable as a livestock feed. Three cuttings are common in place of the two of clover. Hay was first dried in cocks (miniature stacks). When dry it was loaded on hayracks by pitchfork and a strong back.

The mechanical hay loader was a labor saver. The grapple or harpoon fork was used for unloading, and the hay was moved to the haymow by ropes and pulleys.

Rain is definitely not needed for haying. The modern farmer listens for the weather forecast, which helps to eliminate much of the mowing problem.

Alfalfa should be cut when 10% of the blooms are showing. Crimping while cutting is also a common practice to reduce drying time.

Baling is done in one of two ways. Many use the conventional size bale, while others bale in round bales six foot in diameter. Others use equipment to coarse chop the hay, which is blown into a container resembling a small stack. This is then released in the field.

On some dairy farms the alfalfa is cut daily during the growing season, then hauled to the cows in stanchion or drylot. This "green chopping" is accomplished by a single operator.

Soybeans Are Now A Major Crop

In 1900 there were no soybeans grown in Mower County. In 1983 there were more acres planted to soybeans than any other crop. Initially they were planted with a corn planter in rows the same width as corn. Experience and research has determined that it is practical to plant in twice as many rows. The key to high soybean yield is weed control. Chemicals now being used eliminate all weeds without cultivation. Soybeans have many uses and a high percent are exported.

Cooperative Purchasing

There is a wide scope in the county extension program. Until 1954 the Farm Bureau purchased a variety of farm needs at wholesale prices. Dynamite sticks and caps were purchased to aid in the clearing of land. The purchase of limestone helped counter soil acidity for alfalfa. The slogan was, "an acre of alfalfa per cow in the county."

Commercial fertilizer, legume seeds and shelterbelt trees were other needs met with bulk purchasing. The Farm Bureau continued in this service through 1954.

Grain Production and Livestock Feeding

Much of Mower County is tillable, so grain production and livestock feeding are major enterprises. The Extension Committee places major emphasis on improvement and profitability in these areas. Farmers are encouraged to bring soil samples to the extension office for analysis and fertilizer recommendation.

Procedures for the testing of soil were improved in 1950, when a soil laboratory was provided by the University of Minnesota.

Until 1953 the extension office aided in the solution of soil drainage problems. Now such questions are referred to the Soil and Water Conservation committee.

Disease Control

A farmer's profits can disappear if he has serious problems with plant or animal disease. The extension office is aware of epidemics and is prepared to suggest remedies or control measures. The office has played an important role in combating tuberculosis, hog cholera, equine encephalomyelitis, brucellosis, dysentery and many other livestock disabilities. Extension Service has also assisted in reducing damage to crops from the corn borer, root worm, rust, blight etc.

Other Facets in Extension Service

The nutritional needs for livestock and poultry are constantly being improved. Phosphorous and potassium are essential elements when in proper balance.

Continual cropping has depleted the mineral content of some soils and grains. The answer is supplementation.

Pasture yields have been doubled through fertilizers, legume seeding and weed control.

Barns are Modernized

The old red barn has been the trademark of the family farm for years. Many have been replaced by one-story buildings of economical construction. Plans for these buildings are a popular subject at farm conferences. The U of M has specialists who can advise at these discus-



Listening in on the party line

sions. The interior arrangement of a barn is as important to the farmer as is the kitchen arrangement to his wife.

The Extension Director is schooled to help in discussions on farm estate planning. He can also assist in the development of a computer program. Computers may soon rival electricity as the farmer's best hired hand.

The Community Garden

The Austin Park & Recreation department has made available 250 garden plots, which are rented annually. The Extension Service has provided trained assistance by individuals called "master gardeners."

Canning Crops

Sweet corn, peas and beans are the main canning crops in this area. Whole farms are contracted by the canning companies at Owatonna, Rochester and Waseca. These companies plant and harvest the crops according to their own schedule. Specialty crops include sunflower and a small amount of buckwheat.

The Farm Garden

Since pioneer days almost every farm has had its own garden plot. New and improved varieties of seeds have resulted in highly productive gardens, even without the peat soil in nearby Freeborn and Steele counties. Lamentably the weeds still grow and require the gardener's attention.

Changes in Livestock Programs

In recent years the trend in livestock programs has been from diversification to specialization. The traditional family farm had hogs, horses, sheep, cattle and poultry. The egg money was used to buy groceries, milk was used to drink, and the cream was hauled to the local dairy. Horses were the power supply for the farm. Hogs, cattle and sheep went to market after the farmer had chosen those he wanted for home butchering.



The evening's chores completed

Today's dairy cattle are more productive than their predecessors. Improved nutrition, breeding and management have contributed to a remarkable change. There are half as many cows, but an equal amount of milk.

Dairy Herd Improvement Association

Cow testing began as one of the first extension programs. Cow testing associations grew in number very rapidly. In 1928 the name changed from Cow Testing Association to D.H.I.A. (Dairy Herd Improvement Association). The scope of the program was broadened, and all areas for improvement were included. The best bulls available were used to improve the breeding. The rate of improvement increased with the introduction of artificial insemination. Now the small breeder could have his cows bred to the best bulls at a price lower than the cost of keeping his own bull.

Factors Which Determine the High Producing Cow

Improved nutrition includes a proper balance of ingredients and amount. The high producing cow makes a better use of his grain ration. The quality of hay or silage makes a difference in the roughage. Pasture rotation is often beneficial. It is better for both the cows and the pasture.

Marketing Practices

The common practice is to save the heifer calves, and then let their production record determine if they stay in the herd or take a ride to the packing house. Bull calves from high producing cows are sometimes set aside as herd sires. The rest are sold as veal calves.

The present practice is to feed dairy steers to market weight. This is particularly true of Holstein and Brown Swiss more so than Guernsey and Jersey breeds.

The milking machine has replaced hand milking. The larger and more modern dairy farms have "milking parlors." The dairy barn is equipped with stanchions, tie stalls, free stalls or simply a shed called a loafing barn. The cows are fed their grain ration and are milked while there.



Picking corn in 1983

An interesting sidelight is the pecking order the cows in each herd establish. As the cows line up at the entrance to the milking parlor, they do so in exactly the same order every morning and evening. The lead cow is referred to as the "boss" cow.

Farm To Dairy

The method of movement of milk to the processing plant has changed. The common practice was to pour milk into 10 gallon cans. The water tank served as a cooler. The trucker from a cooperative creamery traveled his route of farms, picking up the 10 gallon cans each morning. Payment to each producer would be on the basis of a butterfat test.

That 10 gallon milk can is now a collector's item. Not too long ago there were 9 cooperative creameries in Mower County. LeRoy and Racine remain out of a group which once also included Adams, Brownsdale, Lansing, Lyle, Red Oak Grove, Rose Creek and Waltham. There were also a number of private creameries which in-

cluded: Ankenys, Austin Dairy, Cheese Spot, Dexter, Golden Dairy, Grand Meadow, Huseby Dairy, Mari-gold, Mayville Cheese, Pappe & Wendorf, Sheedy Bros., Streverling and Waltham Cheese.

Milk Processing Today

Milk is now stored in stainless steel bulk tanks. The transfer to bulk tank trucks is via hose, much like the transfer of gasoline. There are Class A and Class B producers. Class A milk producers must adhere to rigid sanitation procedures. Facilities are inspected periodically and without notice. The milking parlor and the equipment therein must be thoroughly cleaned after each milking.

Urban citizens may not be aware that every cow in a herd has a name or number. The six common dairy breeds are: Holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey, Jersey and Milking Shorthorn. Mower County also has one herd of Dutch Belted. There are more of the Holstein breed than all the others combined.

Discovery of Coal in Mower County

The February 18, 1875 issue of the *Austin Register* gave the following account.

"A few days ago, in digging a well in the eastern part of the town of Pleasant Valley, on Section 13, at a depth of 20 feet, a vein of coal, five feet in thickness, was struck under a heavy bed of clay. The coal, it is said, resembles the soft coal of Iowa, and burns clear and bright. The place of discovery is on the ridge running north and

south through the eastern part of Pleasant Valley, and about half a mile east of E. R. Campbell's place."

"Should this vein prove to be extensive, it will be one of the best things that has turned up in this part of the state for the development of Southern Minnesota. With all of the money now sent abroad for coal, kept at home, and distributed among our people, a new impetus would be given to all kinds of business."

Mower County Dairy Statistics

There are 97 dairy herds in the county, averaging 50 cows per herd. Once each month they are tested in the morning and the evening. Testers in 1983 were Sherry Breitbarth, Pat Clark, Robert Farrell and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Wolfgang.

The records they report are published in monthly and yearly summaries.

Listed below are the 20 top herds in Mower County in 1982. These are the herds with the highest production records. They are ranked in order of fat production per cow for a 305 day lactation. These herds also rank above average in volume of milk produced and value of the product.



The wife often keeps the farm records

Herd Owner	Number of Cows	Milk	Butter Fat
Paul & Gary Smith	43	18,639	704
John J. Hill	22	18,146	676
Richard Capelle	51	16,649	649
David Wiste Jr.	15	16,747	642
Gregory & James May	57	17,755	637
Virgil Bergene	29	16,718	627
Berton Churchill	43	17,353	626
Wilfred Bissen	36	17,342	611
Dennis L. Rice	37	16,559	610
Darrell Heydt	59	16,199	607
Jon Shaw	35	16,889	604
Rohne Brothers	78	15,539	598
Midot Dairy	60	15,658	598
Jacob Freese	46	17,237	598
Marvin Winkels	31	15,952	593
Harvey Heimer	55	15,813	589
Charles Ruechel	57	16,086	588
Robert Weness	56	16,075	586
Clifford Tune	40	16,363	577
Raymond Sayles & Sons	160	14,981	573

Extension Service Conferences

The Minnesota Extension Service has periodic conferences to brief the County Extension staff on new developments and new programs. This also gives the various counties an opportunity to compare notes. Some of the more effective programs are developed in this manner.

An example of this program exchange is the S.N.A.P. (Senior Nutrition Alert Program), piloted by Mary Ellen Miller, Mower County. 4,800 of Mower County's 43,500 population are age 65 or older. Half of this number live in Austin. It was a good nucleus for a test program.

Five Mower County Agencies and one individual co-sponsored and developed the pilot nutrition program, which ran from June 1978 to June 1979. Trainees had the following objectives; safe handling and storage of food, the emergency food shelf, convenience foods, nutrient

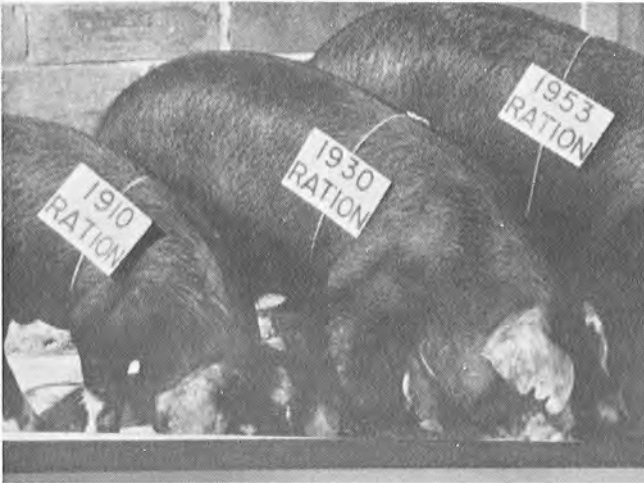
content in relation to cost, calorie balance in relation to weight control for senior citizens, gardening and how to teach other adults.

The enthusiastic acceptance of the Mower County program prompted other counties to launch similar programs.

Successful Programs In Rearing of Livestock

Creep feeding is a must for all young livestock. Their nutritional needs differ from the more mature animal. It pays dividends to get them to eat solid food at the earliest possible date.

Production testing is another proven program. Milk cow testing was followed by hogs, laying hens, lamb and beef cattle. Quantity and quality of the product is the proof of program excellence. Rate and efficiency of grain are other measuring sticks.



These hogs prove that rations make a difference

Irrigation

Overhead irrigation is practiced in Mower County, but not surface irrigation. 46 permits have been issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

Eugene Hickok received the first irrigation permit on August 4, 1955, with water taken from the Upper Iowa River. Martin Bustad had two permits in 1956, water from the Cedar River. In 1965 Steve Lickteig was the first to receive a permit for water from a well. 24 other permits have been for well water. The Cedar River was the source for ten permits, sandpits for three, quarries for two, Dobbins creek - two, and single permits from Orchard, Roberts, Rose Creek, Turtle Creek and Upper Iowa River.

Mower County Extension Staff

County Agent - County Extension Director

1918-1919 W. L. French
 1921-1955 F. L. Liebenstein
 1955-1970 Donald Hasbargen
 1970- Harlan Johnsrud

Assistant Agent - County Extension Agent

1931-1931 Stanley Hillier
 1931-1931 Walter Boeke
 1932-1932 Walter Swenson
 1935-1937 Clarence Powell
 1937-1937 Victor Sander
 1947-1947 Milton Hoberg
 1947-1950 Lillian Engen

4-H Club Agent - County Extension Agent

1919-1924 Jessie Partridge
 1928-1929 Lucy Palmer
 1929-1930 Marjorie Perrizo
 1934- Carl Swanson
 1938-1940 John Timperly
 1941-1943 Wesley Pierson
 1945-1945 Allen Brakke
 1945-1947 Ronald Sieh
 1947-1947 Milton Hoberg
 1947-1950 Lillian Engen

1950-1953 James Lind
 1953-1953 Merle Schwartz
 1953-1982 Ronald Seath
 1983- Michael Pedersen

Office Secretaries

1921-1921 Mattie Hollister
 1921-1955 Cora Bergland
 1956-1959 Alice Hatten
 1959-1961 Kay Schmidt
 1961-1973 Bessie Schumacher
 1972- Verneice Beckel
 1974-1977 Karen Viegel
 1977-1978 Barbara Schanz
 1978- Ruth Jaeger

District Program Leaders

1982- Sheryl Nefstead, 4-H
 1982- Dennis Seefeldt, Home Economics & Family Living
 1982- Arnold Sandager, Agriculture & Related Industries

Home Agent - County Extension Agent

1917- Rosamond Adams
 1924-1924 Edith Hoffman
 1924-1927 Mary Laycock
 1927-1927 Stella O'Connell
 1929-1930 Marjorie Perrizo
 1930-1932 Vivian Drenckhahn
 1932-1936 May Sontag
 1936-1941 Mae Stephenson
 1941-1943 Ellen Moline
 1943-1946 Josephine Kelm
 1946-1946 Gertrude Jacobson
 1946-1946 Josephine Kelm
 1949-1951 Mary Ellen Tuberty
 1951-1957 Nettie Neufeld
 1957-1958 Jodelle Dean
 1958-1961 Carol Pinney
 1962-1963 Shirley Nordstrom
 1963-1964 Carol (Pinney) Opsahl
 1964-1967 Joanne Honken Randen
 1967- Mary Ellen (Tuberty) Miller

District Home Agent Supervisors

1930-1936 Eva Blair
 1952-1953 Doris Wayman
 1956-1960 Caroline Fredrickson

District Extension Supervisors

1954-1959 Art Engebritson
 1959-1967 Wayne Hanson
 1967-1981 Ed Becker

MOWER COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEE

In 1923 the Mower County Extension Committee consisted of Farm Bureau officers, County Commissioners and the County Auditor.

In 1954 the Committee was reorganized to include nine members. The County Auditor, the chairman of the County Commissioners, another commissioner chosen by the county board and six members appointed by the

commissioners. Only persons actively engaged in agriculture as their principal source of livelihood are eligible for appointment. Appointments are made for a three-year term.

A District Supervisor from the Minnesota Extension Service attends key meetings to advise and consult.

Following are the individuals who have served on the Mower County Extension Committee. They are listed chronologically.

A. O. Starks	1923 to 1930
J. K. Krebsbach	1923
Andrew Jensen	1923 to 1950
William Enright	1923 to 1928
John Christgau	1923
A. Hotson	1923
C. M. Hubbard	1923 to 1952
L. M. Eggen	1924 to 1928 and 1947
H. B. Hillier	1925 to 1945
Jacob Herzog	1925 to 1926 and 1931
O. W. Cummings	1926 to 1931
L. A. Buttolf	1928
Lewis Larson	1929 to 1930, 1939 to 1943 and 1946-1947
Alex Mackie	1931 to 1940
Henry Schlicting	1932 to 1945 and 1949
Ben J. Huseby	1935, 1936, 1939 to 1971
Thomas Dunlap	1935, 1936
Mrs. G. N. Nelson	1937, 1938
Clarence Dugan	1939 and 1946
Mrs. K. G. Nelson	1939 to 1950
Claude Sayles	1941 to 1966
Simon Bohn	1942 to 1944
Leonard Decker	1943
Milo Morse	1947 to 1953 and 1957
H. O. Austinson	1948, 1949

R. L. Zimmerman	1948 to 1953
Mrs. Anton Fruth	1951 to 1953
Ernest Tune	1952 to 1958
C. L. Tollefson	1953 to 1955
Mrs. Roy Dunning	1954 to 1958
Mrs. Everett Rugg	1954
Grover King	1954 to 1957
Robert Shaw	1954, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1978, 1980, 1983
Mrs. Harold Murphy	1955 to 1957
Herman Austinson	1955
Graham Uzlik	1956 to present date
George Leland	1958 to 1960
Mrs. Burton Ingvalson	1958 to 1978
Luther Larson	1958 to 1960
Robert Finbraaten	1959, 1963, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1978, 1981
Mrs. Gerhardt Schumann	1959 to present date
Frank Klassy	1959 to 1970
Carroll Plager	1961 to present date
Ralph Turner	1961, 1964
Werner Wuertz	1963
Phil Golberg	1964, 1967, 1969, 1972-73
Webster Johnson	1965, 1966
Clifford Christianson	1966 to 1969, 1974 to 1976
Harlow Sayles	1967 to present date
John Gross	1971 to present date
Richard Buechner	1971, 1976, 1977
Aaron Huseby	1972 to present date
Arthur Vogel	1977, 1979, 1982
Mrs. Ed Ivers	1979 to present date
Duane Hanson	1979, 1982
Richard Cummings	1980, 1981, 1983



50th Anniversary of Enterprise 4-H Club, 1983
 Left to right: Lona Kaer Anderson, Lorraine Hansen Bartz, Evelyn Hansen Steen, Ella Marle Lausen, Ray Sayles and Harlow Sayles

MOWER COUNTY PORK PRODUCERS

The Mower County Pork Producers was organized in April 1969. Its purpose was to join forces with the state and national organizations to promote the sale of pork products, improve the quality of products produced, improve hog health, make genetic progress, improve management practices and thus improve the profitability of the swine industry. The National Pork Producers Association has become the largest commodity group in the United States with a voluntary checkoff program. The Hormel Company was the first market center to launch this program. It began with a five cent checkoff per market hog January 1, 1968. At the National Pork Congress in 1976 the checkoff was raised to ten cents on market hogs and five cents on feeder pigs. On January 1, 1981 the checkoff on market hogs was raised to twenty cents, and on July 1, 1982 the feeder pig checkoff was raised to ten cents.

The county organization has approximately 200 producer members and a smaller number of associate members. The annual cookout draws a crowd of 900 to 1000. The annual banquet draws a capacity crowd in March. The County Pork Queen is named at this time and she advances to state competition. If she wins there, she competes for the National Pork Queen honor a year later.

The organization strives to maintain a large membership. Members are fully informed of the programs made possible with the checkoff funds. County membership and communication to and between its members is a top priority.



County Pork Producers prepare pork chops for National Barrow Show exhibitors

Presidents and terms served:

John Larick	1969-1971	Marvin Miller	1977-1980
George Heikes	1971-1973	Jerry Bergstrom	1980-1981
Joe Jax	1974-1975	Ray Schaefer	1981-1982
John Holm	1975-1977	Tim Bernatz	1982-

Mower County has been well represented on the State Board of Directors. John Grass served in that capacity in 1973-1974; Larry Larson, 1974-1982; and Merle McNutt since 1983. Larry Larson served as State President, 1981-1982.

DIRECTORS AND TERMS SERVED

John Larick	1969-1972	Maurice Weitz	1972-1975	Merle McNutt	1979-1982
John Grass	1969-1977	Don Kasel	1973-1976	Ray Quandt	1979-
Wm. Schottler	1969-1972	John Holm	1973-1979	Rodney Goodwin	1979-
Joe Jax	1969-1975	Ray Ihrke	1974-1975	Ray Schaefer	1979-1982
Myron Dammann	1969-1974	Kenneth Nelson	1975-1981	Tim Bernatz	1980-
Larry Larson	1969-1977	Jerry Bergstrom	1975-1980	John Jax	1981-
Don Mossyge	1969-1970	Charles Truckenmiller	1975-1981	Joe VanHooser	1981-
Don Zimmerman	1969-1970	Marvin Miller	1976-1979	Richard Jax	1981-
George Heikes	1969-1976	Rayburn Hanson	1976-1979	Jim Blanchard	1982-
Glen Ryberg	1970-1973	Wm. Gould	1977-1979	Nick Reinartz	1982-
Henry Mortenson	1970-1973	Richard Brownlow	1977-		
Russell Husemoller	1972-1978	Lowell Sorg	1978-1981		

Following are the commercial producers from Mower County who have been named to the Minnesota Swine Honor Roll:

Alvin Akkerman	1967	Rozwell Hanson	1961	Norbert J. Meyers	1948
Don Angell	1981	George Heikes	1973	Marvin Miller	1975
Irving Bellrichard	1950	Harvey J. Holst	1957	Christy Olson	1955
Oscar Bergene	1954	Lester Hug	1950	Edwin Peterson	1966
Wilfred Bissen	1953	Lawrence Ingvalson	1964	Francis Reding	1956
Leonard Blanchard	1962	John Iverson	1952	Ray Schaefer	1963
Harland Boe	1955	Augustine Jax	1955	Ed Schieck	1952
Virgil Buland	1965	Linden King	1957	Jim Schroeder	1980
Jack Butler	1972	Edward Klapperich	1978	Art Sievers	1967
Jim Butler	1972	Fred Kramer	1953	Alden Small	1966
Robert Butler	1972	Joe Lammers	1957	Sanford Smith	1956
Erlyn Finhard	1965	Larry Larson	1978	Clinton Sparks	1982
Francis Gilgenback and son	1950	Lyll Larson	1955	LaVern Steinkamp	1962
Nels Goodwin and son	1946	Wm. Lonergan	1956	Donald Ulwelling	1977
Milton Griffel	1955	Lester Lovstad	1965	Dave Williams	1949
Cory O. Hanson	1945	Leonard Meyer	1953		

MOWER COUNTY PORKETTES

The Mower County Porkette organization might well be called the Auxiliary of the Mower County Pork Producers. Organized August 14, 1978, they meet three times yearly to elect officers, update the members about the new pork products and review news from the state and national organizations. The Porkettes promote pork through in-store promotions, give recipes on pork preparation and make personal contacts. They are very active during the National Barrow Show when they welcome visiting ladies. Much of the planning of the ladies program for the National Barrow Show is done by

the Porkettes. The ladies who have served as president to date are: Sue Larson, Janet Holst, Lavonne Husemoller and Ruth VanHooser.

The following Pork Queens that have been chosen to date are: Lynette Linbo, 1970; Janiene Goslee, 1971; Lonette Wendorf, 1972; Lindy Doughhan, 1973; Judie Engen, 1974; Sue Anderson, 1975; Sue Schneider, 1976; Ronda Sorg, 1977; Jill Akkerman, 1978; Lori Oelke, 1979; Jacki Finhardt, 1980; Sally Hoeft, 1981; Kelly Jo Lonergan, 1982 and Darcy Schroeder, 1983.

MOWER COUNTY FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION

According to the *Mower County Transcript Republican*, a group of farmers met at the Mower County Courthouse on November 21, 1917, to hear Frank E. Balmer, state county agent leader, discuss the workings of the county agent system and the increased production from proper testing of seed grain. Mr. Balmer explained that, in an effort to stimulate all out production from farms to meet the war needs, the U.S. Government had appropriated \$1800 per year to any county that employed a county agent.

The agent's duties were: to demonstrate established facts that are of value to the community; to make available to the people the results of agricultural research and adapt the application of this information to farm situations; to search for the best farming practices of good farmers and to give publicity to their work; to establish a system of farm management that is consistent and profitable; to improve rural life; to develop and inspire local leadership and further community cooperation.

Farmers present decided to organize and fixed membership fees at \$2 per year. W. A. Nolan, who chaired the discussion, urged those present to promote the program throughout the county. John Christgau of Dexter Township was selected to chair a general county committee. Other members and townships represented were B. J. Huseby, Marshall; E. M. Eggen, Nevada; W. A. Nolan, Grand Meadow; and Gus Jacobsen, Clayton. The organization was named the Mower County Farm Bureau Association.

In June of 1919 fifty people attended the annual meeting of the organization. Officers of the previous year were re-elected; membership had dropped to 358. A membership committee was formed in September, but "there was little response."

In March of 1920 the state Farm Bureaus met in Chicago to organize the American Farm Bureau Federation to help farmers in three ways: 1) through legislation to make farm income higher in relation to income of other groups; 2) through cooperatives for selling farm

produce; 3) through education of farmers. Following this national meeting, the Mower County Farm Bureau Association was re-activated in 1921. F. L. Liebenstein became County Agent and, on June 25, Cora Bergland was hired as secretary. That year a membership of 640 was recorded. Officers were: President C. W. Blake, Grand Meadow; Vice President John Christgau, Dexter; Secretary-Treasurer Andrew Jensen, Rose Creek. Directors were C. B. Sayles of Austin and C. H. Steffens of Racine.

In 1925 the organization decided to appoint a Women's Chairman, but there is no record of such appointment! President that year was O. A. Starke of Dexter.

For 1926-27, 350 members were recorded; however, 2,500 attended the annual summer picnic.

By 1930, membership had climbed to 500; the Farm Bureau Service Company began business; and H. B. Hillier was president.

Membership in 1936 had grown to 675.

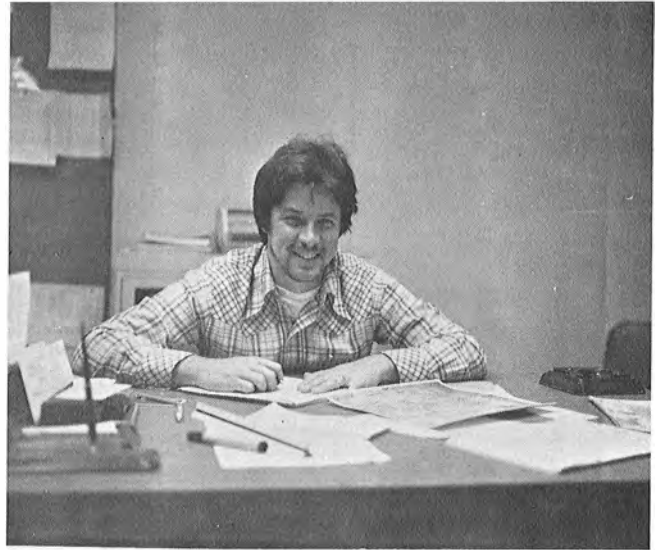
In 1953 a federal ruling changed the formal union of Farm Bureau and Agricultural Extension, the rationale being based upon the thesis that Agricultural Extension should be an impartial service of the government, unaffiliated with a major farm organization. That same year I. B. Thune was delegated to find office space for a Farm Bureau Insurance office. Personnel selected to administer that program were B. L. Anderson, Myron Morse, Henry Mayer and Mrs. Ben Ellinghuesen. Office space was found in Austin's Babcock Building; Marguerite Boyer was hired as secretary.

Mrs. Lewis Minion became County Farm Bureau Women's chairman in 1955. That same year B. J. Huseby resigned as county president and Harlow Sayles succeeded him in office.

Harvey Sathre became president in 1960; in 1962 he was succeeded by Lyall Larson. Byron Huseby became president in 1971 when membership was listed as 534. President in 1973 was Leo Bernard.



Carroll Carlson - Soil Survey Leader describes different soils during an informational tour.



Gene Vincent - District Conservationist

COUNTY SOIL AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT BEGAN IN 1953

The Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District was formed June 2, 1953. The area included all of Mower County except 18 square miles in Racine and Frankford Townships, which had been a part of the West Fillmore County District. This area was transferred to the Mower County District March 29, 1955. The State Conservation Committee appointed Ben J. Huseby of Adams and Ernest I. Tune of Grand Meadow to the Mower County Board. Elected to the board were: Glenn G. Allen of Adams, Stanley Gronseth of Dexter and C. J. Pfeifer of Taopi.

The immediate objectives were to increase soil fertility, drain wet soil, control soil erosion and improve pasturelands. The county consists of 449,928 acres of which 244,000 acres are especially wet and 26,000 acres are dry and, even in normal years, suffer yield reductions. The soils have a wide range of physical properties. Most areas have a thin layer of silt on the surface. The big difference is in the subsoil. It may be clay, silty clay loam, sandy loam or sand and gravel. The surface water table varies from within a foot of the surface to five feet or more. The depth to bedrock ranges from one to a hundred feet. Soils also vary from strongly acid to mildly alkaline.

In 1953 most farmers had a diversified livestock program and used a crop rotation system. This policy plus the application of animal manure on cropland did a good job of controlling erosion. The Soil & Water Conservation District concentrated on group drainage projects. Small watersheds, involving many farmers, provided them with drainage outlets. Alfalfa and crop yields increased and more crop residues plowed back to add organic matter and improve soil tilth.

SOYBEANS AFFECT EROSION

The introduction of soybeans as a major crop in the sixties prompted a new appraisal of the need for erosion control. Soybeans replaced small grains and pasture. In fact, more acres were planted to soybeans in 1983 than to

corn. Soybeans leave a field more vulnerable to erosion than any crop being planted.

Livestock specialization began to replace diversification. Large confinement units reduced the need for pasture and more land was planted to erosion prone row crops. Manure application became a problem. It was spread on the fields closest to the production sources. Most fields got none.

The trend toward larger farm units made the timeliness of spring planting and fall harvesting a real factor. Higher yields were obtained from early planting. To take advantage of this fact, tiling was needed on all cropland acres. The Soil & Water Conservation District began laying out patterned tile systems.

PLASTIC TILE INTRODUCED

Plastic tile began to replace concrete and clay tile. The plastic tile was easier to handle and less expensive to lay. It could be installed by tile plows hooked behind large four wheel drive tractors.

Military and medical research provided one of the most important drainage advancements. This was the perfection of the laser beam. Time consuming surveys were no longer needed on every tile job. The lasers could be programmed to maintain a particular tile grade. Formerly one survey crew and a tile machine could install five to six thousand feet of tile in a single day. The plow tile machines and laser beams made it possible to install from ten to twenty thousand feet of tile in a single day. These advancements became particularly important when we realize that over 60% of the county's cropland needs tile drainage. It is safe to say that this drainage advancement has contributed more to higher yields than improved fertilizers, weed control or plant breeding. The combination of all these improvements has doubled crop yields per acre. Corn, for example, averaged fifty-five bushels per acre thirty years ago. In 1981 the average was 128.



The Soil & Water Conservation Board, left to right: Dr. M. C. Stensland, Robert Peterson, Wm. Lonergan, Dave Gilderhus, Nathan Goodwin and a farmer.



Severe thunderstorms in May 1982 with excessive tillage operations caused severe soil erosion on this farm north of Dexter.



Soil Survey Crew, left to right: Carroll Carlson, Steve Lawler and Jerry McCormick.

The year 1978 brought an abrupt halt to a three year dry spell. Torrential rains fell, causing severe soil erosion. Total rainfall was normal the following three years, but alternate short dry spells and heavy rains accounted for more serious erosion. Farmer requests for erosion control assistance tripled. It was in this same period that Soil Conservation Programs changed. In 1977 Congress passed the RCA (Resources Conservation Act). Through RCA the Secretary of Agriculture was directed to take an inventory and make an appraisal of the condition of the nation's soil, water and related resources. Public meetings were held to determine which problems were the most serious. Soil erosion, flooding and water quality

were identified as our most serious problems. In 1981 Secretary of Agriculture, John Block, suggested ways of working on these three major concerns. Target areas were identified for erosion control with the most needy areas receiving top priority. Mower County was excluded from the southeast Minnesota target area.

The eighties began with serious governmental deficits. In spite of the recognized need for more funds for erosion control, programs were reduced, including conservation. The USDA, however, did increase funding for cost-effective erosion control measures, such as minimum tillage. A few farmers in this county have begun experimenting with minimum tillage on their own. This practice shows great promise, and as their success becomes publicized, the practice may soon become conventional.

Much has been accomplished in Mower County, but much more needs to be done. The following needs illustrate this truth:

Grassed waterways	604 miles
Gully control measures.....	810 miles
Tile drainage	15,500 miles
Terraces.....	190 miles
Minimum tillage	185,000 acres

The Soil Conservation Service, USDA and the University of Minnesota are currently making a complete survey of the county. It will reveal soil types and conditions to a depth of five feet. The published results are scheduled for 1985.

District Conservationist is the title of the individual directing the program in Mower County. The five men who have served in this capacity are, in order of service: Larry Streif, Norm Nellen, John Beyer, Arlo Habben and Gene Vincent.

From Jan. 3, 1911 Austin Herald — There have been 200 cases of Sundice in the city during the past few months. This is Austin's only yellow streak.

February, 1898 Austin Herald — Real estate seems to be commanding a good price here. We understand that a half lot on Main St. sold for \$400 last week.

MOWER COUNTY A.D.A.

The Mower County ADA (American Dairy Association) was formed in 1956 for the express purpose of promoting the consumption of dairy products. Publicity is given to the wholesomeness and nutritional value of milk, cheese and ice cream. The ADA is represented at cooking schools, at the malted milk stand at the County Fair, and in store handouts. The primary ambassador has been the County Dairy Princess. She makes many radio, television and parade appearances. She also presents the ribbons to winning exhibitors at dairy cattle shows.

The Dairy Princess Contest is an annual event, and was begun in 1954. This was several years before the County ADA was organized. It was started by B. J. Huseby of the Mower County Farm Bureau and was sponsored by them for several years. The County ADA then assumed responsibility for it. The Sacred Heart Auditorium in Adams has been the site for the contest and banquet every year. Business interests sponsor girls for the Dairy Princess Contest. There are usually fifteen to twenty contestants. The highest number was twenty-nine. Over the years 600 girls have participated. The greatest number served at a banquet was 614 in 1963. At that banquet 700 half pints of milk, 40 pounds of sliced cheese, 90 pounds of cottage cheese and 90 quarts of ice cream were consumed.

The Dairy Princess Contest winners have fared well in advanced competition. Five have been named regional



Wilfred and Mary Bissen
Mr. Bissen led the Mower County A.D.A. for approximately 20 years

winners, which is the prelude to state competition. They were Eleanor Maley 1954, Ruth Marie Peterson 1955, Marlys Dammann 1957, Betty Jax 1959 and Karmen Larson 1965. Three have been named Princess Kay of the Milky Way, the state champion. They were Eleanor Maley, Ruth Marie Peterson and Betty Jax. Ruth Marie Peterson had the honor of being the first American Dairy Princess.

MOWER COUNTY A.D.A. PRINCESSES FROM 1954

The following are the Mower County A.D.A. Princesses from 1954:

1954 - Eleanor Maley	1964 - Diane Klassen	1974 - Kathy Miller
1955 - Ruth Marie Peterson	1965 - Karmen Larson	1975 - Shauna Hanson
1956 - Katherine Bartlett	1966 - Coral Larson	1976 - Susan Meier
1957 - Marlys Dammann	1967 - Shirley Weness	1977 - Marna Rockwell
1958 - Jacqueline Krueger	1968 - Rita Whalen	1978 - Diane Severson
1959 - Betty Jax	1969 - Marlene Schloo	1979 - Cheryl Schaefer
1960 - Kathleen Sheedy	1970 - Nancy Parmenter	1980 - Dennis Heydt
1961 - Nancy Weydert	1971 - Janice Wolfgram	1981 - Carolyn Oswald
1962 - Lonetta Murphy	1972 - Janelle Meier	1982 - Mary Ulland
1963 - Marie Flickinger	1973 - Rene Linlo	1983 - Lisa Brown

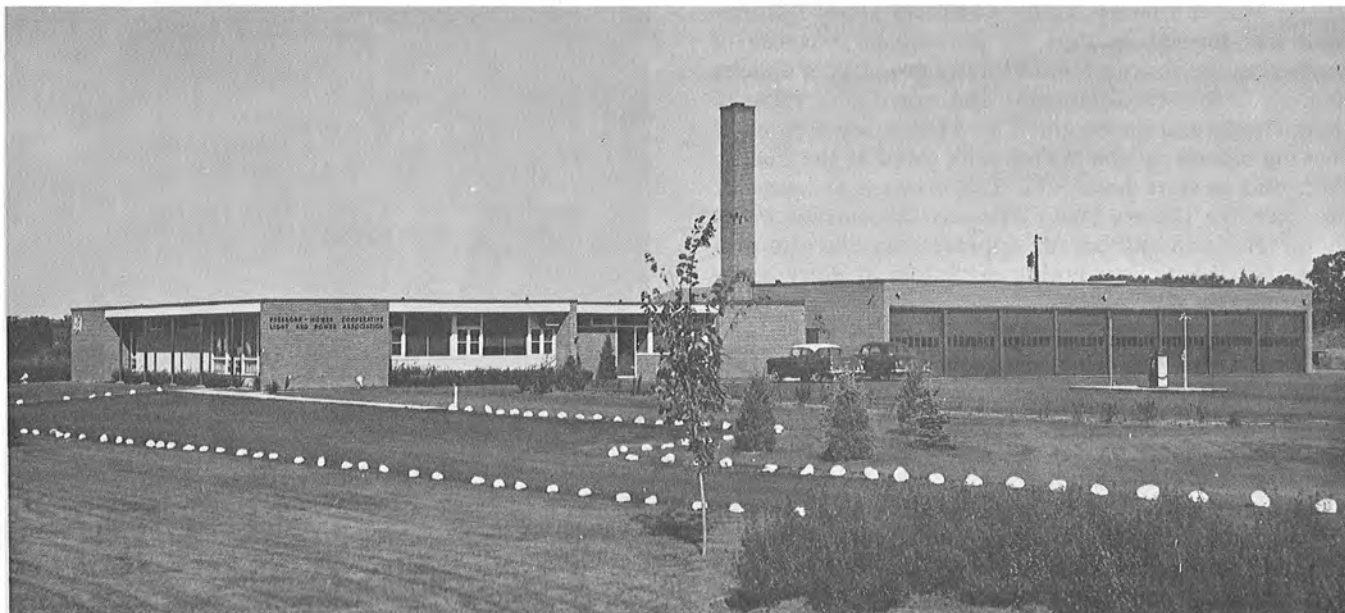
Ford Times, 1911

*Under the spreading chestnut tree, a stubborn auto stands.
And Smith, an angry man is he, with trouble on his hands.
He cusses softly to himself, and crawls beneath his car.
And wonders why it didn't bust before he got so far.
The carburetor seems to be the cause of all his woe.
He tightens half a dozen bolts, but still it doesn't go.
And then he tries the steering gear, but finds no trouble there.*

HOW THOUGHTLESS

*Till, wet with perspiration then, he quits in sheer despair.
He squats beside the road to give his brain a chance to cool.
And ponders on his training at the correspondence school.
And then he starts the job once more, until by chance tis seen.
The cause of all the trouble is—he's out of gasoline.*

FREEBORN-MOWER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative headquarters, located east of Albert Lea

It has been said many times that “electricity is the farmer’s best hired hand.” Few, if any, will challenge that statement. Electricity is a model servant. It is clean, silent, versatile and easily controlled. It replaced the old gasoline engine for many chores. A simple flip of the switch starts the water pump, grain elevator, silage unloader, milking machine, feed grinder or yard light. Examples in the home are just as numerous—washing machine, dishwasher, vacuum cleaner, freezer, furnace, radio and TV just to name a few.

Municipal and private utilities seemed eager to supply electricity to businesses and urban dwellers, but reluctant to do so for farmers in the rural area. They insisted farmers would not use enough electricity to justify the construction and maintenance of the necessary lines. When pressed for cost estimates, the quotations given were far in excess of what farmers believed were justified. The alternative was to organize a cooperative.

The seed was planted December 20, 1935. Willis Lawson, county agent at Albert Lea, asked J. H. Hay, deputy commissioner of agriculture, to talk to a gathering of four hundred farmers about the procedure under which an electric cooperative could be organized in Minnesota. This state was one of only seven states which had been given the “green light” for electric cooperatives.

The possibility so impressed the group that they incorporated as Freeborn Co-op Light and Power Company that same afternoon.

At approximately the same time Mower County farmers expressed a similar interest in organizing. F. L. Liebenstein, county agent, provided leadership. More meetings were held. On December 8, 1936, the Freeborn-Mower Light and Power Association came into existence. The Mower County group of organizers

included: Stephen Lickteig, A. E. Henly, Pete Hanna, Harold Murphy, Alvin Baudler, F. S. Lightly, County Agent F. L. Liebenstein and Assistant County Agent Clarence Powell.

In 1960 the name was changed to Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative. Organizers were confronted with a wide assortment of questions and comments. Many were skeptical and ridiculed the plan. Some asked “Won’t birds be killed when they sit on your highlines?”

Events moved along rapidly. By August 1, 1937, the board had secured an office in the Home Investment Building at Albert Lea. Lewis Brown was hired as general superintendent. With a borrowed desk and an empty nail keg for a chair, the firm was in business.

Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative secured a wholesale power contract with Interstate Power Company. Records show the first power bill was paid April 2, 1938. It amounted to 3,600 kilowatt-hours for a total of \$69. The Austin Municipal Plant supplied power to cooperative members in Mower County. Their first power bill, paid in August 1938 was for 1,610 kilowatt hours for \$43.05.

Now a member of Dairyland Power Cooperative, Freeborn-Mower has purchased its energy from this source since 1951. Dairyland Power traces its history back to 1937. Representatives of ten electric distribution co-operatives met to discuss a common problem; how to obtain adequate wholesale power at reasonable rates. They formed a federation, to be known as Tri-State Power Cooperative.

On December 2, 1941, Tri-State merged with Chippewa Falls Cooperative to become Dairyland Power Cooperative. Twenty-seven cooperatives, located in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois comprise Dairyland Power. They control the generation, transmission and

distribution of electricity. This cooperative effort makes it possible to deliver electricity at cost to the members of the local cooperatives, such as Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative.

Dairyland Power ranks as the largest cooperatively owned generation and transmission system in the world. Today Freeborn-Mower has nine substations on the Dairyland system. It has 2,200 miles of line and serves 5,400 members. All but the four northeast townships of Mower County are served. These townships are served by Peoples Co-Op Power out of Rochester, Minnesota. The bill for the month of November 1982 was \$515,000 for the use of 13,000,000 kilowatt-hours. The number of employees has increased from three to thirty-five. Only four men have served as manager of the cooperative. They are, in order of service, Lewis Brown, Arvid Waller, Ellis Christianson and Ronald Steckman.

The following are the men from Mower County who have, or are now serving on the board of directors: John C. Schottler, Austin, 1937-47; William Garbisch, Brownsdale, 1937-74; Vance Hotson, Lyle, 1939-59; Ernest Dammann, Elkton, 1940-53; Carl Knudson, LeRoy, 1947-69; Archie Wilson, Rose Creek, 1953-60; B. M. Christianson, Blooming Prairie, 1969-75; Byron Huseby, Adams, 1969 to present; Clinton Becker, Waltham, 1974 to present; and John Grass, LeRoy, 1975 to present.



Freeborn-Mower Electric Co-op Board of Directors for 1982, left to right, seated: Carl Knudson, Raymond Jerdee, Wm. Garbisch, Henry Bjerke. Standing: B. M. Christianson, L. T. Schoen, Eddie Fossey, Gordon Yost and Palmer Hanson

William Garbisch earned the title "Mr. Mower County REA" by serving as president of Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative for twenty-six years, 1940-1966.

CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Mower County Crop Improvement Association was organized October 20, 1949. Articles of incorporation and by-laws were approved and officers elected. The five directors chosen were: H. J. Holst, Nathan Goodwin, Harold Radke, Armin Schroeder, and R. L. Zimmerman. H. J. Holst was elected president; F. L. Liebenstein, secretary; and R. L. Zimmerman, the official delegate to the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.

Limited amounts of new variety seeds were allotted to the county associations. The first for Mower County were twenty-four bushels of Shelby oats and 108 bushels of Monroe soybeans. The yields from these plantings made more seed available the following year. Growers wanting seed placed their names on a list and names were drawn by an allotment committee.

Strict production practices are applied to growers of certified seed. R. L. Zimmerman and Nathan Goodwin were the first to qualify as registered seed growers. Small grains are rated on yield, standing ability and resistance to rust and wilt. Maturity date and moisture content are additional considerations for corn. The number of varieties appraised include thirty-one of oats, sixteen of soybeans, four of barley, three of wheat, three of corn and two of flax.

Membership in the association has ranged from twenty to twenty-five. The current officers include Sheldon Lukes, president; Don Angell, vice president; Roger Jahns, treasurer; and Harlan Johnsrud, secretary. In addition to the first three named, Leo Bernard and Don Staley are serving as directors.

EGG MATES

Egg producers of Mower and Freeborn Counties organized in the fall of 1977 for the purpose of promoting eggs to consumers in their immediate area. This was a new type of organization. They called their group Egg Mates, because both husbands and wives were involved in the promotion of their product. Since 1977 both Steele and Dodge Counties have joined the organization. They have demonstrated the ease and versatility of using eggs for main meals and snacks at fairs, shows and in grocery stores.

Egg Mates is a promotion group for the Minnesota Egg Council. It is funded by a checkoff by Minnesota Egg Producers. Lisa Wiese of Mower County was the first to serve as chairman of this group.

Uff Da! is waking yourself in church with your own snoring.

"Blessed are they who have nothing to say, and who cannot be persuaded to say it." — James Russell Lowell

MOWER COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



A group of Mower County cattle feeders at the Midwest Steer Show

The first beef cattle organization in the county was the Mower County Beef Feeders, organized in 1952. Arthur Anderson served as the first president. Feed and cattle supplies, rations, carcass grades and feedlot management were popular discussion topics at their meetings. Interest always seemed to reach a new high the evening of the annual banquet with 289 attending the first banquet. The number increased in later years. The Association had 103 members that first year. The next fifteen years averaged about eighty-five members. Farm tours were popular during the summer and fall months. Support was given the 4-H beef auction at the County Fair. Awards included jackets and T-shirts (with a Mower County label) and aluminum show sticks to beef winners at the Mower County Fair, State Fair and the Junior Livestock Show.

The Mower County Beef Improvement Association was organized in 1969. Twenty-six beef cattle producers comprised the membership list. Don Weseman served as the first president and Myron Aultfather as vice president. The program was designed to make genetic improvement through effective use of records. Records and observations were collected to improve reproductive efficiency, mothering ability of cows, rate of gain, feed efficiency, conformation as it contributes to carcass desirability and longevity. The records collected to accomplish this goal included identification of every animal in the herd, date and birth weight of the calf, weaning

weight and grade (adjusted to 205 day age), yearling weight and grade (140 days after weaning) and reproductive performance and longevity. The program was supervised by the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

The present organization, Mower County Cattlemen's Association, was organized March 27, 1978. It combined the interests of both feeders and producers. Unlike the first two organizations, it is affiliated with both the Minnesota and National Cattlemen's Association. The first officers were: Harold Kramer, president; Nyles Peterson, vice president; and Harlan Peck, secretary. Others who served on the board of directors were Christy Olsen, Robert Gleason, Don Sorensen and Gaylord Winfield. There are thirty active and as many associate members. Glen Medgaarden is the current president. Others who have served as an officer or director include Don Weseman, Dean Hamlin and Rodney Sprau.

The annual selection of a County Beef Princess began July 26, 1979. Julie Warn was the first winner. She was followed by Kelly Reuter in 1980. Luann Olsen in 1981 and by Cathy Anderson in 1982. Luann had the additional honor of being named Minnesota Beef Queen. Her father, Christy Olsen, was elected president of the state association in 1981. Her mother, Helen Olsen, was named Cowbelle of the Year, for the auxiliary of the organization. Nels Lee was elected state delegate from this area in 1980. Christy is presently serving as the beef representative on the National Livestock and Meat Board. The County Beef Princess for 1983 was Connie Knutson.

Several members have received honors. In 1980 Myron Aultfather was named the Outstanding Beef Performance Man of the year in Minnesota. In 1982 Frank Duerst was honored at the Minnesota State Fair for exhibiting Red Polled cattle at that fair for fifty years.

The two social events of the year are well attended. They are the steak cookout at Brownsdale and the prime rib banquet at the Sacred Heart Auditorium at Adams. Members support the Midwest Steer Show at the County Fair with entries and trophies for county winners. They also help by moving the steers in and out of the show arena for the benefit of the judge. A refrigerated showcase at the county fair is used to display the wholesale and retail cuts of beef. In this way the public is better informed, and will be enticed to eat more beef. Purebred producers are encouraged to production test their herds by weighing and grading their calves at weaning time and again as yearlings. Members join with other cattlemen to meet with legislators at the state capitol.

First golfer: "My wife says if I don't give up golf she'll leave me. Second golfer: "Gee, that's hard luck." First golfer: "Yes. I'm going to miss her."

"The Republicans have their split right after election and Democrats have theirs just before an election. — Will Rogers

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY—1856

An account given by Mrs. R. L. Kimball at the "Early Settlers Reunion" held in the 1880s. Mrs. Kimball was the wife of the first Mower County Register of Deeds.

"The crusade against whiskey began in Austin in the winter of 1856. At that time not a saloon was to be found in the place, but some of the merchants were anxious, no doubt to supply every want of their customers. So they went into a general assortment business, and in the back rooms might have been seen various barrels and kegs. With propriety they might have been labeled crooked, judging from the appearance of those patronizing that department."

"Feeling anxious that our young village might be built on a good foundation, the women drew up the following resolution.

"We, the ladies of Austin, feeling that the evil of intemperance is becoming fearfully great in our village, and knowing that if the poison were not brought here there would be no temptation placed before our husbands, brothers and sons. Consequently the evil would be entirely suppressed. Therefore, we beg of every man who feels an interest in our town to pledge himself not to sell the accursed drink.

"Resolved, That we will in no way patronize such merchants as will not pledge themselves not to deal in intoxicating liquors. That we will in no case, unless compelled to do so by strict necessity, buy any article of such persons."

GRAIN ELEVATORS ARE LANDMARKS

When you approach a town in Mower County you will see two tall structures: the water tower and grain elevator. The need for each is obvious.

In addition to grain storage, the elevator companies render a number of services. Most of them grind feed, mix and deliver rations. They also dry grain, sell name brand feeds, seeds, chemicals and fertilizer. The elevator is the hub of the business wheel in most towns.

Until 1878 wheat was the primary crop in this county. Mower County was an important part of the "wheat belt." In contrast, the average production of grains for the four year period 1979-1982 was 20,659,000 bushels of corn, 4,666,000 of soybeans, 1,207,250 of oats and 188,500 of wheat. Only negligible amounts of barley and flax were grown. Yearly grain harvests total 26,721,000 bushels.

The storage needs for these grains are satisfied by fourteen elevators in thirteen towns plus on-farm storage facilities. The elevators have a total capacity for 9,000,000 bushels. Facilities on farms offer storage for nearly twice that amount or 17,500,000 bushels. The combination of the two are equal to the need.

Raising grain began with the first settler in 1852. The first grain storage facilities were called warehouses. The first elevator was built in Rose Creek in 1870. Of the fourteen elevators now operating, four are Co-ops and four are owned by the Huntting Elevator Co.

The name Huntting and grain elevators in Mower County are synonymous. Four generations of Hunttings have served the business. They are, in sequence, Wm. F. Huntting, Chas. E. Huntting, James Huntting and James Huntting Jr. The latter two are currently managing the company. James Sr. began with the firm in 1927 and James Jr. in 1951.

Counties vary widely in the proportion of grain sold as a cash crop or feed to livestock. Farm income in Mower County comes almost equally from the sale of grain and sale of livestock. In 1981, for example, \$63,674,000 was received for grain, \$64,078,000 for livestock and \$843,000 in the form of government payments, for a total cash income of \$128,597,000.

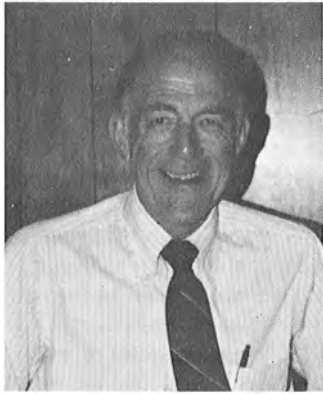
Movement of grain has changed drastically. Horse drawn wagons made farm to elevator deliveries until the early thirties. Tractors have the honor now. On marketing day grain was formerly shipped by rail in hopper cars, 3500 bushels per car. Trucks are now used exclusively, 850 bushels per truck. They can be loaded in



The Huntting Elevator in Rose Creek was built in 1870



Laura and James Huntting



James Huntting Jr.



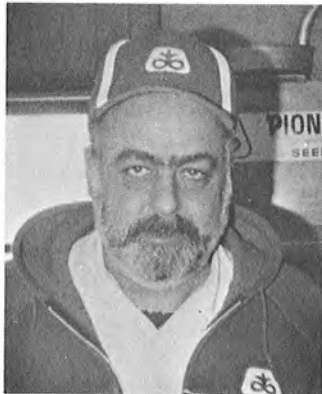
Clement Grain Co., Grand Meadow built in 1977

four minutes and unloaded in less time. A truck can haul as many as three loads a day to the river at Winona.

1981 was a banner year in several respects. The average corn yield was 128 bushels per acre, the highest ever recorded. The average yields of other grains were also excellent; 36 for soybeans, 42 for wheat and 72 for oats. It was the only year grain production exceeded thirty million bushels. The record reads 30,387,000

bushels. Land values also peaked at \$1709 per acre. This is quite a change from the \$370 average in 1972.

ELEVATOR MANAGERS IN MOWER COUNTY



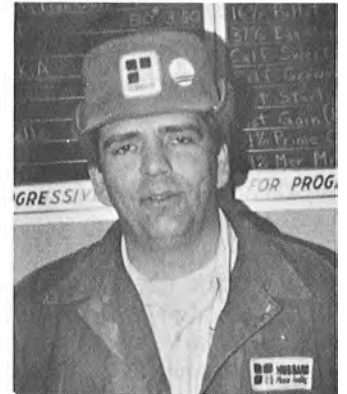
Stephen Pitzen
Adams Co-op, Adams



Kenneth Koenig
Austin Grain Co., Austin



Allan Swenson
Brownsdale Co-op, Brownsdale



Randy Stephenson
Dexter Elevator, Dexter



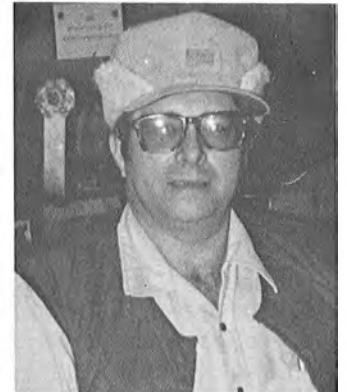
Delmer Sorgatz
Harvest States Co-op, Elkton



Bill Carmen
Clement Grain Co., Grand Meadow



James Baudoin
Huntling Elevator, Grand Meadow



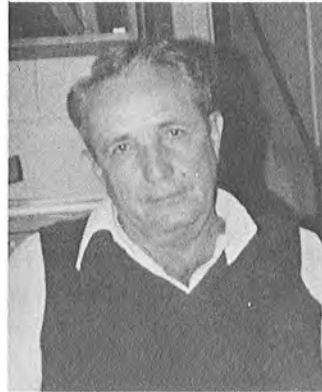
Earl Von Bank
Huntling Elevator, Lansing



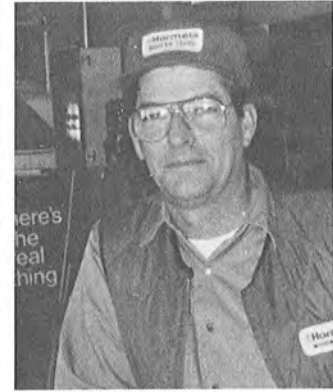
Patrick Kavanaugh
Farmers Co-op Grain & Stock, Lyle



Charles Ekle
Huntling Elevator, Lyle



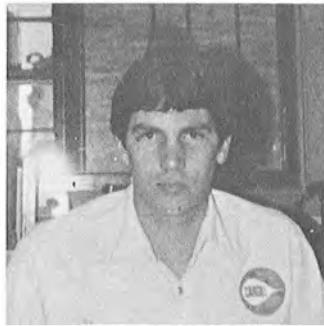
Lloyd Crum
Racine Elevator, Racine



Don Morgan
Huntling Elevator, Rose Creek



Larry Larson
Sargeant Grain Co., Sargeant



Gene Erpelding
Cargill Elevator, Waltham

THE GRANGE IN MOWER COUNTY

The Grange was the first major farm organization in the United States. Officially the name is Patrons of Husbandry.

When the Grange was founded in August of 1867 the stated objective was to found a farmers' lodge that would put beauty into farm work, bring farm people together, glorify the farmers' tools, be of service to the community and enrich family life. The Grange became a strong voice in the correction of oppressive shipping rates charged farmers by the railroads. It supported an income tax and the election of United States Senators. The Populist Party, a strong minority political force of the late 19th century, had its origin in the Grange effort.

The Mower County Pomona No. 1 was organized April 20, 1912. Fifty charter members were obtained by organizer Charles B. Hoyt of New Hampshire. For some mysterious reason the charter of Mower Pomona No. 1 was not recorded by the national office. The oversight created some dissatisfaction and the county organization remained dormant for 12 years.

Upon reorganization different names of locals appeared. County Pomona No. 1 was reorganized July 21, 1930 and Waldo Johannsen was elected master. Elkton No. 652 was organized September 29, 1930. Mrs. Fred Lincoln was sent as a delegate to the state meeting which was held in Austin in 1931. Mention is made of an annual July 4th picnic. This was an annual event for many years.

Adams No. 673 was organized by Waldo Johannsen on

March 14, 1934 with 48 charter members. "Interesting literary programs were sponsored by Pomona lecturer, Mrs. William Rugg" according to the annual report.

The 1935 state convention was also held in Austin. Otto Klingman became Pomona No. 1 master and served until 1938. He organized Frankford Grange 710. Ralph Otto followed Klingman in 1938 and continued in office until 1944. Valley Grange 746 was added in 1945 with Fred Loucks elected master.

The state report shows that 29 charter members were inducted into the Minnesota Seventh Degree Club at the national convention held November 18, 1939 in Peoria, Illinois. Three of the inductees were Mower County members; Mr. and Mrs. William Rugg and Miss Estelle Thompson.

The oldest proceedings of a state meeting included in Mower County records was of the Minnesota State Grange session for 1912 held in Minneapolis. The organization had been in the state 43 years at that time. The report shows resolutions for education, good roads, rural credit, parcel post, protection of migrating birds and requirements to label and tax oleomargarine.

The report of the 1913 state meeting held in Austin, lists several Mower County members in state office.

Proceedings of the 1922 Grange shows 6 Mower County members holding state office. In 1929 Carl Kumlin was elected master at Pomona No. 1 in a re-organization that included Brownsdale, Corning and Concord granges.

The years 1952 and 1953 seem to be the peak period for Granges in Mower County. The following are listed: Adams, Concord, Dale, Elkton, Frankford, Lansing, Lyle, Fairview and Valley.

As of 1983 only one Mower County Grange remains an active unit. Concord Grange has regular meetings and a full slate of officers. A number of members have joined from Granges which were active previously.

Henry Jensen of Rose Creek, now a member of Concord Grange, is on the state executive committee.

The Grange has contributed much to the culture and progress of Mower County. Many of its members have provided leadership at local, state and national levels. Grange exhibits have been outstanding features at the Mower County and the Minnesota State Fairs. They demonstrated a spirit of competition and of excellence.

Mower County Government

MOWER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

All a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Mower Minnesota, started held in accordance with Law in the Village of Frankford, the established County Seat of said County of Mower, on the seventh day of April A. D. 1866, the following proceedings were had to wit:

Timothy M. Chapman
was appointed Register of Deeds and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

C. J. Felsch
was appointed Judge of Probate

M. H. Armstrong
was appointed County Surveyor

Levin Patchin
was appointed County Treasurer

G. W. Sherman
was appointed Sheriff

Philip Hewitt
George White
Commissioners

First page of County Records

The County Board of Commissioners serves as the governing body of the county. It has specific financial, legislative and administrative control over the personnel and functions of the county government.

In 1858, Minnesota Counties were governed by a board of supervisors consisting of the chairmen of the boards of supervisors of each township. There are no records available of meetings of such a board in Mower County from 1858 to 1860. The present commissioner system came into being in 1860, and the three commissioners met in January of that year.

At the January 7, 1868, meeting, the board divided the county into five commissioner districts in place of the former three. District One consisted of Udolpho, Red Rock, Waltham and Pleasant Valley Townships. District Two embraced Racine, Frankford and Grand Meadow Townships. District Three was composed of Adams, Le Roy and Bennington Townships. District Four consisted of Nevada, Lyle and Windom Townships. District Five was Austin and Lansing Townships.

By 1911, the number of townships had increased to the final twenty and the county commissioner's districts were divided as follows: (1) Dexter, Sargeant, Waltham, Udolpho and Red Rock; (2) Frankford, Racine, Pleasant Valley and Grand Meadow; (3) LeRoy, Bennington, Clayton, Lodi and Adams; (4) Marshall, Windom, Nevada and Lyle; (5) Austin and Lansing.

Following is a list of the men who have served as County Commissioners since 1911:

Frank E. Hambrecht	1896-1916	Milo D. Morse	1935-1958
John R. Johnson	1904-1914	C. H. Dugan	1935-1950
William Christie	1904-1916	Simon Bohn	1937-1944
W. H. Goodsell	1906-1918	Leonard Decker	1941-1960
Charles L. Schwartz	1908-1920	H. O. Austinson	1945-1956
P. Lawson	1915-1918	Robert Shaw	1951-
A. Hotson	1917-1924	Robert Finbraaten	1957-
J. H. Krebsbach	1917-1920	Luther Larson	1957-1960
Hans P. Johnson	1919-1922	Ralph B. Turner	1959-1964
S. D. Thompson	1919-1920	Phil Golberg	1961-1976
Jacob J. Gjerness	1921-1924	Werner E. Wuertz	1961-1964
Jacob J. Herzog	1923-1934	C. W. Taylor	1964-1964
D. A. McKee	1923-1930	Webster Johnson	1965-1970
O. W. Cummins	1925-1932	Clifford S. Christianson	1965-1976
L. M. Eggen	1925-1928	Richard Buechner	1971-1978
G. S. Burnham	1925-1932	Art Vogel	1977-1982
Iver Iglum	1929-1936	Richard Cummings	1977-
George F. Brown	1931-1934	Mary Keenan	1983-
Henry Schlichting	1933-1957	Duane Hanson	1979-
Thomas Dunlap	1933-1940		



County Officials in 1891

Left to right: A. Requa, county treasurer; S. S. Washburn, probate judge; Fred Wood; Chas. H. Wilbour, auditor; Tom Belsinger; Eugene Wood, register of deeds.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

County Auditor

The office of county auditor was created to take effect in 1859. The business now performed by him had previously been done by the register of deeds and clerk. The auditor's office is involved with all finances of the county. In addition, the auditor serves as clerk and secretary for the county board and handles election ballots and related procedures.

The auditors since 1911 have been as follows:

George Robertson	1903-1915	C. L. Tollefson	1953-1955
O. J. Simmons	1915-1923	Graham R. Uzlik	1955-
C. M. Hubbard	1923-1953		

County Treasurer

The county treasurer maintains a record of and collects personal and real estate taxes. This office also keeps a complete set of books and records of county finances and is in charge of investing county funds. The

treasurer countersigns checks made by auditor for disbursement of funds.

The county treasurers since 1911 have been:

S. A. Smith	1903-1922	Richard Peterson	1957-1959
A. M. Smith	1922-1923	Donald J. Sandeen	1959-1970
Cassuis C. Terry	1923-1957	Eileen Tapager	1970-



Mower County Courthouse - 1884
(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

Register of Deeds/Recorder

The county recorder records and files (for a fee) mortgages, loans, deeds, contracts, military discharges and other legal documents and registrations. These files provide a permanent public record for present and future use.

Past registers of deed/recorders since 1911 are:

Eugene Wood	1887-1918	Purl M. Enger	1942-1976
John S. Wood	1918-1935	(name of office changed to Recorder)	
George L. Jennings	1935-1940	Charles W. Enger	1976-
Mrs. Marie Jennings	1940-1942		

County Attorney

The county attorney is the legal advisor and counsel for the county *not* for the people of the county. He prosecutes criminal cases; advises, issues subpoenas for, and assists the grand jury.

The following have served in this office since 1911:

Otto Baudler	1911-1935	Fred W. Wellman	1979-1981
A. C. Richardson	1935-1947	Fred Kraft	1981-
Wallace Sieh	1947-1979		

Probate Judge

Since 1911 the probate judges have been:

Henry Weber, Jr.	1911-1937	Paul Kimball, Jr.	1954-
Carl Baudler	1937-1954		



Mower County Courthouse, facing Main Street - 1984

Probate Registrar

The probate registrar is an officer of the court who assists individuals and families with informal probate proceedings which is a simplified method of settling an uncomplicated estate. This office was established in 1976.

Shirlee Dowd 1976-

County Surveyor

V. A. Nason served as county surveyor from 1909 until 1932 when the position was abolished.

Coroner

The county coroner investigates deaths caused by suicide, homicide, accidents and cases of death from natural causes not attended by the individual's regular physician. Those serving since 1911 are:

Dr. A. E. Henslin	1911-1927	Dr. Herbert Fisch	1954-1958
Dr. H. F. Peirson	1927-1931	Dr. George Stahl	1958-
Dr. B. J. Cronwell	1931-1953		

County Clerk of Court

The clerk is in charge of all court records, civil, criminal and justice. He handles passports and marriage licenses and records all vital statistics including birth and death reports.

The following have held this office since 1911:

George S. Burnham	1907-1923	Joseph Morgan	1969-1970
L. A. Sherman	1923-1943	Dale Rolfson	1971-1974
William P. Plzak	1943-1958	Joseph Morgan	1974-
William D. Sucha	1958-1969		

County School Superintendents

Those who have served as county superintendents since 1911 are:

Grace B. Sherwood	1909-1913	Edith I. Vest	1927-1935
Eunice L. Rice	1913-1923	Mable I. Robinson	1935-1949
Elizabeth R. Horstman	1923-1927	Dora Tollefson	1949-1966

County Nurse

Susanne Radermacher 1932-1965
Ann S. Angerbeck 1964-

Veterans Service Officer

Prior to 1945, the two veterans organizations in Austin

provided counseling service and assistance in obtaining benefits to veterans. The veteran service officer of the American Legion Post was Paul D. Sommers and for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paul L. Lattin.

The Minnesota State Legislature passed an enabling act in 1944, permitting county boards to secure and employ a county veterans service officer. Following are the names of the veterans service officers to date:

Frank E. Dunsmore	1945-1975
Chester Cottingham	1976-1981
Greta Kraushaar	1981-

Zoning and Planning

The county planning director, working with an appointed planning commission, adopts and modifies a comprehensive development plan. The goals and objectives of this plan are implemented through zoning, capital improvement programs, incentive measures and state and federal aids.

The Mower County Planning Director also acts as executive director for the Mower County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The authority owns and operates 96 units of elderly housing and four units of family housing, located in seven communities throughout the county.

The directors have been:

Phil Shealy	1966-1972
Daryl Franklin	1972-

Environmental Health and Sanitation

The responsibilities of this office relate to enforcement of county and state laws, analytical services, technical and informational assistance relating to pollution, health and sanitation.

Since 1959, the following have held this office:

Jack Lake	1959-1964	Lawrence Landherr	1969-1974
Donald Ronning	1964-1965	William Buckley	1974-
Travis Haakenson	1965-1969		

County Social Services (previously called Welfare)

Working with a board, the director carries out federal, state and county welfare policies using programs such as food stamp, general assistance, Aid to Dependent Children, Medicaid and others. The Social Services Office also determines eligibility based on program guidelines and requirements.

The directors have been:

Willard L. Held	1939-1942	Harold Mickelson	1947-1975
Harold Mickelson	1943-1944	Robert W. Schulz	1974-
Leo H. D. Dahn	1945-1946		

County Assessor (combined with the City of Austin in 1976)

The county assessor's office appraises the value of all real property in the county. They also prepare the necessary charts, tables, data and land valuation maps required.

The following individuals have held this office:

Alden W. Malcomson	1947-1970
Richard L. Anderson	1970-

Civil Defense

David Christenson	1959-	James Weber	1966-
Roy Roach	1960-1965		

In 1966 the Mower County and the City of Austin civil defense organizations were combined.

County Engineer

Appointed by the board of commissioners, the county engineer works with the state highway department, town boards and city and village councils in planning highway programs.

The following three men have held this position:

Alva C. White	1922-1938	Raymond M.	
G. Everett Carlson	1938-1972	Guttormson	1972-

Court Services Director (formerly the Probation Officer)

Court Services provides services to the county court, criminal and family division and, on occasion, the district court.

R. L. Thompson	1946-1951	Mel Smith	1959-1961
William D. Sucha	1951-1958	John Jette	1961-

Mower County Poor Farm Superintendent

John R. Lewis	1922-1924	Earl J. Rice	1937-1944
Thos J. Halvorson	1928-1930	Frank Warner	1944-1946
Ole A. Gorvin	1931-1936		

Mower County Home

Run by A. A. Sculley from 1947 to 1964. In April, 1964, it became the Sheriff's Boys Ranch.

County Sheriff

The county sheriff enforces all state laws, criminal and civil, and assists the county attorney. He is in charge of the county jail and prisoners and appoints deputies as needed, with county board approval. The sheriff's office collects delinquent property taxes and serves mortgage foreclosures, subpoenas and other legal documents.



Mower County Jail - 1905



Sheriff Wayne Goodnature—
1978 to date



Pictures of the sheriffs of Mower County from the period 1856 through 1977 were restored and posted in the Law Enforcement Center by Al Reinartz. The Mower County Law Enforcement Center has a photo gallery showing almost all of the Mower County sheriffs from 1856 to 1977. Missing is the first sheriff, G. W. Sherman, who served from April to October, 1856. Also missing is George Bishop, 1859-1861. The complete listing to date is as follows: G. W. Sherman, April to October, 1856; J. B. Yates, 1856-1859; George Bishop, 1859-1861; E. D. Fenton, 1861-1865; W. F. Grummons, 1865-1867; Dan J. Tubbs, 1867-1869; Allan Mollison, 1869-1873; George Baird, 1873-1875; R. O. Hall, 1875-1878; H. B. Corey, 1878-1885; Allan Mollison, 1885-1895; John C. Johnson, 1895-1905; Nick Nicholson, 1905-1927; Ira Syck, 1927-1943; Arnold Eckhardt, 1943-1947; Al Reinartz, 1947-1963; Doyle Lindahl, 1963-1967; Arnen Halstenson, 1967-1977; Nolan Dugan, 1977-1978; Wayne Goodnature, 1978 to date.

Al Reinartz—Mower County Sheriff from 1947 to 1963

Al Reinartz is a native of this area. He was born in Lansing Township. Early in his career he was a fireman and engineer on the C.M. & St.P. Railroad. From 1933 to 1943 he was with the Minnesota Highway Department as a motorcycle patrolman.

Reinartz then returned to the C.M. & St.P. for four years. In 1947 he was elected sheriff of Mower County.

The following is just one incident which happened during Reinartz' 16 year career as sheriff. It is the story of a murder investigation which began June 29, 1951.

"We got a call for help from the mayor of Lyle. He said that a murderer was at large in the area. Don Bulger and I left immediately. As we got near Lyle I noticed a small man wearing a wine-colored shirt and khaki trousers. He was carrying a gun, and walking along the tracks. I recall thinking that he was out looking for the gunman."

"There were a lot of people around the elevator, and the mayor came forward. He pointed down the tracks to the little man I had seen previously. 'That's him!' he



Deputy Paul Johnson, Peter Allegrla and Sheriff Al Reinartz - 1951



Sheriff Al Reinartz escorts burglar Arnold Bransted into Stillwater Prison - 1953

said. I had Deputy Bulger go around to approach from the other side of the elevator, then I called out to him to drop his gun. He walked a bit further, and I hollered at him again. He stopped and looked at me, then he dropped his gun. We handcuffed him, and I asked for volunteers to go back with the captive and Bulger. They all wanted to go. I could have used a bus."

Reinartz continued, "The prisoner's name was Peter Allegría, 35, from Texas. He was one of a group of railroad workers, 'gandydancers.' The victim's name was Floyd S. Collins, 40, of Champaign, Illinois. There was one other with gunshot wounds, Bacilio Espinosa, 72, from Chicago.

"Allegría couldn't speak English. He had no previous criminal record. The railroad crew had been picking on him, and that morning he had quit. He then bought a 22 rifle at the hardware store, and waited for the crew to return. He had planned to get a few more also.

"Wallace Sieh, the county attorney, wanted material witnesses, so we picked up 18 of the railroad workers, and kept them in jail. With our regular customers, we had about 40 prisoners. It was a bit crowded and hot, and we wanted them in good humor when they testified. We kept them well supplied with cigars, candy and ice cream. They were there about three weeks, and we paid them a couple of bucks a day.

"Allegría was sentenced to life imprisonment," said Reinartz. "I checked on him a year or two later and they transferred him to St. Peter, as being criminally insane. He is now deceased."

Following his years as sheriff, Reinartz was employed in the office at St. Olaf Hospital. He and his wife, Lorraine, live in their home near downtown Austin. When we passed his home during this last summer we found Al up on his tile roof making some repairs.

Patricia Kathryn Piper

Pat Piper's family home and early education was in Delavan and Blue Earth, Minnesota. She has a BA degree from the College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minnesota, and an MA from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Piper has varied teaching experience in private schools and religious education programs at all levels. She was a member of the Rochester Franciscan Order for 22 years, and continues to be active in the field of education. She pioneered programs for the retarded, including two-day activity centers.

Since August, 1969, Pat Piper has been the director of the Christian Education Center, Austin. In 1983 she was elected a Representative to the Minnesota State Legislature. She is presently a candidate for re-election to the term beginning in 1985.

In 1978 Pat Piper was a member of a team which wrote, directed and produced a five segment TV religion program for children. In 1977 and 1978 she was a part-time instructor at the College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minnesota.

Special honors for Pat Piper include: the 1971 Bishop's medal; Austin's Woman of Achievement in 1971 and in 1968 she was listed in Who's Who Among Young American Women.

Piper has published articles in several religious education journals including *Living Light*, *Learning With*, *Religion Teacher's Journal* and the book, *There's More Than One Way to Teach Religion*, Ryan and Neighbor (Paulist Press, 1969).

Pat Piper has served on numerous boards and committees. She has been a frequent speaker to church and civic groups in several states.



Pat Piper

Leo J. Reding

Leo J. Reding was born June 6, 1924 south of Austin in Austin Township. In 1927 his father purchased a farm in Red Rock Township where he grew up. He went to school in Rose Creek and graduated in 1942. He then worked on

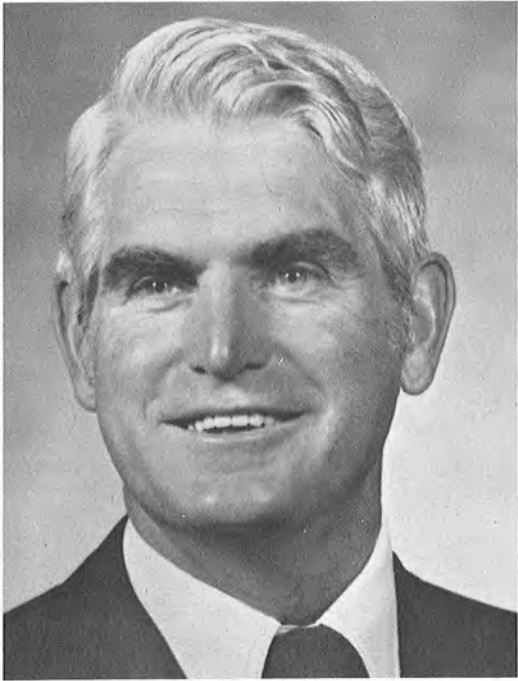
the home farm for three years, went to St. Thomas College and received a degree in Biology and Physical Education in 1948.

For two years Reding taught and coached at St. Augustine High School (Pacelli High). He started work at the Hormel Company in June, 1950. In 1984 he continues to work at Hormels and is a member of Local 9 Union.

During his years of employment at Hormels, Reding was president of St. Augustine P.T.A. and chairman of the Mower County DFL. In 1968 he was elected First Ward Alderman. In 1970 and 1972 he was elected Mayor of Austin. In 1974 Reding was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and served for eight years.

In discussing his years in the legislature, Reding felt the biggest challenge in his career was a bill he carried in 1975 to put police and fire departments under the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). The bill was carried over until 1976 and was finally approved.

Reding was married to Marian A. Thommes in 1949. They have five children and two grandchildren.



Leo Reding

State Senator Tom Nelson

Tom Nelson, 45, 1206 Fifth Avenue N.W., Austin, is serving his third term in the Minnesota Legislature.

Nelson received his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Mankato State University. He taught in the Austin Public School system for 12 years. Nelson was elected to Austin's City Council in 1974.

In 1976 Tom Nelson successfully ran as a DFL candidate for the Minnesota Senate. He represents District #31. He was re-elected in 1980 and 1982. During his term beginning in 1980, Senator Nelson was chairman of the education subcommittee of the senate finance committee.

Nelson is now the Majority Whip for the Senate DFL Caucus. He is chairman of the Education Aids Committee and the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations. He is also a member of the Senate's Finance Committee, Employment Committee and Rules Committee.



Tom Nelson

HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

In the spring of 1857 Joshua L. Davidson, in company with H. C. Bolcom, J. F. Cook, and D. M. V. Stuart, put up the old "Headquarters" building, where Dunklemann's store now stands. The brush was mowed off Main Street, so the stage might pass this building. Mower Co. Trans. Annual 1892, p. 38

HORACE AUSTIN STATE PARK

It was under construction in 1922 from material dredged from the river. Horace Austin State Park was named for a man who never lived here. He was governor of Minnesota from 1870 to 1874. He lived in St. Peter until he was elected, and in St. Paul until his death.

HONOR ROLL

The United States in the Twentieth Century has been involved in four major conflicts and in each of these, men and women from Mower County have served and died. It is in memory of those who gave their lives that this Honor Roll is dedicated.

World War I: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

Anderson, Harry T.	Felten, George A.	Juhl, Anton	Pickett, Leonard I.
Anderson, Osper J.	Finkelson, Nels E.	Kelley, Julius J.	Pinkava, Willie E.
Ball, John W.	Frederich, John C.	Knutson, Alfred	Quarstad, Oscar A.
Beck, Conrad R.	Frisbee, Earl J.	Kubicek, Joseph A.	Samuelson, Walter A.
Belden, Harry O.	Griffin, Floyd W.	Lee, Adrian I.	Schaffert, William T.
Blough, Orval J.	Hansen, George P.	Lyon, Leon F.	Schmitt, Peter
Britt, Coy C.	Harris, Nay B.	Malone, James G.	Tatham, Glenn
Christensen, Arthur W.	Hays, Earl E.	Mechenich, Harry J.	Thompson, Iver A.
Cotter, Maurice	Helgesen, George	Meighen, Thomas V. W.	Torgerson, Anton
Damm, Olaf B.	Higbie, Everett C.	Mullenbach, Peter	Tunell, Earl L.
Dietrich, Arthur H.	Higham, James	Nagel, Albert L.	Warrington, Ralph A.
Dietrich, Henry A.	Hofland, Elmer A.	Osborn, Manley B.	Wendorf, Frank W.
Doyle, John Harry	Jacobson, Walter G.	Osheim, Gilbert	Whiteside, Ray L.
Dralle, Herman M.	Jaeger, Henry G.	Palmer, Sam	Wilson, George W.
Earl, Charles H.	Johnson, Charles S.	Peterman, Elmer	Woodle, Loren H.
Estby, Edwin O.	Johnson, George A.	Pettit, Irwin	

World War II: December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946

Aldahl, James	Ehlert, Percy H.	Krogel, Norman R.	Schmidt, Leland
Allen, LeRoy E.	Eull, Alban M.	Larkoski, Paul	Schumacher, Richard H.
Andersen, Raymond	Estby, Grant	Larson, LuVern	Schwartz, Ervin
Anderson, Merlin A.	Flanigan, Raymond H.	Lenz, Ervin H.	Scott, George E.
Anderson, Reuben A.	Flanigan, Robert	Loecher, Donald F.	Sharbona, George
Anker, Robert	Francis, Lyle N.	Lynch, John T.	Smith, Kenneth D.
Arett, Ralph F.	Graff, Chester F.	Meister, Marvin	Snell, Richard D.
Armstrong, Jack E.	Graves, Clarence	Miller, Harold A.	Stanton, Roy S.
Armstrong, Wm. E.	Haley, Howard F.	Miller, Phil A.	Steinke, Ernest
Asper, Verde	Halstead, Raymond L.	Montgomery, Glenn L.	Stier, James
Baier, Franklin, Jr.	Hammer, Gordon L.	Nasby, Kenneth	Stolzenberg, James L.
Balfe, Matthew F.	Hanson, Howard	Nelson, John H.	Strong, Boyd T.
Barry, Adelbert A. Jr.	Hanson, Raymond H.	Nemitz, Jack W.	Svejkovsky, Joseph
Beckel, Donald L.	Havens, Earl W.	Norton, Archie	Swain, Alman L.
Beckel, Lloyd K.	Heimer, Nicholas	Olson, Alden K.	Swanson, Gordon W.
Beeman, Page	Heuton, Donald	Olson, Edward	Szyska, Walter
Belden, Arnold	Hilmer, Randolph H.	Olson, Walter	Teisinger, Harold G.
Bell, Marion L.	Hines, Richard B.	Olson, William H.	Thilgen, Jean H.
Beneke, James R.	Hobbs, Hilmer W.	Ostrander, James E.	Thomas, Elso I.
Biebl, Leo F.	Horeck, Robert M.	Pease, Arthur O.	Thompson, Delbert S.
Bond, Harold W.	Horsfield, Harold	Peck, David N.	Timmermann, Heinz J.
Braun, Leo B.	Houff, Clayton	Peterson, John W.	Torgerson, Sydney
Buehner, Robert K.	Hovland, Vernon L.	Peterson, Lawrence R.	Tryon, Roy E.
Bump, Raymond	Hunter, Lorraine N.	Peterson, Melvin E.	Tukua, Jule C.
Conley, Lynn	Jacobson, Clifford E.	Peterson, Orion D.	Vaale, Truman E.
Crowell, Wendell H.	Jacobson, Ralph E.	Pick, George D.	Valentine, William
Cummins, Leo F.	Jilek, Richard W.	Pinke, Herbert	Vogel, Lewis A.
Dahl, Carrol E.	Jochumsen, Vinal J.	Rakow, Floyd E.	Wagner, Nicholas P.
Dahlgren, Burr K.	Johnson, Leonard R.	Ranum, Merwyn A.	Wagner, Wilfred
Dankert, Fred J.	Jones, Martin R.	Ray, Thomas M.	Wakefield, Robert E.
Davis, Vernie E.	Kallevig, Alvin	Reynolds, William F.	Wells, Howard E.
Derenthal, Everett D.	Kamp, Wilmer J.	Ring, Merritt L.	Wencil, Leo R.
Diedrick, John	Kirtz, Leonard P.	Rother, Paul	Wendell, Lawrence J.
Donovan, Richard T.	Koloen, Wilbur	Samuelson, Sherwin	Winkels, Gilbert
Dudas, Leslie L.	Kramer, Willard	Sayles, Dorn C.	Woodward, Edward G.
Dunn, Raymond R.	Kroc, Clement J.	Schmidt, Harold W.	

Korea: June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955

Badgeley, Gene	Cahill, Harold E.	Jensen, Sylvester	Lamp, Gaylen D.	Schunke, Gerald
Ballantyne, James L.	Carr, LeRoy F.	Judd, John C.	Moe, Vernon E.	Theophilus, David C.
Blake, Howard A.	Earl, Ray O.	Kolb, Isidore E.	McAlister, Harold R.	Triplett, Russell O.
Block, Robert S.	Heuer, William F.	Kosel, Donald R.	Saxton, Gilbert D.	Wentzel, David W.
Brandt, Arnold N.	Jacobson, Sherill O.			

Vietnam: August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975

Casper, Richard A.	Gilbert, Stanley D.	Hugtveit, Larry A.	Matheis, Richard A.	Richardson, Philip O.
Christensen, Jan P.	Haney, Charles J.	Jerdet, Dennis C.	Meakins, Charles H.	Riles, Donald E.
Freese, Elmer E.	Hansen, David W.	Johnson, Stephen D.	Mees, Wayne E.	Stroub, Steven J.
Gagne, Joseph J.	Helland, Jerry I.	Kearby Jean A.	Michael, Leo G.	Tenhoff, Tracy S.
Gehling, Donald A.	Hinkle, Norman L.	Maas, Roy F.	Nelson, Theodore R.	Wilson, Daniel K.

Mower County/Austin History Section II

THERE WAS GOLD IN THE RIVER

A chronicle of life in Austin and Mower County in the 40 year period preceding World War II.

Still on it creeps,
Each little moment at another's heels,
Till hours, days, years and ages
are made up
of such small parts as these,
and men look back.

Joanna Baille



Intersection of Main St. and Bridge St. (2nd Ave.) from courthouse tower in 1909.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)



Laying of the cornerstone for a new post office in 1910. The building was completed in 1912. St. Olaf Lutheran Church in background.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

"Mower County is situated in the southeastern portion of that sweep of country known as southern Minnesota. It is a prosperous county, a rolling prairie surfaced with rich deep soil. The county has advantages which have placed it in the foremost ranks of Minnesota's agriculture."

"The cities and villages of the county have had their part in the general and commercial upbuilding of the state.

"It is indeed in its men and women that Mower County takes its greatest pride.

"Austin, the Pearl City of southern Minnesota, is located in one of the most attractive portions of the great Northwest. It has a population of 6,960 according to the 1910 census. It is large enough to enjoy all the advantages and improvements found in much larger centers.

"Austin is preeminently a city of homes. A large portion of the residents own their own homes. The residences are the pride and joy of the city.

"The schools of Austin are of the highest efficiency. The Southern Minnesota Normal College, founded in 1897, is located here and has a yearly enrollment of over 1,000 pupils.

"Austin is a city of churches. The clergymen rank high in preaching ability and in personal worth and influence.

"Austin is a prominent business and commercial center. Retail trade covers twenty-two blocks of our streets.

"The streets of Austin are worthy of mention. There are many miles of cement sidewalks with many boulevards, which give a substantial appearance.

"The city has kept pace with its growing population and the improvements of the day. The residents here find every convenience afforded much larger cities."

With a change in population figures and in college name the above description could have been a Chamber of Commerce release in 1984. It is not. It is an extract lifted from the 1911 History of Mower County.

There are experts who say that the world has changed more since 1900 than in all the previous years of recorded history. We would not challenge this when speaking about modern conveniences, machines and computers. Yet we share with Mower County's residents of 1911 a similar appreciation of home, school, church and community.

We hope that the following pages will give the reader an understanding of the challenges, handicaps, joys and fears which former Mower County generations have encountered.

Having set the scene for 1911 we step back 15 years to a time preceding the turn of the century. Mrs. Guy Rolfson, an Austin resident, has written a child's-eye view of Austin. Mrs. Rolfson, the former Helen Sullivan, is now 99 years of age.

Nate Johnson



The funeral procession for Mayor George H. Sutton was a solemn occasion in 1909.

WE LIVED NEAR THE FROG POND

I was a little girl in Austin when kerosene lanterns were atop wooden poles on Main Street. The lanterns shone dimly on horse drawn buggies, dirt streets and wooden sidewalks.

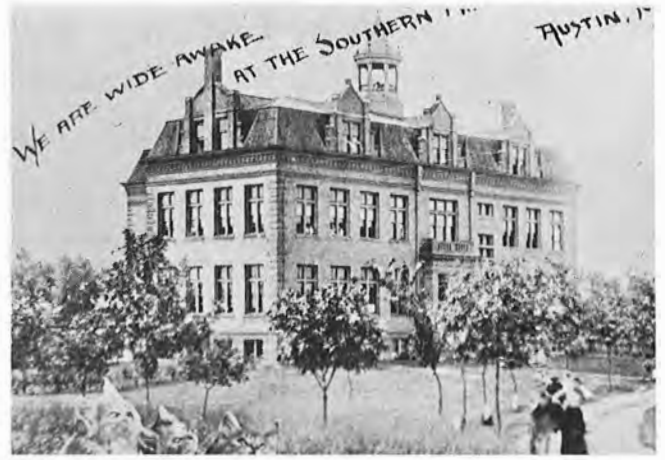
Our house stood at the corner of Moscow St. and North Sixth St., now 3rd Ave. and 10th St. N.W. To the south was the green grass, to the north were the woods and to the west a road led to my Uncle Sullivan's brick yard. To the east was prairie land to the Will Adams house.

On the east side of the block was the frog pond. This pond was an abandoned clay or sand pit which had been used for Uncle Pat's bricks. The water in the pond had a green scum. Each night in the summer we would go to sleep listening to the croak of the frogs. Mother told us never to handle them or we would get warts. We handled them and we got warts.

It was not unusual to see covered wagons go by our place. A horse always trotted alongside the wagon. A cow was tied to the back and pots and pans hung on the rear of the wagon. They camped overnight on the hill above the brickyards. Mother said that they were homesteaders bound for the Dakotas to take up land.

Dan Leary, the lamplighter, lived on Grove St. (4th Ave. N.W.). Each day Dan drove around the main section of town in his sprint wagon. He carried kerosene cans, stepladders and all the equipment needed to fill the lamps, trim the wicks and clean the chimneys. The kerosene lamps stood atop of quite tall poles. Dan was burned badly one time. He had spilled kerosene on his clothes and a lighted match set fire to them.

The St. Ledger's owned a farm that bordered the west edge of Austin. A long lane, called St. Ledger's Lane, ran from 11th or 12th St. N.W., through the field to the pasture land along Turtle Creek. Each day in the grazing season Herb St. Ledger collected cows from their various owners who lived around the high school. Practically everyone had a cow and one or two horses in their barns in town. He would drive cows past our place down to the lane, open the gate and turn them in. The only thing



In 1911 Southern Minnesota Normal College had over 1,000 students.

(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

unusual about that was that he was riding one of the cows.

"Peg Leg" Barnes lived on Grove Street. John had lost his leg in the battle of Bull Run during the Civil War. He came to our house frequently and each time he relived the battle. He would get so excited he would shout and stomp his foot on the floor. From his knee down was just a wooden leg.



This honor guard headed one of Father Devlin's St. Patrick's Day parades.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

Do you remember Johnny Mears? He had two hacks: a black one and a white one for weddings. Every St. Patrick's Day Father Devlin urged the men of the church to take the pledge. Then he staged a temperance parade down Main Street. Johnny Mears always led the parade mounted on a beautiful horse.

Austin once staged a winter carnival. An ice palace was built at the intersection of Main St. and Lansing Ave. (1st Ave. N.W.). The palace was built with blocks of ice from the Cedar River. There was also a big toboggan slide near there, which went out onto the river. People dressed in gay toboggan suits and went skating

down the slide. There were also skaters dressed in bright colors. Danny Guiney was the most outstanding figure skater.



The big toboggan slide which was a winter attraction at the turn of the century. It was operated by Harry Furtney, an uncle of Ferris Furtney, Austin.
(From Ferris Furtney)

Just off Brownsdale Ave. (8th Ave. N.E.), and on the banks of the Dobbins, was Zunk's Beer Garden. When I was a little girl Mrs. Zunk took me down to the sandy shore of Dobbins Creek and showed me where the little tables used to be set. She told me of the food she prepared for the gay young people who came up river on the steamboat, the Belle of Austin. The bandshell where German musicians once played was still standing.

Downtown merchants in those early days included Dunkelmanns, McBrides, Rademachers, Dalagers, Hall and West, K. O. Wold Drugs, Matt Fisch, R. R. Murphy, Loucks, Schwans, Urbatch, Briebach, Zenders and Waldecker the gunsmith.

by Mrs. Guy (Helen) Rolfson

Francis Meany, a retired Austin dentist, can tell many interesting events in the life of a boy growing up on the east side of town. These happenings occurred in the first decade of the 1900s.

DOC MEANY'S EAST SIDE STORY

My father ran the Democratic party in the third ward and served three terms as alderman. That was before he took out his final citizenship papers in 1896. He ran Tom Meany's Saloon on Railway Street (10th St. N.E.). I was born in 1895 in a little house just behind the saloon.

The saloon was sold after my father died in 1905. One night a fire started and the East Side Fire Department was called in. They saved all the whiskey and cigars, but the saloon burned down.

I had three older brothers who had a reputation for being fighters. It seemed like everybody on the east side wanted to lick a Meany. My older brothers were pretty tough, so they tried to take it out on me. It seemed like I fought every day of my life just to keep alive. I didn't know what I was fighting for. I must have had a hundred fights. I did not win many, but there were darn few that I lost. We either wore each other out or somebody stopped it.

There were definite boundaries within Austin. At least as far as the boys and girls were concerned. There was



The Belle of Austin toured the Cedar River for Sunday school picnics and other gala occasions. Harry Furtney is at the helm. Josiah Furtney holds Vera in the background. Names of boy and dog are unknown.
(From Ferris Furtney)

Dutchtown, east of the Milwaukee tracks. The west side was everything west of Main Street. Then there was the toughest section of all, the 'bloody third ward.' That covered the area bordered by the river on the west and the Milwaukee tracks on the east.

In those old days the best looking girls lived in the third ward, but one of those uptown birds had better not cross the lines and come visiting them.

I attended the Columbus parochial school. My class was the first to complete high school at Columbus. There were no interscholastic sports, but we had our own games.

Our gym for basketball was the basement of the school. There were hot water pipes at both ends of the floor. When you shot a basket you ran the risk of being burned. The baskets had to be set close to the ceiling so you couldn't arch the ball. You banked it off the ceiling.

Our sides were usually the Irish against the Dutch. I was half of each, so I would play on the side I thought could win. The Irish janitor decided when it was time to stop playing. He usually didn't stop it if the Irish were behind.

I guess I made an impact on the administration of Columbus School. When Father Devlin handed me my final report card he said, "Francis, if there were seven more like you in school we would have to close it."

by Dr. Francis Meany

1911
THE FAMOUS SHOOTING STAR



Jimmie Ward beside his plane, the Shooting Star. He provided a one plane airshow on July 25, 1911.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

Jimmie Ward, flying in his Curtiss Biplane, the famous "Shooting Star," gave the greatest exhibition of aerial aviation ever seen in Minnesota at the Fairgrounds on Tuesday evening. Leaving the field shortly after 7 p.m., his machine rose gracefully over the crowd and departed westward into the light of the setting sun. Gradually he rose higher and higher over the disc of the sun. Onward he flew into the purple distance until the machine became a purple blur. Then with a sweeping left turn, in one downward glide he returned to the field amid the cheers of the enthusiastic audience.

In this cross country flight Ward attained an altitude of 2,100 feet and covered a straightaway distance of five miles in 12 minutes. It was undoubtedly the record flight ever made in Minnesota.

The show was under the auspices of the Austin Commercial Club and given by the Glenn Curtiss Airship Co., New York City. Admission was 50 cents and 2,000 watched from inside the Fairgrounds. Many more watched for free from outside.

*Airshow was held July 25, 1911.
Reprinted from the Austin Herald*

* * *

The newspapers of 1911 used more than one headline per story. The following had a headline and then a lengthy subhead. Only a small part of the main story is reprinted here, from the *Herald* of August 6th.

A NIGHT OF TERROR. Driven to Take Shelter in the Tree Judd Palmer of Le Roy Sees Charles Shambo Drop Into Flood and Drown—Flash of Lightning Reveals the Drowning Man as he is Swept Away by the Raging Torrent—Survivor Remains All Night in a Tree Which Threatens Every Moment to Fall—Rescued in the Morning—Much Damage by Cloudburst at LeRoy. (end of subhead)

A section of the old dam went out, spreading floods over the lowlands. It swept away bridges and made those who watched the storm remember it as a night of terror.

* * *

Going to the movies was popular. The December 30, 1911 advertisement for a prominent Austin theater was as follows:

IDLE HOUR THEATER—"The Lost Freight Car." An original and sensational railroad drama, telling of how a carload of silk was lost and found. Also how the same thing happened to two hearts.

"The Girl and the Motor Boat." We have had many scenes in automobiles, but we believe this is the first time a girl has been shown in a motor boat going twenty miles an hour.

Concert by the Nerhaugens—7:30 to 7:45. Shows—7:45 to 8:45 and 8:45 to 9:45.

1912

Farmers were receptive to ideas for improving farm methods. Here is a report on such an opportunity. The date was February 9th—**FARMERS INSTITUTE DRAWS BIG CROWDS TO CITY.**

The speakers and their subjects were as follows: In the A.M.: C. E. Older—"Windbreaks in the Front Yard," John Christgau—"Preparation and Cultivation for Corn Growing," W. F. Schilling—"Breeding and Feeding of Cattle." In the P.M.: John Christgau—"Good Roads," W. F. Schilling—"The Dairying Business."

One farmer asked how to cure rheumatism in swine. Christgau created laughter when he said that he was suffering from it and knew no cure.

* * *

April 8, 1912. A delegation of ladies from the Civic Improvement League called upon the city council Saturday night. All cigars were laid aside. The ladies whispered among themselves and then one announced, "We do not object to smoke. In fact we rather enjoy the smell of cigars." The cigars were all rekindled, and one of the ladies remarked, "Men are more apt to grant our request if they can smoke."

The ladies asked the council to devise and put into operation a plan for collecting the garbage of the city. Mrs. W. H. Albertson, Mrs. J. E. Malloy and Mrs. A. W. Wright made short addresses.

Members of the council spoke in favor of the movement, and the matter will come up for action at a meeting April 16.

Austin Herald

* * *

1913



The muddy streets were a hazard before paving came. This picture was taken on Oakland Ave. McDonald's is now on the corner where the house is shown.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

The popularity of automobiles was increasing the need for good roads. The "Red Ball Route" was the predecessor of Highway 218. This item appeared in October, 1913 in the Herald.



In 1913 city officials manned wheelbarrows and tar kettles to lay a few creosote blocks on Maple St. (1st Ave. N.W.) Left to right above: City Clerk Frank Cronin, Fire Chief Nels Jensen, Editor John Skinner, Alderman Charles Riley, Fred Gleason, John Hare, Louis Shepley, Mayor A. C. Page, Ralph Crane, Alderman Ira Padden, George Umhoefer, Sheriff Nick Nichol森, Gunder Teeter, Grant Bailey in masquerade and City Engineer Oscar F. Welssgerber.

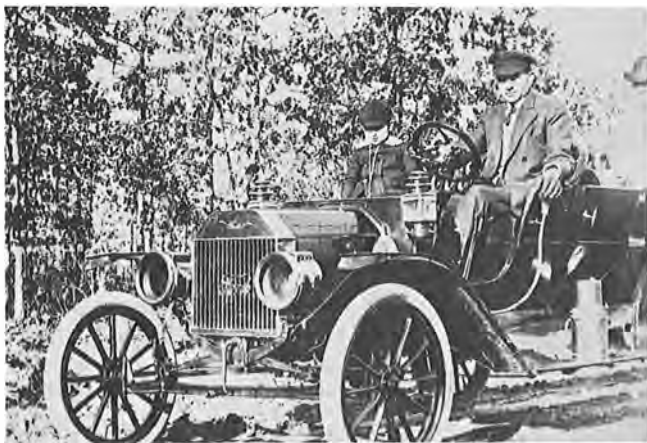
(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

RED BALL ROUTE—A great road movement has been inaugurated to connect St. Paul and St. Louis, Mo. It comes straight down from the cities through Blooming Prairie, Lansing, Austin, Lyle, St. Ansgar, Charles City, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Keokuk etc., to St. Louis.

The entire route is to be marked by a 3 foot wide band on the poles, and with a red ball, six inches in diameter, on both sides of the pole.

The entire length of the route is 536 miles.

1914 THEY NEEDED SEAT BELTS



This early vintage Ford had no seat belts to hold a passenger in the car when going over a bumpy road.

In November of 1914 the Herald had a news story concerning an auto fatality a few miles south of Austin on the road which then went to Mitchell, Iowa. The site of the accident was at a steel bridge near the "old Shepherd farm." A man, sitting in the back seat of an auto, was bounced out, landed in the ditch and died of a broken neck.

A Mr. Clark, who lived on a nearby farm said, "the accident was caused by the condition of the road, for he has seen two other accidents there within the last two weeks. There is a sharp dip in the road at the south end of the bridge. Two weeks ago he saw a big car pass in which a woman sat in the rear seat. As the car went off the bridge, the woman was thrown clear out of the car and landed in the brush at the side of the road. The car continued on as far as the Brownell farm before she was missed. She was not seriously injured."

"Within a week he saw another accident there. In the rear seat sat a man, and beside him was a case of beer. As the car took the jolt the man saved himself from going, but the case of beer went clear out to the fence. Every bottle but one was broken in the case."

Again the importance of good roads is shown in the following story of October 17th about a political rally at Dexter.

DEXTER'S BIG RALLY—Republicans Start the Political Ball in This County.

Ex-Governor Van Sant explained Republican doctrine to a splendid audience in Miller's Hall at Dexter, Friday evening.

Had the roads been passable a hundred automobiles would doubtless have lined the streets of the village. Fully that many had promised Mr. Fairbanks that they would drive their cars to Dexter and help make the Dexter Republican Club's first 1914 rally a huge success.

The automobiles had to be left at home, but the people came anyway, for the hall was packed to the doors. Dexter had "gathered there her beauty and her chivalry."

The Fiske Orchestra entertained the company with a couple of selections. Then Ex-Governor Van Sant was fittingly introduced by Charles Fairbanks, the local chairman.

Mr. Van Sant held up the banner of Republicanism as a rallying flag under which all who had been Republicans could gather.

1915

The bars were closed in Mower County almost 3 years before prohibition was adopted over the entire United States. This story ran on Dec. 31, 1915.

25 SALOONS TO CLOSE—The Licensed Saloons of Mower County to End New Year's Night.

At eleven o'clock Saturday night, January 1, 1916, 25 saloons in Mower County will close their doors for three years, and we believe forever.

In this city 14 places will close, at Adams - 3, Rose Creek - 2, Waltham - 2, Dexter - 1, Sargeant - 1, Elkton - 1, and Johnsburg - 1.

It has been 17 years since Austin has had its saloons closed. At that time a brutal murder, shortly before



The Moreland Garage at 121 North Main St. was Austin's first. The car on the left is a Columbia. He also sold Ford and Cameron automobiles and Wagner Motorcycles.



**At the Evergreen Farm (E. V. Ellis Farm)
Left to right: Mrs. L. D. Baird, Mrs. C. L. West, Mrs. H. A. Avery, Mrs. Warren Holmes, Mrs. George Hirsh, Mrs. Oscar Ayers, Mrs. H. O. Basford, Mrs. F. I. Crane, Mrs. Gus Schleuder, Mrs. Joe Schwan and Mrs. Van Valkenherger.**

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)



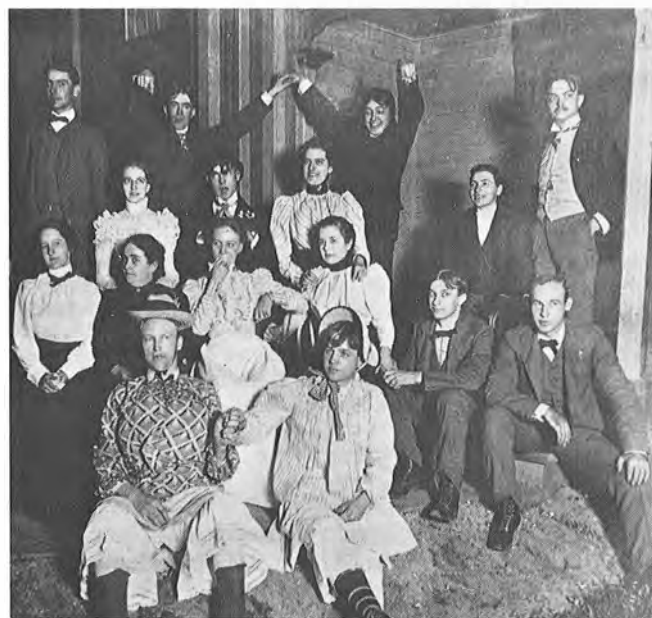
**Never Sweat Club - October, 1912
Back, left to right: Mike Bell, Frank Haney, S. A. Smith, A. Hotson, Ed Feeny, Frank Ryan, Dell Lee, John Manning, W. F. Clay, Lee Sargent. Seated: Pat Reilly, Tom Burns, Jack Scallon, Bill Smith, H. Kendrick, Max Erdman, Lew Goetsch, A. Arens, A. Elmer, J. Taylor, J. Murphy. On ground: Wm. Bell, Sec. Treas. and Eat Officer, President.**

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

election, brought the results. There was no sustained public sentiment to enforce the laws so as to prosecute the sewer rats who violated the will of the people as expressed at the polls.

Austin did not vote dry at the recent County Option election, but it was made dry by the county vote.

The Adams Review says of the condition there, "Adams has harbored saloons continuously for 48 years, and the severance of relations between the thirsty ones and the open saloons will no doubt be a shock to many."



Photographer Henry Fairbanks took the photo, the first flashlight picture taken in Austin. Back row, left to right: Ben Hormel, Bub Woodward, and Frank Tichy. Second row: (unknown), Ed Kelley, Gert Horban, J. S. R. Scovill, Jim Tichy. Third row: (unknown), Mrs. Fenton, Mrs. Scovill, (unknown), Swanson, Geo. Fenton. Front row: Fred Fenton, W. Bassler.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)



Al Kellogg and Tom Rochford at the real estate office at 121 North Main St.

(From Harold Rochford)

1916

NUMBER OF AUTOS INCREASE IN MINNESOTA

The rapid increase of autos this year has been significant of what has been going on over the state. According to a report just given out at the Secretary of State, Julius Schmahl, the number of autos which will be registered in Minnesota will be 150,000 by the first of the year.

Austin Herald, July 11, 1916

COMPANY G ON WAY TO MEXICAN BORDER

Austin Sends the Boys Scores of Boxes of Lunches—Businessmen of the City Contribute Baseballs, Bats, Mitts and Mats—Many Austin People Go to Albert Lea to See The Second Regiment On Its Way—City Decorated With Flags and Bunting—Albert Lea Provides Lemonade.

Austin doesn't expect her boys to go hungry on their way to the Mexican border, and afterward to raid bake shops as some companys have had to do in order to have something to eat. Captain Johnson can order all of the stuff needed to keep the boys in good shape. Besides this, the ladies of Austin cooked up enough food for all of the boys, and this was taken to Albert Lea.

Austin Herald, August 10, 1916



Interior of the Citizen's National Bank, located at 401 N. Main St. This is the address of Gildner's in 1984. The Citizen's bank evolved into the Farmer's Merchants State Bank, the Austin State Bank, Northwestern State Bank and now Norwest Bank.

(Vern Judd Photo Collection)



The Austin Transfer had the first motor transport service in Austin. Harold Rochford has identified Tom Vandegrift as the man standing on the left and Clarence Bolton on the right.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

30 Pans of Sand Cleans Up \$1.98 For One Man—A stranger came into town Wednesday night carrying a satchel. He overtook one of our citizens and said, "I heard you have found gold here!" The Austin man said he understood so, but had not seen anything himself. The stranger said he had come 500 miles.

There are a score or more of miners who have come here to wash the sands. They are a secretive lot, and don't want to talk about what they find. Some of these men can be seen any day with a pan made of black iron, stooping over a running stream, washing out a pan of sand.

It is interesting to watch the men at work. As the amount of sand grows less and less, even the spectators become anxious and carefully scan the pans for a speck of gold, for now the miners are washing out free gold.

On Wednesday, Roy Holmes and the writer went along with one of these miners, and he promised to show us. We went up the Cedar, and the miner told us to dig dirt anywhere and he would wash it out. As he washed, there was a good sprinkling of the metal. The miner, in 30 pans, washed out \$1.98 worth of gold as weighed at the Gleason and Johnson Jewelry Store this morning.

Austin Herald, July 15, 1916

1917

COMING OF WORLD WAR I

Mower County's people were swiftly engrossed in the excitement which swept the United States at the beginning of the First World War. A wave of patriotism swept over the county. After the war the Austin Herald published a book which gave a detailed account of the part which Mower County played in the war. The following paragraphs have been extracted from *Mower County In The World War*.

"April 6, 1917 will glow upon the pages of history. There were boys who came laughing along the street that day, coming from school with their playmates, who before the end of the month were to be in the uniform of their country. There were boys whose names were to be entered upon the rolls of a nation's heroic dead before another spring should come to the fair lands of Mower County. There were boys at work on the farms who had never been beyond the boundaries of the county who were destined to guide aeroplanes over the city of Paris. Boys who had never seen a larger body of water than the Cedar River were to cross and recross as sailors on mighty warships. Boys who had never fired a gun would fight with the deadly machines on the battle scarred fields of France and Flanders."

"On April 19th we celebrated Loyalty Day and Mayor Anderson issued an order that all vacant lots must be cultivated. The same day all the amateur wireless apparatus which had been in use by a number of boys was ordered to be taken down. On April 23rd the board of education met and voted that senior students who enlisted or went to work on farms were to be given a years credit and granted their diplomas at commencement. Thirty-three boys the next day went to work on the farms. It was said that our high school looked like a female seminary.

"On May 1st the newspapers carried instructions on how to knit socks for the soldiers. Guards were placed at the City water supply in Austin. An amusing incident connected with this watch was the theft of the watchman's revolver while the man slept. It was afterwards recovered from small boys who had committed the robbery.

"Guards were thrown about the Hormel Packing Plant. On May 10th came the order 'Save the Fats' in which housewives were warned against any waste in cooking. Only three course dinners were allowed to be served. On May 11th was published the announcement that Congress had decided on conditions of the draft. This measure gave the greatest surprise."

During the following months almost every individual in Mower County became involved in the war effort to some degree. All of the clubs and organizations found some way they could help. Speakers for Liberty Bonds spoke throughout the country extolling the patriotism exhibited in the purchase of war bonds.

There was some evidence of disloyalty in the county and stirred the anger of the "loyal American." In one case the "patriots" painted yellow streaks on the house and yellow bands around the horses in the barn.

Several men were arrested for disloyalty by Sheriff Nichol森 and Chief of Police Wengert of Austin who gave them a good common sense talk.

"There were public hearings given the men who would not take their allotments of war funds, but the threat of a public hearing generally brought the slackers to a realization that the patriotic people of Mower County were in earnest," was the report given in the county history.

In the autumn of 1918 a flu epidemic swept the country. At first it was called Spanish Influenza. The



Governor Burnquist and Major Bady inspecting Company "C" on Governor's Day.



Varco Home Guard

deaths from the disease in Minnesota for three months of 1918 were as follows: October, 2,088; November, 3,193 and December, 1,995.

Company G, 2nd Regiment of the Minnesota National Guard was mobilized for federal service on July 15, 1917. During the next two months the unit was dined, toasted and honored to the fullest degree. 149 men and officers entrained for Camp Cody on September 27, 1917. They left to cheers and some tears, loaded with fruit, boxes of food, thousands of cigars and cigarettes and loads of smoking tobacco. A more complete history of Company G is included in another section.

During the course of the war there were 12 contingents of draftees which left for service. They were given farewell banquets, entertained and escorted in parade formation to the railroad station. There were thousands at the station as the first group left.

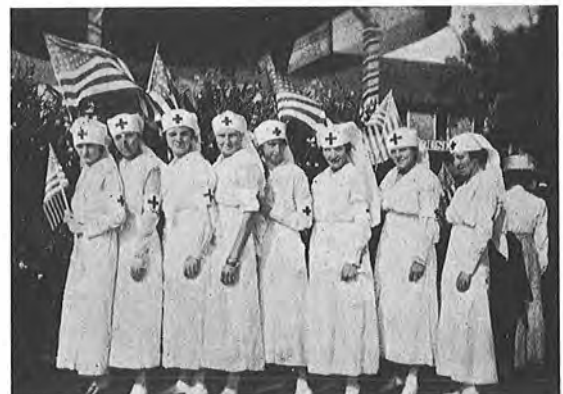
5,263 Mower County citizens registered for service in World War I. 265 were accepted at camp; 582 in general service, 313 were deferred for agriculture and 30 deferred for industrial reasons.

Company C Home Guards

"Company "C" of the Seventh Battalion of the Home Guard of Minnesota was organized for the purpose of assisting in the protection of the state while the soldiers of the Republic were engaged in fighting a foreign foe. Company "C" bears the distinction of being one of the largest infantry companies in the world. Nearly 500 Mower County men were enrolled on its regular and auxiliary rosters at the same time. It turned out 349 men, uniformed, and partially armed, at the time of its inspec-



Grand Meadow Red Cross Branch, Surgical Dressing Workroom.



Taopl Red Cross Group

tion by the governor of the state. Its members were active in loyalty work and were leaders throughout the county in patriotic activities." So said the Mower County World War history.

64 Gold Stars were in the windows of Mower County homes. 13 were killed in action, 13 died of wounds received in action, 1 was drowned in France, 1 was killed in an accident in the U.S. and 36 died of disease.

From a distance of over 60 years one wonders if we will ever again witness a time of patriotic excitement as that of 1917-18. Perhaps it was the last time in history when the glory overbalanced the horror of war for the citizens of Mower County.

1918

WALTHAM FLAG RAISING

Waltham's biggest crowd ever gathered in the village Wednesday night to take part in the raising of Old Glory, presented to the village for being the first to go over the top in the third Liberty Loan. A hundred autos brought people from all parts of Waltham Township. The event was pulled off in fine shape, and reflected credit on the people in charge, which consisted of Oscar Erickson, Mayor H. W. Ibling, E. J. Mark Hanna and A. D. Schaefer.

When the crowd came they found a flag flying within a hundred feet from where the flag raising was to take place. Another American flag floated from the staff of the village schoolhouse. After the flag was raised Wednesday night it gave the village three large beautiful national banners. It gave the village a splendid patriotic appearance as you came into it from any direction.

The Brownsdale band was present and played some fine selections during the exhibition drill of the home guard under J. M. Nicholson. Mrs. Webb can feel proud of her organization.

Austin Herald, July 5, 1918

OUR VICTORY THANKSGIVING

Austin will probably never know another Thanksgiving Day like the one this year, for it was a victory Thanksgiving we celebrated. A year ago things looked dark for this old world of ours. Civilization and humanity were all but crushed by the Hun and his war machine. This holiday found the Hun crushed. The Kaiser, author of the world's greatest tragedy, is shorn of his throne and his power, hiding in a neutral country. A year ago the world was red with blood.

Thanksgiving dawn came this year to Austin to find the earth white with snow. Yet, of a city of 10,000 people, only 2,500 assembled to offer praise for the greatest victory that had come to the American soldier and his Allied comrades in arms. It was the greatest that had ever been celebrated in Austin.

Eight of the protestant churches of Austin set aside their religious differences and forgot for the nonce their creeds, and united for a service at the Methodist Church. The interior was profusely hung with American flags, and across the quarter rail hung the flags of our Allies.

St. Augustine Church, that seats 1,000 people, was

crowded by worshippers at their Thanksgiving patriotic service. There was special music for this occasion. The Reverend E. H. Devlin, preached a patriotic sermon, in which he told of the many things for which this nation should be thankful.

St. John's Lutheran Church also observed the day with a sermon by the Reverend Milbrath.

Austin Herald, November 29, 1918

1919

NATIONWIDE PROHIBITION

The dream of reformers became a reality at midnight. The wartime prohibition act, passed during the struggle with Germany to conserve food, went into effect. Under the act the sale of all intoxicating liquors becomes a crime against the United States.

Potpourri

The swansong of booze in America is about the sweetest music this old world has heard since the Morning Stars sang together.

Austin Herald, July 1, 1919

BEAUTIFUL OAKDALE

Home of the \$10,000 Rooster Has Been Mutified at Expense of \$3,500

All roads will lead to the Oakdale Farms at Le Roy on August 10th. On that day it is estimated that from 25,000 to 40,000 people will assemble here to inspect the greatest of all poultry farms. There will be a special train going from this city to Le Roy to accommodate all the people who cannot go by auto. There will be few autos in this and the adjacent counties which will not be in Le Roy on that day.

Every room in the Le Roy hotels have already been reserved by prominent editors of poultry journals and other journals to write up the big event. The Associated Press will have two representatives present. All this fuss over some feathered chickens. Not the plebian barnyard Leghorns, but the patricians of the world's best flocks.

This farm spent the sum of \$10,000 for advertising last year. The remark was made that the money was wasted. Cy Thomson said it paid so well that his advertising bill this year will be greater than the \$10,000.

Austin Herald, July 12, 1919

WE GOT THE GAS

Hormel Company Closes Early to Help the Cooks

Mr. Jay Hormel called on Mayor Hirsh on Tuesday evening, and offered to cut off all the consumption of gas at the plant at 2:00 this afternoon so that cakes, cookies etc., might be prepared for Christmas. Mr. Hirsh called up some of the would-be gas consumers of the Third Ward, and they were much pleased with the program. The plant will be closed all day tomorrow, so that the turkeys, ducks and geese, and all the other fixings of the Christmas dinner will come to the table piping hot. "It was our best Christmas Gift," said one woman who had been worrying how they were going to have a Merry Christmas on cornflakes and canned ham.

Austin Herald, December 24, 1919

1920

TODD DISCUSSES COAL SITUATION

City Council Grants Permission to Reduce Lighting of Streets

"The coal situation is serious!" said William Todd, superintendent of the Water and Light Plant, addressing the city council Friday night. "We are not out, but we are short, and prospects are not good for getting more." Mr. Todd said that he had been instructed by the board to bring this situation to the council, and to ask permission to reduce the street lighting on moonlighted evenings.

Council, on motion, moved to grant permission for the reduction.

Austin Herald, August 7, 1920

COUNTY RANKS 15TH

Olmsted With Census Figures Unannounced Threatens to Outstrip Mower County

The 1920 census figures were announced for all the counties of the state with the exception of Olmsted. Mower County ranks 15th in population with 25,993. In the census of 1910, 18 counties of Minnesota exceeded Mower in population.

Potpourri

Prohibition has caused one quick-witted local troubadour to make this lament in one of the hotels on Wednesday night.

"Thirsty days has September, October, April and November. May and June are thirsty, too, except for those who have home brew.

Austin Herald, October 4, 1920



The University of Southern Minnesota had "America's Greatest Aviation School" in the early 1920s.



Main Street, Austin, in the early 1920s.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

1921

MOONSHINE INDUSTRY GIVEN A SEVERE JOLT HERE—RAIDS BY FEDERAL AGENTS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The moonshine manufacturing industry, which has been carried on under cover in Mower County, was dragged into the open yesterday. Two federal agents, acting in conjunction with the local and county authorities, constituted a "slip between the cup and the lip." Today eight persons are scheduled to appear in court here, while many others, deprived of their source of supply, will be forced to obtain liquid refreshments elsewhere.

Sweeping through the county yesterday, supplemented this morning by a series of raids in the city, resulted in the serving of many warrants including three women in the city. Seizure of a large quantity of mash, several stills and a varied assortment of liquorous products. At noon the raids had produced a total of over 50 gallons of moonshine, besides a quantity of other liquorous beverages.

"This is one of the biggest single hauls we have made," said one of the federal agents.

In the raid in the county yesterday the party found a shed with an elaborate double still in full operation. Brine mash was busily cooking in two copper cookers. Each sat on individual oil stoves. From the top of the cookers connection led to copper coils, each 15 feet long. This condensed the vapor which passed through the big coolers constructed from vinegar barrels. At the terminal of the condensers a clear, colorless fluid dripped intermittantly into stone jars. This was the finished product.

Austin Herald, October 28, 1921

CY THOMSON'S STORY

Cy Thomson was one of the most public spirited citizens in Austin during the years immediately preceding 1921. He provided cigars to the young men leaving for wartime service. If a local civic event needed something extra to make it a success it was Cy Thomson who would find and provide it. His money for benevolences seemed inexhaustible. Then came the revelation. Cy Thomson was a crook.

Thomson wrote his own autobiography. A few paragraphs have been extracted for this history.

Ransome J. (Cy) Thomson began, "Once my story was written up in magazines as a story of success. It told of a farm boy who came to the city, and by industry and honesty had carved his way to a position of trust and integrity. It told of the leader in the community, the teacher in the Sunday school, of the man who was consulted in every business enterprise. It told of the man who was a welcome guest of industrial executives of the state. Governors and high officials were glad to sit at my table."

"I laughed with my tongue in my cheek when I read these articles. I alone knew the secret of the million stolen dollars which had bolstered my fortune. Fool that I was, I thought that I could be clever enough to conceal these funds always."

Thomson was first employed at the Hormel Packing Plant as a scaler in the fresh meat department at \$12 per week. In the spring of 1907 he asked Mr. George Hormel for a more responsible job. Hormel suggested that he get training in bookkeeping and accounting. He took a course at Mankato and was reemployed with Hormels. Two years later he was promoted to the position of cashier.

"It was early in 1911 that my first theft occurred. A Mrs. Mary Hollingshead from South Dakota mailed in \$800 in currency for the purchase of shares of stock. The stock was issued immediately, but the money was placed in transit. It was still in transit 10 years later when the crash came."

Thomson began to invest in various ventures such as his poultry farm in Le Roy, "Affairs were moving rapidly for me during this period and I purchased the entire D. W. Young poultry stock and equipment from New York state, including a \$10,000 rooster, winner of a long string of prizes at the Madison Square Garden.

"I enjoyed the complete confidence of the Hormel executives. When one of my superiors moved up I was promoted to assistant comptroller. I had an intimate knowledge of funds which were supposedly in transit. I plunged more deeply than ever.

"I next branched into the dairy business with a 160 acre farm between Lansing and Blooming Prairie. Many breeders in Minnesota were in a furious competition to have the finest buildings, most expensive animals and best equipment. With animals of this type selling for \$1,000 to \$3,000 a head, it was a costly race to enter.

The day finally came when Cy Thomson's embezzlement from the Hormel Company was uncovered. He describes the events of Saturday, July 9, 1921.

"I knew before I started from my desk. The call came from Hormel's office following a mail controversy with a Boston bank. I knew instinctively before I saw Mr. Hormel's grave face and the accusing eyes of his directors. The exposure which I had been fighting for ten years was at hand.

"My first remark when I entered the room was, 'Gentlemen it's all over, the jig is up.' An hour later I went to the company's general journal with one of the Hormel officials and made the last entry I was ever to make on the Hormel books. It was an entry charging R. J. Thomson with \$1,187,000 and crediting the various banks where the shortages existed."

Thomson was jailed on Monday, July 18. The Herald stated, "All last night guards were on duty watching every exit of Mr. Thomson's beautiful home on Nassau St. They were concealed on porches of the adjoining homes. At about 11 p.m. the door opened and a party of Albert Lea visitors came out and said 'goodbye' and invited Cy and his wife to come over and see them. He thanked them and said, 'We'll be sure to come.'

There were dramatic repercussions in Austin. The Herald said, "Recently Thomson put over the Oakdale Trail from the Twin Cities to Chicago, and blazed the way with black, white and yellow stripes on every telephone post."

"Cy Thomson has been the mystery man of Austin.



This Model T Ford Sedan was used by Cy Thomson in promoting the Oak Dale Trail. This was a new highway which was posted from Minneapolis to Chicago.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

Everyone has asked where Cy got his money. There is great regret and sorrow at his downfall, for he had endeared himself to the whole community by his public spirit and generosity."

A few days later the mood had changed. The Herald said, "Cy Thomson knew that a crash of the Hormel Company would be disastrous to Austin. No greater crime in the commercial world was ever committed than that of the man whom we have honored and applauded."

On July 19th George and Jay Hormel were in Chicago in conference with bankers from New York, Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Paul. George Hormel told them the story of the company's struggle and attainments. At 4:20 p.m. that day a telegram was received at the Herald. With the code word, "Released" the Herald knew that all was well. The bankers would stand behind the credit of the Hormel Packing Co.

Cy Thomson's wife died during his 9½ years of imprisonment. The governor refused to give him a leave to attend the funeral. When he was released he worked on a farm in the Minneapolis area. Details of his later years are dismal. For all intents and purposes Cy Thomson's productive life ended at the age of 34, when he made his last journal entry with the Hormel Company.

1922

ADAMS BENEFACTOR WILLS \$50,000 TO CHURCH PROJECTS

Lars Ellingson, 71, Leaves Largest Sum in History of County for Church

Extension—Provides Against Heirs Contesting Will
The Little Cedar Lutheran Church of Adams Township and the Norwegian Lutheran Church Extension Fund will benefit to the amount of \$50,000 under the will

of Lars Ellingson of Adams. The will was admitted to probate yesterday.

Mr. Ellingson came to America a poor homeless boy when 17 years of age. He lived in a frame shanty for a number of years and then built a frame building. By 1919 he had one of the finest farm properties in the county. All was earned by hard work and thrift.

The will closes with warning that if the beneficiaries under the will contest, or attempt to contest the same, they would automatically forfeit the bequest made to them.

The executors of the will are Anders Torgerson, Nordeen Torgerson and N. F. Banfield Sr.

Austin Herald, May 23, 1922

CRUDE GRAND MEADOW AX SLAYING— ARREST ONE

Aged Grand Meadow Farmer Slain While Sleeping—Wife Still Unconscious—Brutal Attack Discovered by Daughter Late Yesterday Afternoon—Slaying Occurred Wednesday Night—Hope to Revive Aged Woman Leading to Identity of Slayer—Bloodhounds on Trial—Slayer Escaped in Automobile—Only Slight Clues Are Left.

One of the most gruesome murders that has ever occurred in the county was revealed yesterday when the body of John Wagner, 72, retired farmer of Grand Meadow, was found in his home, his face crushed by the blow of an ax. His wife was found lying on the floor beside the bed, unconscious from the blow struck by her assailant.

The aged pair was found by their daughter, Mrs. Alvin Sorom. The inquest was still in progress at Grand Meadow this afternoon. A report from Grand Meadow, at 3 p.m. this afternoon stated that Mrs. Wagner is still alive, although this morning doubt was expressed that she would live until noon.

Austin Herald, July 14, 1922

1923

DAMAGE IN FIRE SATURDAY NIGHT MAY REACH TOTAL OF \$120,000

Damage, which it is estimated, may reach a total of \$120,000 was caused by a devastating fire late Saturday night. The fire destroyed the building and stock of the Austin Furniture Company, and damaged the building and stock of George Hirsh. There was also losses to other neighboring suppliers.

The fire was started with an explosion in the furnace, was the opinion of A. M. Ousley, who said today that the rear end of the firebox on the furnace had blown out. The insurance on the building and stock of the furniture company did not exceed \$30,000 he said.

The body of Peter Peterson, who was killed near Lansing last week, when a ditch in which he was working caved in, was on the second floor toward the front. A desperate effort was made to take the remains out of the flames. F. H. Mayer, who had charge of the remains, had ladders run up to the second story windows. Reach-

ing in with a fireman's hook, he dragged the body toward the window, but the dense, suffocating smoke forced him to come down the ladder.

A fireman followed him and attempted to take it through the window to the street. He called for assistance, and another climbed a ladder. It was then that the explosion occurred. The smoke and gas accumulating with the fire made a terrific blast. The front windows, doors and frames were ripped out, and the rear wall of the building was blown out. Firemen were thrown back by the force of the explosion, and practically all of them suffered minor injuries.

Austin Herald, February 5, 1923

1924

REPLY TO LETTER, DELAYED SIX YEARS, GIVES AUSTIN CHANCE FOR A WAR TROPHY

Six years ago the late J. N. Nichol森 wrote a letter to Congressman Sidney Anderson, calling attention to the fact that all of the cities had received war trophies, yet no artillery graced the courthouse lawn of our city. He asked that Congressman Anderson take steps to assure for Austin a piece of German artillery as a memento of the war.

On October 31 of this year the War Department got around to reply to that letter. Now there is a possibility that such a trophy will be secured for Austin. The letter explained that a large quantity of such trophies is now available, and that it has been left with the governor of each state to determine how they should be distributed.

The expense involved would be the transportation to Austin which it is estimated will be about \$90.00.

Austin Herald, November 24, 1924

(Editor's note: In due time a large piece of German artillery was placed in Horace State Park in front of what is now the swimming pool. During World War II it was drafted into service on the side of the Allies as scrap metal.)

1925

TRIAL AT LEROY CREATES A STIR

The first of the cases fought by offenders who were arrested at Le Roy Saturday, as a result of the appearance of two speed cops in the village, was dismissed when the case came to trial yesterday.

The arrests had created a sensation in the village. Before the trial was called yesterday the courtroom was filled. Merchants left their places of business, farmers came to town, working men laid off and people came from across the state line to attend the trial. Among the spectators were students of the high school class in Civics, taking advantage of the opportunity to learn about legal procedure.

County Attorney Otto Baudler appeared to prosecute the cases.

The case of Ed Bergerson was the first trial. Officers testified that the speed attained by the defendants had

varied between 20 and 25 m.p.h. The testimony having been heard, the judge dismissed the case.

Criticism of the arrests is voiced in a current issue of the *Le Roy Independent* which says, "It is hoped that the experience just gone through will have a tendency to make the automobile driver a little more careful in the future, and a recurrence of the trouble will be averted."

Austin Herald, May 1, 1925

ATTENDANCE AT OPENING OF CHATAUQUA INDICATES THAT INSTITUTION HAS SURVIVED CRAZES THAT SWEEP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Every seat in the Chatauqua tent was occupied last night, although threatening skies, flashing lightning and thunder indicated that rain would fall before the entertainment of the evening would close. Not only was every seat on the benches and the reserve chairs occupied, but it was necessary to bring in more chairs for late comers.

Someone said that the radio's coming would kill the Chatauqua, "because we get just as good lectures, and just as fine music while sitting in our own home." But the radio was not working very well last night, even as it does not work well on some other nights when the program we most desire to hear is being broadcasted.

There is something else about a Chatauqua beside the splendid programs brought to our city at less than 10¢ per number. You don't get on the radio the companionship, the mingling of the crowd of your fellow people, the sociability which one finds when 1500 or more of your neighbors and friends are gathered together with the idea of having a good time.

The radio is a wonderful thing, but it is impersonal. Do you recall the days when only horse drawn vehicles came to the Chatauqua? The long line of hitching posts and chains used to reach halfway around the park. Now there are no horses, or if there is one it is tied far from the parking lines of the autos. Someone said years ago that the coming of the auto would kill the Chatauqua. People would not go to a Chatauqua when they could go for a ride. The Chatauqua continued to grow, and one of the sights of the city is the moving of hundreds of autos to the Chatauqua grounds.

Austin Herald, June 11, 1925



The Austin Opera House, built in 1884, was located in the 400 block on North Main St. The Austin Bootery now occupies the building. The superstructure was removed in the 1920s.

1926

PADDY RYAN HERE FOR TWO-DAY RODEO EVENT

"Paddy" Ryan, champion of the rodeo and former Austin newsboy arrived here this morning, and was met at the C.M. & St.P. station by a delegation which took him to the Fox Hotel, where he will make his home during his stay in the city.

"Paddy" is the same lad that left us some years ago to become great in his chosen profession; breaking live horses, riding steers and in other ways trying to see how near he can come to having his neck broken.

If he gets time he will go over his old route and peddle the *Heralds* once more, making the route mounted on one of his broncos.

Ryan will have a part in the big doings on Monday, when it is expected that 10,000 people will come to the rodeo.

Austin Herald, September 4, 1926

FARMERS BUY FIRE FIGHTING TRUCK TODAY

A tentative contract for the purchase of an American-LaFrance pumper, 500 gallon per minute capacity, was entered into today by the Mower County Farmers Fire and Lightning Insurance Company. The pumper has six cylinders, and is 72 horsepower, and carries the endorsement of the best fire fighting engineers of the country.

Those on the committee for purchase were Alvin Baudler and H. F. Keyser. The company having control of the pumper will be known as the Farmers Fire Protection Company.

To each person taking out a share, a certificate of membership will be issued. The pumper will be used to serve members only. The City of Austin has offered to furnish space for housing the equipment and will supply experienced men to operate the truck and direct the work of extinguishing fires.

Austin Herald, October 31, 1926

1927

KISSING BANDIT, THOUGH ARMED, NOT SO BOLD

Armed with a gun and in quest of osculatory loot, Austin's kissing bandit, even when he had his victim in his power, lost courage. As far as is known the kissing bandit got no loot.

The existence of a moron who has been following young women in Austin was admitted today by Superintendent S. T. Neveln, who said that reports had come to him from girls who had been followed by a man. Apparently it was the same individual in each case. In some cases it had been noticed that he had been armed with a gun.

The moron followed a teacher, whose name was not disclosed. The sidewalks were slippery, and flight was impossible. He grasped the girl, and put his arm about her waist and said, "Give me a kiss and I will let you go!"

Although she was unable to resist, the kissing bandit evidently lost courage. He did not take the kiss that was demanded.

Austin Herald, February 1, 1927



This view was taken on Kenwood Ave. (4th St. N.W.) following the 1928 tornado. Austin High School is in the center and Franklin School on the right.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)



The storm destroyed this building, the Smith and Decker Plow and Harrow Co., corner of Mill St. and St. Paul St. (3rd Ave. N.W. and 1st St. N.W.) The business had been started shortly after the Civil War by Seymour Johnson and A. A. Smith.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

1928 THE BIG TORNADO

It was a real twister, the tornado, the horror, the storm that is feared whenever the weather conditions are as they were yesterday with its intense sultriness, frequent sharp and brilliant electrical storms following each other from southwest to northeast all day, for twenty-four hours before the destructive storm dropped its gyrating horror upon the city and in five minutes left a track of death and destruction.

Even potatoes were said to be uprooted and scattered about the ground in the swath of the tornado. Trees lay prostrate upon the ground everywhere from the Iowa line to Austin and crops were threshed as if with a flail.

It struck the fairgrounds in the southwest part of the city working destruction among the wooden buildings, lifted for a moment and then struck around the vicinity of the old Normal school buildings. It passed on to the Franklin school where it tore out all of the windows.

Then it hit the Public Library and St. Olaf Lutheran Church, tearing its beautiful cathedral glass to little pieces, stripping the roof of almost every shingle and wrecking the tall steeple so that the place was barricaded for fear the steeple would fall.

Then through the business section it tore its way, crashing plate glass, tearing roofs from buildings, throwing down brick walls, tearing the trees of the courthouse grounds with a ruthless hand. Hundreds of autos standing in the street were wrecked by the driven debris of buildings ruined in the path of the storm.

On the storm passed, increasing in destructive forces as it approached the north end of the city, where theatre, industries, brick apartment houses and homes were crumbled like buildings made of cards.

Directly in the path of the wind, the Motor Inn at the corner of Water Street and Chatham (4th Ave. N.E. and 1st St. N.E.), was completely demolished and one man was killed. The victim was Gus Neubauer who is survived by his widow and one young son. Neubauer had been employed at the Motor Inn for only a week.

Death rode the storm as it came into the fourth ward at the north end, where a happy boy was nearly beheaded by being struck by the flying wreckage of his home.

And then, when the terrible storm had passed and the sun came out through the clouds of the west, a beautiful double rainbow was thrown across the dark clouds that were piled on the eastern sky, clouds that had ridden with the monster that man knows as the tornado.

On the heels of the storm came the volunteer workers. Wherever there was rumor of humans being buried under wreckage men worked cutting their way through timbers, iron, brick and stone. Men worked with rapidity and in earnestness that has never been equaled here. From workshop and home, from business and professional office came men to lend their aid in the work of rescue.

The city ambulance and many autos were soon making trips to and from St. Olaf Hospital where all the doctors of the city were kept busy for hours caring for the injured.

As soon as dusk came martial law was proclaimed. Company H was ordered out and put on patrol duty throughout the ruined portions of the city, assisting the city police force which was augmented by 20 extra officers. The men of the American Legion to the number of 105 volunteered their duty, giving the city perfect police protection.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion at once established a free canteen where they served coffee and sandwiches to the hungry and to those whose work required their constant attendance on duty during the night.

(Many other clubs and individuals also provided their services.)

Austin Herald, August 21, 1928

(Note: The casualty list recorded four dead the day of



The tornado destroyed the Motor Inn at the corner of Water St. and Chatham St. (4th Ave. N.E. and 1st St. N.E.) A newly hired mechanic, August Neubauer, died when the building collapsed.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

the storm and one died the following day. They were: August A. Neubauer, 40; Harold Bumgarner, 12; Laverne Roberts, 19; Mrs. Harry Johnson and Marvin Baumgarner. There were 18 seriously injured. The earliest estimate of damages was set at \$625,000.)

MILLIONTH HOG KILLED HERE, ARRIVES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

"One hog in a million" passed along the conveyer on the killing floor of the George A. Hormel & Co. here this morning. The arrival of the millionth hog was earlier than usual. Three times the plant here has slaughtered a million hogs, but heretofore the millionth hog did not click the register until near the close of the fiscal year.

Austin Herald, October 17, 1928

MANY ENTRIES MADE FOR CALLER'S CONTEST

Hog callers, violinists, dancers and musicians are making their entries for the \$50.00 in prizes that are being offered to contestants in the old time fiddlers, musicians, hog callers and dancers contest that will be held Wednesday, December 12. Twenty have signified their intentions to compete in one of the most unique affairs to be staged in this city. Those who enter the contest will not be charged admission, and they will also be permitted to attend the dance free of charge.

An old time dance with circle two steps, square dances, one steps, quadrilles and prize waltzes will feature the occasion.

The "fiddle fest" is a community affair which will include on the program a long list of varied talent including fiddlers, cloggers, hog callers, mouth organ players, chicken callers and other amateur and professional performers.

Austin Herald, December 11, 1928

1929

SHORT SKIRTS ACHIEVE WHAT CITY ALDERMEN WERE UNABLE TO DO

The short skirts of women have brought about a civic improvement that all the laws of the state, the charter of



This building, at the corner of Main St. and East Mill St. (3rd Ave. N.E.), was the last to remove its outside iron stairway. The main reason was the coming of short skirts and the barber shop below. The building is now occupied by Wallace's.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

the city and the ordinances and resolutions of the city have failed to effect—the elimination of the last outside stairway in our business section.

When the brick building was erected on the corner of Mill and Main Streets, some forty years ago, an outside stairway was built from the Mill St. walk to the second story. The old wooden one was later replaced by the present open iron-work construction.

That type was satisfactory while the women folk wore long skirts, and the only objections came from those who wanted all the outside stairways removed, as they obstructed the sidewalks.

City after city council tried to have them removed and in time all disappeared except the one now being torn down. "There were several reasons why we decided to get rid of the old landmark, but the chief one is because of the women's style of dress," said one of the interested parties this morning. "Women who are long on modesty and short skirts simply would not go up those steps. There is a barber shop with a stairway opening directly under those stairs, and there were always a number of men standing about. We think they will now find some other place more to their liking, for all the attractiveness of the spot will be gone."

Austin Herald, July 29, 1929



The pioneer family of Jacob S. Decker settled on 320 acres east of Austin in 1857. In 1930 the land was given to the City of Austin by E. W. Decker. It is the site of our municipal airport.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

1930 CIVIC GIFTS

Austin has been fortunate in the matter of gifts and endowments. Among the valued accretions of the city which have served to enhance its beauty are the YWCA, given by Mr. and Mrs. George A. Hormel; the Shaw Boys Gymnasium, given by the late O. W. Shaw and the adjoining land, given by the late N. F. Banfield; Dreisner Park, given by Marcus Dreisner; Lafayette Park, given by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Beatty, E. G. Tompkins and Lafayette French; Galloway's Park, former site of the University of Southern Minnesota; Horace Austin State Park, formed from land given to the State by former residents of the city; the peninsula extending into the park, given by George A. Hormel and Co.; the boy scout camp at Waseca, by E. A. Everett of Waseca, and camp buildings by Mr. and Mrs. George A. Hormel; the Carnegie library, made possible through the donation of Andrew Carnegie.

Now comes the gift of an airport by E. W. Decker of Minneapolis, as a memorial to his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob S. Decker, pioneer residents of this county.

Herald editorial, May 2, 1930

CENSUS COMPETITION

A vexing problem is settled with the announcement of the Albert Lea census. The population of the sister city is 10,169 and that of Austin is 12,276. Rochester's population is 13,722.

Austin Herald, May 2, 1930

OVER 1500 FLOCK TO COUNTY FARM BUREAU PICNIC

Over 1,500 farmers of Mower County gathered this morning for the annual Farm Bureau picnic, that got underway at the E. A. Carll farm four miles north of Austin. Ideal weather and the promise of a varied program attracted farmers from all sections of the county. Over 1,500 were already assembled by noon today. Others were still arriving for the afternoon program of the organization.

The power of the Farm Bureau organization, with the strength that it has illustrated during the last few years was emphasized by the speaker, E. W. Tompkins, secretary of the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation. The heavy burden of taxes, and the need of readjustment was urged by the speaker. "The farmer is being taxed far beyond his capability or his ability to pay," he said.

Austin Herald, June 20, 1930

1931 LANSING THIEVES SECURE NO LOOT

Imagine the disappointment of robbers early this morning who took pains to break into the elevator north of Lansing and carried away a heavy safe, and worked laboriously to open its doors, only to be rewarded with a glimpse of the old, and comparatively worthless records of the Lansing town board.

The robbers are believed to have broken into the elevator between 2 and 3 o'clock this morning. They then entered the section house of the Milwaukee Railroad near the village, where they secured a ten pound hammer. The safe in the elevator, that weighs approximately 400 pounds, was carried by the robbers the distance of a few hundred feet from the elevator. There they used the stolen hammer to force its doors to yield.

The safe was found this morning at the spot where the robbers had opened it.

Austin Herald, October 6, 1931



Farmers gather for a foreclosure sale during the days of the Depression.

COUNTY FARMERS TAX LEAGUE DEMANDS AN ECONOMY PROGRAM TO CUT TAXES 20%

A proposal to reduce the taxes of Mower County 20%, by following an economy program was voted at a meeting of the county Farmers Tax League at Adams, Saturday. The largest crowd attended since the organization was started.

Farmers packed to its capacity the Krebsbach Hall in the village of Adams. It is estimated that the attendance exceeded 500 members. They discussed the following economy measures: the reduction of salaries of all county officials, including the county agent and county nurse; the temporary elimination of county aid for the county fair; the practicing of the strictest economy matters in all school, road and all public matters, and the postponement of all new projects that increases the burden of taxation.

A resolution was proposed as follows: "Whereas, the farmers of Mower County are by now in serious financial straits, due largely to the low price of the things they have to sell, and the relatively high price of the things the farmer has to buy; and whereas the taxes which the farmer is required to pay have not been reduced to fit the radically reduced income of the farmer; and whereas the present and actual situation of the farmer requires a substantial reduction in taxation if he is to survive the present economic depression. Therefore, be it resolved, that it is hereby demanded that the township, county and state tax levying units reduce the taxation not less than 20% for the year 1931, and each year thereafter, until

such amount of reduction is replaced by taxes on property, or incomes not now taxed, and by taxes collected from tax evaders."

Austin Herald, March 2, 1931

1932

PRICES WERE LOW IN 1932

Following are some of the items advertised in the Austin Daily Herald on May 5, 1932:

The Gamble Store—First line automobile tires - 4 ply - \$3.18 to \$4.30. First line - 6 ply tires - \$4.65 to \$7.93. Third line tires were as cheap as \$1.79.

Mier Wolf and Sons—Barton electric washer - \$59.50. 3 piece bedroom suite - \$49.50. 8 piece walnut dining room suite - \$29.50. 2 piece living room suite - \$29.50. Porcelain gas range - \$29.50.

The Golden Eagle—Men's suits, formerly \$25.00, now \$14.75. Top quality suits and top coats, were \$30.00, now \$16.50.

Kasaks Grocery Store—10 lbs. sugar - 45¢; cheese - 16¢ lb.; P. & G. soap, 10 bars for 25¢; beef roast - 15¢ lb.; pork chops - 14¢ lb.; dairy bacon - 23¢ lb.; oranges - 2 doz. for 33¢; strawberries - 2 quart box - 29¢.

Cleveland Hardware—coaster wagon - \$2.85; 16" lawnmowers - \$5.85.

Classified advertising—Real Estate - 4 room modern bungalow - \$2,000.00 by C. A. Weseman.



The Swimming Beach, Austin, 1930

OLD MAN CEDAR RIVER

The Cedar River has been a very useful stream of water, particularly for the kids. The grownups have put it to use also. It has furnished power to grind feed. Ice from the river was once used to preserve meat and other food products. Unfortunately, it has also been a trough used as a drain for untreated wastes. However, for the kids it has been a place for adventure. Many remember growing up in close contact with life on the Cedar. Much of our spare time was spent alongside the river, on the river, or in its cooling waters.

In the time within my memory, the 1920s and 1930s, the "Beach" was the center for summer bathing. The Beach was a well sanded area beside the river which is now the parking area off North Main St. The sand was

deep enough so that a kid could burrow into it and keep cool on a hot summer afternoon.

There were two "pebble-dashed" bath houses, supervised by young athletic-type individuals. Clothing went into little wire baskets, handed to an attendant and stored in shelves in an enclosure.

A wooden pier extended into the river. The diving tower was placed on the pier, with diving boards at two levels. We spent time each day trying to perfect our swan dives and jack-knife diving performances. Also a full measure of belly flops.

We wore a motley array of swimming garments. Mine was a blue cotton with orange piping around the arm holes. It cost 49¢, a gift from an uncle who thought it was about time I got wetted down. The most stylish suits were two-piece with belted shorts and gym-style top. The older generation thought they were immodest. I hesitate to think what their reaction would have been to the modern swimming attire.

One of the hazardous attractions on the beach was a high wooden structure, intended to be used for water sleds. It was used for its intended purpose for about one year after being imported from Beaver Lake near Ellendale, Minn. For a few years it remained near the river and young boys tested their climbing skill on it. Eventually it became a ski slide west of town. Later the Hillcrest golf course was at that site.

After their dog paddling days the swimmers at the Beach had about two places they could swim to after they left wading depths. The first goal for the novice was a point we called the "rocks." This was a spot on the west bank about 50 yards distant. The next achievement was the "bridge." That was probably about 150 to 200 yards north of the Beach. Now the course of the river has been diverted, but at that time there was a bridge which crossed the channel. In the 1920s the bridge was for pedestrians. Then a steel bridge was erected and autos could proceed along Fox Drive.

That bridge was an off limits challenge to divers. There was supposed to be some old wooden pilings submerged in the river depths. This provided the challenge, so we dove off the bridge on occasion. The floor level of the bridge was about 10 feet above water level. A minor challenge. The metal crossbeam about 10 feet higher was a greater challenge, but accomplished frequently. The epitome of challenges was to go off the top of the bridge. It was seldom, if ever, done. There was supposed to have been a boy named Zook who did it, but I am not sure.

Frank Rayman's boathouse was another 75 yards north of the bridge. He sold candy and pop, but his prime purpose was to rent boats and canoes. The cost was 15¢ per hour for rowboats and 25¢ for canoes. I could never afford the cost of a canoe, so did not acquire that skill.

The water in the Cedar was swimmable thru June and July. During the "Dog Days" of August the swimming area was covered with a green film and the seaweeds invaded. Then we usually went up river to swim. Overnight hikes up river were frequent. It was boys who predominated, so we usually went skinny dipping.

One time we came across a submerged wooden box

with bottles of home brew in it. It tasted so bad that I have had no craving for beer through the years.

The Cedar River in the Beach area was also a part of the winter scene. The city provided a large skating area and it was well used. One of the bath houses became a warming house. A loudspeaker blared forth music which was appropriate for the occasion. A string of lights around the rink accommodated us during the evenings. Clement weather found the rink very well populated.

There was a slope behind St. Olaf Hospital that was used for sledding. With a good start we could go out onto the river ice and keep going for a long way.

It is good that our younger generations will have a new swimming pool very soon. It is needed and will satisfy our needs for several years. Riverside Arena also provides the facility for ice skating. However, I still feel fortunate that I grew up in a time when Old Man Cedar belonged mostly to the kids.

Nate Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NO. 9 PAVING CHEERED HERE

Construction of pavement on No. 9 highway between Austin and Albert Lea, and Austin to Spring Valley will be put under way this fall, it was announced by J. T. Ellison, chief engineer of the State Highway Department, St. Paul, Saturday. It will cost approximately \$20,000 per mile to pave the 47.7 miles between Albert Lea and Austin, and between Austin and Spring Valley. The construction of two bridges within this city will cost about \$45,000. (Later this route was redesignated Highway #16.)

Austin Herald, August 10, 1932

1933

January 1, 1933—The first child born in 1933 was James Catherwood Hormel, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hormel. The prizes given by merchants for the first 1933 baby were turned over by Mr. and Mrs. Hormel to the girl scouts for distribution to the needy.

Austin Herald

PRESIDENT'S COUSIN IN SPOTLIGHT

A. E. Hoover, Pleasant Valley, farmer, and a first cousin of President Herbert Hoover, who entered the national limelight when, with three other farmers, went to Des Moines to secure a compromise on the foreclosure of his farm. He had missed one semi-annual payment of \$400 on a \$14,000 mortgage, and was faced with eviction and loss of part of his personal property.

Through a compromise he will be able to remain on the farm as a renter. Mr. Hoover's father and the president's father were brothers. Hoover says that he, like the president, was born in West Branch, Iowa.

Austin Herald, January 19, 1933

BURGLAR CAUGHT TAKING NAP AT HANGEE'S GROCERY STORE

Found asleep on the counter of an Austin store, with a keg of 3.2 beer near him, and his pockets filled with nine

cans of sardines; such was the predicament of a man who is in jail here today facing a burglary charge.

The keg of beer had been carried from the basement. When the intruder prepared to leave the building he apparently found that all the doors were locked so that they could not be opened from the inside. Previously he had barricaded the rear door securely so that he would not be interrupted. Now he found that it would be a difficult task to remove his own barriers. Tired of his labors, he evidently stretched out on the counter to take a nap.

Mrs. Melde came to the cafeteria about 7:00 Sunday morning. She unlocked the door leading to the grocery store, and was surprised to see a man asleep on the order counter, using the order clerks' pads as a pillow. He was not disturbed until policeman Hamilton came.

Austin Herald, September 11, 1933



A view of Horace Austin State Park. Monkey cage on right.

1934

MONKEYS AT HORACE AUSTIN STATE PARK

A popular notion that peanuts are a monkey's favorite food was discounted today by Fred Mann, custodian of the Horace Austin State Park, who explained what is being fed the five monkeys here. "They like corn and wheat more than anything else."

Before they were sent to Austin, the five monkeys apparently did not receive the best of care, and they arrived here thin and hungry. They have been eating almost constantly since their arrival.

They are African monkeys. Two of them are less than a year old, while the other three are between one and three years of age.

Unless people stop annoying the monkeys, it may become necessary to cover the cage for certain periods of the day and give the animals a rest. Spectators seem to expect the monkeys to perform all day long. Some have resorted to the use of sticks and other methods to keep the animals in action.

Children seem to have a better understanding as to how to treat the monkeys.

1935

BRIEF NEWS NOTES FROM 1935

March 23rd—For the first time in history, an Austin High School basketball team wins the state championship. A parade, fireworks and speeches are part of the celebration here in honoring the team and its 24 year old coach, Dick Arney.

March 27th—Austin's population is 16,160 according to a survey made for the preparation of a city directory. A strictly corporate population is 15,106 with 1,054 living in the suburban districts.

March 28th—A project to build homes costing about \$400, and constructed of sectional walls was started here and is financed by J. C. Hormel.

April 16th—Frank Ellis, union business manager, was taken for a ride after being attacked with a pistol and a club by an assailant at Ellis's home south of Austin. He was left on the steps of Naeve Hospital, Albert Lea, after having been beaten severely.

April 19th—A blaze that swept through the Crane Lumber Yards, City Feed Store building, and for a time endangered a considerable section of the city, causes damage estimated at \$150,000. Crowds watched flames leap 50 to 75 feet in the air from the lumberyards.

July 19th—Rural electrification centering on Austin is included as one of the major projects recommended by the state planning board.

August 8th—The 1,555 Mower County farmers who applied for 1935 corn-hog contracts will receive benefits totaling \$267,008, or an average of \$171 per contract.

November 4th—Because of the heavy damage, game warden Herman Baudler starts deporting beaver from Mower County.

December 22nd—Four persons are killed instantly as passenger train demolishes automobile. The four, all of the Taopi community, John Wimmer, Monica Wettstein, Leo Hughes and William Jordan.

Austin Herald

1936

FRANCIS WALROD, CITY'S LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN, SUCCUMBS

Austin's last Civil War veteran, Francis Walrod, 96 years and six months old, died at the Old Settler's Home in Minneapolis this morning at 7 o'clock.

Mr. Walrod could also lay claim to other distinctions. He lived in Minnesota for 83 years, and was one of the state's longest residents. He was one of Southern Minnesota's first settlers.

He was a young man when the Civil War broke out, and at the age of 24 he enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, Company B. He served until the close of the war.

Last Decoration Day Mr. Walrod, who's memory was unusually accurate for a man of his age, reminisced on his early experiences. One of his most interesting recollections was a trip he made with his father in 1854 to a settlement which later became Austin. He camped here overnight along the Cedar River. The first settlers came

to Austin in 1853, and when Mr. Walrod saw this community it consisted of only three shanties near what is now the Fox Hotel.

Austin Herald, January 29, 1936

(Note: Norwest Bank is now on this location.)



A testimonial dinner of the 1st District Bar Association honoring Justice Martin A. Nelson. Left to right: Martin A. Nelson, Austin's Judge S. D. Catherwood, Chief Justice Charles Loring, Ex-Chief Justice Henry Gallagher, Justice C. R. Murphy, Justice Julius J. Olson, Justice Harry A. Peterson, Justice Luther W. Youngdahl, Justice Thomas Gallagher and Judge J. D. Meighan.

HOMETOWN HONORS MARTIN A. NELSON AT RALLY SATURDAY

Martin A. Nelson closed his campaign for governor before an enthusiastic crowd in the Armory here Saturday night. He offered voters the alternative of "good liberal government under Republican administration or the panaceas and the extravagances of the Farm-Labor party leaders."

Spontaneous applause punctuated the remarks of the Republican gubernatorial candidate, who spoke in an Armory appropriately decorated with banners and flowers.

(Three days later Martin Nelson, Austin, was defeated by Elmer Benson for the governorship of Minnesota. On the same date Franklin D. Roosevelt overwhelmed Alfred Landon, the Kansas governor, who had opposed him in the presidential election.)

Austin Herald, November 2, 1936

1937

POWERFUL AMATEUR RADIO STATION TO LINK AUSTIN WITH ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

The name of Austin will be heard all over the world late this summer, when the 1,000 watt amateur radio station, W9TPZ, now under construction, goes on the air.

The powerful station is the project of Pete Hanna and Herb Ferris, both well known local radio men. The station house has been constructed in the open field on the Hanna farm south of town, and a 55 foot tower is being built on the site. A rotatable antenna will surmount the tower.

There are only two other 1,000 watt amateur stations in Minnesota; one in Minneapolis and one in Duluth.

Present plans call for the opening of the station as soon as rural electrification lines reach the Hanna farm. This should be sometime early in August.

Austin Herald, May 22, 1937

190 HOMES BUILT HERE IN 1937 AT COST OF \$570,000

City Sets Example for Entire Nation

Austin stepped up the longest strides of its building history to end 1937 with a remarkable achievement—the construction of 190 new homes. This equals the former homebuilding peak set in 1935.

Behind these 190 homes lies a backlog of successive years of big building, and it is a new high point in something that has been going on for years. To show how stable construction has been, one need only turn back to 1936 when 150 new homes were built, and 1935 when the city saw 190 new residences, or 1934 when 112 houses were erected.

The value of these 190 homes could be conservatively valued at \$570,000. This is on an average of \$3,000 per home. There were quite a few homes that were constructed for less than \$3,000, but this could be easily upset by many homes whose prices ranged all the way from \$4,000 to \$10,000 and up.

(All 190 homes were pictured individually in the special home building section of the Herald.)

Austin Herald, December 31, 1937

1938

WALDO WILLARD LAMB, 90, BELIEVED LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN IN COUNTY, DIED AT BROWNSDALE

Waldo Lamb who served in the Union Army before he had reached his 16th birthday, died yesterday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. G. Anderson, Brownsdale village. His most cherished memory was the time in Washington when he shook hands with Lincoln. He also enjoyed recalling how in 1864 he cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln for president. He had not then obtained his majority, but was permitted to vote because he was a soldier.

A resident of Mower County for more than 70 years, Mr. Lamb could remember the time when the communities of Austin, Brownsdale and Lansing were all approximately the same size.

He was the youngest member of the GAR in Mower County.

Austin Herald, February 10, 1938

COST OF AUSTIN ACRES EXCEEDS ACTUAL VALUE

Actual value of the homes in the Austin Acres is far below what it cost the government to build them, it was learned here today after the Federal Farm Security Administration had submitted tentative prices for purchase

to the homesteaders. It is understood that the actual value of the property will probably be not much more than half of what the federal government spent on the project.

The total cost of the Austin Acres project, including 44 homes and community facilities, has been given as \$214,000 by the Farm Security Administration, Washington. This would be an average expenditure of \$4,860 per home. It was understood today that the actual value of the average home will not be more than \$2,500.

Prices to be charged the individual homesteaders will be based on the appraised value of the property, with the appraisal of three Austin men as a basis.

Meanwhile, preparations are going forward to set up a non-profit corporation of homesteaders, which will take over from the government operation of the project.

Austin Herald, October 22, 1938

1939

FOUR "CREAM CAN" BANDITS GIVEN 18 YEAR PRISON SENTENCES

Four "Cream Can" bandits, who had pleaded guilty to attempted robbery of the State Bank of Sargeant, were today sentenced to 18 years each in a federal penitentiary by Judge George F. Sullivan in the federal court in St. Paul.

The men, William Rigby, Walter Morneau, Virgil Dollimer and Edward Mrozik, members of a notorious gang that was broken up by Mower County peace officers when trapped in the Sargeant bank on May 17th, were subject to maximum terms of 20 years.

"Men of this type should be removed from preying upon society," the judge commented.

The attempted burglary at the Sargeant bank took place early in the morning on May 17th. Deputy Sheriff Lon Enochson and Austin policemen Maynard Pratt, Albert Fuller and Elton Smith were notified by telephone of the robbery and sped to Sargeant.

Trapped in the bank, the bandits came out shooting. The officers and the robbers emptied their guns. Rigby and Morneau, both wounded, were captured not far from the bank. Two days later, Dollimer, weak from lack of food and bleeding wounds, was arrested near Pratt, Minnesota by Sheriff Ted Halvoston of Steele County.

Mrozik was taken by F.B.I. agents on July 11th at a cabin on Lake Vabnias, Ramsey County.

The gunfight and breakup of the bandit gang at Sargeant was perhaps the most sensational capture in the history of Mower County. For a year the men had raided banks and post offices in Minnesota and other northwest states, and were objects of an extensive hunt by federal agents, postal inspectors, crime bureaus and sheriffs. They used cream cans filled with water to keep paper money from burning while burglarizing safes. That was why they were called "cream can" bandits.

Austin Herald, October 27, 1939

1940
MACHINERY FOR CONSCRIPTION ARRANGED
HERE

Machinery for the conscription of Mower County men for training in the government armed services is already being set up here, it was revealed today.

County Auditor C. M. Hubbard, Probate Judge Carl Baudler, and Clerk of Court L. A. Sherman have been requested by Governor Harold Stassen to recommend men well qualified to serve on the local draft board. The duty of the board will be to determine the status of all men drafted.

The men, the government said, should have these qualifications: reputable highly respected citizens; over 40 years of age; men with family; men with knowledge of the productivity of the county; and it is preferable that they be men not holding public office or otherwise engaged in public activity.

The governor asked that they recommend not less than six men for consideration and appointment on the draft board.

Austin Herald, August 19, 1940

1941
1500 SWARM INTO AUDITORIUM FOR THIRD
ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

Austin area farmers threw a party last night. Austin was their guest. It was the 3rd annual Appreciation Night at the Austin High School Auditorium.

About 1,500 swarmed into the auditorium last night for an evening of entertainment and speechmaking. This was evidence of what Park Dougherty, representing business, called a new relationship between rural and urban folks.

"In the old horse and buggy days," Dougherty said, "The farm and city relationship was purely a business proposition. Today, with the new mode of life, there is a new relationship. We are all neighbors. Each of us knows the other's misfortune. Our prosperity is linked. We are bound by a firm friendship."

Myron Aultfather spoke for the farmers at the event, and bid the Austin guests welcome. "Farmers in the

Austin area," he said, "are just plain lucky to live near Austin and to have the cooperation they enjoy. You Austin people are usually the host to us. This is our effort, and we hope you have a good time," Mr. Aultfather said.

Austin Herald, February 7, 1941

FLAGS FLY, BANDS PLAY AS LARGE CROWD
GIVES COMPANY H AN AFFECTIONATE
SEND-OFF

A large crowd gave Company H an affectionate and rounding send-off at the Milwaukee Depot here last night, as the National Guardsmen under command of Captain R. R. Roach entrained for Camp Claibourne, Louisiana for a year or more in the army.

More than 3000 persons either visited the armory, saw the troops as they marched to the depot with flags flying and bands playing, or jammed the platform at the railroad station to wave a final farewell.

It was more than just the departure of 86 men and 4 officers for training at camp. From the answering of roll-call in the armory to the time the train rolled from the station there was the color of a more serious objective than peacetime training. An Owatonna guardsman, leaning from an open window, shouted, "We'll get Hitler for you"!

Crowds lined the street all the way from the armory to the depot, as the guardsmen marched, accompanied by members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, who almost 24 years ago were given a similar farewell when they left for duty in the First World War.

Wives, sweethearts, parents and friends remained as near to the tracks as possible, and the platform was a solid mass of people. There were some moist eyes and display of handkerchiefs. However, for the most part it was a cheerful crowd, and most of the tearful leavetakings and final embraces had occurred earlier in the privacy of homes. It had been arranged that way.

Austin Herald, February 26, 1941

BLACK EYES AND BROKEN NOSES

"We fear our village of Brownsdale will acquire an unenviable reputation for rowing. The black eyes and broken noses of one week are not given time to heal before the next week furnishes new victims.

"Last week Will Day of Austin and Robert Norris of this place had a dispute about a bill claimed by Norris to be due him. They proceeded, in what has become the fashion these days, to punch it out of each others' noses.

"Both, we understand, were considerably worsted, and we don't suppose that the disputed bill is a bit larger in the eyes of the one, or a bit smaller in the eyes of the other, than it was before.

M. J. Weiser, correspondent to the Austin Register, 1876

May 22, 1861—"Allen Mollison, one of our very best young men, started on Monday last for Faribault to volunteer, under the three year, or during the war, call of the President. Allen is a steady, temperate moral young man, and has the ground work for the making of a good soldier. Should his company ever be called upon to do any fighting we have no doubt but that Allen will acquit himself to the entire satisfaction of his many friends. A subscription was started about nine o'clock on Sabbath evening, at the Hotel, and a very liberal donation given him for 'pin money.'"

Minnesota Courier

City Government—Austin

In 1868 the Village of Austin set up a municipal government with a mayor and three aldermen. The administration of that first village council 116 years ago was in the hands of Mayor G. M. Cameron and aldermen B. J. Valkenburgh, J. B. Yates and Jacob Johnson.

In 1871 the village charter was changed. The office of mayor was abolished and the number of aldermen was increased to six. These aldermen then chose one of their members to serve as council president. The six aldermen represented the three wards of the village. For the first time the election was held in each ward. Formerly, aldermen were elected at large.

In 1873 the municipality became a city and the governing body took the name of "city council." That same year the charter was amended to give each ward three aldermen.

In 1876 the office of mayor was restored and the number of aldermen reduced to two from each of the three wards. The term of office for aldermen was increased to two years. Three aldermen were to be elected every other year.

In 1887 the new charter provided for an alderman-at-large and election of one alderman from each ward.

Another new charter in 1904 established the biennial election system with a complete change of the city council made every two years. The present system of mayor, alderman-at-large and two aldermen from each of the three wards was also adopted.



City Administration Building, Austin

Mayors of Austin

G. M. Cameron, 1868; W. L. Austin, 1869; and J. F. Cook, 1870.

In 1871, by amendment of the village charter, the office of mayor was abolished and the number of aldermen were increased from three to six. The six aldermen then chose one of their members to serve as council president.

Sylvester Smith, council president, 1871; G. G. Clemmer, council president, 1872; and D. B. Smith, council president, 1873 to 1875.

In 1876, the office of mayor was restored and the number of aldermen reduced to two from each of the three wards.

P. O. French	1876-77	J. H. Anderson	1916-18
E. C. Dorr	1877-78	George Hirsh	1918-20
E. C. Dorr	1881-85	George Hirsh	1922-24
E. P. Van Valkenburgh	1878-79	W. D. Owen	1924-26
H. B. Gall	1879-81	E. B. Carter	1926-30
Lafayette French	1885-88	Jacob Becker	1930-32
O. W. Gibson	1888-91	Jacob Becker	1938-42
C. H. Johnson	1891-94	Harry Poll	1932 to April 1933
C. H. Johnson	1895-96	H. J. Marcusen	April 1933-38
C. H. Johnson	1902-03	Tony Rockne	1942-48
Lyman D. Baird	1894-95	Merril Rolfson	1948-54
F. I. Crane	1896-99	C. R. "Baldy" Hansen	1954-62
Alex S. Campbell	1899-01	Roger Svejckovsky	1962-64
Alex S. Campbell	1910-12	Fayette Sherman	1964-68
C. L. West	1901-02	Robert Enright	1968-70
C. F. Cook	1903-06	Robert Enright	1975-83
George Sutton	1906-10	Leo Reding	1970-75
A. C. Page	1912-16	Tom Kough	1983-
	1920-22		

Aldermen Who Have Served Since 1940

Claude Moore	1940-42	Sid Russell	1962-75
Roy Roach	1940-41	Ray Bates	1962-66
Oliver Nasby	1940-48	Lowell Einhaus	1964-80
Vern Cullen	1940-43	Norbert Schmitt	1966-74
Frank Peck	1940-49	Tom Kough	(1966-70 1981-83)
Tony Rockne	1940-42	Leo Reding	1968-70
Wm. J. Enright	1940-54	Ken Kellogg	1968-72
Ralph Haydon	1941-46	Gary Nemitz	1970-81
Bob Shaw	1942-50	William Deblon	(1970-75 1977-81)
John Jennings	1942-46	Bob Bateman	1972-73
Andrew Anhorn	1943-50	George Boyenga	1973-77
"Doc" Cook	1946-47	Tom Nelson	1975-77
David Neiswanger	1946-48	M. J. "Si" Simonson	1975-77
Chet Bowers	1947-48	Robert Dahlback	(1975-79 1983-
Race Crane	1948-49	Howard Jenkin	1975-79
Robert Babcock	1948-51	Ken Fossey	1977-79
George Dugan	1948-58	Donna Robbins	1977-
Herald J. Williams	1949-51	Jim Flannery	1979-81
Ernie Diederich	1949-66	Louis Anthonisen	1979-83
Irwin Johnson	1950-60	Mike Enfield	1979-82
Fred Coleman	1950-55	Peter Grover	1981-
Erling Runquist	1951-54	Don Sorenson	1981-83
Wayne Austin	1951-54	Bryan Toney	1981-
Jerry Lund	1954-60	Harry Willmott	1982-83
Ernie Jacob	1954-60	Gerald Henricks	1983-
Charles Jones	1955-56	Richard Pacholl	1983-
George Weiss	1956-62	Chet Nelson	1983-
Rudy Nelson	1958-62		
Denver Daily	1960-68		
Art Vogel	1960-75		
Robert Enright	1960-68		

CITY OF AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

1984 Organization Schedule

Members of Common Council

Tom Kough	Mayor
Bob Dahlback	Alderman at Large
Gerald Henricks	Alderman 1st Ward
Peter Grover	Alderman 1st Ward
Donna Robbins	Alderman 2nd Ward
Richard Pacholl	Alderman 2nd Ward
Bryan Tony	Alderman 3rd Ward
Chester Nelson	Alderman 3rd Ward

City Officials

Darrell Stacy	City Administrator
Kristie Busse	Asst. City Administrator
Richard Benzkofer	City Recorder
Kermit Hoversten	City Attorney
Richard Murphy	City Engineer
Dan Miller	Fire Chief
Donald Hoffman	Chief of Police
Daryl Franklin	City-County Planner

Members of Standing Committees

Finance and Federal Funding	*Bob Dahlback Gerald Henricks Donna Robbins
Streets, Sidewalks, Curbs, Highways	*Chester Nelson Richard Pacholl Donna Robbins
Ordinance, Health	*Donna Robbins Bryan Toney Peter Grover
Fire Department, Public Safety	*Peter Grover Chester Nelson Bob Dahlback
Park and Recreation	*Gerald Henricks Bryan Toney Bob Dahlback
Airport, Light, Water, Railroads	*Richard Pacholl Peter Grover Gerald Henricks
Sewage Treatment Plant - Sewers	*Bryan Toney Chester Nelson Richard Pacholl

*Denotes Chairman

Park and Recreation Officers and Board Members

*Mrs. Luella Schmitt	Member	Doris Mendel	Member
Ward Halvorson	Member	Joseph Collins	Member
Donald Fox	Member	Gerald Henricks	Member
John O'Rourke	Member	Robert Auer	Director

Library Board Members

*Mr. Robert Ackerwold	Member	Mrs. Doris Arneson	Member
Mrs. Carol Connelly	Member	Jerome Carlson	Member
Mrs. Florence Morreim	Member	Joseph Collins	Member
Mrs. Nancy Knowlton	Member	I. J. Holton	Member
Mrs. Mary Jane Flannery	Member	Robert M. Hays	Director

Utilities Board Members and Officers

Richard Baudler	President	Ed Weseman	Member
George Davis	Superintendent	Frank Brown	Member
Michael Enfield	Secretary	David E. Thomsen	Member
Richard Conway	Member		

*Denotes Chairman

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

The stability of the municipal police force has increased considerably since the incorporation of the Village of Austin in 1868. Carlos Fenton, who operated a



Law Enforcement Center

livery stable, was appointed the first marshal, and he was provided with a lockup.

A year later the position of marshal had become an elective position. The village had two political factions, the People's Reform party, a temperance movement, and the opposition party called the Citizen's Union. Henry J. Gillhan was elected marshal by the Citizen's Union party.

In the following years, the marshal's office varied between appointive and elective several times, and a new marshal was placed annually—John Minette, Carlos Fenton, W. B. Graham and Knut Goodson. In 1874 three constables were elected: William Olsen, George Martin and John Minette.

In 1875 C. H. Gatfield was the chief constable and in 1876, Thomas Riley. Riley held the position for 11 years. In 1879 the title was changed to chief of police.

Jerry Ingalls began a six year tour of duty in 1894. He was described as "a big man with an ample stomach." In later years Ingalls was a wagon repairer and wheelwright.

James Galt was a legendary figure in local history. A 1956 story in the *Austin Herald* said that he was, "A little below average in height, stockily built and invariably carried a leather cane which was centered with a flexible steel rod. This was his only weapon, but a whack from that cane was an effective deterrent." Galt served as chief of police from 1894 to 1917.

In more recent history, George Roope acted as chief of police from 1947 to 1963. The force in 1956 had 31 members. There were two patrol cars and "every niche and cranny of Austin was scrutinized on an around-the-clock basis." A juvenile bureau was created in 1954.

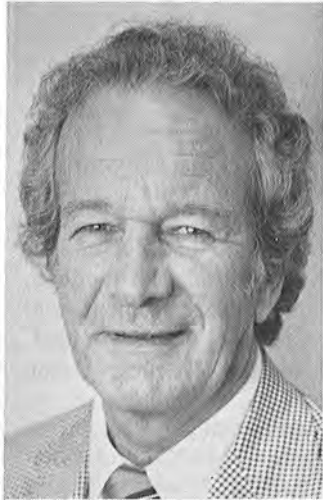
Robert E. Nelson was associated with the Austin Police Department for over 35 years. He was chief of police for 20 years beginning in 1963. When Nelson retired in January, 1983 he commented that he had seen good things happen such as the new Law Enforcement Center and installation of the 911 system.

The present police chief is Donald R. Hoffman. His staff was as follows in July, 1984:

Captain—Gordon Bjorgo; Lieutenants—Thomas Steininger, William Everhart and Glenn Thaisen; Detectives—Kenneth Hines and Brian McAlister; Sergeants—Larry Moeykens, James Bakos and Barry Simonson; Officers—Duane Klingerman, Edward Tucheck, Donald

Earl, Robert Fryer, Dennis LaMotte, David Sorlie, Joseph Carpenter, Bradley Bednar, Charles Wesely, John Carlin, Thomas Stiehm, Wayne Wollenburg, Scott Brooks, Paul Philipp, David Simonson, John Lorenz, Kevin Royce, Scott Moldenhauer, James Erickson, Brian Krueger and John Pyka.

AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Chief Dan Miller



Horses pull fire wagon to early day Austin fire. Ned Elward was at the reins.

The Austin Volunteer Hook, Ladder and Bucket Company was organized March 11, 1870. This was the first year after many Main Street buildings had been destroyed in a disastrous fire.

At the start, H. J. Gillham was the chief and he had 124 volunteers. They kept their buckets at their jobs or in their homes. Their equipment consisted of 7 ladders, 7 pike poles, 2 grappling hooks, 6 axes, 50 buckets, 1 truck with pump and 150 feet of hose and pipe. The cost was \$439.50.

Early volunteers met at the Grand Army of Republic building which was on the site of what is now the education section of St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

The firemen had no central storage area for their equipment. Sometimes valuable time was lost when firemen had to chase between various places for the equipment they needed. The volunteers then answered the fire call; some with ladders, some with buckets and others with the rest of their equipment.

In 1895 the city hired its first team driver, Oscar Hill. Later Ned Elward was the horse-trainer and team driver. In the stable of the station house the harnesses were hung up so as to almost drop into place on the horses as they were backed up to the hitching poles. Three fastenings was all that was needed and off to the fire the horses would race.



Austin Hose Company No. 1, 1898. Chief Tom Dugan on the right. Fire Station was on location of present Austin Library.

April 7, 1891, the Austin Hose Company No. 1 replaced the Hook, Ladder and Bucket Company. On April 27, 1899, the Austin Hose Company No. 2 was organized. They had their hose house on the east side on 2nd Ave. N.E.



Decorations Day Parade - 1918
The Uptown Hose Company No. 1 was combined with Third Ward Hose Company No. 2.

In 1912 the fire station at 1st Ave. N.E. and 1st St. N.E was built. Shortly after the two departments were consolidated at the new location. During the 12 year history of the East Side Hose Company No. 2 the chiefs of the department had been: J. L. Gulden, 1900-1901; M. J. Mayer, 1901-1904 and 1906-1911; C. J. McNally, 1905-1906.

In 1916 the first motorized fire truck, a \$1,500 Garford, was purchased. The truck was sold to Lyle, Minnesota in 1936 for \$300. Some of the equipment was still on it. The Garford served Lyle from 1936 to 1964 when it was donated to the Mower County Historical Society at the Fairgrounds.

On May 12, 1923 a new American La France pumper was bought for \$12,500. It was known as the 750 because it could pump 750 gallons of water a minute. This truck was also given to the Mower County Historical Society.

Earl (Scotty) Blowers, fire chief from 1965 to 1970, gives the following account of life in the fire house in the 1920s.

"In 1926 there were eight professional firemen at the Austin station. They were on duty around the clock, sleeping in an upstairs dormitory. In addition there were three "sleepers" who came in at night. They were men who had regular daytime work in town, but slept in the fire station. If there was a fire at night, the "sleepers" helped get things going."

"Firemen got one day off each week. However, once each sixteen weeks a fireman would have his turn in the "mill." It was then his job to fire the boiler and hot water heater. This was a two week tour, with no days off until the two weeks were completed.

"In addition to the eight professional firemen there were approximately thirty-five volunteers. They would respond to the fire whistle. The old "wildcat" whistle could send chills down your spine when it opened up. The volunteers knew the area of the fire by the code of whistle. For example, a fire near call box no. 14 would be one long blast and four short ones. The volunteers would then report to their respective stations; either uptown station number one or the east side station number 2. If the fire was big enough, they would go on duty. On windy days, not all the volunteers could hear the whistle. Volunteers were paid for every call they made, and for two or three drills each month. Volunteers were continued until 1936."

The early morning fire at the Welch house stands out in Scotty's memory. This was on Lansing Ave. (1st Drive N.W.), next to what is now the Worlein Funeral Home. "It was twenty below zero, and the nearest hydrant was frozen up," said Scotty. "The nearest hydrant was near the swimming pool. While they were dragging the hose down the chief ordered me up on the roof to open a hole.

I used one ladder to the porch roof, and another from the porch to the main roof. Standing in the valley on the south side of a dormer, I raised the ax and smacked it as hard as I could. The whole thing broke out and I got a puff of gas. The next thing I knew Leonard Decker was working on me on the ground.

"What happened?" Scotty asked. 'You rolled off the roof,' Decker said. I had rolled down alongside the ladder to a snow drift on the porch roof. That broke my fall there. Then I rolled from there to another snowdrift on the ground. I stood a few minutes to get squared away."

The old fire station was replaced in 1980 after 68 years of service. The modern new station was placed in full operation in October, 1980.

The 1984 fire department has a personnel roster of 29. This includes Chief Dan Miller, 3 captains and 3 lieutenants.

The city fire vehicles include a 1977 Squirt lead pumper, a 1964 Pirsh ladder truck and a 1959 American LaFrance 1,000 gallon pumper. The first two go to all city fires and the 1959 truck accompanies the other two for commercial fires.

Austin also houses two fire trucks used for rural fires; a 1976 - 750 gallon Ford pumper and a 1976 - 1,000 gallon Ford tanker. These trucks are used for Lansing, Mower and Austin Townships.

The fire department has a stand-by ambulance which is used when the Austin Cab Company ambulance is on another emergency. The department also has two boats and rescue equipment. These are available for any Mower County emergency.

The following is a list of 17 of the major fires in Austin's history.

East side of Main Street	1869
Fleck House	1876
Austin Brick Works	1887
High School Building	1890
Williams House	1893
Depot House and Campbell Mill	1895
Lincoln School	1909
Austin Furniture Co.	1923
Maple Dale Hatchery	1929
Crane Lumber Co.	1935
Terp Ballroom	1945
Montgomery Ward - Mix Cleaners	1947
Presbyterian Church	1953
First Congregational Church	1956
<i>Austin Daily Herald</i> Annex	1970
Ace (Harrington) Hotel	1979
Austin Bowl - Stephens Supper Club	1984

References—History of Austin Fire Department, 1870-1970, by Jiles Baldus. Earl (Scotty) Blowers.

STAR FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP

An Austin farmer drove up to the Star Foundry and Machine Shop one June day in 1913 and asked to have a corn cultivator casting repaired. He was told it would be ready in an hour, and sure enough, it was. The farmer returned to his fields and continued cultivating.

The foundry was a big success in Austin, having started up in February of that year. A. A. Koch was attracted to this city for the venture by the commercial club. There were 22 on the payroll drawing \$1,600. a month.

Austin Herald, 17 April 1956

Austin Public Education Section

HISTORY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The first public school in Austin was organized in the summer of 1855 and was held in a log house on lot 10, block 33, on what is now 4th Avenue N.E. The location would be in the parking lot area of Pike's Plaza. The address would be 307 N.E. 4th Avenue if there was a building on the site. The present owner of this property is Wilford H. Pike. The school was taught by Miss Maria Vaughn.

The following winter, school was held in a frame house remodeled for school purposes. The house was located on lots 9 and 10 of the present 1st St. N.E. It was set back on these lots which are presently occupied by George's Pizza and Big A Auto Parts.

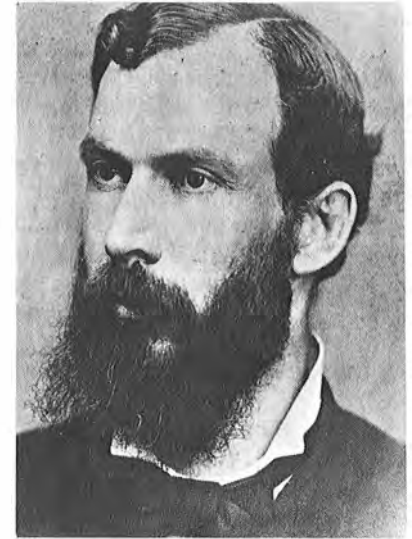
The next move was made to "Old Headquarters." School was held on the second floor of the building. This room was also used for church services, community gatherings of various kinds; social, political, legal, etc. "Old Headquarters" is now established as a historical building at the Mower County Fairgrounds.

School was conducted in "Headquarters" building from 1856 to 1865, except that during the Civil War sessions were more or less interrupted. During that time several families sent their children either to private or to church schools conducted by clergy. Even before 1865 "Old Headquarters" was not large enough to accommodate the children, so the lower grades held school in a building located on the south side of 3rd Ave. N.E. about half way between 1st & 2nd St. N.E.

The first real school building in Austin was erected in 1865 on the site of the present Austin-Mower County Public Library. It cost \$2,750. In 1884 this building was used by the Methodist Church Society. W. T. Mandeville taught the first school in this structure, commencing the term in February, 1866. In 1868 the school house was found to be too small to accommodate the rapidly increasing enrollment; in the same year the school was divided into departments.

In 1869 was begun the erection of a three-story building on the block which is now occupied by the south half of Austin High School. It was completed in 1870, at a cost of \$35,000. It is significant to note that the brick used in the construction were manufactured at Austin, and the stone came from Faribault. The building was heated by furnaces placed in the basement, and the school was well furnished throughout. In 1884, when Austin had a population of 2,500 there were ten teachers and a superintendent employed in the school. This old historic building was burned April 28, 1890. The fire broke out at 8 o'clock in the morning before the teachers and pupils had reached the building.

The Franklin school was built immediately on the same site and was opened in March, 1891. It was remodeled in 1907 and was considered one of the best "modern" school buildings in Minnesota. It was used as a combined grade and high school building until 1921,



E. T. Fitch
Superintendent of Schools
1886-1891



Austin High School Class of 1898

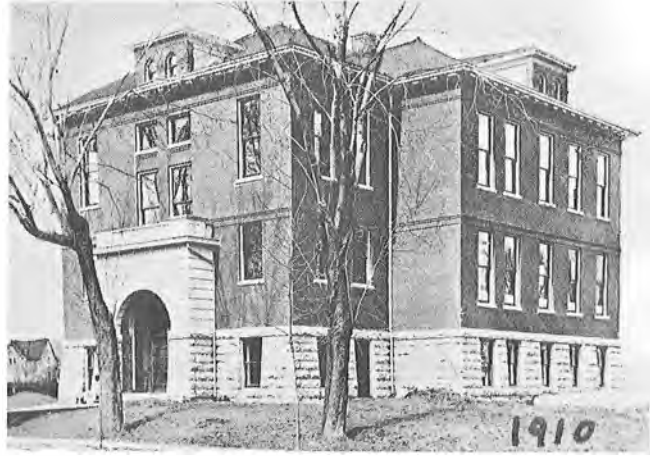
when a new high school was ready for use. It was then converted for use as an elementary school and also housed the teacher training department, the special department and the junior high school manual arts.

The \$1,760,000 major addition to the high school was built on the site of Franklin school in 1940.

The Washington, a four-room brick school, was erected in 1907. It was across the street from the Franklin School. The entire basement of the Washington School was used as a gymnasium with shower baths and dressing rooms. It was heated from the Franklin School plant. The Washington School was razed in 1919 to make room for the new high school building.



Franklin School built in 1891



Washington School built in 1907

AUSTIN'S ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

by Polly Jelinek

Woodson School

Since 1858 there have been three Woodson Schools. All three were located on the original Woodson homestead of 900 acres. The first classes were taught in the homestead cabin of Milton J. Woodson an early Mower County pioneer. By 1888 a school was built in that area. The building still stands one-half mile south of the present building. In 1953 the third Woodson School opened with seven classrooms. In 1954 they built an addition which doubled the school's size. The single level school plant was designed to be simple and functional for learning.

Lincoln School

1887 saw the construction of the first Lincoln School at a cost of \$4,070.00. It was in the old "Third Ward," a white frame building with four classrooms with a porch



A class at Lincoln School



**First Lincoln School
Built in 1887 burned in 1909**



**Second Lincoln School
Completed in 1909**

and railings. There were 174 students in attendance with four teachers. January, 1895 saw the change in name from Third Ward School to Lincoln School. An overheated furnace flue in January, 1909 caused the school to

be completely destroyed by fire. Temporary quarters were set up to hold classes, and the 340 students lost only a half day of school that year. Later, that same year, a two-story, eight-room building was constructed at a cost of \$30,350. The tornado of 1926 caused the loss of the roof and chimney of the school. An addition of four classrooms, two locker rooms, and a gymnasium was added to the Lincoln School in 1938. In 1959 it was again remodeled.

Webster School

The first building was purchased from Mr. A. H. Davison in 1892 and was first called "East of the Tracks School." In 1895 the school was renamed under the administration of Mr. W. F. Selleck, who was the Superintendent of Schools from 1892-1901. 30 students attended the one-room frame building school with one teacher. In 1914 the original building was torn down and replaced by a three-room brick and frame building, consisting of one-story and a basement, at a cost of \$9,429. There was a need to add an addition of four classrooms and a gymnasium in 1937. Later on when the school population of the area changed the classrooms were put to use for other purposes by the school system.



Sumner School built in 1895

Sumner School

September, 1895 saw the opening of Sumner School which was built in 1894. Mr. Selleck, the superintendent of schools, lived across the street. In 1893 there were 33 teachers on the entire staff of the Austin School System, and there were 1,366 students. Teachers averaged between \$360 and \$575 per year. The first principal was Dorothy Kimball. The school also had a lady custodian, a Mrs. French, who took care of the furnace, cut the grass and shoveled the snow. Two additions were added to Sumner, one in 1937, and again in 1949. There seems to be some mystery as to why the school was named Sumner.

Whittier School

As Austin grew it became apparent that there was a

need in the 1890's for a school in the southeast part of town. In 1894 arrangements were made for classes to be held in a local church. There were 70 students and two teachers. The name Whittier School was adopted in February, 1895. Prior to 1914 a two-room wooden structure was built. Mrs. Lillie Crandall was the president of the first parent group of the school. In 1937 four more classrooms were added to the west side of the building, as was a gymnasium and locker rooms. In 1956 a kindergarten room was built on to the northeast corner of the building.

Shaw School

1916 saw the the opening of Shaw School in the southwest section of Austin. It was named for O. W. Shaw, the president of the First National Bank and a prominent citizen. There were eight rooms in the original structure; seven of which were used that first year. One clock served the entire school, and students marched into and out of the school accompanied by music in those first years. Four more classrooms were added in 1937 as was a regulation size gymnasium. Classes were held in the gym in the fall of 1948 until the eight new classrooms were ready in January, 1949, along with, four workrooms, a library, cafeteria, and office spaces.

Central Grade School

Central Grade School came into existence upon the completion of the south half of the present high school in 1940. It was part of the addition of the high school, junior college and normal training department. The Central Grade School section consisted of 21 classrooms. It served those students living in the central downtown and surrounding area. It was used as a grade school until the rooms became needed for the junior-senior high age students. Then it was discontinued and the students went to the closest city school. Later the junior college was also moved, leaving the section entirely as a junior-senior high school. Ellis was completed as a junior high and later changed to grades.

Neveln School

September, 1951, saw the first students attending the school named after Samuel T. Neveln, superintendent of the Austin Public Schools for twenty-eight years. The building was started in 1949 and completed May 15, 1951. The school opened with seven classrooms which were not enough, as this section of the community was experiencing a building boom. The library and teachers' lounge were needed as classrooms. Almost immediately construction began on seven more classrooms which were completed early in 1953. A gas explosion on February 6, 1953, completely demolished the interiors of these rooms which were to have been occupied the next Monday. Rebuilding of these classrooms was completed by Thanksgiving, 1953. Seven more classrooms were added in time for the opening of school in September, 1954, making a total of twenty-one classrooms at Neveln.

Banfield School

Banfield School opened in the fall of 1953. Originally, Strevlering Dairy occupied the site. Banfield and Wood-

son were the first one level schools in Austin. There were 421 children in attendance that fall. Eight classrooms were added in 1957. The school was named for the Banfield family who were prominent in the development of the city of Austin.

Southgate School

Southgate School is located in the Southgate addition of the city and was named for that area. The 11 acre plot on which the school was built was a gift to the school district from Mr. R. C. Alderson and Mr. Chester A. Weseman. The school district bought an additional 6.12 acres from the two men. The school started in September, 1958 and was completed in the fall of 1959.

Ellis School

The Ellis Elementary School was part of the Ellis Junior High School for several years. It helped to absorb the elementary age children living in the area which was expanding following World War II. The elementary section was in the north wing of the school building.

Ellis School is built on nineteen acres of land which was originally part of a pioneer family farm belonging to the family of Allen V. Ellis for whom it is named. It is a low modern structure on a large tract of land. This leaves room for further development both for school or community recreational areas. Ellis School has an outdoor court area which has the sculpture the "Burning Bush" by John Rood, presented in memory of Allen V. Ellis by John H. Skinner and Gertrude Ellis Skinner. The sculpture is meant to give students inspiration to aspire to greater heights. Ellis School has slowly changed from elementary-junior high, to junior high, until now it is a middle school for grades 6, 7, and 8.

District #492 Created

September 6, 1957 a letter from the Minnesota Commissioner of Education stated that Joint Independent

Consolidated School District #2 of Mower and Freeborn Counties was changed into Independent School District #492.

Starting in the late 60's the school population in the Austin School System started to decrease, causing a shifting in the numbers of students attending the various elementary schools.

Soon enrollments in the various district area schools were greatly affecting the cost variables concerning efficient operation of an effective educational program. In March of 1973 it was decided to close Webster Elementary School, basing the decision on current and projected costs, current enrollments, and available education programs that would be available to students who would have to be transferred. This began the trend of the closing of several schools over the years to insure the best educational program for the pupils enrolled in the Austin School System. The schools' enrollments and efficiency operating costs, and costs of programs were constantly being evaluated to insure the best education for the Austin School District's students in the elementary grades. One by one schools were evaluated and some were closed—Lansing, Oakland, Lincoln, Whittier, and finally in 1982 to close Woodson and Southgate. At this time the school district was divided into four sections, keeping a school open in one of each of the four areas. Neveln, Sumner, Shaw, and Banfield to serve each of the four areas of the school district.

The school system has since sold, Webster, Lincoln, Whittier, Oakland, and Enterprise a county school building gained in the years of consolidation. Woodson School was converted into the Mower County Senior Citizens' Center which had previously used the Whittier School Building, and Southgate School was partially rented to a private child-care business.

HIGH SCHOOL WAS A SOCIAL CENTER

Although there were no extra-curricular activities in the first Austin schools, they were social centers nonetheless.

Athletics didn't enter the school program officially until just before the turn of the century, but pupils often got together for games after school, and school programs were often the biggest events of the year. There was no PTA, but parents met the teachers after school programs and once a year had teachers to dinner.

Class Day exercises of the class of 1898 indicated that commencement was an important community event. The Opera House was rented and tickets were distributed by the 19 seniors to families and friends.

Seven students presented a play, "Practical Evolution" and each of the other 12 seniors presented a recitation or sang a solo.

The first football team was organized in 1894 and baseball entered the school program in 1897. Both boys and girls basketball teams were organized in 1902.

Although hunting and fishing were not on the school program, they were popular sports. In 1906 a truant officer, a Mr. Galt, was hired to seek out pupils who found hunting and fishing more fascinating than school.

Physical education entered the curriculum in 1908 and was listed as a "popular subject." Public speaking and dramatic clubs were organized in the early 1900s.

High standards of moral training were stressed in the early schools and in 1915 the school board passed a resolution protesting a proposed city ordinance to allow Sunday theater showings as being contrary to school standards.

In 1918, school clubs, fraternities and societies entered the school program, but parents found them a nuisance. In 1920 they were removed.

In 1930 the number of extra-curricular activities had grown to 10 and the number has remained about the same for the past 20 years.

Austin Daily Herald, 1952

MORE THAN THE 3 Rs

Miss Maud Vest retired in 1953 after 31 years on the faculty of Austin High School. She taught Home Economics, or Domestic Science as it was first called. At that time Miss Vest was interviewed by *Herald* reporter Frieda Misch (later Mrs. David Owen). The following paragraphs are a part of Miss Vest's reminiscences from the story which ran in 1953:

Austin was one of the first schools in the state to deviate from the three "Rs" and offer courses such as home economics.

Basically, schools still teach the three "Rs." On every level of education, however, curriculums have broadened to include a variety of subjects and learning is now more closely related to actual living.

Grading in Austin's early schools was a very cut-and-dried proposition. If a pupil was over the line he passed; under the line, he failed. And a report card was a very important document.

Classrooms today are a far cry from the drab school rooms of 100 years ago. Walls of early school rooms were painted in dull colors which would not show the dirt. School rooms are now painted in attractive colors similar to those used in the home.

During the last half of the 19th century Austin students dressed quite conservatively. A girl usually had one second best dress which she wore to school every day. Each year she got a new "Sunday-go-to-meeting" dress, which in turn the following year became her second best, and thus her school dress.

Middies and Knickers

The turn of the century brought middy blouses for the girls. The boys continued to wear knickers to school.



**Austin High School
Completed in 1921**

Shorter dresses brought some school problems. Miss Vest remembers the day the first girl came to school with bare knees. The "daring" girl became the topic of severe criticism and school officials worried the morning away deciding whether or not the girl should be sent home. It was finally decided to let her stay. Before long there was more than one pair of bare knees in Austin High School.

Short hair caused another crisis. The day the first teacher came to school with her hair "bobbed" her colleagues were shocked. "Did you get Supt. Neveln's permission?" they asked. She hadn't told him, but decided she'd better warn him before he heard it over the grapevine. "What happened? Is he mad? What did Mr. Neveln say?" everyone asked when the young teacher returned from the superintendent's office. "He just laughed," she said.

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL ACCREDITED SINCE 1906

Vernon Nordaune, principal at Austin High School, was interviewed recently by a reporter from the *Austin Daily Herald*. He had the following comments concerning educational standards at the local school.

"Austin High School has been an accredited member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1906. Since that time, annual reviews have verified the fact that we have continuously met the prescribed standards of the Association."

"In addition to annual reviews of local policies and standards, NCA membership requires that AHS conduct, on a seven-year cycle, a comprehensive self-study of its educational program, and to subject itself to an intensive review by a team of educators from outside the district. This process is intended to help maintain a dual accountability: the community is held accountable for providing teachers with adequate resources, and the staff is held accountable for using these resources creatively, cooperatively and effectively.

"The Austin High School and Ellis Middle School has recently completed the self-evaluation part of the process."

Nordaune continued, "A Career Center has recently been established, made possible by block grant money, whereby the counseling department has been able to provide an expanded inventory of equipment and resource materials which are important in the delivery of this essential planning service to students.

"Our primary reason for existing is certainly to continually seek out—and respond to—the elusive, ever-changing answer to the question, 'How can we best serve the educational needs of our students.'"

EARLY CHRONOLOGICAL MILESTONES

First school organized	1855
First schoolhouse built	1865
First city superintendent employed	1869
Formation of a definite course of study	1876
First class graduated	1877
Building of first high school	1878
Burning of first high school.	1890
New high school ready for occupancy.	1891
Introduction of music in the high school	1894
Manual training introduced	1906
Home economics introduced.	1908
First high school gymnasium opened	1909

Teacher training department established	1910
Commercial training introduced	1912
Vocational agriculture department established	1912
Junior high school established	1912
Art introduced	1915
Ground broken for the present high school.	1919
Dedication of new high school building.	1921
Auto mechanics introduced	1921
Farmer's adult evening classes first organized	1923
Sentinel (school paper) established	1924
First high school band	1927
High school recreation field established	1927
Carpentry introduced	1929
Course in electricity introduced	1931

The following men have served as superintendents of the Austin schools:

Horace L. Strong	1869-1874
James J. Dow	1874-1875
E. Bigelow	1875-1879
W. W. Keyser	1879-1881
A. W. Rankin	1881-1884
H. L. Gibson	1884-1885
George B. Aiton	1885-1886
E. T. Fitch	1886-1891
W. E. Aul	1891-1892
W. F. F. Selleck	1892-1901
Andrew Nelson	1901-1906
George A. Franklin	1906-1913
H. E. Wheeler	1913-1921
S. T. Neveln	1921-1949
L. S. Harbo	1949-1962
Irwin T. Mickelson	1962-1974
R. T. Trumble	1974-1980
Bernard W. Kaye—Interim.	1980-1981
R. W. Morrison	1981-present

RAY WESCOTT

Born in Crosby-Ironton, Minnesota, Ray Wescott graduated from Carleton College in 1931, where he had earned letters in football and baseball. He began his teaching career as a science instructor at Austin High School the following autumn.

Wescott later fondly recalled those first years. The faculty was a close-knit group, who frequented the Austin Candy Co. on Main St. They would often borrow \$5.00 from the bank to tide them over until payday.

Sam Neveln was the superintendent, P. B. Jacobson the principal, and the ten year old first section of A. H. S. was adjacent to Franklin School. The 1939 south half of the building was erected on the Franklin School site.

Wescott and Jack Kentta served as assistant football coaches for head coach Earl Sangster. Kentta was one of Wescott's close friends from the beginning of his teaching career.

In 1940 Ray Wescott married Betty Gray, an A.H.S. 9th grade teacher. That same year he was named assistant principal. Wescott had been working summer sessions for his masters degree at the University of Iowa.

In 1946 Ray Wescott became the principal at Austin

High School. It was the same year that Ove Berven's basketball team defeated Lynd for the state championship.

During his years as principal, Wescott instituted many changes in the educational system at A.H.S., which became known as one of the best in the upper midwest. During the same time he had an active interest in civic affairs.

Among Ray Wescott's educational achievements were his credentials as president of Minnesota's Secondary School Principal's Assn., director of Minnesota's Secondary League Board of Control and as a member of district and regional educational committees. He was active in the Austin Kiwanis Club, a member of the First Congregational Church and a member of the Austin Country Club.

Ray Wescott retired in the spring of 1972 after a forty year career as an Austin educator.

It was said that Wescott played as much as 36 holes of golf a day during his retirement.

Ray Wescott, "an understanding man" died February 24, 1977, at 66 years of age. He was survived by his wife, Betty; two daughters, Anne, (Mrs. Tom Zitnak) and Jane, an elementary teacher, and three grandchildren.

Austin High School's athletic field is now named "Wescott Field."

Betty Wescott said, "Ray was especially enthusiastic about the A.H.S. football team and was a loyal and noisy fan. Thus, naming the field for him was most appropriate."

Based on articles from Austin Herald, Austin Sentinel and information furnished by Mrs. Wescott

OVE BERVEN



Ove Berven
25 year Austin Basketball Coach. One of the first inducted into the Minnesota High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

Ove was born in Nerstrand, Minn., August 29, 1911 to Rev. and Mrs. Swen Berven. They moved to Spring Valley, Wisconsin when he was a very young boy. Ove graduated from high school with honors in 1929. After two years of training at River Falls University, he

finished his college work, at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, in 1933, where he had been a starting member of the basketball team. Immediately after graduation he was hired by the Spring Valley, Wisconsin, schools as their basketball coach. In the six years of coaching in Spring Valley, he took his team to the Wisconsin State Tournament three times.

Ove was hired by the Austin Public Schools in 1939 and came to Austin with his bride, Mildred Bjerkg, also of Spring Valley. His father, Rev. Berven, officiated at his wedding at the home of Luther Berven, Ove's brother, who is now a minister at Carmel, California.

Ove enjoyed a successful record in Austin in his 25 years as coach. His Packers won 8 Big Nine Conference Championships and shared one. Also had 19 District titles, 14 Region One Crowns, and they won the State Championship in 1946 and 1958 and finished second in 1955 and 1960. His 25 year mark was 348-204 or .631 percentage.

In 1960 Ove was named State Basketball Coach of the year, and in 1965 received the merit award from his peers in the Minnesota State High School Basketball Coaches

Association. A great honor was bestowed on him when the high school gymnasium was named the "Ove Berven Gymnasium" in a ceremony on Dec. 22, 1979, at half time of the Packer & Faribault game. Although in a wheelchair, Ove was able to be present to see many of his former athletes and all his loyal fans who made it a night for all to remember. On Nov. 7, 1981, he was inducted into the Minnesota State High School Coaches "Hall of Fame." The award was accepted by his wife and son, David. Ove was always happy to have his former athletes visit him. He gave something of value to each boy he coached.

Ove and Mildred were blessed with 3 children: Tom, who coaches and teaches at Neenah, Wisconsin, married to Donna Larson, Onalaska; Barbara, married to Clark Miller and living in Richardson, Texas; and David with Jobs Service Agency in Ames, Iowa, and married to Patricia Killoren. There are 7 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

Ove entered St. Mark's Lutheran Home, Austin, on July 3, 1979 and resided there until his death on Jan. 18, 1982.

HISTORY OF AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Austin Community College Campus

Austin Community College was established as Austin Junior College in 1940 after a referendum of the voters of the Austin School District approved the school board's proposal. It opened its doors to an initial freshman class of 138 with a staff of five full-time and four part-time teachers under the leadership of Dean R. I. Meland.

The college occupied a third-floor wing of the Central High School building from its initiation until the fall of 1966, and was financed primarily by local school district tax levies until 1957. In 1957, the Minnesota State Legislature made available money to be paid as state aid.

In 1962, an unsuccessful attempt was made to finance the construction of a new college building. In April of 1964, voters of Austin School District approved, by an 80 percent favorable vote, a bond issue of \$2,358,000. Ground was broken in April, 1965, and the college moved to its new 80-acre campus in the fall of 1966. The campus is designed for 1,000 students, with a maximum capacity of 1,200.

In 1963, the State Legislature passed H.F. 1937, which established a State Junior College System under the authority of a State Junior College Board. On July 1, 1964, by agreement with the Austin School District, the college became part of the Minnesota State Junior College System. Since that time, all financing has been through appropriations of the state legislature. In 1973, the state legislature passed legislation redesignating each state junior college as a community college. The state junior college board was redesignated as the State Board for Community Colleges. In this same legislation, the number of colleges was designated as eighteen, with the specific location of each college specified. The state legislature, in 1973, updated the powers of the community college board, made mandatory the appointment of an advisory committee for each community college and, in general, laid out guidelines for the operation of the system.

Enrollment increased to reach a high point of 903 full-year-equivalent in 1967-68. During the 1983-84 school year, the college experienced the highest headcount in its history with 1001 students registered in the fall quarter. The full-year-equivalent compared with the 67-68 high point reached only 700 this past year which reflects the change in clientele from full-time to part-time and from a recent high school graduate to a more non-traditional, older student.

Currently, 34 full-time and 25 part-time instructors teach the diverse curriculum with 36 support staff and 2 administrators providing the services necessary to the operation.

Since the first class graduated in 1942, 5,945 students have graduated from the Austin Community College.

Austin Community College is committed to the prin-

ciple that the courses and services of the college should be made available to all persons of post-high school age who can benefit from them. Admission is open to all who wish to apply, with the exception of a few specialized programs where application screening is necessary. The college provides two years of college-level education for both youth and adults within the service area. Austin Community College offers students the opportunity to acquire the tools and motivation for lifelong learning. Objectives of the college are: to provide the first two years of pre-professional and liberal arts courses which may be transferred with full credit to four-year colleges and universities; to provide students with a background of technical knowledge and general education in preparation for employment; to provide retraining and upgrading directed toward re-employment or advancement in a world of technological change; to provide opportunities for students to upgrade basic skills necessary for attaining their vocational goals; to provide testing, counseling, and personal services in order to assist students in making realistic educational plans con-

sistent with their interests and abilities; to provide continuing education, including non-credit courses for the enrichment of the individual; and to enhance the social, cultural, physical, emotional, and intellectual development of students and area citizens.

Two years of academic work at Austin Community College is recognized in full for advanced standing at the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State University System, and other universities and colleges throughout the nation.

The college began as a liberal arts, transfer pre-professional institution and, to this day, is a major emphasis. Additionally, occupational programs such as Associate Degree Nursing, and Clinical Child Care Worker programs play an increasingly important role in specific job-oriented education.

R. I. Meland guided the institution from its inception through the first 30 years of its history. Since then, Curtis C. MacDonald, Arlan A. Burmeister, and current President, James D. Flannery, have been instrumental in the development of the college.

AUSTIN AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE



Austin Area Vocational Technical Institute
Occupied in 1972

In 1951, the Minnesota State Legislature acted to allow local school districts to apply for designation as an Area Vo-Tech School site. By 1951, the Austin Board of Education had established the Austin Area Vocational-Technical Institute as part of the Austin Public School system, and hired Floyd J. Lueben as Vocational Director.

Classes began in the fall of 1951 in the present Austin High School building, with 43 students enrolled in two trade-preparatory classes: automotive mechanics and machine shop. Classes were also offered in distributive education, business, homemaking, and agriculture.

In 1952, carpentry, printing, and cosmetology were added as job-training classes, and a total of 118 secondary and post-secondary students enrolled in vocational programs. The board of education approved at this time the construction of a new building to house the Vocational Institute.

Vo-Ed continued to grow in Austin, with the addition

of a radio and television servicing course in 1953, welding and sheet metal in 1954, and also in 1954 the dedication of the new Vocational School Building on 4th St. N.W. across from the high school.

In 1956, practical nursing was offered for the first time, and in 1958, farm equipment mechanics courses began. Instructional staff had grown by this time to include 16 instructors, plus a coordinator of miscellaneous trades.

The radio and television servicing program was upgraded in 1960 to become an industrial electronics program, in keeping with the expanded opportunities for trained technicians in the growing field of electronics. The profile of the vocational student changed over the years, too, and by 1965-66, Austin Area Vo-Tech Institute's enrollment was 100 percent full-time, post-secondary students. As enrollments grew, the Institute began renting space to conduct classes, and was at one point operating in four different sites locally. In 1970, voters of district 492 passed a 4.2 million dollar bond issue to provide a new vocational campus in the community.

The move to the new vocational building, located at 1900 8th Avenue N.W., was completed during February and March of 1972. Mort Carney was the director at that time, and was succeeded by Donald Ingram in 1977. When Mr. Ingram retired in 1983, Marjorie Kirchoff was appointed to the position, and became the first female vocational director in the state of Minnesota.

The goals and philosophy of vocational education in Minnesota, and in Austin have remained consistent over the years . . . that being to provide the best job training possible, serving both the student and industry in this way. But the process of providing that training has changed enormously in recent years, and now includes a cooperative effort between our vocational institutes and

community colleges. In 1984-85, nine of the 19 career training programs at Austin AVTI began offering an Associate Degree option to students, through cooperation with Austin Community College, and the future is filled with promise for further cooperative efforts to benefit students and the community. Other changes have been made to keep pace with the growth of technology in our society and in the workplace. What began as a radio/TV service course is now a complete electronics technology program, with training in robotics, laser

technology, computer-numerical-control, and 2-way mobile radio. Ag programs make use of computer analysis in farming, and "printing" has become graphics technology, with the addition of telecommunications training.

With emphasis on serving present student needs, and an eye on the future of industry and society, Austin AVTI continues to grow and serve our community and southeast Minnesota.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA NORMAL COLLEGE (University of Southern Minnesota)



University of Southern Minnesota - main building



University had four buildings
Upper, left to right: South Hall, Harpman Hall, Music Hall. Lower center: main building

With 35 students enrolled for its first term, the Southern Minnesota Normal College and Austin School of Commerce, once a part of Austin's educational system, reached an enrollment of 1,200 in its peak year.

There is a story that Professor Charles R. Boostrom, the school's principal founder, opened the first term with only one student. He and the student were said to have paused briefly from cleaning old Fleck House at Chatham and Maple Street (1st St. N.E. and 1st Ave. N.E.) to ring the bell which had been erected on the roof.

The college began its first actual term in September, 1897. Its purpose was to provide an opportunity for adults, who had quit school, to continue their education.

Students could enter at any time and select their own studies. No entrance examination was required and rates of tuition and board were lower than in other private schools in Minnesota.

The college promised to help graduates find positions. In one of its advertisements it offered a bread and butter education. "Good teachers are always in demand at from \$40 to \$100 a month," the ad declared.

At the close of the first year the college obtained a tract of five acres as a gift from Albert Galloway. A small

frame structure was built and the next summer a dormitory and boarding hall were erected.

Enrollment increased with students coming from New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, North and South Dakota and 60 counties in Minnesota. In 1908 the city voted to erect and equip a building for not less than 1,000 students.

Courses offered in 1910 included the teachers course, the professional course for high school teachers, principals and superintendents, the business course, stenography, steam engineering, civil service, manual training, agriculture and penmanship.

The faculty consisted of 15 teachers with Boostrom as president; Albert J. Harpman, vice president and O. C. Heilman, secretary.

The college closed in 1925, when high schools were providing many of the educational opportunities it had offered. The institution was kept alive in name by the Alumni Association which met for a picnic and reunion each summer.

Austin Herald, August 8, 1953

AUSTIN COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Austin Community Scholarship Committee was established December 29, 1960, as a Minnesota non-profit corporation. The incorporators and founding directors were James L. Olson, his wife Luella Olson, and Philip Richardson. In 1962 the board of directors was expanded to include Dr. Tracy Barber and I. J. Holton. A short time later, Raymond Wescott joined the board.

The committee was established to help meet a need for financial assistance to meritorious youth seeking educational opportunities at college level. It was thought that the needs were so great that if steps weren't taken to meet them on a local level with private funding, the government would step in on a massive scale. It was realized that local resources were limited and that all needs could not be met. Still, there was a conviction that an effort ought to be made, an experiment undertaken.

Programs in other communities, including the pioneering effort at Fall River, Mass., had been studied. A committee, established to suggest a set of guidelines, devised a program which has been changed only slightly over the years.

Since anticipated resources were limited, grants were to be made only to students who resided in Mower County. Both scholarship and need were to be considered. In the interest of placing funds where the need was greatest, it was decided that applications would be accepted only from students entering the junior or senior year of college or entering upon graduate study. The thought was that the greatest need would be found among students who had completed two years at the local community college and who would be confronted with much larger expense in finishing their education away from their homes.

Each student receiving a grant undertakes a moral obligation to contribute to the committee an amount at least equal to the grant after the student's education has been completed. The plan contemplated a modest beginning, with significantly larger resources becoming available as the years progressed, more scholarships were awarded, and more contributions were made by the students who had been aided.

The committee was able to make grants starting in 1963. Grants have been made in each succeeding year, and have totaled in excess of \$107,000 since the program started.

Funding has come from a number of sources. The Austin Rotary Club has been a long-time major supporter. Other donors have included churches, the Hormel Foundation, the Hormel Company through its Matching Gifts Program, several local businesses, local individuals who prefer to remain anonymous, memorials, and students who have been awarded grants. Contributions from students have fallen considerably short of the committee's expectations.

All amounts available to the committee are awarded each year. The directors serve without compensation. In most years there are no administrative expenses; services being donated. Such expense has totaled some \$250 since the program started, almost all for filing fees and taxes.

The composition of the board of directors has varied as the years have passed. As of this writing (August 1984) board members include Arlan Burmeister (current president), I. J. Holton, Craig W. Johnson (current vice-president), Philip Nolan, James L. Olson (president emeritus), Philip Richardson (secretary and treasurer), Aaron Sherman, Edmund Smith, and Patricia Stevens.

by I. J. Holton

THE HORMEL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Forty years ago, during the most discouraging part of the war, members of The Hormel Foundation and the administration of the University of Minnesota signed an agreement establishing a new research facility of the Graduate School. The Hormel Institute was formed to promote education and research in plant and animal science, disease, nutrition, food technology and in allied branches of science. The Foundation provided funds for the operation of the unit, and the University provided the framework and personnel. From the outset, fundamental research was the primary activity of the Institute. Its first project was the compilation of available information on the nutritive value of soybeans.

Initial experimental work was done at the Medical School in Minneapolis in the laboratories of Professors H. O. Halvorson and George O. Burr. "Doc" Halvorson was the first Director of the Hormel Institute, Walter O. Lundberg was the Hormel Fellow and Jacques Chipault and the writer (Ralph T. Holman) were graduate students.

In January, 1944, Chipault moved to Austin and

began setting up laboratories in one corner of the stable on the Hormel family estate at the east edge of Austin. After a few months, Lundberg became Resident Director and moved to Austin.

In 1960 the institute's activities were expanded by the construction of a new building on the north edge of Austin, using matching funds for the Hormel Foundation and National Institute of Health (NIH).

The Hormel Institute has grown from 8 people in 1944 to 124 in 1982, and our budget has grown from \$15,000 in 1944 to \$2,796,753 in 1982.

In 1955 we began hiring technical assistants from among talented students from the local high school, junior college and vocational institute. To date we have "graduated" about 200 of these students, and a very high proportion of them are now in the scientific professions.

Since our earliest years we have had scientific cooperation with members of the Mayo Clinic.

(This article was extracted from a 1982 paper written by Ralph T. Holman, Executive Director of The Hormel Institute and Professor of Biochemistry.)

AUSTIN DAILY HERALD

In 1891 Austin had a population of 6,000 served by three weekly and one daily newspapers. It was into this field that A. B. Hunkins promoted the *Austin Daily Herald*, destined to become the longest running newspaper in Mower County.

In 1881, Hunkins along with a man named Campbell, started the *Mower County Democrat*. The paper was published as the *Democrat* until 1898 when it became independent under the name *Austin Weekly Herald*. The *Weekly Herald* continued until 1918 when it was dropped because of the increased circulation of the *Daily Herald*.

Those were partisan times in 1881 when the *Mower County Democrat* appeared on the scene. The two other papers at the time were both Republican-oriented, the *Austin Register* and the *Austin Transcript*. The Democrats had been without a paper since 1871 when the *Austin Democrat*, started by Milo Lacy and Isaiah Wood in 1868, folded.

On the afternoon of November 9, 1891, the first *Daily Herald* was published on the second floor back room of a building on the southeast corner of 4th Avenue N.E. and Main Street.

The paper was as large as the *Daily Register* and covered the same field. Though neither paper had 300 in circulation, they each depended on the weekly issue to make the daily issues pay.

In 1892, F. H. McCulloch, who was to become the foremost job printer in this part of the state and who worked for Hunkins, bought a half interest in the job department.

Hunkins secured a piece of land at the north end of Main Street near the former site of the Shaw Gym. Here he erected a publishing house of peculiar architecture commonly known as the "Mary Ann" style of architecture. The printing presses were run by steam power, the boiler being set in a hole in the ground. The shafting was hung on the ceiling joists and the entire building trembled when the presses ran.

C. F. Ellis, a writer, and Frank Roble, a first class printer, then formed a partnership in January, 1896, and took over the *Herald*. The firm of Ellis and Roble continued until October, 1897.

John H. Skinner

One of their reporters was William Sutherland who lived in Mapleton. While working on the *Herald* in the late 1890's he met J. H. Skinner, who was visiting his sister and her husband. Skinner had taught school during the winter of 1896 and was planning to return East where he had a job with the *Transcript* in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Sutherland, who was going to school, urged Skinner to work at the *Herald* for a few weeks.

Skinner took Sutherland's suggestion. About that time, Roble headed west and sold his interest to Skinner. Thus Skinner became the sole owner in July, 1899.

In June, 1900, he married Ellis' sister, Gertrude, who had been county superintendent of schools for 12 years. In 1900 the *Herald* bought land at 600 First Drive N.W.



The *Austin Daily Herald* on 1st Drive N.W.

for \$300 from C. F. Stillman. There a small wooden building was constructed; it was rebuilt and enlarged several times.

Skinner convinced Fred C. Ulmer, an employee in the Hormel office in 1901, to buy a half interest in the *Herald*. Ulmer took over as business manager and under his supervision the *Herald* prospered. He left for a time to go to California, but later returned to the *Herald*.

Billy Sunday Helped Herald Circulation

The big boost to *Herald* circulation came in 1906 when famed evangelist, Billy Sunday, came to Austin. The *Herald* carried four to six columns daily on the services conducted by Sunday. The *Herald's* Monday issues contained 8 to 10 columns on the evangelist. It was the biggest reporting task undertaken by the early *Herald* and the circulation rocketed to new heights. *Heralds* were sent to every post office box in the county and to almost every state in the union.

In April of 1920, Skinner and Ulmer each sold a half interest, taking into the firm H. E. Rasmussen and Arnold Daane, who along with Mrs. Geraldine Rasmussen published the *Mower County Transcript-Republican*.

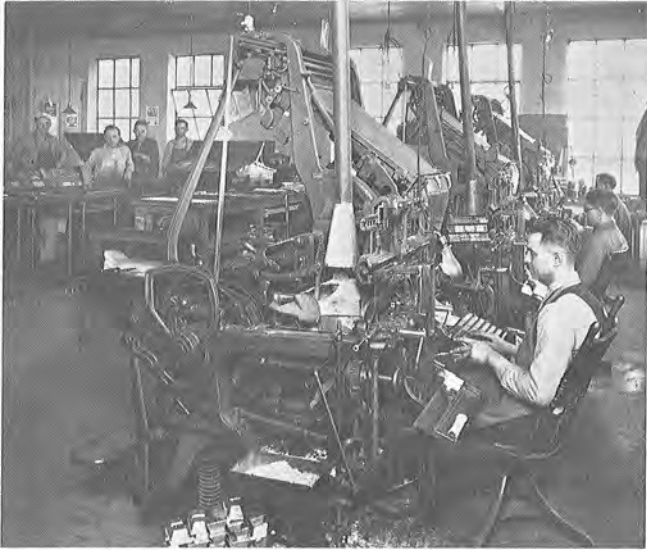
Skinner had originated the Pot Pourri column in the *Herald*, and wrote it for nearly a half a century.

Daane disposed of all his stock and went abroad after the Lusk-Mitchell transaction in July, 1929. Skinner also disposed of his stock at the time, but remained with the Rasmussen's who retained a 25 percent stock interest.

Later this interest was increased by the Rasmussen's to 40 percent and in November, 1930, the Rasmussen's and the Skinner's again acquired full control of the Lusk-Mitchell interests and the ownership of the business.

Rasmussen's Became Sole Owners in 1939

From August, 1939, to March, 1962, the *Herald* was owned solely by the Rasmussen's with Harry Rasmussen



Linotype machines have been displaced by newer methods of composition.

as editor-publisher and Geraldine Rasmussen as business manager. In later years when Mr. Rasmussen was stricken with Parkinson's disease, Mrs. Rasmussen took on a growing share of responsibilities for the general operation of the *Herald*.

Mr. Rasmussen died in 1968 at the age of 75. Mrs. Rasmussen continues to reside in Austin and in McAllen, Texas.

Thomson Newspapers Acquire Herald

Taking over the operation of the *Herald* in 1962 was Thomson Newspapers Inc. The *Herald* was the first Thomson acquisition in this part of the country. Taking over as publisher and general manager was Frank G. Miles. Miles was succeeded in 1966 by A. Richard Gross, who served until 1969.

It was under Gross' successor J. Knox Dye, that the *Herald* was moved to its present location at 310 Second Street N.E. The former Marigold Dairy building was renovated to house the *Herald* operation after a fire destroyed former press facilities on First Drive N.W.

Dye was succeeded in 1972 by Edmund E. Smith, who had started with the *Herald* in 1937. Smith served as



The Herald moved into this building in 1972

publisher of the Greenville, Ohio Advocate before returning to Austin to head the *Herald* operation.

In recent years the *Herald* has gone to the offset printing process and computerized its news, classified advertising and shop operations. On February 5, 1984 the *Herald* published its first Sunday issue.

by Judy McDermott

"WE LIKE IT HERE"

Over the years I've written columns about the people who have helped me like it here.

The streets of Austin and the villages and farms of Mower County are, to me, special and different from anywhere else. So are the people.

I grew up in Austin where the Hormel whistle marked the beginning of the day, the noon break and quitting time.

Many men and women during my lifetime have devoted their lives to building this world-renowned com-



**Edmund E. Smith,
Publisher**

pany, to improving the homes and farms of the county and to building the schools and churches of this area!

I remember fondly, too, the "characters" that give a community a special flavor. John Skinner was a truly fearless editor, who stepped forward to confront a mob with his straw hat and ever-present pipe as his only weapons. He faced down that crowd and won their admiration. Through his work as editor he earned our respect throughout the area.

I remember the fashion-plate businessman who, resplendent in an ice cream suit, panama hat and white shoes, drove up to his business place in an open convertible. Just as he parked, and before he could leave his car, a cattle truck pulled up alongside. Before the belt-line was built most trucks drove right down Main Street to the Hormel plant. On this day the largest cow in the truck relieved herself through the truckboards, and the businessman, without stopping, drove home to change clothes.

There was Fay Snyder, an auto parts dealer, who could quote all the great authors, including Homer. Customers coming to his business place were directed to "that pile

in the corner” while Fay continued his philosophizing.

And George Corneveaux, an original in many ways, ran for alderman of the first ward. Everyone promised to vote for him. When the vote went quite definitely the other way George commented about his ward much as defeated politicians do even to this day. He said, “There are more damned liars in the first ward than any place on earth.”

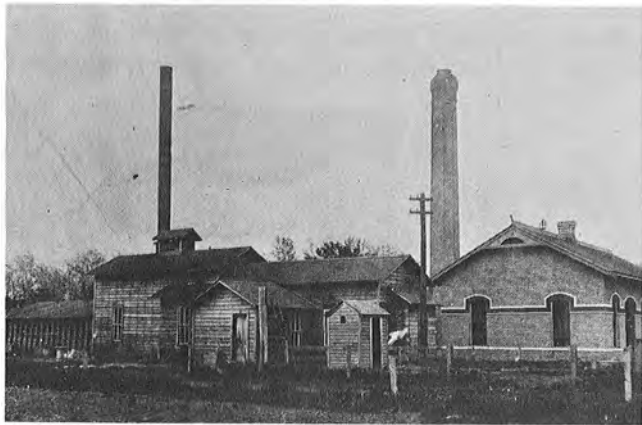
Years ago another politician, representing Austin too well, was extolling the virtues of Austin’s water. Un-

fortunately he had been mixing a little hard stuff with his water when he announced, “Austin has the purest water on earth,” and proceeded to pass out.

Besides the characters there have always been the real solid people, who aided when tragedy and hardships happened in the lives of others. These thousands of unsung gentle folk who responded to floods, to physical travail, to economic upheavals and concerns, have made this area one that I shall like forever.

by Edmund E. Smith

AUSTIN UTILITIES



Austin Pumping Plant - 1888

In 1877 the city council authorized the digging of a well at the corner of N. Main and 2nd Ave. (Main and Bridge Streets). Primary purpose of the well was to provide fire protection. It also provided water for the horse watering trough and to sprinkle the streets. Early Austin had several fires and the settlers had been without any form of fire protection. Also, in 1877 a portion of the present property was purchased, a well drilled, and a contract let for a water distribution system.

A new source of water was necessary in 1909. The following year the board purchased the Sargent Springs property, later known as the City Springs. Contracts were let for a reservoir and lines into the city plant. In 1911 the first water flowed into Austin from the City Springs.

In 1926 the board purchased the Herzog farm which had natural springs. Reservoirs, a pump house and pipe line into the city were completed in 1930. The Herzog farm became Todd Park. Wells were drilled on both sites: Todd Park in 1947 and City Springs in 1949. By 1978 the flowing springs at Sargent Springs and Herzog Springs were abandoned.

In 1954 a well was drilled in the southeast part of Austin on 4th Ave. S.E. (Ellis Ave.). During the same year the 14th St. N.W. (Bel Air) well was drilled. In 1955 the 8th Ave. N.E. (Brownsdale Ave.) well was drilled, in 1956 the 4th St. S.E. (River St.) well, in 1961 the 8th

Ave. S. W. (Johnson Ave.) well was drilled, and in August, 1975 the Elmhurst Addition well was drilled. The two deepest wells are probably the 14th St. N.W. (Bel Air) well which is over 1000 feet deep and the Elmhurst Addition at the depth of 992 feet.

Austin’s first street light came into existence in 1880 when the council appropriated \$90.00 for the purchase of 10 “Chicago” kerosene street lamps which were erected in the business district. It was a great occasion for the community when the lights were lit on the city’s streets. The lighting was very dim compared to today’s street lighting. For 13 years the streets were lighted by kerosene.

On September 18, 1893 the council accepted a proposition by W. S. Pierce, general manager of the “Austin Electric Co.” for electric street lights. The aldermen were directed to locate the lights in their respective wards.

Mr. Dan Leary, the town lamplighter, was notified that his services would not be needed after November 30, 1893.

The Austin Electric Co., in April, 1899, asked the council for a two-year contract to light the streets. Instead the council directed a committee to purchase machinery for a municipal electric light plant. By September the council had contracted for construction of a building and purchase of machinery.

The street lighting contract with the Austin Electric Co. was discontinued October 31, 1899. The city returned to the use of kerosene lamps for a brief time, and Dan Leary was rehired to light them. On April 10, 1900 the city purchased the Austin Electric Co.

In 1903, the Austin voters approved a charter amendment which created a Board of Water, Electric, Gas and Power Commissioners. The original name provided for the inclusion of a gas utility 32 years before the board purchased the gas system in 1935.

May 5, 1903 the first commissioners organized the operation of the water and electric departments. The central steam heating system was acquired in 1927 and finally the gas system in 1935.

The first commission was appointed in April, 1903 and consisted of the following men: S. D. Catherwood, J. D. Sheedy, Alex Campbell, George A. Hormel, and J. L. Gulden.

A group of citizens started a private company to install

a steam heating system in the city when the municipal plant was reluctant to add steam heating to its utilities. The group started the company with the intention that the heating system be sold later to the city, which the group did in 1927.

Manufactured gas was first distributed in Austin shortly after the turn of the century by a company formed by Fay Smith and others. The organizers discontinued operation of their plant when an injunction was started to restrain them. It was alleged that gas leaked from pipes and killed some trees in the residential district.

In 1905 gas service was resumed, a company organized, and a plant constructed on 4th St. S.E. (River St.). In 1911 the business was sold to Z. T. F. Runner. Later Mr. Runner sold to the Interstate Power Co.

In 1935 the city council took steps to purchase the Interstate gas distribution system. Finally, at a meeting on August 6, 1935, the Interstate Power Co. agreed to sell its gas properties and the city took over gas distribution in October, 1935.

The name was changed from the Board of Water, Electric, Gas and Power Commissioners to Austin Utilities in 1960.

In 1971 the Northeast Power Station was completed and dedicated on November 6, 1971.

The Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency was incorporated on June 2, 1977 and the power sales contract signed on April 1, 1981 making the Austin Utilities a participant in SMMPA.

Since 1903 Austin Utilities has had 6 superintendents and 4 secretaries to the board.

William Todd was born in Scotland in 1857 and came to America in 1879. He was appointed Chief Engineer of the Austin Water Works. Upon consolidation of the water and electric plants Mr. Todd was appointed superintendent and held that office until his retirement in 1931. Todd Park was given its name in recognition of Mr. Todd's service to the utilities and the city.

Carroll Elliott succeeded Mr. Todd, with Walter Messick succeeding Mr. Elliott.

Harold J. Lamon, Sr. started his career with Austin Utilities on January 7, 1935 and retired on February 1, 1974. The Northeast Power Station was planned and built under his supervision.

Norman E. Dietrich succeeded Mr. Lamon in 1974 and served the utilities until his retirement in March, 1984.

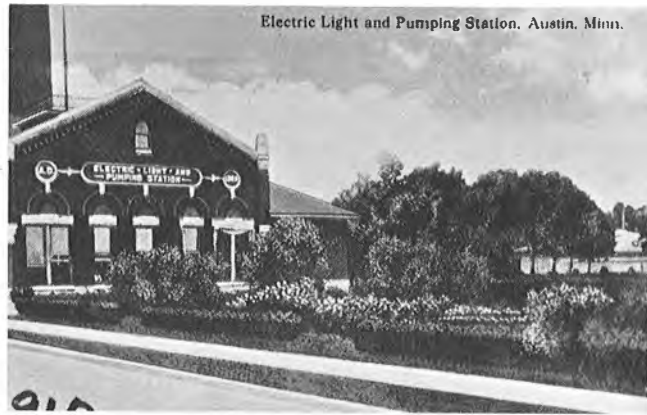
The present superintendent is George R. Davis, who began his career with the utilities on February 1, 1984.

William Todd's daughter, Jane C. Todd, was appointed the first secretary of the board when it was organized in 1903. She had been employed in the Municipal Plant office since 1900. She retained the office of secretary until her resignation in May, 1940.

William D. Dunlap, Sr. began his duties with Austin Utilities on July 1, 1935 and served as secretary from 1940 to his retirement on July 1, 1975.

William R. Keefe started his career with Austin Utilities in December, 1957, and served until his retirement on February 1, 1984. During that time Mr. Keefe served as secretary to the board from July 1, 1975 until his retirement.

Michael L. Enfield began his service with the utilities on February 6, 1984 and is currently serving as the secretary to the board.



Electric Light and Pumping Station in 1910



Downtown Municipal Plant - 1984

A listing of the members of the Austin Utilities Board:

John L. Gulden	1903
J. D. Sheedy	1903
Alex Campbell	1903
A. M. Smith	1903
George A. Hormel	1903
C. A. Pooler	1904
George E. Anderson	1922
P. D. Beaulieu	1922
O. J. Benton	1925
C. F. Cook	1925
C. E. Gilleece	1928
Spencer Jordan	1934
John Jennings	1940
R. A. Dunnette	1940
H. J. Keck	1941
R. T. Rahilly	1941
A. G. Smith	1942
G. W. Stubbe	1942
C. A. Weseman	1943
A. L. Miller	1948
Lars Bondhus	1949
Hollis Weber	1951

Claude Moore	1954
E. B. Grose	1955
Ed E. Smith	1956
H. V. Plunkett, Jr.	1957
Floyd Barton	1957
Robert Babcock	1958
Richard C. Baudler	1959*
L. W. Lacy	1959
Alex Hirsh	1959
C. D. Macy	1963
Willard Block	1964
Richard H. Schaefer	1969
Roger L. Svejkovsky	1969

M. J. Simonson	1979
Frank M. Brown	1980*
Norton Gilman	1980
James J. Schulte	1981
Richard F. Conway	1983*
Edward Weseman	1984*
David E. Thomsen	1984*

The asterisk indicates present members of the board. Richard F. Conway is the first elected member of the board with Edward Weseman being the second elected member. The board positions were appointive until 1983 when the positions became elective.

THE PARK BOARD



This structure, built in 1905, still provides a sanctuary overlooking Lafayette Park.

Now known as the Austin Park and Recreation Department, the park board was established by passage of a city charter in March, 1903, and by chapter 12 of said charter. A park board consisting of five members was appointed: A. Friedrich, Lafayette French, G. W. Sutton, F. E. Gleason and Thomas Beatty.

The first employees were C. J. McCabe, who was paid \$1.50 per day and C. A. Linsley, \$1.25 per day.

It would seem that Lafayette Park was the sole responsibility of the first board and its employees. In their second meeting the board accepted the proposition of a Minneapolis landscape architect to make suggestions for the laying out of the park for the sum of \$10.

In 1905 the park board accepted Thomas Beatty's offer to build a pavilion in Lafayette Park. The dimensions were to be 24 x 30 feet. The cost was \$375.

Privileges to allow parties to advertise and carry on games of lawn tennis, baseball or football as governed by park board restrictions was approved in 1908, "but no games of any description will be permitted on Sundays."

The Chatauqua became a summertime source of revenue in 1912. The first year they contributed \$132 in rent of Lafayette Park.

In 1915 a new park was added called East Side Park, later renamed Sutton Park. Also in 1915 the park board sold bonds to improve, maintain and beautify Horace Austin State Park. Mention was also made of Eleanor Park.

In 1916 the park board, with increasing responsibilities, approved payment of expenses for Lafayette Park, Herald Square, City Park, Harriet Park, Shaw Boulevard, Sutton Park, Depot Park and Fairbanks Park. Budget for 1917 was set at \$2,600.

Bath houses for ladies and gentlemen were approved for construction in Austin State Park in 1917.

The Annual Children's Picnic

There was a time when the children of Austin had a picnic each summer to commemorate the birthday of George W. Sutton, a charter member of the Austin Park Board. The annual picnic each June 19th was provided by the terms of the will of Margaret Sutton, the widow of George Sutton.

The provision of the Sutton will was directed to the Austin Park Board and stated that "\$1,000 be kept loaned at a good rate of interest perpetually" and that "the annual interest be expended in providing a picnic dinner on the anniversary of my late husband on June 19 of each year, for the needy children of Austin, at Sutton Park in said city."

The will further provided that the children should be between the ages of 5 to 14, and that the picnic should be under the direction of the Ladies Lincoln Club as long as the club existed. The park board was under obligation to pick another group of ladies in case the Lincoln Club was discontinued.

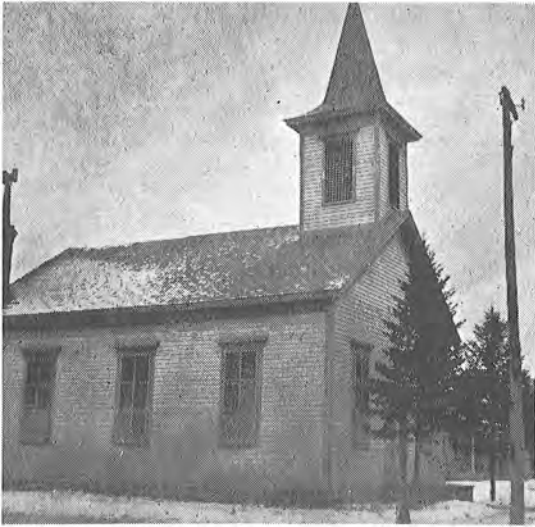
The park board made one change. They eliminated the word "needy" from their annual picnic announcement. All Austin children became eligible to attend.

The picnic was a summertime feature for several years. Mrs. Eunice Rice, a former county superintendent of schools, took over leadership and planning for the picnic.

The June 20, 1931 issue of the *Austin Daily Herald* reported that 175 children had enjoyed games and refreshments at Sutton Park the previous day. In addition to Mrs. Eunice Rice, the picnic was hosted by Effie Hall, Olive Burgess and Blanche Dalager.

We do not have a record of when the annual children's picnic was discontinued. Possibly the low interest rates available during the Depression years were inadequate to provide the annual event for the children of Austin.

The History of Austin Churches



On the left is a church from Austin's pioneer days. Above is a modern Austin church. Regardless of size, Austin churches have always had a vital impact on our community. While they have been dedicated to their individual doctrines, the churches and their members have had an active part in all phases of our civic life.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Grace Baptist Church of Austin was organized January 9, 1954, at the home of Wm. Christensen, west of Austin, with 47 members. We had no money, no church home, no pastor, but a firm desire for another fundamental Baptist work in Austin. We rented the Adventist Church until we could have a place of our own.

On April 1, 1954, we purchased a large corner lot at South Main and 4th Avenue S.E. and the adjacent lot on 4th Avenue which had a large 10 room house on it. Our first pastor was Rev. John Polson who came to Austin on May 1, 1954, from a pastorate in Morristown.

The groundbreaking service for our church was October 17, 1954. The building chairman was George Varney and the contractor was Donovan Construction Company. Much of the work was done by our own members as volunteers. The first service in our new church was August 7, 1955, in the basement, and the first service in the auditorium, December 25, 1955.

Willard Aldrich was chairman of our first Deacon Board, and Sahren Kurth was the first Sunday School superintendent.

The church was dedicated on June 9, 1957, with Dr. Robert T. Ketcham giving the Sunday sermon. He was President of the National General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

In 1968 we purchased the house at 1102 N.W. 10th Street for use as a parsonage. In 1970 we purchased



Grace Baptist Church and old parsonage - 1956

property adjacent to the church to build a 54 x 66 ft. addition and for more parking space. The new addition provided room for a nursery, library, more office space, more Sunday School rooms, a large fellowship room and a teen room on the 3rd floor. Stanley Lewison was chairman of this building committee.

We are one of 1585 churches affiliated with the General Assn. of Regular Baptists. Our local activities include: Awana Club for boys and girls in grades 3-8; Word of Life Club for Jr. and Sr. Hi; junior and teen choirs; Sunday evening youth groups; summer youth and

family camp at Bass Lake in Winnebago, Minnesota; daily vacation Bible school; gospel services at the High Rise, St. Mark's Home, Burr Oaks and Comforcare; weekly singing at Burr Oaks; Women's Missionary Society work groups; monthly prayer breakfast at Oak Grove Activity Center; and services at Gerard School. Pastor Dowden is a police chaplain and has been since the program was started. In our financial outreach, we help support 30 missionaries and their families.

In 1979 we observed our 25th anniversary with special services, and Rev. Polson was here to meet with old and new friends.

Pastors who have served in our church are Rev. John Polson, Rev. Earl Brown, Rev. Robert Opfer, Dr. Leo Sandgren Sr. (interim pastor), and Rev. Jack Dowden who is our present pastor and has been with us since May, 1966.

Our present membership is 347.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, AUSTIN



First Baptist Church built in 1895

For 126 years the First Baptist Church has been holding forth the Word of Life in Austin. The first body of settlers came to this area in 1856 and they included a few with a Baptist background. Stephen Cook a Congregationalist, was already preaching in the homes. Soon three denominational groups, the Congregationalists, Methodists and Baptists, began to develop from home meetings to formal religious services and to plan for the organization of churches.

The Baptist families met on Jan. 17, 1858 to receive the first "letters" from churches of previous membership. Soon letters had been received on all nine constituent members and the congregation constituted itself the "first regular Baptist Church in Austin."

The Rev. Edward Gurney moved into Austin from Lansing and became the first pastor. He continued until shortly before his death in 1862. He was followed by Hervey I. Parker who served for 10 years.

The early worship services were held in the Old Headquarters building, and in "Baptist Hall" which was above Mrs. Davidson's store located on the corner of 3rd Ave. N.E. and First St. N.E. (old Chatham and Mill Sts.)



The present First Baptist Church, Austin

By 1864 the congregation had constructed its own frame building on the corner of Oakland Ave. and 1st St. S.W. (old Oakland Ave. and St. Paul St.)

Nine pastors followed Gurney and Parker until those more remembered by present Austin residents. These include: Walter L. Riley (1911-17), John McFarlane (1917-26), Harry G. Hamilton (1926-31). The longest, and perhaps the most prosperous pastorate, was that of Dr. Leo Sandgren, Sr. (1932-53). He was followed by Hugh T. Hall (1953-56), Carl W. Brown (1956-60), Charles G. Pausley (1960-70), Howard K. Miller, (1971-75), and Wallace Alcorn (1976-83).

Their second church was built on the site of the first in 1895. In that same year the First Baptist Church organized a chapel in Oakland which is now the Oakland Baptist Church. In 1954 a group of families organized Grace Baptist Church in Austin.

Rev. Sandgren, who served the church for 21 years, launched the \$200,000 building project in Bel Air addition before leaving the Austin parish in May, 1953. This spacious structure at 1700 W. Oakland Ave. was dedicated in 1954 after the arrival of Rev. Hugh T. Hall. This property also includes a fine parsonage for the pastor and family.

In 1935 First Baptist severed its relations with the Northern Baptist Convention (now American Baptist) and became affiliated with the conservative General

Association of Regular Baptists which had been formed in 1932.

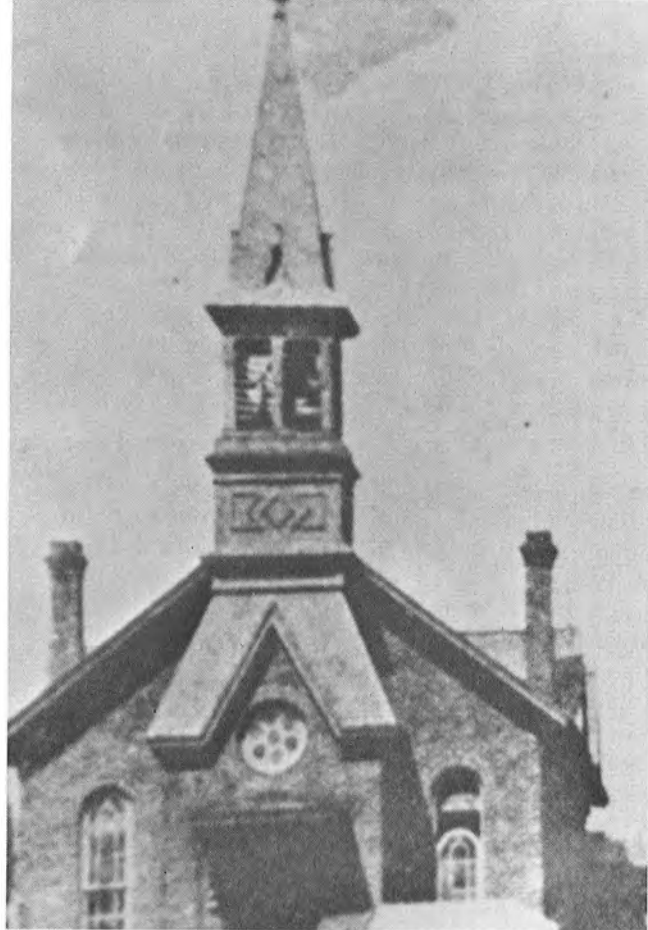
Rev. R. Allan Flint began his ministry at First Baptist Church in August, 1983. Pastor and Mrs. Flint and their children: Bryce, Rhonda and Larrin came from Ankeny, Iowa. Pastor Flint is the former pastor of the Ankeny Baptist Church.

In the interim before Pastor Flint's arrival the church was served by David Matthews, Burchard Ham and David Farrington, retired ministers and members of the church.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



St. Augustine's Church - 1895



First Church

In June, 1857, at a wood pile near the Snow Hotel in Austin a number of men sat discussing the crops, politics and religion. As most of the men were Catholics, the possibility of building a church came under consideration. The more they reflected the more enthused they became. Finally a committee was formed, with W. I. Brown as chairman and M. J. Slaven as secretary, to begin the process of forming a parish.

The first general meeting of the Catholics to consider the question of church and pastor was held on June 28, 1857, in a small log store that stood northeast of the Snow Hotel. Thomas Gibson and Aloysius Brown were elected

“to go to Saint Paul and see the Right Reverend Bishop in regard to sending a priest to Austin.”

It was the night of All Saints Day, November 1, 1857, that the first priest came to Austin. Father Pendergast traveled from Winona in answer to the invitation from the Catholics of this area. November 2nd saw a large gathering at Mr. Gibson's home. One participant recorded his feelings that day: “This day inspires us with new life and assures us that we will soon have a priest and a church as his Reverence agrees to come as often as he can until we get a priest of our own.”

During the years 1861-1865, Rev. Father Keller of Fari-bault visited Austin many times, though the parish was not really in his area of responsibility.

The First Church

In 1862, though in the midst of the Civil War, the little parish was ready to build. A brickyard was opened that later became known as the Sullivan yards. The clay was dug free, and the bricks were made free of charge under the supervision of Aloysius Brown, and burned in 1863 by W. Rutherford. Stone was taken from the river by James Kenevan and M. J. Slaven. The foundation was laid by Thomas Gibson. Messrs. Yates, Lewis and Fake, who were non-Catholics, gave the young church organizers a whole city block bounded by Kenwood Avenue, Grove, Second and Moscow Streets (now 4th St., 4th Ave., 5th St. and 3rd Ave., all in the northwest sector.)

In August, 1863 Austin's *Minnesota Courier* reported: "Reverend Father Keller laid the cornerstone of the new Catholic Church last Sunday. There was a very large number of persons in attendance. A collection was taken up after the service and the amount collected was upwards of \$40.00."

On June 14, 1866 the Catholics worshipped in their church for the first time. In 1867 their prayers were answered when Father McDermott was appointed as the first resident pastor of St. Augustine's Church. The church was dedicated June 15, 1868.

The Present Church Built

The cornerstone of the present church was laid by Bishop Cotter, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Winona, on April 26, 1894. The church was dedicated by him two years later on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1896. The edifice had been built by the people of St. Augustine's at a cost of \$60,000.

The present St. Augustine's Church, fronting on what was then Kenwood Avenue, stands at the head of the then-named Water Street. The location was considered one of the most desirable in the city. The church was, as it is now, a remarkable Gothic structure. Its size, windows and vaulted ceilings invite prayer. It is a beautiful tribute to those men of faith who gathered by that wood pile to discuss building a church in 1857.

The Reverend Daniel O'Sullivan had become the resident pastor in November, 1883. To him belonged the honor of planning and building St. Augustine's magnificent structure. Rev. E. H. Devlin became pastor of St. Augustine's on June 11, 1896. To him fell the task of clearing the debt on the new church. He threw himself into this work with great dedication.

On Sunday, May 25, 1906, before an audience of 700 people gathered at St. Augustine's Church, the Most Reverend Joseph Cotter declared the church debt paid and the last mortgage of \$7,000 cancelled. It was a great moment in the life of the parish.

Columbus School and St. Augustine High School

Right Reverend Monsignor E. H. Devlin was not done. He wouldn't be content until he built a school to instill in the minds of children "the love of God and of country."

Columbus School was opened in 1909. As the parish grew it was necessary to give Father Devlin an assistant. Assigned to assist, in the order of their arrival: Fathers Scullen, Lawrence Gavin, J. J. Stapleton and F. A. McCarthy.

Still Father Devlin continued to build. In 1925, ground was broken for a new high school building. In December 1926, the new St. Augustine High School and dining room was opened.

Monsignor E. H. Devlin died June 30th, 1931, at the age of 75. For 35 years he had been the beloved pastor of St. Augustine's Parish and a citizen of outstanding qualities. He was held in honor and respect throughout the community.

Monsignor J. M. Peschges was the pastor until 1938, when he was consecrated first Bishop of Crookston Diocese. He was replaced by Msgr. W. E. F. Griffin.

In November 1946, Father Francis McCarthy became pastor of the church in which he had grown up. He immediately became immersed in a \$400,000 building program. The project included a priests' home, a gymnasium and an auditorium for the St. Augustine High School.

At his death on August 11, 1955, Msgr. Robert E. Jennings came to St. Augustine's as pastor. Under his leadership there was an extensive remodeling of the church's basement. In 1956, the new \$435,000 elementary school was ready for the opening of school September 1st.

Msgr. Francis W. Klein served as pastor of St. Augustine's Parish from 1972 to 1975.

In June of 1975, Fr. Richard Engels succeeded Msgr. Klein. Under his leadership the church was completely refurbished. The steeple was rebuilt after tragedy struck on June 10, 1976. The steeple of the 80 year old church was hit by lightning on June 10, 1976. Over half a million dollars worth of damage was done. Had it not been for the heroic efforts of the Austin Fire Department the entire church would have been destroyed. The decision was made to rebuild and the church was to remain a symbol for coming generations.

In July, 1980, Rev. Charles J. Quinn succeeded Fr. Engels as pastor. Fr. Quinn's first assignment was associate pastor at St. Augustine for 8 years under the leadership of Msgr. Robert E. Jennings. Father Quinn's assistants are Father Gerald Koffe and Father Charles Collins.

Following the fire which had destroyed the steeple in 1976, Father Engels delivered a homily about the church: "Plans for the future? My position is that we replace and refurbish this church in every way possible to its original state. St. Augustine's Church has stood for so much in Austin's history in a prayerful and inspirational way. It will continue to. Let's rally behind not only the reconstruction of our church building, but also behind each other in a prayerful concern and loving presence. St. Augustine's Church building stands for and exists for people—people who need each other—like you and me."

(Material for this St. Augustine's story was taken from a book which combined their history and the directory of their congregation. It was printed in 1980.)

ST. EDWARD'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

July 3, 1960, the word from Rome . . . "Go Ahead"—St. Edward's Roman Catholic Parish, 2000 W. Oakland Avenue was beginning. The new parish was named The Church of St. Edward to keep alive the memory of Msgr. Edward Devlin who was Austin's only priest for many years.

Newly appointed pastor, Father Daniel Corcoran, celebrated the first Mass on the west side of Austin in the basement of the Sterling Bank on July 14th. For the next two months Sunday Mass was celebrated in the Sterling Theater.

July 16, 1960, Bishop Edward Fitzgerald offered mass in the newly constructed community center. September, 1961, St. Edward's School opened with 225 students.

During 1968, a pastoral council supplanted the five commissions of the St. Edward's Council of Catholic Women, thus beginning a tradition of both women and men working together in all facets of parish life. Also, in that year the neighborhood group system was adopted to bring about better communication and to actively involve more parishioners in the parish life. The neighborhood groups remain the basic and most important unit for communication and caring.

1970 saw the development of the parish team for pastoral ministry joining sisters, laity and priests in serving the people.

A tradition of outreach and caring has been part of the parish from its beginnings. This was reflected in the sponsorship of a Vietnamese family in 1975 and the current study of the Father Jose mission in Shimoga, India.

In 1973-74 the three Catholic Schools in Austin were consolidated and the early childhood program and kindergarten were begun at St. Edward's.

Father Lawrence Gavin became St. Edward's second pastor in June of 1975. June, 1983, Father Donald W. Zenk from Slayton, Minnesota became St. Edward's third pastor.

St. Edward's as a family and the strength of families within the parish has always been emphasized. This was reflected in the past through parish family days and Family Cluster sessions, and continues today in the family-centered sacramental programs. Each August the family of St. Edward's gathers for a pig roast-sweet corn picnic on the church grounds.

People are the most important part of St. Edward's Parish community. Our Parish family was born with Vatican Council II. We have, from the theater church, to the gym church, to our present beautiful church, centered ourselves in the celebration of the sacraments.

QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH, AUSTIN



Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Austin

On the eve of the feast of Mary's Assumption into Heaven, August 14, 1936, the Rev. Father Donald A. Cunningham, then of LaCrescent, Minnesota, received a commission from the Bishop of Winona to organize and establish a new parish in Austin.

On Sunday, September 20, the bishop announced to the Catholic people of Austin at masses in St. Augustine's Church that he was erecting a new parish to be composed of the people of the eastern part of the city. He also revealed that he had appointed Father Cunningham to organize the parish and be its first pastor. The bishop

pointed out the necessity of a new parish because of the tremendous growth of Austin and the lack of proper facilities to care for the growing Catholic population. He also stressed the need for an enlarged parochial school.

Upon the suggestion of Father Cunningham and with the approval of the bishop of the diocese, the people selected as the name for the new parish the beautiful title of the Blessed Virgin Mary: "Queen of Angels."

The new church was incorporated March 27, 1937 as a religious corporation, and the charter was accepted by the corporation in April, 1937.

September 8, 1937 ground was broken for the new parish plant with the auditorium and one school wing as the initial step.

Mr. LeRoy Gaarder of Albert Lea was selected as the architect. The complete group of buildings includes a church, rectory, school, convent and auditorium.

Religious services were held for a short time in conjunction with St. Augustine's. Separate services were held for the first time Sunday, November 1, 1937—the Feast of all Saints. The service was held in the chapel of Columbus School (now Pacelli), which served as a temporary church.

April 17, 1938, Easter Sunday, mass was offered for the first time in the new chapel. The formal opening of the social hall was held on June 30, 1938.

September 6, 1938—213 students enrolled on the first day of school conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis.

May 19, 1957, the new church was dedicated by Bishop Edward A. Fitzgerald.

August 20, 1970—Msgr. D. A. Cunningham, the first pastor, passed away after a long illness. October 15, 1970—Rev. Thomas M. Ploof arrived at Queen's as its second pastor.

April 15, 1972—\$185,000 fire caused by a defective light fixture broke out in the sanctuary ceiling as people were leaving the 5:30 p.m. mass. September 8, 1972,

Bishop Loras J. Watters assisted by Fathers Thomas M. Ploof, Eugene Stenzel and Joseph Keefe concelebrated mass at the re-opening of Queen of Angels Church.

Currently, Queen of Angels parish, located at 1001 E. Oakland Avenue, has a membership of approximately 3,000 people and a school of 260 students. The completed stone institution stands as a tradition while its social hall has been named Cunningham Hall, after the parish's first pastor.

The present pastor is Father James D. Russell, and the associate pastor is Father Patrick A. Lawler.

CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

The Church of the Open Bible was organized June 12, 1969 at 510 West Oakland Ave., Austin. The founding pastor was Rev. Robert Ross. The church is affiliated with the Open Bible Standard Churches, Des Moines, Iowa.

The church sponsors the Austin Christian Academy with classes for kindergarten through 12th grade. They

also have a preschool for the four and five year olds and a day care beginning at 2½ years.

In December 1971 the church moved to a new location at 301 - 4th St. S.W.

Rev. Charles Rainwater became the senior pastor in April, 1978.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, AUSTIN

Following a six-week tent meeting in Austin, the Church of Christ (Christian) was organized on July 4, 1897. Initial meetings were held in members homes until November when they were moved to the GAR Hall between St. Olaf Church and the telephone building on 1st St. N.W. Articles of Incorporation were filed at the Austin Courthouse on September 28, 1898.

The first building was erected in the 100 block of 1st Ave. N.E., and in 1905, property on Oakland Ave. and 2nd St. S.W. was purchased and a former Baptist church building moved onto the lot. Another larger building designed by W. J. Avery was built on this corner and dedicated in January, 1918. Several years later additional property was purchased east of this structure and remodeled into classrooms for the growing Sunday School.

The present sanctuary was built south of the original property and dedicated on January 3, 1954. Elders and trustees present were Elmer Bagley, Cap Brugger, Howard Hall, John Kester and Melvin Lagervall.

The old part of the building, damaged by fire in May,

1962, was replaced with an educational wing designed by James B. Horne of Eagan, Minn. This was dedicated in October, 1969. Elders and trustees participating were Howard Hall, William Hardy, John Kester, Don Koch, Melvin Lagervall, Arthur McAlister, Lawrence Todd, Charles Vlasaty, Vern Bulson and Guy McAlister.

The mortgage on the present building was burned in a ceremony on October 11, 1981.

Ministers who have served through the years are: Brother Miller, 1898-1902; Brother Trelor, 1902; Brother Bilyen, 1905; Charles Foster, Jan. 1907-Dec. 1907; Brother Werner, 1910; B. H. Whiston, 1910-1912; A. L. Ogden, 1913; Erving Wade, 1915-1917; Arthur Scott, 1918-1919; W. B. Crewdson, 1919-1921; G. F. Fink, 1921-1923; Harry Poll, 1924-1940; Max Buck, 1940-1942; C. C. McCaw, 1942-1944; Charles Davis, 1945-1949; Herman Kooy, 1950-1961; Richard Thickins, 1962-1963; Walter Blanchard, 1964-1971; Boyd Kuester, 1971-1979.

CEDAR RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST, AUSTIN

The Cedar River Church of Christ of Austin met for the first time on July 12, 1981, when four families worshipped together at the Bill Laird home. Since that

beginning the church has grown to 18 active members with an average Sunday attendance of 30, and has purchased its present meeting place at 211 - 2nd St. S.E.

The congregation presently has two evangelists working as a team and supported by Churches of Christ in Benton, Arkansas, and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Cedar River Church of Christ has as its goal and objective the restoration of the Lord's Church and Christianity as it existed in New Testament times—believing that this is possible and also essential to pleasing God. To accomplish this objective, members emphasize the Scriptures as their only rule of faith and practice. Striving to be scripturally organized, the Cedar River Church of Christ is a completely autonomous or

self-governed congregation that shares a common spiritual bond and purpose with other like congregations the world over and cooperates with other congregations of the Churches of Christ when, and if, scripturally permissible.

There is Sunday School for all ages throughout the year. Most years there also is a Vacation Bible School for children. On Sunday evenings a Children's Bible Hour is held for children two years old and older. These children ride the "Joy Bus" to and from the program.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS



The church in Austin was founded in 1946 by two missionaries, Elders K. Preston Glade and Melvin Hodgkinson. For the next five years services were held at various locations. The local branch was organized on August 5, 1951.

A chapel was built in 1954 at 1900 First Ave. N.W. The land for the present chapel was purchased in 1961. In 1974 the plans for the new building were accepted by members and adapted by the architectural firm of David I. Kane & Associates.

The new chapel, located at 28th St. and 2nd Ave. N.W., was dedicated in 1978 by Elder Franklin D. Richards of Salt Lake City.

Services were held in the new chapel for the first time on Feb. 5, 1978. At the services James Possin Jr., the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Possin, was blessed. Dorothy Hollmann was the first person to be baptized in the new chapel on February 18th. The Austin branch was advanced to a ward at services in Rochester on April 30, 1978.

Important features of the \$418,000 chapel are the extra wide doors, range and restrooms for the handicapped. There are areas in the chapel for spiritual education and recreational events. It is also a meeting place for community organizations. The church sponsors Boy Scout Troop #122 and Cub Scout Pack #122.

At the present time Jared Petersen is Elder at the church.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, AUSTIN

There were about 600 settlers in Mower County in 1856 when a Congregational minister, the Rev. Stephen A. Cook, came to Austin to establish a church. He preached here in August of 1856 at the Snow and Wilbur Hotel. On July 6, 1857, the Congregational Union Church was organized with Rev. Cook as minister and with fifteen adult members.

Eight of those members belonged to Rev. Cook's family which included two sons and their wives and a daughter and her husband, Dr. J. N. Wheat, a physician. The family had organized the Union Sabbath School in the spring of 1857 with William Cook as superintendent.

The Sabbath School and Congregational Union Church first met in Headquarters Building. The Baptist's

offered the church space in the Baptist's new building in 1863 which they used until 1868.

J. L. Davison, Austin realtor and charter member of First Congregational, donated land at the corner of 3rd Ave. N.W. and 1st St. N.W. in 1865. It took three years of planning, hard work and money-raising church events before the building was ready to occupy. A second brick building was erected in 1893 on the same land. The present church at 1910 3rd Ave. N.W. was dedicated February 26, 1956, shortly before fire destroyed the old building which had been sold to the City of Austin to be used as a parking lot.

By the time the Congregational Church dedicated its first building on October 15, 1868, the church had 83 members and a church school of 57. Rev. Alfred Morse



First Congregational Church in 1913

was the minister, the sixth man to serve the small church. Mrs. Morse organized the first women's group, a sewing society and a Bible Study group. She was also one of the organizers of the Ladies Floral Club whose members started Austin's first library.

Soon the church had an active Young People's Society which became part of the nationwide Christian Endeavor movement when the Rev. C. E. Wright became the Congregational minister in 1874. He served the church until 1898 when the church membership numbered 400.

The Rev. David W. Groenemann presently serves as First Congregational minister, the twenty-sixth man to



First Congregational Church dedicated in 1968

do so. The first few ministers served the Congregational Union Church. The name was changed to First Congregational Church in 1896 and to First Congregational United Church of Christ in 1961. A merger of Congregational churches with Christian churches and Evangelical and Reformed churches formed the United Church of Christ denomination.

The church has always been committed to affirming faith through worship and demonstrating faith through action. It was still a mission church when members met to sew and pack boxes for other Congregational missions. At one time in those early days Congregationalists and Presbyterians supported a Sunday School for railroad families who found it difficult to get to the downtown churches. The roads were muddy and the distance great.

The demonstration of faith continues. They generously support United Church of Christ missions—homeland and worldwide. One of the most successful services to Austin has been the establishment and sponsorship of Congregational Nursery School although the school is now operated as an independent institution.

First Congregational UCC will continue to live its faith in the future.

by Gwen Richardson

CRANE COMMUNITY CHAPEL

In 1932 John G. Hormel had a vision and prayed for a Union Sunday School in Crane Addition in the city of Austin. His prayers were answered with the coming of Reverend and Mrs. Joe Matt, Sr., who began the Sunday School and church work in 1935.

The present chapel had its beginning in 1936. It was a one-room building (20' x 36'), now a part of the Youth Chapel. Attached in the back was a small living quarters for the Matts; this also served as a Sunday School classroom for the primary department. People who attended each Sunday sat on 12" planks surrounded by blue rosin paper on the walls; the building was warmed by a coal heater.

More room was needed for the growing congregation in 1945. Therefore three Sunday School rooms were

added upstairs at a total cost of \$375. A belfry was added through which recorded music could be played. The building's interior was improved with plywood paneling and ninety theater seats to replace the planks.

Crane Community Chapel was incorporated in 1950 with twelve charter members. Another building addition followed in 1951; it included more room for the sanctuary, Sunday School rooms, a kitchen, restrooms in the basement, and a sound-proof nursery. Since then many additions have been made: in 1951, the first unit of the present sanctuary, including classrooms; in 1960 the second unit of the present sanctuary with a total seating of 325; in 1968 additional classrooms were added; in 1971 a prayer chapel with a Thomas organ was added.

In 1974, another addition with 2800 square feet was

built, so that the chapel now includes a spacious foyer, toddler room for supervised nursery, mothers' room for use by parents with small infants, upstairs restrooms built to accommodate the handicapped, a pastor's office, library and prayer room, plus a youth chapel. On the lower level there is an adequate kitchen, 30 classrooms, a multi-purpose room and restrooms.

The Reverend Joe Matt, Jr., and his family have made the goal of their lives to seek to lead souls to Christ wherever the opportunity is offered them. Rev. Dave and Nancy Matt (their son and daughter-in-law) and their daughters, Kathy and Heather, are pastoring the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Sheridan, Wyoming. Their daughter Barbara Fullingim and her husband

Mike, with their children, Jeremy and Kristina, are missionaries stationed at Alia, Papua, New Guinea.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Old Episcopal Church preserved at fairgrounds



Christ Episcopal Church, Austin

The first service of the Episcopalian Church was held in Austin in February, 1862; thirteen children were baptized by the Rt. Rev. Henry Benjamin Whipple, first Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota. During the following years occasional services were held by Rev. Charles Woodward, S. S. Burleson and Rev. Johnson.

In October, 1865, the Rev. E. Steele Peake, Missionary of the Domestic Board of Missions, was assigned to Austin where he held services in the Baptist meeting house. Christ Church, with Rev. Peake as rector, was organized on January 16, 1866.

Later that year Rev. Peake resigned to move to California, and Bishop Whipple sent Rev. Lewis W. Gibson to the Austin area in 1867. Rev. Gibson held services in Austin every Sunday afternoon and gave mornings alternately to Lansing and Cedar City. A rectory was built in Austin in May, 1867, and the following November 13, Bishop Whipple laid the cornerstone for the frame Episcopal Church. First services were held there on Thanksgiving Day, 1868.

Many additions and repairs were made to the buildings through the years. In February, 1941, the rector and his family moved to a new rectory on the corner of Courtland Ave. and St. Paul. In September of that same year, the "Little White Church on the Corner" was completely redecorated inside.

For many years the priests and laity of Christ Church had wished for a larger, more adequate building for their parish. In November, 1946, they decided to sell the old church property and made plans for a new building. Rev. Thomas J. Williams turned the first spadeful of dirt on the site of the present church on October 10, 1950, and on November 19, 1951, Bishop Stephen Keeler officiated at the laying of the cornerstone.

The "Little White Church" was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Rasmussen, owners and publishers of the *Austin Daily Herald*, and given to the Mower County Historical Society. It was moved to the Fairgrounds where it is used as a fine arts museum.

Rev. John Frederick Glover has been Rector at Christ

Episcopal since October 1, 1981. Previously Rev. Thomas John Williams served from 1948 to 1970 and Rev. James A. Peck from 1970 to 1980.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN MOWER COUNTY



Jehovah's Witnesses—Kingdom Hall

The Austin Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses was first organized in the early 1930's when twenty people gathered at the home of Mrs. Charles Merriot to listen to a Bible discussion conducted by a traveling representative of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Brooklyn, N. Y. Some months later the first gathering for baptism by immersion was held on the banks of the Cedar River in the village of Lansing.

Over the last half century, Jehovah's Witnesses in Austin have held their congregational meetings at various places including the Babcock Building, the

Claude Brown farm, the Dr. Leck building on North Main, and the lower portion of Mildred's Hat Shop.

The currently-occupied Kingdom Hall is one of modernistic design which comfortably seats over 150 people. This structure was built over several months time by members of the local congregation and was dedicated in December, 1972, as a house of worship.

Special weekly activities of the local congregation in addition to public lectures on Sundays, include the Theocratic Ministry School (an instructional program whereby students, young and old alike, are trained for public speaking), the Service Meeting where members are trained for the door-to-door ministry, and the Bible Study Program where small groups of families meet to examine Scriptural views on pertinent topics.

On a larger scale the local congregation participates in circuit and district assemblies held throughout the year. In September, 1980, the Austin congregation hosted a gathering of 2200 Jehovah's Witnesses from all over southeastern Minnesota for a two-day program of Bible instruction at Riverside Arena.

Other activities include slide presentations of the Creator's works in nature and the universe, semi-annual visits by traveling circuit supervisors, and door-to-door preaching and teaching activity in which young and old alike participate regularly.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



Faith Free Lutheran Church was organized in 1964 by a small group of families (mainly the Jim Hoialmens, Gayler Jensens, Charles Wolfes and Ben Nelsons) who were concerned about the doctrines being taught in their Lutheran churches. After several organizational meetings in their homes and at the Sterling State Bank, the first worship service was held in the Gayler Jensen home on August 9, 1964, with Pastor DeBoer conducting the service.

On Sunday, August 16, the group held worship services in rented space at the National Guard Armory. Students from the Seminary of the Association of Free Lutheran Churches, Minneapolis, Minn., conducted the services. A call was issued to Pastor Hubert DeBoer of the AFLC on August 19, which he accepted. A parsonage was purchased with an option to buy adjoining lots for a church building at 1505 - 22nd St. S.W. Pastor DeBoer and his family moved to Austin in November. It was decided to hold worship services in the basement of the parsonage as of December 6, 1964.

Under the leadership of Pastor DeBoer the group was incorporated and officially became Faith Free Lutheran Church in December, 1964.

Financial difficulties made a building program unfeasible, so the congregation purchased the old Woodson School building in April, 1965. The group restored and remodeled the building, and the first worship service was conducted May 23, 1965.

Further financial problems made it impossible for the small group to support Pastor DeBoer and his family, forcing him to leave Austin the next August. The parsonage was sold, and the congregation was again served by seminary students from the AFLC Seminary. Joseph Erickson, an evangelist for the Hauge Lutheran Federation, was called to serve the congregation in November of that year. He accepted the call and moved to Austin from Kenyon. He served the Austin church until October, 1967.

Re-incorporated in May, 1968, the congregation dropped the "Free" from their name and officially became "Faith Lutheran Church." An application for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was forwarded, and they were accepted into membership in the ELS in June, 1968. Members decided to enter into a 3-member parish with the Hartland and Manchester congregations; the pastor would live in Hartland. Ronald Mathison served the newly-formed parish temporarily.

In January, 1974, Rev. Ferdinand Weyland, retired pastor from Minneapolis, and then living in Albert Lea, agreed to preach for Sunday morning worship services at Faith, and Rev. Paul Haugen, from the Scarville, Iowa, area, volunteered to instruct the confirmation and adult Bible classes in Austin. In December, 1975, Rev. Weyland retired because of poor health. Rev. Wayne Meier, serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Dexter, agreed

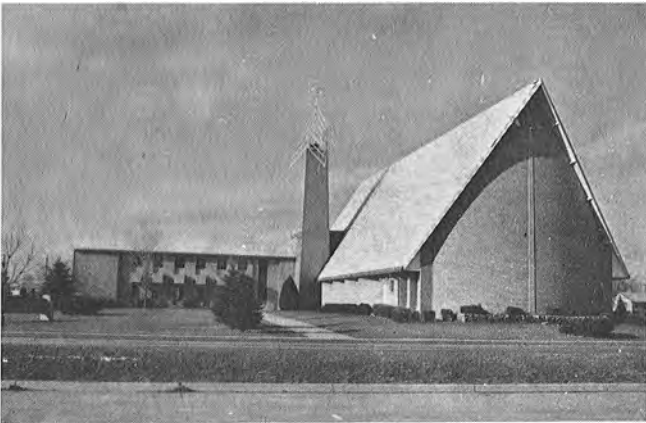
to serve Faith as vacancy pastor while remaining at Dexter.

In September, 1977, Pastor Meier was called to a congregation in Indiana, and shortly after, the Faith Church was vandalized by two 10-year-old boys who left the interior of the building almost totally demolished. At an emergency meeting, encouraged by area pastors and friends, the Faith members decided to remain together. They agreed to join the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod as a joint parish with Trinity Lutheran; Trinity agreed to this arrangement.

After many hours of work by the members, cleaning and repairing the interior of the church, Faith Lutheran again was ready for worship services by Thanksgiving, 1977. In June, 1978, Matthew Majovski, seminary graduate, accepted the call and, with his wife and infant daughter, moved into the parsonage adjacent to Trinity Church.

In December, 1979, about 30 families transferred their membership to Faith, filling the building to capacity and forcing Faith into a building program. Land was purchased in the Bustad addition, and ground-breaking service was held on May 10, 1982. Phase I of the building program was completed in October, 1982. The first worship service at the new facility was held on October 3, 1982, with dedication services the next month.

GRACE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH



In 1985 the Grace American Lutheran Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The Reverend William Planz, the pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Waltham, was instrumental in organizing the Grace Lutheran Church in Austin on January 15, 1935.

The new congregation purchased the old Presbyterian Church in March, 1935. This was located at the corner of Water St. and Oak St. (now 4th Ave. N.E. and 7th St.

N.E.). They then began a remodeling program which included the excavation of a basement.

The Ladies' Aid became an active force in the expansion of the church. There were 10 charter members of the ladies group when they were organized on January 21, 1935 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Voss.

Charter members of the congregation were Mr. and Mrs. Arnold A. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. George Condo, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Fett, Mr. and Mrs. August Husemoller, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Husemoller, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Voss, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ludwig, Mr. and Mrs. Gustov Wendorf and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wollenberg.

Rev. S. M. Schreitmueller became the pastor in 1948. By 1953 the growing church had 450 communicant members and 750 baptized members. Active groups included the Junior and Senior Choirs, Ladies' Aid, Junior Mission band, Brotherhood, Luther League, Couple's Club, three sewing circles, Boys Scout Troop and Sunday School.

In 1959 the congregation dedicated a new church at 2001 - 6th Ave. S.E. They had their first services in the new building on April 12, 1959.

Grace American Lutheran Church is now affiliated with the American Lutheran Church Synod, Minneapolis. The present pastor is Rev. Henry A. Mayer. The vicar (intern) is Jonathan Cartford.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, AUSTIN



Our Savior's Lutheran Church was born on Palm Sunday, March 29, 1953, with the first worship service being held in the Sterling Theatre. The congregation was officially organized on September 6, 1953, with 520 charter members.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church of Austin sponsored the new congregation financially and through transfer of members in its beginning.

Pastor G. C. Knutson and his family came to Austin from Sioux Rapids, Iowa, and have been serving Our Savior's from the inception of the church.

The house formerly located by the Banfield School was

used for Sunday School and organizations during the first year.

Palm Sunday, April 11, 1954, the congregation worshipped for the first time in the first unit of the new building. This is now the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and chapel. Dedication was May 16, 1954.

In 1955 work began on the second unit which was completed the same year; this is now the Sunday School wing. Dedication was October 2, 1955.

Construction of the church sanctuary was begun in November, 1960. The first service was held in the new sanctuary November 26, 1961. Palm Sunday, April 15, 1962 the new sanctuary was dedicated.

Our Savior's Church was designed by Mr. E. A. Sovik. In 1961 it was selected as one of the fifteen outstanding churches in America and became part of a traveling architectural exhibit.

November 11, 1973 marked the first service using the new Casavant pipe organ. May 12, 1974 the organ was dedicated "To the Glory of God and for the use of His people."

Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 1600 Oakland Avenue West is a member of the American Lutheran Church. Pastor Martin Scott Lucin is Pastor Knutson's assistant. In the autumn of 1984 David Krueger came from Luther Seminary, St. Paul to serve as intern assistant.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



In September, 1907 the Reverend C. A. Affeldt was urged by his congregation at Waltham to make some provision for the spiritual welfare of German Lutherans in the Austin area. Rev. Affeldt became acquainted with four Lutheran families, native Germans, who lived northwest of Austin and a group of Lutheran students at Austin's Southern Minnesota Normal College. They met in their homes to formulate plans for this new venture. The influx of many new families into Austin soon

increased the urgency to organize a new church. A frame building on the corner of South Kenwood Ave. and College St. (now 4th St. S.W. and 2nd Ave. S.W.) was rented and services were conducted on alternate Sundays.

It was on September 18, 1908 that the congregation was incorporated. The following men adopted and signed the previously written constitution: Adolph Gruenwald, J. W. Gruenwald, Jacob Hartje, Franz Jungblut, L. Kalinsky, Gustav Klingfuss, Henry Klingfuss, August Kranz, Julius Maas, Willie Martin, and Adolph Ott. Reverend Affeldt was called as the first pastor and served St. John's by continuing worship services on alternate Sundays, in addition to his duties in the mother congregation at Waltham.

It soon became apparent that a dual parish was not an ideal arrangement. Therefore early in 1911 a call was issued for a seminary graduate. Candidate W. F. Milbrath of Lakefield, Minnesota accepted the call. He arrived in July, 1911, with his bride of a few days, the former Clara Schuldt, also of Lakefield. Reverend Milbrath was installed as the first resident pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, the service taking place in the old St. Olaf Church. The congregation provided a parsonage for the young pastor and his wife at 302 South First Street (now 5th St. S.W.).

In 1913 the first permanent house of worship for St. John's Church was created by purchasing the frame building which they had been renting.

In 1922 the first church building was moved one lot to the east and a new sanctuary was built on the site. The new church was dedicated to the Glory of God on May 27, 1923. St. John's first pastor, the Reverend C. A. Affeldt, preached the dedicatory German service in the morning, with two other speakers for the afternoon and evening services.

During the following years St. John's congregation grew in membership and fostered several daughter congregations. They are: St. Paul's Lutheran, Hollandale; Zion Lutheran, Albert Lea; Holy Cross Lutheran, Austin; St. Luke's Lutheran, Lansing; and Our Savior's Lutheran, Blooming Prairie, all in Minnesota.

During the Sunday morning of May 6, 1956, after having completed a service at Lansing, Reverend Milbrath met his death in a fatal automobile accident during his return to Austin. Reverend Milbrath had spent his entire 45 years of ministry in devoted service to St. John's Church at Austin.

Reverend Bentrup of Holy Cross Lutheran consented to serve St. John's in the interim. Several area pastors also took turns preaching for Sunday services. Reverend Robert B. Hamp was called after an interval of six months. He accepted and was installed October 28, 1956.

In response to a request a meeting was called for October 2, 1965 to discuss the future building needs of the

church. This touched off many private discussions and formal congregational and committee meetings. The results of a questionnaire furnished the impetus for a decision on May 7, 1968, to build a new church.

On January 21, 1968, the Reverend Robert B. Hamp left in response to a call to Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Iowa. Again it was necessary for St. John's to fill a vacancy.

The Reverend R. H. Marquardt, Holy Cross Church of Austin, performed many of the pastoral duties in the interval. He assigned guest speakers for Sunday services. Among the dedicated pastors who helped was Rev. Paul Panning, a chaplain in a Rochester hospital.

Rev. Curtis J. Schleicher accepted the call to St. John's. He had been serving two churches in the area of Milbank, S. D., Emmanuel Lutheran and Bethlehem Lutheran. He was installed at Austin on October 6, 1968.

Ground breaking for the new church was held May 2, 1971. The new church was located at 11th St. N.W. and 13th Ave. N.W. The first service was held on Easter Sunday, April 2, 1972. The dedication was at two services on April 9th.

The congregation then constructed a new parsonage at 1401 Tenth St. N.W.

Rev. Schleicher retired effective December 31, 1983, but continues to serve the St. John's congregation during the interim period.

by Otto Wenzel

SAINT JOHN'S CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

In September 1913, after purchasing the frame church building, the congregation established St. John's Lutheran School. The church building doubled also as the school room. Adding to his many duties, the Reverend Milbrath enthusiastically served as the only teacher for twelve years. When the school doors opened that fall there were twenty-six students enrolled.

Although the student enrollment fluctuated from time to time, during the following years, the Christian Day School steadily grew. It became necessary to construct an annex of brick and concrete block building at the south-east corner of the church, and dedicate it on May 10, 1953. It contained two classrooms, a gymnasium, rest-rooms, an office and a boiler room. It was also necessary to purchase residential property directly south of the church, in order to accommodate this addition.

During the 1955-57 school years the enrollment climbed to seventy-one pupils. Expansion again was

needed; therefore in 1956 a kindergarten room was added and in 1957 a classroom to serve grades six to eight. This was accomplished by renovating the old school building and remodeling the lower floor in the house south of the church. By 1958 there were 109 pupils in attendance.

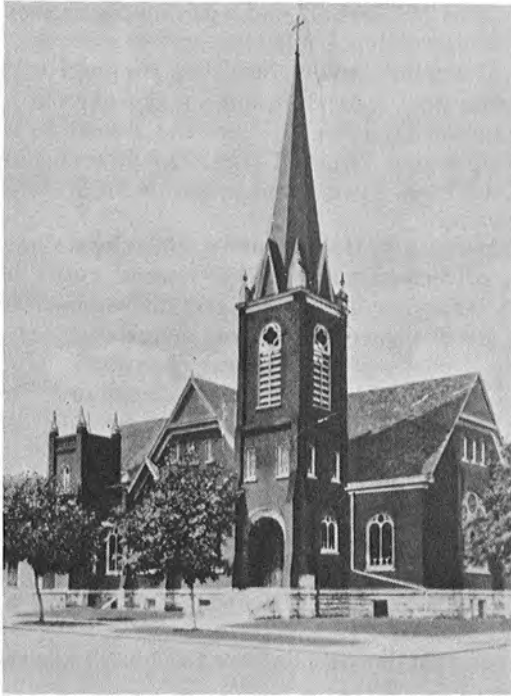
In 1964 the Holy Cross Church constructed a school building large enough for all of the elementary grades. In 1967 Our Savior's Lutheran of Brownsdale, Holy Cross Lutheran of Austin, and St. John's Lutheran, formed the Central Lutheran School Association, with each church supporting the school by having their children enrolled. Each congregation paid the association a fee based on the number of eligible children in the respective congregations. In 1980 the association was dissolved. At the present time St. John's is an affiliate of the Holy Cross School and pays a fee on a per pupil cost basis.

by Otto Wenzel

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, AUSTIN

"Not many Norwegian families were here in 1867. They built their little homes in the same neighborhood on Austin's west side in an area known as 'Der Norske Byen' or The Norwegian Town."

"Rev. C. L. Clausen would come months apart to baptize the children and give communion. He often walked from Red Oak Grove or got a ride in a covered wagon. He was entertained and lodged with the church



St. Olaf Church, building destroyed in 1928 by tornado.



St. Olaf Lutheran Church and Parish House

(Herb Bjork Photo)

members, and then would go on to Six Mile Grove where many Norwegian emigrants had settled.

“Meetings were first held wherever they could find room. Sometimes it would be in a member’s home, or the small lobby of the American Hotel. Most often it would be in the Old Headquarters building. Someone owned a small melodeon and it was carried by men of the church from one place to another. Mrs. Brun was the only one who could play it.

“Through much sacrifice, for the first families were all poor, they managed to buy the small wooden Methodist Church for \$1,500. They moved it to the lot on which our church now stands. The men of the church moved it themselves, after their own work was done.” This information concerning the pioneer Norwegian Lutherans in Austin

was given by Mrs. W. R. Earl in an interview with Mrs. J. A. Ranum in 1953. The parents of Mrs. Earl were charter members of St. Olaf.

Church Organized

The official records of the St. Olaf Scandinavian Lutheran Church were written in Norwegian by Carl M. Bohmer, the secretary. The first page began: “At seven o’clock on Monday evening the 28th of October, 1867, a group of Norwegians met at the home of Nils Johnson for the purpose of organizing a Norwegian Lutheran congregation. As its chairman, the Rev. C. L. Clausen addressed the group.”

There were 23 adults listed as charter members of St. Olaf’s congregation.

Rev. C. L. Clausen, the first pastor, was one of the leaders among Norwegian Lutherans in America. He had organized the first Norwegian Lutheran Church at Muskego, Wisconsin. This old log church is now preserved on the campus of Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul. Later he led 75 settlers on a covered wagon caravan to establish the town of St. Ansgar, Iowa. From St. Ansgar he had gone out to establish 21 congregations, one of which was St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin.

Rev. P. G. Ostby began to serve the congregation in 1870. He also served churches at Blooming Prairie, Red Oak Grove and Little Cedar. The four churches combined to give Ostby an annual salary of \$700. Rev. Ostby often traveled on foot and would swim swollen rivers with his clothing on his head.

Rev. Clausen returned as pastor in 1877, and in 1878 Rev. Sever Strand was called to serve as Clausen’s assistant. Clausen remained until 1885. At that time the membership totaled 183 of which 95 were confirmed members.

The Second Church is Built

On August 4, 1897 the cornerstone for a new church was laid. Rev. Ronsvedt spoke saying, “Let Christ be the cornerstone. Then may the storms blow, then may the rains beat, but the structure, the church of Christ will stand forever.” Thirty-one years later a tornado destroyed the church, but the members built anew.

The lowest point in the church treasury must have been in 1898 when the report at the annual meeting showed a balance of three cents.

In 1906 St. Olaf congregation severed its parochial connection with Cedar Creek Church of Hayfield. For the first time St. Olaf was an independent pastoral charge.

The Language Question

When St. Olaf had first started all of the services had been in the Norwegian language. On Feb. 3, 1919 the English language was officially adopted for all regular services. The *Herald* reported that “The language question has been one of the most vexing questions to settle for bilingual churches. It has required a good deal of grace on the part of the older people to give up the language, hymns and services they have been accustomed to from childhood. On the other hand, the young people and others who do not understand the

Scandinavian language have needed to exercise patience and consideration for older members.”

The congregation arranged for 15 Scandinavian services a year to be held on Sunday afternoons. Rev. J. N. Brown was pastor at that time.

Rev. Henry Noss

Rev. Noss began his 23 years of service to St. Olaf congregation in June, 1921. The crisis during his service came in 1928 when the church was badly damaged in the tornado of 1928. The steeple was wrecked and one wall had a widening crack. The congregation was faced with the need to construct a new sanctuary.

For two years the congregation met in either the courtroom at the courthouse or the high school auditorium.

The total cost of the new church was \$124,000. In the meantime, some of their funds were lost due to a bank failure.

Rev. Arthur L. Swenson Begins Quarter Century of Service

Rev. Noss retired in 1944 and a call was accepted by Rev. Arthur L. Swenson. Pastor Swenson had previously held a charge at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Milwaukee.

During Pastor Swenson's 25 years of service to St. Olaf the church expanded in many ways. Work on the first section of a new Parish House addition to the church was begun in 1948. It was dedicated by Rev. J. A. Aasgaard, President of the E.L.C. synod, on March 26, 1950. The Parish House provided 39 classrooms, administrative offices, recreation hall, kindergarten room, custodian's quarters and nursery. By 1953 there were 1,393 students in the Sunday School.

In 1953 St. Olaf Church sponsored Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Austin. 700 souls and \$26,000 were given to assist the new church.

Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, at that time President of the E.L.C. synod, dedicated the \$130,000 second section of the Parish House on May 8, 1955. The final wing included the Richard Westby Memorial Chapel, Alma Murray Reception Room, an auditorium, choir room, youth room, library, custodian's apartment and two large classrooms.

St. Mark's Retirement Home

Rev. A. L. Swenson was the motivating force in planning for a Lutheran retirement home sponsored by the Austin circuit. The home opened in 1963 with Einar Soberg as director.

The 100th Anniversary celebration of St. Olaf Lutheran Church was held in 1967. Pastor Swenson retired in 1969. On October 26th services were held in the Austin High School auditorium. This was Appreciation Sunday in honor of Pastor Swenson.

In March, 1970 a call was issued to Rev. Hoover Grimsby to be senior pastor. He remained until 1972 when he accepted a call to Central Lutheran, Minneapolis.

Pastor Carl Borgwardt

Rev. Borgwardt accepted a call to St. Olaf in April, 1973. SEMCAC meal program was started in 1974. Noon meals for the elderly were served in the Rasmussen Refectory at noontime—Monday thru Friday.

In 1975 remodeling plans were approved and completed. This included installation of an elevator, improving receptionist area, and remodeling choir room. The library was moved to the main floor.

In September the St. Olaf Lutheran Church Foundation initiated a daily television program, "What's It All About?" with Pastor Carl Borgwardt.

A new St. Mark's building project was started in 1980 and St. Olaf pledged over \$83,000.

In January, 1982 Rev. Carl Borgwardt died suddenly. The loss was felt deeply by members of the congregation and the entire community of Austin.

Rev. Glenn Nycklemoe

In the autumn of 1982 Rev. Nycklemoe accepted a call to St. Olaf and came from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, Wisconsin. He has encouraged St. Olaf to reach out in many directions. In 1983, under the supervision of Rev. Philip Formo, many members joined in a Search Bible Study program. The congregation authorized full support to the Eidum family, missionaries in Brazil. The church became partners in the ministry with Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, which has a large number of members who have come from Southeast Asia.

During 1983 the members were saddened at the sudden death of Marion Knutson. She had been Parish Education director for several years. Recently her work had been in the area of home visitation. Jean Wang has now been called to serve in this area.

With many challenges, both spiritual and financial, the members of the congregation look to the future with an active Forward Planning committee.

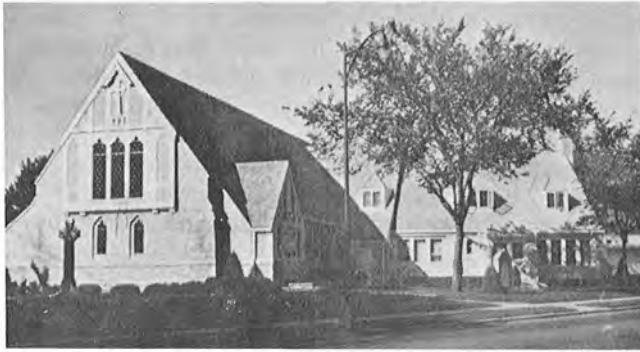
Pastors in addition to Glenn Nycklemoe, the senior pastor, are Rev. Philip Formo, Rev. James Mikkelsen and Rev. Robert Toso. The business administrator is Hobart Belknap.

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

This history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Austin, Minnesota, goes back to the early spring of 1941. Fifteen families appealed to the Minnesota District of the Wisconsin Synod for assistance in establishing a congre-

gation. On June 15, 1941 the initial service was held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church under the auspices of the Mission Board of the Minnesota District.

The formal organization of the congregation took



Exterior, Church and Parsonage

place on June 27th. It included 14 voting members, 43 communicants and 57 baptized souls. Since the new congregation had no place to worship, services continued to be held in the Adventist Church.

L. W. Shierenbeck served as temporary pastor through July and August. He was a seminary graduate, but had not yet been ordained.

Pastor A. W. Blauert accepted the call to serve as St. Paul's first pastor. He was installed on October 5, 1941.

The congregation then turned its attention to acquiring property. The present church site was purchased in November, 1941 and the decision to build was made at the annual congregational meeting, January 11, 1942.

The plans to build were partially restricted by World War II regulations. They were limited to a basement church at a cost of no more than \$6,000. With ingenuity and hard work a beautiful basement church was completed in the summer of 1942. The dedication was held November 8, 1942. A parsonage was then purchased at 702 South Main St.

The congregation was shocked by the death of Pastor Blauert on August 29, 1944. On December 10, 1944 Pastor L. W. Schierenbeck was installed as St. Paul's second pastor.

The congregation began to plan for the building of the superstructure of the church. By the spring of 1950 sufficient funds were on hand to secure a loan of \$40,000 and construction was begun in June. The new structure was dedicated on May 17, 1953.

The year 1953 also marked the beginning of a critical stage of relations of the Wisconsin Synod. After study and discussion St. Paul's severed its relations with the Wisconsin Synod on April 26, 1960. The decision was made on a doctrinal difference.

When the Church of the Lutheran Confession was organized in August, 1960, St. Paul's became a charter member of that organization.

In 1969, after almost 25 years of service to St. Paul's congregation, Pastor L. W. Schierenbeck accepted a call to Messiah Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Pastor Albert Sippert served the interim period.

Before the year came to a close, Pastor Carl Thurow of Grace Lutheran, Fridley, Minn., accepted the call to St. Paul's. He was installed on January 11, 1970.

A \$19,000 Moeller pipe organ was installed in 1971. It was purchased with freewill gifts from the congregation.

A long sought decision to open a Christian day school was fulfilled in the autumn of 1972. The school was opened in the remodeled basement of the church. Twenty-two children of the congregation answered the roll call. Teachers were Miss Shirley Wendland and Miss Carla Thurow. In the following years other teachers included Miss Diane Lietz, Miss Mary Schuetze, Mrs. Luella Gilbertson, Mr. Lief Olmanson and Mrs. Irene Eichstadt.

The church had been damaged by a flood in 1965. On July 6, 1978, St. Paul's was again struck by a major flood. With ample warning the congregation was able to remove most of the basement furnishings and supplies. Following a week of cleanup there was little physical loss and the basement was put back into service.

Then, on the morning of July 17th flood warnings were issued and everything was again removed from the basement. This flood was far more destructive. The water rose to a peak several inches over the pews. All items in the sanctuary were lost. Damage to the church and parsonage was estimated at \$100,000.

Sunday services were moved to the Sterling Theater for a period of weeks, then to the Congregational Church. Basement rooms were rented there for the day school.

During 1979 the question as to whether to rebuild or move was a center of discussion. Five acres of land were purchased in the Southgate addition as a possible new church site. Finally the decision was reached to rebuild at the present site with a \$100,000 SBA loan. The major part of the work was completed in October, 1980.

Membership in 1981 included 156 communicant members and 208 total membership.

The members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church give thanks to the Lord for sustaining them through the history of their congregation.

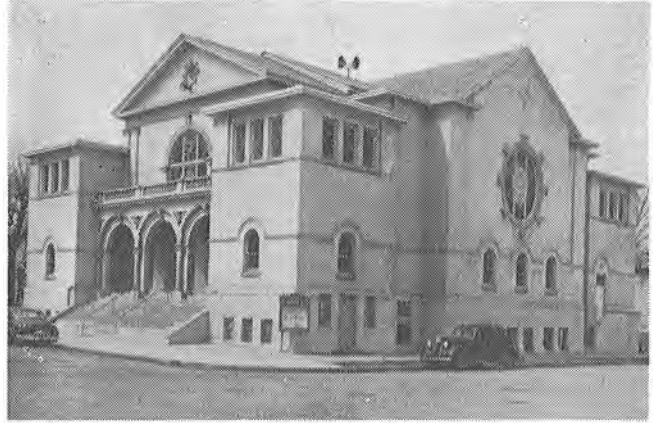
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The city of Austin consisted of three houses, a blacksmith shop and two places of business back in 1856 when the Reverend Holbrook came 100 miles up the Cedar River from Iowa to preach and to help organize a Methodist congregation. Prayer meetings and services were

held in homes or wherever space was available. The Headquarters building was used alternating with the Baptists and the Congregationalists. By 1861 there were 12 official members. A Union Sunday School was formed but soon these early members wished to build their own



The Third Church built in 1886



The Fourth Church built in 1908

church. The land purchased was located where the St. Olaf Lutheran Church now stands. The Reverend David Tice himself, dug the first rocks for the foundation from the Cedar River bed with a crow bar. Lumber had to be hauled from Winona and the John Chandler sawmill on Turtle Creek. It was the time of the Indian massacres at New Ulm, reverses in the South and hardships in the entire community. Nevertheless the building project was carried out. When it was dedicated in 1863 it had cost its members \$1400 in money and much more in sacrifice. The bell in the tower was the first in Mower County to call people to Sunday School and worship. The service even included music. Mr. Thomas Morgan used to walk to Austin from his home in Moscow Township to play the organ for services.

In 1868 the Methodists made an unfortunate decision. They bought three downtown lots for \$3000, mortgaging the church building to make the down payment. They hoped to build a building with stores on the ground floor and a worship room above. However, lack of funds forced them to sell their church property to the Lutherans, so during the winter of 1871 they worshiped in a hall over Door and Wold's Drug Store.

It was in 1906 that churches of the community decided upon a united evangelistic campaign under the leadership of Billy Sunday. The huge tabernacle constructed for this union evangelistic effort was filled to capacity night after night. At the close of the campaign there was an increased attendance reported in all the churches. It was so large in the Methodist Church that a movement was started for a new, larger building. This was the beginning of the present church building. A Roman style was chosen with seating for 1,200 including the gallery. The roof included a glorious art glass dome over the worship area with four smaller domes atop each corner tower. The new building was completed for \$52,250. An Estey pipe organ was part of the grand new church, purchased and installed for \$4500. It served well for 68 years until 1976. Miss Mae Wells played it beautifully for over 50 of those years (1914-1966).

In 1939, the mortgage on the church building was burned, 31 years after the building was completed. It was a glorious day. The church had struggled hard during severe depression years to pay the mortgage. Of course,

that was just in time for some desperately needed repair. A committee appointed to survey the building reported that the weight of the glass dome was making the ceiling supports sag to the point of danger. The dome, sadly, had to be removed. Three steel arches were installed and a new roof constructed over the entire building.

Methodist women have always contributed greatly to the church with their prayers, their money and talents. In early years they formed a Mite Society to establish a cemetery. Their Sewing Society earned \$1500 to be applied to a parsonage and other church expenses in 1867. In 1924 the Ladies Aid Society bought a frame house as a parsonage for \$6400 and burned the mortgage just five years later. The women of the church functioned in three separate groups; the Ladies' Aid, Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Women's Home Missionary Society until 1940 when they were united to form the WSCS (Women's Society for Christian Service). They also worked in the community with other church women in the promotion of World Day of Prayer. They were represented on the Council of Churches and the Council of Church Women. One of the most outstanding among the women was Miss Edith Chandler who began serving as Director of Christian Education and Parish Visitor in 1926 and continued on staff as Deaconess. Her service in the community has been abundant. On her retirement she was named Deaconess Emeritus. From 1965-1970 Joyce M. Haberman served the Austin church as the first woman associate pastor.

The Reverend J. Franklin Zentz was appointed during the war years of 1944-1948. It became apparent under his leadership that because of the enlarged membership a Youth Director was needed and thoughts must be turned to an addition to the church building.

In 1948 William J. Campbell was assigned to Austin. His ability as a public speaker, his enthusiasm as a pastor, organizer and administrator was soon recognized.

Looking forward to the year of the church Centennial which was to be celebrated in 1956, a program was launched for a badly needed educational wing which would house offices, Wesley Hall, the Chapel and classrooms. It was completed in 1956 at a cost \$219,000. An

additional \$73,000 was spent renovating and refurbishing the church proper. All was consecrated in the Centennial celebration. It's interesting that the architect for the new addition was Richard Cone, son of F. A. Cone, former minister in 1896.

The Reverend Mr. Campbell carried the church through the very active centennial years and except for three months spent on a special mission project to Japan, he served until his unexpected death in 1961. The memorial parlor was named in his honor.

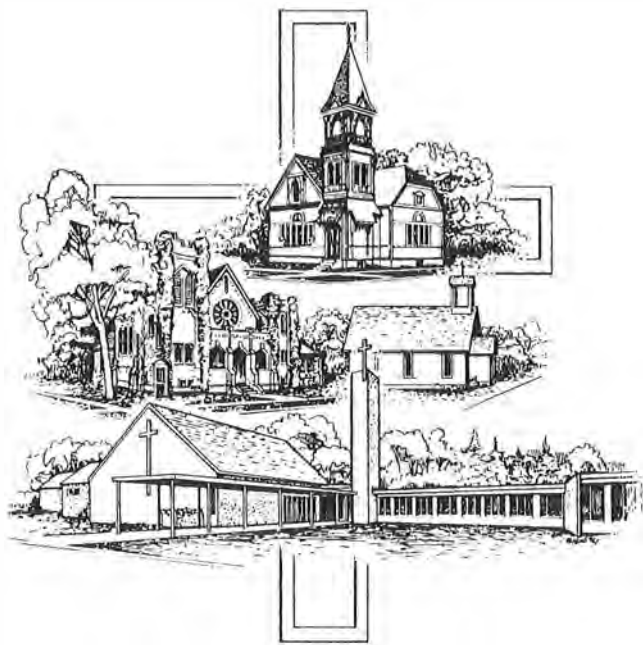
In 1976 the Estey organ, still very beautiful in sound, but in such disrepair that it could not be renovated, was replaced with a 29 rank Van Daalen organ. In more recent years an elevator has been installed.

Dr. Wm. G. Law was appointed senior pastor in 1962, followed by Stanley Hanks, Warren A. Nyberg, Perry Hultin and Jonathan G. Law. The present senior pastor is Rev. Mark Garrison with Kenneth Willard as associate.

Up to the present time of this writing, the First United Methodist Church had been served by 60 pastors and associate pastors. Each has contributed much in developing and strengthening the Christian way of life, not only in the Methodist Church, but in the entire community of Austin.

Young people from the church who have entered the ministry are Harper Richardson, Ted Colescott, Jr., David Dutcher and Mary Hurmance.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AUSTIN



Presbyterian Churches in Austin

The history of the Presbyterian Church in Austin starts in the year before Minnesota became a state. A complete history of Westminster Presbyterian Church takes into account the histories of two churches. They are the Oakland Presbyterian Church (1857-1955) and the Austin Central Presbyterian Church (1867-1955).

In the fall of 1857, the Reverend Samuel G. Lowry called together "all Christians in the vicinity" to meet in his home to organize a church. Fifteen to twenty people attended, being Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Methodists and Baptists. In the spring of 1859 services were held at the Sumner school house where they adopted the name of the "Sumner and Moscow Presbyterian Church." Reverend Lowry held services as long as his health permitted. Then the ministry was taken over

by his son, Reverend Theopolis Lowry, who served until his death in 1874.

The church was later moved to a more central location. Several ministers came and went before the Reverend N. C. Green took over the church. During his pastorate the Oakland Presbyterian Church was built.

Meanwhile several Presbyterians wanted a church in Austin, so they wrote to Reverend Sheldon Jackson to come and organize one in 1867. A month later the Reverend H. A. Mayhew took charge of the new church and the first building was built, being formally dedicated in May, 1868.

During a period beginning in the early 1870's, there is no official record of a Presbyterian Church in Austin. In 1888 the Winona Presbytery reorganized the First Presbyterian Church in Austin and a new building was erected. In 1894 the church moved from the east side to the west side of Austin. Reverend William H. Hormel, brother of George A. Hormel, was the minister at this time. He served until 1899.

Four pastors officiated until 1905 when Reverend William E. Sloan took charge. During Dr. Sloan's ministry the new Central Presbyterian Church was constructed on the corner of First Street N.W. and Fourth Avenue, at a cost of \$15,000. Dr. Sloan resigned in 1910 and seven ministers served for the next twenty-seven years until the coming of Reverend Reginald Coleman in 1927.

For the next twenty-one years, Reverend Coleman served the church faithfully and saw it grow. In April 1948, Reverend Coleman died.

During the summer of 1948 Neal Kuyper, a seminary student, filled in as student supply. In October of the same year Reverend Lyndon L. Schendel was installed by Sheldon Jackson Presbytery.

Plans were being made to build a parish house when, on the night of October 18, 1953, Central Presbyterian Church burned to the ground. After the fire, the Congregational Church offered the use of their building for worship services.

After this catastrophe the Austin and Oakland

churches, which from 1888 until 1953 had been served by the same ministers, voted to merge. A successful building campaign was launched. On October 10, 1954, ground breaking services were held. On March 27, 1955, the cornerstone was laid, and by December 11 of the same year the new Westminster Presbyterian Church was first occupied. The Oakland members contributed their piano, bell, clock, communion table, flags and drapery. The bell had been donated to the Oakland Church in the 1880's so was a very special gift of the Oakland congregation. The total cost of the church and furnishings was approximately \$400,000.

Reverend Schendel served the combined congregation in its new church until 1958. He was replaced by Reverend John Magyar. In 1967, Dr. Magyar resigned and Reverend Robert A. Morgan began service.

In the fall of 1967 Reverend Morgan started the church on its way toward another one hundred years of service. This centennial was marked with appropriate celebration ceremonies.

In June 1969, Westminster launched another project, the Intern Program. Each year thereafter until September 1984, a qualified seminary student has been chosen to spend the third year of seminary training as a pastoral assistant. The program has been highly

successful, both from the standpoint of the church and the interns.

In 1978 Reverend Morgan received an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Macalester College.

April 1982 marked the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the church. A weekend of celebration events was climaxed with Sunday services and a banquet. Participants included previous pastors and interns.

Westminster Presbyterian had 802 members as of Dec. 31, 1983. Its budget for 1984 is slightly in excess of \$168,000. This marks the first time the church will be calling a full time assistant minister.

To quote from an earlier church history: "A brief history of the church must be factual. There is no space for personal recountings of the life of early Presbyterians, and there were many. Stories of the church's lively social life; the ladies' suppers; the children's programs; the building of new churches and remodeling of old. Stories of personal sacrifice to keep the struggling little churches alive. Stories of personal involvement in the work of the church by members who refused to 'let the light go out.'"

The congregation of Westminster Presbyterian looks forward to many more years of serving God in the Austin community.

by Dorothy E. Sayles

THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army was organized in England and introduced in this country in 1880. It was started in Austin in 1896 by a young, exuberant woman, Captain Lindeman. Until 1901 it struggled valiantly. In 1919 it began again with several different men and women leading for short periods. Few records were kept until July, 1933, when Captain and Mrs. Owen J. Jones arrived to command. The original Salvation Citadel was erected during his 14 years of service. The corps continued its struggle through the depression. When Adj. and Mrs. Jones retired in 1945 they continued to live in Austin and helped with corps programs.

Giant strides were made when Sr. Captain and Mrs. Alfred Gorton arrived in February, 1958. The corps made its presence known with regular services held at the county jail, by establishing a thrift store in the old house next to the Citadel and by participation in parades.

By March, 1961 the Gorton's were reaching out into the county to Adams, Lyle and Grand Meadow. They also held morning and evening worship services, Bible studies for all ages and junior church programs. A week of camping experience was provided for youth of the community at Silver Lake, North of Minneapolis. This was done with the help of donations from organizations in the community. They won prizes in their district for Sunday School attendance.

In 1964 a traveling trailer was outfitted to go throughout the county on a regularly scheduled 100 mile circuit with a Sunday youth program. Then an old church building was purchased in Mapleview for \$400.

On one Sunday 748 people attended; 100 of whom could not get into the building. Major Gorton organized a 24 piece accordian band whose instruments were partially paid for and lessons donated in part by accordian teacher Wilbur Sayles.

October 16, 1967 ground was broken for the present building at 409 N.E. 1st Ave. 15,000 square feet of floor space cost \$159,000 without equipment. With donations and pledges from members, businesses, individuals, local building trades and the Hormel Foundation the building was very soon mortgage free. In it were housed a youth activities center, offices, classrooms, chapel, small auditorium, counseling services, workshops, kitchen area and living quarters for the officers. The old building was converted into a clothing and welfare section.

Promoted to Brigadier in November, 1968, Gorton retired in April, 1969 after 12 years of service. Captain and Mrs. Donald Brundige were the next leaders arriving in 1970.

Christmas baskets of food, garments and gifts continued to be distributed. One blizzard night in 1973 found the Citadel housing 150 young people, 3 bus loads, fed and blanketed down for the night with the help of American Legion neighbors.

Under Lt. and Mrs. Lester Morrell, who came in October, 1973, weekly meetings were held in the high-rise senior citizen apartments. The "Forever Fifty" club was formed with a monthly dinner and program at the Citadel. The club's frequent trips and outings are well attended.

Captain and Mrs. Myron Wandling carried on from 1978 and continued accent on youth programs. In July, 1978, during the worst flood to ever hit Austin, the corps offered help to sandbaggers with coffee and sandwiches. Shelter was offered to those forced from their homes, even though the Citadel basement was filled with water, and at least two inches covered the office area.

With the arrival of Southeast Asians in our community, the Salvation Army assumed a leadership

role in helping with their adjustment problems; always in cooperation with the Church World Service.

Major and Mrs. Carl Reed came in August of 1981. They continue the traditions that fulfill the Salvation Army motto: "Meeting the need at the point of need." The Salvation Army is a unique Christian organization in that it ministers to all people in need in the whole community with help and support from many organizations.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



The present Seventh-Day Adventist Church was built in 1913.



An early church school group - about 1916

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized in Austin September 22, 1889, with A. N. Kinsman, elder; M. E. Varco, deacon; and Mrs. M. E. Varco, clerk. There were seven original members.

Their first meeting place was the Kinsman home on South Kenwood Ave. (now 4th St. S.W.). During the summer of 1890 the members decided to build a church where they would have room more suitable for public worship, and immediate steps were taken. A lot was purchased on South Kenwood Ave., stone was cleared out, and the walls laid before winter. During the winter the building was erected and enclosed and the first floor laid so that as soon as weather permitted in the spring, the members moved into their new building in its unfinished condition and used it during the summer. By the fall of 1891 the building was completed and dedicated free from debt.

The Austin church is affiliated with the Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists which, in turn, is affiliated with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist in Takoma Park, Maryland.

The Austin church conducted an elementary school from 1913 to the mid-50's. The church also organized a Young People's Association for the junior and youth, called the Missionary Volunteer Society. It was a very active organization locally. In more recent years the church has taken part in youth camps denominationally operated on church-owned property in north central Minnesota.

In 1913 the church building was sold and a new building erected at 501 - 2nd St. S.E., its present location.

STERLING CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A few Austin families, former members of the Church of Christ, began to meet informally in the 1940s. On January 23, 1948, meeting at the Guy Epley home, they decided to meet monthly and to call themselves the Christian Study Group. A steering committee of four persons was chosen.

With increasing membership the new Study Group began to use the facilities at the Y.M.C.A. in the fall of 1948.

In 1949 the women unified with the women's work of the Christian Church in an organization known as the Christian Women's Fellowship.

In 1950 the Christian Study Group purchased four lots in the new Sterling Addition, on the corner of what is now West Oakland Ave. and 17th St. S.W. It seemed logical that their new church should be named Sterling Christian Church.

On July 1, 1950, Wendell G. Pew became pastor of the



Rev. Wendell G. Pew, first pastor



Rev. Charles Kamilos, Dottie and Peter

new congregation. The first worship service was held at the Austin Theater on Sunday, July 23, 1950, with 40 persons present.

For 2½ years the members continued to hold their worship services at the Austin Theater.

The first unit of Sterling Christian Church's building program was dedicated on December 7, 1952. This building included the sanctuary, a kitchen and the pastor's study. Folding chairs were used until 1958. An *Austin Herald* columnist commented that "Although Sterling Christian Church has no pews, it is the only church in Austin that has a Pew in the pulpit."

In October, 1955, the church purchased a house at 1805 2nd Ave. S.W. for use as a parsonage.

With increased membership it soon became evident that the church needed more space. A fellowship hall and three additional rooms were dedicated on March 17, 1957. This space was especially welcomed for the educational program.

Wendell Pew received a call to a church in a Chicago suburb in 1958. The family left in May. The congregation felt a loss as they had been close to their first pastor and his family.

Rev. John A. Kerr, a graduate of Drake Divinity School, accepted the congregations call and moved into the parsonage in 1958.

In January, 1960 the congregation confirmed a change of policy with regard to ecumenical membership.

Rev. Kerr resigned in 1964 to become the associate pastor of the Second Congregational Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Rev. Donald H. McCord, a graduate

of Yale Divinity School, accepted the church's call. He and his wife, Ann, and son came in September, 1964. Don McCord furnished the spark that later developed the Austin Youth Ministry Council.

Women at Sterling Christian Church helped initiate the organization of the Austin Council of Church Women.

Rev. Philip E. Ewoldsen became the new pastor in 1968. He remained until 1972 when he accepted a call to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A call was then extended to Rev. Darrell D. Biggs. He and his wife, Rowe Ann, came in September, 1972.

At the time of their 25th Anniversary in 1975 the congregation had a participating membership of 96. There were 19 who participated but were not members and 36 members who were non-residents. The annual budget had increased from \$3,380 to \$21,820.

On May 18, 1980, Sterling Christian Church held a mortgage burning ceremony and celebrated their 30th Anniversary.

Charles Kamilos, his wife Dottie and son, Peter, moved into the parsonage in August, 1980. A daughter, Kathryn, was born in 1982.

Community groups have continued to use the church building. Among the groups this year was the "English as a Second Language" seminar. The United Cerebral Palsy headquarters were located in the church building from November, 1980 to February, 1981. The Parenting Resource Center holds regular meetings there, as does Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

THE CHURCH AND THE WAR (WORLD WAR I)

Most of the churches of Mower County were of 100% loyalty from the moment America was declared at war with the central powers.

The question of religious differences was so deeply buried during the war it was hoped it would never again be raised. To illustrate how united we were we mention but two of many incidents. All the churches of Austin,

Catholic and Protestant, united in giving a farewell to Co. G. The dinner was provided by the ladies of the churches and the clergymen were present to take part in the program. On the Y.M.C.A. drive for funds Father Devlin of Austin and Father Gmeinder of Rose Creek as well as prominent Catholic laymen assisted in the work.

Mower County in the World War

MUSIC IN AUSTIN

The musical history in Austin began in May, 1857. Professor Edward Foote and his cousins, Benjamin and Lyman Sherwood, came through the country in a democrat wagon. They were buying land and stopped at Austin. Together with a Mr. Halleck, an Austin resident, they gave a concert in the newly constructed Headquarters Building.

There was a romance in connection with this first concert. Alta Belle Albro had recently migrated to Austin. As there were no hotels they were invited to stay in the upper room of the Headquarters. During the concert she watched through a knothole of the floor. She saw Lyman Sherwood and was attracted to him. Sherwood remained in Austin. Soon Alta Belle Albro and Lyman were married. They were Roger Catherwood's maternal grandparents.

The first music taught in Austin was by Lyman Sherwood in 1869. The expenses for the instruction were met by a concert given by the students at the end of the year.

There was an un-uniformed Austin band during the Civil War days. Death was an obsession and band concerts included works such as "The Vacant Chair" along with "My Darling Nellie Gray" and "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming."

The Austin Floral Club, which was organized in 1869, gave many concerts and held music festivals to raise funds for projects such as their new public library. The

Art and Travel and Philomathian also sponsored concerts.

In 1895 the Ladies Musical Society was organized and continued into the early 1900s. They gave concerts and brought artists here. When they disbanded they gave their piano to the Y.M.C.A.

A women's chorus was also organized in 1895.

Early musicians included Mrs. D. B. Johnson, organist in the Methodist Church; Mrs. John Cook, the first music teacher; Lottie Johnson, who taught in the 1870s; a Mr. Andrews, who organized the first band and taught many years; John Schradle, taught violin and stringed instruments; and teachers such as Mrs. Kirkland, Mrs. Henry Biokett, Sue Basford, Mynn Stoddard, Mrs. W. W. Tolles and Clarence McDonald.

One of the finest musicians was Warren W. Tolles who was identified with the musical life of the community from 1910 until his death in 1928. He directed a male chorus and five church choirs as well as the teaching of voice, arranging and composing.

In the 1930s among those who were active in music locally were Mignon Dunn Draegert, Etta Robertson, Margaret Zender Beaulieu, Luther Noss, Lucy T. Rayman and Mary Tichy Cronan.

(Much of the information in this article was from a paper written in 1936 by Margaret Robinson.)

THE CHORUSES

AUSTIN MALE CHORUS - I

The first male chorus which can be reviewed was organized February 10, 1918. They lent their services to many patriotic occasions during World War I.

Their director was Warren W. Tolles. Membership included LaRue Hilbert, G. J. Voss, Orrin Hill, E. C. Banfield, H. R. Fenton, M. J. Hardy, C. S. Babcock, William Crane, F. A. Scott, C. G. Gillam, Fred Ulmer, Fred TenEyck, L. A. Sherman, Marion Sherman, W. T. Hanscome, C. L. Howe, F. C. Wilbour, J. H. Anderson and Frederick Bromley.



Austin's First Male Chorus Organized In 1918

AUSTIN MALE CHORUS - II

On January 19, 1931 a newly organized Austin Male Chorus gave its first concert in the high school auditorium, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. The director was Harold Cooke, then of Minneapolis. The first number sung by the new group was Bach's "Let Every Tongue Adore Thee." The concert also featured two xylophone solos by C. Vittorio Sperati.

The first concert in Austin was held on Sunday, February 15, 1931, at the Methodist Church, which was nearly filled. They were assisted by the Rochester Men's Chorus. Clarence Burgeson, Austin Herald reporter, wrote, "Harold Cooke is an able conductor and the manner in which the chorus followed his bidding provided a thrill."

The chorus remained active through the early 1930s. The last printed program pasted in their scrapbook was for a concert on Sunday afternoon, January 21, 1934, in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The last number on that program was "The Lost Chord" by Sullivan.

AUSTIN MALE CHORUS - III— NORTHWESTERN SINGERS



The Male Chorus made their first public appearance in new tuxedos on May 2, 1956.

"You could listen to them all night!"

"This was one of the comments heard Wednesday night when the Austin Male Chorus finished its second performance and started on the road to permanency in music circles here."

"The 40 voice singing aggregation produced harmony, expression and smoothness in a free concert in Sumner School Auditorium under the direction of Richard Lockwood. A lot of music history has been made in Austin since the last male chorus under Harold Cooke in the 30s. A male chorus has a distinctive appeal; something that no other musical production can supply. It was inevitable that another band of singing men eventually would emerge."

The above editorial reception was given by the Austin Daily Herald when a new Austin Male Chorus first performed in 1953. Their first two concerts were held on December 8th and 9th at Shaw and Sumner Schools in Austin. The new organization was sponsored by Austin Junior College and the City Park and Recreation Board.

The new chorus provided another feature. The Melody Maids sang three "sprightly" songs. These young maidens were Karen Haase, Bonnie Leck, Bev Mellum, Margaret Richardson, Donna Sheetz and Peggy Schultz. The male chorus has provided similar opportunities for joint cooperation with feminine groups over the years.

Members who sang in those first two concerts were: Top Tenors: William Gompf, Marvin Moe, Harold Nordby, Walter Nordin Jr., James Olsword and Lowell Tennis.

Lead Tenors: Arthur A. Anderson, Allan Blabaum, Phil Egtvet, Vic Ellis, Russell Heuton, Orrin Hoopman, Everett Siple, Ed Warmanen.

Baritones: Rodger Bliese, Charles Carothers, Ladd Day, Ray Henderson, Don Siverson, Richard Stivers, Chester Underwood, Richard Lockwood, director.

Basses: Robert Boomgard, Bruce Burton, Herman Gruis Jr., Jerould Hein, Art Houston, Robert Jacob, Art Knutson, Rodger Knutson, Duane Sellers, Henry Wenzel, Otto Wenzel, Warren Wenzel, Melvin Viker.

Two years later the Herald reported that the Male Chorus was "battling an inferiority complex." It wasn't the brand of music as the group had been acclaimed one of the finest in the state. Their problem was they "didn't have a thing to wear." They were performing in white shirts and bow ties, but it would take matching suits to

give the proper effect.

"With the support of the citizens at one event we will be able to raise the \$1,400 we need," said William Gompf, chorus president.

On May 2, 1956, under the direction of C. Vittorio Sperati, the Austin Male Chorus gave a spring concert attired in their new tuxedos.

The excellent performance of the Austin Male Chorus has been enhanced by the talent of those who have directed the organization. Wilbur Funk succeeded Vittorio Sperati in 1956. Dr. Roger Downing was the chorus' next director when Mr. Funk's teaching career took him elsewhere. Kenneth Jensen has been the director since 1965.

The Austin Male Chorus changed its name to The Northwestern Singers in 1971. They are members of the Upper Midwest District of the Associated Male Choruses of America. One of the annual events of the AMC is the "Big Sing." Choruses of the district join in a weekend of fellowship and a concert which includes performances by the individual choruses. Then all the groups join in a massed presentation. Austin has been the host for two "Big Sings."

The Singers put on two major concerts each year at the Austin High School auditorium. One of these concerts is a major show production when they are joined by the "Friends," the ladies singing group.

Mrs. Joanne Jensen, wife of the director, is the accompanist.

Northwestern Singers and Friends at their concert on May 19, 1984 included the following: Soprano: Marjorie Burton, Roberta Finneseth, Mary Herrick, Sandy Lundak, Coni Nelson, June Nelson, Kim Strifert and Donna Williams.

Alto: Lynn Adwell, Janet Borchardt, Marti Dickenson, Sandy Folk, Evelyn Guentzel, Patricia Hulet, Georgia Koenig, Kaye Lange, Lois Lewis, Shirley Martinson, DeDe Perkins, Cathy Wegner.

Tenor: Brian Auringer, Gene Auringer, Vernon Barry, Clifford Chapman, Ted Colescott, Elden Hueman, Bob Leif, Marlin Morris, Paul Nelson, Wally Nordin, Dale Odegaard, Elroy Penning, Jack Rosenberg, Bob Thomas, Jim Wegner.

Basses: Ted Anderson, Mark Auringer, Barry Baker, Marion Berry, Bob Boomgard, Howard Borchardt, Nolan Dugan, Bob Finnseth, Chuck Folk, Dick Hermes, Jim Herrick, Vern Judd, Gordon Kuehne, Paul Lightly, Morrie Lommen, Don Mellem, Harlan Nelson, Daniel Rhodes, Ken Schaub, Dutch Van Proosdy, Otto Wenzel, Rod Wenzel.

AUSTIN CHORALAIRES

The Choralaires, a mixed chorus of 20 voices, was organized and directed by Wilbur Funk in 1958. The group was first gathered together to sing a few numbers at a joint concert of the Austin Male Chorus and Austin Symphony. The singers received an excellent audience response, and continued as a group.

In 1960, after competitions in Minneapolis and Chicago, the Choralaires were invited to take part in the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, North Wales.



Bottom row, seated (l to r): Mrs. Arthur Bustad, Mrs. Kermeth Northwick, accompanist. Second row, standing (l to r): Norene Rickert, Mrs. James Nesse, Mrs. Don Siverson, Mrs. Wilbur Funk, Mrs. Kenneth Guy, Mrs. Frank Summerside, Mrs. Eugene Arens, Ramona Drake, Mrs. Donald Sandeen and Wilbur Funk, director. Third row (l to r): John Wall, Don Siverson and Warren Wenzel. Fourth row (l to r): Dr. Roger Downing, James Olswold, Dr. Walter Nordin Jr., James Wegner, John Rosenberg and Nathan Johnson.

Funds were raised through concerts and other community events.

The trip to the Eisteddfod was the climax of the Choralaires' career. After their return they continued to give frequent concerts to a receptive local audience.

Frank Summerside succeeded as director of the Choralaires when Wilbur Funk accepted a position in

another state. Ken Jensen directed the group following the departure of Summerside.

The Choralaires were active until the mid-1960s.

THE AUSTIN WOMEN'S CHORUS

Harold Cooke directed The Austin Women's Chorus during the same period as his Male Chorus. On May 10, 1931 the Women's Chorus joined in a joint concert with the Male Chorus. Again it was held at the Methodist Church.

The following ladies sang in the May 10th concert.

Mrs. Chas. Ashton	Mrs. Neil D. Hardy
Mrs. E. C. Banfield	Miss Elizabeth Jacoby
Mrs. N. F. Banfield	Miss Valborg Langehaugh
Mrs. Alvin Baudler	Miss Dorothy Lee
Miss Frances Blakeslee	Mrs. P. A. Lommen
Miss Josephine Bringgold	Mrs. Martin Nelson
Miss Olive Burgess	Miss Hazel Nelson
Mrs. Lloyd Carle	Miss Grace Rosenthal
Mrs. Jessica Cipra	Mrs. W. E. Rosenthal
Miss Florence Dailey	Miss Beatrice Ross
Miss Cora Dovenberg	Miss Hannah Schindler
Mrs. Harry Feeley	Mrs. G. W. Stubbee
Mrs. Louis Giovanetti	Mrs. E. N. Sturman
Miss Anita Giovanetti	Miss Leda Thorson
Miss Eva Grove	Miss Esther Tollerud
Miss Delia Grubb	Mrs. Helen Vance

AUSTIN BOYS' BAND

The Austin Boys' Band was organized in 1916 with 30 members. Their instructor was E. W. Cory.

The band included Oliver Dalager, Morris Daigneau, Carlisle Donovan, Donald Donovan, Richard Eberhart, Rolv Hegge, Herbert Hessler, Arnold Hogan, Frank Kearns, John Konovsky, Palmer Ludvigson, George McDermott, George Peck, William Pribble, Elmer Requa, Doyle Richardson, Palmer Rather, Fayette Sherman, Harry Studer, Thomas and Howard Vandegrift and John Uzlik.



Austin Boys Band Directed by E. W. Cory

THE TOWN BAND ERA

People often speak with sentiment about the "Big Band Era." Bands directed by leaders such as Glenn Miller, Paul Whiteman and the Dorseys reached a peak of popularity in the 1930s and 1940s. The nation's romance with television contributed to the decline of this era.

There is another era which extended over a greater period of time. We refer to the "Town Band Era." These bands also rest fondly on our memory. Mower County towns sponsored town bands as did thousands of towns and villages across the United States. Now the community band has become a rarity.



Tichy's Band at Lafayette Park

Left to right: Frank Kasak, Nels Christopherson, James Schradle, Frank Tichy, Jesse Jones, Wm. Kldoo, Ed Fisch, Dr. Fred Rayman, Ed Veverka, Bob Brush, Martin Sorflaten, John Konovsky.

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)

TICHY'S BAND

Frank Tichy's Band was active in Austin and the surrounding area in the early 1900s. It was the town band and concerts were held on the Courthouse Square on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer.

"A big platform was made by placing wooden planks on beer kegs," said Harold Rochford, who is knowledgeable on Austin history. "Kids were selling ice cream, pop and peanuts. The band drew big crowds. It was really something."

"Tichy also had a dance band," Rochford said. "Other dance bands included Fred Dexter's Band and Ed Fish's Band. 'Tip-Toe Thru the Tulips' was one of the popular numbers."

HORMEL MEN'S CLUB BAND

The Hormel Men's Club, a social group, sponsored this band. It was organized in 1921 and practiced regularly in the upstairs back room of the Austin Fire Station. The band gave concerts in Horace Austin State Park, Lafayette Park and on the Courthouse Square. The band was conducted by Dr. Fred Rayman and was a forerunner of the Austin Municipal Band.

AUSTIN MUNICIPAL BAND

In the 1930s a band tax was approved by the citizens of Austin and the Municipal Band was formed under the direction of David Monty. C. Vittorio Sperati took the position in 1933. He had begun teaching in Austin High School in 1930.

The Community Park bandshell was completed in 1938. One of the first events at the bandshell was the live CBS network radio broadcast of the George Burns and Gracie Allen show.

THE AUSTIN ARTIST SERIES

It was called Austin Civic Music when it began in 1943. Citizens had the opportunity to see and hear high calibre musical artists. Memberships were sold to individuals and families in the autumn. In the months which followed there were four or five events held in the Austin High School Auditorium.

Austin Civic Music grew rapidly in popularity. Memberships were purchased not only by Austin residents,



Hormel's Men's Club Band - 1922

Back row: Roy Tedrow, O. J. Bachman, James J. Schradle, F. E. Nelson, Bob Brush, Jim Culton, Nels Christopherson. Middle row: Jenny Thome, Jack Hall, Floyd Ingalls, John Konovsky, Sr., D. A. Richardson, Al Petrehn, Ben Bednar, Ed Bouda, John Konovsky, Jr., Lester Clark. Front row: Ed Veverka, Frank Helebrandt, Fay Rayman, J. Z. Rogers, Fred Rayman, F. E. Monty, Bill Bednar, Chester Rush. The two in front, Halsey Cory and Jesse Y. Jones.

(Ben Bednar Jr. Photo Collection)

Many people attended the band concerts in the early days, sitting on benches in front of the bandshell. The band was attired in gray uniforms purchased in 1934.

The Municipal Band appeared at the Minnesota State Fair and on WCCO radio. They also made goodwill tours throughout the area and played at the Mower County Fair.

In the 1960s the number sitting in front of the bandshell declined, but there were many that listened from parked cars or nearby front porches. The mosquitoes took their toll.

In 1964 the mill rate assessed for the band was dropped from the tax schedule and the Austin Municipal Band was "disbanded."

Austin's Community Park is a scenic area in summer and winter. In the southeast part of the park the white bandshell stands as a silent monument to a time when band numbers such as "The Stars and Stripes Forever" would resound through the valley. The era of Austin's Municipal Band and the age of the town band is over.

(Information about the Hormel Men's Club Band and the Austin Municipal Band was provided by Ben Bednar Jr. Ben's father played in the Hormel Band and Ben Jr. played in the Austin Municipal Band.)

but also by music lovers in the villages and towns throughout the area. It was a new dimension in entertainment.

The Austin Artist Series is now the name for the same popular cultural events. In the coming season members will be entertained by The McNeil Jubilee Singers, The Vienna Boys Choir, Kathy Kienzele, harpist, Midwest Opera Company featuring La Boheme and Dance Alive.

Officers for the 1984-85 season are Dr. Donald Clausen, president; David Kallman, vice-president and

publicity; Janet Dickson, secretary; VaVerne Fast, treasurer and Ruth Fast, membership chairman.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"An excellent ideal!" was the unanimous response of several Austinites when asked what they thought of plans for the formation of a symphony orchestra in Austin in 1957.

The formation of the Austin Symphony Orchestra had been spearheaded the year before, at the rehearsal of an impromptu orchestra for an oratorio. Mrs. P. M. Enger recalled how it happened.

"John Madura stood up and said, 'Why can't we use this orchestra as a nucleus for a symphony orchestra?' So, with John's enthusiasm and Paul Heltne's expertise the Austin Symphony Orchestra was formed."

Paul Heltne, the first conductor of the Orchestra, was at that time the music coordinator and conductor of orchestras at the Austin Public Schools.

The new symphony orchestra had their first rehearsal on September 16, 1957 and the first concert, Tuesday evening, November 25, 1957. On that date they had become the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

Paul Heltne conducted the 64 musicians in the program, which included: Overture to "Die Fladermaus"—Johann Strauss; Romance Op. 50—Ludwig Beethoven, with Harold Sundet as violin soloist; Valse from "Serenade" for String Orchestra—Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky; Fiddle Faddle for Strong Orchestra—LeRoy Anderson; Vilia from "The Merry Widow"—Franz Lehár; My Hero from "The Chocolate Soldier"—Oscar Straus, with Mrs. M. Arthur Bustad as vocal soloist; and Highlights from "Oklahoma"—Richard Rodgers.

The Austin Daily Herald reported that, "The music was nice, the concert was a grand entry into the city's cultural side. It was a pleasant evening, and lived up to expectations."

The Orchestra's second concert, also in the AHS auditorium, was held on Sunday evening, March 16, 1958. Earl Rhymer, Minneapolis, was the guest pianist in Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

Then, on May 7, 1958, The Austin Symphony Orchestra and the Austin Male Chorus were associated in the presentation of Randall Thompson's "The Testament of Freedom."

Featured soloists during the next five years included, Hans Schmeltau, cellist, Mankato; Dr. Roger Downing, baritone vocal soloist, Austin; Ludvig Wangberg, French horn, Clear Lake, Iowa; Kay Hardy, flutist, Austin; Eugene Vucich, violinist, Mankato and Lorraine King Wiklander, harpist, Minneapolis.

The March 10, 1963 concert was reported as the "Most exciting program the Orchestra has given."

The concert was enhanced by 400 young singers selected from the 5th and 6th grades of the Austin Public Schools and Parochial schools. They sang "Let All Things Now Living," a traditional Welsh melody. The

Austin Herald called the event, "An engineering feat as well as one of musical magnitude."

10TH ANNIVERSARY

One of the features of the Symphony Orchestra's 10th anniversary season (1966-67) was the return of their first two concert soloists. Mrs. M. Arthur Bustad and Harold Sundet were featured in an afternoon concert on November 13, 1966.

The Austin Herald also said, "Paul Heltne, who continues on the podium in this 10th season, has given untiring efforts as a talent recruiter, has demonstrated his genius as a conductor and has advised the board of directors with sagacity. If it were not for him the Orchestra would not be in its present strong position."

The official 10th Anniversary Concert was presented on March 5, 1967, and featured The Golden Strings from the Flame Room, Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis.

On March 8, 1970 the Austin Symphony Orchestra concert featured violinist Richard Roberts. Roberts was, at that time, the youngest member of the Minnesota Orchestra, and a native of Austin.

HELTNE RETIRES

RICHARD LARSON NEW CONDUCTOR

At the close of the spring season in 1972 Paul Heltne retired as conductor of the Symphony Orchestra. He had directed the Orchestra since its inception 15 years previously. A gift was given to him at a party in his honor at the Oak Leaf Restaurant.

Richard A. Larson, Austin High School's choral director for the past seven years, was appointed the new director. His first appearance on the podium was at the Fall and Winter concert, December 10, 1972.

The spring concert on April 8, 1973 was conducted by Donaldson Lawhead, an Austin public school music instructor and harp soloist. John and Bob Madura were cello soloists.

In the autumn of 1973 Richard Larson noted that, "We have a 65 member orchestra for the fall concert. All the instrumental parts are being played by capable musicians. I sense a spirit in the orchestra that embodies a desire to produce good music."

The concert on November 18th was entitled, "The Joy of Music."

The featured performer in the March 3, 1974 concert was Michael Christopherson, pianist, a senior at Austin High School who played the Shostakovich piano concerto No. 2.

Classical and Contemporary, a Dynamic Blend. Minnesota Dance Theatre with Austin Symphony Orchestra was the billing for the April 13, 1975 show.

Then, on November 9, 1975, the concert theme was "Salute to the Bicentennial." It was a program of music written in America.

VICTOR BORGE

April 28, 1977 was "An Evening of Music and Mirth"—Victor Borge with the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

The Herald said, "Borge, long known for his musical hi-jinks, has played beginning and endings, but Thursday evening he played the middle as well. Not only did he play the entire piece, he played it twice."

The Austin Symphony Orchestra, with only a short pre-concert rehearsal with Borge, performed in an excellent supporting capacity."

Richard Roberts returned to his hometown of Austin for a concert November 6, 1977. The young musician, now the assistant concert master of the Cleveland Orchestra, played Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Major with the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

PHYLLIS DILLER

The concert on November 5, 1978 was headlined by Phyllis Diller, the well known comedienne. She appeared with the Symphony Orchestra as a guest artist.

The Herald said, "Although known for her raucous sense of humor, Diller has appeared as a serious piano soloist with over 30 symphony orchestras."

At the concert Diller said that she hoped to return to Austin again and commended, "the fine Symphony Orchestra. It is so professional for a town of this size."

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Judy McDermott, Herald staff writer, had the following comments following the October 27, 1981 Symphony Orchestra concert: "The silver anniversary of the Austin Symphony Orchestra was off to a glittering beginning Tuesday, in the AHS auditorium, as world famous composer, arranger and conductor, Henry Mancini, led the orchestra through a program of familiar hits and favorites. Not only did the audience have a chance to hear the master of popular music perform, but they witnessed a remarkable undertaking by the Symphony Orchestra as well."

The Silver Anniversary concert of the orchestra was held on April 3, 1982. There were two conductors on this night—Richard Larson and the founding conductor, Paul Heltne.

This concert also turned out to be a farewell appearance for Richard Larson. Shortly thereafter he accepted a position with the Cherry Creek school district in Colorado.

DAVID JORDAHL HEADS ORCHESTRA

In the autumn of 1982 a news item in the *Austin Herald* stated that a new conductor, David Jordahl, had been selected for the Austin Symphony Orchestra. Jordahl had been an Austin High School orchestra instructor for the past nine years. He has a MA in music education from Northwestern University, Chicago. Among his music activities has been the vice presidency of the Minnesota Music Educator's Association. He is a fine violinist as well as conductor.

Jordahl's first appearance as the Symphony Orchestra's conductor was on November 21, 1982. The guest artist was pianist, Peter Nero.

PETER NERO

The Herald commented, "Nero, who is a success at combining jazz with classical music, did not merely perform in solo—he conducted the orchestra in several arrangements. Nero had kind words for the Symphony and conductor, Jordahl. 'What a joy it was to play with them, they're super.'"

The 1984 season included:

March 4—Chamber Orchestra concert with Donaldson Lawhead as guest conductor. April 1—Spring concert, Stefan Reuss, guest soloist. April 15—Brass concert at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Philip Burkhart was the conductor.

During the span of years the Austin Symphony Orchestra has been associated with a symphony chorus in the presentation of different oratorios. Several times the oratorio was Handel's "Messiah" and is now every other year. The Austin Male Chorus has also appeared as guest with the symphony.

Two groups which are supporters of the Symphony Orchestra are the Women's Association for the Austin Symphony Orchestra, (WAASO), and the Symphony Study Group.

WAASO was organized by Mrs. Hugh Plunkett Sr. in 1959. As a group of music patrons they helped raise funds in many ways.

Dagny Dewey invited a few interested individuals to her home in 1963. There they discussed the organization of the Symphony Study Group. Their purpose is "to aid in the support of the Symphony Orchestra and to study the composers and their music."

In 1958 at the close of the Austin Symphony Orchestra's first season, their first president, Ben Lageson, made the following comment: "While a strong home area symphony has been the dream of many years, and starts were tried several times, the results of the present enterprise have gone beyond our fondest dreams."

Now, after 27 years of fine orchestral music, Austin music lovers remain in full agreement with Mr. Lageson's statement.

1957-58 AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ben Lageson, President	John Madura, Manager
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Mrs. Richard Dougherty	Mrs. Fred Pickett
Dr. Roger Downing	Philip Richardson
Mrs. Baldy Hanson	Rev. Lyndon Schendel
Vic Himmler	Reuben Strand
George A. Hormel II	Mrs. Orin Sundal
Hillary Krause	Mayo Wetterberg
Dr. Nora Larson	Mrs. Julius Zillgitt

1983-84 AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Vice President, Mrs. Lawrence Dewey
 Secretary, Mrs. Ted Hall
 Treasurer, Miss Evelyn McMeans

1984 SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violin I
 *Norene Sundal, concertmistress
 Susan Radloff, asst. concertmistress
 Millie Munro Radloff
 Lisa Ottjes
 Tim Peterson
 Nancy Poser
 Maria Ferreira
 David Hays

Violin II
 *Marjorie Dunlap
 Sue Simonson
 Therese Schlichter
 Estermae Bentley
 Wendy Boughton
 Betty Downing
 Cathy Yang
 Pam Ford
 Richard Earle

Viola
 *Janet Modderman
 Nell Madura
 Colin Olsen
 Jo Arlen Emerson
 Beth Radloff

Cello
 *Sylvia Pickett
 Jean Miller
 David Obst
 Sue Franklin
 Kris Olsen

Ramona Gerlach
 Patty Persoon

String Bass
 *Gregory Miller
 Margaret Obst
 Barbara Hays
 Sue Ford
 Dean Meyer

Flute
 *Amy Nordin
 Mary Ellen Thompson

Clarinet
 *Ben Bednar
 Ann Flisrand

Bass Clarinet
 *Richard Alger

Oboe
 *Holly Dalager
 Patricia Hulet
 Becky Olson

English Horn
 *Patricia Hulet

French Horn
 *Ludvig Wangberg
 Randall Aitchison
 Robert Hays
 Kristin Davidson
 Edwina Ersland

Trumpet
 *David Kendrick
 Richard Neerhof
 Richard Peterson

Trombone
 *Richard Flisrand
 Philip Burkhardt
 Laverne Walheim

Tuba
 *James Ripley

Tympani
 *James Knutson

Percussion
 *David Kallman
 Jody Borris
 Andy Beckel

Harp
 *Elinor Niemisto
 Sarah Swan

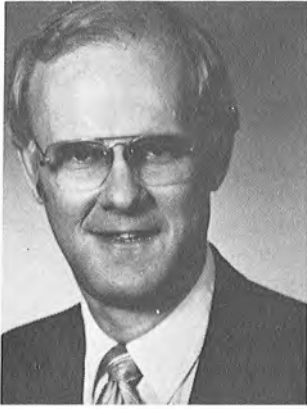
Bassoon
 *Lynee Larson
 Liesl Schindler
 *Principal



Austin Symphony Orchestra, 1984. David Jordahl, conductor.



The 1962 Symphony Orchestra conducted by Paul Heltne



David Jordahl is the Conductor of the Austin Symphony Orchestra in 1984



Paul Heltne conducted orchestra from 1957 to 1972.



Richard Larson directed orchestra from 1972 to 1982.

HAROLD ROCHFORD'S RECOLLECTIONS

One of our most congenial citizens is Harold T. Rochford, retired Railway Express Agency employee. Harold, like Will Rogers, never met a man he did not like. Over the years Rochford has grown rich in friends and in memories.

Harold Rochford's heritage in Mower County goes back to 1862 when his grandfather, James, homesteaded in the Cedar City area. His father, Thomas, came to Austin and operated an early hack service, and later was proprietor of the Rochford Land Co. He was also a breeder of fine horses.

A young boy growing up during the early years of the 20th century had no difficulty finding a swimming hole. A few that Harold and his friends used were the "Frost Hole," which was back of the fairgrounds; "Seven Springs," west of Austin on Turtle Creek; "Lichfield," north of the Oakwood Cemetery and the "Sand Bank" in Cullen Park.

Ice skating in the winter was at the "Lily Pond," which was near where the lagoon and bandshell are now. This was also adjacent to Hollister's dump, near where the children now slide on their sleds in wintertime. There was also ice skating on the Cedar River.

Before 1905, Main Street in Austin was a dirt road with hitching posts in front of each store. In 1905-06 the

street was paved by Fielding and Shepley of St. Paul. A concrete base was overlaid with brick surface. Rochford recalls the large draft horses which pulled the concrete carts from the north end of Main Street. The carts were tripped and the horses returned to the mixing area on their own.

There were early day theaters. The "Bijou" was on the second floor of the old KC building on 2nd Ave. N.W. They featured slides. The "Operry House" was in the 400 block on North Main. The home talent shows and an occasional road show played there.

One of the big civic celebrations was the Fourth of July street carnival. Merchants would set up concessions and the horses and buggies came from far and wide. According to Rochford there were rides and prizes, with peanuts and watermelon to stifle hunger pangs.

The Mower County Fair was the other big summer event. Two afternoons of the fair were given over to "Farm Boy Horse Races." Rochford was a regular participant in these events.

Time and scenery change, but the activities of boys remain similar. There are still trails along the Cedar to be explored and a medium-sized town to feel at home in. Many Austin natives would join Harold Rochford in saying that, "Austin was a great place to grow up in!"



1956 Centennial Edition—Austin Daily Herald—One of the most absurd things to happen in Austin has to do with the Arlington Hotel back in 1894. Guests at breakfast heard a thump on the ceiling and looking up saw a man's bare leg sticking through a hole. Amazement gave way to hilarity. The hole had accommodated a stovepipe, which had been taken down just the day before. The guest, arriving late at night, had not noticed the hole and when he got out of bed he drowsily stepped into it.

1956 Centennial Edition—Austin Daily Herald—KKKs Back in 1906. Just a Social Group—Back in 1906, the KKKs were an innocent social group, in sharp contrast to the night riders that followed the Civil War, or the outcropping of klansmen after World War I. They appeared in the social column of the Austin Daily Herald, when Mrs. Albert Thon entertained them for dinner, with the husbands as guests. It was called a Lycurgus feast.

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

How much service has the Austin Public Library given to the citizens of Austin since it formally opened in 1869? How can one measure 114 years of service?

The Austin Public Library has had a long, unusual history. Records show that the resourcefulness of 12 women laid the foundation for the library. These women formed an "Austin Floral Club" which exists to this day and whose members continue to support the library.

The Floral Club is the oldest women's club in Minnesota and the second oldest in the nation. At the time of its organization, Esther M. Morse was elected president, and Austin had a population of 2,040. Using money that they earned from a floral show with literary entertainment and a concert, the members purchased books. They also received a private donation of 123 volumes. These 225 books were the foundation of the "Ladies Circulating Library." There was a membership fee of \$1.00 and the ladies dispensed the books from their homes, on a rotating basis.

In 1886, when the county courthouse was completed, the library moved to a basement room until 1904 when a new library was built. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated \$15,000.00 for the construction of a new building. No new additions were made to that building until 1964 when the expansion added 5,798 square feet to the library at a cost of \$145,672.00. The library remained in the basement room of the courthouse until its 3,500 volumes were turned over to the public library in 1904. Mrs. Flora Conner was the librarian until 1918 when she was succeeded by Tanye Burgess Hines, who gave 28 years of service to the Austin Community.

Reflecting what was happening in Austin, the county, and the nation, the Austin Public Library, known at that time as the Carnegie Library, moved with the times. People recognized the library as a valuable asset to the community. The library board, in the early 1920's, justified its budget requests on the basis of "increased use. . . and consequent benefit to our City." The collection grew as the library contracted with the county school district to provide library services for the schools: six Austin and 39 rural grade schools. Because of inadequate space, the school libraries had to be taken over by the individual schools in 1946. The Shaw Gym for Boys was also under the direction of the library board and remained there until the 1960's.

The library was renovated in the thirties, including the creation of a Children's Room. A basement room was used by the W. P. A. for puppetry making classes. A motion picture projector was added.

In 1945 Mabel Olson became the director and gave the library 50 years of service. Highlighting the 1940's was a "survey of the efficiency of service and an inventory of the quality and quantity of books in the library." The survey was conducted by representatives of the American Library Association at the city's expense.

Continuing to prosper during the 1950's, it became evident that the present library building was no longer adequate and plans for a new library began in the late

fifties. Construction began in 1963 and Nowell Leitzke became director.

Materials and services grew rapidly in the late 1960's. The book collection grew by nearly 30,000 volumes between 1964 and 1969 (from 44,000 to 72,000 volumes). The 16mm film circuit was added as were paperback books, 8 mm films, records, art prints, large print books, telephone books, the microfilm reader, a copying machine, and Sunday hours. A professional children's librarian and a reference librarian were hired. Bookmobile service was initiated and three branch libraries in LeRoy, Grand Meadow, and Brownsdale were affiliated with Austin. As early as 1968, the building with its wrap-around addition was becoming crowded.

The decade of the 1970's to the present has seen further growth of services, collection, and staff, under the direction of Robert M. Hays, the present director. The development of SELCO (Southeastern Libraries Cooperating) in 1971 has made reciprocal borrowing between most libraries in Southeastern Minnesota possible.

Increase in-depth service has occurred. The staff presents story hours and provides reference and inter-library loan services. Through interlibrary loan the resources of the state and beyond are available to anyone who required them.

An important link between those who need services and those who provide services is found in the Community Information Center. The Austin Public Library has compiled information on over 300 clubs and organizations in the Austin area. In addition, the library maintains an information and referral service to provide information about the resources of helping agencies in the area.

Reserving books is picking up in popularity. Library patrons may reserve a current best seller or an old favorite by filling out a self-addressed request postcard. The card is mailed when the book is available.

The library currently has almost 85,000 volumes on almost any topic. The library subscribes to approximately 220 magazines which cover a variety of interests.



Carnegie Public Library was completed in 1904

A list of titles is available at the main desk and by the *Reader's Guide To Periodical Literature*. Although current issues of magazines must remain in the library, many students and older patrons check out other copies to take home and read at their leisure or to use for reports assigned at the schools.

Many patrons find it convenient to stop in to read the numerous daily and weekly newspapers that are available in the reading room. These papers are kept for several weeks and back issues may be checked out.

The library has the *Austin Daily Herald* available on microfilm from 1891 to the present and an index to local news from 1971 to the present is located in the card catalog. The *Minneapolis Tribune* is also available in microfilm from 1974 to December 1981. People interested in genealogy find the microfilm especially helpful to them.

Another service that is especially popular is the renting of the videodisc and videocassette players. These players are usually booked weeks in advance to be sure that they are available. Videodiscs and videocassettes are available to the patrons at no charge.

The library is governed by a City Library Board of nine members who are appointed by the mayor with the approval of the City Council. The current board members include: Robert Ackerwold, chairman; Joseph Collins, vice-chairman; Mrs. Paul E. Morreim, secretary; Jerome Carlson, treasurer; Mrs. William Connelly; Mrs. Mary Jane Flannery; Mrs. Richard Knowlton; Mrs. Doris Arneson; and Mr. I. J. Holton. Gerald Henricks is the liaison to the city council. Mrs. H. O. Galstad, emeritus, 27 years on the board.

The County Advisory Board consists of Robert Roberts, Elkton; Mrs. Johnabell Lindelien, Grand Meadow; Mrs. Donald Weseman, Austin; and Mrs. Kinley Peterson, Blooming Prairie.

Director Hays works with the boards to provide the basic service goals and to efficiently manage the budget of the library. For 1983, the library has a budget of about \$370,000. About 65 percent of this money comes from city taxes, 30 percent from the county (excluding the Austin area) taxes. The rest of the budget comes from charges for services and from state and federal funding.

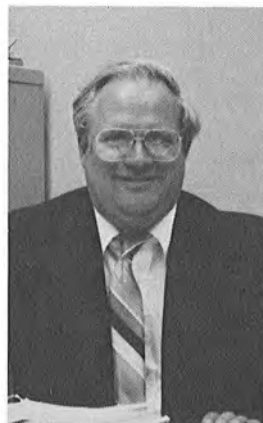
Currently the library board is very interested in improving the library. The members are discussing the merits of either enlarging the current facility or building a new structure. They are interested in increasing the space to enable the staff to better deliver library services to the patrons.

The basic service goal of the library is to provide service that will meet everyone's informational, educational, and recreational needs in terms of providing library materials with enough specialized personnel available to provide easy access to and interpretation of the materials available.

Each annual report completed by the staff members indicates the changes in the library's circulation. These reports are on file at the library.



The library was expanded and remodeled in 1964



Robert Hays
Present Library Director



Tanye Burgess Hines
Librarian - 1918 to 1945

LADIES FLORAL CLUB

Austin was a village of 2,040 when the Austin Ladies Floral Club first met. On March 16, 1869, a cold stormy day, 13 ladies met at the home of Mrs. Almeda E. Allen. Their purpose was to form a society for mutual improvement.

Mrs. Esther Mitchell Morse, wife of the Congregational minister, was the organizer and first president. She was a woman of courage and wisdom, and was to serve the club as leader for 32 years.

Other organizing members were Mrs. M. J. Mayhew,

wife of the Presbyterian minister; Mrs. P. J. Lammeraux; Mrs. Phoebe Sargent; Mrs. Quincy Truesdale; Mrs. J. L. Davidson; Mrs. L. A. Sherwood; Mrs. H. J. Parker, wife of the Baptist minister; Mrs. F. A. Brownson; Mrs. Caleb Crane; Mrs. Joe Warner and Miss Julia Lowry. Miss Lowry was a teacher from Moscow.

This new floral club was the first women's club in Minnesota. It is the second oldest in the nation. In those days the woman's place was considered to be in the home. It took courage to organize a real women's club.

According to the preamble of their constitution, the club was to have two objectives; the study of floriculture and the establishment of a circulating library.

With the 25¢ initiation fee, seeds were purchased and distributed among members. They were planted and cared for during the first summer. So much interest was generated that 30 more names were added to the membership.

The enthusiasm was such that it was decided to hold a floral show. The show was a grand success. With the net receipts of \$100, and with books donated by members and other citizens, the Ladies' Circulating Library was opened Nov. 9, 1869. The new library was located in the courtroom with 225 books.

Additional fund raisers and gifts of books increased the value of the library. It was then incorporated, and was the first female society in Minnesota on record as a legal body.

For 35 years the Floral Club maintained its circulating library through its own efforts and public patronage.

Realizing a great need for a permanent home for its volumes, the club turned its efforts toward establishing a public library in Austin. Through a solicitation from members and several influential Austin men, a proposition was received from the Honorable Andrew Carnegie. He agreed to donate money for construction of a library if the City of Austin would donate a proper site. The city was also to maintain the new library. All parties agreed. The 3,500 books which the Floral Club had accumulated became the nucleus for the new library.

The Floral Club has continued to support the library in Austin. In 1923 they established a Foundation. The interest from this fund, together with proceeds from the Club's annual projects, are given to the library regularly.

In 1908 the Ladies Floral Club became a member of the Minnesota Federation of Women's clubs. Then, in 1920 they joined the Washington, D.C. based General Federation of Women's Clubs. The club remains active in administration duties and on the programs of their district, state and national convention.

The Floral Club participates in competition in Arts and Crafts at district and state levels. They contribute scholarships to worthy students. The club also is a part of the Community Improvement Program, which is sponsored jointly by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and The Sears Roebuck Foundation. That was instituted in 1955.



Austin Floral Club—Mrs. Abigail Brown's Birthday Party
March 8, 1897

In the home of Mrs. A. L. Allen, where the Club was organized in 1869.

Among those present: Mrs. Abigail F. Brown, 83; Elizabeth Wagner, 72; Mary B. Allen, 85; Mrs. B. C. Noble, 77; Adelpia Eldridge, 88; Helen E. Sterling, 65; Mrs. L. C. Crane, 76; Mrs. H. A. Davidson, 80; Margeta Gies, 70; Sarah L. Abbott, 72; Esther M. Morse, 75; Amy H. Willbour, 73; Louisa Earle, 77; Mary Hopkens, 80; Mrs. H. E. Clark, 73; Mrs. L. L. Jones, 66 and Jane Davidson, 82.

In 1964 the Floral Club received a special citation for the part they played in a major expansion of the Austin Public Library.

In earlier years the club organized a Civic League, made the first public health survey in Mower County, paid a public health nurse for work in the rural schools and took the initiative in bringing a State Art Exhibit to Austin. For many years they managed the sale of Red Cross Seals. During the First World War they did much Red Cross work.

The Floral Club is a very unique and traditional literary society. The Public Library continues to be its foremost project.

Approximately 50 members receive information and pleasure as they attend their regular monthly meetings. Programs for these meetings may be by club members or by outside speakers.

The Austin Ladies Floral Club continues in the spirit of their early leaders. They are faithful to their Club motto, "To God, thy country and thy friends be true."

Officers in 1984 are: Ruth Kuechenmeister, president; Pat Stevens, vice president; Shirley Moore, secretary; Janice Regner, treasurer; Betty Catherwood, historian.



Traffic Tie Up Here Is Worst Of The Winter—Two trains were snowbound, bus service was abandoned and motorists were experiencing difficulties on all roads with 10 cars being reported stalled at one time at a corner near Elkton. Drifting snow resulted in the worst traffic tie up of the winter in Austin and adjacent communities.

For five the community shortly after noon, was snowbound between Austin and Albert Lea. After a futile attempt to battle with the drifts it was excavated by a relief engine.

A frei was snowbound for four hours between Dexter and Brownsdale.

Even the state highway snowplow was snowbound this morning when it attempted to remove the snowdrifts on Highway No. 9. For some time the powerful clear the highway, but found that it could get no further than two miles east of the city because of the huge drifts.

Austin Herald—Feb. 21, 1929

AUSTIN'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

On April 17, 1956 the streets of Austin were filled with bearded men and ladies in bustled gowns. They were out to commemorate and enjoy Austin's birthday party. The city was 100 years old.

The courthouse square was the center of morning activities. Fred Fenton and Mrs. J. H. Skinner, the Centennial King and Queen were introduced. Governor Orville Freeman was on hand to present plaques to the royalty.

The afternoon air echoed with the music of bands as they marched in a stupendous parade. Estimates of the number of spectators ranged from 50,000 to 100,000. In the distance was the roar of motors as the boats roared in competition on the East Side Lake.

One very special event of the day was the tribute to Austin's founder, Chauncey Leverich. A time box memorial had been prepared at the suggestion of Austin's school children. Their donation of pennies had purchased meaningful items for the box. A committee selected items under the direction of Miss Lucille Brecht, Lincoln school teacher. The copper box was made by the Austin High School shop students. The box was placed at Oakwood Cemetery. In April, 2056, Austin citizens

will open the Chauncey Leverich memorial box and learn what it was like in Austin in the year 1956.

Citizens who had lived in Austin at least seventy years were honored at the Centennial banquet in the evening. Another evening highlight was three hours of square dancing at the Terp Ballroom. Finally the great day was climaxed with spectacular fireworks at East Side Lake.

The expenses involved in the celebration were met by the Austin Centennial Corporation. Stockholders were local concerned citizens. After all the debts were paid, the balance of the dedicated funds was given to the Austin Public Library for purchase of educational materials of historical nature within the new library building.

The following persons made up the membership of the Austin Centennial Corporation: Mrs. Louella Nangle Galstad, president; M. L. Schleuder, vice president; G. N. Reppe, treasurer; Ernest Jones, Secretary; Baldy Hansen, promotion; Sheldon Hanson, parades and dances; Gene P. Loffler, publicity; Verne Olson, concessions, Duane Rasmussen, publicity; and Mrs. Geraldine Rasmussen was recording secretary.

AUSTIN AREA BICENTENNIAL EVENT

The Austin area had a well planned American Revolution Bicentennial celebration in 1976. Mayor Robert Enright delegated Richard E. Hall the task of forming a Bicentennial committee. From various clubs, churches, schools and other organizations Hall formed a committee of individuals with special abilities. A year long calendar of events followed.

Austin was awarded Bicentennial Community Status from the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration office in Washington D.C. To achieve this status the committee gave evidence on how the city would comply with the Bicentennial program. They verified that projects would have a lasting beautification for the city. There would be projects for the preservation of items of historical interest. They also showed how the Bicentennial festivities would increase the awareness of the full scope of the nation's Bicentennial program.

The year was dedicated to be A PAST TO REMEMBER: A FUTURE TO MOLD.

Many cultural and performing clubs, organizations, schools, churches and individuals contributed their talents to celebrate this Bicentennial year. These activi-

ties were classified in three thematic areas . . . HERITAGE '76 . . . FESTIVAL '76 . . . HORIZON '76. The ARBC was especially interested in lasting reminders. For HERITAGE '76 the Mower County Genealogical Society members committed themselves to recording cemetery records throughout Mower County cemeteries. FESTIVAL '76 involved many exciting events that brought out record breaking attendances. HORIZON '76 funding was given to help promote new projects like the Matchbox Childrens Theatre. Jay C. Hormel Nature Center and the Urban Renovation of North Cedar River Frontage.

Mrs. Mickie Hall and Robert Couch were Co-Chairpersons of the Austin Area activities. The following people were active committee members: Mrs. Jan Adams, James Cahill, Harold Carlstrom, Ray Gillson, Richard Hall, Harold Finch, Mrs. Gladys Otto, Frank Schultz, Henry Oots, Mrs. Alice Qual, Elmer Ulland, Mrs. Roxanne Weseman and Jerome Wesely.

A tremendous amount of work went into this celebration by the people of the Austin Area to make the Austin Area Bicentennial very successful.

"The Austin Electric Company have got their new 200 horsepower engine set up and are now waiting for steam connections to be made. The Ball Engine Company has furnished the engine and it is certainly a beauty. The new

dynamo is capable of furnishing 2,000 incandescent lights. The new gas lights will not be in it at all."

Herald—1893

“Businesses and Professions”

ANDERSON'S AUSTIN MEMORIALS

Anderson's Austin Memorials is located across from Oakwood Cemetery at 1805 N.W. 4th St. It is operated by Jeffrey Lynn Anderson. Jeff is the fourth generation of his family in the memorial business in southeastern Minnesota. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather have owned and operated shops in Mower County, Olmsted County and parts of western Wisconsin.

The history of the monument business in Austin goes back to 1887, when T. J. Abrahams established the Austin Steam Marble and Granite Works. In 1906 the business was purchased by Sven Anderson and his son, John. The Andersons had been in business in Austin since 1896. Beginning in the implement and carriage business, they had added the monumental and cut stone business in 1897. Their location was at 216-18 North Chatham St., now First St. N.E.

After the Anderson Monument Co. absorbed T. J. Abrahams business they were located at the corner of Water St. and Franklin St. (now 4th Ave. N.E. and 2nd St. N.E.) As far as is known there is no relationship between Sven and John Anderson and the present owners.

Chris Borgen purchased the business in 1929 which was then known as Austin Memorial Works and later Borgen Monuments.

In 1947 Ford Anderson bought out Chris Borgen and called his business Austin Granite Co. He is an uncle of the present owner. In 1948 Ford developed tuberculosis and was forced to close down the Austin shop.

Meanwhile, in 1946 Reynold H. Lillquist started his own memorial business and built the building at 1805 N.W. 4th St. Lillquist was an accomplished memorial designer. The business was then known as Austin Memorials.

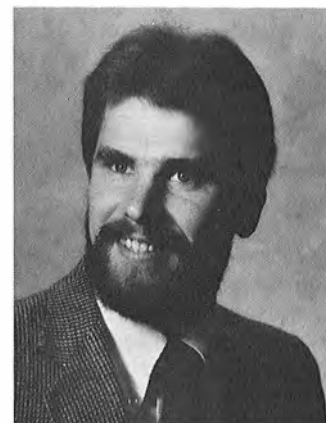
Following Lillquist's death in 1956 the business was operated by his wife, Irene. She then sold the building and business to Anderson's Rochester Granite Co. in 1971. This company is owned by Jeff's father, Rolland Mayo Anderson.

Eugene Gosha, Austin, managed the business for the Andersons until 1979 when health problems forced his resignation. It was then that Jeff Anderson and wife, Renee, moved to Austin to operate the business.

Jeff and Renee have two daughters, Cimarron and Chelsea. Another baby is expected during the summer of 1984. They live at 306 South Main St., Austin.



Anderson's Memorials - 1984



Jeffrey Lynn Anderson

Jeff is currently vice president of the Northwest Monument Builders. He is also chairman of the Young Memorialists Committee of the Monument Builders of North America. He is active in community affairs. A member of the Exchange Club, he has served as president, secretary and on the board of directors. He is an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and serves as their financial clerk.

Jeff Anderson knows all the facets of the stone business. He specializes in the old hand-carved technique as well as the modern processes. The designing and cutting is done in Austin and they supply their trade throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

September, 1906—Austin Daily Herald—Doctor's Automobile Desecrates Funeral—The Austin doctor who whizzed by the funeral procession Sunday in his automobile, frightening the horses and nearly wrecking two

or three rigs, deserved a big share of the censure he got. Hardly a person in that long solemn procession but was affronted at the exhibition of speed, machinery and lack of courtesy.

AUSTIN COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

George Wilson emigrated to the United States in 1907 from Scotland while still in his teens. He was eventually employed by the George A. Hormel Co. in sales and managerial positions in San Antonio, Birmingham, and Austin. In 1921 George married Marjorie Lewis, the daughter of Dr. Charles F. Lewis, one of the founders of the Austin Medical Clinic.

On May 20, 1924, George Wilson and Dr. Lewis were the majority stockholders in the formation of the Austin Bottling Works, Inc. Other stockholders were Thomas Cummings and Walter Rush. Wilson moved back to Austin to manage the business. The bottling plant was located at 400 2nd St. N.E., the present site of the Hill Heating Co. The business engaged in the bottling and sales of soft drinks, and the sales of fountain supplies such as extracts, cider, crushed fruit, cleaning supplies.

By 1930, Wilson and Lewis bought out the other two stockholders. The bottling plant was relocated to 403 4th Ave. N.E. on what is now the west edge of the Austin Utilities plant property.

Wilson eventually purchased all the stock in the company after Dr. Lewis' death. The business gradually

dropped the fountain supplies and concentrated on the sales of soft drinks in Austin and Owatonna, and on the sales of Hamm's Beer in Mower County. The corporate name was changed to Austin Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

By 1947, James and Charles Wilson, the sons of George and Marjorie Wilson, were active in the business. Charles Stern was the plant superintendent. In 1949, the corporation moved into a new facility they had built at 1600 First Ave. N.E., where it is now located. George Wilson died in 1956. He was still active in business and an avid golfer at the time of his death.

In 1957, the company purchased the assets and franchises of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Rochester, which cover Olmsted and Dodge Counties. In 1982, James Wilson and Charles Stern were semi-retired from active duties, and Charles Wilson was made president and managing officer. The company has warehouses in Owatonna and in Rochester. There are 25-30 employees. The company is now in the production and sales of Coca-Cola, TAB, Sunkist, Schweppes and other brands of soft drinks.



Beginning in 1930 the Austin Coca-Cola Bottling was located at 403 - 4th Ave. N.E.



Left to right: George Wilson, Chuck Stern, Jim Wilson and Charles Wilson

WAYNE H. AUSTIN DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC.

Wayne Austin always had a dream of going into business for himself. He was born in 1910 on a farm in Mower County, near Cedar City.

During his high school years he had worked as a helper on a Taystee Bread truck for Oliver Douglas. He was very active in athletics in high school, especially football. Wayne attended Drake and Hamline Universities with football scholarships.

After two years of college he was offered a position with the Purity Baking Co. of St. Paul. This being the Depression years he readily accepted and began his business career as a Taystee Bread salesman in Austin. With one bread truck he covered the city twice daily.

Wayne enjoyed selling his products and was ambitious. In a couple of years he had a second truck and an extra salesman. The first was Harry Thorpe and later Mr. Elwin "Bud" Ankeny. During those years, Wayne also invested in a grocery store, the West Side Market, in partnership with Donald Taylor.

In 1936 Wayne married Vernyce Christopherson. They had two sons, Robert Wayne and Donald Loren.

In 1938, Wayne and Elmer Carlson began a partnership as wholesale distributors for G. Heileman Brewing Co. of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Mr. Carlson also had a service station. Wayne continued his Taystee job and they hired Harold "Tubby" Nordly to manage their



Wayne Austin, left and Elwin Ankeny, right, in 1937

beverage business with Vernon Murphy, as a salesman. Their first warehouse was located on the Great Western Railroad tracks, between Jay Street S.E. and Franklin St. S.E. Wayne sold his partnership in the West Side Market to Don Taylor.

In 1940, Wayne resigned his position with Purity Baking Co. and bought out his partner, Elmer Carlson. He moved his business to a larger warehouse, along the Milwaukee tracks on Clark Street N.E., and became a fulltime distributor.

Heileman's Old Style Lager, was one of the leading brands during the 40's and Wayne serviced all of Mower County and the west portion of Freeborn County. He also expanded his business with franchises for soft drinks, including Squirt, Lemmy, Dr. Pepper and Canada Dry.

Mr. Murphy, his route salesman, learned of a bottling company for sale in Spring Valley, Minnesota so Wayne purchased it. Mr. Murphy moved there to run that until he was called into military service. At that time Wayne moved the bottling operation to Austin. He located it in a building which Paul Cummings had used as a bottling plant on Cedar Street S.E. Mr. Cummings taught Wayne the bottling business. Armin Witt and Gladys Wilson assisted in the bottling operation.

Wayne soon added Schlitz, from Milwaukee; Gluek's Minneapolis; Potosi, Potosi, Wisconsin; Fox Deluxe and Fleck's Beer from Faribault; Orange Crush and Hires Root Beer. He began to plan for large facilities. Architect Ed Witt, designed a new building. N. A. "Andy" Petersen, contractor, constructed a modern building at 513 East Oakland Avenue beside the Cedar River. During these war years it was difficult to get building supplies, and they were slow in arriving. Sugar was rationed for bottling pop. Nevertheless, when the new warehouse was completed Wayne was the proudest man in town.

In 1947, Wayne's brother, Almon, returned from service and was placed in charge of the bottling operation. Assisting him were Witt and Gladys Wilson. Wayne patented his own brand name, "GO-FOR" POP, and changed the company name to GOPHER BOTTLING COMPANY. He had sub-distributors in Albert Lea, Owatonna, Rochester, Minnesota and Mason City, Iowa. The business was a family operation, as Wayne's father, Harry Austin, was "chief bottle



Wayne Austin on right, his brother, Almon on left, and father Harry in center



Newly completed Gopher Bottling Co. - 1947

sorter" and all around supporter. Harry continued until he was over ninety years old. Two brothers-in-law, Loren Christopherson and Joe Voorhees, returned from service and were employed. His two sons, Robert and Donald, were reaching the age when they could help in many ways.

After several years the Gopher Bottling Company discontinued bottling soft drinks and became a jobber. Wayne also saw the need to diversify his business to other related products, so he added products such as paper goods, restaurant, hotel and janitorial supplies. His company was then renamed GOPHER DISTRIBUTING COMPANY. The supply business grew tremendously, and is now known as the G.D.C. Supply; a division of the Distributing Company. It is managed by Donald Austin. The beverage division is managed by Robert Austin.

Wayne was dedicated to promoting Austin, and Austin was good to him. He served the city as councilman and alderman at large for a total of 14 years. He was active in Boy Scouts, president of the Austin Baseball Association, and on the church council of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. He also served as director and president of his business trade associations: Minnesota Bottlers Association and Minnesota Beer Wholesalers Association.

Wayne Austin died in 1975 after 37 years in business. His sons and their wives have carried on the business.

They have expanded with a distributorship branch in Rochester. The original building on Oakland Avenue was sold to Dave Wenzel Auto Parts in 1979, and two warehouses rented temporarily for Gopher. In 1983 Bob and Don Austin moved their two businesses into larger facilities in the building formerly occupied by the Warehouse Market on West Oakland Avenue.



Left to right: Dale Hiller, Almon Austin, Herman Miller, Don Austin, Jiles Baldus

AUSTIN FARM CENTER



Air view of Austin Farm Center

Austin Farm Center began as Ratcliff Seed Co. in 1964. It was renamed the Austin Seed Co. in 1971 when Robert Radloff purchased the business.

Five farmers became the new owners in 1976 with Bill Schottler as manager. Roger Schrom joined the firm in 1979 and then purchased the company in 1983. He is now the manager. Austin Farm Center is located on Highway 218 South.

Austin Farm Center handles dry and liquid fertilizers,



Roger Scrom Demonstrates

feed, chemicals, cleaning and bagging of certified seed and custom spraying. This gives the individual farmer the opportunity of a fast and economical custom service. The cost of equipment is prohibitive for the individual.

Crop farming has undergone great changes in the past decades. Hybrid varieties, scientific planting, etc., have increased crop yields to a level which would have been impossible fifty years ago. Many believe the single greatest contributor has been weed control. Companies such as the Austin Farm Center have facilitated this development.

BUTLER APARTMENTS

The Butler Apartment building was directly in the path of the 1928 tornado which came through the Austin business section. This required extensive repairs.

E. C. Butler built the Butler Apartments in 1920. It

was one of the first in Austin of this type. His son, Harold, is the present owner. The location is at 215 N.E. 4th Ave.

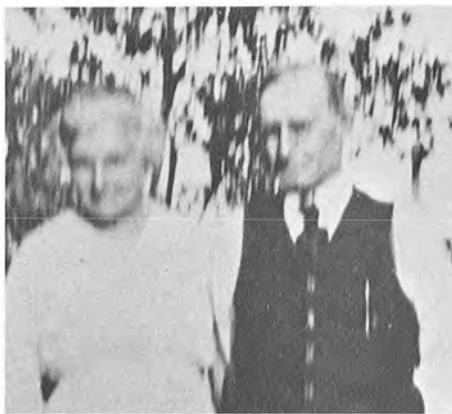


Butler Apartments following 1928 tornado

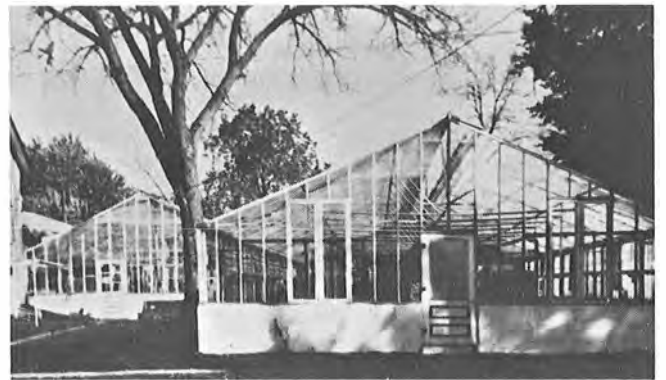


Butler Apartments - 1984

DICKENS' GREENHOUSE



**Lucy and Colman Dickens
Started the Greenhouse**



Dickens' Greenhouse



**Present Proprietors, left to right: Clifford and Doris Krueger,
Catherine and Mahlon Krueger**

The Dickens' Greenhouse has been a family business for 65 years. It was started by Colman E. and his wife, Lucy A. M., in 1919. Colman E. Dickens was born in Tioga County, Pennsylvania in 1861. Lucy (Gould) Dick-

ens was born in Preston, Minnesota in 1868. The greenhouse was built on to their home at 405 S.E. 14th Street. Mr. Dickens was a cement manufacturer at that time.

Lucy Dickens had gained a knowledge of florist work as an employee of the Kinsman greenhouse, Austin. In 1925 a new and larger greenhouse was added.

Colman and Lucy had two children, Claude E. and Edith F. Edith married William Coogan.

Colman Dickens died in 1933 and Lucy continued the business. In 1947 she sold to Clifford A. and Doris Krueger. Doris was a granddaughter of Colman and Lucy Dickens, and the daughter of Edith and William Coogan.

Doris and Clifford have operated the business over the intervening years. Their son, Mahlon, and wife, Catherine, are now in partnership with them.

Clifford Krueger retired from the Hormel Company after 44 years service. At that time it was decided to operate the greenhouse on a seasonal basis.

A steel building has now been erected. This includes a boiler room, garage and potting room. Also two large plastic greenhouses are put up in the spring to accommodate the expanding business.

F. I. CRANE LUMBER COMPANY

In 1863 the Crane family moved from Ohio to Austin, Minnesota. They crossed Lake Michigan to Milwaukee and then traveled by covered wagon. Frank became 15 years old on the day they crossed into Mower County. He had made the journey on horseback. The last night of their trip they camped at Sargent's Springs, now the site of the Austin Country Club.

The next day the family settled in the oak grove just west of the present Oakwood Cemetery. When that cemetery was first developed, a group of women brought their husbands to clear the brush from the new property. They had a picnic lunch on the Crane's lawn.

In 1865 the Crane family moved from their log cabin across from the cemetery into a newly built brick house.

As a young man Frank Crane attended a business college in Minneapolis. Following this he worked in the Mower County National Bank, thus gaining a knowledge of business methods. His first employment with a lumberyard was with a company near the Milwaukee tracks, and then with the Bray and French lumberyard near the Great Western Tracks. In 1876 Crane took over the management of this lumberyard, to be known as the F.I. Crane Lumber Yard. It was located at 310 E. Bridge St. (now 310 N.E. 2nd Ave.)

A young lady by the name of Sylvia Pettibone came from Ohio to visit her sister in Austin. She met Frank Crane and in 1880 they were married.

Crane not only built a successful lumber business, he also served his community in many ways. He was the mayor of Austin for three terms. The town's financial situation improved during his term of service. He was also a member of the school board and president of the first library board of the new Carnegie Library. He continued in that capacity until his death.

F. I. Crane made cement blocks, mixing the cement in a wooden frame by hand. These blocks were used in the construction of his lumberyard office and in the construction of a new family home at 300 W. Bridge St. (300 N.W. 2nd Ave). This residence is still in use in 1984. Now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Paul Morreim, it has been used in his profession. In 1977 it was recognized in the Guide to the Architecture in Minnesota.

Ralph Crane became manager of the Crane Lumber Company upon the death of his father, Frank. At first



Ralph Crane

the business was conducted as a partnership. Ralph was the president and manager with his three sisters, Leah Crane Crowley, Clara Crane and Florence Crane Wright as partners.

In 1935 the Crane Lumber Yard was completely destroyed by fire. It was then rebuilt.

During the years of Ralph Crane's management the growth of his company paralleled the rapid growth of the Hormel Company. In his busy life he still found time for community service. Ralph was a director of the Austin National Bank. He was also an alderman-at-large on the city council. While serving on the school board he was influential in the purchase of the property which was to become the Wescott Athletic Field. He also served on the Hormel Foundation.

After Ralph's death in 1947 his son, Race, became president and manager of the Crane Lumber Company. Race had worked with his father since his graduation from college except for an interval of wartime military service.

The business was incorporated during Race Crane's term of service. Austin Ready-Mix Cement was purchased in 1959-60.

The F.I. Crane Lumber Company had been in business for 90 years when it was sold to the United Building Center in 1966. The UBC continues to do business at the same location.

FIRST BANK OF AUSTIN

Banking first came to Austin in 1866 when Harlan W. Page hung out his sign which read "Banking and Exchange Office of Harlan W. Page." Austin had a population of less than 1,000 at that time. During the next four years Austin added 1,200 citizens and the county increased over 5,000. The increase in settlers and the stimulation of land sales convinced Page that he, as a private banker, could not meet the mounting demand for loan and deposit facilities. Mr. Page encouraged O. W.

Shaw to come from McGregor, Iowa, and go into the banking business with him in Austin.

The First National Bank was chartered as of October 27, 1868. That was just seven months after the Minnesota State legislature had set out Austin as a village from the township. The charter was issued to Harlan W. Page, Oliver W. Shaw, Jeremiah H. Merrill, N. P. Austin and E. O. Wheeler. The paid in capital was \$50,000.

The building formerly occupied by Page was purchased



First National Bank Building rebuilt after 1869 fire

and the bank moved into its new home on February 15, 1869. Three weeks later Austin had a disastrous fire in the business section. Their building burned, but almost all of the contents were saved. The bank opened for business the following noon in a corner of the hardware store of Austin, Smout and Co.

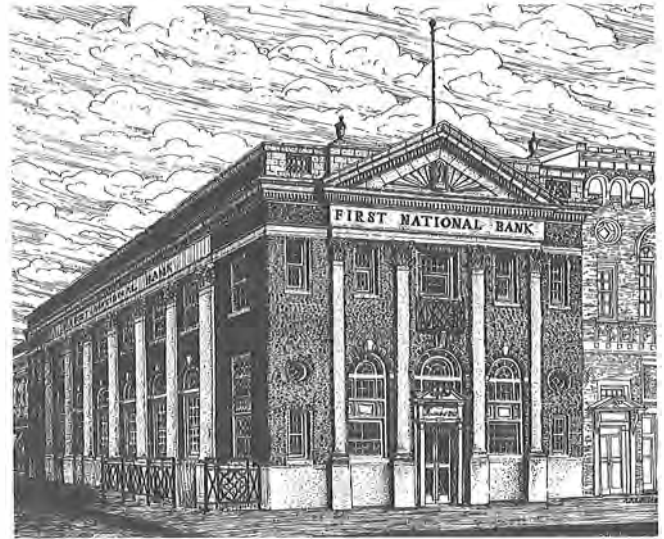
A new brick building was constructed at the corner of Main and Bridge, now the northeast corner of the intersection of Main St. and 2nd Ave. N.W.

In 1886 an acute problem was faced by N. F. Banfield, the young bank cashier. Mr. Shaw had gone east on a visit. On Saturday night, June 10th, it was learned that the Mower County Bank would not open its doors the following Monday. Banfield took the train to St. Paul, called upon the president of the First National Bank, explained the situation and was assured that \$100,000 in currency would be on hand by Monday morning. When worried customers came into the bank on Monday morning they saw the money piled high behind the bank's grillwork. Instead of a run on the bank there was an increase in deposits.

In a time of tight money conditions in 1907 the bank issued script. It was accepted by the merchants and workers for several months. Every piece of script was paid through the New York bank.



Interior of bank at 301 N. Main St.



Merged in 1931 with the Austin National Bank, The First National Bank moved into this new structure at 301 N. Main Street.

In November, 1929 the First National Bank of Austin joined the First Bank Stock Corporation. They were then affiliated with an organization headed by the two First Nationals of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the 70 other banks which were members at that time.

In February, 1931 the Austin National Bank consolidated with the First National of Austin. The merged organization moved into the newly completed building which was on the northwest corner of the same intersection, Main St. at 2nd Ave.

On December 31, 1935 the published statement of condition showed that the First National Bank had capital and reserves of \$354,148.07 and deposits of \$3,173,518.47. The directors were Jay C. Hormel, O. W. O'Berg, Nathan F. Banfield Jr., Everett C. Banfield, R. P. Crane, Park Dougherty, M. F. Dugan, Chas. F. Fox and C. W. Wilkins.

In 1956 the bank building was remodeled, the quarters housing the installment loan department added to the bank, the first customer parking lot was acquired and the original Auto Bank was constructed.

1973 saw the completion of the current Auto Bank. On March 10, 1975 the First National Bank moved into its new facility. All banking needs, insurance needs and travel requirements are handled under one roof.

The First National has had seven bank presidents in their 116 year history. They are as follows: O. W. Shaw, 1869 to 1920; N. F. Banfield Sr., 1920 to 1927; N. F. Banfield Jr., 1927 to 1936; C. W. Wilkins, 1936 to 1954; R. F. Lichty, 1954 to 1977; W. W. Strausburg, 1977 to 1980 and W. L. Connelly, 1980 to present date.

The present First Bank of Austin has 82 employees. Their current assets are \$150 million dollars. The bank's doors have never been closed for business except during the so-called "Bank Holiday" of March, 1933, when President Roosevelt issued the order temporarily closing every bank in the nation.

In May, 1869 the *Austin Register* had the following

comment in its news columns: "We call the attention of our readers this week to the advertisement of the First National Bank of Austin. This is a responsible institution and is doing a safe business with safe men at the front."

In the intricate economic times of 1984 the First Bank of Austin, Minnesota continues to adhere to early traditions.



First National Bank's present facility was completed in 1975

THE FOX HOTEL

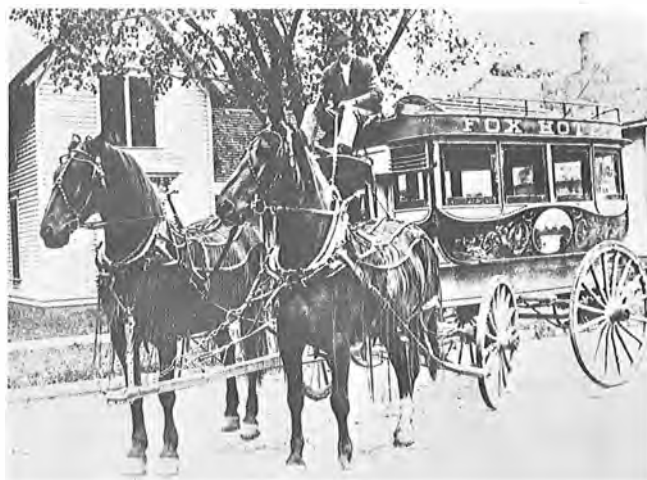


The Fox Hotel - Circa 1915

(Vern Judd Photo Collection)

In August of 1893, Charles F. Fox, Sr. and his wife, Ida, and their family settled in Austin with the intent of building a new hotel. The site for the hotel was at 501 N. Main St., currently occupied by the Norwest Bank. The land was purchased from C. H. Davidson for \$5,000. The Davidson home was moved to the north side of the lot and was occupied by the Fox family that consisted of Katherine (Mrs. Charles Sargent of Red Wing), Charles F. Fox, Jr., Meta (Mrs. John G. Hormel), and Irvin D., all now deceased.

Three Welsh sisters from Emmetsburg, Iowa, Agnes, Beatrice and Maggie became employed by the Fox family as cooks and waitresses. They helped to establish the fine reputation of the Fox Dining Room in the early days. Their employment continued into the second and the youngest of three girls into the third generation of Fox family proprietorship.



Fox Hotel's Depot "Bus"

The original building was 50 feet wide fronting Main St. and 110 feet deep on Water Street. It was a three-story building with a French style mansard roof. Quoting from an old Herald, "The building was to be heated by steam, illuminated by electricity and fitted with toilet and bath facilities in the latest metropolitan style." The plans were drawn by an architect, Frank W. Kinney, but Charles Fox, Sr. was his own contractor, paying off the workmen every Saturday night. This took most of his ready cash as the early years were quite a struggle. The furnishings were purchased locally which pleased the merchants.

The hotel was opened for business on October 23, 1894. There was a large attendance at dinner to celebrate the opening, and the menu was excellent. The hotel quickly gained a fine reputation for excellent food that

was maintained through its entire history. In the early days, Mrs. Fox Sr. spent many hours in the kitchen putting up pickles, jams and jellies. As the children grew old enough, they helped with various and sundry chores from Katherine working as a pastry cook to Charlie driving the Fox Bus to and from the Milwaukee Depot, to Irvin working as a bellhop. Incidentally, one of his most despised tasks was cleaning and polishing the brass spittoons.

Upon the death of Charles Fox Sr., the task of operating the hotel fell upon Irvin, while Charles Jr. took over the cigar counter. He soon converted to a wholesale candy and tobacco business as Chas. F. Fox & Co. In 1913, Irvin Fox doubled the size of his hotel by adding a three-story wing to the north, replacing the Fox family home. Irvin continued to successfully operate the business until his untimely death in 1938.

To save the family owned hotel, Irvin's son, Robert, interrupted his college education. He ran the hotel with his Uncle Charlie looking over his shoulder.

Robert, better known in the community as Bob, did

not further expand the size of the building. He did make substantial improvements. A parking lot was needed, so the old laundry building was eliminated and a lot was established for 25 cars. Rooms were renovated, often combining three rooms into two rooms with private baths between. With increasing pressure of automobile travel and the acceptance of one-story roadside competition, an automatic elevator was installed in 1954. That was rather unique at the time as in the downtown area there was only one other semi-automatic elevator.

Things are never quiet very long. In 1958 discussion started on a new community owned hotel. They said the old Fox had outlived its usefulness. The land was sold to Norwest Bank Corp. in 1960, but the hotel continued to be operated by Robert's sisters, Marian, Ruth and her husband John G. Leif. Robert left and now resides in Santa Barbara, California. In 1965, the Norwest Bank had its building plans ready to go. The hotel was closed at that time and a new bank building was built.

by Robert Fox

MAYER FUNERAL HOME

Frank H. Mayer was born in Austin, Minnesota on October 12, 1876. He was the son of Michael and Victoria (Laufle) Mayer, who both came from Germany. Frank went to work as a fireman on the Milwaukee Road after grade school. He was soon married to Bertha Goetz of Austin. They had three children: Vera, Mrs. F. V. Betlach, Owatonna; Robert F., Owatonna (now deceased) and John F., Austin. John F. Mayer is still one of the proprietors of Mayer Funeral Home.

In 1898 Frank Mayer was employed by G. Fred Baird, an Austin undertaker. In 1915 Baird sold his business to a Mr. Evenson and Frank was unemployed.

Frank was encouraged to begin his own business by a friend, Jim Hogan. Hogan was a casket salesman for the Iowa Coffin Co., Dubuque, Iowa. Frank received a consignment of caskets through Hogan and he commenced business. Manley Ousley, proprietor of the Austin Furniture Co., offered the use of three rooms on the third floor of his building. The location was the site of the present Brick Furniture Co. In exchange for use of the space Frank worked in the store and took care of all their picture framing and repair work. The business was known as Mayer and Ousley, although Ousley had no financial interest.

On February 3, 1923 a fire started in the basement of the furniture store and spread quickly throughout the building. Firefighters were hampered by 20 below zero weather. An embalmed body was in the third floor undertaking parlors. An attempt was made to bring it out by ladder, but just as the table with the body was brought to the window the floors collapsed. The following morning the body was discovered in the ice and debris of the basement.

Frank next rented a large house at 106 W. Water St.

(N.W. 4th Ave.). The house, which was owned by Al Smith, became Austin's first funeral home.

In June, 1931, Frank's youngest son, John, graduated with a degree in Mortuary Science from the University of Minnesota. He joined with his father, and that autumn they purchased the old Bert Banfield home, 604 Greenwich St. (600 2nd St. N.W.). This beautiful old residence was remodeled and served as the Mayer Funeral Home for the next 38 years.

Frank H. Mayer died August 28, 1935, at the age of 58, following a heart attack. Just two days previously John F. Mayer had been married to Olive C. Redman. They had three children; Mrs. Peter (Joan) Gavin, St. Paul, Mn.; John F. Mayer Jr., Austin; and James M. Mayer, Minneapolis.

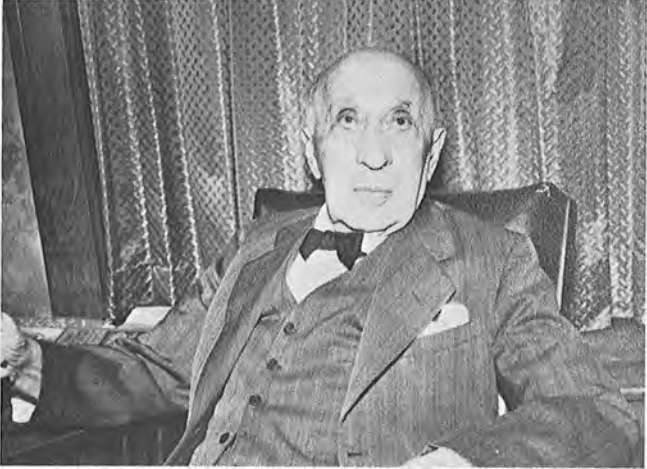
In 1964 John F. Mayer Jr. graduated from the school of Mortuary Science, University of Minnesota, and joined his father. This makes the third generation of the Mayer family in the business.

In September, 1970 the Mayer Funeral Home moved into a beautiful new one-story brick building. It is designed for all of the needs for modern funeral service. Upon completion of the new building the old funeral home was removed and became an adjoining parking area.

Mayers have led the way with innovations in funeral service and community customs during their many years of service in Austin. Among these are: Austin's first funeral home, first motor funeral coach, first side service funeral coach and first pressure injection equipment for embalming.

In this year of 1984 the Mayer family completes 69 years of dedicated service to the families of Austin and vicinity.

HIRSH/KEENANS



George Hirsh

George Hirsh, founder of the Hirsh Clothing Company, was one of Austin's pioneer merchants. Coming to America from Bavaria, Germany in 1873, he began peddling dry goods and notions in New York and Vermont. In 1880 he opened a meat market and grocery store in Chicago. Four years later he started a clothing business in Council Grove, Kansas.

Hirsh came to Austin in 1887. His first store was at 201 North Main St. in the building now occupied by the Hastings Shoe Store. His business prospered, and in 1900 he built the two-story building at the corner of Main St. and N.E. 4th Avenue.

In 1895 George Hirsh had married Eva Billstein, Neenah, Wisconsin. They had three children: Rephah



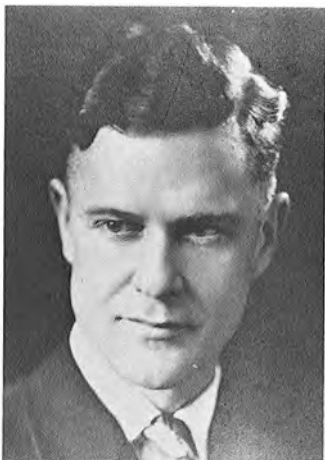
Hirsh's Clothing about 1915

B., Elizabeth F. and Alexander I. Mr. Hirsh was active in the community and political life of Austin. He was mayor of the city for two terms. He died at the age of 100 in 1956.

Alex Hirsh purchased his father's business in 1926. He continued in operation of the business for an additional 40 years. When he sold the business to John Keenan in 1966 the Hirsh Clothing Store had been retailing clothing in Austin for 79 years.

The retailing traditions of the Hirsh family are now carried on by John Keenan. The interior and exterior of the store have been renovated in the course of years. However, a native of Austin could return after a long absence and still recognize the distinctive architecture of the building George Hirsh built in 1900.

WEBBER-STEPHENSON AGENCY



Wayne H. Webber

In 1914 Wayne H. Webber rented a typewriter and office space over the Farmers-Merchants State Bank. Shortly thereafter he sold his first Aetna Insurance

policy, earning a commission of \$2.80. The Webber Insurance Agency was in business.

Wayne Webber was born in Austin, Minnesota on June 29, 1892. He graduated from Austin High School and then was a student at the University of Minnesota for three years.

After opening his insurance agency he represented the Aetna Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn. May 1, 1916 he added the Travelers Insurance Company and traveled over Mower, Freeborn and Dodge counties as their representative. Although other companies have been added, the agency has continued to sell Travelers insurance over the 68 year span.

The Webber Agency continued in several locations. After the Farmers State Bank Building they were in the Elk Hotel Building (Austin Hotel), the Babcock Building, over the People's Drug Store on Main Street, the Hirsh Building and then to the present address at 103 N.E. 4th Avenue. This is located in the former Western Union office in the Hirsh Building.



Robert and Beverlee Stephenson

Wayne Webber married Cora Vroman, Byron, Minnesota, in 1917. Their five children are Evangeline Webber Mills, Corpus Christi, Texas; Shirley Webber Shannon, Seattle, Washington; Beverlee Webber Stephenson, Austin, Mn.; Charles B. Webber, St. Paul, Mn.; and Jon W. Webber, West Simsbury, Connecticut.

In 1940-42 Wayne's daughter, Evangeline, was his interim secretary. When she married and moved she continued in insurance work until 1982. Charles Webber also worked with his father for the summers of 1950-51. He was especially interested in life insurance. He continues in this field with the Penn Mutual Life Insurance, Minneapolis.

Jon Webber is also into insurance as a partner in the firm of Kinny, Webber and Lowell Insurance Agency, Canton, Connecticut.

In 1956 Wayne's son-in-law and daughter, Robert and Beverlee Stephenson and four children, moved to Austin. They purchased the Webber Agency, changing the name to Webber-Stephenson Agency.

Wayne Webber died in May, 1970. He had helped in many ways to promote Austin's progress through activity in many organizations.

Robert and Beverlee Stephenson carry on Wayne's interest in the Austin community through their activities in various local organizations. Beverlee assists her husband, Robert, as part-time secretary and bookkeeper.

The 70 year family tradition in the insurance field continues at 103 N.E. 4th Avenue, Austin, Minn.

THE DUENOW FOOD SERVICE



Larry and Mary Duenow opened this diner on October 1, 1939

The Duenow family began its business history in Austin when Larry and Mary Duenow bought the Blue Plate Diner on October 1, 1939. The diner, which was located just east of the Firestone Store on Oakland Avenue, was owned by Maphine Graff. The Duenows started in business with a \$1000 investment, of which \$700 was borrowed. With hard work and good food, the Blue Plate Diner became a thriving business. The diner featured vegetable hamburgers for fifteen cents, and the Blue Plate Special which included meat, potatoes, vegetables, salad and cottage cheese for fifty cents. The diner had less than elegant seating for twenty-one patrons. A horseshoe counter was a popular stop for lunches or a

stop after dances at the Terp Ballroom. In addition to the local business, it also attracted cross country business from U.S. Highway 16 which was then on Oakland Avenue. This added to the sales during World War II. In 1951 when the state highway department rerouted #16 their business was seriously disrupted. They began looking for other ways to operate. In answer to this problem, they bought out a drive-in operation in Austin.

That drive-in was known as the M and J Drive-In and was located on East Garfield Avenue (now Eighth Avenue S.E.). During the winter of 1957-1958 the M and J building was moved from Garfield to Oakland Avenue and Tenth Street S.E. At the new location the business took on a new name, "The Park Drive In."

In the winter of 1959, the Duenows discovered Kentucky Fried Chicken. That following spring Larry Duenow made a trip to Shelbyville, Kentucky and met personally with Colonel Harland Sanders. He stayed at the Colonel's home and came away with a franchise to sell Colonel Sander's Kentucky Fried Chicken out of the Park Drive-In in Austin. At that time the Colonel sold his famous secret recipe only to small drive in and restaurant operators. There had been no policy of having independent Kentucky Fried Chicken take-home operations. Mr. Duenow was one of the first fifty franchises with Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Along about 1963 Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation was formed and they began pressing to have operators build free standing take-home Kentucky Fried Chicken operations. The Duenows procured franchises for the cities of Sioux City and Sioux Falls. They then built and opened businesses in both cities. From these

modest beginnings the Duenow Corporations have grown to twelve Kentucky Fried Chicken operations in the upper midwest. Mrs. Mary Duenow lives in the Austin area. Since Larry Duenow passed away in 1972, she and

her son and daughter-in-law Gene and Peggy Duenow continue to manage the family owned and operated businesses.

HOPFE THE AUCTIONEER

COL. C. L. HOPFE & SON,
Practical Auctioneers.

COL. C. L. HOPFE,
25 Years Experience
Farm and Real Estate Sales.
AUSTIN, MINN.
Phone 514 L Tri-State

ALBERT HOPFE,
Farms, Real Estate and Blooded
Stock Sales.
LANSING, MINN.
Phone 13 J 9 Tri-State.

Col. C. L. and Albert Hopfe worked together in 1912

The name HOPFE has been associated with the auction business since 1882 when Col. Charles L. Hopfe began as an auctioneer in northwestern Iowa. He also farmed one mile southwest of Hartley, Iowa. He specialized in farm personal property and real estate for 28 years. C. L. & Mrs. Hopfe had five sons and one daughter.

After retiring from farming and the auction business in 1910, Charles and Mrs. Hopfe moved to Austin, Minnesota. They purchased a home at 309 South Kenwood Avenue (4th Street S.W.). The following year, in 1911, his son, Albert Hopfe and wife left Hartley. They came to Austin and purchased a 160 acre farm southwest of Lansing, Minnesota known as the Brick House Farm.

Albert Hopfe had worked with his father in Iowa at farm auctions, announcing the pedigrees of the animals as they came into the auction ring. In 1912, Albert Hopfe



Orval Hopfe

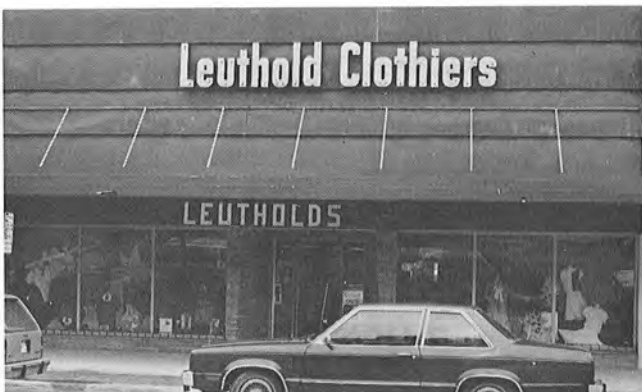
asked his father to come out of retirement for a couple of years to work with him in auctioneering. The first auction held by Col. C. L. Hopfe & Son was on Lincoln's birthday, 1912. They specialized in farm personal property and blooded stock sales. They became the leading auctioneers for miles around.

Col. Albert Hopfe was credited as being the first auctioneer to fly to an auction. In 1918 he flew from Austin to Farmington, Minnesota to conduct a Duroc Jersey Hog Sale.

Col. Hopfe carried on the auction business alone from 1915 until June, 1947 when his son, Orval V. Hopfe, returned after serving four years in the U.S. Army. The firm of Albert Hopfe & Son enjoyed an abundance of auctions. During his lifetime he sold in six states. In June, 1961 a 5,000 acre ranch was sold east of Dallas for one million dollars.

Albert Hopfe died December 17, 1961. Orval V. Hopfe continues on as an auctioneer as of this writing.

LEUTHOLD CLOTHIERS, AUSTIN



Leuthold's located at 417 North Main Street, has been in business at Austin since 1920.

Leuthold Clothier's is one of 12 stores in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin in the Leuthold organization. Jacob Leuthold, Jr. established his first men's clothing store in Kasson, Minnesota in 1878.

Lew Goodmanson has been the partner-manager of the Austin store since 1973. He began his career with Leuthold's in 1954 at Eagle Grove, Iowa. In 1959 Goodmanson went to Worthington. He then came to Austin following the death of Bill Bauer, who had been with the

Leuthold's in Austin - 1984

company 44 years. Earl Peterson preceded Bauer as partner-manager of Leuthold's at Austin.

Over the years Leuthold Clothier's has expanded and improved to keep pace with the development of the business community. "We feel the most important

features we can give our customers are quality, friendly and courteous service, and personal attention. We instill these features in the minds of all our employees," states Lew Goodmanson.

MALONEY'S STANDARD SERVICE

Maloney's Standard Service has been in operation in Austin since 1935. The business was started by Ralph Maloney, who came to Austin in 1934. Ralph began working at Lamping Standard Service on Main Street and Oakland Avenue. In 1935, he took over the station at the former "Point" now First Drive & Fourth Street N.W. The Jefferson Bus Depot now occupies the site.

In the early 1970's, after a fire, Maloney's moved to the present location at 1309 Fourth Street N.W. This is an improved location closer to the freeway.

Ralph Maloney, who resides at 601 Sixth Street N.W., was born and raised in Lily, South Dakota. He has five

children, seventeen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. After 42 years in the service station, Ralph retired in 1974. His son, Daryl, took charge of the business at that time.

Daryl was born in Lily, South Dakota and began working with his father when he was thirteen years old. He and his wife, Marilyn, have four children: David, Faith, Hope and Charity and one grandson. All of their children have worked part-time at the station from time to time. Marilyn also works in the office.

Maloney's Standard Service is a full service station, and has always handled Standard Oil Products.

MILDRED'S



Mildred's has been in business at Austin since 1946. The proprietor is Mildred Brooks Johnston. Finding a location in the business section was difficult. Mildred's finally found space in the Wagner Building at 510 Lansing Avenue (now First Drive N.W.). Mildred's Hat Shop was a success, and she added costume jewelry.

In 1950 a better location for her business became available at 122 West Mill Street (now 3rd Avenue N.W.). Soon after her move the ladies discontinued wearing hats. Mildred's Hat Shop then became Mildred's as ready-to-wear replaced the hats.

The location for Mildred's business was desirable, and when the building was put up for sale she purchased it. Office space on the second floor was rented by Strifert's Insurance Agency and Kellogg's Real Estate. Later it was converted to apartments. In previous years the space occupied by Mildred's had been rented by a photo shop, Arnold Johnson's Jewelry and Watch Repair, and a children's shop.

Mildred Brooks Johnston was born July 3, 1912, the daughter of William and Grace Brooks. She graduated from Austin High School. During her junior and senior years she worked part-time at F. W. Woolworth's. She married Ellis A. Johnston in 1930.

In the ensuing years Mildred was employed at Spurgeon's Department Store in the ready-to-wear and millinery section. Then she managed the Dotty Dunn Hat Shop at 402 North Main. It was when this hat shop went out of business in 1946 that Mildred's Hat Shop opened.

Mildred Johnston has ancestors who had a part in the early history of Mower County. In 1862 her great-grandfather, Theron P. Bull, came from Wisconsin and started the first blacksmith shop in Austin. The location was on 4th Avenue N.E., approximately where the Butler apartments are today. His daughter went to school on the second floor of a building in the 300 block of 4th Avenue N.E.

Mr. Bull lived in Brownsdale, and for two years he rode into Austin daily on horseback. In 1864 he built a shop in Brownsdale and discontinued his Austin shop.

In 1984 Mildred's continues as a flourishing ready-to-wear store at 122 Third Avenue N.W.

RAMSEY GOLF CLUB



The old Ramsey Millstone is preserved in the clubhouse



Entrance to Ramsey Recreation Park in 1935

Ramsey Golf Club was first built about 1930. The first owners were Walter, Louise, Mame, and Doris Meyers. These people also operated the swimming beach and picnic area. Ramsey, at that time, was a 9-hole "sand-green" course on the south side of the Milwaukee Railroad track.

In 1948 Jim Vacura and Giles Healy took over ownership from the Meyer's family. The first improvement was a lounge area and dining room. The fireplace features the mill wheel used for grinding feed at the old Ramsey Mill. In 1955 the additional nine holes were completed.

Many improvements and revisions have been made since that time. In 1981 the right-of-way of the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad was purchased, and the course was extended to 6,034 yards, par 71.

The clubhouse is used for wedding receptions and other such functions during the winter months. Many golf tournaments are held at Ramsey attracting golfers from Iowa, the Twin Cities area, and all of southern Minnesota.

The present owners are Mr. Vacura and Mr. Healy. They are completing 37 years of ownership at the Ramsey Golf Club.

MIX CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS



The Mix Cleaners building and the Montgomery Ward store were destroyed in a 1948 fire.

In 1926 Harold and Phylo Mix established a cleaning and dyeing business under the name of Mix Brothers. It



Mix Cleaners was located at the First St. N.W. location from 1948 to 1974.

was located in the rear of the Pooler Building, corner of Main and Mill Streets. Nine months later the firm purchased and moved to 113 West Mill Street (now 3rd Avenue N.W.) next to the Montgomery Ward Store.

In 1928 a tornado swept through the city and Mix Cleaner's plant was practically demolished. The firm reimbursed those whose clothes were ruined in the catastrophe and rebuilt the plant.

Again in 1932 a disastrous blaze swept through their plant causing thousands of dollars in damages. This fire occurred on the Friday before Easter. As they did after

the tornado, the plant was built and customers reimbursed. They rebuilt their business to a point where it was considered the largest dry cleaning plant in southern Minnesota.

In 1948 another fire, which started in the Montgomery Ward Store, swept through the Mix Plant. This time it was completely demolished.

Harold Mix began again. He purchased Phylo's interest and built his plant and office building at First Street and First Avenue N.W. The name was changed to Mix Cleaners. He continued in business until 1974, at which time he sold the property to the First National Bank of Austin. The First Bank parking lot is now located on the site.

MOWER COUNTY FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

A meeting was held at the courthouse in Austin, September 16, 1885 to organize a Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. The meeting was called to order by W. D. Medberry, R. Eckford acting as clerk.

The following persons were present: S. B. Woodsum, H. W. Lightly, M. W. Rogers, R. H. C. Dinsmoor, T. Varco, J. C. Hawkins, W. D. Medberry, E. S. Hoppin, R. Eckford, Daniel Williams, W. P. Hoppin, J. J. Furlong, J. A. Thompson, G. Seebach, A. Dickinson, C. H. Huntington, G. L. Case, J. S. Decker, Benjamin Wright, O. E. Loe, O. J. Bragen and Ole Finhart.

The following were elected directors: G. L. Case, Robert Eckford, H. W. Lightly, J. J. Furlong, G. Seebach, J. A. Thompson, Daniel Williams, Ole Finhart and E. S. Hoppin.

The name chosen for the Association was the Austin Farmers Fire and Storm Mutual Insurance Company. G. L. Case was chosen as president; Robert Eckford as secretary; and E. S. Hoppin as treasurer.

Only the townships of Austin, Windom, Lansing, Lyle, Dexter, Racine, Grand Meadow, Pleasant Valley and Frankford were included in the company at the time of its organization. Farmers in those townships were the only ones eligible for insurance in the newly organized company. About two years later the entire county was included. In 1895, the east tier of townships in Freeborn County was added to our company.

Article 2 of the Corporation reads: "The business of the Corporation shall be the insurance of the members thereof against the loss or damage by fire, hail, lightning and storm."

In addition to those in attendance at the first meeting, the names of C. W. Shapely, D. Hagen, John Schroeder and John Frank were added to the list of names of incorporators.

In the original by-laws \$3,000 was the limit that could be written on one risk and no building could be insured for more than three-fourths of its value. Whenever a fire loss occurred the board would meet to assess the loss and an assessment would be sent out to the members to pay the loss. Windstorm and hail losses were assessed October 1st of each year.

The first annual report of the Austin Farmers Fire and Storm Mutual Insurance Company showed 57 members, 44 policyholders, \$54,590 insurance in force and they had received from memberships \$27.48.

The first loss paid by the company was to Thos. Malone who lost a 4-year old mare and sucking colt

struck by lightning July 8, 1886. The amount paid was \$200.

By a unanimous vote, the hail and cyclone departments were discontinued by the company on May 20, 1891.

At the annual meeting in 1896, it was decided to insure country churches, schools and halls at two-thirds of their value and charge one and one-third rate on these buildings.

At the meeting held May 21, 1900, J. J. Furlong made a report on his attendance at the Annual Convention of Township Mutual Insurance Companies held in St. Paul. He reported that after listening to the discussions at the convention he concluded that our company's methods were as good or better than those of other companies.

In February, 1901, Attorney Lafayette French was hired to draw up new articles of incorporation and by-laws for the company. These were unanimously adopted as presented on May 20, 1901. Since that time only a few minor changes have been made in these articles of incorporation and by-laws.

The name of the company was changed from Austin Farmers Fire and Storm Mutual Insurance Company to the Mower County Farmers Fire and Lightning Mutual Insurance Company, a name it carried until 1957 when it was again changed to Mower County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

The territory in which the company could do business was enlarged to include all of Mower County and the townships of London, Oakland, Moscow and Newry in Freeborn County. Later the township of Westfield in Dodge County was added. In 1904 the townships of Vernon, Rock Dell, High Forest, Pleasant Grove and Orton in Olmsted County along with Sumner, Spring Valley, Bloomfield, Beaver, Jordon, Fillmore, Forestville and York Townships in Fillmore County and Blooming Prairie Township in Steele County were added to this list of territories.

The Minnesota Standard Policy was adopted on January 8, 1957 and used until they again adopted the 1960 revised Minnesota Standard Policy.

On October 30, 1957, it was decided to write insurance in villages up to the population stipulated by the State Insurance Commissioner, which was 2500 population.

In January of 1958 the first reinsurance program was negotiated with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, Iowa and a reinsurance program has been carried with them continuously. This has provided great stability to the association and security for its members,

as well as allowing a much larger scope of operation and coverages.

In March of 1973 the company decided to provide package policies combining fire, wind and liability coverages to be handled out of the Mower County Farmers Mutual Office with combined billings coming from the same. The purpose of this was to make things more convenient for our insureds.

On July 18, 1973 fire destroyed our adjoining businesses, leaving our office at 224 Second Avenue N.E. with severe smoke and water damage. We were forced to find a new office. On September 18, 1973 we moved to 509 East Oakland Avenue which is our present location.

In 1983 we adopted the new easy-to-read Minnesota Standard Policy and we hope to serve our insureds with broader coverages. We have experienced good times and

bad times, problems and competition. Through the efforts of able, honest and sincere officers and directors, we have been successful.

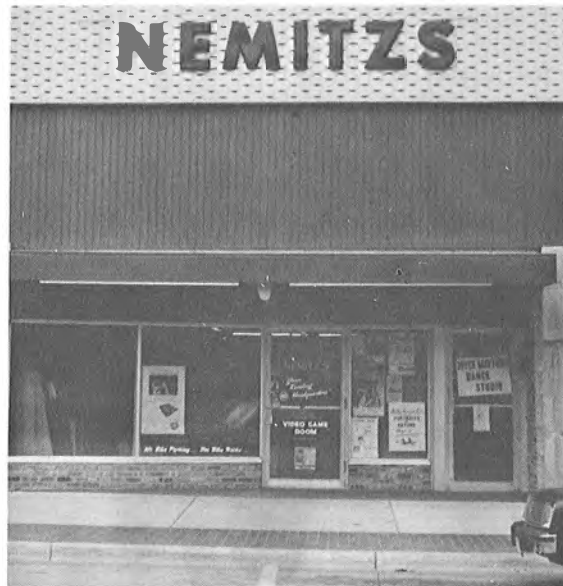
In 1985 we will be celebrating 100 years of continuous operation and service to the people of Mower County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

The present officers and directors of Mower County Farmers Mutual are: Stanley Gronseth, president; Leslie Tap, vice-president; Byron J. Huseby, secretary; Clifford Christianson, asst. secretary; Robert J. Murphy, treasurer; Kenneth Corson, asst. treasurer; Richard C. Baudler, Donald C. Haug and Norbert Schroeder. Helen J. Huseby, office manager and Ann Bellrichard, office secretary. We are proud of our company and we hope our insureds are too.

THE NEMITZ'S



Gary Nemitz



407 North Main St.



An Old Time Austin Tobacco Store

Standing, left to right: James Prouty, James Geraghty, Riley Brooks.
Sitting, left to right: James C. Kenevan, Tim Cronar, John Barnes, John Casey, Pat Geraghty, Pat Kelley.

Nemitz's was first founded by Fred Williams. Williams Cigar Store, 415 North Main Street, was one of the oldest business establishments in the city, and attracted the highest grade of trade in tobacco, news and confectionary items. Henry Nemitz worked part-time for Williams from 1912 to 1929 when he became a partner.

In 1937 Nemitz became sole owner. He retained the name Williams Cigar Store until 1947 when he remodeled the store and changed its name to Nemitz's. While remodeling the store, the workers found iron ore while digging in the basement.

Henry's two grandson's, Gary and Larry Nemitz began to help out in the store in their youth; Gary in 1951 and Larry in 1953. Gary became a partner in 1956. In 1959 Gary and Larry became owner-operators when they purchased the store from their grandfather.

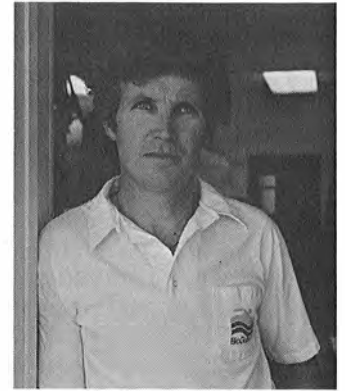
In 1966 the store was expanded to two levels. On the lower level shoppers could find paperbacks, magazines, pipes, tobacco and other smoking supplies. On the main floor were hardcover books, Bibles, Hallmark cards, candy, popcorn and gift items. In 1970 the old Griffith Pharmacy building, which adjoined them, was remodeled and a balcony added.



**Minnesota-Iowa Pool and Patio
106 S.W. 4th St., Austin**

In the 1970s the Nemitz business expanded and the brothers developed a variety of interests. Therefore, in 1978 the partnership was divided. Larry remained in the upstairs level with cards and gifts. This was renamed Nemitz's What Not Shop. Gary Nemitz's downstairs store specialized in tobacco and smoking supplies, magazines and both hardcover and softcover books.

In 1979 Larry Nemitz opened a store at 120 Third Ave.



Larry Nemitz

N.W., which specialized in patio furniture and outdoor pools together with the supplies associated with the pools. It was named Minnesota-Iowa Pool and Patio. In the spring of 1983 this business was transferred to 106 S.W. 4th St.

In 1982 the building at 407 Main St. became available. This space had previously been used by King Optical. Gary Nemitz moved his book and tobacco business into the area on the street level. This provided 1,000 extra square feet. A game room was opened in the downstairs level.

Members of the Nemitz family have been in business in Austin for 55 years.

THE COTTAGE HOTEL



408 - 5th Place N.W., Austin

The apartment house pictured above does not have an official name at the present time. It is, however, the oldest apartment house in the City of Austin. For an unspecified period of time prior to 1900 it was a hotel on the northeast corner of the intersection of Main St. and Water St. (4th Ave. N.E.) When the Hirsh Clothing store was built at that location the building was moved to the 600 block on North Main St. It was then known as the Cottage Hotel. Room rates were \$1.00 per day.

In the 1920s the building was moved to its present location at 408 5th Place N.W. W. E. Redman purchased the apartment house in 1928. The present owner is Duane Thompson, Kiester, Minn.

PIKE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC.

Pike Transportation Service, Inc. is owned and operated by Wilfred and Edith Pike. It was incorporated in 1958. At that time we had 23 years of school busing experience serving the Rose Creek, Brownsdale and Austin areas. Our headquarters was in Brownsdale until 1960. We then moved to Nicolville, Hi-way 16 East, Austin, Minnesota.

Our son, Lowell, and wife, Judith Pike, bought the business in 1976. The office was moved and joined with Pike's Family Car Wash, 311½ N.E. 4th Avenue, Austin, Minnesota.

When I first started school busing in 1936, insurance was not necessary as times were tough. Almost no one had anything to lose but debts. As we emerged from the

great depression, lawsuits began and insurance was required. Later it was necessary to incorporate to protect oneself from being wiped out in case of a catastrophic accident. Fortunately, Pike Transportation, after 48 years in the business, has never had a child injured inside or outside a school bus. We are all thankful for that.

We firmly believe in clean equipment and a preventive maintenance program. Drivers are trained in traffic laws and school bus driving as well as the handling of children. A lot of luck helps too.

In 1938 I married Edith Hartson of Brownsdale, Minnesota. We have three sons: Larry, a teacher in California; Lowell of Austin and now the owner of Pike Transportation, Pike's Car Wash and associate owner of Ford-

town. Stanley is the youngest and is an electronic technician with the Goodyear Blimp stationed at Houston, Texas. All three graduated from Austin High School.

In 1973 and 1977 we were given awards by the Minnesota and National School Bus Operators Associations for excellent service in school busing.

We of Pike Transportation Service, Inc. consider it an honor and a privilege to be entrusted with the safety and welfare of the children we have transported in this community for the past 48 years. May we always remain humble and appreciative.

by Wilfred "Bill" Pike

THE SCHLEUDERS

In 1863 Gus Schleuder walked to Austin from St. Peter, Mn. to start a watch repair business. He had a few articles of jewelry for sale. The inventory was increased in the succeeding years. Mr. Schleuder slept in his store.

On August 1, 1867 the Mower County Register reported a Burglary.

"Bold Robbery—Over \$2,000 in Goods Stolen From A Jewelry Store."

"On Sunday evening last, between the hours of eight and nine o'clock, some thieving rascal entered the front door of Mr. Gustav Schleuder's Jewelry Store and abstracted from the show case, watches and fine jewelry to the value of \$2,000. Mr. Schleuder at the time was absent at church. Upon returning he found the front door unlocked, the back one open and the goods stolen as stated. Proper exertions to find the thief have been put forth, but no clue has been obtained. This is the first robbery of much value that has ever taken place in Austin."

"Mr. Schleuder always slept in his store during the nights and scarcely ever left it during evenings, except for Sabbath evenings to attend church. This loss falls heavily on Mr. G., a young man whose accumulations have been by so much industry should not be thus afflicted."

In 1887 the Austin State Bank was incorporated by G. Schleuder, F. I. Crane, C. H. Davidson and R. E. Shepherd. In 1889 the Austin National Bank was organized and took over the accounts of the State Bank. Mr. Schleuder was the president of this bank from 1895 to 1898.

During the ensuing years Gus Schleuder's business at 309 N. Main St. expanded. By 1911 he had begun to invest in real estate. He bought several buildings on Main Street. In some of these buildings he was in partnership with local businessmen such as Mitchell, French and Benton.

Gus Schleuder died in 1913 and one of his sons, Herbert W. Schleuder, took over the jewelry business. In 1925 Herbert sold the building to the bank; it was torn down and the new First National Bank Building was erected.



Gustav Schleuder
Austin Businessman from
1863 to 1914.



Herbert W. Schleuder
Associated in business from
1913 to 1953.



Forrest A. Schleuder
With business from 1914 to
1943.



Merlin J. Schleuder
Associated with business
since 1947, he now directs the
real estate rental operation.

H. W. Schleuder then concentrated on real estate rentals in the office at 223½ North Main St. Herbert W. died in 1953. The Schleuder Real Estate office continues at the same Main St. location in 1984.

Forrest A. Schleuder had a variety of vocations in Austin. He had a wholesale paper business with a warehouse on both the Milwaukee and Great Western tracks.

He went out of this business when a spark from a steam engine set fire to the warehouse on the Milwaukee tracks. All of his inventory was destroyed.

For a time Forrest managed the "Opera House" on the second floor of the area from 400 to 404½ N. Main St. Famous people performed on this site. This business closed when the movies came in.

Forrest Schleuder next concentrated on the retailing of stationery, giftwares and Edison phonograph business. On occasion he would have famous opera stars perform or give a concert at the Methodist church on Sunday nights. They demonstrated how the reproduction of the voice was so close to the playing of a record.

F. A. Schleuder was also an Optician and had an Optical shop over the store, which was located close to Main St. on what is now 2nd Avenue N.W.

In later years F. A. Worked with his brother in the rental properties office at 223½ N. Main St. Forrest's son, Herbert F. Schleuder, worked in this office also from 1935 until his death in 1947.

The Schleuders, Herbert W. and Forrest, worked to get the old telephone poles off Main. St., to get the new street lighting system in and also to get the downtown central heating system. They organized a stock company and sold about \$110,000 of stock. The system was later

turned over to the Austin Utilities without charge.

Merlin J. Schleuder, son of Forrest, worked for L. S. Donaldson in Minneapolis about fourteen years. He became general superintendent of the operation. His father passed away in 1948 and his brother in 1947, leaving his uncle alone to run the business. In the fall of 1948 he resigned his position with Donaldsons and moved back to Austin to take over the operation of the real estate rental business. His uncle, Herbert W. Schleuder, passed away in 1953.

Merlin was a Director, Vice-President, President of the Chamber of Commerce, President and Director of the Industrial Development Corporation, President of the Rotary Club, and on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank for nineteen years. He also helped organize and acted as President for twenty-six years of the Austin Community Hotel-Motel Corporation. This corporation raised \$750,000 in sale of stocks and debentures, and with a mortgage built the seventy-three room Red Cedar Inn on North Main St. This was later sold to Dillon Hotel Co. of Omaha, Nebraska.

The Schleuders have changed most of the fronts of their buildings to keep up with the times, and have always been interested in the betterment of Austin during this time.

ROBBINS' FURNITURE, CARPET AND INTERIORS



Robbins' Austin Furniture Co. prior to 1940

Eli Robbins was born February 13, 1901 in Zhitomir, Ukraine, Russia—the son of Charles and Rebecca Rabinovitz. His father was a cabinetmaker who had served in the Czar's army in the late 1890's. Economic times were difficult and there was continued religious persecution. Charles and his older brother, Harry, decided to migrate to the United States. He left his wife, Eli and his younger brother behind and headed for Milwaukee.

Within a year, he sent money to his wife to make the journey. She couldn't obtain a visa, so with her two young children and during night time travel, left Russia first for Austria and on to Hamburg. While waiting for



Robbins' Furniture, Carpet and Interiors in 1984

her ship, the younger boy contracted pneumonia and died. She and Eli sailed for the New World and Milwaukee. Charles earned a living by traveling to homes and farms as a junk peddler.

Before World War I they moved to St. Paul where Charles operated a grocery store. After the war, Charles entered the used furniture business. His son, Eli, worked part-time at the store. Eli then worked for the G. Sommers Company as a stock clerk and later as a bookkeeper for Katz Plumbing Co. He met Alice Meltzer of Minneapolis and they were married in 1926. They lived with Eli's parents until 1933. Two children, Leon and Bette, were born during that time.



Eli Robbins

The Great Depression was now at its worst. Eli, who was working for Katz Plumbing, decided he wanted to be in business for himself. The opportunities appeared better in a smaller community. One day he drove from St. Paul to southern Minnesota. Coming eventually to Austin he stopped in front of a vacant store directly east of the Mower County Courthouse. The store had once been a furniture store operated by a Mr. Conlin. The address, 208 North Chatham Street, is now the location of Earl White Music and Electronics (214 First St. N.E.). He liked the city, the location and the building and contacted the owner, Mr. Anderson to rent it.

When he returned to St. Paul with the news, his father staked him to approximately \$500 worth of used furniture, including fruit jars. His first bank deposit (Austin State Bank) was \$359.75, the date was July 5, 1933. The family lived in the apartment above the store which Eli remodeled. Eli was to live there until his retirement 46 years later in 1979. Other businesses along that block on Chatham Street included the Farmer's Store on the south corner, Gendler's Automotive, Hasting's Shoe Repair and the Mower County News. To our north was the Recreation Club, Austin's only bowling establishment. Joseph Averbrook opened his Austin Department Store (later called Averbrooks) in 1934 next to the Recreation Club. His motto was "Walk a block and save a dollar." His son, David, joined him in business and continued the business after his father retired to Florida.

After World War II, Kazen Motors, with the new Kaiser-Fraser agency, located in the Recreation Club building until the early 1950's. Averbook's relocated in the larger Recreation Club building under Dave Averbrook's management until 1955 when the business was closed.

Other nearby neighbors were the Hotel Austin, run by C. Von Feldt and the new Alcove Supper Club operated by Doc Fisch and Jerry Cashman.

Leon started working in the store when he was nine years old—sweeping floors, helping on deliveries and waiting on customers. Eli's first employee was George Beer. The store mascot was a terrier named Mickey, who greeted the customers daily. Other early employees were Al Primock, Andy Anderson, Cliff Frandle and his nephew, Richard Frandle, Dick Chapman, Daniel "Coon" Hall, Clint Whitcomb and Dean Britt. Britt, a

master floor covering mechanic is still employed by Robbins.

In the depression year of 1937 an auctioneer, Charlie Hammond, conducted a series of furniture auctions in the store. There was a sizeable attendance.

Drawings for prizes were a big attraction in those days. The final grand prize was advertised as a "Live Baby." It turned out that the "Baby" was a live pig, dressed in infants clothing and wheeled in a baby buggy. The name was drawn before a large crowd and the winner was a large lady who expressed great disappointment. She thought she was to be awarded an infant child.

The original store was stocked with used furniture and called Austin Furniture Exchange. It was gradually converted to new furniture under the name of Austin Furniture Company. During World War II it was next to impossible to obtain new upholstered furniture with spring seats due to the rationing of steel. Eli taught himself how to reupholster used furniture frames. This proved to be very popular with the furniture buyers.

After World War II, Eli recognized the need for floor coverings and hired two expert installers, Clint Whitcomb and Dean Britt. This new business became so important that he discontinued the furniture business in the late 1940's, selling his inventory to Kelly Furniture in Austin. Robbins' Floor Coverings was the name for the new business.

Leon continued to work at the store during his high school years. After graduation from Austin High School in 1944, he moved to St. Paul and worked in sales at the Golden Rule Department for a short time. World War II was still on and he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Discharged in 1946, he enrolled at Austin Jr. College where his major area of study was Business and Political Science. He continued working at the store part-time during the day and traveled with the Cec Turner/Rollo Sissel Orchestra some evenings and weekends, serving as leader and vocalist.

After two years at the Jr. College, he transferred to the University of Minnesota majoring in Business Administration, Advertising and Interior Design. He received a Bachelor of Science degree June, 1950. Later that year he moved to Miami Beach, Florida and worked as a free-lance photographer. From 1952 thru 1954, Leon gained experience in floor covering as a District Manager with Sloane Delaware division of Congoleum-Nairn, Inc.



Leon and Donna Robbins

In 1954 Leon joined his father on a full time basis. That fall he met Donna Serrell in Minneapolis on a "blind date." They were engaged later in the fall and were married February 6, 1955. They bought the old Glass Shop building on South River Street and remodeled the upstairs apartment for their first home.

In the spring of 1955, Robbins moved from the original store into the old Recreation Club building, more than doubling the display area and making it one of the largest specialty floor covering stores in the upper midwest.

In 1956, Robbins Floor Coverings was featured in a multi-page article in FLOORING magazine, and was given an award as one of the outstanding specialty floor covering stores in the U.S. and Canada.

In the late 1950's Robbins re-entered the furniture business, in a unique manner by the use of individual roomette displays. The area's first interior designers were added and a drapery department was opened.

In the early 1970's additional space was acquired which included the original building to the south and the adjoining building to the north for a total of a 93 foot

frontage. Earl White Music was purchased in 1971 and became a division managed by Mr. White.

Eli's wife, Alice, died in 1972. Eli Robbins sold his interest in the business to Leon that year and remained as a consultant until 1979. He has remarried (Esther Mark) and is presently retired in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Donna Robbins, company vice President and Treasurer, took office as Austin's first woman Alderman (Second ward) in 1977 and will have completed 8 years in 1984.

The Robbins' Company of Austin, Inc. presently employs 17 persons. It is headquartered in Austin with an office in Minneapolis and serves commercial and residential customers throughout the United States. The company is a dealership for most major brands of commercial and residential furniture, carpet and related interior furnishings, consumer electronic products, pianos and band instruments. Key personnel include Donna Blair, Eldean Erickson, Dan Teeslink, Belita Schindler, Sandra Peterson, Karen Stark, Teresa Tracy, Earl White, Margaret Peterson, Dean Britt and Terry Slowinski.

SCOVILL JEWELRY



**Interior Scovill Jewelry in 1942
J. S. R. Scovill on left**

The Scovill Jewelry Store is one of Austin's oldest businesses. It was started in 1902 by John Stark Ravenscroft Scovill.

J. S. R. Scovill was born in Joliet, Illinois. In 1900 he came to Austin and worked for the J. J. Hayes Jewelry. In 1902 he started his own store with one showcase and a workbench. He shared space with the Railway Express Agency, which was located at 415 North Main.

In 1903 the Scovill Jewelry was relocated at 411 North Main, which continues to be the firm's place of business in 1984.

Carl Jones assisted Mr. Scovill in the period from 1915

to 1918. Then Pat Petronek came to work for two or three years.

In 1922 Clarence Grabarkiewicz left employment with Jostens at Owatonna and came to work with Mr. Scovill. Upon his retirement in 1944 Scovill sold the business to Grabarkiewicz.

Lloyd Peterson purchased the Scovill Jewelry in 1969. Previously he had worked as a watchmaker in Mason City. He joined the Woelfel Jewelry in Austin in 1954.

Peterson is married and has three children. A Marine veteran of World War II, he continues the high standards set by previous owners over the past 82 years.



**Lloyd Peterson
Present Scovill Proprietor**

CLASEN-JORDAN MORTUARY



Clasen-Jordan Mortuary



Spencer Jordan



Loren Jordan

Spencer Jordan came with his family from South Dakota in 1916. He then started the Jordan Mortuary at 120 West Mill St. (3rd Ave. N.W.) His son, Loren, joined the business in 1929. Other members of the family included Mary Jordan Matthews, Clinton and Arlo Jordan.

For several years the Jordan Mortuary was located at 205 2nd Ave. N.W. The present building at 209 2nd Ave. N.W. was built in 1938.

Wilford Hansen and James Clasen purchased the business and property in 1958. They had previously been employed by the Jordans. Hansen died in 1974 and his interests were purchased by Clasen, who is sole owner in 1984.

The building was completely remodeled and refurbished in 1974.



James Clasen

THE SQUARE DEAL GROCERY



Window Display at Square Deal Grocery

The Square Deal Grocery was started in 1920 by Wallace and Anna McLaughlin. They came from Perry, Iowa. The store was located at 417 North Main Street. This site had previously been occupied by the Hormel

Provision Market. In 1984 the Leuthold Clothiers are in the location.

McLaughlin's store was unique in that it was the first cash and carry store in Austin. This allowed more cash-flow to stock the shelves. A well stocked gourmet section was also a novelty for its time.

Gene McLaughlin married Margaret McDonell. They had four children: Mary Anna, David Lee, Peggy Gene and Neil Edward.

In 1930 Gene purchased the Square Deal from his parents. In the late 1940's the building had a massive face lifting. It took on the appearance of a super market, but the stock was always confined to the foodline. Gene was not interested in drugs, stationery and other items which the large chains stocked.

The floor of the store was a mosaic of marble tiles. Half of the front window area was a waiting bench for customers.

Fred Kee was the fruit and vegetable department manager, and one of Gene's devoted right-hand men.

There was a feeling of friendliness in the Square Deal Grocery. The McLaughlin's cared for their customers and were generous with those who were experiencing hard times.



Those identified are Fred Kee, 2nd from left and Wallace L. McLaughlin in hat.



Left to right: Bill Decker, Ted Jorgenson, young lady is not identified, Harold Butler, Al Smith and Gene McLaughlin.

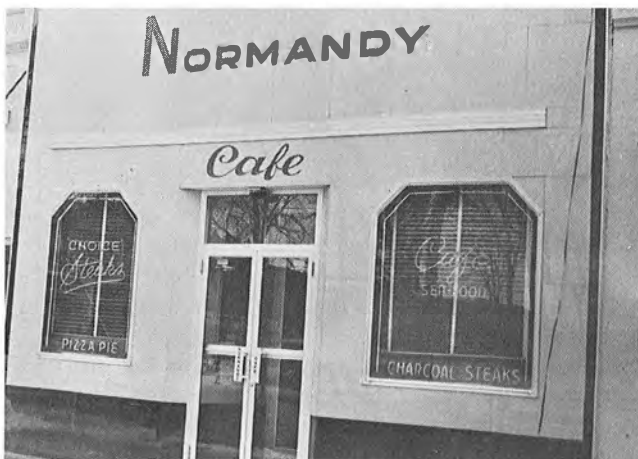
Gene McLaughlin retired in 1953. He rented the building to Leuthold Clothiers, who purchased the building in the late 1970s.

Gene often said that he owed what he acquired to the

people of Austin. He repaid the debt by his continuing efforts for the good of the community.

by Peggy McLaughlin Keener

THE PAPPAS RESTAURANTS



John Pappas was born in Greece in 1895. His first restaurant was begun in Austin in 1937. The Midget Grill was located in the 100 block of 3rd Avenue N.W.

In 1938 Pappas moved to the Windsor Cafe on 4th

Avenue N.E. It was ½ block east of Main Street. This was later renamed The Rose Room.

The Normandy Cafe was opened on 2nd Avenue N.E. in 1939.

John Pappas married Minnie Peters. They had four children: Melvin, Helen, George and Sidney. Helen, George and Sidney helped in the Normandy Cafe while they were still teenagers. Minnie made the pies.

Sidney joined the Navy in 1942. George bought the Plant Cafe near Hormels in 1946.

John and Minnie were injured in an automobile accident in 1956. Sidney and his wife, Irene, bought the Normandy Cafe from his father at that time.

After recovering from his auto injuries, John bought a piece of property at the junction of Highways 16 and 63, east of Grand Meadow. The Lobster House was started at that location.

John Pappas retired in 1969. Sidney and Irene Pappas then closed the Normandy Cafe and purchased the Lobster House. They operated this supper club together until Sidney died in 1977. Irene continued as proprietor until 1980 when she sold The Lobster House to Gil Landsadil.

SMITH SHOE COMPANY

Harry Smith has operated the Smith Shoe Store for 56 years, but he was not the first to sell shoes at 319 North Main Street. Over 100 years ago Joe Schwan had a shoe store at this location.

Schwan was a shoemaker and he sold what he made. His son, Edward Schwan, converted to the sale of ready-made footwear.

Harry Smith was employed by Ed Schwan prior to



Left to right: Richard Sannat, shoe repairman; Miles Chaffee and Harry Smith.

1928. Mike Chaffee and Ed Blomily were co-workers also.

In 1928 Schwan sold all of his stock and supplies to another company.

Harry Smith in partnership with his brother, Albert, took over the location at 319 North Main Street. Harry was the active proprietor, and Albert shared in the financing, but was inactive as far as management. The store was completely refurbished and stocked.

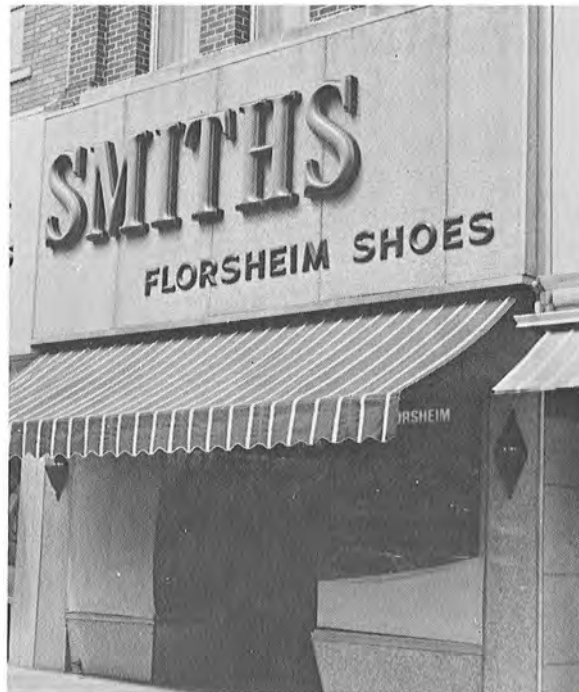
Mike Chaffee and Ed Blomily then became employees of the Smith Shoe Store.

Richard Sannat operated a shoe repair shop at the rear of the store. Sannat had a similar shop in Schwans since 1915. He continued with Smith until his retirement in the early 1940s.

Blomily was with Harry Smith until his death in 1950. Chaffee also had a lengthy career in shoe sales. He retired in 1975, having worked from the time he was 15 years of age; four years at Schwans and 47 years with Smith.

Long time employees seem to be the norm with Harry Smith. Gary Sutter also began there at age 15, and at the present time has been in there 40 years. Jim Churchill has been employed eight years. Earl Williams was a salesman from 1940 until 1980.

Feliao Kokenougles has been the bookkeeper for approximately 25 years.



Smith Shoe Company in 1984

Harry Smith is very positive in his attitude about Austin. He has always enjoyed good business relations. Even in the depression years the company survived without reducing salaries.

Smith has a vital interest in community affairs. His interest in athletics goes back to his sandlot football days in the early 1900s. Later he was business manager of the town basketball team which was popular about 1918. That team included "Doc" Cipra, Clarence and Harry Dugan. Saturday night basketball games began at 10:00 p.m. so the town merchants could attend.

Harry Smith was a friend to many of the Packer baseball teams of the 1950s. He wears one of Moose Skowron's world series rings which shows some measure of his friendship with the former Yankee first baseman.

Harry Smith had a strong statement to make about his feeling for Austin, "You better not say anything against Austin to me, or you will have a fight on your hands!"

WILLIAMS PLUMBING AND HEATING

Herald J. Williams Sr. was born on a farm near Winnebago, Minnesota in 1887. He married Floy Bursell in 1910. Their five children are: Edythe Williams Davis, Mesa, Arizona; Alberta Williams Scullin, Damascus, Maryland; Herald Jr., Burnsville, Minnesota; Samuel and James, Austin, Minnesota.

Herald Williams Sr. first worked with his father in the hardware business in Truman, Minnesota. Later he moved his family to Walnut Grove, Minn. and then Ren-

wick Iowa. In 1929 he settled in Austin. He was employed by the Clefton Co. for a year.

Williams Plumbing and Heating was founded in 1930 by Herald and his wife, Floy, at 204 W. Winona (now 1st Av. S.W.). A short time later they bought a home at 300 W. Water S. (4th Av. N.W.). Herald Sr. worked out of his garage. Shortly he was assisted by his three sons, Herald Jr., Samuel and James. Sam and Herald Jr. joined their father in the business in 1945 when they re-



Herald Williams Sr. and wife, Floy

turned from wartime service. Jim became a cattle buyer with the Hormel Company.

In 1947 the family basement was remodeled into an office and show room. Floy was the office manager.

The company expanded until at one time they employed 25 men. They were active in home construction, work on new schools, maintenance of 90% of the Austin business establishments and 50 farms.

In the 1950s a new shop and showroom was built at 509 North Greenwhich St. (2nd St. N.W.). Later this building was leased as a laundromat and the plumbing business was relocated at 303 5th Place N.W.

Mrs. Herald (Floy) Williams Sr. died in 1959.

In 1962 Herald Jr. left the company. Founder, Herald Sr. retired and Sam, together with his wife, Donna, became sole owners in 1967. They are the parents of five children: Sandra Williams Stransky and Patricia Williams Lewis, both of Owatonna, Minn.; Suzanne Williams Miller and John Williams, Austin and Mark who died in 1965 at the age of 13 years.

Williams Plumbing and Heating now have a reduced staff, but continue as a family business. John Williams became a licensed journeyman plumber in 1981. He is the third generation in the family to be so qualified.

Under Sam's direction the company continues to provide reliable, expert service in all phases of residential and commercial work. They specialize in repair work, in new construction and the installation and maintenance



Left to right: Herald Williams Jr., a salesman, James Williams, Sam Williams and Herald Williams.



The Williams Plumbing and Heating Co. at 509 - 2nd St. N.W., Austin.

of hot water heating systems. Donna manages the office and show room. They are also assisted by son-in-law Dana Miller.

Herald Williams Sr., founder of the company, continues to live in the family residence at 300 N.W. 4th Ave. He is 97 years of age.

THE TOWNHOUSE-AUSTIN CANDY

For 91 years it has been the spot where businessmen have morning and afternoon coffee; where families enjoy dining; and where couples who are "going together" stop in after a ballgame or a dance.

It is the Town House now, but many who grew up in Austin remember it as the Austin Candy Company.

George Kokalaris founded the firm in 1893. In addition

to the restaurant business he manufactured fine confectionery and ice cream. In the early days he sold a full line of fruits and cigars as well.

In 1913 three of George's nephews came from Greece to assist their uncle. They were Bill Lecakis, John and Angelo Kokalaris.

In 1918 George Kokalaris returned to Greece. Before



An early picture of the interior of the Austin Candy Co.

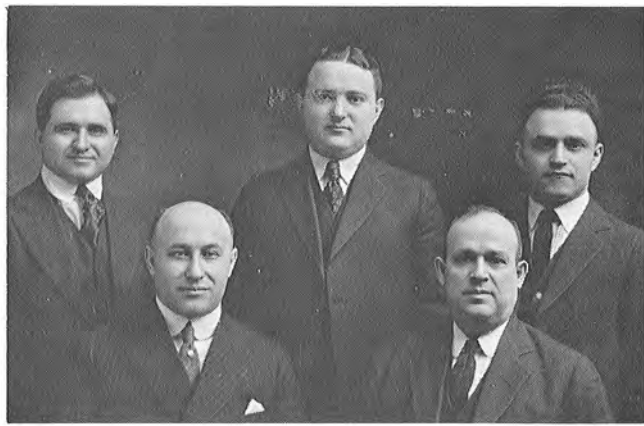
he left he sold the Austin Candy Company to his nephews.

For 30 years the business operated with these three as proprietors. Going into the Austin Candy was an experience in refreshing aromas. On the left as one entered was the long marble topped soda fountain typical of the era. On the right were the display cases of home-made candy. The dining area was in the rear.

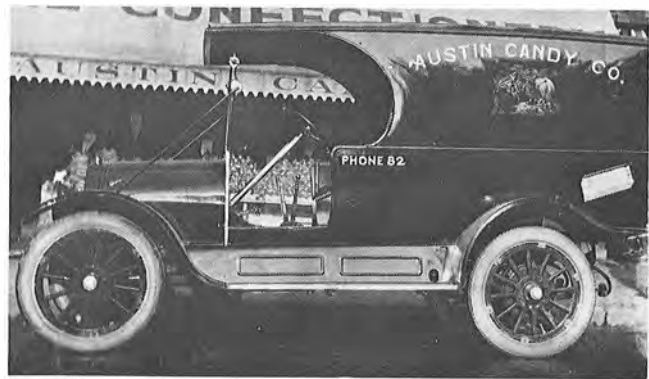
Angelo Kokalaris died in the autumn of 1939. In 1948 the business was sold to Mike Johnono. John Kokalaris died in 1968.

After being out of the restaurant business for a decade Bill and Theona Lecakis bought back the Austin Candy Company in 1958. They remodeled it and changed the name to The Town House.

Bill Lecakis died November 23, 1971. Theona continues to operate The Town House. She is assisted by her sons, Tony and Deno.



Left to right in back: Bill Lecakis, John and Angelo Kokalaris. Front row: George Kokalaris and Mike Merkouris, a cousin.



The Austin Candy Co. had a new black delivery truck about 1920.

WALLACE'S



Robert "Bob" Wallace started in the dry goods and grocery business in Fairmont, Minnesota in 1915. Later a ladies ready-to-wear department was added. Wallace then started retail stores in several small towns in the

Fairmont area. They were discontinued as these towns declined.

Bob Wallace and his wife, Edna, had two children. She was the former Edna Colton. Daughter Gloria Wallace Cordes now resides in California. Their son, Bruce, lives in Albert Lea, Minn.

In 1932, Bob Wallace founded a ladies ready-to-wear and dry goods store in Albert Lea, Minn., located at 302 South Broadway.

Bruce Wallace joined the firm in 1935 when he took over management of the Albert Lea store. Bruce was married to the former Frances Larson. They have two children, Robert "Bob" and Kay.

In 1936 Bob Wallace and son, Bruce, opened the Austin store at 407 North Main St. their new store had a 25 ft. front and handled dry goods only. This included ladies accessories, lingerie, infantwear, linens, domestics, piece goods and notions. The Nemitz Book Store is now at this location.

Wallaces moved from the 400 block to a new location at 322-24 North Main St. in 1944. They added ladies

ready-to-wear in the newly remodeled 50 ft. front building. This location had previously been occupied by Weisman and Gambles.

The business climate in Austin improved. In 1950 they added the building which adjoined them on the south, which had housed the Dalager's grocery store. This took in an additional 25 ft. of frontage. Then, in 1955, Wallace's expanded to the corner of Main St. and 3rd Ave. N.E. This corner location had previously been occupied by Gildner's Clothing. Wallace's Inc. then had a centrally located modern store with a 100 ft. frontage on Main St.

During these years Wallace's had been lowering basement floors and taking out dividing walls so that it be-

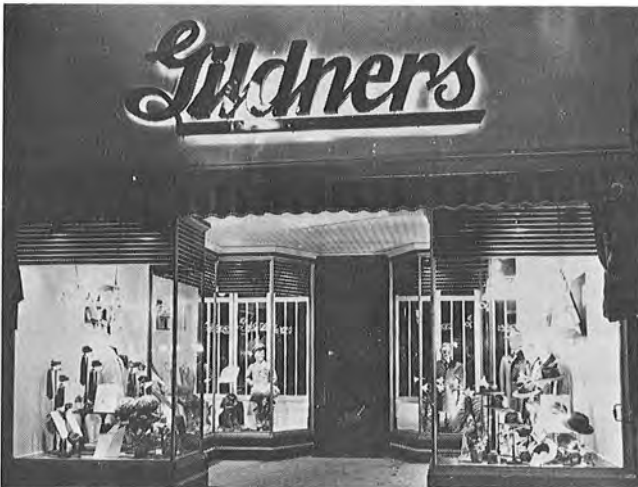
came one large store. Some of these basements had dirt floors. This area is now used as retail space and for receiving rooms.

Founder Robert "Bob" Wallace died in 1957. Bruce R. Wallace then became the owner of the firm.

By 1974 another Robert "Bob" Wallace had become a part of the firm. He is the son of Bruce Wallace. Together they opened a ladies ready-to-wear store in Willmar, Minn.

Bruce Wallace continued to be active in the management of Wallace's until 1979, when he retired. Robert "Bob" then became the company president. Dennis A. Lair, a son-in-law of Bruce and Francis, is the vice president. Richard Moore is the secretary.

GILDNER'S HAS SERVED THIS AREA SINCE 1898



Gildner's was located on the corner of Main St. and 3rd Ave. N.E. until 1954.

Gildner's, an established name in clothing in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, has served the area since 1898. Over the years the store has expanded to keep pace with the growth and development of the Austin retail community.

The firm was founded in 1898 by W. E. Gildner. This first store in Nora Springs, Iowa, was known as the "one price" store. Gildner later expanded the operations of the firm with the assistance of his brothers, A. J. and E. E. Gildner.

Presently there are Gildner stores in Austin, Albert Lea and Willmar, Minnesota. In Iowa there are stores in Mason City, Marshalltown and Dubuque. The organiza-



The present Gildner's Store

tion is now headed by W. F. Gildner and John Gildner, son and grandson of the founder.

The store in Austin was opened in 1929 at the corner of Main St. and 3rd Ave. N.E. Kleo H. Gildner was the manager.

In 1954 the store site was moved to 407 North Main St. Kleo Gildner continued as manager until 1963. Paul Kennedy of Austin was then selected as manager.

Gildner's moved to their present location in the Midtown Building in 1971. They opened a completely remodeled store.

Laverne, J. Gile was appointed manager of the Austin Gildner store on February 1, 1983. Gile has worked with the Gildner Co. for 27 years.

In 1984 Gildner's offers a complete line of nationally famous brands of clothing, furnishings and sportswear for men and young men.

"The K.K.K.'s met at the home of Miss Clara M on South Chatham Street last evening. A very pleasant time was had by all present."

Herald—1893

"Real estate seems to be commanding a good price here, as we understand the half lot on Main Street sold for \$400 last week to C. C. Erickson."

Herald—1893

USEM CHEVROLET COMPANY



Usem Chevrolet Co., 219 2nd Ave. N.E., Austin

One of the earliest pioneers in the Austin automobile business was Edward Usem. He started in the business with Max Erdman in January, 1923. Their garage was located on North Main St., site of the recently razed Shaw Gym. There were gasoline pumps on the curb then and this new enterprise sold Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Packard cars. They employed two salesmen.

From that location the garage and business moved to 108 N. Main St., the present site of Austin Printing and Graphics. In the early 1930s they were located on the opposite side of Main St.

In 1936 Ed Usem purchased the business and became the Dealer. The dealership moved from Main St. to 219 E. Bridge St. (2nd Ave. N.E.) in 1942. Then in 1950 it was completely remodeled, making it about twice its original size.



Usem's Used Cars, 1314 W. Oakland Avenue

Franchised with Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Cadillac Motor Divisions, the dealership has won many awards and prizes. In 1967 Mr. Usem was elected to Austin, Minnesota's Hall of Fame. About that same time he was named one of a very few National Automobile Dealer Association Time Magazine Quality Dealers.

In 1972 Edward Usem passed away. The business was taken over by his son-in-law, Arlie Sherman, who has been operating the dealership to the present date.

S. L. YOUNG AND SONS TRANSFER

Sam Young was born in Postville, Iowa in 1878, the son of Jacob and Margaret (Arett) Young. He moved to Austin about 1890 with his parents and five sisters. They lived at 907 W. Oakland Avenue for many years. The father was a carpenter and built many houses in that area on W. Oakland and W. Winona (now First Avenue). Some of the houses he built are still being lived in.

Sam and Trace Roble were married in 1902. Trace was born in Cannon Falls in 1879. Her family also moved to Austin about 1890. Her parents were Ignatius and Louisa (Warnemunde) Roble. Her father was a miller. He worked at the Lansing Mill and also at the Officers Mill just south of Austin. Trace and Sam had three children: F. Lloyd, S. Leslie and Margaret Louise.

In 1898, S. L. (Sam) Young started in business in Austin. He had previously worked a few years with his father, J. S. "Jake" Young, in his business. Sam's first business venture was started with \$150. He was employed at a lumberyard and had saved \$50.00. His mother loaned him \$50.00, and his employer loaned him another \$50.00. With this money he was able to buy a team of

horses and a wagon and start a dray line; the "City Dray Line."

Young would stand on the corner of Main and Bridge (now Second Avenue) and wait for customers. When someone wanted something moved or a basement dug, they would come to the corner and hire him. When he finished he would return to the corner and wait for the next customer.

His business grew. He then added a second team and wagon and his first helper, James Lade. Digging basements was a good business in those days. They had a large scoop. The worker would hold the handles of the scoop and the horse would pull. The scoop would fill with dirt as the horse pulled it out of the hole.

Ice harvesting was an interesting part of Sam's business. Early in the autumn men would come and ask for work on the ice gang. This gave them two or three months work which they were eager for. He employed about 40 men for the ice harvesting season. They usually started in December and worked through February.

Young had a large ice house on the south side of the Cedar River and would cut ice on the south half of the

river. Hormels would cut on the north half. He would fill his ice house and the adjoining sheds. Many years he would have the contract to fill the ice houses at the Milwaukee Railroad and ice cars on the Great Western Railroad. Farmers would buy ice from him and many small towns and many creameries would fill their ice houses. He would sell a load of ice and deliver it to private homes in Austin for \$1.00 a load!

In the early days they would use a handsaw to cut the ice. These were replaced with electric saws. The electric saw would cut the ice down about eight inches. Then they would hand chop it off and "pike" it down the open channel unto a conveyer to a large platform. There it would either be loaded unto a truck to be hauled away, or elevated into the ice houses where it was covered with sawdust.

Harold Rochford, a long time resident of Austin, worked on the ice gang about 1916. His job, a night job, was to keep the lanterns burning. These had to be placed along the channel where they had been cutting. He also had to keep the channel open so it wouldn't freeze over by morning.

Sam's transfer business grew. He had many teams and wagons. He was one of the first in Austin to turn to trucks. In 1913 he bought his first truck, a Wilcox. The engine for the truck was up in the cab—right in the middle. The front of the truck was perfectly straight up and down and would surely be a funny looking vehicle today. He also purchased his first car, a Kissel, about 1913.



First Young truck was a Wilcox purchased in 1913. It was converted for service as Austin's first "Jitney" bus.

In 1915 Sam started the first bus line in Austin. His first bus was his remodeled Wilcox truck. A bus type body was put on with seats around the sides. In 1916, he purchased a "real" bus. Manufactured by the White Motor Company, it had reed seats, and a money box up front. It was called the "Jitney." You could ride all day for five cents. The first day the new jitney operated was on a Sunday. Everyone in Austin wanted a jitney ride that day.

About this same time Young purchased a taxi business from Joe Furtney. These were motorized taxis, not horse

drawn hacks that had been in use up to that time. In those days taxis would transport people from one city to another. One of the most famous persons to ride in Sam's taxi was William Jennings Bryan who had been a speaker at a Chautauqua in Lafayette Park. The taxi took him to Winona from Austin.

Another interesting job for the transfer line was to unload a circus or carnival when it came into Austin on the railroad. Most of the carnivals were set up at the fairgrounds. The circuses often set up on the McKenna lots, where the Terp is now located. Unloading from the railroad cars would start about 4:00 A.M., and the reloading would go on into the night until 1:00 or 2:00 A.M.



S. L. Young's first moving van was put into service in 1930.

Another service Sam offered the community was teams and wagons to take people from the courthouse to the fairgrounds to attend the Mower County Fair. He had a "bus type" body on one of his large wagons and had seats around the sides. The fair was only open in the daytime so there wasn't much lighting needed. There was a special day for each of the towns in Mower County—such as "Austin Day" or "Adams Day"—etc.

Another important part of the transfer business was delivering freight to the business places. The freight would be picked up at the freight house located at the railroad yards and then delivered to the merchants uptown. Some days there would be several loads of freight to be delivered. Almost 100% of the freight came in by rail. About 1,950 various trucking lines obtained permits to haul freight, and so today most of the freight is hauled by trucks.

Sam gradually went from horses to trucks. By 1916 or 1917 he had several trucks. He was really sold on trucks manufactured by the White Motor Company, and he became a dealer in Austin for that company. In 1918 he purchased a new car; a White. This was one of the few touring cars made by the White Company. About this same time he purchased the first motorized ambulance in Austin. Of course, this also was a White. He sold this ambulance to the city of Austin in 1919.

In 1920 Sam installed an artificial ice plant. This produced 20 tons of ice per day and was a big help in his business.

Another venture in 1924 was the building of a three-

story building on the corner of Mill and Franklin Streets (now 3rd Avenue N.E. and 2nd Street N.E.). The first floor was arranged for commercial use, and apartments were on the second floor. He did not finish off the third floor because in 1924 there were not many people living in apartments and he wasn't sure if he could rent them. It wasn't long until he learned that the public was very interested, and he finished the third floor apartments. William Donovan was the contractor. He and Sam's wife, Trace, were the "architects" for the third floor apartments. They put a plank down one way on the floor and another plank another direction and then would decide if that space was large enough for a bedroom. The same system was used in designing space for the living rooms, etc.

In 1928 the tornado destroyed other buildings that he had on Mill Street (3rd Avenue). It was then he built a two-story building with more apartments on the second floor. He also built a one-story building in between the other two buildings.

In 1928 Sam's two sons joined his business and worked with him for several years. Margaret worked in the family business from 1936 until 1944. She then left Austin to join the American Red Cross during World War II. When the sons joined their father, they changed the name of the business from City Dray Line to S. L.



The S. L. Young building provided space for businesses and upstairs apartments. It was built in 1924.

Young and Sons. Today the business is still operating in the family with F. Lloyd Young Jr. as owner. Over 85 years in the same family!

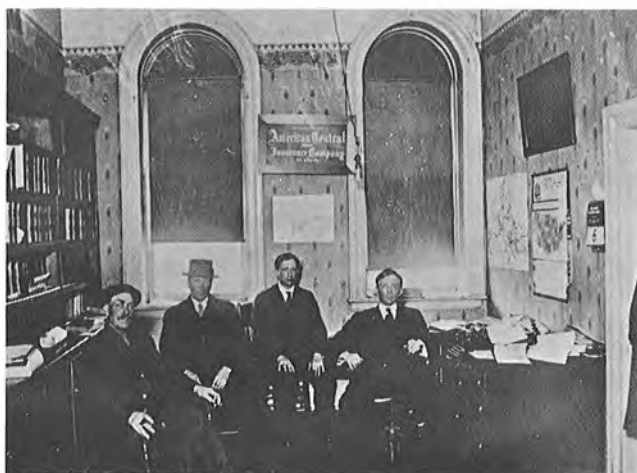
by Margaret L. Young Merritt

BAUDLER, BAUDLER & MAUS



Attorney Otto Baudler

In 1909 Carl Baudler and Otto Baudler commenced practicing law in Austin, Minnesota under the firm name of Baudler Brothers. The firm continued under that name until January 1, 1936 at which time Carl Baudler became judge of the Probate Court of Mower County. Otto Baudler continued to practice alone until October, 1938. At that time he was joined by his son, William J. Baudler, and a partnership was formed under the name of Baudler & Baudler. In November, 1951 Carl Baudler's son, Richard C. Baudler, became associated with the firm. In October, 1964, Bryan J. Baudler, son of William J. Baudler, became associated with the firm. In May, 1968 Lawrence E. Maus became associated with the



Left to right: Nick Quast, unknown client, Carl Baudler and Otto Baudler.

firm, and shortly thereafter the firm name was changed to Baudler, Baudler & Maus, the present name of the law firm. In March, 1978 Robert M. Maus, a brother of Lawrence E. Maus, became associated with the firm. In October, 1979 William A. Baudler, a son of William J. Baudler, became associated with the firm.

Throughout the period of its existence the firm has been engaged in the general practice of law. Otto Baudler was Mower County Attorney from 1910 to 1934.

Until 1939, the practice, aside from the work incident to the office of county attorney, dealt mainly with probate and real estate matters. Since that time the practice has been general with special emphasis in the fields of litigation, probate, real estate and corporate law.

The Austin office has been located at 110 North Main Street since June, 1956. Since May, 1964 the firm has also maintained an office at Spring Valley, Minnesota. The partners at this time are William J. Baudler, Richard C. Baudler, Bryan J. Baudler and Lawrence E. Maus. Robert M. Maus and William A. Baudler are associates who will soon become partners. Lawrence E. Maus resides in Spring Valley, and handles most of the work incident to that office. The other partners and the associates reside in Austin, Minnesota with an office at 110 North Main Street.

Carl Baudler and Otto Baudler were born and raised in Austin, Minnesota. Their parents were William and Barbara Baudler, both of whom were born in Germany. The father, William Baudler, came to Austin in 1855 as one of its first settlers. Both Carl and Otto were graduates of the University of Minnesota Law School. All of the present partners and associates of the firm were also born and raised in Austin, Minnesota. William J. Baudler, Bryan J. Baudler and William A. Baudler are graduates of the University of Minnesota Law School. Richard C. Baudler is a graduate of William Mitchell College of Law. Lawrence E. Maus is a graduate of the University of Illinois Law School, and Robert M. Maus is a graduate of the Drake University School of Law.

DR. WALTER NORDIN'S STORY



Left to right: Dr. Walter Nordin Jr., Dr. Walter Nordin Sr. and Dr. Richard Nordin.

I was born on a farm in Atwater, Minnesota in the year of 1896. As I ponder back over the years it seems difficult to realize that we then had no telephone, radio, television, no automobiles, no paved roads and no indoor plumbing. True, we did have the cistern pump in the kitchen and the slop pail. The backhouse with the quarter moon cutouts served the purpose very well, but were not very comfortable on a cold winter evening.

My first introduction to Optometry came more or less by accident. I was working in a jewelry store in Minneapolis at the time. Accompanied by a friend we visited an optical shop in the back of a jewelry store, where my friend had his glasses adjusted.

Shortly thereafter, in 1920, I enrolled in the DeMars School of Optometry. After two years of study I passed the State Board and was licensed to practice Optometry in the State of Minnesota.

Previous to this time, in 1917 I had enlisted in the United States Naval Air Corps and served two years until the armistice.

My first optometric practice was as assistant to Dr. E. H. Kiekenapp of Faribault. He was then secretary-

treasurer of the American Optometric Association. Because of these duties he needed an assistant.

I was married shortly before this to Sue Carlson. She has been a wonderful helpmate. We struggled together in our early married life. Our first apartment contained a kitchen sink, but no running water. We had to carry water from the bathroom which was located at the far end across from the living room. We managed.

After serving eight years with Dr. Kiekenapp I opened my own office in Austin, Minnesota. This was during the depression and things were rather difficult. My first month's gross was \$125.40. The second month was a trifle better, but we continued to give the best visual care possible in our area, and our practice showed steady progress. I became active in civic affairs, namely Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Speaker's Club, American Legion Drum Corps and the Methodist Church. I also became interested in optometric activities. During the years I served in all the offices of the State Association including secretary-treasurer and the presidency.

I was appointed by several governors to membership on the State Board of Optometry and served in this capacity for twenty years. Other duties included editor of the Midwest Journal of Optometry, a monthly publication of Midwest Optometric activities.

Fortunately my practice continued to grow. This helped considerably in putting my two sons through Optometric College. Educational requirements were considerably higher. Six years of college study was the requisite.

Dr. Wally is a graduate of the Northern Illinois College of Optometry and a few years later Dr. Richard graduated from Ohio State University. They both joined me in the practice of Optometry.

The Crane building was purchased in 1975 and the practice was known as the Nordin Optometric Center.

Dr. Wally married Lenore Campbell. They have three sons, Eric, Jeff and Tim. Wally has been active in community affairs with an emphasis on music and drama.

Dr. Richard married a Minneapolis girl, Gloria Erickson. They met in Hawaii when Richard was in Naval Intelligence. They have four children, Amy, Lisa, Blake and Mark. Gloria was involved in AAUW, Austin Community College, Children's Theater, State Auxiliary president and finally national president of the auxiliary to the American Optometric Association.

Dr. Richard is active in Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce. He served many years on the Park and Recreation Board. He is active on a state level in

Optometry and is on the board of directors of the Northwestern Bank. Both are active members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

I, Dr. Walter Nordin Sr., retired from active practice in 1981 after having served 60 years.

Austin has been good to the Nordins, and we are pleased to have had a part in the well-being of its citizens and look forward to making Austin a better place to live.

by Walter H. Nordin Sr., O.D.

ONE FAMILY—IN A NUTSHELL THE CATHERWOODS

The big influx of settlers into this area came in 1856-57, and in the latter year both branches of my family arrived.

The parents of my father, S. D. (for Samuel Doak) Catherwood, trekked in from Indiana by wagon and settled in the Moscow area in Freeborn County. My Dad was born in 1859.

Concurrently my maternal grandmother, Alta Belle Albro, with her mother, stepfather and various step-siblings, trickled in from the Rochester, New York area, and arrived in Austin by horse drawn wagon.

That same year my maternal grandfather also came from New York and arrived in Austin to stay. He was Lyman Alan Sherwood and had a certain musical talent. Family tradition has it that he took part in a concert in the Headquarters building which Alta Belle, who was housed on the second floor, viewed through a knothole in the floor. She saw, was smitten, and his fate was sealed. Erelong they were married.

My mother, Gertrude May Sherwood, was born in 1864, the eldest of four children.

After being kicked out of the Austin High School for refusing to march down the stairway with his arms folded, Dad went to the University of Minnesota where he finished the preparatory course and earned a bachelor's degree in 1883—the year Mother graduated from Austin High. There were no law schools in Minnesota. He "read" law in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and was admitted to practice in Minnesota in 1887. He had supported himself by yardwork, farm work, country school teaching, and railroad surveying (one of his jobs was on the Chicago Great Western line from Hayfield to Austin). He wanted no part of farms or farming thereafter.

He began law practice in Austin on his own, was associated for a time with Daniel B. Johnson, Jr. (a much older lawyer). Near the end of the century he became the partner of Russell E. Shepherd, who moved to Montana in 1906. Two years later, after a long spell of ill health, Dad formed a partnership with J. N. "Jake" Nicholzen, an Austin product who had read law in Shepherd's office and then had gone to practice in Blue Earth.

My mother finished high school and then taught country school at "Cedar City" south of Austin, and then

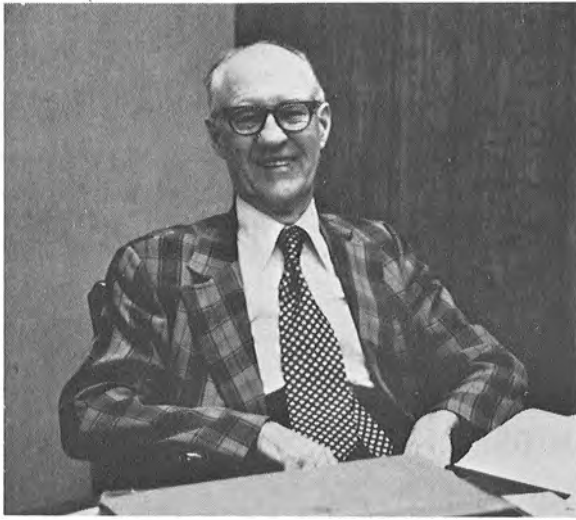
at the LaBar school north of Lansing. The building is now the Udolpho Town Hall. Finally came a two or three year stint at Fargo, North Dakota.

She and dad had been in the same young people's group in Austin. They were married here in 1894. If I remember the story correctly their engagement had lasted eleven years. Their three children were Josephine Bergstrom of Mountain Iron, Catherine Drake of St. Paul, and I. In 1900 our parents built the home at 707 North Kenwood Avenue (now prosaically renamed Fourth Street Northwest) where they lived the rest of their lives. The two youngest of us were born there, and where my wife and I brought up our own children. Dad died in 1952 at age 93 and mother in 1956 at 92.

In 1916 dad became district judge, but resigned in 1921. Postwar inflation plus a growing family had raised havoc with his \$4,400 salary. Moreover, the old law office needed him badly. Jake Nicholzen, a Spanish War veteran and man of dynamic energy, was in bad health. Throughout World War I he went at a terrific pace. Leading the local Home Guard and high school cadet corps, speaking on war related issues whenever called upon, and keeping a busy law practice afloat, had worn him down. He was stricken with pernicious anemia and died in 1924 not long before the liver treatment was developed.

Practicing law with dad after he quit the bench were Burton E. Hughes and Rollin C. Alderson. This constituted the firm when I came there in 1932 after finishing law school. Burton, a graduate of Carleton College and the Harvard Law School, had practiced briefly with Jake Nicholzen before leaving for army service. He retired in the 1960s and died a few years later. Rollin, a nephew of A. N. Kinsman who founded the local greenhouse business, came to the Catherwood & Nicholzen office shortly after graduating from Austin High in 1912. He read law there, was admitted to practice, and continued there until retirement. A short period in the U.S. Navy in World War I was the only interruption. He now lives in Memphis, Tennessee.

Except for 3½ years of military service in World War II, I remained with the firm until the end of 1977. In 1948 Glenn E. Kelley came from the University of Michigan Law School after war service as an AAF navigator.



Attorney Roger Catherwood

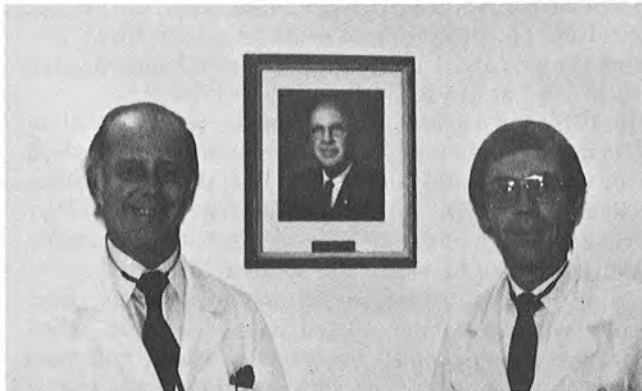
He left in 1969 to become district judge at Winona, and in 1982 was appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court. At the time I left the firm it consisted of Raymond B. Ondov, Gary E. Leonard, Paul V. Sween, and myself. Its name was Alderson, Catherwood, Ondov and Leonard.

My wife, Gretchen Elizabeth (Betty) Paul, spent most of her adult life in Detroit, Michigan until our marriage in 1948. Our three children are Mary Ellen, wife of Attorney David C. Moody, of Willmar; Barbara Jill, wife of Daniel Richey, of Honesdale, Pennsylvania; and Ann Elizabeth, of New York City. There are presently two Moody daughters; Sarah Tamsen and Emily Catherwood, and one Richey daughter, Catherine Elizabeth (Katie).

Although many descendants of great-grandfather Samuel Lowry remain in Austin and the Moscow-Oakland area, not a single descendant of any of my grandparents can be found hereabouts except me. It is no exaggeration, therefore, to call this the end of the line.

by Roger Catherwood, February 18, 1983

THE LOMMEN CLINIC



Left to right: Dr. P. A. Lommen Jr., Dr. Morris Lommen

On January 6, 1955, an agreement was made between Dr. Peter Arnold Lommen Sr., and Nick Wagner of the Wagner Construction Company to build a Lommen Clinic. It was to be completed by July 1, 1955.

At that time the location was at Nassau and Greenwich Streets in Austin. At the present time the address is 610 N.W. Second Street in Austin. The house on this lot was auctioned and moved to another site.

Dr. P. A. Lommen Sr. was born in Vermillion, South Dakota, May 6, 1893. He had private tutoring from his father who was a biology professor at the University of South Dakota. He entered the prep department at an early age and in 1913 graduated with a B.A. degree and a M.A. in 1916. He went to Rush Medical in Chicago where he received his M.D. degree in 1915.

He came to Austin in 1920 being associated with Doctors O. H. and C. A. Hegge for a few years, then



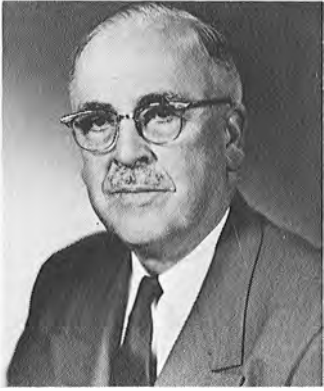
Lommen Clinic, 610 N.W. 2nd St., Austin

practiced by himself with offices over Hirsh Clothing Store.

He always felt he wanted to have the Lommen Clinic and in 1955 it became a reality. When he first came to Austin he was a real country doctor, experiencing many hardships in making calls in the country and other towns during the early years of practice. During the winter months where there was much snow, he would travel as far as he could go by car and then was met by bobsled. He had many interesting stories to tell about his travels.

He was married to Corena Henry in June 1923. To them were born five children, four boys and one girl. Two of the sons, Peter Jr., and Morris Lommen, have followed in their fathers footsteps. Robert is with the Hormel Company in Austin and Dean with the 3M Company in St. Paul. Helen specialized in medical technology.

Dr. Lommen has always been very interested and



Dr. P. A. Lommen Sr.

active in his profession and in community service. He was very civic minded and stood for everything good for Austin.

Dr. Peter Jr. was in the army air force in the second world war from 1943 to 1946. He took pre-med at St. Olaf College and graduated in 1950. Then to medical school going two years to the University of South Dakota and two years to Southwestern University in Dallas, Texas, graduating in 1955. His internship was at Charles T. Miller Hospital in St. Paul.

He married Audre Ann Rasmussen and to them were born three children. Peter now 29, Kathryn 26 and Paul 25. Dr. Peter Jr. came to practice with his father in 1956.

Dr. Morris Lommen took pre-med at St. Olaf College and then attended the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis, graduating in 1960. His internship was at Ancker Hospital in St. Paul and completed in 1961. He started practice at the Lommen Clinic with his father and brother in 1961.

He married Mary Kay Campbell, a registered nurse at Ancker Hospital. To them were born three children, Eric now 19, Heidi 18, and Kari 16. Dr. Morris was drafted into the air force from 1966 to 1968.

Dr. P. A. Lommen Sr. died March 16, 1971 at the age of 77.

The Lommen Clinic was incorporated in 1974, now known as the Lommen Clinic P.A. which stands for Professional Associates. There are four full time and four part-time employees. The new addition was completed in 1981 to increase the waiting room and administrative offices in addition to adding a new doctor's office and examination room.

At the present time the doctors are seeking a third M.D. to aid in efficiency in an expanding practice.

FRANK RAYMAN—HARNESS MAKER AND RAYMAN & RAYMAN, DENTISTS

Frank Rayman was born in Czechoslovakia in 1840. He came with his family to this country in 1854. In August, 1855 the family settled on a farm near Lansing. They hauled their produce to Winona by ox team. The trip took two weeks if the weather was favorable. On one of these trips Frank's feet were frozen. He suffered the amputation of one-half of each foot.

Thus handicapped, Frank left farming to become a harness maker in 1862. He set up business at 318 North Main Street in a building constructed of black walnut and oak. Many of the hand-hewed timbers were put together with handmade wooden pins.

Rayman married Mary Frances Chlupach Simpson in 1872 and they had three sons: Frank B., Fred L., and Fay W. In 1898 he built the present building on the same site.

Rayman operated his harness making business for over sixty years until his death in 1922. A perusal of his business records shows sales to many Austin citizens including George A. Hormel and Fred Gleason. For many years he was also ticket agent and representative of The Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd Steam Ship Lines. He welcomed the immigrants as they arrived and aided them to become adjusted to their new country.

After Frank Sr.'s death, his sons Frank B. and Fay added forty feet to the rear of the building and operated a movie theater rather unsuccessfully for a short period. In about 1925 the basement and main floor were rented to Bliss S. Cleveland and housed Cleveland Hardware for

forty years until 1965 when the building was leased to Wallaces, Inc. who remained as tenants until July 1, 1980. The building was then sold to Mrs. Gloria Kopet who moved her music store to the basement and main floor of the building.

In 1910, brothers Fred and Fay, both graduates of the University of Minnesota, School of Dentistry, established Rayman and Rayman, Dentists on the second floor at 318 North Main. They engaged in the general practice of dentistry. They started out as a partnership, but after about two years they simply shared the space, each operating separately until 1945. Fay then retired and moved to Santa Rosa, Texas. He died in 1957 at age 74. Fay W. and Martha Anderson Rayman had one son who lives in Austin, and is the owner-operator of Rayman Lumber Company.

Fred L. Sr. and Lucy Thomas Rayman had four children: Thomas F. who died at the age of seven, Frederick L. Jr., Florence A., and Sarah. Florence (Mrs. F. A. Rush) lives in Flagstaff, Arizona; Sarah (Mrs. Michael Rarmesh) lives in Miami, Florida.

In 1946, Frederick L. Jr., a 1944 graduate of the University of Minnesota, School of Dentistry, returned from service in the United States Army. He began his practice in partnership with his father. In 1968 Fred Sr. retired at the age of 86. He had been in the dental practice for 60 years. Fred Sr. died in 1973 at the age of 91.

Fred Jr. continued the practice alone until his retirement on June 30, 1981. This ended the 119 year family span at 318 N. Main. He and his wife, Jacqueline Callies



Frank Rayman Sr. at left. His helper is unknown. Picture taken in the Rayman Harness Shop at 318 North Main St.

Rayman, have five children: Thomas K., Frederick L. III, Carl B., Sarah A. (Mrs. John Kingston), and Laurel B. They live now near Ely, Minnesota.

by Dr. Frederick L. Rayman Jr.

PLUNKETT, SCHMITT & PLUNKETT

This firm had its origin from Arthur W. Wright, who was born in Ohio in 1861, and educated at Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota. Thereafter, he was employed at the First National Bank at Austin, Minnesota, and studied law, being admitted to practice in 1888. After a ten year partnership with Lafayette French, Sr., in Austin, he became a solo practitioner there. He served as a major of the Twelfth Minnesota Volunteers during the war with Spain, and had risen from the ranks of the Minnesota National Guard until he eventually became brigadier general, its highest ranking officer in the state. General Wright had two sons, Winfield Clark Wright and Dean A. Wright, neither of whom settled in Austin, and in the early 1920s he became associated with Martin A. Nelson in the practice of law under the firm name of Wright and Nelson. Following General Wright's death in 1926, Nelson was joined by Hugh V. Plunkett, Sr., of St. Paul, Minnesota in May of 1927, at which time the firm name was changed to Wright, Nelson & Plunkett, and later to Nelson & Plunkett. Nelson left the firm upon his appointment as Judge of the District Court in January of 1944 and eventually became a Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Hugh V. Plunkett, Jr., a son of Hugh V. Plunkett, Sr., joined the firm in February of 1944, at which time Plunkett & Plunkett became the firm name.

During the time frame subsequent to 1898, the firm was located on the second floor of the First National Bank Building at 300 North Main Street, which is presently known as the Chamber of Commerce Building. In 1955, the office was relocated on the first floor of the Babcock Building which was formerly on the Southeast corner of First Street and Second Avenue N.W., and in 1956, Norbert D. Schmitt, Sr., joined the firm. In July of 1968, the firm moved to its present location at 223 North

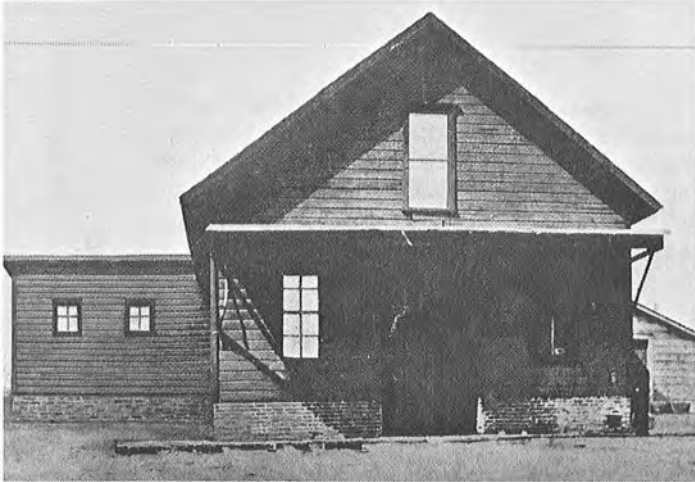
Main Street, and the firm name became Plunkett, Schmitt & Plunkett.

Hugh V. Plunkett, Sr., died in 1964, and over the years his other three sons, Warren F. Plunkett, Richard H. Plunkett and Roger S. Plunkett, and Hugh V. Plunkett, III, a son of Hugh V. Plunkett, Jr., were a part of the firm. Hugh V. Plunkett, Jr. and Norbert D. Schmitt, Sr. are presently the sole partners and owners of the firm.

Hugh V. Plunkett, Jr. was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 27, 1919, and has resided at Austin since 1927. In addition to Hugh V. Plunkett, III, who is now a partner in the Minneapolis, Minnesota law firm of Popham, Haik, Schnobrich, Kaufman & Doty, Ltd., he and his wife, Lorraine Lampert Plunkett, have a son, John L. Plunkett, also a lawyer and vice president and general counsel of Equico Lessors of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a daughter, Debra Ann Plunkett, of Austin, Minnesota. In addition to his legal activities, Hugh V. Plunkett, Jr. was one of the organizers and first President of Sterling State Bank of Austin, and since February of 1959, has served as a Director of Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company and a number of its affiliates, presently being Vice Chairman of the Board.

Norbert D. Schmitt, Sr., who served on the Austin, Minnesota City Council from 1966 to 1975, was born at Paynesville, Minnesota, on November 30, 1917, and was with the Internal Revenue Service for many years before moving from St. Paul, Minnesota to Austin in 1956. He and his wife, Luella Beach Schmitt, have three sons: Dr. Norbert D. Schmitt, Jr., a dentist at Austin; Dr. Timothy B. Schmitt, a physician at Wadena, Minnesota; and Steven A. Schmitt, who is employed by Control Data at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

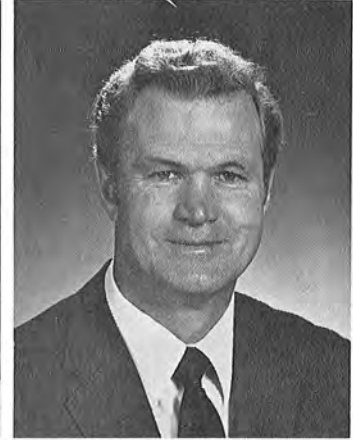
George A. Hormel and Co. Founded in 1891



Original Hormel plant, 1891, beside Red Cedar River, Austin.



George A. Hormel, founder and first president.



Richard L. Knowlton heads Company today.



NEW HORMEL "FLAGSHIP" PLANT BEGAN PRODUCTION IN 1982

Preface

Founded in Austin, Minnesota, in 1891, George A. Hormel and Company is a federally-inspected food processor of food, meat products and fish which are marketed throughout the world. The Company's principal products are boneless hams, sausage items, wieners, sliced bacon, luncheon meats, stews, chili, hash and meat spreads which, in turn, are sold fresh, frozen, cured, smoked, cooked or canned. The most significant and commonly-known of the Company's numerous trademarks are *Hormel*, *SPAM*, *Dinty Moore*, *Mary Kitchen*, *Little Sizzlers*, *Cure 81*, *Black Label*, *DiLusso*, *Curemaster* and *Wranglers*.

The Company's 750 products are sold in all 50 states by salesmen operating in assigned territories coordinated from district offices which are located in most of the larger U.S. cities and by brokers and distributors who handle carload lot sales. Through Hormel International, a wholly-owned subsidiary, Hormel also operates in international areas, including the Philippines, Japan, the Dominican Republic and various European countries.

Hormel operates 17 plants for slaughtering and/or processing and has 11 distribution plants located along the West Coast, South Atlantic Coast, Gulf Coast and Hawaii. The Company's largest slaughtering and processing facility is the 1,089,000 square foot Austin replacement plant, completed in late summer of 1982. This "state-of-the-art" facility is capable of handling more than 2.5 million hogs annually and has a total production capacity exceeding 200 million pounds.

Based on the Company's 1982 net annual sales of \$1.4 billion, Hormel was ranked 10th in *Meat Industry* magazine's listing of the *Top 100 Packers* in the U.S. Also in 1982, Hormel was ranked No. 239 in the *Fortune 500* listing of U.S. industries.

GEORGE A. HORMEL BORROWED \$500 TO START HIS COMPANY

George A. Hormel, son of a Toledo, Ohio, tanner, began work at age 15 in his uncle's Chicago, Ill., slaughterhouse. Four years later, he started as a wool and hide buyer. His travels took him to the Austin, Minn., area, a town of 3,900 people; three mills (woolen, paper and flax); a boot and shoe factory, and a brick plant. In 1887, he decided to settle in Austin and open a meat business.

Hormel borrowed \$500 to begin a business with Albrect Friedrich. Hormel handled the production; Friedrich the retail portion of the firm.

Hormel wanted to start a complete meat packing operation; thus, in 1891, the two agreed to dissolve their partnership. Hormel then started his own business in an old creamery building on the Red Cedar River in the northeast section of the city. To supplement the new plant, he purchased and sold hides, wool, eggs and poultry.

He began with one employee—George Petersen. By the end of that first year (1891), Hormel employed six persons and had dressed 610 head of livestock.

In 1893, Herman and John Hormel, brothers of George A., joined the business. It was a period when competition intensified as improved refrigeration cars used by large meat packers forced many small operations to go under. However, Hormel's business survived and, at year-end, he had processed 1,532 hogs.

As retail markets in Austin expanded, John Hormel rode a bicycle through the countryside, peddling the Company's sausage. By 1895, the remaining members of Hormel's family moved to Austin from Toledo and joined the business. In 1899, George A. turned to fulltime management. Noting the small margin of profit in the meat packing industry, he observed that only a large volume of business would lead to growth and expansion.

PLANT EXPANSION

In 1901, with the first purchase of additional land, physical plant expansion began. In that same year, the business was incorporated and its first directors were George, Herman, John and Ben Hormel and A. L. Eberhart. Assets that year were \$118,050.65 and liabilities \$23,848.39. The net value of the Company was listed at \$93,202.26. Sales that year reached \$711,000.

One of George A. Hormel's primary directives to employees and co-workers was "*Originate! Don't just copy!*" Economists and historians (including Minnesota State Treasurer Val Bjornson, in *History of Minnesota*, 1969), have attributed the Hormel Company's early success to frugality, thrift, insistence upon uniform excellence of product and rigorous marketing and merchandising. Much of the early sales distinction of the



The George A. Hormel Co. Plant in 1901

Company resulted from the work of Sam Moe, hired by George A. in 1898 to “push sales.”

PLANT EXPANDED IN 1903

In 1903, Kansas City, Mo., architect John Thomas was engaged to prepare plans for remodeling and enlarging the Austin packing plant. Expansions that year included a three-story hog kill; a two-story beef kill; annex; engine room; machine shop, and a casing production department. Two years later, a five-story curing building was added at a cost of \$60,000.

The name “*Dairy Brand*” was registered with the U.S. Patent Office in 1903 and appeared on Hormel products for more than 60 years. The *Austin Herald* commented at the time that “the pig from which this brand of product is made is found only in the dairy districts of southern Minnesota. It is fed on skimmed milk from the creameries, and corn. This kind of diet produces a rich, lean ham and bacon.”

Distribution centers for Hormel products were established in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, Minn. The Company’s third decade brought branches into San Antonio and Dallas, Texas; Chicago, Ill.; Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala. George Hormel’s visit to

England in 1905 resulted in the Company’s moving into exports, a branch of the business which, by the end of World War I, constituted about one-third of the total yearly volume.

HORMEL BEGINS NATIONAL ADVERTISING

By 1910, the Hormel product name was appearing in national magazines. Also in 1910, through an ongoing program of applied research, the Company developed a technique for recycling its waste water. An evaporating machine was devised to boil up to 9,000 gallons of water daily for the recovery of a syrupy liquid which was, in turn, dried to produce a valuable commercial fertilizer.

In 1915, Hormel entered the dry sausage business with three lines—Holsteiner, Cedar Cervelat and Noxall Salami. After taking over the Water Street (4th Avenue N.E.) flour mill, Hormel began selling “Hormel Peerless Minnesota” flour nationwide.

During World War I, Hormel joined in the war effort and many of his employes, including son, Jay C., who later became Company president, went into military service.

**THE
LADIES' HOME
JOURNAL**

**A ROMANCE
AND SOCIAL
NUMBER**

**10
CENTS**

**FEBRUARY 1,
1911**

THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA

PAINTED BY HARRISON FISHER

First national advertising by Hormel appeared in the February, 1911 issue of the *Ladies Home Journal*.

“CY THOMSON EMBEZZLEMENT”

The Company faced a major crisis in 1921 when Assistant Comptroller R. J. (Cy) Thomson was discovered to have stolen \$1,187,000 from the Company by “kiting” checks over a period dating back to 1915. The irregularity was discovered by Jay C. Hormel, son of George A., who had returned to the company from military service. Through a loan extension agreement signed with a committee of bankers, plus the sale of bonds, the Company survived the crisis.

FIRST CANNED HAM

In 1924, Geo. A. Hormel & Company exceeded the one million mark in the number of hogs slaughtered. Two years later, in 1926, the Company accomplished another hallmark. After years of experimentation, it placed America’s first canned ham into the marketplace. Under the label “*Hormel Flavor-Sealed Ham,*” the product was an instant success. In 1928, the Com-

pany added canned chicken to its growing list of products.

During the mid-1920s, Hormel established direct livestock buying stations which were strategically located in heavy hog producing areas. This provided the Company with a reliable source of hogs and offered the farmers a readily-accessible market. The stations continue to serve as a vital function of the Hormel organization.

During a three-year period in the late 1920s and early 1930s, sales branches opened in Houston and Beaumont, Texas; Chattanooga, Tenn.; New Orleans and Baton Rouge, La.; Newark, N.J.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Vicksburg, Miss., and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. In 1929, the Austin plant was expanded to include eight new structures; the main office was tripled in size. Net earnings for that year reached \$1.1 million.

Construction began on a slaughtering plant in Mitchell, S.D., in 1931. Two years later, a \$1 million beef slaughtering plant was constructed in Austin. Completed in 1933, the plant created an expanded livestock

February 1, 1911



Here's the ham and bacon that your mouth has watered for

Let us send you our little book, “Dainty Ways of Serving Dairy Hams and Bacon,” full of appetizing suggestions. Mailed free.

It tells how Dairy Hams and Bacon are made by a special long-time process cure from only the choicest selection of prime young porkers—all reared on adjacent, rich dairy farms in one of the greatest creamery sections in America—the heart of Southern Minnesota—where pure, crystal springs abound. Dairy hogs are fed on sweet country milk and grain.



are cured and packed amid ideal sanitary surroundings in the inimitable Hormel way. Government inspected. Parchment wrapped. Have a whole Dairy Ham or Slice of Dairy Bacon in your home. Always uniform, fresh-from-the-cure, juicy, sweet and tender. Just mild enough—it's savory—just right to please the appetite. Dairy Hams and Bacon are the highest-priced of all the high-priced kinds. But the quality is there—the distinctive flavor. They're intended for those who care enough to pay the price for something different and better—a “private stock” product.

Dairy Hams—20c the Pound

(Weight, 12 to 18 lbs.)

Dairy Bacon—30c the Pound

(Weight, 5 to 8 lbs.)

If your dealer does not handle Dairy Brand goods, we will ship direct at above prices—P. O. B. Austin. Send draft or money order. Orders not accompanied by remittance shipped C. O. D. Send your name and dealer's name for dairy book of recipes. Address—

George A. Hormel & Co.

Austin, Minnesota

market and proved to be one of many Hormel decisions that helped counter the depression in the Austin area.



Jay C. Hormel became president of the Hormel Company in 1929.

Jay C. Hormel succeeded his father to the Company's presidency in 1929; George A. became chairman of the board.

Keenly interested in labor relations, Jay C. made history in 1931 with his "straight time" wage plan, later called the Annual Wage Plan. Under its provisions, employees were paid weekly and were considered permanent employees; i.e., were guaranteed 52-week notice before termination of employment. They were told they would be expected to work long hours during busy seasons and shorter hours at other times. Hormel was the first and only meat packer to have an Annual Wage Plan. Other Hormel innovations, unique to the industry, were incentive pay, profit sharing and a pension plan.

The late 1930s saw a proliferation of new, highly-successful products. They included *Dinty Moore* beef stew, today the country's best selling canned stew, introduced in 1935; *Hormel* chili, a leading canned meat seller, appeared in 1936, and, the following year (1937), *SPAM* luncheon meat, the largest selling canned meat in the world, went to market, a product of the previously unused pork shoulder.

THE JOINT EARNINGS PLAN

In 1938, the Joint Earnings Plan was introduced. This plan allows employees to share in the proceeds of the

Company. In fiscal 1983, \$4,002,361 was distributed to employees under the Plan.

Under Jay C. Hormel, the Company expanded its advertising to full-page, four-color ads that appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies Home Journal* and *Woman's Home Companion*, plus a national radio program, "George Burns and Gracie Allen."

In 1941, Company sales reached \$75 million. In that year, George A. and Jay C. Hormel established The Hormel Foundation, principally for the purpose of providing for the perpetual independence of the Company, to act as trustees for the Hormel family trusts, and to fund the establishment of the Hormel Institute, a research unit of the University of Minnesota.

Of the Institute's founding, historian Theodore C. Blegen wrote in *Minnesota: A History of the State*, "Not content with the ingenious applied research of his own plant, Jay C. Hormel took the lead in setting in motion an institute of fundamental research affiliated with the University of Minnesota and staffed by highly-trained scientists. The work of the institute has won international fame." (The Institute is perhaps best known for its research in fats and other lipids, and has become the nation's leading center of scientific research in the field of lipids as they affect human life.)

During World War II, Hormel production increased in response to the nation's requirements for its overseas troops. *SPAM* luncheon meat became a staple for military and civilians alike. By 1945, 65 percent of the Hormel Company's total production went to the U.S. Government.

GEORGE A. HORMEL DEATH

On June 5, 1946, George A. Hormel died in California where he had lived in retirement. He was 85 years of age.

Following his death, Jay C. Hormel advanced to chairman of the board. H. H. Corey became Company president and R. F. Gray was promoted to vice-president.

COREY CONTRIBUTIONS

Corey, a college football player, who also worked as a coach and, later, as a professional football player, began at Hormel in mid-1920 in the Time Department, advancing to manager after one year. He was later assigned to the Export Department and, successively, received new responsibilities as plant superintendent, vice-president and general manager. He served as president from 1946-55 and as board chairman from 1954-65.

Under Corey's presidency, the National Barrow Show was established in late 1946. This swine classic was an effort to encourage and aid in the production of quality raw materials. The National Barrow Show, now more than 38 years old, is generally known as the "World Series of Swine Shows."



H. H. Corey, Company president in 1946.

In 1947, Hormel acquired the Fremont (Neb.) Packing Company and immediately began a large-scale modernization and expansion project. In mid-1953, the Tobin Packing Company facility in Fort Dodge, Iowa, was acquired. New distribution facilities were opened in San Francisco, Calif., Seattle, Wash., and Beaumont, Texas. Also in 1953, Hormel went outside the continental U.S., opening a processing facility in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In *Quest of Quality*, Richard C. Dougherty's history of the Hormel Company's first 75 years, Corey's presidency is characterized as "a time of consolidation and refinement of gains. Mr. Corey constantly sought ways to enlarge the physical size and scope of the Hormel operation through the acquisition of additional packinghouse facilities and through greater outreach and volume of business."

Among the many honors given Corey in recognition of his talent and experience in the meat industry was his election to four successive one-year terms as chairman of the prestigious American Meat Institute (AMI), 1950-54.



Air view of Hormel's Austin plant in the 1940s.



R. F. Gray, Hormel president in 1954.

JAY C. HORMEL DEATH

Upon the death of Jay C. Hormel on August 30, 1954, H. H. Corey was named chairman of the board; in 1955, R. F. Gray was elected president. Gray had joined Hormel in 1927 as a sausage truck driver. He advanced to assistant manager of the Auto Branch Department to manager of the Company's Transportation Department and, later, to a similar capacity in the Packing Division. He was promoted to executive vice-president in 1946.

Characterized by Dougherty as "receptive to new and practical ideas about how to do things better," Gray led the Company for 10 years, from 1955-65.

It was during the Gray years, in 1959, that Hormel received the American Humane Association's "Seal of Approval" for humane processing of all animals. Having led the industry with a hog immobilizer to anesthetize animals before slaughter, Hormel was the first meat packer to receive such recognition.

New products during that decade included *Little Sizzlers* pork sausage, introduced in 1961, and the renowned *Cure 81* ham which was first marketed in 1963. An impressive number of facilities were also added and expanded during this period. Acquisitions included the Queen City Packing Company plant in Springfield, Mo., and the Ottawa Meat Packing Company plant, Miami, Okla.

In 1963, Hormel produced and sold over 200 million pounds of product.

New plants were constructed at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Los Angeles, Calif.; several other facilities, in-

cluding those in Fresno, Calif., Charlotte and Winston-Salem, N.C., and Houston, Texas, were remodeled or expanded.

By 1962, it was determined that the slaughter of calves and lambs at the Austin (Minn.) plant was no longer profitable and, as a result, the Company discontinued that aspect of the Austin operation. In that same year, however, a 75,000 square foot sausage manufacturing building was constructed and, in 1964, the new Hormel Corporate Offices, located just north of Interstate 90 at the 6th Street N.E. exit, was opened. Also in 1964, a Hormel packaging innovation, the Re-Seal Pak for luncheon meats, first appeared in the marketplace.

Between 1955-65, the Company's international business expanded through arrangements with companies in Ireland, England, Canada and Venezuela.

M. B. THOMPSON NAMED PRESIDENT

In 1965, R. F. Gray replaced Corey as chairman of the board, upon retirement of the latter. M. B. Thompson was chosen Company president and remained in that office for a period of four years, until 1969.

Thompson had joined Hormel immediately upon graduation from Indiana University in Bloomington. After training in various departments, he held supervisory and managerial positions, including 11 years as manager of the Fremont (Neb.) plant.

During Thompson's tenure, a dry sausage plant was built in Algona, Iowa, and distribution plant facilities were constructed in San Antonio, Texas, New Orleans, La., and Atlanta, Ga.

In 1967, for the first time, dollar sales exceeded the half-billion dollar mark. Also, at this time, The Hormel Foundation college scholarship fund was established as a means of offsetting the cost of higher education for children of Geo. A. Hormel & Company employees. Now in its 17th year, the program, presently administered by the Hormel Company, is conducted in cooperation with the National Merit Scholarship Foundation (NMSC) which selects winners on the basis of test scores, academic records, school and community involvement and financial need.

In order to expand and coordinate Company research activities, the Research & Development Division was housed in a separate, new facility which was constructed in 1968. It was built just north of the Corporate Offices.

I. J. HOLTON IS PRESIDENT

The following year witnessed several major management changes. R. F. Gray ended a 42-year Hormel business career with his resignation as chairman of the board in August, 1969. President M. B. Thompson was elected to succeed Gray and continued as the Company's chief executive officer. I. J. Holton became the Company's sixth president. Three years later, he was named chief executive officer.



Geo. A. Hormel & Company's Austin plant as it has been viewed from the mid-1960s. In 1982 this plant was replaced by the newly constructed replacement, which occupies 18½ acres on the pastureland behind the facility pictured above. The old plant is in process of demolition, and will be converted into an employee parking lot.

Holton had been with the Hormel organization for 32 years, beginning in 1947 with relief selling and on-the-job training assignments. A graduate of the University of Iowa in Iowa City, he was assigned to the Company's Law Department. Following his election as corporate secretary in 1956, he was elected, successively, to the Board of Directors, executive vice-president, member of the Executive Committee, and to the Company presidency. He was named chairman of the board in July, 1979, and appointed chairman of the Executive Committee in November, 1981.

NEW PLANT FACILITIES

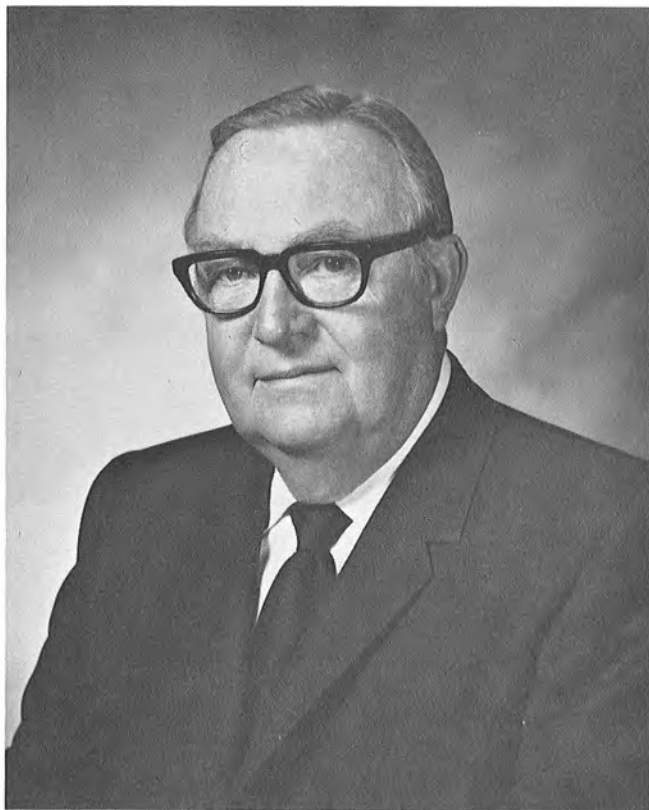
The year 1969 marked the opening of the Company's Atlanta (Ga.) distribution plant and signaled a decade of dynamic growth. Seventeen new facilities began operation during that period, including a major new slaughtering/processing plant in Ottumwa, Iowa (1976), and a new gelatin plant in Davenport, Iowa (1979).

Other new facilities included the Albany, Ga., distribution plant (1970); Algona, Iowa, dry sausage plant (1970), and meat processing/distribution facilities in Dallas, Texas, and Seattle, Wash., both opening in 1971. A new Corporate Offices Annex building was acquired in 1970; distribution plants were opened in Orlando, Fla., and Shreveport, La., and a food service facility was constructed in Oklahoma City, Okla., all in 1972.

In 1971, the Company reiterated the commitment to corporate citizenship made by its founders 80 years earlier. The following statement appeared in the *1971 Annual Report to Stockholders*:

"The Hormel Company's corporate responsibility stretches beyond growth in dollar sales and net earnings. Also demanding equally high priority are the Company's efforts in matters affecting the environment and cooperative community relations."

The statement followed the Company's decision to



M. B. Thompson, Hormel president 1965 to 1969.

pay for an industrial waste treatment plant capable of handling all industrial wastes from the Austin plant. Upon completion, the new facility was turned over to the City of Austin. Operation and maintenance costs are assumed entirely by Hormel.

To encourage community awareness among its employees, Hormel introduced a Matching Gifts program in 1971. Under this program, the Company matches the gifts of employees to accredited colleges and universities, up to \$2,000 for each contributing employee.

Growth continued as the Beloit (Wis.) grocery products plant was opened in 1973, and the Fort Worth (Texas) frozen foods plant was acquired one year later. The Company's Houston (Texas) distribution plant was completed in 1975.

In 1976, the Company's 85th year, worldwide dollar sales surpassed the \$1 billion mark for the first time. A dry sausage manufacturing plant was constructed in Knoxville, Iowa (1977), and a grocery products canning facility in Stockton, Calif., acquired in 1977, and a new Fresno (Calif.) distribution plant, built in 1978, completed the Company's expansion in the 1970s.

AUSTIN (MINN.) PLANT

The advanced technologies applied to newly-constructed Hormel plants by Company staff engineers made it increasingly clear that the original plant facility



I. J. Holton retired in April, 1983, after 36 years with the Company, 10 of them as president.

in Austin had become outmoded. A 1975 study revealed that Hormel could expect to remain competitive only by replacing the large, multi-storied "home" plant and then operating it on the non-incentive basis which existed throughout the industry.

HOLTON AND KNOWLTON DEVELOP PLANS FOR NEW FACILITY

Together with R. L. Knowlton, then group vice president of operations and former general manager of the Austin Plant, Hormel President I. J. Holton spent the better part of the next five years establishing the necessary planning and the final agreements leading to the construction of a 1,089,000 square foot replacement plant in Austin. This plant, opened in mid-1982, is among the largest of its kind in the world. Its advanced technology makes it a showcase of the industry.

Holton retired from the presidency in 1979. His leadership has been characterized both within and outside the industry as "statesmanlike" and "socially responsible," spanning a remarkable decade in Hormel Company growth and development.

Upon Holton's recommendation, Richard L. Knowlton was elected Company president in 1979, the first Austin native to hold that post since Jay C. Hormel. Holton continued to serve as chief executive officer until 1981, at which time these duties were also passed to Knowlton. He assumed the additional title of chairman of the board in January, 1984.



Hormel Corporate Offices

While earning a degree in economics at the University of Colorado, Knowlton worked summers at the Hormel Company, performing jobs in various departments.

Upon graduation, he began his Hormel career, serving in positions of increasing responsibility in the Route Car and Meat Products Divisions. Eventually, he served as general manager of the Austin plant and, later, as vice-president and group vice-president.

Knowlton presided over the building, completion and opening in Austin of the world's newest and largest meat packing facility. He is also credited with accomplishing a smooth transition from the Company's old plant in Austin into its highly-computerized "space-age" facility.

CONSTRUCTION OF HUGE NEW PLANT BEGAN IN 1980

As the Austin plant construction progressed throughout 1980 and 1981, other changes occurred throughout the corporation. Facilities at the Ottumwa and Knoxville, Iowa, plants were expanded. A new line of precooked bacon was introduced, as were three new Perma Fresh luncheon meat items. In fact, by 1980, diversification had become the standard in all Hormel product lines, and the many new products added each year raised the total number to well above 700.

Major projects in 1982 included the opening of a new distribution plant in San Francisco, Calif., and additions to, or renovations of, facilities in Beloit, Wis., Los Angeles, Calif., and Ottumwa, Iowa.

The opening of the Company's new "flagship" plant in Austin made 1982 a landmark year. In its February, 1983, issue, *Meat Industry* magazine described the plant as follows: "Geo. A. Hormel & Company's new replacement plant in Austin, Minn., is, in every way, a plant of superlatives. It is incredibly huge, tremendously productive, impressively efficient and superbly designed.

"Production volumes are beyond anything else in the industry. Over two million hogs are slaughtered and cut per year, resulting in over 200 million pounds of products produced annually."

Significant characteristics of the Austin complex include its "plant-within-a-plant" design; integrated computer inventory management system; automated batching in dry sausage, prepared sausage and canned meats; flexibility in hog skinning; Twin Automatic Storage and Retrieval System warehouses, and several individual "state-of-the-art" technologies for meat processing, such as forklift "robots" and automatic ham deboners.

KNOWLTON CITED BY WALL STREET TRANSCRIPT IN 1983

In 1983, President Knowlton was named the outstanding chief executive officer in the meat sector of the Meat & Poultry industry by *The Wall Street Transcript* (TWST). Knowlton earned the award, according to TWST, because, under his direction, Hormel had taken a more aggressive posture in the industry. Committed to a program of plant replacement and modernization, Knowlton continues to firmly position the Company at the leading edge of production operations, TWST said.

THE HORMEL STORY

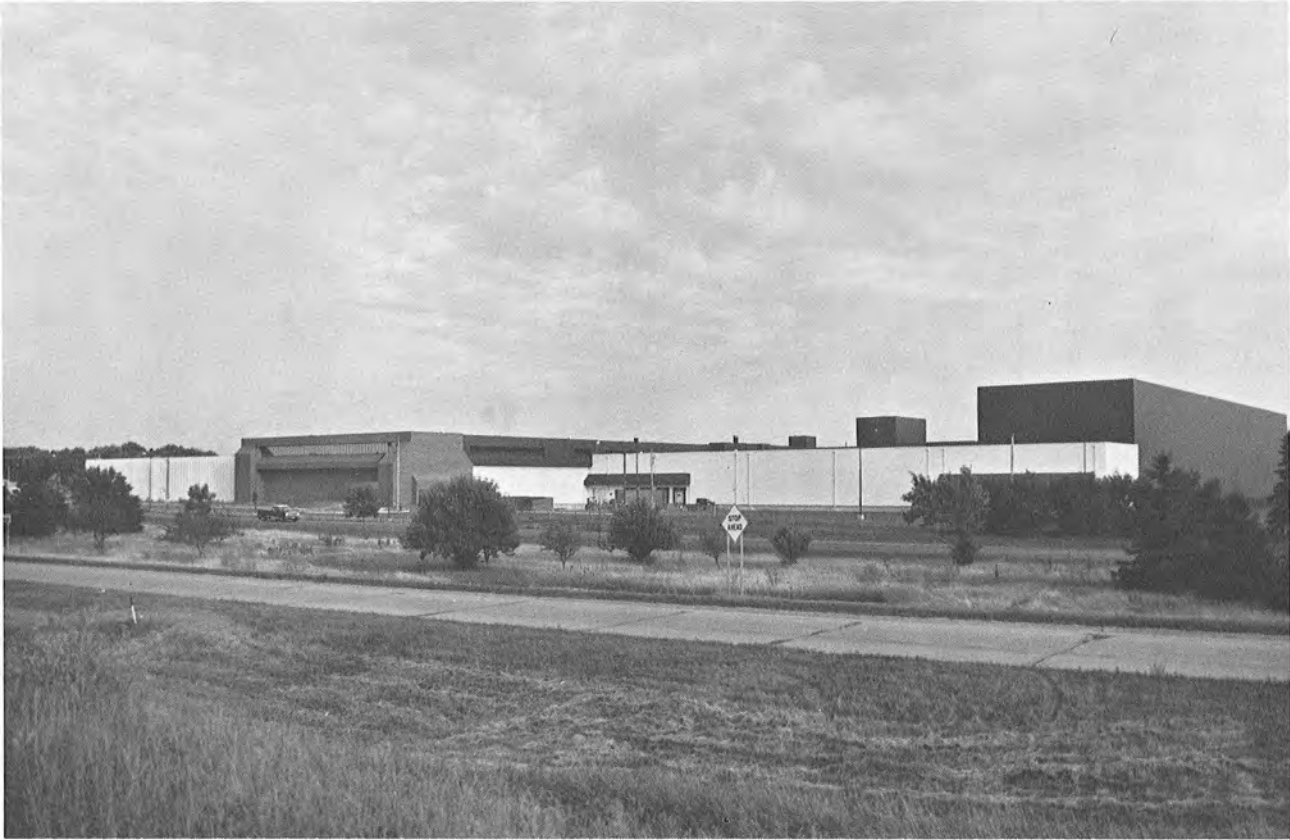
The Hormel story is one in the typical American tradition of a small company which prospered and grew through investments of courage, enterprise, frugality and a good measure of hard work. From the founder himself, George A. Hormel, came this heritage: a simple integrity in dealing with all facets of the business—product, employees, customers, the people from whom he bought, and the community in general.

This principle is maintained today through application of the most modern management techniques in pro-

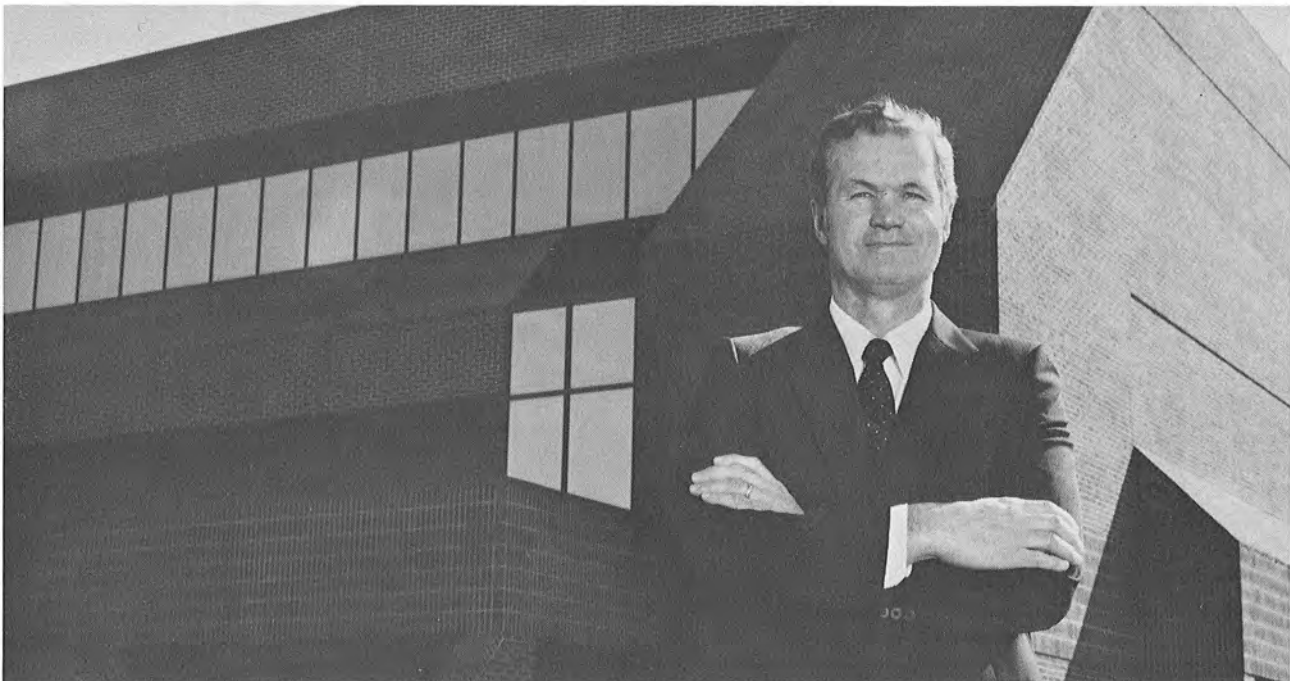
duction and selling, through tireless research and, most importantly, in the skills and painstaking efforts of the 7,000 men and women who comprise today's Company.

While utilizing the sales, production and research

tools of the present and the future, the people of Geo. A. Hormel & Company will continue to be guided by the heritage of its past.



A close-up view of Geo. A. Hormel & Company's new multi-million dollar Austin hog slaughtering/food processing plant. The new plant occupies 18½ acres on a 33-acre tract of land just south of Interstate 90 in Austin. Photo taken from the northwest.

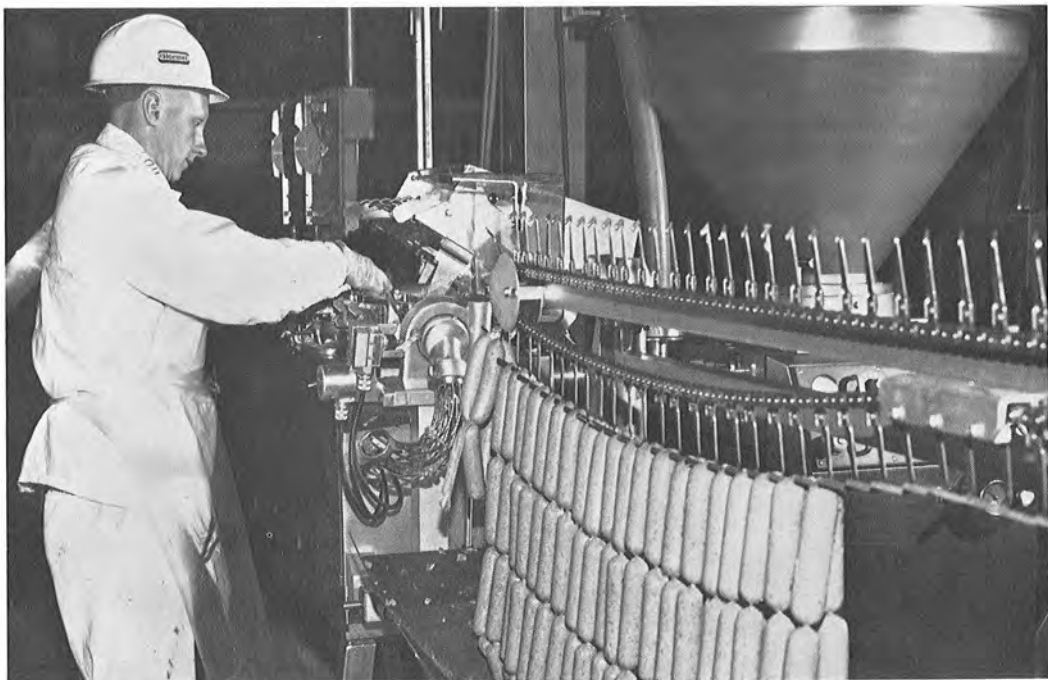


R. L. Knowlton, chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Geo. A. Hormel & Company, is shown in this 1984 photograph in front of the firm's new 1,089,000 square foot Austin (Minnesota) plant.

PRODUCTION PHOTOS IN THE NEW HORMEL PLANT

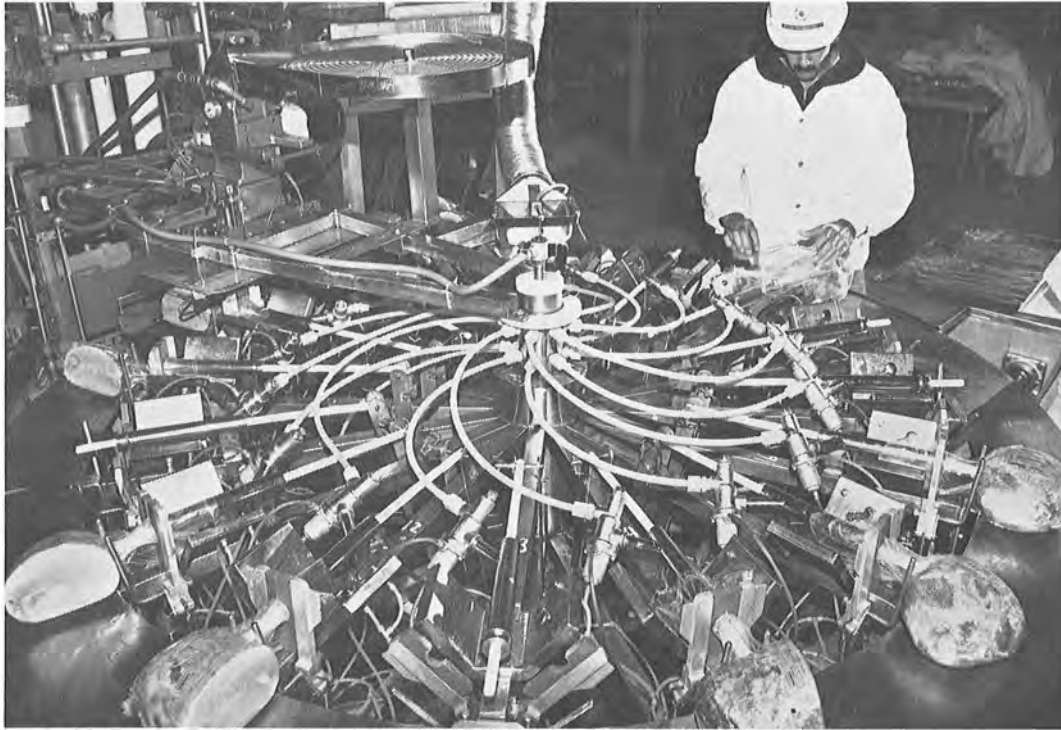


About 750 hogs per hour, or in excess of two million hogs annually, will be slaughtered and processed in this modern abattoir area. Facilities for hog slaughtering and processing are located on all four levels of the plant.

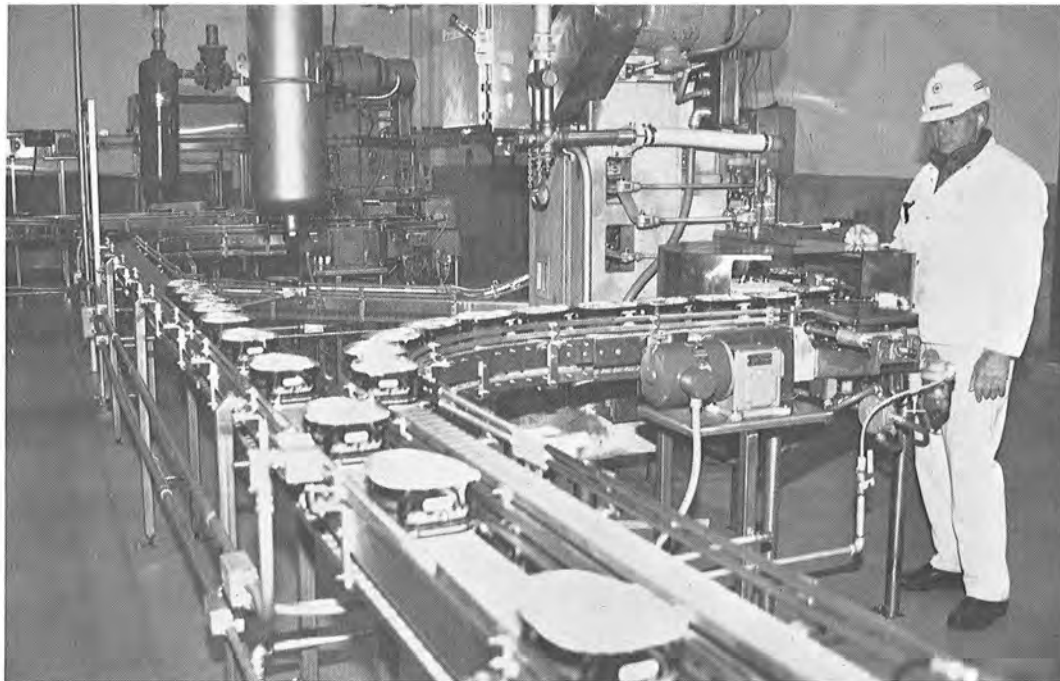


An automatic linking system for wieners and other processed meats insures a minimum of handling by production employees. The processed products move through temperature zones tailored to meet the needs of each specific item.

Hormel Production Photos—Continued



Cure 81® hams are vacuum-sealed in this highly-automated packaging system. Modern packaging techniques and materials used here offer improved assurance of freshness and flavor.



These Black Label® canned hams are about to enter an automated closing machine. Under the watchful eye of this Hormel employee the hams are vacuum-sealed in the can which removes all the air and insures retention of the natural juices and flavor during the cooking cycle just ahead.

Hormel Production Photos—Continued



The 70-foot, computer-controlled stacker crane, shown in the background, automatically shuttles dry and refrigerated packaged products on a first-in, first-out basis at the now fully-operative Hormel plant in Austin. This automatic storage and retrieval system holds 24 million pounds of meat products.



Some of the major consumer-branded products now being produced at the Geo. A. Hormel & Company's new plant are shown here. Included are SPAM® luncheon meat; Cure 81® ham; Little Sizzlers® pork sausage; Black Label® ham; Curemaster® ham; Wranglers® smoked franks; Di Lusso® genoa; Range Brand® bacon, plus many other products marketed under the familiar Hormel® brand name.

ORGANIZATIONS

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a National Society which was incorporated by an act of Congress on December 2, 1895. The local chapter of the National Society D.A.R. is named Red Cedar, and was organized May 31, 1921.

Clara Ober was the first Regent and Helen Vance the first Secretary. Other charter members were: Florence Avery, Lila Baird, Alice Bemis, Gertrude Catherwood, Julia Cook, Sarah Gilmore, Harriet Hardy, Laura Hurlburt, Marion Jenks and Rose Sasse.

The Red Cedar chapter has been faithful in promoting and contributing to the three objectives of the National D.A.R. These objectives are; historical, educational and patriotic.

Red Cedar aids in the maintenance of the three DAR owned schools, Jamase in South Carolina, Kate Duncan Smith in Alabama, and St. Mary's School for Indian girls in South Dakota. We share annually in the maintenance of Sibley House, which was obtained by the Minnesota DAR. The house was restored and opened to the public as a museum in 1910. In 1937 Minnesota DAR obtained the nearby Fairbault House as a museum.

Locally, in 1922 a bronze plaque was placed on the post office in memory of Mower County World War I veterans. After the post office was torn down the plaque was placed on display in the Mower County Historical Building.

In 1929 Red Cedar Chapter planted a memorial grove of sixty-four elm trees at Todd Park. Also they placed a bronze marker on a large native boulder nearby which lists the names of the Mower County men who gave their lives in World War I. Most of the trees have been removed due to the elm disease, and a ball park has replaced the trees. The marker is still there near the middle entrance on the west side of Todd Park.

Flag Day, June 14, 1936, a flag and flag pole were dedicated and presented to the City of Austin.

In 1946 three Red Cedar trees were planted near the river in Horace Austin State Park. In April 1959, when the Hotel-Motel Corporation purchased that part of the state park, the trees were moved just south of the present Country Kitchen.

In 1977 an ash tree was planted near the courthouse dome at the fairgrounds, and the next year a sunburst locust was planted near the Historical Building.

The requirements for membership are that an individual be a proven descendant of a person who aided the American cause in the American Revolution.

Officers are elected for a two-year term in the local chapter. Mrs. Maurine Aultfather Goetsch is the immediate past regent and Mrs. Marie Judd is the regent elect.

by Maurine Goetsch

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL-AUSTIN AREA

Zonta International is a service organization of executive women in business and professions. As leaders in their communities they devote themselves to civic and social welfare.

Zonta was founded in Buffalo, New York on November 8, 1919. The Austin Area Club was organized November 16, 1950, receiving their charter December 26, 1950. The charter members were: Beulah Austin, Alice Bigelow, Margaret Blomily, Bernadine Brill, Amelia Carlson, Mae Duffy, Gladys Emerson, Edith Guyor, Rephah Hirsh, Laura Mae Hockett, Marie Mation, Mabel McCue, Dr. Elizabeth McKenna, Edith Murphy, Jane Olson, Mabel Olson, Susanne Rademacher, Geraldine Rasmussen, Alice Riley, Evelyn Staley, Mary Stromer, Dora Tollefson, Elfrieda Uzlik, Zelda Sommer, Joyce Stephenson and Beatrice Witt. In 1982 three charter members were still active: Rephah Hirsh, Geraldine Rasmussen and Dora Tollefson.

The purpose of the organization is: (1) to encourage high ethical standards in business and professions. (2) to improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women. (3) to encourage, promote and supervise the organization of Zonta Clubs throughout the world. (4) to increase the service and value of Zonta Clubs to their respective members and communities. (5) to promote the broad spirit of good fellowship among Zontians and Zonta Clubs. (6) to work for the advancement of understanding, good will and peace through a

world fellowship of executive women in business and professions.

Zonta has an emblem which is a composite of five Sioux Indian symbols. The name "Zonta" is derived from the Sioux Indian language and means "Honest or Trustworthy."

Local Zontians have worked together with others of Zonta International on service projects in cooperation with National and Worldwide Agencies.

More than two-thirds of the Austin Zonta Club service gifts remain in Austin. The support has extended to such groups as: Austin Community College, St. Olaf Hospital, YWCA, Austin Public Library, Meals on Wheels, Christian Education Center, Victim's Crisis Center, Public Broadcasting, American Red Cross, Special Olympics, Girl Scouts, American Field Service, Minnesota Eye Clinic, Parenting Resource Center and the annual fireworks display on Independence Day. Their main project for earning service money is the annual nut sale. They also take part in the YWCA craft sale, and have had several spring style shows.

The Austin Club in 1982 has fifty-six members. Esther Plehal, an Austin member, has served as District VII Governor and Florence Vogel as District Secretary. The district encompasses seven midwestern states and two provinces in Canada.

by Gerry Oswald

AUSTIN COTILLION CLUB 1919-1984



1982-83 Officers

Left to right: Mrs. Stephen (Shirley) Wright, Roger Bliese, Mrs. Robert (Beverlee) Stephenson and Robert Guy.

The Austin Cotillion Club was organized in December of 1919 according to the first by-laws written, however, they were not signed, so it is not known who started the club or who the first officers were. The earliest records available are from Nov. 6, 1923 with 35 couples belonging, who are as follows: Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Albertson, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Albertson, Mr. & Mrs. George Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. John Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. M. D. Boswell, Mr. & Mrs. O. J. Bucklin, Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Bigelow, Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Corey, Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Crane, Mr. & Mrs. V. S. Culver, Mr. & Mrs. Bliss Cleveland, Mr. & Mrs. John Detwiler, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Dodd, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Decker, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Errett, Mr. & Mrs. E. D. Fox, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Hawkins, Mr. & Mrs. George A. Hormel, Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Hoffman, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Jones, Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Tom James, Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Jordan, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Knopf, Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Meyer, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Nichol森, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Rayman, Mr. & Mrs. J. Z. Rogers, Mr. & Mrs. F. G. Sasse, A. M. Smith & Mrs. Kolb, Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Woodward, Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Williams, Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Hurlbut, Mr. & Mrs. W. N. Sinclair.

The purpose of the Cotillion Club was strictly social with dinner and dancing. A couple was able to join by

invitation only with 100% approval by the membership committee. Records were vague as to where the events were held, but it did vary from the K-C Hall on 2nd Ave. NW, Elk Hotel, Harrington Hotel, and sometimes the YWCA. Later the parties were held at the Elks Club Rooms which were upstairs over what is now the Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, 204 - 1st St. NE. The committee for each dance was made up of women who did all the cooking except for meat and gravy which was cooked by either the Peoples Bakery, Austin Bakery, or Federal Bakery. Occasionally the records mentioned the bands that provided the dance music namely; the Fisch Band, Jolly Miller Band, and the Red Walsh Band by 1937. The club delighted in having costume parties, formal dress dances and sometimes picnics at a member's cabin.

By 1955 changes began to take place in locations and in the by-laws. The membership was increased to 50 couples with the dinner-dances being held at the new Elks Club on 1st Ave. and N. Main St. and at the Austin Country Club, but now the Clubs cooked the meals with the committee making the dessert. Charge for meals in the 1920's was \$1.00 a plate compared to \$7.50 to \$10.00 a plate in 1983. In 1960 some of the dances were held at the new Red Cedar Inn, Austin's only new hotel in many years. Then back to the Elks Club and the Austin Country Club. Today's most popular bands are the Rhythm Section, Rollo Sissel and the Dixielanders.

The women held the office of President and Secretary, while the men handled the office of Vice President and Treasurer. Today 33 couples belong and pay annual dues of \$25.00 which pays for the band. Dinner usually ranges around \$15.00 a couple with 5 to 6 dances a year.

The 1982-83 officers are: President Mrs. Robert Stephenson, Vice President Rodger Bliese, Secretary Mrs. Stephen Wright and Treasurer Robert Guy.

An interesting note is that the 1982-83 president, secretary and treasurer all were born and grew up in Austin, MN.

It is a most unique social club in that it has been active longer than any other social club in the area—from 1919 to 1984 without a break.

AUSTIN FEDERATED WOMEN'S CLUB

Several women met at the Austin Y.W.C.A. in September, 1961, in response to an invitation by Mrs. Harold Umhoefer, District President of the Federation of Women's Clubs, to explore the possibility of organizing a new club in Austin. After several organizational meetings, the women decided to file an application for a charter to be known as the Austin Federated Women's Club.

The first officers were: President, Mrs. Don Kofron;

Vice President, Mrs. Richard Lembrick; Secretary, Mrs. D. L. Vanderhaar; Treasurer, Mrs. W. Kirchdoerfer. Some other early members were Mrs. John Trollen, Mrs. Merlin Vanderwege and Mrs. Richard Saterbo.

Although the original purpose of the club had been to foster personal growth through the study of the humanities, as membership grew, the club began to use community resources for programs and extended their interests into community service. They have raised funds

through sales sponsored by the State Federation and by rummage sales and have assisted in such community projects as the Hormel Nature Center, the Artist in Residence, and Foreign Student Aid Scholarships.

The following women have served as club president: Mrs. Don Kofron, Mrs. Richard Lembrick, Mrs.

W. Kirchdoerfer, Mrs. Richard Alley, Mrs. Marvin Braends, Mrs. James Mittun, Mrs. Rudy Nelson, Mrs. Richard Saterbo, Mrs. Arnold Brustad, Mrs. John Crist, Mrs. Robert Boomgard, Mrs. Robert Hartle and Mrs. Omer Wangen.

ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS—MOWER COUNTY

by Florence Petersen



Honors Dinner, April 2, 1982
Members of A.R.C. active for 30 years

Left to right: Robert McCloskey, Margaret Ann McCloskey, Kay Livermore, James Livermore, Phyllis Torglimson, Florence Petersen, Clarence Peterson.

The Association for Retarded Citizens, Mower County, was organized about thirty years ago. It was then called the Austin Association for the Mentally Retarded. A group of our children were retarded, but trainable. We, the parents, gathered at the courthouse for our first meeting.

We had advice and assistance from Harold Mickelson, the county welfare director, and also Francis Hanson, our first public school psychologist.

At this time there was very little help available for the mentally retarded children. There were large state institutions or a few private homes, if parents could not keep them home. Only those who were considered educable were admitted to schools.

The Austin Public Schools did have several special education classes for the educable retarded. They included those whose IQ's ranged from fifty to eighty.

We had two retarded sons who were in these classes from 1947-1951. In the fall of 1951 they, along with several other children were put out of these classes because they were tested below fifty IQ.

The State Legislators of Minnesota had passed a ruling that schools could have classes for the trainable retarded. We were encouraged to form a parents group and a class here in our schools.

Clarence and Florence Petersen, Anna Swanson, Ted and Lois Haack were the instigators. We called parents and put a notice in the Herald. We called a meeting at the courthouse in March, 1952. There were thirty-five parents at our first meeting. Our children were of school



Oak Grove Activity Center

age, but few had ever been given an opportunity to go to school. At this first meeting, Florence Petersen was elected president; Bea Jorgensen, vice-president; Marie Precht, secretary; Jim Livermore, treasurer.

Our first task was to ask the school board to start a class for the trainable retarded with IQ's below fifty. We had a very compassionate school board. The Superintendent of Schools was Leif Harbo, and board members were Brooks Cutter, Roy Tedrow, Dr. Peter Lommen Sr., Mrs. Myrtle Grise, Kleo Gildner and Harold Westby, chairman.

Our first class of pupils, age six to fifteen, was held in the St. Olaf Parish House. We had fifteen children, so we ran two half-day classes. The following year, with a reduced attendance, we had eight pupils in all-day sessions.

In 1953 a new facility was provided. Our Austin Activity Center was started in the abandoned Woodson School. We were allowed use of the building rent free. The twelve pupils were taught by their mothers.

In 1957 the rural Oak Grove School became available. We accepted the opportunity to purchase the school for the amount due on the mortgage, \$10,500.00. Funds for the project were raised by sponsored events, such as Luther College Band and Choir concerts; a circus and sale of Christmas cards. Additional monies were received from the United Way and from clubs, churches and individuals.

The Oak Grove School building was burned down by an arsonist in 1965. The construction of our present building was made possible through a bequest in the amount of \$28,000.00 from the Cena Wiggins estate, through community contributions and from funds re-

ceived from the insurance on the building which was destroyed. This building serves forty-five handicapped individuals. It is supported with state funds. An open house was held October 6, 1966, with Governor Karl Rolvaag as a special guest.

Our organization is now called the Association for Retarded Citizens, Mower County. We are affiliated with the state and national associations, and receive funds from the United Way, from fund raising projects and from groups which occasionally use the building. We sponsor a track and field day for our retarded citizens.

Some were given funds to attend conventions. There is an annual prom. We also send about twenty-five to camp each summer.

Officers in 1982 were: Keith Downing, president; Joan Worlein, vice president; Dean Fuller, treasurer; Carol Fritze, secretary.

Our efforts at present are to continue the services now available to our retarded citizens. We assist them to live in their communities, to function at their greatest capacities and to live as normally as possible.

ART AND TRAVEL CLUB



Art and Travel Club

Past Presidents pictured in October 1968

Front, left to right: Mrs. Julia Baudler, Mrs. Glenn Nelson, Miss Mabel Olson. Back: Mrs. Geraldine Rasmussen, Mrs. V. Engelson, Mrs. H. Kannady, Mrs. W. Campbell, Mrs. O. D. Bowlby.

The Art and Travel Club is a cultural club. The chief purpose is to enlighten the members on art and travel experiences.

In the beginning of the Twentieth Century, to be exact in 1903, a small group of women banded together at the home of Miss Elizabeth Hormel to organize a club to study the arts. Miss Hormel was made president, and the club was named "The Arts Club." Several years later it was renamed the "Art and Travel Club." Eight women joined to enhance their lives and that of other women in the community, and they were: Miss Elizabeth Hormel, Mrs. S. S. Washburn, Mrs. F. O. Hall, Mrs. L. D. Baird, Mrs. Wm. Earl, Mrs. Ida Smith Decker, Mrs. H. A. Avery and Mrs. Grace Baird Detwiler.

The Club met at members' homes, and light refreshments were served. Each member was given a topic to present. Sometimes three or four papers would be given at a single meeting. Dues were fifteen cents a year, later raised to twenty-five cents a year, and today it is six dollars a year. This includes a printed program booklet.

Miss Elizabeth Hormel was a sister to George Hormel. When George and his wife moved to California, their home was given to be used by the Y.W.C.A. Women's clubs, and the Girl Scouts. The Art and Travel Club welcomed this as a meeting place, allowing them to in-

crease their membership. This year there are thirty-seven active, two associate and four honorary members. They meet from September through May on the third Tuesday of the month.

In 1910 the club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs and were members for twenty years. They discontinued affiliation in 1930 to devote more time and money to their own club's programs.

Some programs are given by members, foreign exchange students, educators, business, professional people and travelers. In this way we visit Brazil, Africa, China, Europe, Mexico and Alaska. We have field trips to the Mower County Museum, Fairgrounds, Hormel Nature Center, etc. We study porcelain paintings, churches of the world, genealogy, early fashions, women physicians, Minnesota State Parks, and have various other programs.

The proper attire for women when this club was founded were bustles and bows and women always wore hats and gloves. Ermine stoles and otter or seal sacques were also popular. Today the mode of dress is unrestricted.

The members are proud and pleased with their club and enjoy the carefully planned programs and friendship of this cultural association. This year, 1982, marks seventy-nine years in existence and may it continue many more years in the future!

Memorials have been given to the library and the Y.W.C.A. in memory of deceased members.

The present President is the Fifty-fifth President to serve. Past Presidents are as follows:

Miss Elizabeth Hormel	Mrs. Swisher
Mrs. J. Avery	Mrs. E. H. Meyers
Mrs. R. E. Shepard	Mrs. W. S. Johnson
Mrs. John Hormel	Mrs. C. D. Bigelow
Mrs. Carlton Fairbanks	Mrs. Eunice Rice
Mrs. L. D. Baird	Mrs. Reginald Coleman
Mrs. J. H. Skinner	Mrs. Cora Baudler
Mrs. F. E. Knopf	Mrs. E. W. Buggell
Mrs. P. H. Friend	Mrs. W. B. Grise
Mrs. A. W. Wright	Mrs. Henry Weber
Mrs. Lulu Hendryx	Mrs. H. E. Rasmussen
Miss Ann Merrick	Mrs. H. V. Plunkett
Mrs. F. G. Sasse	Mrs. E. Schuttee
Mrs. R. R. Murphy	Mrs. Kenneth Rosenthal
Mrs. C. A. Hegge	Miss Elizabeth Gill
Mrs. F. O. Hall	Mrs. A. W. Johnson

Mrs. P. O. Lees
Mrs. D. L. Warren
Mrs. Harold Umhoefer
Mrs. Wm. Campbell
Mrs. Glen Nelson

Mrs. O. W. Bowlby
Mrs. E. G. Anderson
Mrs. Melvin Hauge
Mrs. Harold Kannady
Mrs. Victor Engleson

Miss Mabel Olson
Mrs. Edward Hryniewiecki
Mrs. J. M. Pugh
Mrs. Anna Moore

Mrs. Paul Helm
Mrs. Leland Engen
Mrs. Lowell Johnson
Mrs. Harvey Goetsch

Mrs. Nina Hartje is serving as the present President.

WE CARE

"We Care" is a support group for divorced, separated and widowed people. These people share their stories and gain strength from each other.

"We Care" in Austin is part of a state-wide organization which was begun in Minneapolis in 1970. There are fifteen centers in the Twin Cities, and one each in Red Wing, Rochester, Albert Lea and Austin.

Austin's "We Care" center held their initial meetings in 1981. The organizers were: Billie Thomson, Cathy Johnson and Pastor Phil Formo.

"We Care" is under the umbrella organization, "Fellowship for Renewed Living." The group meets each Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

AUSTIN KIWANIS CLUB

By May 18, 1922, fifty men of Austin had signed up as prospective members of a Kiwanis Club in Austin. On that date the club was officially launched at the Young Women's Christian Association's club room. James Bramham presided. The main business was to set weekly meetings at 12:04 P.M. on Wednesdays.

The Charter Day celebration was July 12, 1922. It was a big day in Austin. The club had been meeting regularly the past two months, and they were now ready for their official baptism, the awarding of the charter.

One hundred visitors came to Austin from out-of-town Kiwanis clubs. The program included a tour of the city, trip through the Hormel packing house, and a 6:30 banquet and charter presentation at the Country Club.

As the newly elected first president, James Bramham defined the clubs goals. He said, "It is the purpose of the Austin Kiwanis Club to map out a definite program of work with some worthwhile objectives, and accomplish one goal at a time in our effort to promote the welfare of Austin and its citizens."

The next evening the Austin Herald devoted two columns on the front page to describe the new Kiwanis Club's celebration. Sixty-five charter members were listed by name and occupation.

1928

The Austin Kiwanians had a special enthusiasm in 1928. One of their members, Rev. D. R. Martin, had a son who achieved national prominence in the Boy Scouts of America. The club was instrumental in helping the young scout through their backing of his endeavor.

On the basis of a national competition, David Martin Jr. was chosen to be one of three scouts who would accompany explorers Martin and Osa Johnson on an expedition to Nairobi, British East Africa.

Prior to David's jaunt to Africa he was the guest of

honor at a Kiwanis Club meeting. He was introduced as "Lindbergh the Second."

On his return David joined with the other two scouts in writing a book telling of their adventures. "Three Boy Scouts in Africa" competed successfully with the fictional hero stories of that time.

1931

New restrooms for the Mower County courthouse basement was the Kiwanians' project for 1931. The club petitioned the Mower County Board and the Austin City Council, requesting renovation of restrooms which were "not suitable." By the end of the year the renovations had been completed.

The club was holding regular meetings in the Fox Hotel. A. C. Richardson was president; Dr. P. A. Lommen, vice president; George Ewoldt, treasurer and C. C. Terry, secretary.

1939

For four years the Austin Kiwanians had been working for a new swimming pool for the city. The need was there because of the conviction that, "the river was not sanitary to swim in." The opening of the new \$60,000 swimming pool in 1939 reflected the completion of the club's efforts.

1947

The Austin Kiwanis Club was 25 years old in 1947. The master of ceremonies, whom we were unable to identify, said, "It has taken years of hard work to make this club one of the best. Going through the records we find that the activities which have been engaged in would fill volumes. Boys and girls, and underprivileged children have been our chief interest. Many dollars have gone to these activities, raised by kittenball games and our Mile of Pennies fund."



Charter Members Honored in 1947

Described as "probably the handsomest men in our fair city," 9 charter members of the Austin Kiwanis Club were given recognition at their club's 25th anniversary banquet.

Front, left to right: Dr. P. A. Lommen, Attorney A. C. Richardson, F. H. McCulloch and Dr. John Havens. Back: Henry Drost, F. L. Liebenstein, Bliss Cleveland, Dr. F. L. Rayman, John Mayer and C. C. Terry. All were charter members except John Mayer, who was the club president in 1947.

1950

The club put on a city-wide contest in December to collect funds for the Salvation Army Christmas Fund. They also assisted the Salvation Army in the salvage of clothing and household goods for a burned-out family.

The agriculture committee bid and bought a baby beef in the 4-H Club auction. They gave a good price to a young farm girl who had some hard luck in raising her animal.

1971-72

Bryan Baudler noted that a check of the records for the past 50 years showed that the Austin Kiwanians had contributed an average of \$1,000 annually to benevolences. Money had been earned by auctions, peanut sales, petunia sales, gumball machines and the Mile of Pennies cans.

In April the board of directors authorized the purchase of 50 trees to be planted at the Hormel Arboretum. Carroll Plager, the 50th Anniversary committee chairman, recruited men to do the planting.



1983-84 Officers

Left to right: Malcolm McDonald, 2nd vice president; Donald Jensen, president; Joseph Collins, 1st vice president.

1979-80

The Kiwanis Club found a novel new project. They began the distribution and sales of a winter survival kit. The kit was being, and still is, assembled by the Cedar Valley Workshop, Austin.

The survival kit contains items such as "space brand" emergency blanket, Ray-O-VAC disposable flashlight, aluminum cup, stove, two 10-hour-rated candles, a vial of "strike anywhere" matches, individual servings of broth, coffee, tea, hot cocoa and breakfast bars.

Club members sold these kits throughout the area at \$10.00. They were particularly valuable when placed in the family auto as an emergency measure.

The Noontime Austin Kiwanis Club sponsored the organization of a new club in Austin, the Early Risers Kiwanis Club. Their charter meeting was held at the Holiday Inn on October 18, 1975. Edward B. Kehret Jr. was their first president.

1981-82

A new Maple Sugar shack was provided for the Hormel Nature Center. Our club members built the 8' x 12' building. Guidance and construction space was provided by the Vocational Technical school. The cost of materials, including furnace, was \$2,200.00. The building was completed by the time the sap began to run at the Nature Center.

Several local groups, plus Kiwanis members, helped in the sap "harvest." Benevolences for the year ending September 30, 1982, totaled \$4,429.35.

Dr. Roger Downing, a veteran member of the Noon-time Club, was instrumental in organizing a new Kiwanis club for retired Austin citizens, the Golden K Club. Their charter banquet was held in June, 1981, with wives and many fellow Kiwanians as guest. Their first officers were President Clifford Blowers, V. P. George Gulbranson, Treas. Mike Chaffee and Secretary Harold Fredricks.

Their 1984 officers are Pres. Denver Daily, V. P. John Ganser and Chaffee and Fredricks continuing in their former capacity.

May 18, 1983—Founder's Day Dinner

The Noontime Kiwanians, their wives and guests cele-



Board of Directors

Left to right: John Beckel, Tom Grebln (treasurer), Gene Roden (secretary), Jack Dibble and Norm Stuewer. Not pictured: Cliff Hess, Jim Mueller, Bob Fitzgerald, Randy Micleson and Duane Dahlback.

brated the 61st anniversary of their Founder's Day on May 18, 1983. The Austin Community College Choir presented a musical feature. The guest speaker was humorist John Rice, Rochester. Honored guests included 1st District Lieutenant Governor Paul Lutzke, Rochester.

AUSTIN V.F.W. POST #1216

The **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America** came into existence in 1913 as a result of amalgamations during the years 1899 to 1913, of five separate foreign service organizations who had the same ideals and similar requirements for membership. Those organizations came into being entirely independent of one another and without knowledge of one another at the time of their origin. Those organizations were:

1. The **American Veterans of Foreign Service**, chartered by the State of Ohio October 10, 1899;
2. The **Colorado Society of the Army of the Philippines** organized at Denver, Colorado and becoming the **National Society of the Army of the Philippines** on August 13, 1900. The name was changed again to **The Army of the Philippines** in August 1909;
3. The **Philippine War Veterans** organized at Altoona, Pennsylvania on July 7, 1901;
4. The **Philippine War Veterans** organized at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in October 1901, and reorganized on April 27, 1902, as the **Foreign Service Veterans**;
5. The **American Veterans of Philippines and China Wars** organized on July 24, 1902, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The **Philippine War Veterans**, Altoona, Pennsylvania; the **Foreign Service Veterans**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the **American Veterans of the Philippine and China Wars**, met together on September 10-12 at Altoona and formed the Eastern Society of the **American Veterans of the Philippine, Cuban, Puerto Rican and China Wars**. In 1903 the name was changed by plebiscite to the **American Veterans of Foreign Service (Eastern Branch)**.

In September, 1905, the original **American Veterans of Foreign Service** of Columbus, Ohio, amalgamated with the Eastern group formed in 1903 to become one society known as the **American Veterans of Foreign Service**. In August, 1913, at Denver, Colorado, the **Army of the Philippines** and the **American Veterans of Foreign Service** united under the temporary name of the **Army of the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico**.

Over the years, the organization's name was changed by plebiscite and General Order number One to the present day **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**. At the encampment in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1914, the name and constitution were formally adopted. On My 28, 1936, the **Veterans of Foreign Wars** was incorporated by Congressional Charter.

It is interesting that none of the five original organizations could call itself the parent organization. Each amalgamation recognized that separate and distinct organizations were merging for their mutual benefit and

In 1984 fifty Austin men are active in the continuing history of the Noontime Kiwanis Club. They share their goals and traditions with the Early Riser's Club and the Golden K.

did not recognize that any of the amalgamating groups were in any way subordinate to any other. All of the societies were composed of small groups of overseas veterans who formed local chapters to perpetuate their spirit of comradeship and service known only to those who have shared the dangers and hardships in the actual zone of combat.

During the year 1924, a number of Austin veterans of overseas wartime service discussed the desirability of forming a local organization. Upon investigation, they came to the conclusion that the **Veterans of Foreign Wars** best fulfilled their wishes. After a period of recruitment, enough veterans had expressed their desire to become members and on August 15, 1924, the **Austin Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1216** was instituted by a degree team from the Albert Lea Post 447.



Lieutenant Olaf B. Damm 1891-1918
First Mower County Resident to die in World War I.

At the time of the institution considerable debate and discussion took place concerning a name for the new post. The final result was the naming of Post 1216 in memory of Olaf B. Damm. When Company G of the 2nd regiment, Minnesota National Guard left Austin in June, 1917, for Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico, it was commanded by Captain A. C. Page with 1st Lt. Olaf B.

Damm as second in command. During training in trench warfare, including the throwing of hand grenades under the supervision of British and French instructors, one of the trainees accidentally threw his grenade sideways instead of forward. The grenade landed in the trench beside Lt. Damm who was killed, the first casualty of the war from Mower County.

Ray Smith was elected Post Commander following its establishment. Other officers were: Ray Sanders, Senior Vice Commander; Guy Larson, Junior Vice Commander; Arthur Christgau, Quartermaster; W. W. McDonald, Adjutant; Victor Christgau, Post Judge Advocate; Charles M. Deasy, Chaplain; Dr. P. A. Robertson, Surgeon; Ray L. Jensen, Officer of the Day; Axel Hansen, Post Service Officer. Trustees elected were: Henry I. Church, Earl Lucus and Frank Gill.

Other charter members of the post were:

Royal P. Deasy	Joseph Church
Llewellyn W. Howells	Ray Makepeace
Henry Kobes	Leonard Heisey
Walter Peterson	Ira Syck
Tom A. Smith	Ben Christenson
Ed Dalquist	Albert Stryhn
Charles Peterson	Hans Paulson
Everett K. Ayers	George L. Wilson
Walter F. Bartell	Arthur Braaken
Walter Anderson	Vier B. Stillwell
Stanley C. Ward	

The first concerns of Smith and the fledgling organization were raising funds and enlarging the V.F.W. Post membership. Dances were held and often after the meetings the auxiliary would serve coffee and a little lunch since their meetings were on the same night as the post's. Many ways of raising money were tried because the post's share of the dues wasn't enough to pay the cost of renting a meeting place. Early meetings were held at the G.A.R. Hall and a member had to arrive early to build fires in the two pot bellied stoves that provided heat. In 1928, just four years after being formed, the Austin V.F.W. Post 1216 was host to the Minnesota Department annual encampment.

Guy Larson was elected the second Commander of Post 1216. Guy was a city fireman and during his term of office it was decided to rent the hall over the Austin Fire Station No. 1 for meetings. They continued to hold meetings there until 1939 when the post moved to the Knights of Columbus Hall on Bridge Street.



V.F.W. Post 1216 Officers, Executive Committee and Committee Chairmen for the 1928 Minnesota Department Encampment held at Austin. Top Row, left to right: Kenneth Howard, Louis Howells, Ray Smith, Ray Jensen, Leonard Heisey, Everett Ayers, C. F. Brooks, E. C. Melster. Middle Row: A. C. Page, Vere Stillwell, Fred Draegert, S. C. Ward, Ed Lamping, Charles Peterson, Adolph Johnson, George Jennings, Hans Paulson. Bottom Row: Vernon Thomas, Rev. Harry Poll, Fred Weed, Earl Smith, Commander William I. Smith, Paul Sommers, G. G. Youngdahl and Dr. Paul A. Robertson.

In 1941, the post meetings were held in a room located over the old Erickson Hardware Store on Mill Street. In 1946, the meetings were held in a room located above the Gambles Store which was at the site of the present 100 building in downtown Austin. Post 1216 later moved to its present headquarters on Fourth Avenue Northeast.

Through the years, the Austin V.F.W. Post has been active in civic and veteran affairs. The Austin Veteran's Council was organized in 1951 to provide assistance to needy veterans. The first official burial detail of Post 1216 was organized in 1939 under the leadership of the then Post Commander Paul Lattin to give proper ceremonial rites to deceased veterans.

The post has annually sponsored the Junior Travelers baseball team, which captured the 1973 state championship under the coaching of Robert Arnold and Robert Dahlback. In 1952, the V.F.W. Department convention was held in Austin for the first time. The successful event was repeated here in 1962. The local V.F.W. newspaper was established in 1958 under the editorship of Bernard Schmidt, and has received several department and national awards for excellence.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Unity Chapter #29, Order of the Eastern Star, had its inception in the hall of Fidelity Lodge #39, AF & AM, on March 19, 1890. Sixty persons were present to organize the chapter. C. L. West, a past Worshipful Master, called the meeting to order; Charles Mayhem, a worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter OES of Minnesota, explained the workings of the chapter. The Masonic standing of all present was ascertained, after which Mr.

Fobes, Worthy Patron of Halcyon Chapter, Albert Lea, explained the obligation. Worthy Grand Matron Louise E. Jacoby explained the duties of officers, and candidate Mrs. Mary Davidson was initiated. Thus began the Unity Chapter #29.

The group was under dispensation until May 28, 1890; the first officers were Abbie Crane, Worthy Matron, and Eugene Wood, Worthy Patron. The name "Unity" was



Quilting Committee, 1895-99

First Row: Clara Urbatch, Emma Day, Carrie Johnson. **Second Row:** Mrs. S. Smith, Elizabeth McIntyre, Hattie Earl, Elizabeth Schwan, Julia Emerson. **Third Row:** Catherine Smith, Nettie Ellingson, Edith Robinson, Mayme Ober, Bethany Klunny, Emma Wheeler, Emily Birum. **Very Back-Top:** Lucy Cushing.

chosen because the group had united in the purpose of forming the chapter, and it has been significant through the years since the chapter has remained united in carrying on the purposes and ideals of OES, working *together*, raising funds for all national, statewide and local projects such as purchasing necessary equipment and furnishings, enjoying good times *together* and making lasting friendships.

The Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization for men and women in the world and is dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness. The government is vested in three bodies: General Grand Chapter with headquarters in the International OES Temple in Washington, DC; the Grand Chapter in each state; and Subordinate Chapters in various cities within a state.

Austin's Unity Chapter has contributed generously to all state and international projects: a Clubmobile, Victory Wing at Fort Snelling, the Masonic Cancer Hospital, the Masonic Home with its OES chapel, the Masonic Care Center, the Shrine Hospital, the OES International Temple Fund and the ESTARL continuing project with scholarships amounting to thousands of dollars each year. (This latter is a National OES project and, as of 1981, Minnesota chapters alone have given \$442,420 toward 1,135 awardees.)

Throughout the years fundraising methods have changed with the times. Quilt block committees were popular in the early days, as were dimity balls, calico parties, book parties, hard-time dances and taffy pulls. These gave way to card parties, style shows and in more recent years, cake walks, silent auctions, ice cream socials, Christmas Lane teas, luncheons, the sale of candy and kitchen wares and now, the annual chow mein luncheon and the collection of newspapers for recycling.



Past Matrons Night 18 November 1940

First Row: William Peterson, Harold Umhoefer, Carl Voelker, Dr. M. J. Hardy. **Second Row:** Dorothy Westby, Bernice Sherman, Gertrude Thompson, Maude Clark, Audrey Fell, Julia Johnson, Lottie Gill. **Third Row:** Bess Todd, Ruth Boyd, Beth Robertson, Eloise Williams, Cora Dovenberg, Bessie Jordan, Isabel Hoffman, Maude Bell, Celesta Schroeder, Allice Cronwell, Oddney Donavon. **Back Row, L to R:** Jane Todd, Clara Luskow, Ethel Volkman, Grace Brooks, Rose Bluhm, Doris Elefson, Estella Bruns, Rose Butzke, Edwyna Perry.

Bethel #20 of Job's Daughters was organized in 1936 under the sponsorship of Unity Chapter. The AREME Club for single women within Unity Chapter was organized in 1922, and about that same time the Past Matrons formed a club to confer the initiatory degrees annually; eventually this became a monthly dinner club that includes Past Patrons. These clubs have contributed to Unity Chapter in money, memorials and time, serving the chapter in countless ways.

In recent years Mizpah Chapter #36, Brownsdale, and Columbia Chapter #58, LeRoy, have consolidated with Unity Chapter.

Unity Chapter has been honored by having its members elected or appointed to serve the Grand Chapter of Minnesota and the General Grand Chapter. At the time of her death in 1949, Jane Todd was serving a 9-year term to which she had been elected as Right Worthy Grand Trustee of the General Grand Chapter. Three members of Unity Chapter have been elected and served as Worthy Grand Matron of Minnesota. They are Jane Todd, 1911; Gloria Falconer, 1967; and Caroline Olson, 1978. Harold Umhoefer served as Worthy Grand Patron in 1941. Other appointments include Grand Chapter officers, Pages, Grand Representatives, District Instructors, Tellers and various committee members.

As of November 1, 1981, Gloria Falconer, past Worthy Matron of Unity Chapter and past Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota, has received an appointment as a committee member of the General Grand Chapter, OES, for a three-year term.

Audrey Fell, Austin

AUSTIN AREA SHRINE CLUB/OSMAN ORIENTAL BAND

In the Austin area members of the Masonic Order who have entered Shrinedom belong to either the Austin Area Shrine Club or to the Osman Oriental Shrine Band, or to both. The Austin Area Shrine Club was chartered by the Osman Shrine Temple of St. Paul, Minn., on February 6, 1946, and the Osman Oriental Shrine Band on July 13, 1955.

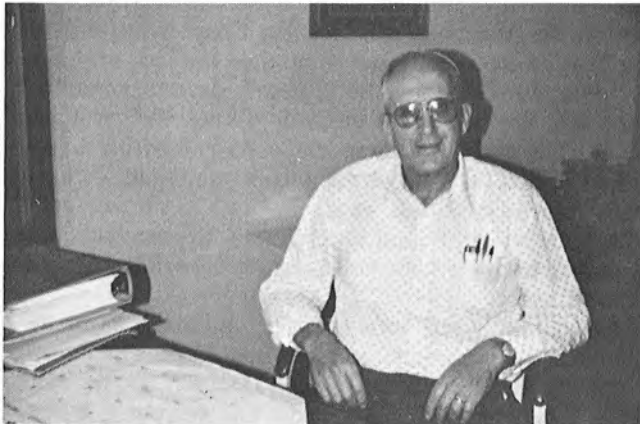
These two groups contribute approximately \$3,000 annually to such local agencies and institutions as the Salvation Army, United Fund, Christian Education Center, Senior Citizens Center, Parenting Resource Center, Victims Crisis Center, Austin Public Library and Minnesota Coaches' All-State Football Game as well as to Masonic-related organizations such as the Shrine Crippled Children's Hospital and the Shrine Burn

Hospital. The groups also cooperate through their Shrine Circus program in which approximately 300 area children participate each year. Another fundraising activity is their annual Charity Auction held each fall.

The Austin Area Shrine Club meets the first Monday of the month at area restaurants on a rotational basis. Officers for 1982 were Chester Ullman, president; Neil Hanson, vice president; James Maxfield, secretary-treasurer.

The Osman Oriental Band meets Thursday evening each week. Its officers for 1982 were Neil Hanson, president; Vernon Peterson, vice president; Malcolm McDonald, secretary-treasurer; and Lloyd Johnson, music director.

IN SEARCH OF FARM INCOME PARITY



Wendell Menslnk - ASCS Director

There have been surpluses of grain and livestock for a half century. Some question the term—"surplus." They contend that so long as one person goes to bed hungry we do not have a surplus. The problem, they say, is distribution.

That is an over-simplification of the problem. Many of the people and countries that have a need for food are without funds to pay for them. Therefore, the conclusion is that agriculture's success is also agriculture's distress.

Problem began in 1920s

Crop surpluses, mainly wheat and cotton, became a real concern in the 1920s. Then the severe depression which began in 1929 added to the problem. Along with the general decline in purchasing power there was a decline in the demand for wheat. This was ironic, because wheat would have been an appropriate food for those with a low income. Meanwhile, more wheat was being planted in violation of the "laws" of supply and demand.



Headquarters for ASCS, SCS, FHA

In Mower County this building houses the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Soil Conservation Service and the Farmers Home Administration.

The U.S. Congress decided to do something about surpluses, and they chose wheat for their policy experimentation. Three farm organizations favored different solutions. The Grange advocated export debentures. The Farmers Union wanted price fixing, and the Farm Bureau suggested a two-price plan called McNary-Haugenism. The latter was the approved plan for the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1929.

McNary-Haugenism

The plan was to hold the U.S. price at a level higher than the world price. It was expected that other markets would absorb the surplus, which amounted to one-third of the U.S. production. What happened? Instead of permitting domestic prices to be fixed by a protective tariff, the exported surpluses tied the U.S. prices to world price levels. Acreage control was voluntary.

The Federal Farm Board

A Federal Farm Board was formed to help achieve the aims of the 1929 Act. The Board had two lines of action:

a. to improve merchandising, b. to stabilize the flow of commodities from the farm, thus limiting price fluctuations. Loans were offered to individuals and cooperatives, with wheat accepted as collateral. A \$500 million operating fund was established to complete the task.

To make a long story short, the fund was exhausted in 1931. Wheat prices dropped to their lowest point in history—25¢ per bushel in December, 1932. The average for the year was only 43% of “parity prices.”

The conclusion: if demand cannot be increased, then no measure will improve farm prices unless it provides a more definite control of production.

Farm Income at Rock Bottom During Depression

The rock bottom of the depression was in 1932. The following data reveal the seriousness of the farmer's problem. Cotton sold for 6¢ per lb., wheat at 25¢ per bushel, hogs were 2½¢ per lb. and corn brought 10¢ per bushel.

Some corn was used as fuel as it was cheaper than coal. Terminal markets refused to accept straight loads of ewes or thin cows. Their value was less than the freight costs. Net farm income had been 9 billion dollars in 1920. It was only 2.5 billion in 1932. Foreclosures were 38.8 per 1000 in 1933 as compared with only 3.1 per 1000 in 1919.

Farmers became militant. They used force to keep milk from being marketed and to prevent mortgage sales. Banks were closed temporarily throughout the nation in 1933. Millions were unemployed. President Roosevelt, in his inaugural address, said, “This nation asks for action, and action now.”

Direct Payments to Reduce Crop Acres

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 was the first legislation to authorize direct payments for reducing crop acres. It was not the first time the idea had been used. In 1621 the tobacco growers in Virginia colony reduced their planting and burned a portion of their previous year's crop to support prices.

Control agreements with producers earned direct payments on basic commodities. This included wheat, cotton, field corn, hogs, rice, tobacco and milk. Soon the list was expanded to include rye, flax, barley, grain sorghums, cattle and peanuts, then sugar beets, sugar cane and potatoes. Eventually the list grew to more than a hundred commodities.

The 1933 Act provided authority to continue the two-price program. The President was empowered to inflate currency. In addition to reduction of planting there were a substantial number of acres of crops burned. Processing taxes were assessed to fund many of the programs.

Wallace's Corn Hog Producer's Committee

The corn-hog program was the last of the major adjustment programs. Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace promoted the formation of the National Hog Producer's Committee, which took in 25 producers. They recommended immediate removal of 4 million pigs under 100 lbs. in weight. Also the elimination of 1 million sows about to farrow. Premium prices were paid for the pigs and a bonus offered for the sows.

The pigs which weighed less than 80 lbs. were utilized

for grease and tannage. Meat products from the pigs weighing 80 to 100 lbs. were purchased by the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

Actual purchases totaled 6.2 million pigs and 222,000 sows. The program continued from November, 1933 until May, 1934. Public relations was a problem. It had been easier to convince producers to plow under crop acreage that it was to have them slaughter pigs and sows.

Some farm people felt the drought of 1934 was a form of divine punishment for their destruction of food.

The Ever Normal Granary

Henry Wallace actively promoted the policy of an Ever Normal Granary. This idea of saving for a “rainy day” was well accepted. New storage tanks for on-farm storage became popular.

On January 6, 1936 the Agricultural Adjustment Program of 1933 came to an abrupt halt. The Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional. They said that production taxes could not be used to force production controls.

The 1933 Act was quickly replaced by the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936—the “Soil Bank.” Mandatory controls were accepted legally when they were called “marketing quotas.”

The following soil conserving practices were offered on a cost-share basis: permanent vegetative cover, forest trees, water reservoirs, stripcropping, terraces, water diversion, stream bank stabilization, wildlife habitat, water runoff control measures, shelterbelts and livestock water facilities. In general, the cost-share levels were not less than 50% and not more than 75%.

Natural Disaster Relief

Emergency measures were authorized when farmland was hit by a natural disaster. Farmers who qualified for such assistance could receive up to 80% of their cost in restoring a farm to its former condition. Local ASC committees made that determination.

Beginning in 1938 wheat was stored and distributed by the CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation). It controlled the domestic market through its stocks and price support loans. Wheat was furnished for export and exporters were paid a subsidy in kind.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation was formed also in 1938. They offered an all risk policy—coverage for damage from planting to harvest.

Federal Government the Farmers Decision Maker

Crop support and marketing controls had, in effect, made the Federal Government the decision maker for the nation's farmers. After Pearl Harbor the WFA (War Food Administration), was organized to meet the emergency needs of wartime.

Following World War II, the Production and Marketing Administration replaced the WFA. Field services were provided to aid in program oversight. War ravaged nations which absorbed our surplus production aided the planners. The post-war adjustment period to peacetime production levels was almost as difficult as gearing up for war with 90% parity.

1949 Legislation Gives Milk Price Support

Legislation passed in 1949 required the Department of

Agriculture to support the price of manufacturing milk at between 75% and 90% parity. This assured an adequate supply of milk and milk products.

In general, "parity" means that price which will give agricultural commodities the same purchasing power which commodities had in the 1910-1914 base period. This is in terms of goods and services which farmers buy.

In practice "parity" works like this. If 100 lbs. of milk would buy one bushel of corn during 1910-1914, then the same amount of milk should also buy a bushel of corn today. The CCC bought carlots of butter, natural Cheddar cheese and nonfat dry milk at announced prices. These prices were to result in a national average price to farmers which was at least equal to the announced support prices.

Minimum Support Prices in 1982

Legislation in 1982 established the minimum support price of \$13.10 per cwt. for milk containing the national average milkfat (3.67). It also provided for 50¢ per cwt. to be deducted from commercial sales for the period October 1, 1982 through September 30, 1985. This action is designed to induce producers to cut back on production. A second 50¢ deduction is to go into effect for the period from April 1, 1983 to September 30, 1985. This second reduction is to be refunded to producers who reduce production by 8.4%.

Authorization was granted to the CCC to release dairy products to the states for distribution to needy households through food banks. Cheese was made available in December, 1981, butter in June, 1982 and nonfat dry milk in May, 1983.

Acreage Allotments Discontinued

Acreage allotments were discontinued in 1958 in favor of lower supports and unlimited production. Since 1961, ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) has run a full circle of emphasis from cropland acreage diversion to unrestricted production and a market oriented farm policy.

1983 PIK Program

The 1983 PIK (Payment In Kind) program is designed to encourage farmers to further reduce crop acreages of wheat, corn, sorghum, upland cotton and rice. Producers participating for a commodity will receive an amount of that commodity for their use or sale. This is their payment. Stocks will come from the farmer-owned reserve, regular loan stocks or CCC holdings. To participate a farmer must enroll and be in compliance with the 1983 acreage reduction program for the crop and the paid land diversion program. Acreage withdrawn under PIK must be devoted to conservation uses.

For PIK diversion, farmers may sign up to divert 10 to 30 percent of crop acreage base. The 30% maximum level will be reduced by any acreage voluntarily diverted for cash payment. If bid is accepted a farmer may divert

the whole crop acreage base on a bid basis. Whole bid base means the producer will reduce planted acreage of the crop to zero and devote an equal acreage to conservation uses. The bid specifies the percent of the farm's program yield per acre that is acceptable as compensation for participation. The lowest bids are the first accepted. The bid applies on the total PIK acreage diverted if it is accepted. In no case will the total amount of acreage withdrawn exceed 50% of the total crop acreage base in the county.

After all signatures are obtained and the contract signed by the county committee, it becomes final and binding on both the CCC and the producer. For the 10-30 percent of base PIK, compensation will be the farm's program yield times 95% for wheat, 80% for corn, grain sorghum, times the PIK acreage. The PIK is issued in terms of No. 1 wheat, except No. 2 for soft red winter wheat. It is No. 2 yellow corn and No. 2 grain sorghum.

Substantial Participation in PIK

Participation in the PIK program in Mower County is substantial. Five crops are involved in the PIK program, corn, wheat, sorghum, cotton and rice. Only corn and wheat are of concern to Mower County farmers. Soybeans are not in the program.

Of the 380,00 total acres of crop land, 192,00 is corn land and 7,000 is wheat land. The land put into the PIK program was 92,000 of corn and 3,000 of wheat.

Many Programs Tried—No Perfect Solution

Over the years there have been countless revisions in acreage allotments and in payments which have served as bait for participation. Crop prospects and the carry-over of commodities still dictate reductions each year. Those who make the decisions continue to believe they are dealing with temporary rather than chronic overproduction.

Weather has exerted the single greatest influence on total yield. New varieties and improved technology the second greatest.

Many times the programs designed to reduce production have resulted in an increase. The farmer's reaction to lower margins has been to farm more acres so that he can achieve the same total income.

The requirements for war time have had more influence on price than has reduced acres.

All programs have used average yields, experience and weather conditions as their base. Problems invariably arose because weather has been abnormal more often than it has been normal. It has been too hot, cold, wet, dry or there has been an early frost. It is likely that this variable will continue to frustrate the program designers in their search for farm income parity.

Austin Daily Herald—With Jay Hormel leading the procession on his pony, the parade to the annual Hormel picnic got under way the morning of July 28, 1906.

George Peterson carried the flag. The packinghouse was closed for the day. The Rev. Henry Hormel spoke and Fred Ulmer put on the vaudeville show.

SONS OF NORWAY—STORTING LODGE #519 AUSTIN



1982 Officers, left to right, front row: Ardys Wangen, Gloria Larson, Gertrude Jacobson, Arlene Bednar, Deanna Bakke. Second row: Arden Haug, Jeanette Hernes, Arlys Gilbert, Brad Larson, Joyce Crowe, Hazel Sater. Back row: Kenneth Mjoen, Ozzle Highum, Donald Aakre, Larry Crowe, Leland Larson, Ivan Christianson, Ramona Swenson, Lloyd Swenson, Nina Hartje, Arnold Sater

Our Sons of Norway Lodge began at an institutional meeting at the Austin Holiday Inn on May 24, 1972. About 150 people attended the first meeting and officers were elected. Rudy Nelson was the man that got people enthused about starting a Sons of Norway Lodge here and, by unanimous vote, he was elected the first president.

The name "Storting" was selected for the Lodge. This means a Parliament or meeting of the people in Norway. Rudy Nelson and the new officers were able to secure the Senior Citizens Center as the meeting place for the Austin Lodge. This has proved so satisfactory that we are still meeting there. The Storting Lodge is a strong supporter and contributor to the Senior Citizens Center.

During these past ten years, we have increased our membership from the original 251 charter members to 455 adult members and twenty-nine juvenile members. We celebrate Syttende Mai each year. That is "17th May" — Norway's Independence Day. Leif Erikson Day is celebrated in October.

Four Norwegian classes have been sponsored by the Lodge. The first one was taught by Thena Sorkil in 1974, and the others were taught by Arden Haug in 1982. Rev. John Halvorson and Sterling Thompson gave short monthly Norwegian lessons at every meeting in 1981.

A Sons of Norway Dance Group was organized in 1979, and has performed at various places. A group of women met each Tuesday afternoon at the Sons of Norway room to learn Norwegian crafts in 1980 and 1981. Our local Drill Team installed officers in 1982. A



Past Presidents

Left to right: Ivan Christianson, Kenneth Mjoen, Arnold Sater, Lloyd Swenson

small Sons of Norway Choir has sung together a few times.

The main purpose of the Sons of Norway Lodge is to foster closer ties with our Norwegian heritage, and to keep alive the Norwegian language and crafts. The Sons of Norway is now an International organization and has an extensive insurance program.

Austin had the privilege of having the Sons of Norway district convention here in June 1978. This convention

drew approximately 750 people from Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota.

The international headquarters office is located in Minneapolis. The Chief Canadian Office is in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and the Norway Service Center is in Oslo, Norway. A monthly magazine, entitled *Viking*, is published and sent to each member by the international office.

The officers have served the Austin lodge well over the

past ten years, and we have had an interesting and varied program of speakers and musical talent.

The names of the presidents over the years are as follows: Rudy Nelson 1972; Ivan Christianson 1973; Ken Mjoen 1974; Fred Paulson 1975 and 1976; Arnold Sater 1977 and 1978; Ken Mjoen 1979 and 1980; and Lloyd Swenson 1981 and 1982. These men have led our lodge through steady growth in members and enrichment of our Norwegian heritage.

MCINTYRE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS 27

McIntyre Woman's Relief Corps 27, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, McIntyre 62, Minnesota, was organized in Austin on April 5, 1887. It is the oldest women's patriotic organization in the world. Eligibility was set aside so far as kinship was concerned. Any loyal woman of good moral character and correct deportment, who has not given aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States of America and who is a citizen of the United States is eligible for membership in the Woman's Relief Corps.

Work began at once. Every corps gave aid to comrades and their families. To the sick they gave assistance and cared for the children. To those who lost a son or husband, they gave courage and help.

The first meetings were held in the GAR Hall, located on the present site of the north wing of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The hall was originally the property of the first Presbyterians. In 1884 it was sold to John V. Owens for \$200.00. Owens, being public-spirited, allowed its use by the GAR Co. G. 2nd Regiment, Minnesota National Guard. It was known as the "Armory Hall" or the "Old Presbyterian Church."

The first president of McIntyre Corps was Elizabeth McIntyre, wife of the late Comrade McIntyre. The Corps was named in honor of her husband. Others were: Elizabeth Sutton, Lida Sutherland, Anna E. Stanley, (wife of the pastor of the First Baptist Church), Margaret Engle, (wife of William Engle), Sarah Woodward, Louise Engle, Lottie Baird, (wife of Fred Baird), Mrs. Grace Baird Detwiler, Nettie Maxwell, Helen Christie, Margaret Ingalls, Jeanette Mollison, Maggie Goodwin, Hattie Majors, Lena Johnson, Katie Johnson, Marietta Bump, Nellie Robinson, Mary Beacy, Carrie Haley,

Olive Pierce, Emma Dorr, Mary Lovell. Mattie Fairbanks, still a member, served the order as secretary more than fifty years ago.

The Rev. W. Stanley, speaker for the instituting program, commended the women on their project.

Comrade Burt D. Roebuck, who died April 14, 1934, was the last survivor of McIntyre Post. In 1923, when the list was fading, the comrades deeded their GAR Hall to the McIntyre Corps. In the 1940's the corps sold the building and lot to St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

The Woman's Relief Corps continued its aim. Goodwill was the purpose of its origin. They gave aid to comrades and their dependents, helping to restore them in body and spirit.

The work increased through the years. On Memorial Day 1906, the Relief Corps dedicated a monument to all soldiers. Mrs. Oscar Mattice was the prime worker in achieving this goal. A total of \$12,000 was collected for the memorial. The Corps continued to serve the Minnesota Soldiers Home by sending canned fruits and jellies, and they gave to other projects as was the custom.

The latest memorial to the GAR, and to the pioneers of Mower County, is the Mower County Pioneer and Historical Building at the fairgrounds. Built in 1949, it was dedicated to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Minnesota becoming a territory. McIntyre Corps and the Pioneer Society each gave \$10,000 to the project. Additional funds were raised by receiving life memberships at ten dollars each. The total cost was \$25,000. McIntyre Corps also gave \$900.00 for a bronze plaque, which hangs over the fireplace in the building.

From Austin Herald, April 17, 1956

How much is a trillion dollars? Well, a million dollars is a stack of \$1,000 bills eight inches high. A billion dollars is a stack of \$1,000 bills higher than the 555-foot Washington monument. A trillion dollars is a thousand stacks of \$1,000 bills, each higher than the Washington monument. Our national debt in 1984 is over a trillion dollars.

"If you discriminate against me: because I am dirty, I can wash myself; or because I am bad, I can reform and be good; or because I am ignorant, I can learn; or because I am ill mannered, I can improve my behavior." "But if you discriminate against me because of my color or race, you discriminate against something God gave me, and over which I have no power."



The Board of Directors of The Philomathian Club at their first annual dinner meeting, held in the Fox Hotel in January 1957. Seated, left to right: Dandelet, Giovanetti, Erickson, O'Malley, Tollefson, Hanson, Rund. Standing: McDermott, Tesar, Krause, Gavin, Geraghty, Wallace, Msgr. Jennings, Msgr. Cunningham, Healy, Bock, Pierce, Stenger, O'Shaughnessy, Hogan

THE PHILOMATHIAN CLUB — AUSTIN

On February 14, 1907, eleven women met at the home of Mrs. Thomas Pridham to better themselves intellectually in the study of Stoddard's Lectures. Mrs. Pridham, wife of a young attorney, was elected President. Msgr. E. H. Devlin agreed to serve as advisor. The organization was named the St. Augustine Reading Circle.

Charter members were: Mrs. Thomas Cronen, Mrs. J. E. Rogers, Mrs. William Bell, Mrs. Frank Cronen, Mrs. Frank Rademacher, Mrs. Joseph Zender, Mrs. Thomas Cummings, Mrs. Thomas Colleran, Mrs. Frank Christie and Mrs. Mary Christie. Mrs. Louis Giovanetti joined the circle the following year.

The Reading Circle became The Philomathian Club in 1920 and has continued to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. A program committee outlines the year's study, which has encompassed every imaginable subject—including current and historical, religious and secular.

The object of the club has been to work for personal enrichment and community betterment, and their response to civic and community needs has been generous over the years.

The Philomathian Club Library was organized under the direction of Mrs. L. P. Roeder in February, 1946, in order to make Catholic reading materials available to the public. The club also broadened its objectives to sponsor and work in the library. Religious stock for sale was added in 1948.

Consisting of 85 books at the time it was set up, the library was open one day a week in the basement of Donovan's Furniture Store. Ten years later, in its

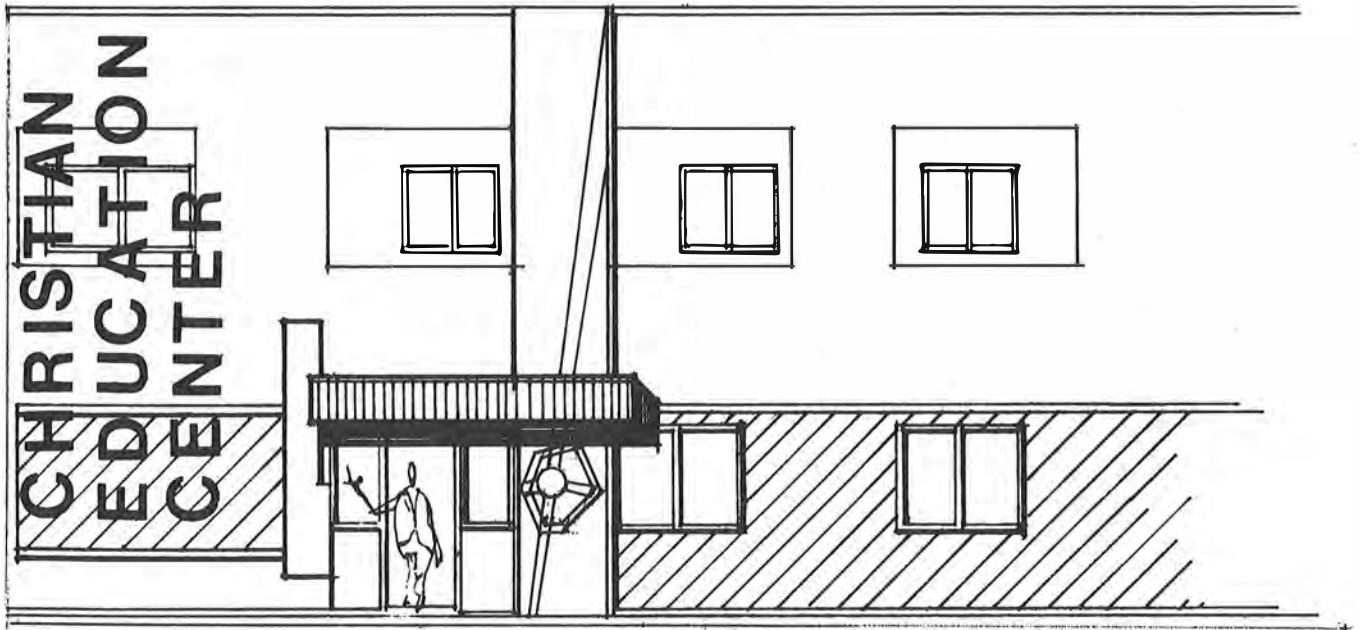
location at 110 East Water, the borrowers could select from over 4,000 volumes.

After the fire in the Grand Hotel, the Philomathian Library & Church Goods Store moved to Bridge Street, across from the Austin Hotel, and later expanded in a site behind Fantles store.

Today in its present location at 303 North Main Street, the Philomathian store offers an ecumenical service to the community unequalled anywhere in the area. It is staffed entirely with volunteers and profits are used primarily to aid religious education. The first \$10,000 was given to the Diocese of Winona toward the education of priests. Since then Pacelli High School, Catholic parochial schools, the Christian Education Center, the migrant program in Hollandale, Sheriffs' Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Meals on Wheels have received regular monetary grants. Philomathian is also responsible for bringing speakers such as Dr. Kublar Ross, Mary Reed Newland and others to Austin as a gesture of gratitude to the community.

Philomathian Club members are automatically associate members of the Philomathian Library & Church Goods Store.

On February 17, 1981, the Philomathian Club celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary with a luncheon at Sacred Heart Hospice. Bishop Loras Watters of Winona was the honored guest and speaker. A history of the club was read and old minutes book and historian's scrap-books were displayed. "Philomathian" means "lover of learning."



MOWER COUNTY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTER



In Front of the Center
Bill Downs, 1st Congregational Church, Harriet Burgstahler, Center Board Chairman and Pat Piper, Center Director

The Christian Education Center is an ecumenical resource center located at 301-D, 4th Avenue NE, Austin. It is a unique ecumenical concept with a consultative staff of experienced religious educators. The Center has an extensive resource library of films, audio-visuals, books and other necessary helps for interested users.

Representatives of Catholic Parishes in Mower County gathered for months in the late sixties, formed a board and discussed ways of working cooperatively in religious education. A small staff of Franciscan Sisters was assigned to the board in the summer of 1969. As committee members struggled with a plausible concept an ecumenical resource center began to evolve. The office was opened in Austin on 2nd Avenue NW. A year later the center moved to an old store on 4th Avenue NW, and in the spring of 1978 moved to the present location. The facility was designed and remodeled with urban renewal monies.

In the spirit of co-operative sharedness the center offers a skilled secretary who will do typing, mimeo and copy work for church and volunteer groups. The center also shares their meeting rooms for public use and many groups meet there regularly.

The center's budget is now approximately \$40,000, coming in part from church pledges. Twenty-two area churches pledged for the 1982-83 school year, and are considered members of the corporation. Other sources of income are gifts, memorials, donations from users of the facility, audio-visual rentals and expenses for the printing service.

Pat Piper has been the Center director since its beginning. Joan Lilja is the resource consultant and Janet Modderman is the secretary.

The Center Corporation is governed by a board of fifteen directors each elected to serve a three year term. They meet quarterly. At the present time Harriet Burgstahler is board chair, with Phil Gardner, vice chair, Diane Keenan is secretary and Charles Kamilos, treasurer.

CO-WORKERS OF MOTHER TERESA OF AMERICA, AUSTIN BRANCH

The Austin Branch of the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa was organized in the fall of 1972.

Notices were placed in the newspapers and various church bulletins, inviting anyone interested—man, woman or child—of any religion to meet at the Christian Education Center to learn more about Mother Teresa and what was expected of her Co-Workers.

A small group assembled for the first meeting and it was agreed to meet monthly to share experiences and opportunities of service in the community and to pray for the poor and those who work directly with the poor.

The International Association of Co-Workers of Mother Teresa consists of people of all religious denominations around the world who seek to love God in their fellow men through wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor wherever they find them and who wish to unite their lives in the spirit of prayer and sacrifice with the work of Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity.

In answer to Christ's plan to love one another as He loved us, Co-Workers should become sensitive and responsive to the needs of their family, their next door neighbor, those in the street, in their towns, in their country and the whole world by putting their understanding love into action, no matter how small the action may be.

"You cannot do what I do in Calcutta, "Mother Teresa says, "but I cannot do what you can do in Austin."

Mother asks us to find those who need us and get to know them personally. We must go to those who have no one, she says, those who suffer from the worst disease of all—the disease of being unwanted, unloved, uncared for. Thus we Austin Co-Workers visit the nursing homes, seek people out on a one-to-one basis. We visit housebound people and work with Meals on Wheels. We seek out the refugee families who have come to our town—Vietnamese, Hmong, Cuban and Laotian—and help them to settle and adjust to a new life. We make quilts and provide clothing for the Spanish American migrants who come to our area every summer, some of whom decide to stay here and go to school so they can get themselves out of this awful rut. They need help in adjusting to a new culture and they need friendship.

Once a month the Austin Branch meets at the Sacred Heart Chapel for prayer and meditation, asking God's blessings on Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity who work with the poorest of the poor.

Mother Teresa says: "Look to your own family first." There may be someone there who is hurting, who needs your understanding and love.

The Co-Workers of Mother Teresa in America was founded in New York City in October of 1971. Mrs. Maurine Patterson of Austin was one of the founders. It was she who organized the Austin Branch and she has kept it going ever since.

SAINT MONICA COURT #374 CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF FORESTERS

The Austin Foresters originated June 14, 1899, with Elizabeth Keenan as the first president. Other charter officers were: Mary Cooper, vice president; Nellie McCormick, recording secretary; Annie Craney, financial secretary and Catherine Cotter, treasurer.

This Austin women's group is associated with the National Catholic Society of Foresters, which was organized in Chicago in 1891.

The primary purpose of the organization is to promote principles of love, benevolence and Catholic action. Members may take part in the Forester's fraternal insurance organization, or confine membership to social activities. Forester ladies are affiliated with diocesan and national courts.

The society sponsors a number of annual events which

include; family Christmas party, mother-daughter banquet, and various picnics, suppers and social events for members and guests.

The Forester members are active in visitation of the sick. As a group they join in offering prayers, attending wake services and the funerals of fellow members. Monthly meetings focus on prayer, recreation and refreshments.

Forester women are involved in volunteer work at the hospital, Senior Citizens Center and the Meals on Wheels program.

1982 officers were: Violet Meyer, president; Anne Gravenish, recording secretary; Jan Averbeck, financial secretary and Lois Beckel, treasurer.

Lansing — The state road from here to Austin, has been recently worked and more dirt filled in. The rain that followed this work made a very nice boulevard of mud. There is also a like condition on the same road between here and Blooming Prairie.

"The Six-Town News," May 24, 1917

The Hormel Legionnaires of Austin were recognized as the fastest and strongest basketball team in the northwest between 1919 and 1924. During the 1924 season they played a schedule of 14 games, winning all of them. Team members included Coggins, Cipra, Maynard, Wengert, Erickson, Dugan, Laslett and Cress.

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA—THETA CHAPTER

Theta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society was organized at a meeting held at the Leamington Hotel in Minneapolis on December 7, 1946. Initiation was held at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and election of these officers: Amanda Horvei, president; Esther Frost, first vice-president; Rosalind Fisher, second vice-president; Harriet Nordholm, recording secretary; Hazel Murray, corresponding secretary; Clara Mitchell, parliamentarian; and appointed treasurer was Mrs. Blanche Black.

Theta Chapter is one of forty-seven chapters in Minnesota and in the last ten to twelve years, chapters have been organized outside the United States. The purposes of the Society are:

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.
2. To honor women who have given, or evidence a potential, for distinctive service in any field of education.
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education.
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation in the interests of education and some women educators.
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to women educators from other countries.
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.
7. To inform the membership of current economic, social, political, and educational issues to the end that they may become intelligent, functioning members of a world society.

Charter members of Theta Chapter were: Rachel Anderson, Lorna Bates, Blanche Black, Beulah Buswell, Rosalind Fisher, Esther Frost, Lena Grinley, Amanda Horvei, Ruth Sampson Lunde, Clara Mitchell, Hazel Murray and Harriet Nordholm. Currently, the chapter has forty-three members.

The chapter meets five or six times a year for brunch,

tea or dinner. Programs are arranged by the committee chairmen, using the theme as adopted by the society at their international convention.

The society holds international conventions in August of even-numbered years and four regional conferences during the summer of each odd-numbered year. State conventions and workshops provide information and inspiration for chapter members. A memorial service is an essential part of a state convention.

Theta Chapter has engaged in joint meetings and projects with other chapters in Minnesota and Iowa and with other organizations. In 1951 with the Austin Education Association and the AAUW, the chapter sponsored a recruitment tea for the purpose of interesting students in teaching as a profession. Eighty students, ninth grade through junior college attended. Financial support was given to the Future Teachers of America and to the Community Ambassador Program.

For some time the chapter granted scholarships to selected individuals, but recently has contributed to the revolving aid fund at the Austin Community College.

In 1957 the society gave to Eleanor Carlson, an Austin Junior High teacher and Theta Chapter member, a \$2500 scholarship toward her doctorate in educational psychology.

Since 1965 the Society has undertaken several successful projects through the Delta Kappa Gamma Foundation, which is supported by contributions from state organizations, chapters, individual members and friends of the society. Among these projects are the Seminars in Purposeful Living; scholarships for advanced graduate study; research on pioneer women educators; and the Project North America, which provides scholarship grants to Navajo students.

Membership in the society is by invitation. There are four classes of membership: active, associate, honorary and reserve.

by Amanda Horvei and Claribel Grant

AUSTIN AREA RETIRED TEACHERS

Fifteen retired teachers met on July 7, 1970 at Maude Vest's home for the purpose of organizing a local branch of the National Retired Teachers Association.

Mrs. Inga Crogg, Minnesota State director of the N.R.T.A. came from St. Paul to help with the organization of the group. She listed the following purposes of a local group which are: 1. to help retired teachers maintain identity with the teaching profession and to further the course of education. 2. to advance the interests of retired teachers in the state and local communities. 3. to foster good fellowship among retired teachers. 4. to cooperate with State and National Retired Teachers Association. Mrs. Crogg stated that four meetings are required of local associations.

When it was decided to form a local organization, the following officers were elected: Genevieve Quigg, president; Ruth Lunde, vice president, Harold Hastings, treasurer; and Frances Baxter, secretary. Dues were set

at one dollar per year. All present joined, thus becoming charter members. Refreshments were served by Maude Vest and Frances Baxter.

The following are charter members: Effie Apold, Beatrice Barry, Frances Baxter, Oddny Borchert, Mildred Daane, Marguerite Daily, Harold Hastings, Bernice Johnson, Ruth Lunde, Fanny Lyle, Genevieve Quigg, Edna Rolands, Hildegard Schneider, Thena Sorkil and Maude Vest.

As of November, 1982, the membership is about seventy-five. The last meeting in the spring the retiring teachers are entertained at a potluck supper.

One of our charter members, Mildred Daane, now Mrs. Oliphant of Rochester, has been president of the Minnesota State Association. Claribel Grant is president of the S.E.R.E.M. chapter. We are affiliated with a national, state and S.E. Associations.

by Ruth Lunde

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, AUSTIN



1982 Officers, left to right: Mrs. Wesley LeBarron, Marlon Knutson, Mrs. Arnold Christlanson, Mrs. Terrel Hoopmen, Dorothy Cummings and Rose Deutschman. Not pictured: Carol Reed, Gladys Lillie, Mrs. Ethel Hassing, Lorna Bates and Mrs. Berdin Larson

Like many local organizations of United Church Women, the Austin group came about because of the rich Christian fellowship experienced in the annual observance of the World Day of Prayer. Church women from several denominations had joined together for this observance since 1940. Mrs. Reginald Coleman, wife of the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, was the guiding force through these years and the service was usually held in that church.

The women continued to meet throughout the years. At a meeting held at the YWCA on November 20, 1947, proposed bylaws were discussed and the following officers were elected: Mrs. A. H. Meyers, president; Mrs. Reginald Coleman, vice-president; Mrs. L. H.

Williams, secretary-treasurer. The bylaws were officially adopted at the first annual meeting of the council which was held January 15, 1948. The name and bylaws have been revised several times. In 1967 we became known as CHURCH WOMEN UNITED and are a part of the national organization.

In the very beginning the purpose of the organization was to promote an understanding and fellowship among the women of all churches in Austin and surrounding areas. Our goal continues to be the same. We work together on activities of common Christian concern which may be more effectively carried out by all church women working together in a community.

The churches in the Austin area who have representatives on the executive board at the present time are: Christ Episcopal, Faith United Methodist, Fellowship United Methodist, First United Methodist, First Congregational, Our Saviors Lutheran, Queen of Angels Catholic, St. Olaf Lutheran, Sterling Christian, Westminster Presbyterian, Red Oak Grove Lutheran, Salvation Army, St. Augustine Catholic and St. Edward's Catholic.

Church Women United has an annual luncheon in January as well as Board of Manager meetings throughout the year. The most important events of the year are three celebrations which are: *World Day of Prayer* in March, *May Fellowship Breakfast* and *World Community Day* in November. The celebrations are held at different churches with local people taking part in the programs which have been prepared by women in many different countries. It is a real joy, knowing that on the same day all over the world, we are united in the same celebration sharing our faith, time, talents, and gifts.

Our offerings are used by National Headquarters as well as given to many worthwhile organizations in our own community.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN HOME AUXILIARY

St. Mark's Lutheran Home Auxiliary was organized and had their first meeting on June 11, 1963. Ladies from the churches belonging to St. Mark's Corporation, who founded the home, and anyone else interested make up the members of the auxiliary. At the present time there are seven churches in the corporation.

The first officers of the auxiliary were: Mrs. Stan Ankeny, president; Mrs. Howard Madsen, vice president; Mrs. Ole Benson, secretary; and Mrs. Harland Sorenson, treasurer. Meetings are held at St. Mark's Lutheran Home the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The purpose of this organization is to render services

to St. Mark's Home, its residents, and personnel. The churches involved provide programs and refreshments each Tuesday in the month or months assigned to them.

Bingo is held for residents on the second and fourth Wednesday each month. Fruit prizes and helpers are provided by the auxiliary. A bazaar is held each year on the fourth Tuesday in October. Proceeds are used to buy something for the home. A patio party is held in August and a Christmas party in December.

Through various activities the auxiliary helps make life at St. Mark's more enjoyable for its residents.

by Frances Larson

"Why are there so many small towns in Iowa? Because they are needed to prop up and partition the corn fields."

"Why are people in Lyle called Laplanders? Because the Iowa and Minnesota farms lap over in this area."

AUSTIN TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

The Austin Town and Country Garden Club was organized at the Y.W.C.A. on October 3, 1961 by Mrs. Frank Kilgore of the Austin Garden Club and Mrs. W. L. Hedegard of the Austin Hoe and Grow Garden Club.

Mrs. Earl Padelford was elected Charter President and is still an active member.

The purpose of the club is to promote a greater interest in gardening; to exchange ideas and experiences for growing new and better flowers and vegetables and to benefit the members and the community.

The club is affiliated with the First District Horticulture Society and the Minnesota State Horticulture Society.

Several members have received "Award of Merit" certificates from the state society. Two members have received "Distinguished Service Awards" for their contributions to the advancement of horticulture in their community and state.

The monthly programs are for the most part educational and pertain to nature in some way. The meetings are held on the second Monday of the month.

During the National Bi-Centennial a tree was planted on North Main Street as an honor to Mrs. Padelford. There have been many bus trips to outstanding gardens in the state and surrounding area. Each year members plant and care for city flower beds on 14th Street N.W. and by East Side Lake.

For many years the club participated in showing and helping at "Panorama", a horticulture and craft show at the Austin Armory. The club members also exhibit at the Mower County Fair.

Five members became accredited horticulture judges. They attended a school promoted by the Minnesota State Horticulture Society. They have judged many county



Mrs. Earl Padelford was Charter President

fairs and 4-H shows in Southern Minnesota. A book on horticulture is presented to the Austin Public Library in memory of all deceased members.

There is always time for picnics and parties just for fun.

AUSTIN VIOLET CLUB

One afternoon in 1963 thirteen ladies met at the home of Mrs. Ed Struck, 1208 S.W. 4th Street, Austin, Minnesota. On that day the Austin Violet Club was formed. The purpose of this club is both educational and social. They strive to gain more knowledge of many phases of African Violets.

The first meeting was at the home of Mrs. Frank Kilgore, 606 S.W. 1st Street. The club met on the first Tuesday of each month. The officers were: Mrs. LeRoy Schultz, chairman; Mrs. Roy Harrington, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Martin Crosby, program chairman. The club membership soon increased to twenty.

At each meeting a paper was read on the care of

violets. Early projects included a violet show and a violet plant sale. The group ordered plants and cuttings from books. Field trips were made to Minneapolis, Mason City, Stewartville and other growers in this area.

Over the years the club's violets have been shown at banks, rest homes and hospitals. They have placed books in the Austin Public Library, and have made donations to the Hormel Nature Center and the Salvation Army. Although their membership has been reduced, they still meet for coffee. Their conversation looks back over the years on the good times they had and the interest they have taken in raising African Violets.

What was the firefly's reaction when he sat down on the electric fence? He was delighted.

In 1928, Austin advertised itself as the "Gateway to the Ten Thousand Lakes."

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE #1180

A Moose Lodge was first started in Austin in 1913. It was known as Booster Lodge #1245 Loyal Order of Moose. For some unknown reason this lodge was disbanded in 1916.

In 1947, Alvin Anker, a member of Minneapolis Moose Lodge #38, began to enlist local citizens so that a newly chartered lodge could be established in Austin.

With the help of then State Director Frank DeChambeau and Chet Doxey from Minneapolis, an effort was set forth to sign up members. One hundred names were needed to form a charter. On March 7, 1948, a class of one hundred and fifteen men were initiated as charter members into the Loyal Order of Moose, Austin Lodge #1180. The first officers were: Niel Nielsen, Past Governor; Alvin Anker, Governor; Floyd Barton, Junior Governor; Jack Siestma, Prelate; David Talmadge, Secretary; Robert Hoilien, Treasurer; Ed Summers, Sgt. At Arms; Vern Ellison, Inner Guard and Ed Kerling, Outer Guard. Richard Conway, William Stark, and Tony Rockne were Trustees.

In 1949 the lodge rented the upstairs at 206½ Mill Street, and in 1955 they purchased the building. In 1959 remodeling was started. January, 1960 saw the grand opening of new lodge quarters on the main floor. The club continued to grow. Ten acres were purchased at 701 18th Avenue N.W., and October, 1979 saw the grand opening of our present new Moose Lodge.

Austin Lodge has three members that have received the Pilgrim Degree of Merit. This is the highest degree to be attained. They are Alvin Anker June 15, 1957, Floyd Tobar June 13, 1970, and Sylvester J. Schaefer June 12, 1976.

The purpose of our fraternity is to help the children and the aged. In 1913 the cornerstone was laid for the beginning of Mooseheart, our Child City, located at Mooseheart, Illinois. This is a home for sons and daughters of deceased members. There they receive the best medical care, and are educated and trained in a vocation. On completion of education many receive scholarships. Child City has its own farm, post office and bank. It is a private community which is taken care of by the older children to a large extent.

In the twilight years a Moose member and his wife may wish to go to the City of Contentment which is called Moosehaven. This is located on the banks of St. John's River, Orange Park, Florida. Here they receive the best of medical care. They can work in flower gardens, relax or go fishing on one of many pontoons. It is a place to do as one pleases and enjoy life as a senior citizen.

Austin Lodge has furnished the Golden Age Club of Austin with a place to meet for the last thirty-two years. Here each Wednesday, they meet to play cards and have coffee and a snack. Potluck dinners and occasional evening dances are held by the club.

Austin Moose Lodge sponsors youth bowling, hockey, baseball, dirt bike racing, girls softball, football, etc. A campership is given to Camp Courage each year, and donations are made to Girls Villa, Sheriff's Ranch and other charitable organizations.

The Golden Rule has become the axiom of the Moose Fraternity.



Degree Team

Front, left to right: George Greer, William LaPorte, Peter Hageland. Back, left to right: Leonard Gess, Alvin Anker, Kermit Olson, Robert Harris.

CARDIAC REHABILITATION GROUP

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Group was formed in July 1981. The group began with five members: Wanda Wilson, Del Staples, Marie Casey, Nori Anderson and Bob Chrz. Membership now numbers fifty and is growing each month. Anyone having heart problems is welcome to participate. The group meets once a month at a local eating establishment for breakfast.

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Group started because people were eager to continue the friendships made in Phase II of the Physical Therapy Group at St. Olaf Hospital. The group has a monthly Group Therapy Session at St. Augustine's Church in Austin. The first annual picnic was held in July 1982, at one of the members' home. The picnic will be continued as an annual event. Holiday parties are well attended. Doctors and wives, the nurses and therapists from St. Olaf Hospital are guests at these functions.

While this is a social organization, its main purpose is for people with heart problems to support and encourage each other. It represents all ages, and touches all occupations. Included are a Catholic Priest, a county treasurer, many Hormel workers, salesmen, housewives and many other vocations. This is not a disease that can be defined by white collar or blue collar distinction.

Group Therapy sessions are informative. Speakers are scheduled on subjects covering problems of the heart. There are new methods, new medicines, and always something interesting to learn about.

The first appointed chairman of the Cardiac Rehab Group was Marie Casey, with co-chairperson being Eileen Tapager.

A couple of direct quotes illustrate the value of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Group:

"I would never walk and exercise as faithfully, if I didn't have the group for support"—Father Charles Quinn, St. A's

"As a spouse of one of the heart patients, I too, feel that I have gained much insight into the disease and problems of the patient and how it affects family life"—Bev Staples

"I always did walk and exercise before, but I find it much more enjoyable to take these daily walks with others of the group that also have heart problems"—Bob Chrz

Heart disease is an emotional, as well as, physical disease, which is why this group is so important.

T.O.W. CLUB



The T.O.W. (take-off-weight) club was organized in 1980 as one of many activities at Mower County Seniors Inc. The club is under the direction of Mrs. Irene Ellingson, and is designed to help each other lose weight.

The first meeting was held in the lounge September 2, 1980. Meetings are held every Wednesday morning with weigh-ins and business. Dues of ten cents a week were established, and the following officers volunteered: Irene

Ellingson, president; Adeline Hudechek, assistant president; Marcella Block, secretary; Irma Dee Gardner, treasurer; Ella Brimacomb, weigher; Rachel Holt, assistant weigher; Vi Heslip, weight recorder; Pauline Nelson, assistant weight recorder. Twenty-nine people were present.

Rules and prizes for Best Weekly Loser were discussed and approved at the next meeting. Low calorie recipes and diets were discussed. Exercises are to follow each meeting. Best Loser for the Month was approved.

A special event is September's annual celebration. Prizes go to the number one loser of the year, and to the second, third and fourth. A traveling trophy is given to the highest loser which is held for one year. This year's celebration was held at Bridgeman's.

Present slate of officers are: Adeline Hudechek, president; Vivian Hall, vice president; Vi Kycek, secretary; Mayme Peck, treasurer, Voral Zdenek, weigher; Marion Hall, weight recorder. Average membership is nineteen with some members having reached goal. The present dues are fifty cents a month.

We now have thirty-one members. The oldest is ninety years old, and the youngest is fifty-five. Inez Knutson, who directs exercise classes, is seventy-two years old.

by Adeline Hudechek

Mower County Register — Jan. 8, 1866 — "It has been said that it is a great misfortune for a man to be blind, as

it deprives him of the greatest of all enjoyment. The sight of women. The reverse is true as to deafness."

Y.M.C.A — AUSTIN



The Austin YMCA was founded in 1951 and chartered in the State of Minnesota on February 1, 1952. The YMCA originally operated out of an office in Shaw Gym. Later it was moved above the Goodwill Store in downtown Austin. In 1963, \$723,000 was raised to construct the first phase of a full facility YMCA. The 34,000 square foot facility included a six lane pool, a gym, two shower-locker rooms, a fitness center, multi-purpose room and office and administration area. In 1973 an expansion program raised \$700,000 and two additional locker rooms and four racquetball courts were constructed.

After the completion of the 1973 addition, all available property was occupied by the physical plant and parking. Further expansion required that additional property be acquired. In 1976 the YMCA Board of Directors raised \$72,000 to purchase 60,000 square feet of property north of the YMCA. In 1978, 47,000 square feet of additional, adjoining property was donated to the YMCA.

In 1982 a 23,000 square foot Super Gym was added to the Y facility. In addition to the new building areas, the entire 1964-65 original unit was retrofitted with more efficient lighting and a new larger parking lot constructed. The cost of the 1982 expansion program was \$1,450,000 and included all construction and related costs and fees.

The Austin YMCA is a community recreation center serving boys and girls, men and women and families as a unit. The Y membership includes nearly 3,000 members. Over half of the members are youngsters. About 10% of the Y's youth membership is participating through the

support of the Partner With Youth Program which guarantees all young people the opportunity to participate without regard to financial ability. The YMCA membership includes over 44% women and girls. The Austin YMCA is a participating member of the YMCA of USA.

The Austin Family YMCA is an association of members joined together in service fellowship, self-development and leadership. The YMCA's primary commitment is to the service of youth and the enhancement of a young person's sense of self worth through participation in physical, social and recreational activities conducted in a constructive and wholesome atmosphere. The YMCA is also committed to the service of adults and families. The adult plays a unique dual role in the YMCA by functioning as patron and volunteer. Within the YMCA structure, adults utilize and provide YMCA services. Hundreds of adult YMCA members annually serve on committees and boards, teach classes, coach teams, counsel youth and voluntarily assist the Y with administrative and program tasks.

The following individuals have served as president of the YMCA Board of Directors since the inception of the YMCA: Dr. Tracy Barber, 1952-53; Jack McGrew, 1954-55; Ted Colescott, 1956-57; Clifford Berthiaume, 1957-58; Lee Kittleson, 1959-61; James R. Williams, 1962-63; Dr. T. S. Thompson, 1964-66; Phil Chamberlain, 1967-68; Ed Bork, 1969-71; Bob Wells, 1972-73; Dick Schlange, 1974-75; Bob Thatcher, 1976-77; Jack Strobel, 1978-79; John Lasher, 1980; Arlan Burmeister, 1981; Dave Reynen, 1982; Meem Asp, 1983.

LADY IKES



Marie Zahradnik, left, presents a "Lady Ikes" check to Tom Belton for city beautification in 1963.

The Lady Ikes were organized September 14, 1959. Thirty-seven initiates signed the charter at Kingswood, a dining club on the Hormel estate. Organizers were Richard Dorer, Del Larice Olson and Lee Cumberland, all of Minneapolis and Laurine Stephans, Winona. Larry Streif and C. R. Hansen sponsored the new group.

This Red Cedar women's chapter is an auxiliary of the Izaak Walton League of America. Their aims are to promote the conservation and wise use of America's natural resources.

Chapter 10 gave them 100 seedling evergreens, which were planted and cared for on the late Fritz Norton property. When these trees matured they were given to a farmer to use as a shelter.

The Lady Ikes planted two trees on an island in the Cedar River. Then, on Arbor Day, they planted trees on the east side of the East Side Lake.

Another project has been the clean-up along the banks



1978 - Marie Casey was a weekly prize winner with this 7 lb. walleye.

of the Cedar River from 2nd Ave. N.E. to Oakland Ave. They have also placed several bluebird houses in Mower County.

Over the years the club has donated conservation books to the Austin Public Library, planted a red maple tree at the Hormel Nature Center, given funds for beautification in Austin and helped in the cleaning of the game and fish building at the Mower County fairgrounds.

One of the Lady Ikes' major concerns is for legislation to protect our land and resources, both in Minnesota and over the entire country. They have consistently encouraged our state legislators and national congress to provide protective laws.

There are many other areas where the Lady Ikes have given financial, moral and physical assistance in fulfillment of their goals. Their pledge is "The wise use of our natural resources."

by Mary Zahradnik

THE "Y" MATRONS

The organizational meeting for a club of young married women was held on Friday, October 28, 1939 at the Austin Y.W.C.A. Mrs. M. E. Cook presided. She consented to sponsor the club. Named the Young Married Women's Forum, the club was under sponsorship of the Y.W.C.A. Mrs. Harold Halverson was the first president and Mrs. W. J. Nargan, sec.-treas.

Based on provisions of their constitution their purpose is to preserve and stimulate friendly interests and activities of young married women, and to contribute to worthy causes and community projects. The membership is limited to 55, and new members must not be over 35 years of age at the time they join.

In February, 1956, a new constitution was adopted which changed the club name from Young Matrons to "Y" Matrons. The age limitation for joining was dropped, but club objectives remained the same.

"Y" Matrons meets at the Y.M.C.A. building the 3rd Monday from September thru May. December and May are dinner meetings. An outing at the Culton cottage in Waterville is usually held each summer.

1982 officers are: President, Ethel Mae Nicol; Vice President, Margaret Bjork; Secretary, Cratice Boyd and Treasurer, Helen Dixon. 50 ladies presently comprise the membership of "Y" Matrons.

PHOTO FUN CAMERA CLUB



From left to right: Marcella Hoban, Fern Mitchell, Marlon Hoban, Ella Prestegard, Dorothy Phelps, Violet Nelson, Ruth Walker. Back: Norm Ekedal, Edna Gjermundson, Lawrence Mitchell, C. E. Phelps.

The first meeting of record of the Photo Fun Camera Club was held at Violet Nelson's home on Saturday evening, March 22, 1958. Some time prior to that date a group assembled at Eleanor Christensen's home to discuss the possibility of organizing the club.

Charter members who organized the club were: Eleanor Christensen, Marion Hoban, Leland and Nettie Engen, Edna Rolands, Violet Nelson and Inez Eggerstrom.

Objectives of the club included: (1) association for the mutual enjoyment of photography (2) encouraging the advancement of members in the knowledge and practice of photography (3) making mutual contributions to the progress of photography.

Photo Fun Camera Club is affiliated with North Central Camera Club Council (N4C) and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). During the years Camera Club membership has been extended to many interested photographers in both the Austin and Albert Lea areas.

The current officers are: Kenneth Tyrer and Floyd Viall, co-presidents; Harold Carlstrom, vice president; Eleanor Tinderholt, secretary and Lewis Brown, treasurer. Marcella and Marion Hoban are historians.

Members participate in the monthly meetings by sharing technical tips, presenting photo travel programs and judging and evaluating members slides. Studio nights give members an opportunity to use their cameras.

There are the fun times, too, such as camera club outings both day and overnight.

The Photo Fun Camera Club has many opportunities to be involved in community projects. The club developed a Bi-centennial slide story of Mower County and adjoining counties. Slide shows have been given at Austin's Oak Park Mall and Helmer Myre State Park, Albert Lea. Each year the club coordinates the slide exhibition at the Mower County Fair.

by Marcella Hoban

"It is not what you possess, who you are, the position you hold, or where you are located that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about it.

"The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth of the hole!"

ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL SECRETARIES MOWER-FREEBORN COUNTIES



1981-82 Officers Installed

Left to right: Chris Rockers, pres.; Joy Bergstrom, vice pres.; Kathy Diaz, sec.; Arletta Pinke, treas.; Mary Hangge, governor, Linda Gries, NALS representative.

The Mower-Freeborn Association of Legal Secretaries is a tri-level, non-profit, non-union, non-partisan organization based on the principle of service to legal secretaries, attorneys, the courts, and the general public.

Our local chapter was founded in 1963. We are an affiliate of the Minnesota Association of Legal Secretaries (MALS) and the National Association of Legal Secretaries International (NALS). NALS has over 24,000 members in the United States, Canada, and other countries, with our headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The NALS motto is professionalism plus excellence equals excellence.

Our association continually strives to upgrade the knowledge of its members through legal education training programs and the Professional Legal Secretary certification program. During the course of a year each of the local chapters hosts legal education seminars, workshops, or an annual state convention. The National



Mower County Secretaries entering the courtroom for a day in court.

Association of Legal Secretaries sponsors a course for secretaries interested in obtaining certification as a professional legal secretary (PLS).

Our elected officers for the 1982-1983 year are: Chris Rockers, president; Mary Hangge, vice president; Kathy Diaz, secretary; Arletta Pinke, treasurer; Gayle Wedeking, governor; and Linda Gries, NALS representative.

Our chapter consists of members from Mower and Freeborn counties. We hold our local monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at one of our offices. A guest speaker is invited each month who relates to various subjects of interest to legal secretaries and their duties.

Any secretary working in the law office, bank, trust company, abstract company, savings and loan office, or corporate legal departments is eligible to be a member.

by Chris Rockers

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The earliest available records of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are dated September 1908. The group formed was known as the Austin Central WCTU. They had twelve members.

At that time, as now, it has two purposes. The first is to eradicate the evils of liquor traffic. They also help to bring the message of God's kingdom to all. Its motto is "Purity in the Home and God in Government."

The WCTU is a worldwide organization of Christian women of every race and nationality. There are unions founded in sixty-seven countries. As the years passed, Austin's WCTU has expanded its department work and tried to help better the moral standards of the city. Many letters have been written to legislators regarding the passage of bills. Members have protested the sale of beer at the fairgrounds and liquor advertising.

In recent years, the WCTU has centered a great deal of emphasis on education. In 1953 the union paid expenses of a state narcotic worker for a week in the public schools. In 1954 they paid a part of the expense to send two boys to a WCTU sponsored camp. Members believe that if every boy and girl is taught the truth about alcohol and narcotics, few would become alcoholics or drug addicts.

In 1956 the membership totaled fifty. Mrs. H. C. Medinnus was president; Mrs. C. Moore, vice president; Mrs. Henry Drost, secretary and Mrs. Guilbert W. Jarvis, treasurer.

From Austin Herald, April 17, 1956

AUSTIN STUMP JUMPERS CLUB



Hill Climb at Little Falls, MN



Drag Races at Lansing, IA

The Austin Stump Jumpers Four Wheel Drive Club participates in four-wheel drive events such as drag races and hill climbs.

The club was organized in 1973 by Ray Halsey, Bruce Braun and Jerry Serempa of Austin and Paul Miller, Hayward. Their interest in four-wheeling inspired them to find others with a similar enjoyment of the sport.

In 1976 the club was incorporated and were joined with the Midwest 4-Wheel Drive Association. Initially the club had twelve families, with only two or three participating in the drive events.

By 1977 the Stump Jumpers had grown to a membership of 35 families. They then sponsored an annual event known as Dirt Fever. Held again in 1978 and 1979, Dirt Fever was co-sponsored with the Southern Minnesota Four Wheelers of Owatonna. This event included drag races and a hill climb for 4-wheel drive vehicles. The event was sanctioned by the Midwest 4-Wheel Drive Association.

Since the discontinuance of the Dirt Fever as an annual event the membership has declined to about 20 families.

The club has also sponsored Road Rallies in Austin and St. Charles, Minnesota. In 1981 and 1982 there were Stumper rallies at Oak Park Mall, Austin.

The Stump Jumpers have been active in community projects. They have helped with the Austin Diabetes Bike-a-thon by placing crossing guards for the last five years. The club has planted trees for the Cedar Valley Conservation Club for 4 years, and have helped in the Austin Meals-on-Wheels program for 3 years. They have transported blood for the American Red Cross, raised money for the Sheriff's Boys' Ranch and have participated in telethons for cancer and muscular dystrophy.

The Stump Jumpers enjoy trailriding in Whitewater Park, and have leased 2 acres of land for a campground near Alba, Minnesota.

A problem which now faces the club is finding a place to trailride near Austin. They have been in contact with Congressmen and Senators requesting assistance. Their goal would be to open an area for four-wheel drive, camping and recreation.

The primary requirement to become a member of the Austin Stump Jumpers is to own or have access to a four-wheel drive vehicle. After the initial membership fee of \$5.00 the annual dues are \$4.00.

Interested individuals should contact the Austin Stump Jumpers, P.O. Box 115, Austin, MN 55912.

by Debra Burma

AUSTIN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB

The Austin Road Runners were organized in April, 1982 to promote running and physical fitness as a life-long goal. Dick Dixon and Tom Torgerson, Austin, initiated the club.

Club members emphasize the fun and exhilaration of running. Non-running members of their families join them in such activities as picnics and potluck dinners.

The club publishes a monthly newsletter which is sent to all members. The letter runs articles on running, fit-

ness, diet and general internal club information. Local race results and a list of future road races are included.

Annual dues are \$5.00. Application can be made to Dick Dixon, 711 1st Ave. S. W., Austin, MN.

The Austin Road Runners stimulate and motivate each other. The emphasis is on the running and not the racing.

by Dick Dixon

AUSTIN CAMERA CLUB



WINTER OUTING IN 1967

Left to right: K. Meyer, Mike Spear, Irene Mellke, Wilbur Jones, Helen Sjoikn, Carrol Ries, Erma and John Hawkins, Francis Ries, Joe Srp, Lois Brechtel.

The Austin Camera Club was organized in March, 1938. In the early years A. Lon Enochson did much to establish the club as a successful organization. During this initial period he served in several capacities, such as director, president and secretary.

The primary aim of the Camera Club is to provide technical photographic assistance, to furnish opportunities for competition and to bring together club members socially. Membership is open to anyone interested in photography. Meetings are held each month.

Extra curricular activities include indoor and outdoor photo sessions. These have ranged from short indoor sessions to all-day outdoor outings and overnight campouts in one of the state parks.

The club has been active in community activities. Their participation in the Mower County Fair is noteworthy. The annual photo show in the old church building at the fair has a large representation of club members' excellent photos.

The Austin Camera Club is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America (PSA), and the North Central Camera Club Council (N4C). The latter organization

covers a nine state area. The Austin club has been a host at one of the council's annual conventions. Harold Carlstrom, Austin, was active in the organization of the group, and served one session as president. Carrol Ries, another local club member, also served a term as president of the North Central Council.

In the forty-four years from 1938 thru 1982, many members have had an active part in the Austin Camera Club activities. A partial list would include: W. H. Nordin Sr., Erling Runquist, Harry Louk, Mahlan Sissell, L. W. Murphy, Harlan Sorenson, N. V. Torgerson, Vern Judd, Ralph Madison, A. L. Foss, Marion and Joe Srp, Dr. Roger Huebner, Russell Harding, Lois and Lloyd Brechtel, Vera Carlstrom, Manly Hammer, Merwyn Spear, Catherine and Robert Baudler, Erma and John Hawkins, Wilbur Jones, Frank Cafourek, Marcella Hoban, Dorothy Peterson, John Gieske, David Sundal and Francis Ries.

Arlan P. Kuhn is the only active charter member.

1982 officers of the Austin Camera Club are Allen Schulz, president and Gerald McCormick, secretary.

by Arlen Kuhn

MOWER COUNTY COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

The Mower County Council of Social Agencies was organized in the early 1950's. Ralph Schlomling, then Program Director of the YMCA, was the moving force in recruiting representatives from a number of social agencies who would form a nucleus for the development of a council. From its inception, the council's major purpose has been the improvement of services of its member agencies by providing a forum in which program information is shared and through which inter-agency communication is enhanced.

Various short-term projects have been undertaken by the council over the years: social service directories, community needs assessments and the mustering of support from individual social agency professionals to establish and to enrich the service resources of the community. While the council does not offer a direct social service to consumers, it has had positive impact on such services by offering supportive help to the individual representatives from its member agencies.

Current membership reflects representation from 32 agencies. Approximately 18 agencies were participating in the early formation of the council. Membership is broadly based among agencies who deal in "people services" and who employ service personnel. Child Care, Corrections, Scouting, Library, Red Cross, Social Services, Mental Health, Senior Citizens, Migrant Services, Vocational, Parenting Resource Center, School Counseling and Guidance, and Veteran's Service are some illustrations of the range of agency representation.

Over the 30 years of its existence, the council has reflected the many personnel changes occurring within member agencies. The agencies represented in the 1950's are still represented in the 1980's, along with many new agencies whose services have been welcomed into the community. Perhaps the phenomenon of the "old" alongside the "new" is evidence that the community is healthy. The need for support and growth of the social agency professional is universal and continuing.

AUSTIN SOLO PARENTS AND ADULT CLUB

Organized in 1975, the Solo Parents and Adult Club is associated with the National Solo Parents.

The first meeting was initiated through a 1974 advertisement in the Mower County Shopper. Twenty-two individuals met at the home of Cletta Gamy on a cold winter evening.

Meeting first in homes of members, the club expanded in membership, and found a meeting place in the Christian Education Center. When this building was torn down, the growing club found space in the basement of the Elks Club.

The Parents and Adult Club enables parents without partners to meet together. They have mutual problems concerning themselves and their children. By an exchange of ideas and knowledge they help each other. Through educational programs and through their social contacts their lives and that of their children are enriched.

The club's monthly calendar highlights activities such as bowling, golf, roller skating, hay rides and several types of picnics and potlucks. At Christmas there is a program with a Santa Claus to bring gifts and goodies for the children.

Members of the club combine to attend various social functions in the community and surrounding area. Two or three times annually they sponsor dances for area clubs and single adults.

Two local delegates are sent to each of the three annual conventions—the National, State and Tri-State.

Membership to the Austin Solo Parents and Adult Club is open to anyone over 19 years of age who is divorced, legally separated, widowed or who has never been wed. The annual dues includes the newsletters, calendars and National membership.



1975 Officers

Left to right, seated: Chris Nelson, Pat Johnson, Martha Drake. Standing: Ray Boysen, Dick Orchard, Marie Turner.

The club now meets in the basement of the V.F.W. club room every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. 1982 officers were: June Kenyon, president; Elaine Smith, vice president; Ann Benson, secretary and Marion Huntley, treasurer.

The Austin Solo Parents and Adult Club extends an invitation and a welcome to all individuals eligible for club membership.

by Elaine Smith

AUSTIN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF



"Little Lost Decibels" — 1971



At Sumner School — 1980-81

In 1967 a program for hearing impaired children was initiated by Fred Jepson, Director of Special Education in the Austin Public Schools. In conjunction, ten families started a supporting organization called "Parents of Little Lost Decibels." Six more families joined shortly thereafter. Membership included families from Mower, Waseca, Freeborn and Steele Counties.

As the concerns of the club expanded to include all ages, the name of the group was changed to "Austin Association for the Deaf."

Initially the "Parents of Little Lost Decibels" held monthly meetings. There were also summer and winter social events. The goal of monthly meetings was to have programs which would aid parents in understanding the needs of their hearing impaired children. This was augmented by authoritative speakers.

Funds were raised to purchase equipment which would be helpful for the classrooms of hearing impaired children. These efforts were aided by community groups such as the Northwestern Singers, Forte Milers, Minnesota Sheriff's Association. Also businesses including Queen Fashions, Apollo and Austin Memorials.

In 1982 the program for the hearing impaired children was cut in the Austin Public School system. Children now attend Minnesota School for the Deaf, Faribault, LeRoy Public School and Blooming Prairie School. Over the years seven teachers have taught the hearing impaired children.

Since reduction in the scope of the Austin school program, the association meets three times a year. Additional meetings are held if required.

The Austin Association of the Deaf is grateful to individuals and groups who have been involved in this pioneer program. It is their hope that their efforts open doorways to help hearing impaired children and adults.

by Cindy Reid

AGAPE HALFWAY HOUSE

Agape Halfway House, Inc., is a non-profit agency of Mower County. It is located at 200 S. W. 5th Street. Agape is licensed under regulations of the State of Minnesota, and conforms with Austin city codes. Its purpose is the rehabilitation of chemically dependent individuals. Agape is also a member of the Association of Halfway House Alcoholism Programs of North America, Inc.

The organizers of Agape were: Jack Thill, Dr. Larry Maier, Gary Wagenaar, and Herman Klapperich. The Articles of Incorporation were signed on the 25th day of September of 1974. Members of the original Board of Directors were: Jack Thill, Douglas Larson, Ole Nelson, Corrine Lebens, Doris Stahl, Edmund E. Smith, John Walsh, and Fr. Dan Corcoran. The Hormel Foundation gave a check for \$10,000.00 for initial financing in June 1974. Agape is a Greek word meaning love.

The house itself is an older residential home converted essentially as a resthome. There are sixteen beds, a large eating area, two lounges, a large living room, a recreation room, kitchen, a meeting room and six bathrooms.

The philosophy of Agape is much the same as that of AA. We strive to know ourselves better, learn to use the spiritual part of our lives and that of other human beings. We help each other learn to deal with living problems and by sharing with each other we gain confidence and acceptance of ourselves.

The program takes from four to six months to learn and actually use in a progressive living program. We request the final decision when a client is ready to be discharged. We serve both male and female age sixteen and older. Each client must pass an interview before acceptance. Our residents come from throughout the United States. Most are referred to us by chemical dependency treatment centers.

The 1982 staff consisted of Robert C. Marxen, director; Robert L. Sorensen, counselor; Merle Bjork, resident manager; Marlene L. Murray, secretary and Regina Bottema, cook-housekeeper. There are also two part-time counselors.

by Marlene L. Murray

AUSTIN ART GROUP

The Austin Art Group had its beginning in 1959 through the efforts of Thelma Bowlby, Mary Johnson and Sally Groh. They felt the need for such a group in the Austin community. Organization efforts were expedited in order to accept an invitation to exhibit at the 1960 Minnesota State Fair.

In addition to previously mentioned individuals, the 26 charter members were: Elaine Miller, Delphine Dernek, Doris White, Haven Matti, Esther Flom, Richard and Mickie Hall, Maybelle Pauley, Rae Korfhage, David Weiderman, Richard Morgan, Maybelle Johnson, James Winn, Ella Duenow, Arlene Bjork, Louis Kotlarz, Arlene Hein, Mary Peterson, Jacolin Martin, Joy Stevens Stancl, Virginia Strate and Kenneth Riska. Many of these charter members remain active after 22 years.

The purpose of the Austin Art Club is to create an interest in art throughout the surrounding area. This has been facilitated by art exhibits and art appreciation programs at monthly meetings. There have been several field

trips to art museums in Minnesota. In earlier years the annual Rochester Art Exhibit brought the group much encouragement.

In 1960 the Austin Art Group assumed responsibility for the annual art exhibit at the Mower County Fair, in the Fine Arts Exhibit Building.

Through the years, members have displayed their works in local restaurants and resthomes and at St. Olaf Hospital, Austin Medical Clinic, Adams Medical Clinic, Social Security Building, Oak Park Mall, and the Cedar Shopping Mall. This has given the public an opportunity to enjoy and to purchase works of art created in this area.

The Art Group has sponsored a Wildlife Art Exhibit annually the past four years. It has brought honor both to the local artist and the statewide artist.

The Austin Art Club encourages membership to people interested in any phase of the arts. Active artists or students of the art are equally welcome.

MATCHBOX CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Matchbox Children's Theatre had its beginning in 1975, when a local man, Bill Libby, put into reality his dream of having a "live theatre" for Austin area children. Through the Austin Park and Recreation services, he and Janet Anderson, produced their first play, *Sleeping Beauty*.

A group of interested citizens encouraged this theatrical endeavor. The MCT became an independent non-profit organization during the Bicentennial of 1976. It is the only Bicentennial Horizon Project from Austin that was recorded in the Minnesota Almanac Time Capsule. It is now in the Minnesota Historical Society collection which will be opened July 4, 2075.

The fall season began in the Austin Community College theatre with a roar—*Androcles and the Lion*.

The artistic goal of MCT is to continue to produce the best quality children's theatre that can be had. The board members feel that fine theatre experience will inspire and stimulate the creativity and humanity of young people.

Austin Area MCT is one of the very few opportunities available for children in Mower County to experience "live theatre." It develops an awareness and an interest in all forms of art, as well as an appreciation for fine entertainment. The scripts which are chosen try to incorporate adults and children in the plays presented.

As of now, we are in the ninth season of shows. We average about 1,500 children and adults in attendance at the six performances for each show. This includes three shows on weekends and three shows on school days for children who are bused in from surrounding communities. This enthusiastic response from our children, parents and teachers reveals that we have a growing audience here.

We also offer puppet theatre plays, which tour schools, shopping centers, art festivals and parks in the surrounding area. Upon request we will present photo slides to any school group, club or organization to help promote MCT for our children.

The first president was Jean Taber. Other charter members were: Tom and Vicki Honer, Gloria Nordin, Paula Sherman, Janet Anderson, Susie Richardson, Jan Adams, Dick and Mickie Hall, Michael Bednar, Iris Weis and Cathy Mayer.

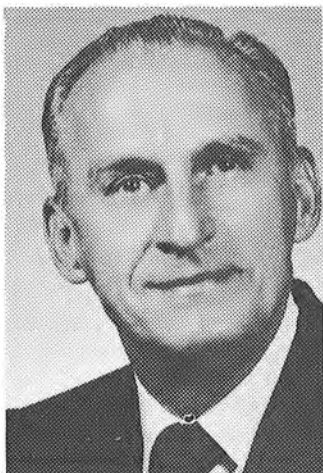
The present board members are: Janet Anderson, Cindy Bellrichard, Cindy Dibble, Dick and Mickie Hall, Dave Dahlquist, Mary Conway, Penny Kinney, Char Pinke, Jan Thomas, Linda Sershen, Sue Heimsness, Kris Rasmussen and Norman Wallace.

E. Moehlman, who recently moved here from Lakefield and is located at 610 Freeborn Street, has gone into the manufacturing business. Mr. Moehlman makes children's toys and his specialty is toy soldiers. He has all kinds so any child can have a regiment of play soldiers and all officers needed.

*"Mower County Transcript-Republican,"
Nov. 21, 1917*

An order was issued April 30, 1918, that no one, not a citizen of the United States, should serve as teacher in any public, private or parochial or in any normal school unless the applicant to teach has declared intention to become a citizen.

LOCAL P-9, AUSTIN



Frank Schultz



Austin Labor Center

On July 13, 1933, the first meeting was called to organize a union for workers of George A. Hormel and Company. They met in Sutton Park. The day after this first meeting, a Certificate of Incorporation was drawn up and signed by the following people that are listed as the first officers of what is now known as Local 9: Frank Ellis, president; D. Q. Stephens, vice president; Harold E. Harlan, secretary; Bill Hubbard, treasurer; and Oland Maxey, business agent.

The first officers elected are as follows: Olaf J. Fosso, president; William Hubbard, vice president; Harold E. Harlan, financial secretary; Albina Bastyr, recording secretary; T. B. Rockne, treasurer; Frank Ellis, business manager; and Charles List, Helen McDermott, V. G. Streeter, board of trustees.

A strike vote was taken on November 10, 1933 and the strike lasted until November 13, 1933. Quoting minutes taken during that time, it was stated, "On Saturday, November 11, 1933, they went in the plant and cleaned out the foremen and also escorted Mr. Hormel, Mr. Catherwood and other Hormel executives out of the plant. (There are still arguments as to whether Mr. Hormel walked out or was carried out). The pickets were then in complete possession of the plant. Governor Floyd B. Olson fearing a n insurrection, intervened in the strike and came personally to Austin to talk to the Union and to the Company."

On October 24, 1935, "The Unionist" newspaper came into existence. It was printed as a six page pamphlet until January 10, 1936 when the first full-sized edition appeared. "The Unionist" not only played its important part in organizing the plant and the community, but it incessantly fought against the secret employers' groups, the anti-labor misrepresentations of the Austin Daily Herald at that time, the existing inequalities and injustices in every phase of our community life and also contributed to the political awakening of our members and citizens. Carl Nilson was the very first editor. The next editor was Svend Godfredson who later became editor of the Packinghouse Workers newspaper of our Interna-

tional Union. Leslie R. Hurt served as editor from September 5, 1941 until David Neiswanger took over in January 1948 and served until January 1977. When David Neiswanger retired, Ruth Rasmussen took over as editor of The Unionist newspaper until her retirement in May, 1982. At the present time, President Floyd Lenocho and staff employees are editing the newspaper.

Officers of Local P-9, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union that have served over twenty years each are: Frank W. Schultz, president; and Helen McDermott, financial secretary. Her husband, Howard McDermott was Business Agent for Local P-9 prior to becoming Wage Rate Director of the United Packinghouse Workers International Union and served in this capacity for over twenty years before his retirement.

Rollo Sissel served as Business Agent of Local 9 for over 20 years. Richard Schaefer took over as Business Agent in 1971 and is still serving this important office. Floyd Lenocho is now serving as President of the local union. The officers of Local 9 have helped obtain economic gains which benefitted not only the Hormel workers but the entire community.

The local union has been affiliated with three different international unions, the first being the United Packinghouse Workers of America, AFL-CIO, of which Frank W. Schultz served as a Vice President for one term. We then merged with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America which is now merged with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

The purpose of our union is to protect and maintain the interest of each worker, improve social conditions, health and welfare and pension plans.

After approximately three years of negotiating, it was announced on June 27, 1978 that an agreement had been reached between Local P-9 and the Hormel Company which meant a new plant would be constructed in Austin. This new facility is now completed and employs about 1200 people.

AUSTIN GARDEN CLUB



Seated: Mrs. J. M. Pugh. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Oscar Ludvigsen, Mrs. Fred Arret.



Mrs. Paul Robertson, Club Organizer

On April 6, 1931, the Austin Garden Club was organized by Mrs. P. A. Robertson, wife of Dr. P. A. Robertson of Austin. She invited twelve ladies to her home with the idea of starting a Garden Club. In November, 1931, when the Constitution and By-Laws were presented, the membership was closed. The following were the twenty-four charter members: Mrs. P. A. Robertson, Mrs. J. M. Pugh, Miss Mae Wells, Mrs. R. Dalgren, Mrs. J. W. Kobes, Mrs. M. L. Ulwelling, Mrs. J. B. Sievers, Mrs. J. E. Galloway, Mrs. R. J. Fell, Mrs. F. A. Scott, Mrs. R. L. Hayes, Mrs. Carl Baudler, Mrs. F. C. Kearns, Mrs. J. T. Rogers, Mrs. E. P. Mason, Mrs. Donovan, Mrs. James Clark, Mrs. G. E. Hertel, Mrs. E. N. Hoffman, Mrs. J. L. Schammeck, Mrs. F. Carrager, Mrs. A. C. Richardson, Mrs. W. A. Brennan and Mrs. Boyd Williams.

The purpose of the club was to stimulate the love of flowers and gardening, to beautify the City of Austin, to exchange experiences, ideas and plants among the members, and to hold yearly flower shows.

The meetings were held on the third Monday of each month at the Austin Public Library and occasionally at the home of members. At the present time the meetings are held at the Y.W.C.A.

The Austin Garden Club is affiliated with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and has contributed to its support. The club is also a member of the First District Horticultural Society. This group was organized by the Austin Garden Club in 1950 with Mrs. Oscar Ludvigsen, Austin, the first president.

A book pertaining to horticulture, gardening, flowers or flower arranging is presented to the Austin Public Library in memory of each deceased member.

Tayne Burgess Hines left a bequest of \$500.00 to the Austin Garden Club. She had been the library director at the Austin Public Library and a member of the Garden

Club. Interest from her bequest is designated for annual purchase of a Christmas wreath for the Y.W.C.A.'s front door and a poinsettia for the living room.

In 1960 the membership of the club became so large that two new garden clubs were organized. The Hoe and Grow Garden Club was organized in 1960 and the Town and Country Garden Club in 1961. The three garden clubs plant and care for the window boxes at the Y.W.C.A., Austin Public Library, the urns on Main Street and many flower beds around the City of Austin. Trees have also been planted in various parts of the city.

The 50th anniversary of the club was celebrated April, 1981, with Mrs. J. M. Pugh as the only living charter member. Mrs. Pugh continues to take an active part in the club.

In this period of time sixteen members of the Austin Garden Club have received awards from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society for distinguished service to horticulture. They are: Life membership in 1958 to Mrs. Oscar Ludvigsen, and in 1968 to Mr. and Mrs. Les Hedegard. Distinguished service awards to Mrs. James Clark in 1959, Mr. Robert Duel in 1958, Mrs. Phil Ward in 1966, and in 1978 to Mrs. Fred Arrett. Awards of merit were given to Mrs. M. L. Ulwelling in 1954, Mrs. Paul Robertson in 1958, Mrs. Robert Duenow in 1959, Mrs. Gus Mohs and Mrs. Arvid Satterloff in 1960, Mrs. Les Hedegard in 1961, Mrs. Ed Struck in 1962, Mrs. E. J. Greening in 1963, Mrs. Frank Kilgore in 1965 and Mrs. Fred Arrett in 1969.

The officers for 1982 are: Mrs. Maurice Eblen, president; Mrs. Lloyd Brinkman, first vice president; Mrs. Mathew Adams, second vice president; Mrs. Margaret Hayden, secretary; Mrs. Lawrence Ganfield, treasurer. Historians are Mrs. Arthur L. Johnson and Mrs. Carmen Halstenson.

by Mrs. Arthur L. Johnson

AUSTIN JAYCEES

The Austin Jaycees were organized in the summer of 1932. Several community leaders began their careers with the Jaycees. Meeting the needs of an ever-changing, growing community has become the new goal of the Jaycees in Austin. The Austin Jaycees are a part of the Minnesota, United States, and International Jaycees. Over the years they have developed programming in individual development, community development, and chapter management. Each year the Jaycees raise funds for community charities. They also are responsible for raising money for chapter projects.

The Jaycees give out awards each year for various

1934 Don McLaughlin
1935 Roy Patneau
1936 E. G. Usem
1937 Wright Wells
1938 John F. Mayer, Sr.
1939 William Dunlap
1940 Dr. Paul Leck
1941 James Stangby
Dr. Roy Randall
1942 Frank Hardy
1943 Burt Plehal
1944 Harold (Babe) Swank
1945 Hugh Beach

1946 Herb Bjork
1947 Ted Sandell
1948 Dean Carlson
1949 Art Vogel
1950 Tom Steensland
1951 Ernie Larson
1952 R. D. Dodge
1953 Bob Rogers
1954 Dave Wick
1955 Don Denneson
1956 Tom Prewitt
1957 Morris Anderson
1958 Donald Sandeen

projects. The highest award given out to a Jaycee is the JCI Senatorship. Austin has only one recipient, James R. Pichner. Austin has also had only one state president, Al Skogobo in 1964. Meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesday.

Board of directors assignments are: president, vice president for individual development, chapter management, community development, public relations, secretary, treasurer and state delegate. The immediate past president serves as chairman of the board. Past presidents are:

1959 Roger Larson
1960 Eldon Peter
1961 Orvis Anderson
1962 Dr. Richard Nordin
1963 Mel Haldorson
1964 Kenneth Hakes
1965 Robert Austin
1966 Marvin Moes
1967 Gary Leonard
1968 Clayton Pike
Dr. Norbert Schmitt
1969 Joe Cook
1970 Duane Johnson

1971 Dave Harber
1972 Larry Wilson
1973 Mike Lewis
1974 Tom McDonald
1975 Rich Flack
1976 Darrell Kolden
1977 James Pichner
1978 Fred Wellmann
1979 James Hoffman
1980 Dennis Maschka
1981 Jim Braaten
1982 Lonnie Skalicky

by Lonnie Skalicky

SPAM POST #570 - THE AMERICAN LEGION

The All-Women's American Legion Post #570 received their charter in June, 1946. They were the only all-women's post in Minnesota at that time; very possibly the only one in the nation. This group of women were veterans from W.W.I and W.W.II. They came from all branches of service; from WACS, USMC, WAVES and army and navy nurses. Spam Post was fortunate in not having lost anyone in the service.

It was agreed to name the post "Spam." The original officers were: Marie Casey, commander; Margaret Svejkovsky, adjutant; Eleanor McGinnis, vice adjutant and Irene Russell, 1st temporary commander.

It was Jay Hormel's dream to have a Women's Legion Drum and Bugle Corps and a Hormel Girl Radio Show. These groups were very popular. They promoted the food product, Spam. The Drum and Bugle Corps was organized out of the Spam Post. Many of our members had the opportunity to be with and travel with this talented musical group. "Spam's" main objective is service to all veterans. Through their contacts in the early days they became acquainted with Col. Ernie Miller, author of

"Bataan Uncensored," and Jessie DeBooth, author and expert on "Household Hints."

The post has always been interested and active in the Legion's child welfare program and many other charitable organizations. Those in "Spam" Post were members of the Ground Observer Corp and worked as air raid spotters. Later they were tornado and weather watchers, being quartered on the roof of the old firehouse. They became quite professional in identifying planes.

Spam Post has always had several days set aside to honor their deceased members: Ethel Hall Horne, Grace Mahachek Barnes, and others from W.W.I.; Margaret Emery, Pearl Steffens, W.W.II. We also participate in the Veterans Day ceremonies, placing a wreath on the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." The present slate of officers are: Mary E. Baumgart, commander; Ruth Rasmussen, financial secretary; and Greta Kraushaar, adjutant and at present the Veterans Service Officer in Mower County.

by Mary Baumgart

August, 1917 — The Interstate Telephone Company (Austin) subscriber's list has passed the 2,000 mark. July 15th there were 2014 telephones in service. Of this 607 are installed in farm dwellings. The Interstate Company also has connections with the Four Corner Telephone Co.

of Oakland, the Farmers' Telephone Co. of Moscow, and the Corning Telephone Co. of Corning. Their combined subscribers' list amounts to 150 telephones. The service of these combined installations covers the rural district tributary to Austin.

AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



1961 Society Display
Earl Welland and Leo Gregor

The first meeting of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society was held September 1, 1954 at the Shaw Gym in Austin. Twenty-five rock hounds met with the purpose of organizing a Gem and Mineral Club. Election of officers was held: Joe Wenzl, president; Elmer Fossum, vice-president; Elmer and Lorraine Fossum, secretary, Maynard Green, Julius Shade and Bruce Bergstrom were chosen to draw up the constitution and by-laws. Rev. S. M. Schretmueller and Russell Lidberg were appointed to the program committee.

The first meetings were held in various places such as members homes, Austin Fire Station, Sterling State Bank basement and Horace State Park. Now meetings are held in the 4-H Building at the Mower County Fairgrounds.

The purpose of the organization is the study of min-

eralogy, geology and collecting, cutting and polishing gem material. The Gem Club is a non-profit, non-political organization. It is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and supports the A.M.F.S. scholarship fund.

The club published its first official monthly bulletin, "The Achates" in April 1956. Russell Lidberg and Rev. S. M. Schretmueller were the first editor and co-editor.

In 1963 the first annual Gem and Mineral show was held in the 4-H building at the Mower County Fairgrounds. Rocks, gems, minerals and fossils are displayed by members and guest displayers. There are working exhibits, and dealers sell gems, minerals, jewelry, clocks made from agates and ming trees.

Four rock clubs; Austin, Minnesota, Mason City, Charles City and Sumner, Iowa, joined together in 1972 for annual picnics and rock swaps. "Minowa Four" was chosen for the name of the four combined clubs. Officers were elected and met four times a year. The first "Minowa Four" Gem and Mineral Show was held in 1978 at the Mason City, Iowa fairgrounds. There were three more annual shows.

Eighty-four senior and twelve junior members belong to the club. Twelve of the members are honorary members. Officers are elected every year. The Gem and Mineral Society have their meetings the fourth Tuesday each month. A slide program or question and answer session or demonstration is held. A lunch and social time follows.

Members give talks and demonstrations to schools and clubs. Display cases are loaned to libraries and other public places. Junior members have won blue ribbons at county and state fairs with their lapidary work.

by Annette Brockney

CREDIT WOMEN INTERNATIONAL—AUSTIN CHAPTER

The Austin Chapter of Credit Women International was formed in Austin, Minnesota in 1966. Betty Peterson, an employee of the Credit Bureau, Austin was the promoter.

The club meets in the Christian Education Center on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. 1982 officers are: Geneva Hamilton, Adams, president; Ruth Peters, Adams, vice president; Gayle Perkins, Austin, secretary and Lorraine Gunderson, Austin, treasurer.

Membership is comprised of persons employed in the credit departments of company offices. There are associate members and lifetime members. Their purpose is to maintain friendly relationships between the credit departments of various business firms and the local credit bureaus. This stimulates education in the practices and procedures used in credit work.

The Austin Credit Women's group is non-sectarian,

non-partisan and non-political. They encourage and promote the formation of similar educational organizations and clubs.

In December the Credit Women sponsor an annual Christmas party and craft and bake sale auction. Funds received from this event are used for charities. This past year Christmas presents and Easter treats were taken to Cedarvale Homes, Austin.

In April the bosses are honored at a breakfast. Bob Ryan, Rochester, was the guest speaker at last year's breakfast.

Monthly meetings feature a speaker, a film presentation or a study of their manual.

Credit Women International, Mower County, includes career women from Austin, Rose Creek, Lyle and Adams at the present time. New members are welcomed.

F.A.C.T.S.—(FLOODWAY ACTION CITIZENS TASK SOURCE)

In the summer of 1978, Austin suffered two record breaking floods in the span of 10 days. The first flood, on July 6 and 7, crested over 19 feet. This was the highest water mark in the city's recorded history.

Then on July 17th, torrential rains caused the Cedar River to crest at a mark exceeding 21 feet. The result was massive devastation.

The two floods resulted in total damages amounting to 12 million dollars. 310 city homes and another 150 homes in the county were either damaged or destroyed. Fifty Austin business firms were damaged. Some firms closed permanently. Flood victims were quickly aided by friends, neighbors and local disaster assistance groups.

Significantly it was the flood victims themselves who banded together to create the Floodway Action Citizens Task Source, called FACTS. Most had no previous experience in citizen action organization.

FACTS was officially organized in September 1978, with the election of officers. Marie Casey was elected president; Orv Snater, vice president; Alice Snater, secretary-treasurer.

The new group coordinated citizen participation in city council meetings, and at hearings before other government organizations. They were in pursuit of immediate flood relief and to initiate planning efforts to prevent future flood disasters. FACTS numbered over 100 citizens. They were persistent, attending city council

meetings on a weekly basis for the balance of 1978. FACTS represented 450 city and county households. Of the total membership, 154 people attended meetings with local, state and regional officials.

As a direct result of the committee's extensive research, compilation of data and total commitment, Austin was awarded a 1.7 million dollar HUD grant for relocation. Austin was also granted \$14,000 for Cedar River clean-up from the Department of Natural Resources and a CETA labor grant of \$31,700.

A special siren for early warning system was implemented by the police department. Changes were made in the county flood map regarding floodway-floodfringe lines. As a result several homes were removed from floodway designation.

Each year, on July 17th, FACTS sponsors a potluck picnic which is open to the public. The event, held in Lafayette Park, is a reminder to the community that Austin remains in a serious flood hazard situation. Future planning includes the relocation of some 70 households, and the creation of a Lineal Park in this area. This would be a major project in the reduction of flood hazards.

240 households remain in hazard areas. The knowledge accumulated by FACTS remains invaluable to the Austin community.

by Alice Snater

PARTY LINE CLUB



PARTY LINE CLUB IN 1959

Front, phone in hand, Betty Enright. Seated, left to right: BeAlda Thompson, Mary Meyer, Mildred Bredfield and Darlene Hanson. Standing: Helen Dankert, Violet Hildreth, Gladys Mason, Dolly McClain, Gail Burdette and Pearl Regan.

The Party Line Club was organized in November, 1949, by Helen Dankert, Betty Enright and Gladys Mason. The purpose of the group was to develop acquaintanceships and friendships among neighbors.

The name "Party Line" was used because all club members were on two-party lines. Eighteen families were on one line and twenty-four on the other line. The thirteen charter members were: Mildred Bredfield, Helen Dankert, Gladys Mason, Mary Meyer, Betty Enright, Violet Hildreth, Darlene Hanson, BeAlda Thompson, Pearl Regan, Dolly McClain, Minnie Krabby, Gail Burdette, Bessie Anderson.

The original group was devoted to crafts. More recently the members play various card games as chosen by each hostess.

The original thirteen charter members have added new members over the years since 1948. Including past and present members there have been sixty-four who have enjoyed taking part in this neighborhood group.

by Darlene Hanson

*From an 1867 issue of the Mower County Register —
"Men are like wagons. They rattle most when there is
nothing in them."*

*The local radio commentator says that there are two
groups who should stand on their records—politicians
and rock singers.*

MOWER COUNTY FOSTER PARENT'S ASSOCIATION



November, 1977. Left: Mary Hustak, Charter President from Racine. Right: Joyce Eblen, Charter Secretary from Austin.

Mower County Foster Parent's Association held its first organizational meeting at the Christian Education Center November 2, 1977. There were fifteen foster parents attending, namely: Mary Hustak, Milly Kane, Ruth Biedermann, Lillian Raasch, Joyce Eblen, Thelma Swain, Leone Ulwelling, Kenneth and Joyce Hayes, Jerry and Joan Lee, Dick and Phyllis Fisher and Robert and Lorraine Anderson.

Orville Peterson, President of the Minnesota Foster Parent's Association, Ann Hanson, Thelma Henricks and Doug Cole from the Mower County Welfare Agency and Sandy Olson from the Freeborn County Foster Parent's Association came to assist in the formation of our chapter. The chapter is an affiliate of the State and National Organization.

Officers elected were: Mary Hustak, chairman; Thelma Swain, vice chairman; Joyce Eblen, secretary; and Robert Anderson, treasurer. Meetings were originally held the first Wednesday every other month at 8:00 p.m. at the Christian Education Center. Meetings are now held monthly. Charter membership was obtained December 10, 1977 and the next meeting was held January 4, 1978. Additional charter members are: Frances and Lester Hug, Pat and Dale Benolkin, Karen and Darrell Bloom, Joan and Daryl Franklin, LaVaughn and Andrew Haarstad, George and Rita Heydt, Linda and Harry Boyken, Mac and Sharon McCormack, Gerald and Roberta Gunderson, Dan and Carol Carolan, Lois Kobes, Charlotte Blume, Lavonne Elmer, Doris Sheely, Margaret Seath, and Pam Grover. The constitution and by-laws of the state association were adopted.

The first board members were Gerald Gunderson, Ruth Biedermann, Lillian Raasch, Chairman Mary Hustak and Secretary Joyce Eblen.

The primary purpose of the club is for members to be successful foster parents. They also act as advocates for children who are neglected, abused or abandoned by

their natural parents. They help children who are in need of special care because of a physical disability.

Association members make sure that their children, or children they sponsor have adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care and a proper education. They try to protect the children from conditions which seriously endanger the child's physical or mental health. Building the child's self esteem and happiness within the family structure is an important job to them and the community.

A grievance committee was formed in February 1980, when an approved procedure was approved by the welfare agency. Those appointed to this committee were Pat Benolkin and Lenny Miller. Ruth Biedermann was the alternate. Two foster parents, two social workers and one outside community citizen serve on this committee. The committee was set up to take care of persons believed to be treated unfairly in social service or other actions regarding children. This is a last resort procedure.

1981-82 officers are: Thelma Henricks, chairman, JoAnn Miller, vice chairman, Marilyn Stier, secretary and Karen Bloom, treasurer. The Board of Directors include: Pat Benolkin, Milly Kane, Jay Gehrke, JoAnn Miller, Marilyn Stier, Karen Bloom and Thelma Henricks. Jill Weikum of the agency staff is now liason person between the association and staff. She is instrumental in informing us of rules and law requirements from the state.

Mower County has one of the busiest chapters in Minnesota. They believe the role of the Mower County Foster Parent's Association is to be fully involved in children's rights. It takes vigilance, a willingness to change whatever hurts children and a commitment by many. Together we hope to achieve this goal.

by Joyce Eblen

By order of the Safety Commission March 19, 1918, the beautiful barberry, both green and purple leafed, was

destroyed, as it was charged with barberry rust that destroyed the cereal crops.

CEDAR VALLEY REHABILITATION WORKSHOP, INC.



Cedar Valley Rehabilitation Workshop — 1968



C.V.R. Workshop — 1984



1973 Building

The organization came into being when a group of concerned citizens, agencies, associations, and parents became convinced that many of the handicapped could be better served if suitable training and employment were available in this area. Prior to the opening of CVRW, most persons needing such services were referred to centers located in the Twin Cities. More often than not, such a transfer to a remote and unfamiliar area did not prove successful. The idea that many handicapped are more likely to benefit from services reasonably near their home community is now widely accepted. Articles of incorporation were signed on February 18, 1960, and Austin Achievement Corporation was conceived. Clifford Blowers was the first president of the corporation and Mrs. Laura Zemlin was the first director.

The purpose of this corporation is to establish, maintain, manage, and support through public and individual effort and appeal, a place or places, for the employment and training of persons who are handicapped, and to provide means whereby such persons can enter into gainful occupation, and in general, to carry on a program of rehabilitation of the disabled.

The first client entered the program in 1963. Since then more than 1,600 individuals have been served in one or more of the programs offered. In 1967, Tom Flannagan was hired as Executive Director. Also in 1967, an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation changed the

name of the corporation to Cedar Valley Rehabilitation Workshop, Inc.

Austin Achievement Center was located at 2201 4th St. NW. In early 1970, the move was made to the present building. At this time an 8,000 square foot addition and some remodeling to the existing building was made. Funds were received from grants, foundations, DVR for this project. The rest was raised through a fund drive.

In March of 1973, a satellite workshop was opened in Owatonna called Careers Training Center.

In 1976 a group of concerned citizens founded ROAR (Recreational, Opportunities, Action-Resources) who raised funds for outside activities for the clients of CVRW. This organization is still in existence today and supports many of the activities for clients.

In 1978, a fund drive was started in Owatonna to add 5,000 square feet to the existing building, which would allow for more work space, lunchroom, restrooms, etc.

In early 1979, CVRW manufactured its first item. It was called a survival kit and is still being sold by Kiwanis and other clubs nationwide. They also planned an expansion of 12,000 feet to the existing building. Cost of this project was \$600,000. Most of the funds were raised through foundations, grants, and a community fund drive.

In December of 1979, the executive director took a position in Duluth after 12 years at CVRW. In March, James R. Mueller was hired as new director. Our building project was completed and we moved in early in 1981. Also in December a satellite workshop was opened in Albert Lea called Career Industries. 30 clients, all from the Albert Lea area were headed by a staff of 4 full time and 1 part-time person.

Cedar Valley Rehabilitation Workshop, Inc. now has 150 persons in house with a staff of 21 full time and 2 part-time. Careers Training Center has 70 persons and 10 full time staff. Career Industries has 5 full time and 1 part-time staff, and 45 clients. The staff and persons interested in rehabilitation know that each year is a challenge, but they also know that "Rehabilitation Works."

by Lois Svedine

HISTORY OF THE FOOD COOPERATIVE

In the late winter of 1977-78 a group of interested people met to explore the possibility of establishing a food cooperative in Mower County. They included Janet Metcalfe, Dale and Thelma Himebaugh, Jared and Jill Peterson, Greg Hagen, Rose Kuth, Dan Getman, Winfield Ihlo, Trudye Gilbert, Russell Harding, Jim McDermott, and Vincent and Mary Anne Lynch.

The Mower County Coalition had authorized a task force to determine the feasibility of a food co-op, whether a store-front or a buying club. Mary Anne and Vincent Lynch co-chaired this task force; Janet Metcalfe, with the interest and support of the American Association of University Women, gave additional community aid.

The task force studied the dynamics of cooperative organizations and assembled potential membership lists. They sold shares, conducted meetings and researched locations, suppliers and legal matters. By the late summer of 1978, some 200 members had cleaned, refurbished, painted and stacked shelves in the former Petey's Drive-In building at Hwy. 105 S. and 16th Ave. SW.

With a Grand Opening in early September, the Mower County Food Cooperative had become a reality. It provided low-cost food in bulk, with the least possible

processing. Whenever possible, organically-grown food-stuffs were obtained, and local suppliers were sought out. Volunteers manned the store, clerking and cleaning while earning a discount on their purchases.

In the fall of 1981 the Co-op, now named the Good Earth Food Cooperative, moved to a new location in the old Austin Auto Co. building at 404 1st St. NE. It is open five days a week with an all-volunteer staff, a manager and a nine member Board of Directors. It offers a wide variety of whole-grain food products, beans, rice, dried fruits, nuts and spices and also provides certain hard-to-find toiletries, salt-free diet items and unique books.

With a present working membership of 120 families, the Food Co-op serves its members and the community. Each January a general meeting provides an opportunity for all stockholders to gather. The Co-op contributes to the community with such educational efforts as classes and a newsletter, by involvement in the Mayfest at the Austin Community College, by staffing a booth at the Mower County Fair, and by providing refreshments at the Hormel Nature Center's Pioneer Days.

Mary Anne Lynch, Austin, MN

HOT MEALS ON WHEELS

The first Meals on Wheels in Austin were delivered January 17, 1972. Promoters of the program were Mary Ellen Miller, Mower County Extension home agent, Sister Monessa Overby, Mrs. Thomas Seery of the St. Olaf Hospital Auxiliary and Mrs. Mansur Taufic. The first advisory board included: Mrs. Miller, Sister Ernan Norris, Administrator, Sacred Heart Hospice; Mrs. Seery and the clergy of the St. Olaf Lutheran, Sterling Christian, Westminster Presbyterian, St. Edwards, and Christ Episcopal Churches.

The program is completely funded by local organizations and individuals. A staff of volunteers serve the handicapped, the elderly and the homebound. It is not a low cost catering service. Rather, for some, the Hot Meals on Wheels has meant being able to remain in one's home instead of going to a nursing home. For others, it has meant a faster return home from a hospital stay. For many, it means improved health through a balanced meal every day, or a special diet as prescribed by a physician. Most meals are in this category. For all there is a smile and friendly greeting during the noon hour.

The delivery personnel are volunteers who furnish their own cars and deliver the noon meals between the hours of 11:30 and 12:30, Monday through Friday. In the first week of operation twenty-six meals were

delivered. The number has grown to 350 weekly. The first volunteer driver was Ursula Callahan. The first meals were prepared at Tommy's Supper Club. When special diets were added, about a year later, the meals were prepared at St. Olaf Hospital, where they could be supervised by a dietician. The bulk of the meals are still prepared there. For awhile some meals were prepared by St. Mark's Lutheran Home for occupants of the St. Mark's Apartments. Now the Sacred Heart Hospice prepares those meals. Hot meals are reassuring to families having elderly members living alone. They know their loved ones are receiving a proper diet.

The volunteer aspect of the Meals on Wheels program cannot be over emphasized. It is only through efforts of the kitchen staffs at St. Olaf Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospice, and the many volunteers, that the program can continue. Additional men and women are needed to aid Hot Meals on Wheels as volunteer drivers. Organizations and individuals wishing to make monetary contributions need only contact a board member. The 1983 board includes: Fred Horning, president; Flora Jane Bromley, vice president; Pat Burke, secretary; Kevin Sass, treasurer; Carol Ferguson, assistant treasurer; Abbie Earhart, Harold Frederick, Carroll Plager, Fritz TenEyck and Florence Vogel.

January, 1912—Austin Daily Herald—Plumbers will wear diamonds this year unless we have a change of temperature soon.

A Billy Sunday quote: I believe in church dignitaries who dig and church stewards who stew.

AUSTIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The Austin Education Association (AEA) was organized in October, 1943, with Miss Lena Grinley as chairperson of the Organization Committee. Miss Beulah Buswell was the first president; the first treasurer was William Evans.

Other AEA presidents have been: Hazel Murray, George Rabideau, Lena Grinley, Margaret Beck, Ernest Wilcox, Esther Frost, Charles Williard, William Kirchorfer, Lorraine Toft, Robert Bell, Maxine Proctor, Morton Carney, Alyce Purdham Runquist, Ben Rank, Jane Ann Harrigan, Frank Summerside, Myrtle Vietor, Harold Schwerr, Eugene Dunlap, Vern Nordaune and Jo Knobel. All are familiar names in the community; some are still teaching, and of those retired, many have continued to live in Austin and contribute to the community.

AEA membership in 1943 was 149. This number increased to 199 in the 1950's, and at the peak of school enrollment in the 1960's, the AEA had over 400 members. In spite of declining enrollment in recent years, this membership still is over 300.

The AEA is proud of its unified membership in the Minnesota Education Association and the National Education Association which also grew in influence during the 1950's and 1960's to better inform teachers of legislative activities affecting education. Austin teachers have been active in all organizations. Those serving as officers of the state organizations include Josephine Kremer, Lena Grinley, Frances Cashman and Jane Ann Harrigan. Morton Carney served as an officer of the National Vocational School group.

To inform the members and the public about educational issues, the AEA held evening programs with legislators, college presidents, world travelers and authors of educational material as guest speakers. Committees were formed to direct AEA members in other aspects of the organization that would be worked on at the state and national levels. Professional advancement, international relations, legislation, public relations and welfare were important at the local level. Banquets, teas and lunches were a part of the year's program.

Today the AEA continues to promote the teaching profession and the welfare of its members through its committee structure. The Governmental Relations committee actively lobbies the Legislature for adequate funding of education, protection of teacher rights, administrative organization and retirement improvements. It supports the active involvement of teachers in the election of candidates supportive of MEA legislative objectives.

The Instruction and Professional Development committee works to improve the professional competencies and qualifications of teachers. It provides workshops and seminars for educational growth and teacher welfare. Problems of stress, discipline, technology and class management currently are promoted.

The Teacher Rights committee focuses on protection of contractual and legal rights of teachers. It processes grievances, represents teachers at disciplinary hearings, and aids those who are laid off.

The Negotiations committee represents the district teachers at the bargaining table. Salaries and working conditions now are decided by collective bargaining every two years. The contract agreed upon with the district is binding on both and covers many conditions formerly dictated by Board policy.

The AEA operates with an elected Executive Board that supervises the continuing program. This policy and budget-setting body of the organization is the Faculty Representatives who come from every building and represent about ten teachers each.

AEA publishes an internal newsletter and promotes public support for education through news releases and sponsorship of American Education Week. Much of the local program is part of a larger one developed by MEA and administered by the South Central Uniserv Cluster, a cooperating group of education associations stretching from Adams to Blue Earth, Minnesota.

REBEKAH LODGE

Esther Rebekah Lodge No. 4, international in scope, was granted a charter March 10, 1870, as an auxiliary to Odd Fellows Lodge No. 20. Members were both men and women who sought "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan." The lodge is affiliated with the Rebekah Lodge of Minnesota, the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies and the Odd Fellows Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Over the years Esther Rebekah Lodge has supported not only the Minnesota Odd Fellows Home in Northfield but also the programs instituted by the Rebekah Assembly and Sovereign Grand Lodge:

1) maintaining a chair in Visual Research at Lord Hopkins University;

- 2) supporting an educational foundation for student loans at low interest;
- 3) supporting the World Hunger program;
- 4) contributing to a national drug program;
- 5) funding floats in the Rose Bowl and Minnesota Aquatennial parades;
- 6) supporting a youth camp at German Lake, Minnesota;
- 7) improving the Home at Northfield;
- 8) establishing a child-care center at the Northfield Home.

The Rebekahs and Odd Fellows are the only fraternal organization privileged to place a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C.

Mower County/Austin History—Section III

ON THE PRECIPICE OF WAR

“Goodbye dear. I’ll be back in a year, for I’m in the army now.”

These words were a part of a song which was popular in 1941. Many young men were subject to a peacetime draft to military service for a period of 12 months.

Despite the optimism of this song, most citizens of Mower County were aware that they lived under the clouds of war. The thunder was still in the distance. Each day’s headlines and every radio broadcast told of Europe’s battles. America was faced with the hard facts of international life. Hitler controlled all of Western Europe.

Company H, 135th Infantry of the Minnesota National Guard was placed on active duty January 14th and then mustered into federal service February 10, 1941. On February 25th Company H marched one more time to the depot in response to their country’s call. At Camp Claibourne, Louisiana they participated in the largest peacetime maneuvers in U.S. history.

An increasing number of the county’s men and women left to accept jobs in the defense plants. They helped to produce the masses of military equipment such as the 60,000 planes which were being turned out each year.

In this pre-war summer the people could still travel by auto without gas restrictions. Food and most other items were still readily available.

Saturday, December 6, 1941 was much as any other day. The *Herald* reported that “The Japanese Privy Council urged appointment of a special joint commission to attempt to solve the Pacific problem without a recourse to war.”

The movie at the Paramount Theater was “Keep Them Flying,” with Bud Abbott, Lou Costello and Martha Raye.

For one last day the people of Mower County, together with everybody else across the country, stood unaware on the very edge of the precipice.

Fear Dwelt in the Hearts

There was an extra edition of the *Herald* which went out on Sunday, December 7th. “We’re Really in War,” was the headline. “Japs Bomb Pearl Harbor Then Declare War on U.S.”

The *Herald’s* Pot Pourri on December 8th stated, “Fear dwelt in the hearts of a number of Austin relatives who know their loved ones were out in that part of the world where the skies dropped death and the seas wrought destruction.”

Very quickly the City of Austin and County of Mower took the official steps which war required.

December 11th the car dealers clamped down on the sale of new tires at the “request” of Washington.

December 13th the Mower County War relief campaign was scheduled to start soon.

On December 17th it was announced that blackout tests would begin in a month.

December 18th a new phrase “ration cards” were to become a part of life in Mower County. At first they would be limited to auto tires.

December 19th—Precautions against possible sabotage were announced. Recommendations were made for guards at the Municipal Plant, a defense guard at the airport, registration of men for extra police duty and the teaching of citizens to handle guns.

December 24th—19 Austin men got a draft call.

December 27th—Burt Plehal was appointed to head a waste paper roundup as a part of the defense effort.

December 31st—*Herald* editorial—“It is with a dark shadow resting over this nation that we end up the old year. The year ahead will be unlike any this nation has ever known. We have got to look on while the enemies of democracies score success after success and await our time to get ready.”

County Adjusted to War’s Demands in 1942

“You’re a sap, Mr. Jap, to make a Yankee cranky.”

This was the first line of a song which came out very shortly after Pearl Harbor. The second line suggested that “Uncle Sam will have to spank ye.”

This song was not destined for immortality, but it was one of the ways in which Americans picked up their spirits and moved on.

The length of service requirements for draftees was immediately changed from one year to the “duration of the emergency plus six months.”

In October, 1942 an alien was picked up and held in the county jail for whatever disposition the F.B.I. wished to make.

Two Austin boys faced each other in a professional football game on October 11, 1942. Wilbur Moore was the veteran halfback on the Washington Redskins. Warren Plunkett was the first year quarterback for the Cleveland Rams. Moore had starred at Austin High School and Plunkett at St. Augustine High School (now Pacelli).

The Redskins won by a score of 33-14. “Slingshot Sammy Baugh threw three touchdown passes for Washington. One of them was caught by Wilbur Moore who sailed 26 yards into the end zone.”

November 9th gas rationing began. Everybody registered for the Class A book. Those entitled to supplementary rations were to get a B or C book at a later date.

The first Austin serviceman to lose his life as a result of enemy action was announced December 23rd. He was Jack Armstrong, 23, a 2nd class machinist with the U.S. Navy.

Black Market Problems Tackled—1943

January 27th a Mower County Wartime Food Management Committee was activated and called a meeting of meat dealers to help find a solution to a most pressing problem, the black market.

February 20th—the *Herald* announced, “Don’t hoard,

but buy all the canned goods you will need next week, because none may be sold legally from midnight until March 1st. Serious food rationing, the first in American history. Sugar and coffee are already doled out on coupons. Tonight the unrationed sale of canned goods and vegetables stops. On about March 28th meat rationing will start. Soon rationing of butter, canned meats and canned fish will be rationed.

In February Austin voters approved an airport project. Authority was given for a \$135,000 bond issue to acquire land for a new site for the airport.

Attempted Removal of Sheriff Receives Publicity

During 1943 and 1944 there was a continuing effort to fire Mower County Sheriff Arnold Eckhardt. It was alleged that the sheriff solicited a bribe in connection with the slot machines in local clubrooms, and that he neglected to enforce gambling laws. The petition for his removal was signed by five members of the County Board of Commissioners.

The action was a continuing controversy until May, 1944, when Governor Thyne decided not to remove Eckhardt from office because the charges were inconclusive.

In December, 1944 the Austin City Council decided to purchase nine acres of the Marcusen property for a baseball park.

1945—The Year The War Ended

War was very much in the local picture the first part of the year. People gave a pint of blood and got a button. There was a bond drive set off with rallies. Rationing on new commodities were still in affect; sugar was especially short. Cigarettes were hard to get and a few women smoked pipes.

The free world celebrated on May 8th as Victory came in Europe. Then on August 14th Japan accepted the Allied surrender terms.

In Mower County blowing whistles and ringing bells signaled the war's end. In Austin the celebration opened with a two-day holiday. Autos went through the business district with horns blowing. One celebrant who evidently had saved them for the occasion set off fire-crackers. With faces wreathed in smiles people collected in groups on Main Street. After two days of restless suspense the news brought relief to those who waited patiently.

135 Mower County men gave their lives in World War II. During the year more than 2,000 Mower County servicemen and women were demobilized.

Following VJ Day, scarce items began to appear on the counters. A few nylon stockings were sold. Now automobiles appeared, but only for display purposes in dealers showrooms. All commodities except sugar eventually were removed from rationing.

Terp Destroyed

A Thanksgiving Day fire destroyed the Terp Ballroom. The loss was estimated at \$140,000.

Airport Issue

Most controversial question of the year was the airport issue. There were those who argued that the city should purchase the site at Lansing for the airport. Others felt that the Decker Airport should be developed further.

AHS Basketball Champs in 1946

In March, 1946, the Austin High School basketball team won the state basketball championship. The team, coached by Ove Berven, defeated Lynd High School in the final game.

Miscellaneous

On April 8 there were 1,668 more people employed in Mower County than in 1940.

In May the Hormel Company announced the average wage of its employees had reached 52.26 per week and the average goal wage of \$60 per week would now be sought as the next objective.

August 15: Infestation of corn borer in Mower County has taken hold more rapidly than expected. F. L. Liebenstein, county agent, reports.

August 22: Action is taken to postpone opening of public school here until September 16 because of Minnesota's polio epidemic.

Nov. 5: Albert Reinartz elected sheriff defeating incumbent Arnold Eckhardt. Wallace Sieh chosen new county attorney.

January 16, 1947: Newly elected Judge Phil Richardson, 29, presided over the municipal court after his appointment by Governor Luther Youngdahl.

March 27: Three doctors who had practiced in Mower County for more than 50 years were honored at a dinner in the Fox Hotel. They were: Dr. A. E. Henslin, 81; Dr. O. H. Hegge, 75; and Dr. G. J. Schottler, 76.

June 6: John Lafferty parachuted to safety near Decker Municipal Airport when an acrobatic plane he was flying went into an inverted uncontrolled spin and crashed.

July 14: Austin Bowl opened officially giving Austin a modern bowling alley.



Montgomery Ward Store and Mix Cleaners fire - 1947

August 29: A four-day labor festival sponsored by Local 9, United Packing House Workers, CIO opened at the fairgrounds. Mayor Hubert Humphrey of Minneapolis spoke at the festival.

December 19: Fire causes \$350,000 in damages; the largest in the city's history destroying the Montgomery

Ward Store, Mix Brothers Dry Cleaning establishment and Wellmann Prescription Shop.

February 6, 1948: A spread rail caused the wreck of three cars and the engine of the Great Western passenger train #31 about 2½ miles south of Lyle.

April 22: A \$3,500 airplane hangar fire was touched off when a 15-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl built a fire in the cockpit of Paul Hull's airplane in order to keep warm.

June 4: Austin rain making aviators peppered a rain cloud with dry ice near Rose Creek and were forced down in Grand Meadow in a rain storm.

September 2: LaVonne Luthé, Lansing 4-H girl, was named Minnesota Health Queen at the Minnesota State Fair.

November 17: The Austin airport resumed full operation under the direction of Glenn Hovland, new manager.

April 26, 1949: Dick Riedel formerly of Austin and Bill Barris landed their plane at Fullerton, California setting new endurance records of 1,008 hours aloft.

April 29: J. C. Penney Company announces it will occupy a large new building to be constructed by M. F. Dugan on the site of the former Montgomery Ward Store.

August 9: Mower County Pioneer Historical Building is dedicated in ceremonies opening the Mower County Fair.

August 15: P. G. Holland, secretary Mower County Fair, approaching 103,000 persons passed through the gates of the Mower County Fair setting a new record.

August 30: Care of Mower County polio patients thus far this year have cost the Mower County Polio Chapter \$29,246.

September 6: Enrollment in Austin Public Schools hits a new high mark of 4,787; a gain of 103 students over the previous year.

September 26: The County Fair officials decided to drop harness racing from the program because it has been a money loser.

December 30: Sheriff Al Reinartz announces the series of burglaries committed in and near Austin recently have been solved through the investigations of two youths arrested at Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

"Gone With The Wind" Again in 1950

It was as though the high winds were playing games with Austin's Hiway Theater. On October 10, 1949 a destructive wind caused heavy damage to the theater sign. The movie showing was "Gone With the Wind." In the spring of 1950 the theater was again in the path of the storm. A 55 mile per hour gale caused damage, blowing down the screen and fencing. The picture scheduled for that opening weekend was "Return of October."

July 12: The Mower County Commissioners began feasibility studies for a new courthouse.

August 30: Mower County draft board received call for 16 inductees. The first call received since the outbreak of the Korean War.

September 29: Walter E. Ruether, president of the United Auto Workers, spoke in Austin before a crowd of 1,000 persons.

Serious Bus-Truck Accident in 1951

February 19: Two women passengers were killed and 21 persons injured in a bus-truck accident north of Austin between a Jefferson Lines Bus and a Southern Truck Lines semi-truck. It caused the death of two and injury of 21. Before daybreak on that Monday, February 19, the bus northbound out of Austin riding on icy pavement and cutting through thick fog suddenly piled into a massive semi-truck inert on the side of the highway with no gas in its tank. The trucks parking lights threw a red blur into dark fog while the headlights shone from an Austin Cab Company taxi, parked on the wrong side of the shoulder to deliver an emergency can of fuel to the truck. The bus slithered way over to the right and slammed against the opposite side of the truck peeling off the left side of the bus, then plunged into the ditch; a tragic tangle of human flesh and rolling stock. Claims of \$300,000 to \$400,000 were allowed in court action.

November 13: Many township and village elections were postponed because of the heavy snows. Elections were held in about half of the community.

1952 Murder in Lyle

Pete Alegria, Brownsville, Texas, a Milwaukee Road gang member killed Floyd S. Collins, Champaign, Illinois at Lyle and wounded Bascillo Espinosa, Chicago.

August 21: One of three boars which escaped from the Hormel stockyard was shot by Officer Heye Hemmen on the Great Western tracks near College and Jay after a long chase.

September 23: Leslie Caron, 20, ballet dancer and actress from Paris, France and George A. Hormel II were married in the Little Church of the West in Las Vegas, Nevada.



George Hormel II and movie actress Leslie Caron. The couple received nationwide publicity when they were married in 1952.

October 6: Paul Lightly, Oakland, an Austin FFA member took top price of \$207.50 at the 14th annual production-tested boar sale at the Mower County Fairgrounds.

October 31: Six pranksters received fines of \$20 for turning over outhouses in District 101 in Lansing Township. It was one of the quietest Halloweens in years city and township officers said.

November 2: A bronze star with oak leaf cluster and a

citation were presented to Mrs. Arnold Brandt, 100 South First Street, for her husband, Lt. Col. Brandt. Col. Brandt was a prisoner in North Korea.

Harbo Report Stresses Year of Building

"The outstanding effort of the 1952-53 school year is the start of construction of a vocational school building," said Supt. of Schools L. S. Harbo. Other construction included completion of Woodson and Banfield schools.

Also nearing completion was an addition to Neveln School which had previously been destroyed in a February 5th gas explosion. The blast fatally injured George E. Spicer, 36, St. Paul and also injured two other workmen. Nearly 400 children were marched to safety by 11 teachers. The blast was traced to a cracked gas line.

Building Boom Peaks in 1955

December 30, 1955: The building boom reached a new near peak in Austin in 1955 when 267 homes were spread for contract. Most homes started in 1950 were 388.

Rose Marie Peterson is American Dairy Princess

Rose Marie Peterson, Princess Kay of the Milky Way and American Dairy Princess will add a new national flavor next week. She will leave Minnesota Sunday and will go to Bogota, Columbia where she will appear daily at the International Dairy Fair under the auspices of the dairy industries system international. The Lansing farm girl will represent the U.S. Dairy Industry at the request of the department of agriculture.

Centennial Celebration in 1956

The celebration was the biggest thing Austin had ever seen. It was a time for the tribute to those pioneers who first settled along the Cedar River. The conclusion of the observance will be sometime in 1957 when the time capsule is secured beneath the marker of Chauncey Leverich's grave.

Congregational Church Burned

There were several destructive acts in the city in 1956. The old First Congregational Church was burned on April 9th and the Jones Building on April 22nd. The arson was admitted by a 22-year-old Austin man.

The roof of the municipal airport hangar blew off and landed in Trailer Village across the road on March 26.

The most controversial issue of the year was whether or not to place flourides in the city water for the protection of children's teeth from tooth decay. By a vote of 4,667 to 2,563 the issue for flourides was defeated.

The climax of a building project costing over one million dollars occurred June 24 and the new wing of St. Olaf Hospital was officially opened on the beginning of the hospital's 60th year.

Brownsdale residents balloted five times in an attempt to merge their district with Austin. The vote failed and the students went to Rose Creek and Glenville for the year. In the Elkton area five districts joined the consolidated district and at LeRoy 18 districts consolidated. Brownsdale community completed their building housing their library and fire station. The centennial celebration capped their year.

Austin's First Triplets—1957

Eric, Mark and John Sundet were born October 19, to make medical history here. The Harold Sundet's are

more than satisfied with what 1957 brought them. Eric weighed 7 lbs. 8 ozs.; Mark 6 lbs. $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.; and John is 6 lbs. 1 oz. at birth.

1958

Far reaching was the venture to sell stock in the Austin-Hotel-Motel projected to bring Austin on the map for conventions and other events requiring space for dining and sleeping. The drive went over the top and the city is considering a site on Lansing Avenue (First Drive N.W.) which will take several acres of land from Horace Austin State Park, which has been deeded to the city.

Commanding widespread attention was the conversion of the J. C. Hormel home into Kingswood; a restaurant by George A. Hormel II.

The belt line made great strides in 1958, speeded by long, dry autumn season.

The Minnesota Press Women made Mrs. Geraldine Rasmussen press woman of the year.

1959

Mower County got its 13th village, Racine, a 102-year-old community in the northeast corner of the county.

A new Hormel Institute Building was started.

A six-year-old Brownsdale school district hassle was settled with Brownsdale voters agreeing to merge with Hayfield.



Gateway to Horace Austin State Park

The park area was deeded to the city when the Red Cedar Inn was built in 1959.



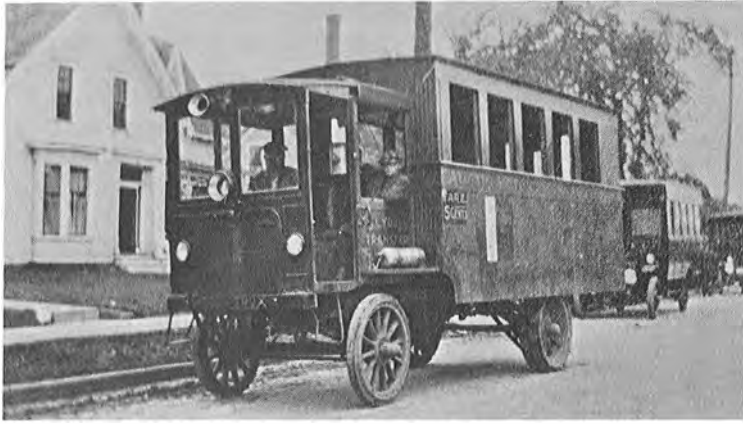
Jay C. Hormel Home became Kingswood Restaurant in 1958

This stately mansion, located east of Austin, is 360' long, has 97 rooms, including more than 30 bathrooms. Construction began in 1925. Additions were made to the main home several times.

The floor in the formal living room and the former office of Jay Hormel is teakwood. The "Gold Room," upstairs bedroom in center of the home, has an area enclosed with ornate woodwork imported from an old church in France.

French and English refugees were cared for in this home during World War II. The home is now owned by Gerard Schools of Minnesota.

(Information furnished by Mrs. Sharon Jensen)



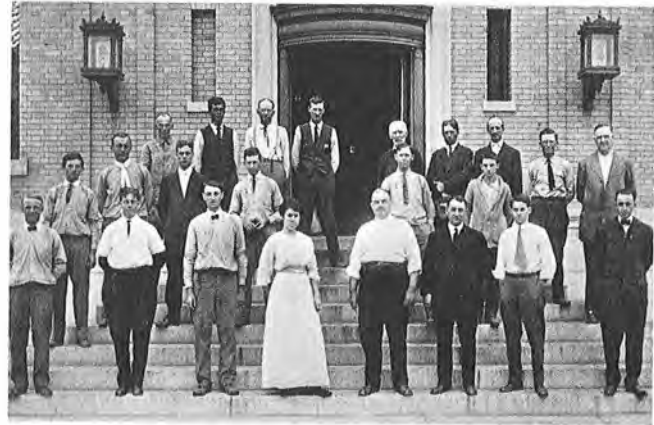
This is Austin's first motor bus, called the "jitney." The converted truck was put into operation in 1915 by S. L. Young.



Ray Garvey was Austin's veteran bus driver. Beginning in the days of the "jitney," he continued through the years when Austin had as many as 14 modern buses in operation. During this latter period the Austin Bus Lines was owned by James Schmlieder and then was operated by driver-owners; Harold Allen, William Gaughran, Lee Cummings, Stanley Bakke, Harry Larson, Melvin Olson and Kenneth Kenfield. The buses made their last tour of Austin in 1957.



The Austin Post Office from 1912 to 1964. An addition, which doubled the working area, was completed in the early 1930s.



Post office personnel in the early 1900s. Effie Howe is lady in front row, Harry Rutherford second from left, Oscar Finbraaten, top of steps. Group also includes Frank Kearns, Bill Johnson and Frank Fiala Sr.



Dean Hotson was a rural mail carrier for many years.

Edith Morey

One of the questions which provided public controversy during the mid-1960s was whether or not Edith Morey should remain as a teacher in the Austin Public School system. Many parents expressed their opinion that Miss Morey was a superior teacher. School officials maintained that she did not follow the required procedures in her methods of grading and examinations. Miss Morey challenged dismissal procedure through legal proceedings.

In June, 1965 the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled for a second time that the Austin School Board had failed to submit evidence to support dismissal charges. Miss Morey was then retained in a non-teaching capacity.



Chicago Great Western Station

At 5:10 a.m., Thursday, September 30, 1965, the CGW passenger train No. 14 left Austin for Minneapolis, ending all passenger service to Austin. The CGW came to Austin in 1885.

Other 1965 News Events

On September 3, 1965, a burning cat ignited a barn fire on the Chris Schiech farm near Waltham.

In October the Chicago Great Western passenger train made its last trip through Austin.

Two fires in November destroyed the Cashway Lumber Store and Oak Grove Activity Center. There was \$200,000 damage.

Hormel Co. and Union Make Joint Announcement

The biggest news story for Austin residents in 1966 was the announcement December 14 by Fayette Sherman, vice president of industrial relations at George A. Hormel & Company and Frank W. Schultz, president of Local 9 UPWA, of the withdrawal of 52 week notices issued March 7 to 320 Austin plant employees.

Local 9 in July made the firm a number of proposals which the union said were reasonable and realistic and which would work toward a gradual solution of the problems which had existed at the Austin plant.

Austin State Junior College—Fox Hotel and Sears

Classes started in September at the new Austin State Junior College.

An old Austin landmark, the Fox Hotel, closed its doors after better than 70 years in business in October. Soon after the wreckers took over to make way for the new Austin State Bank.

The new Sears, Roebuck & Company shopping complex opened in October.

Fire Destroys Nelson's Supermarket in 1967

Top story for 1967 in the Austin area was the fire which gutted Glen Nelson's Supermarket January 7 with damage estimated at \$1,500,000. The blaze sent several families fleeing for shelter in sub-zero weather.

January, 1967, was also the month for Greenman Plumbing & Heating fire which hit January 29. Gutted in the blaze was the old Hormel Mill, long an Austin landmark.

Second place story was the announcement November 24 of a \$2.5 (m) apartment, shopping complex to be built near the YMCA by a St. Paul firm.

Courthouse demolished

Midtown Austin took on a different look after the old Victorian Mower County Courthouse was leveled in the spring of 1967. The high white dome which had been dominating the skyline since the early 1880s was no more.

The building was demolished and the brick and stone was hauled to the Mower County Fairgrounds for fill. The dome and other historical items were also hauled to the fairgrounds where they are now on display.

\$4.7 Million Dollar Bond Issue

Top story for 1970 in the Austin area was the approval of a \$4.7 (m) bond issue by Austin School District voters April 29.

Monies were used for construction of a new Austin Area Vocational-Technical School and swimming pool at Ellis Junior High School and remodeling of the present Vocational School for high school use.

That same year voters in Rose Creek, Adams and Elkton School districts approved consolidation of the three schools. A similar move towards consolidation by Hayfield and Dodge Center voters was turned down March 10.



Marigold Dairy/Austin Herald Annex

This building was purchased from the Marigold Dairies in the 1950s and was converted to a pressroom annex to the *Austin Daily Herald*. It was destroyed by fire in January 1970. The *Herald* then purchased and converted another Marigold Dairy building for their newspaper operation.

A new Crossroads Center was opened in Austin. The new shopping center included Piggly Wiggly, Osco Drug, Kinney Shoe and Fabricland. The Northwestern State Bank also occupied their new facility in the autumn.

Austin's biggest fire in 1970, the *Austin Herald* Annex blaze, brought a news story right to the news staff on January 6th. The fire knocked out press facilities until November 1970, when the *Herald* was published for the first time in its new quarters in the former Marigold building. Damage in the blaze was estimated at \$350,000.

Twin Towers Constructed

The Twin Towers in Austin was made possible through a 4 million dollar loan from the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development. One tower is ten stories high and the other nine, with a total of 165 units. The project also included another 40 housing units in the city. Construction was begun in 1971 and completed in 1973.

The Austin Senior Citizens Center was established in 1971.

In September, 1971, a fire of unknown origin destroyed the Hunting feed mill at Grand Meadow.



St. Olav Hospital was organized by Drs. O. H. and C. A. Hegge. This first Austin hospital was dedicated on August 4, 1897.



With a slight change in spelling this was St. Olaf Hospital in the 1920s and 30s.



This is St. Olaf Hospital in 1984. It was completed in 1976.

The Hormel Company Almost Left Austin

The top news story for both 1977 and 1978 was the tumultuous efforts by the Hormel Company and CIO Local No. 9 to negotiate a union contract which would assure the construction of a new packing house building in Austin.

The tension was heightened by events such as the layoff notices to 325 employees on September 10, 1977 and the decision to build a 10 million dollar gelatin plant in Davenport, Iowa instead of in Austin.

The darkest day was on May 26, 1978 when the company announced that negotiations would cease and a decision had been made not to rebuild in Austin. However, negotiations did resume and a new proposal was offered on June 22nd. On June 27th the union ratified a new three year contract by a 1,324 to 502 vote.

The entire Austin area breathed a sigh of relief.

Devastating Floods

Austin's worst flood in recorded history came on July 6 & 7, 1978, with a record 19 ft. 5 inches. Hundreds of citizens were evacuated from their homes and 1,000 homes and businesses were damaged.

On July 17th another record breaking torrent came down the Cedar River following 9 inches of rain at Waltham. The flood waters reached a crest of 21 feet, 9 inches at the sewage treatment plant. Again hundreds of people were forced to evacuate their homes.

Flood control became a matter of civic concern and groups were formed to investigate ways and means.

Mower County in the 1980's

A historian wrote in 1884 that the Mower County pioneers had "witnessed a trackless wilderness and prairie transformed into a beautiful country filled with an enterprising people." In the ensuing hundred years these same farmlands have been transformed into acres which yield four and five times what was produced per acre in 1884. The enterprise of our farmers has remained constant.

Today's farm would seem a miracle of ingenuity to the 1884 farmer. The modern farm home also reflects all of the conveniences which have been added to our society. Even so, the very efficiency of the modern farmer has produced a result which could not have been anticipated a century ago.

The farmers in Mower County have been a part of the evolution which has occurred in agriculture throughout the United States. The number of farmers has declined rapidly in the last two decades. Meanwhile, the size of the individual farms have doubled and tripled in size.

In 1960 Mower County had a population of 48,498. In 1980 the county's population was 40,390, a decline of 17%.

Towns and Villages

The changes which have taken place on the farm have also had an effect on Mower County's towns and villages. With a reduction in commerce with the farmers, many of the village residents have become commuters to occupations in nearby cities. In this way they continue the meaningful lifestyle they have established in the pleasant towns of the county.

Mower County citizens can be proud of the schooling which is provided to their children and young people. Education has been centralized in the county's population centers with the consolidation of the 1940s. The Community College and the Vocational Technical Institute in Austin provides area opportunities for post high school education.

One of the primary goals in the county is to provide sufficient job opportunities for the young men and women we educate. Achieving this goal would be a big help in maintaining the health of our economy with the vitality of youth.

Austin

For many years Austin has been a city of home owners. These homes reflect the pride and care of the citizens. This has been just one facet of a healthy and civic minded city.

Austin's economy is dependent on several factors, but one industry has had the greatest impact for over 90 years. This is the George A. Hormel Company. It is the city's principal employer. For many years Hormel's labor relations with the Local P-9, representatives of plant employees, has had mutual benefits. The Hormel Company has had a constant and efficient work force; the best in the meat packing industry. During these same years the Hormel employees have had the most liberal wage and benefits among contemporary packing house workers.

The City of Austin has been influenced by changes in industry in much the same way that new farm methods have affected the county. In 1960 Austin had a population of 27,908. The 1980 census showed a count of 23,020, a decline of almost 18%. Industrial production requires less workers.



Downtown Austin - 1984

One section of population has shown an increase. There are an increasing number of senior citizens. The city was prompt in anticipating the housing needs of these older people. In 1973 the Twin Towers was completed with the help of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1982 the Pickett Place was completed with the assistance of the same U.S. housing authority.

Private developers have also been active in building

several condominiums: such as The Cedars, in downtown Austin; The Oaks, north of Oak Park Mall and East Lake Villas, overlooking East Side Lake, construction of which was begun in July, 1984.



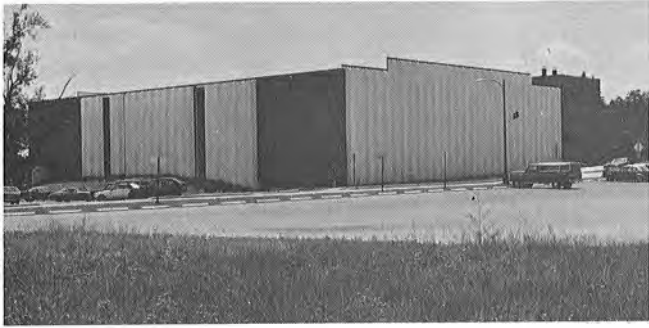
Old Hormel Plant, closed in 1982, continued to be demolished in 1984.



Large Shopko store opened in Oak Park in Spring of 1984



Old Headquarters building moved to Fairgrounds in 1983. In a move initiated by George and Nolan Dugan, this 128-year-old Austin business building and community center made its fourth and final journey. The building was at one time a blacksmith shop operated by Tom Dugan, an ancestor of George and Nolan.



23,000 sq. foot super gym added to Y.M.C.A. in 1982



1858 brick home to be preserved as a historic building at original location in arena west.



Roy and Helen Holmes at their Spring Farm—
now Austin Country Club

(Harold J. Davison Photo Collection)



Austin Country Club - 1984

(Carroll Plager Photo)

Mower County Population (1980 Census)

40,390—51.3% female. The age breakdown shows 7.0% under 5 years of age, 72.3% 18 years and over, 15.8% 65 and over. The median age was 33.9.

TOWNSHIP POPULATION

Adams	514
Austin	2386
Bennington	209
Clayton	191
Dexter	337
Frankford	359
Grand Meadow	364
Lansing	1558
LeRoy	422
Lodi	309
Lyle	500
Marshall	411
Nevada	467
Pleasant Valley	328
Racine	483
Red Rock	872
Sargeant	338
Udolpho	535

Waltham	477
Windom	657
Total	11,717

CITY POPULATION

Adams	797
Austin	23,020
Brownsdale	691
Dexter	279
Elkton	139
Grand Meadow	965
Le Roy	930
Lyle	576
Mapleview	253
Racine	285
Rose Creek	371
Sargeant	95
Taopi	96
Waltham	176
Total	28,673

The records reveal 11,145 families, 14,969 households with an average of 2.65 persons per household.

(News items in this section were digested from the *Austin Daily Herald*)

NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY



Early National Guard Armory

This was headquarters for Company G in the early days. It was located on the northeast corner of Main Street at Oakland Avenue.

The local National Guard through its many changes in designation and mission, dates back to the Civil War and the formation of a military company which became the Mower County Guards, Company K, 4th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. This 32 man company left Austin on October 15, 1861, and joined the 3rd Minnesota Regiment at Fort Snelling. The unit participated in the battle of Iuka, Mississippi, on September 19th and 20th, 1862, in which six men from Austin were wounded.

A man who volunteered for duty in the Civil War received more in benefits than the draftee. He received a bounty of 25 dollars, one month's pay in advance, and 75 dollars at the end of his term of service together with 160 acres of bounty land. His family received assistance during his absence. The man who was drafted received 11 dollars per month and no bounty.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR



Company G in 1882

The first local National Guard Company, Company G, was organized in 1882 as a cavalry troop. A year later it

was reassigned as part of the 135th Infantry Regiment, Minnesota National Guard. At the time it was organized, the company officers were: Captain J. S. Anderson, 1st Lieutenant H. W. Elms and 2nd Lieutenant Frank Richards.

In 1898, Company G volunteered in a body for duty in the Spanish-American War. The company was brought up to wartime strength by the enlistment of additional men and became part of the Twelfth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Company G, officered by Captain Fred B. Wood, 1st Lieutenant Alfred C. Page and 2nd Lieutenant Nicholas Nichol森; went into quarters at Camp Ramsey (State Fairgrounds), April 29, 1898, and was mustered into United States service May 6. During the summer Company G, as part of the Twelfth Regiment, received training in camps in Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky. The war was quickly over however, and they returned to Camp Mueller near New Ulm, September 17, 1898. Following a thirty day furlough, Company G was mustered out of federal service on November 5, 1898.

MEXICAN BORDER INCIDENTS

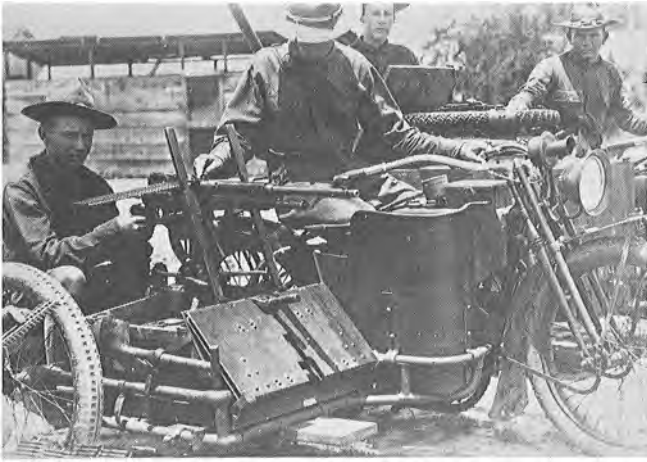


**Company G, M.N.G., June, 1910
Captain A. C. Page was in command**

Raids across the international border into Texas by Mexican revolutionary bands led to the dispatching of U.S. troops. On June 23, 1916, all National Guard units were ordered to be ready immediately for duty on the Mexican border. On June 26, Company G entrained for Fort Snelling and the next day was at Camp Bobleiter as part of the 2nd Regiment. On July 15, 1916, the company left Fort Snelling for Llano Grande, near Mercedes, Texas, going by the way of Albert Lea.

The pay the men received may seem very low by present standards. They were paid two dollars a day until mustered into Federal service, after which they got \$16.50 per month plus clothing, food and medical care. If they were sent to the Mexican border, they would get an additional twenty percent. Corporals, on the other hand, received seventy cents a day and sergeants a dollar.

On January 24, 1917, Company G arrived home,



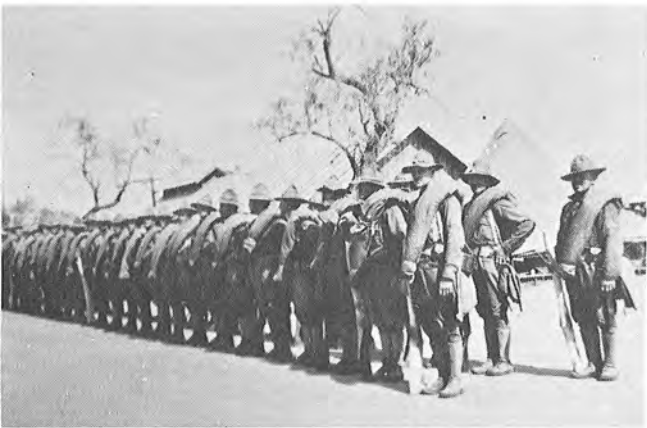
Motorcycle Corps, 1916



Armory Served Over Fifty Years
Dedicated in September, 1912, this armory on 1st Ave. N.E., Austin, gave good service until October, 1963.



Minnesota National Guard Training at Camp Perry, 1910



The National Guard at the Mexican Border - 1916

coming down from Fort Snelling on a special train. That evening they were the guests of honor at a banquet at the M.E. Church and a dance at the armory. The company officers were: Captain Peter Johnson, 1st Lieutenant Frank Draeggert and 2nd Lieutenant Smith.

WORLD WAR I

The United States declared war on the Imperial Government of Germany on April 6, 1917. Immediately thereafter an enlistment drive was started to bring Company G up to its peacetime strength of 100 men. The company at that time numbered 60. On May 21, Captain Peter Johnson received the following message: "The Secretary of War directs that existing organizations of the National Guard, not in Federal Service, be recruited to maximum strength. Proceed at once to comply with this request." Signed, Col. W. T. Mollison. To meet this request required the recruitment of an additional 80 men.

The Minnesota National Guard was called into federal service July 15, 1917, by proclamation of President Wilson. For the third time in its history, Co. G was mobilized for the service of the country. By the same proclamation the guard was discharged from the state militia and became part of the United States Army on August 5th. At the time of mobilization the officers of Company G were: Captain Alfred C. Page, First Lieutenant Olaf B. Damm and Second Lieutenant George A. Damm.

All the churches of Austin united in giving Company G a banquet on July 28. There were also benefit dances at the Armory, pavement dances in the city streets, smokers, banquets and luncheons. All honored Company G and raised money for a fund used for sick benefits and extras that Uncle Sam didn't provide. August 9th, was "Pie Day." Pies came in by the dozen from Austin bakers and by the hundreds from the women of Austin, each vying to make the best pie.

On August 24th, seven men: Horatio Stalcup, Aaron Saeger, Claude Winn, Henry W. Pittsley, William B. Hyde, Charlie Mohs and Glen R. Tatham went to Fort Snelling as part of a 50 man regimental quota and were transferred to the 1st Regiment Minnesota Field Artillery. They sailed from Mineola, Long Island, on October 18, 1917, and arrived at St. Nazaire, France, on October 31st.

It wasn't until September 27, 1917, that Company G paraded from the flagstaff in front of the courthouse to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul depot. There they boarded the train that took them and the rest of the Second battalion, Second Regiment south for training. The entire Second Regiment met at El Paso, Texas. On the next day, October 2nd, they reached Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico. There they became the 136th U.S. Infantry. The company spent almost a year at Camp Cody drilling and training. During that time some of the men were taken as replacement troops. In September, 1918, they moved to Camp Dix, New Jersey, sailing October 12, to Glasgow, Scotland, then going to LeHavre, France, as replacement troops.

MINNESOTA HOME GUARDS

With the Minnesota National Guard mustered into Federal service, the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety was organized and charged with maintaining the peace and defending the state. To meet this responsibility, the commission on April 28, 1917, issued Order No. 3 making provisions for the organization of a Home Guard. Company C of the 7th Battalion, Minnesota Home Guards was stationed at Austin commanded by Captain J. N. Nichol森. Other officers included 1st Lieutenant George E. Anderson and 2nd Lieutenant J. E. Detweiler. Doctor Emory C. Rebman, who had been a private in the company, was commissioned first lieutenant and surgeon and assigned to the Seventh Battalion.

Company C had the distinction of being one of the largest infantry companies in the world, with nearly 500 men enrolled in its regular and auxiliary units. On one occasion, 349 uniformed and partially uniformed men turned out for inspection by the governor of the state.

In December, 1917, responding to a mobilization order by the Governor, Captain Nichol森 and 154 men went on ten days of active duty in Saint Paul. They performed guard duty to prevent rioting during a strike by street car workers in the Twin Cities. Company C was demobilized after Armistice Day.

COMPANY H

The local National Guard unit was redesignated as Company H effective May 1, 1921. The Company G designation was transferred to Hutchinson, Minnesota. Company H was a heavy weapons company commanded by Captain Walter E. Tollefson. The armory, which was in service then, had been completed in September of 1912. Through the efforts of Tollefson and his men, funds in the amount of \$26,000 were raised and the armory was doubled in size.

The first mobilization of the local National Guard unit for state service was on May 23, 1934. A good indicator of the readiness of the guard is shown by the fact that the first notice to mobilize was received at 2:30 in the after-

noon on the 23rd; mobilization was completed at 5:25 and the unit was on duty at the tractor building in Minneapolis by 4:00 the following morning. Company H was mobilized by Governor Olson to prevent further violence in connection with a Minneapolis truckers strike. They were transported to the Twin Cities in a large moving van belonging to the Kough Taxi Company, a small truck from the Stern's Taxi Company and seven taxicabs.

WORLD WAR II

Company H, 135th Infantry, Minnesota National Guard was placed on active duty on January 14, 1941, and mustered into federal service on February 10th with a strength of four officers and ninety-two enlisted men. The company was led by Captain Roy Roach along with Second Lieutenants Bill Pribble, Byron Bradford and Al Nelson. The First Sergeant was Arnold Brandt. For the next fifteen days they called the Austin Armory home. Guard duty, military tactics, crew drill as well as K.P. became part of the normal daily routine. Sleeping accommodations were set up in the armory and actual military life became a reality.



Company "H", 135th Infantry, Minnesota National Guard at the 34th Division Review July 2, 1941. Camp Claiborne, La.

On February 25, the local National Guard company again made the march to the depot responding to their nation's call,—the fourth time in 59 years. They were sent to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, which was then little more than a sea of mud. There they participated in the largest peacetime maneuvers in United States history. Following Pearl Harbor and United States entry into the war, Company H was sent to Lake Pontchartrain as a part of the southern coastal defense.

On January 11, 1942, the company arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey and replacements were assigned to bring the company up to 205 men. While waiting for transportation overseas, they took part in drills and training on the firing ranges. Company H, commanded by Captain Byron Bradford, sailed from New York on the S.S.

Aquatania on April 29, 1942. After stops at Halifax and Belfast they arrived at Grenick, Scotland. There the troops were transferred to three smaller ships to be transported to Londonderry, Northern Ireland, on May 12, 1942. Training at various camps in Northern Ireland continued until October 17, 1942.

The next stop for the company was North Africa and the landing at Oran, where they faced the crack Afrika Corps. Following the end of the fighting there, they took part in the landing at Salerno, Italy, in the fall of 1943, and began the long campaign up the Italian boot. Naples, the Volturno River and Mont Cassino followed. As part of the 135th Infantry they were the first unit to enter Rome. Pisa, Florence, Bologna and the Po Valley were next on the schedule for Company H, taking them up to the surrender of Germany in May of 1945.

The men of the 135th, including Company H, were in combat for 600 days; the most days for any outfit during 44 months of war. Of the original 84 men who left Austin for Camp Claiborne, 19 were still with the company when they left Italy on October 22, 1945. Approximately 1,100 men passed through the roster of Company H during the war. They mustered out at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, on November 3, 1945.

In April of 1946 the Department of the Army announced plans to form the 47th (Vikings) Infantry division in North Dakota and Minnesota. As part of that division, Company H, under the command of Captain George N. Roope, was granted Federal recognition on June 30, 1947. Two officers and 24 enlisted men answered the first role call. From 1947 to 1950, a succession of very able officers commanded the company. Following Captain Roope they were: Captain Charles Willard, Captain Delmer E. Pepper, First Lieutenant later Captain Sidney W. Russell and First Lieutenant Clyde F. Seiver.

KOREA

Through the latter half of 1950, the Company H schedule of training and inspections was accelerated in preparation for war mobilization. The company was called to federal duty for the fifth time January 16, 1951. Three officers, a warrant officer and 87 enlisted men, under the command of Captain Sidney Russell, left by train for Camp Rucker, Alabama. There they were trained to fighting strength and then split up to fight in the Korean War. Company H did not return to Austin as a unit. As each guardsman's enlistment expired, he was mustered out at the camp in which he was serving.

The local company was again activated as an active peacetime reserve unit of the Minnesota National Guard and received Federal recognition on January 16, 1953. Recruitment was stressed and by the end of 1953 the company could claim six officers and 87 enlisted men. First Lieutenant Jack Lake assumed command of Company H on May 8, 1953. Following Lieutenant Lake, company commanders from 1953 to 1962 were: Captain M. Boeck, Captain William E. Buechner, Captain David



Inspection in the Old Armory May 9, 1955

F. Reinhartz and Captain Clair A. Tenhoff. For the most part these men came up through the ranks to lead the men of company H.

On February 21, 1959, Company H, then commanded by Captain Buechner, was redesignated as Combat Support Company, 2nd Battle Group, 135th Combat Arms Regiment, 47th Division. On April 2, 1963, the Austin guard was again redesignated. They became a detachment of the Rochester based 4th Battalion Headquarters Company, 135th Infantry Regiment. Lieutenant James Cherwinka was the detachment commander.



New National Guard Armory

This modern armory was erected at a cost of \$260,000. It is situated east of Austin adjoining the airport.

Later that year, on October 13, the local guardsmen moved into a new \$260,000 armory at 800 21st Street Northeast. The old armory, which had been first occupied in September of 1912, had fulfilled its mission, both for army and for community use.

A tornado hit parts of Southern Minnesota during the early evening of Sunday, April 30, 1967. Because of a great deal of damage at Waseca, Minnesota, the local National Guard unit was called upon to provide security. They arrived at Waseca at two in the morning of May 1, 1967, and remained there for two days. They patrolled to protect property and aided in the cleanup.

COMPANY B

In January, 1972, the local guard became Company B, 47th Supply & Transport Battalion. They were authorized to add one officer and 60 enlisted men to the force. Captain Gerald Kramer commanded the group which now had an impressive array of over 80 vehicles. The unit has received numerous high awards, including the Eisenhower Trophy for 1982 as the best unit in the State of Minnesota. Also in 1982, they received a Superior Award from the National Guard Bureau for the best training of all units in Minnesota.

In 1983, Captain Stanley C. Bergan commands Company B which has five officers, one warrant officer and 161 enlisted personnel. Also included are seven full-time employees. The Platoon leaders are 2nd Lieutenants Donovan K. Hague, Michael R. Goetz, Russell Tesmer II and James E. King. The warrant officer in the maintenance section is CW03 Robert W. Tretter.

The Unit Administrator is SFC Thomas A. Wacholtz and the Training NCO is SFC Gary E. Miller. NCOs and Platoon Sergeants are 1SG Robert A. Thome, SSG Douglas G. MacIntosh, PSG Garry E. Ellingson, PSG Eugene E. Salisbury, PSG Lucas G. Luna, PSG Larry A. Waters and SSG Stephen J. Drees.

The other enlisted personnel in the company are: James J. Adams, Allan J. Anderson, Randy W. Anderson, Reuben F. Anderson, Rudolph W. Anderson, Steven D. Andrews, Gregory L. Arens, Rueben Avelar, Joseph A. Baldus, Ivan N. Bartholomew, Steven J. Bartley, Joseph Bellrichard, Robert Bellrichard, Wayne Bellrichard, James M. Best, Mike H. Bradford, Gary D. Butts, Everett C. Carlson, David A. Carpenter, David F. Coughlin, James C. Crichton, Clair E. Dagestad, Dennis J. Dagestad, Earl L. Davis, Scott A. Deike, Charles J. Dibble, Donald A. Dieser, Anthony S. Dodge, Keith J. Dodge, Jannette M. Eck, Carl A. Ellis, Charles E. Ferguson, Paul J. Foran, Ronald L. Frazer.

Julian A. Gehrke, Robert D. Giles, Robert D. Glowac, Jr., John P. Goergen, John M. Grant, Karon A. Grebin, Michael E. Greenlee, Paul C. Greenlee, Douglas E. Groh, Douglas J. Guse, Robert E. Gwin, Charles A. Halsey, Dennis G. Hamberg, Axel M. Hansen II, Leroy J. Harty, Jr., Robert J. Hebl, Kimberly L. Hegna, Bruce P. Hemphill, Paul D. Henschel, Kent J. Hessling, Daniel L. Hoerter, Robert A. Holland, Richard D. Holstad, Patrick F. Huinker, Rodney W. Hutchinson, John L. Jensen, Kendahl Jochumsen, Delbert C. Johnson, Gordon A. Johnson, James A. Johnson, Norman D. Johnson, Michael G. Jones, Roy C. Jons, Michael A. Judd.

David W. Kamp, Frank A. Karnes, Wayne H. Kenitz, Jay G. Kestner, Douglas L. Kinny, Kristine K. Klock, Richard J. Kramer, Joseph E. Krebsbach, Darrell A. Kroneman, Richard C. Kubat, Robert E. Kvam, Vernell A. Larson, Bradley L. Lee, Danny A. Lee, Richard E. Lehto, Glenn R. Lemcke, Curtis W. Lerum, Orrin R. Lerum, James V. Lewison, John R. Lochner, Steven L. Long, Mark C. Luna, Robert C. Luthe, Shaun M. Lynch, Karen R. MacIntosh, Peter D. Marks, Dennis L. Maschka, Donald G. May, Jerome C.

McCarthy, Robert C. Mead, David O. Miller, Donovan C. Mitchell, Delmar D. Mullenbach, Dennis Mullenbach, Lee A. Mullenbach, Randy S. Murphy.

Patrick P. Nelson, Paul A. Nelson, William C. Nelson, Donald L. Nerad, Barbara J. Neste, Donald M. Nordine, Randall P. Odegaard, Steven M. Olson, George C. Percival, Richard J. Peterson, Robert M. Placek, Clifford D. Pratt, Kenneth M. Pruka, Ray M. Quintanilla, Robert L. Ragan, Kelvin J. Retterath, Robby L. Rogers, Clint B. Russell, Duane L. Ryks, Kenneth D. Ryks, Daniel J. Schiltz, Michael H. Schreiber, Suze A. Schwarzrock, Cali J. Scruton, Gene W. Seavey, Michael A. Shifflett, John A. Shinego, Alfred M. Simon, Jr., Kelly J. Smith, Marvin W. Smith, Richard L. Spinler, Sandra L. Stewart, Ted R. Stewart, Raymond L. Swain.

Timothy N. Talbert, Daniel J. Tate, Wayne O. Thorson, Daniel O. Toenges, David M. Tveter, Ted S. Ulwelling, Brian L. Voogd, David A. Welch, Philip J. Wells, Donald F. Wench, Donald L. Wendorf, Roger D. Wenigar, Robert J. Wetterberg, Dale A. Wetzels, Gary D. Wilde, Martin J. Williamson, Mark D. Wittmer and Darwin E. Ziegler.



Training at Camp Ripley, loading an 81 motor. Left to right: Gary Nemitz, Darrell A. Thoen, Duane D. Orth and Phil Gardner.



National Guard troops disembarking at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska for Arctic Weather Training.

ADAMS TOWNSHIP

According to one source, Adams Township, was named by an early settler, William Madden. He chose the name for a very good friend of his from New York State. Other information indicates it was named in honor of John Adams, second president of the United States and his son, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president. It is bounded on the west, north and east by Nevada, Marshall and Lodi Townships and on the south by Mitchell County, Iowa.

The first settler in the township was Thomas Knudtson who came in 1855. He built a log house on his claim in Section 2. The township of Adams was organized in May, 1858. The first town meeting was held on the open prairie in Section 16. At this meeting the following officers were elected: township board, Mathias Rooney (chairman), Mathew Carey and Reynold Olson; treasurer, P. F. Rooney; clerk, Wm. Madden; justices of the peace, William Madden and Stephen Heimer; constables, Ole T. Jacobson and John Sanders.



Johnsburg Store - 1984



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Johnsburg

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

The first settlers who arrived in the Johnsburg area came in 1855. Many of the initial settlers came from the German community of Johnsburg, in McHenry County, Illinois. In later years large groups came from Wisconsin, especially from Fond du Lac County. Other Germans came from Illinois, and a large group of Irish families from eastern United States. Since Johnsburg lies less than a half mile north of the Iowa border, many of the early members of the parish were residents of Mitchell County, Iowa.

The first religious services were held by Fr. George Keller in 1853, in the home of John Fagans, who lived in Section 28. In February 1858, Fr. Keller was appointed the first pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Faribault, Minnesota. He was the first missionary priest to serve Catholics in the Johnsburg area, and came once each month to hold services.

Under the direction of Fr. Keller, a 16' x 20' log church of oak timbers and hand-split shingles, was constructed in 1859. In 1860, a 12' x 14' addition was built on to the church. This was the first Catholic church in the county, and was named in honor of St. John the Baptist.

The church was built on the farm owned by John and Gertrude Heimer, who donated the use of their grounds for religious use. On October 26, 1860, the Heimers sold ten acres of the farm, including the church site, to Nicholas and Anna Maria Huemann for \$10. On April 12, 1861, the bishop of St. Paul, the Most Rev. Thomas L. Grace, purchased the ten acres from the Huemanns for \$10.

Fr. Keller remained in Faribault until 1870, but he was assisted by various priests, among them Fr. Clement Scheve. The journeys from Faribault ended in 1867, when Fr. John McDermott, the first resident priest, arrived in Austin. St. John's parish was placed under his charge.

The second church, a frame 30' x 60' structure, was built in 1868. This new church with a cost of \$4,000 included a steeple and bell and a sacristy measuring twelve by thirty-two feet. The cost of the church was borne by subscription of the parish members.

In 1869, Fr. Claude Genis took over the responsibility of the parishes of St. Augustine in Austin and St. John in Johnsburg. He remained in the county until October 1874. He was succeeded by Fr. John Pavlin. Under his direction a frame schoolhouse was built on church property in 1874. An apartment was constructed in the rear of the schoolhouse which served as the home of the first resident priest in Johnsburg, Fr. Bernard Baumann, who came in September, 1875. Fr. Baumann was succeeded in December, 1881, by Fr. Alois Stecher who remained until September, 1883.

On May 25, 1883, the articles of incorporation for the parish of St. John the Baptist were signed by Bishop Thomas L. Grace and Vicar General Augustin Ravoux of St. Paul and Fr. Alois Stecher, Patrick Gilligan and

Mathias Krebsbach of the Johnsbury parish. On March 20, 1884, for \$5.00, Bishop Grace transferred to the Church of St. John the Baptist title to the ten acres he had purchased in 1861.

\$1,000.00 was raised at a parish picnic to construct a new rectory that year. This was the new home of Fr. Nicholas Schmitz who succeeded Fr. Stecher. He remained in Johnsbury until June, 1890. This building functioned as the rectory until 1909.

The present brick church was constructed in 1891. When Fr. Schmitz left, no priest replaced him until October, 1892, when Fr. Johann Gratz arrived. He served until April, 1894.

Fr. Victor Schir arrived in 1894 and a new brick, two-story schoolhouse was constructed in 1905 at a cost of \$5,000. A convent for the nuns was made up of the rooms on the west side of the school. The first teaching sisters came in September, 1904, from the Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee. In 1914, the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester took charge of the school. A matching two-story addition was constructed in 1914, on the south side of the school. The school was closed in 1967 when the sisters were withdrawn.

In succeeding years the following pastors served St. John's:

Fr. John Dolle — 1908-1914

Fr. Fred Reichl — 1914-1917

Fr. Mathias Graeve — 1917-1920

Fr. W. B. Bender — 1920 (6 months)

Fr. Joseph Kock — 1921-1930

Fr. Francis Schimsek — 1930-1939

Fr. Richard Speltz — 1939-1943

Fr. Herman Boecker — 1943-1947

Fr. James Fasnacht — 1947-1952

Fr. George Smith — 1952-1966

Fr. Stephen Majerus — 1966-1967

On December 1, 1976, Fr. John Mountain, who had arrived in June, 1967, was given a new assignment, and with his leaving St. John's Church no longer had a resident priest. Fr. William Bertrand of Adams was immediately assigned the Johnsbury parish in addition to his duties in Adams. Fr. Bertrand served until June, 1981, when he was replaced by Fr. Robert Herman, the current pastor at both parishes.

In November, 1977, the last rectory of the parish was sold to Kevin and Denise Blake. In the summer of 1977, the furnishings of the rectory plus numerous articles from the school and church were sold at public auction. At the same time, the north five acres were sold to Nathan and Dorothy Mullenbach.

The old schoolhouse was remodeled into a church hall in 1980 after a large addition was built on the west side.

An annual September ham and turkey dinner draws a devoted following. A 125th anniversary celebration was held on July 1, 1984 to commemorate the construction of the first church in Johnsbury. A parade, a history book, contests, games and lunch are planned.

by Gene Noterman

St. John's Cemetery, Johnsbury

There is no certain date as to when the Johnsbury

cemetery was established. The first Catholic settlers came to the locality in May, 1855.

The cemetery is located in the southeast quarter of Section 32 of Adams Township in Johnsbury. It is situated on the north side of the old schoolhouse and west of the church and old rectory. In years past, the cemetery was enclosed by tall stately spruce trees most of which have now succumbed. Some remain on the east front.

The southeast corner of the present cemetery was the original cemetery. Most of the original stones or markers are gone now, but some show dates from the early 1870's. In the center of the cemetery, on a slight mound, is the burial site of Fr. Victor Schir, a former pastor of the parish. He is the only priest buried there. A large, grey, granite monument marks the grave.

The cemetery is the burial grounds for the parish of St. John's Catholic Church of Johnsbury. Officers of the cemetery association are: Nathan Mullenbach and Cyril Smith.

A large stone grotto is located on the east edge of the grounds. In the center of the grotto is a figure of Christ lying in repose. Above Him, in a niche, stands a statue of Mary, mother of Christ. On top of two low flanking walls are statues of two angels, facing the center of the grotto. The grotto was constructed by Fr. Joseph Koch in 1922 with assistance from schoolboys and Anfin Koch, who split the stones collected from the area fields and river.

Total cost of the grotto, including the statuary, was \$461.

by Gene Noterman

RURAL SCHOOLS

School District #6

School District 6 was organized in 1858. The first schoolhouse was a small building in Section 29 built of logs and covered with hay. The first school term was taught by R. M. Rooney in the winter of 1858-59. The following summer, the school burned in a prairie fire. Another log building was erected on the same site and Mr. Rooney was again the teacher. After burning down a second time, the site of the school was moved to Section 32, a half mile south. A substantial frame schoolhouse was built. The first teacher in this schoolhouse was Nils Nason.

Board members in 1942 were: Henry Smith, S. J. Krebsbach and J. J. Klockner.

School District #7

School District 7 was organized in 1858. A schoolhouse was erected in 1868 in Section 8. Later in 1884 the building was moved to Section 9, across the road. This one acre was bought from Paul Anderson for the school. In 1915 it was moved to the village of Adams. It was then used for the parochial school there.

Some who served on the school board were: Nels Johnson, Hans Hanson, Eric Veness, Severine Rogue and Iver Tiegen. Teachers after 1906 were: Ollova Morgen, Mamie Schow, Carrie Tiegen, Nellie Hanon, Carrie Keifer and Ida Johnson.

Information on District 7 was given by Mrs. Daisy Johnson, Adams. Her brother Arnold Severson who at-

tended this school had these interesting reminiscences of the years he spent attending the school.

The Seversons lived three miles from the schoolhouse so they would walk that distance every morning and after school. He remembers carrying his lunch in a tin pail and of one family that always brought "sirup sandwiches" which were pretty well soaked up by noon. A boy was hired to start the fire and was paid 10 cents a day for the job. Mrs. Eunice Rice would come to visit the school at least once during the year traveling in a horse and buggy. She would tell of her experiences in her travels and brought an ostrich egg to show during one of her visits.

School District #71

School District 71 was organized in 1871. The first school was held the same year at the home of John Fagans. Robert Carter was the first teacher. In 1872, the first schoolhouse was erected in Section 25. The first teacher there was Lizzie Boding. A later building was located in Section 26.

School District #72

School District 72 was organized in 1871. The first schoolhouse was built in Section 22. Catherine Madsen taught in this first school. Later it was located in Section 27.



North side Main Street, Adams - 1984

VILLAGE OF ADAMS

The village was platted January 30, 1868, by Selah Chamberlain but not incorporated until March 2, 1887. The first officers were: Mathias Krebsbach, president; H. Carey, recorder; J. W. Carr, E. A. Knutson and Michael Krebsbach.

Municipal Utilities

In the summer of 1897, a water works system was put in with well, tower, tank, pumping station and sufficient mains to practically cover the village. In 1902, a complete sewage system was installed. In 1958, this system was updated with a modern disposal plant.

Schools

The first public school in the village of Adams was built in 1869. It had two rooms and could accommodate 100 students. Increasing enrollment led to the addition of two more rooms over the years. In 1903, the Catholic



Southland High School, Adams

parochial school was built and when it opened it took about half of the public school students which greatly relieved the overcrowding.

In 1916, rural Districts 7, 105, 65 and 100 voted to consolidate with the Adams School District and bonds were issued to build a new school building. In the fall of 1917 the building was completed facilitating a four-year high school. The first senior class graduated in the spring of 1918; the three members were: Mary McGravey, Gert Schneider and Rosie Zilz.

Over the years, increasing enrollment mandated additions to the school and improvements in the curriculum. A full-time kindergarten was added and a remedial reading teacher was employed in 1966.



Adams Health Care Center

Volunteer Fire Department

The fire department was organized on June 17, 1898 and was known as Adams Hose Co. No. 1. The active members were to be not more than 25 in number and no member was to be under 18 or over 50 years of age.

Dances were held regularly in Sabel's Hall to raise money for the department and practice was held regularly each week.

Mose Karsbug served as Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department for 32 years.

Post Office

The first post office was in the farm house of John Ingen in 1859 when the mail was delivered by stage coach.

Adams postmasters and the date of their appointment are: Harold M. F. Ingens, July 25, 1861; W. E. Davis, August 19, 1868; George Corbitt, April 21, 1873; Samuel Sweningson, April 17, 1877; A. Betram, December 3, 1877; A. D. Harris, May 17, 1880; Patrick M. Rooney,

April 29, 1886; Mathias Krebsbach, January 10, 1888; Andrew Torgerson, February 2, 1889; Anton King, November 25, 1893; James Slindee, December 7, 1897; Erick L. Slindee, December 30, 1898; Anna Slindee, January 23, 1924; Bennie J. Huseby, April 11, 1929; Joseph A. Heimer, June 12, 1934; Alphonse G. Krebsbach, January 15, 1939.

Adams Creamery Association

The Adams Creamery Association has successfully served the farmers of the area for 70 years.

The Farmers State Bank

The Farmers State Bank, constructed in 1914, is located on south Fourth Street. When the bank opened on April 17, 1915, it was one of the most modern in the country. The teller cages were built of Italian marble and green Vermont marble. The interior has changed very little. The marble is still in use today along with the safe.

Major remodeling of the basement provided space for modern machines, offices and a kitchenette.

The Torgersons have been associated with the bank from the start. A. Torgerson, was an early settler in Adams and for years operated a grocery store before going into the banking business. In 1930, N. V. Torgerson became president and held that position until his death in 1967. Vance Torgerson, who was associated with his father, is now bank president.

First National Bank

The first bank in Adams opened January 4, 1898. William W. Dean, Sophronia Dean and J. D. Schmidt of Northfield; were the owners of the Bank of Adams, a private bank. The brick building was on the west side of Fourth Street, a short distance north of Main Street.

On January 11, 1906, the private bank was dissolved and merged into the First National Bank of Adams under federal charter. It was capitalized at \$25,000 and later increased to \$30,000. In the same year, the Dean family purchased a private bank in Rose Creek.

The bank outgrew its quarters on Fourth Street and in 1923, a new building was built on the northeast corner of Main and Fourth Streets. Purcell and Elmslie of Minneapolis and Chicago were the architects.

The prairie style of architecture, which used terra cotta and stained glass in the design, attracted quite a bit of attention from the area newspapers at the dedication on November 11, 1924. The new building was featured in two national architectural publications: "The Western Architect," November 1927, and "The Diebold News" in 1925. The bank building was also pictured in several books of American architecture.

The Krebsbach family involved in the operation of the bank at this time were Michael Krebsbach, vice president; Arthur Krebsbach, assistant cashier and John H. Krebsbach, a member of the board.

Five years after the bank moved into its new quarters, the crash of the stock market in October 1929, signaled the start of the great depression. The bank closed on August 1, 1932, and Herbert E. Skinner was appointed as receiver.

The building became the property of the village of

Adams in 1937. It has been used as a municipal liquor store and council chamber. In the basement are public meeting rooms.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

The parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Adams was detached from that of St. John the Baptist in Johnsbury in 1888. By this time there were over 150 families belonging to the Johnsbury parish which covered an area including Rose Creek, Adams, LeRoy and Johnsbury. Bishop John Ireland of St. Paul, to facilitate the split of the Johnsbury parish, on September 12, 1886, purchased from John and Catherine Lawler of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, four lots in Block 15 in Adams for a dollar. On this site in 1886, a new frame building was constructed to serve as a church. Fr. Nicholas Schmitz of Johnsbury, who directed these activities, served as the first priest of the parish, at the same time attended to his duties in Johnsbury. A two-story house, the rectory, was constructed west of the new church on the same block. Fr. Schmitz purchased the two lots on which the rectory was built from the Lawlers in 1887, for \$50.00.

In 1890, Fr. Joseph Goergen replaced Fr. Schmitz and served both parishes until 1892 when Fr. Johann Gratz assumed the parish in Johnsbury. Fr. Goergen lived in Adams and continued to serve the parish and the church in LeRoy until his death on February 15, 1901. Fr. Fred Reichl was then transferred to Adams and under him the parish was incorporated under Minnesota law. The men who signed the articles of incorporation on February 3, 1902, were: Bishop Joseph Cotter and Vicar General James Coyle of Winona; Fr. Reichl, Thomas Madden and Nicholas P. Schmitz of Adams. In the same year, plans were finalized for the construction of the new church. The church, said to be designed by a woman, is an imposing red brick structure on a limestone foundation built facing east. The design of the church shows an influence of the Gothic style of architecture.

On August 15, 1902, Bishop Cotter presided at afternoon ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone. A church fair was held for four days, starting on November 24, 1902, and proceeds totaling nearly \$1,000 were raised for the new church. The dedication ceremonies were held for the \$18,000 structure on May 19, 1903, with Fr. Reichl and Bishop Cotter having charge.

The old frame church was moved directly south of the new church and was remodeled into a school. The living quarters of the Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester who taught there, were constructed on the rear of the schoolhouse. This was the first Catholic school in Adams, previous to this the students attended the public schools. Fr. Reichl left in 1914, and was succeeded by Fr. George Jaegen who served until 1920. During his pastorate a new rectory was constructed in 1915. This house presently is the convent for the sisters.

Other priests serving Adams were: Mathias Graeve, from 1920 to 1929; Herman Boecker from 1929 to 1932; Joseph Schneider, from 1932 to 1945; and Paul Britz, from 1945 to 1947. In 1947, Fr. Alfred Frisch came to Adams and during his time the parish in LeRoy was under Adams with Fr. Schamm and Fr. Kellen serving as assistants at Sacred Heart. During this time major

changes came about in the parish. A new rectory was built south of the church in 1950, with the sisters converting the old rectory into a convent.

The present rectory was purchased in 1967, from Adolph and Ethel Huinker, and it is situated directly north of the convent across Main Street. The old rectory was converted into the school library, meeting rooms and classrooms. A new school of four classrooms and a large auditorium were constructed in 1951, and was attached to the south and west side of the church. And in 1957, an addition of four classrooms was built on the west side of the school.

Fr. Richard Barden succeeded Fr. Frisch in 1957, and Fr. Barden was followed by Fr. Leonard Clasen in 1959. During the pastorate of Fr. Barden, the church windows were repaired, and Fr. Clasen had the entire church interior remodeled in 1961. Msgr. Raymond Snyder replaced Fr. Clasen in 1965, and he served until 1969. Fr. Clayton Haberman served from 1969 to 1974. From 1974 to 1975, Fr. James Russell served and he was replaced by Fr. William Bertrand, who served until 1981. Our present pastor is Fr. Robert Herman.

In 1960, property was added through vacation of portions of Sixth Street and South Street. In 1983, a new roof was applied to the church and the stained glass windows in the church were renovated.

Fraternal organizations began with the activity of the Catholic Order of Foresters organized in Adams on March 4, 1901. This later ended its activities, with the men now participating in the Knights of Columbus, which was locally chartered on April 1, 1954. The ladies of the Sacred Heart parish began assistance to the church with the Willing Workers Society. The group was reorganized during the pastorate of Fr. Frisch, and now coordinates its activities with the Winona Council of Catholic Women. The name of the society is the Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women. The council has served large banquets for area organizations.

Three men from the parish have become priests, they being Fr. Raymond Krebsbach, Fr. Bernard Karst, S.J., and Fr. Raymond Steichen. Among the women who became nuns were Mary Bambery, Sr. Maurice; Sr. Rita Eisterhold; Bernardine Ewald, Sr. Cosmas; Dolores Ewald, Sr. Noel; Esther Ewald, Sr. Cecile; Loretta Ewald, Sr. Damian; Katherine Fassbender, Sr. Mildred; Sr. Lucille Hass; Sr. Barbara Klapperich; Alvina Krebsbach, Sr. Marie Terese; Mary Krebsbach, Sr. Rosamond; Mathilda Krebsbach, Sr. Angela; Sr. Elene Loecher; Sr. Joan Lewison; Delores Peterson, Sr. Monica; Margaret Rooney, Sr. Nicholas; Celestine Vogt, Sr. Joseen; and Marcella Winkels, Sr. William. Three other women served as nuns but left after a time. They were Mary Josephine Dvorak, Sr. Caran; Aloysia Krebsbach, Sr. Mercedes; and Winifred Winkels, Sr. Xavier.

by Gene Noterman

Little Cedar Lutheran Church

The Little Cedar Lutheran congregation was organized November 26, 1859, by Rev. C. L. Clausen at a meeting in the Helge Erickson Floen home. The first church was built in 1863 of logs donated by members. It was located in Section 4, not far from the Little Cedar River thus the



Little Cedar Lutheran Church

name adopted by the congregation.

On October 12, 1867, several congregations joined to form a parish. These churches were Little Cedar, St. Ansgar, Rock Creek, Six Mile Grove and Blooming Prairie. The Rev. P. G. Ostby was called as assistant to Rev. Clausen. The old log church was replaced by a frame building dedicated in 1876.

In 1877, another parish alignment was made with Six Mile Grove, Mona, Lyle and Little Cedar joining and calling Rev. B. B. Gjeldaker as pastor. In 1881, Rev. J. Muller Eggen became pastor, serving until 1900. He was succeeded by Rev. William A. Rasmussen, who accepted the call with the understanding a parsonage would be built. In the same year, Little Cedar and West Le Roy became a parish served by Rev. Rasmussen.

The cornerstone for a new church was laid September 1, 1907, and the first service held March 22, 1908. This church was debt free when completed. It was dedicated March 28, 1909. Rev. O. C. Myhre was pastor during the building program, serving until 1915, when Rev. C. B. Runsvold was called.

In 1919, another parish consolidation took place with Little Cedar and Marshall congregations uniting. This has continued up to the present time.

Pastors in recent years have included: Rev. O. C. Brenna, 1919-1927; Rev. Alfred Breveik, 1928-1947; Rev. Luther Berven, 1947-1950; Rev. M. L. Witte, 1950-1957; Rev. Truman P. Mohn, 1957-1962; Rev. Wayne Quibell, 1963-1976; Allen L. Gunderson 1977 to the present. Rev. Nancy R. Wigdahl has been the associate pastor since 1980.

The Little Cedar congregation dedicated a new Education Building on April 5, 1964 and a new parsonage was built in 1968.

On September 8, 1975, a special congregational meeting was held where it was voted to organize a building program for a new church. A generous gift of \$90,000 from the estate of Ida Rudlong provided initial funding.

Groundbreaking services were held on April 27, 1977, and work on the church progressed rapidly. The last services in the old church were held on Christmas Day 1977. The first services in the new church were delayed by a snowstorm but were finally held on January 8, 1978.

CENTURY FARMS

Kramer Farm

The Kramer family came to the United States from Germany in 1946, first settling in Marytown, Wis. Anton

Kramer moved to the Adams area in 1878, purchasing 160 acres in Section 36, Adams Township from Anthony Loftus in June of that year.

Anton's son, Fred, bought the farm in 1943 and in 1967 ownership passed to his two sons Harold and Gerald Kramer. The two families, Gerald and Elaine Kramer along with Harold and Ruth Kramer have homes on the original property.

Njos/Anderson Farm

Hans and Mildred (Hanson) Njos were the first owners of the original 160 acres in Section 9, Adams Township. Their daughter Anna married Paul Anderson and were the second generation to farm the land.

Their son Andrew and his wife Anna passed the owner-

ship on to their son Arnold and his wife Alice Anderson, the fourth generation. Today the farm is owned by Kim and Deborah Anderson, grandson of Arnold and Alice. Kim and Deborah have three children: Heather, Paul and Jesse; the seventh generation to live there.

Arnold Anderson says that in the early days there were no trees on the property, only brush and long grass. There were no fences, the cattle roamed as they found grass. On one occasion while the mother went to fetch the cows, she was knitting as she walked and when crossing a stream she stumbled and lost a knitting needle. She cried so hard because she knew it would be extremely difficult to replace it and winter was soon to come. Most of the clothes were hand made and everyone knitted much of it.

AUSTIN TOWNSHIP

Austin comprises congressional Township 102 north, Range 18 west, except that part included in the city of Austin and received its name from Austin Nichols, its earliest settler. The township is well drained by the Cedar River and its tributaries, Rose, Dobbins and Turtle Creeks. Water and timber were the determining factors in the settlement of a new country, and Austin Township was better provided with both than most. The soil is rich, dark loam mixed in some places with sand, but very productive and prime agricultural land.

Varco Station

Varco Station was started by Thomas Varco in 1875. It was located three miles south of Austin on the Milwaukee Railroad. The two block village boasted a grain elevator and, up to the middle of the nineteen hundreds, the railroad would deliver freight to the Varco Station.

Two Rivers

One of the main highways in the early days was the territorial road from Dubuque to St. Paul (part of it is 4th Street SW today). At the junction of Turtle Creek and the Cedar River, the town of Two Rivers grew.

Also known as Milton, the town was comprised of seven blocks platted in 1857. It was south of the Calvary Cemetery and at one time had a hotel and a mill.

Two Rivers lost out to Austin in the battle for business.

Cedar City Cemetery

The land for the Cedar City Cemetery was given by David Chandler who pre-empted the land and gave three-fourths acre of his farm. It was surveyed in 1879 with 42 lots.

The first burial was of a man named Robinson, assistant editor of the *Mower County Mirror*. There were burials many years before the surveying. The first records of burials were recorded in Mower County in 1870 at the Clerk of Court's office.

Strips of land were purchased and added at various times. A large new section was deeded Sept. 4, 1957, from Mr. and Mrs. Claude Brown. It was platted and ready for sale in 1962.



Cedar City Cemetery - 1982

The association is led by Mrs. Mildred Sayles, president; Mrs. Cyrus Hanson, vice president; Mrs. Leonard Heiny, treasurer and Mrs. Roxanna Weseman, Actuary. The board of trustees are: Don Weseman, Albert Gemmel and Dan Attlessey.

Cedar City is a beautiful resting place and well supported by all its members.

by Mrs. Donald Weseman

Rose Creek Cemetery (Enterprise)

In 1864, Moses and Marietta Rolfe offered a plot of ground to be used as a cemetery. The only stipulation was that a fence be built and kept in good repair. The fence was to be a board frame, three boards high. It was replaced by a wire fence in 1872. The cemetery is in Section 24 about three and a half miles south of Austin on the banks of Rose Creek.

The first meeting was held at the home of Ezra Ames. Those present were: Thomas Varco, Mason Parmenter, Moses Rolfe, Harvey G. Prouty, John W. Rose and Horace Greene.

At the time of organization some of the lots sold from three to five dollars a lot (4 graves in a lot). Some of these were paid for in labor at the cemetery. There was a provi-

REFERENCES

- Rail Road
- Wagon Road
- Corp. Line
- Creek
- School
- Church
- Houses
- Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes



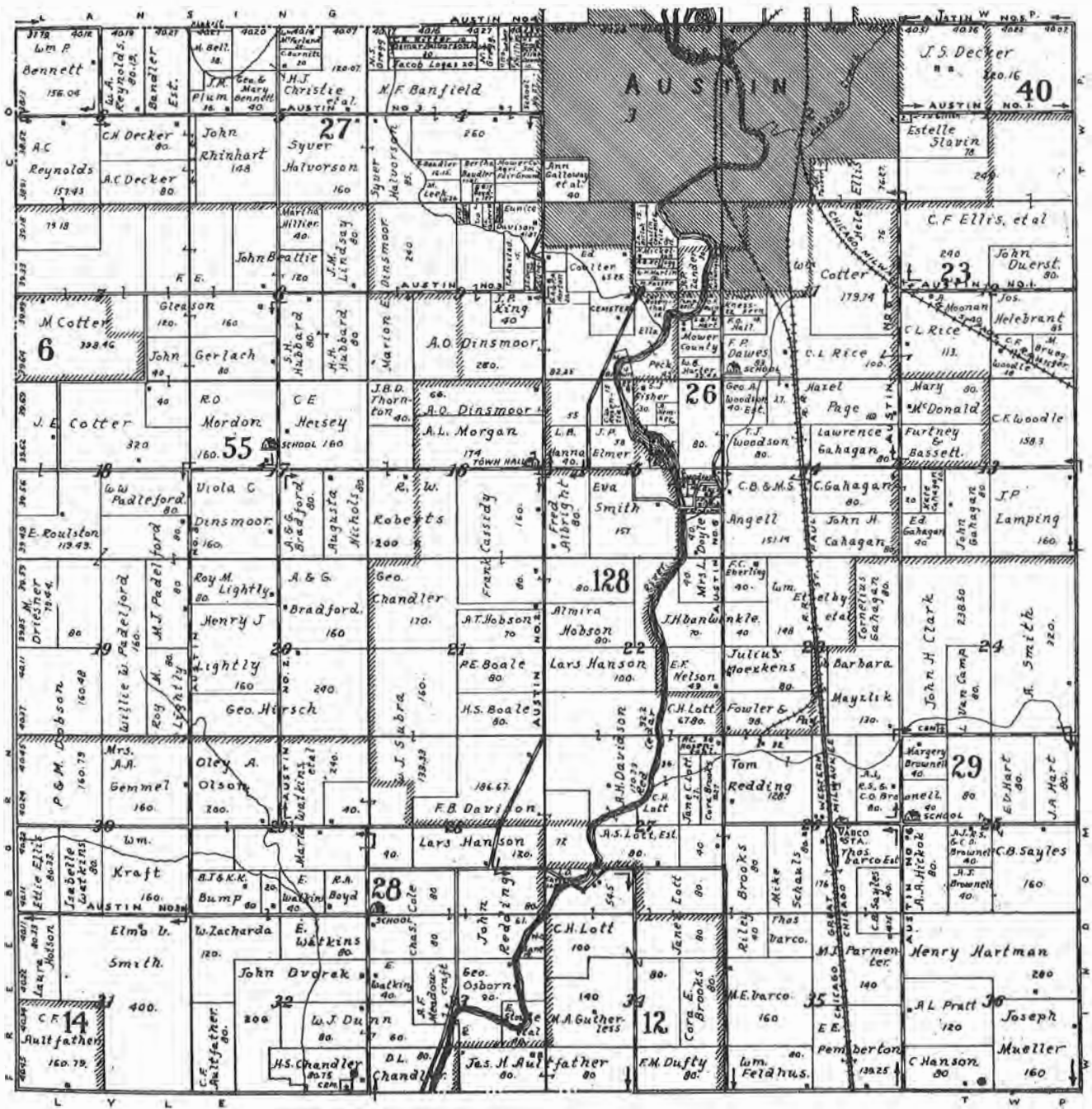
Map of
AUSTIN
Township

Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

1915

Township 102 North. Range 18 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA



sion for a Potters Field in the original plan. However, that has been eliminated.

The first burial was a baby of David O. Pratt's earlier in 1859. Rueben Gregg often told of the burial of David Austin, his wife and son. They were first buried in a field on the Gregg farm and were exhumed and reburied in the cemetery about 1882. Mrs. Austin's stone gives her date of death as June 19, 1859. Tradition claims Mr. Austin was a soldier in the Revolutionary War but there doesn't seem to be any evidence to support the story.

The present officers are: president, Ella Marie Lausen; secretary, Mildred Sayles; treasurer, Marvin Rieken; sexton, Raymond Sayles; trustees, Kenneth Corson and William Sayles.

The Happy Thought Club

One afternoon in June, 1905, Mrs. Frank Pike invited the following ladies: Mrs. Thomas Varco, Mrs. Bell Varco, Mrs. Cora Brooks, Mrs. Cora Green, Mrs. Etta Varco and Mrs. Clara Sayles, to her home to discuss ways and means to help with the improvement of the Enterprise Cemetery. These ladies knew that all people connected with the cemetery would have to be brought to a full understanding of the cemetery's condition and that ways for betterment were needed.

They organized a society with the following officers: president, Jennie Pike; secretary, Cora Green and treasurer, Etta Varco. A large group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. Etta Varco, and Mrs. Thomas Varco named the club, "The Happy Thought Club."

The building of a tool house was the first improvement. The first extra money was made by the sale of a quilt and an ice cream social held at the schoolhouse in September. The proceeds from the quilt were \$32.00 and from the social, \$8.00. For the next few years the ladies made aprons, pillow cases, scrap bags and other articles that could be sold. The proceeds went to the cemetery improvement fund.

The following year, all graves were leveled off making the mowing much easier. In 1907, new hitching posts were erected and new rings added to existing posts. In the spring of 1911, a new arched gate was placed at the west entry. The gate, with the cemetery's name on it, cost \$116.40.

The present officers are: president, Lona Anderson; vice president, Ella Marie Lausen; secretary, Marlyn Sayles; treasurer, Louise Hall.

by Monica Lonergan

Grandview Memorial Gardens

Grandview Memorial Gardens is located on Highway 218 south. It was started in 1945 by Ray Johnson and Roy Anderson under the name of Grandview Memorial Parks of Mankato, Minnesota.

In 1952, it was incorporated under Chapter 306 of Minnesota statutes as the Grandview Memorial Gardens, Inc. of Austin.

The first burial was a veteran, Raymond G. Bayer, on January 25, 1950, with 10 more burials that year. A

memorial in honor of Raymond was installed at the base of the flag pole at the entrance to the gardens.

Calvary Cemetery

The first burial in Calvary Cemetery occurred on December 28, 1863. However, a tombstone in the oldest section lists "DIGNAN" with dates for the father, born 1800 - died 1858. Records list three early burials in 1866; Permelia A. Bero, John and Bridget Rutherford.

Land records show the transfer of 28 acres, lying south of Turtle Creek, purchased by Rev. Claude Genis from Daniel B. Johnson, Jr. and his wife Lois A. The transaction changed by deed, land in Section 10 of Austin Township to Rev. Genis and the Bishop of St. Paul, Rt. Rev. Grace. The purchase price was \$600.00. One of the previous owners had been Chauncy Leverich.

The St. Augustine Cemetery Association was incorporated in 1904. Elected to serve on the board of Trustees were E. P. Kelly, J. J. Furlong, P. H. Zender, James Keenan, Father Edward H. Devlin, Thomas Revord and Edward Cotter.

In 1938, the Queen of Angels parish was established so the name was changed from St. Augustine's Cemetery to Catholic Cemetery. In 1950, when the bishop of the diocese became an ex-officio member of the Catholic cemeteries in the diocese, the name was changed to Calvary.

Early in 1946, several persons proposed the erection of a monument to honor those who were killed in service during World War II. The association agreed and on Memorial Day, 1947, the memorial was unveiled and dedicated to those men who gave their lives for their country.

The stone reads: "In Memoriam World War II, To our boys who gave their lives that others might live." Twenty-seven names follow the second line. At the bottom are the words, "Greater love than this, no man hath."



St. Augustine's (Calvary) Cemetery - 1905

More land was purchased in 1954 from Martin Bustad and added to the cemetery. There are approximately 4,000 graves in the Calvary Cemetery. The current board members are: Herman Goergen, Father Charles Quinn,

John Mayer, Sr., Father James Russell, Harold Butler, Francis Guiney, Father Donald Zenk, John Mayer, Jr. and Howard Fischer.

South River Street Extension Group

Alice Anderson moved to South River Street (4th Street SE) in the fall of 1948. She had been active in an extension group in Blooming Prairie and wanted to continue. Mrs. Engen of the Mower County Extension Office encouraged her to form a group in her new neighborhood.

Alice found about 15 neighbors interested in joining. The purpose was to sharpen their homemaking skill, make their lives better and learn to know their neighbors. Of the twelve members now in the South River Street Extension Group, four are charter members. They are: Florence Malcomson, Dorothy Angell, Alice Anderson and Sophie Jensen.

RURAL SCHOOLS

The Woodson School, District #26

The first school in this district was taught in the home of M. J. Woodson by his son, Henry, in the summer of 1858. The teacher was paid \$10 a month. James Johnson was the teacher for the following year.

In 1859, a log house was built in Section 10. George and Oliver Bemis gave the logs which were cut and brought to the spot by M. J. and W. A. Woodson and H. Van Winkle. Abbie Litchfield was the first teacher. Later a frame schoolhouse was built on the southwest corner of Section 11.

The Cedar City School, District #28

School District 28 was formed at a meeting held at D. L. Chandler's house in 1856 or 57. The first officers of the district were: D. I. Chandler, George Phelps and



Cedar City School

Welcome Osborne. A log schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1857 in Section 32. Deland Richardson was the first teacher. In 1862, another schoolhouse was erected in Section 28 with Mary Hoag as the first teacher.

The last schoolhouse in this district was a large brick building with a basement and furnace. It has been torn down.

Two of the board members in 1942 were Earl Subra and Paul Wehner. The teacher was Mildred Crilly.

The Enterprise School, District #29

District 29, known as Varco Station, erected its first schoolhouse in 1857. It was built of logs and constructed by people of the district in the southwest corner of Section 23. Money was raised by subscription to complete the building. The first teacher was Deland Richardson.



Enterprise School - 1885

John Flood, schoolmaster. Top row: Jenny Hart, Lissie Sayles, Eugene Hart, Will Shepley, Charley Brownell, Orrle Hart, Andrew Erickson. Second row: Inez Prouty, Johnnie Dixon, Eddie Vall, Isabelle Vall, Frank Pratt, Mabel Varco, Maggie Vall, Rachel Brooks, Roy Varco, Edna Pratt. Third row: Hattie Vall, Birdie Varco, Eugene Parmenter, Johnnie Erickson, Amy Varco, Mamie Vall, Carl Parmenter.

This building burned in 1864 and a stone house was then built in Section 25. Forest March was the first teacher there. In 1879, this building was torn down and a frame building erected. Mary Hood taught the first session in this schoolhouse.

In 1942, Mrs. O. Miller was the teacher. Board members were: Albert Hanson, Lester Berry and Herbert Sayles.

Cecelia Mueller tells of the activities at the school: "Enterprise had many things going on through the years. Funeral services were conducted there. The Grange and other agricultural societies held meetings at the school to teach farmers about using fertilizers for better crops and introduced other new ideas. Election meetings, dances, picnics and family reunions made the Enterprise School a busy social center. This was also one of the schools where the girls from the Normal Training School came for their practice teaching." Cecelia Mueller taught the Enterprise School in 1927 and 1928.

The Pleasant View School, District #55

The first school in this district was a claim shanty located in the southwest corner of Section 8 built in 1865. The teacher was Elizabeth Stone. A frame school building was built in Section 17 in 1869. The teacher was Mary Scullen.



Pleasant View School - 1906

Helen McShane, teacher. Standing: Minnie Nicols, Albert Comiliska, James Cotter, Walter Menzle, Margarlte Cotter, Francis J. Gerlach, Horace Wood, Eva Clough, Walter Elmer, Elizabeth Nicols, Ethel Wood, Mary Wood, Ethel Lightly, Floretta Elmer, Tracy Nicols, Alta Jabina, Margaritta Gerlach, Casey Harrington. Sitting: Clair and Lloyd Cotter, Marshall Menzle, Josephine Gerlach.

In 1906, Helen McShane taught this school. In 1942 board members were: Francis Gerlach, Stephen Lickteig and George Hillier. The teacher was Mrs. Georgena Blinton.

An interesting note was added by John Reagan Austin on the Pleasant View School. "A. O. Dinsmoore owned several sections of land in Austin Township and had tenant farmers. He built the school of barn siding and taught the school for his own children and all the others in the area."

The Prairie View School, District #128

The schoolhouse was in the eastern half of Section 21. It was built in 1900. Pearl Bowers was the first teacher.

CENTURY FARMS

The Aultfather Farm

David Aultfather came to Mower County in 1856 and purchased 120 acres in Sections 33 and 34. He purchased this land from the government, paying \$1.25 an acre. The original land patent was made out to Alexander D. Callendar, a private in the War of 1812. This warrant was assigned to John H. Tunisson and by him to David Aultfather. The patent was signed by President James Buchanan and the Recorder of the General Land Office.

The land that David Aultfather bought was largely a wooded area. Later this was cleared and another forty acres was added to the original tract. David was married July, 1857 to Pamela Foster, who had come as a pioneer



Standing left to right: Geo. F. Aultfather, James H. Aultfather. Sitting: Wm. J. Aultfather, David O. Aultfather, Miss Clara Aultfather, Mrs. Vilena L. Vest, Mrs. Laura C. Duerst, Andrew J. Aultfather, Chas. F. Aultfather.

to Lyle Township in 1854 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Foster. David and Pamela's first home was a log house. In 1866, David erected a frame house which still stands. The David Aultfathers raised nine children each of whom received 160 acres when they started on their own. At one time David Aultfather owned a total of 1,500 acres in Mower County.

James H. Aultfather received the original 120 acres in 1898 plus the forty acres that were added to the farm. He later added 95 acres. Another eighty acres he owned jointly with his sister, Clara.

He was married in 1901 and built his house near the older home built in 1866.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Aultfather founded the Clover Lawn Farm, known for its purebred Red Poll cattle, Poland China hogs and Percheron horses. They were the parents of two children, Myron C. Aultfather and Dorothy M. Aultfather (Mrs. Kenneth K. Rosenthal).

In 1948, James H. Aultfather retired and sold the Red Poll cattle and Poland China hogs to his son, Myron and his wife Florence, who had moved to the home farm a few years before.

In 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Aultfather purchased 150 acres adjoining their farm and previously owned by Myron's aunt, Clara E. Aultfather.

In 1976, Myron and Florence's only child, Shirley, moved back from California to Clover Lawn Farm, with her husband, Harlen D. Peck and two children, Ruston and Rondell. They now live nearby on land purchased by Myron in 1956 and are also associated with Clover Lawn Farm.

In 1972, the farm was given recognition at the Minnesota State Fair along with other Century Farms.

Mr. and Mrs. Myron Aultfather still live on the original farm first owned by Myron's grandfather, David Aultfather. The younger Pecks make the fifth generation to be associated with Clover Lawn Farm.

The Hillier Farm

John and Mary J. Beattie purchased the first 80 acres of this Century Farm in 1875. Two years later another 80 was added. Both of the pieces were in Section 8. Their daughter, Martha, married George Hillier. They took over the operation of the farm in 1905.

In 1957, the third generation, Oliver and his wife Grace Hillier, became the owners of the original Beattie Farm. Today, their son and daughter-in-law, Dave and Carolyn own one of the original forties and farm with his father.

This farm has always had livestock on it; milk cows, sheep, feeder cattle. At present David and Carolyn have purebred Landrace hogs.



Three generations of Hilliers - 1952

The Sheldon Sayles Farm

James King Sayles and his wife Lucinda Brown Sayles came to Mower County from Tioga County, Pennsylvania, and settled on an 80 acre tract of land in Austin Township, Section 25, on April 22, 1879. They passed this land on to their son, Cyrus Brown Sayles on March 6, 1882.

On March 12, 1917, the farm was purchased by grandson Claude Hartland Sayles from his father.

After fifty years, on February 6, 1967, the property was transferred to great-grandson Harlow Brown Sayles, and on March 2, 1981, great-great-granddaughter Patty Jane Sayles became an owner of a portion of the land. The 80 acres now is farmed as a unit of the Jane Brown Farms by great-great-grandson Sheldon Brown Sayles and his wife Cathie Jane Sayles, with the assistance of



James King Sayles

great-great-great-grandsons Chad Brown Sayles and Jeffrey Brown Sayles.

The Dean Sayles Farm

James and Lucinda Sayles were the first owners of the 160 acres in Section 25, Austin Township. They purchased it in 1861. James and Lucinda Sayles had one son, Cyrus, who inherited the farm.

Cyrus and his wife Clara (Ames) Sayles had eight sons: Claude, Loren, Carleton, David, William, Walter, Leonard and Herbert. All were born and raised on the family farm. Five of the boys farmed in the area.

Walter and his wife Mildred, bought the home place from his father on March 18, 1939. Walter passed away in 1959 and his widow sold the farm to Walter's great-nephew Dean Sayles and his wife Debra, on Jan. 4, 1979.



**Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus B. Sayles and eight sons
Top row: Claude, Loren, Carleton, David, William, Walter. Bottom row: Leonard, Cyrus B., Clara, Herbert.**

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP

The first settlement in Bennington Township was in the spring of 1856 by a group of men from New York state—Robert, Edwin, Lucius and G. T. Angell; Austin and E. J. Hutchinson; Ira Emerson and E. J. Kingsbury. Some of them moved on west and south but finding no

more suitable land they returned and put up temporary shelters in the southwest part of the township in Section 32.

When Minnesota was admitted as a state in 1858, the township bore the name Andover and since it had not

Map of
BENNINGTON
Township
Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

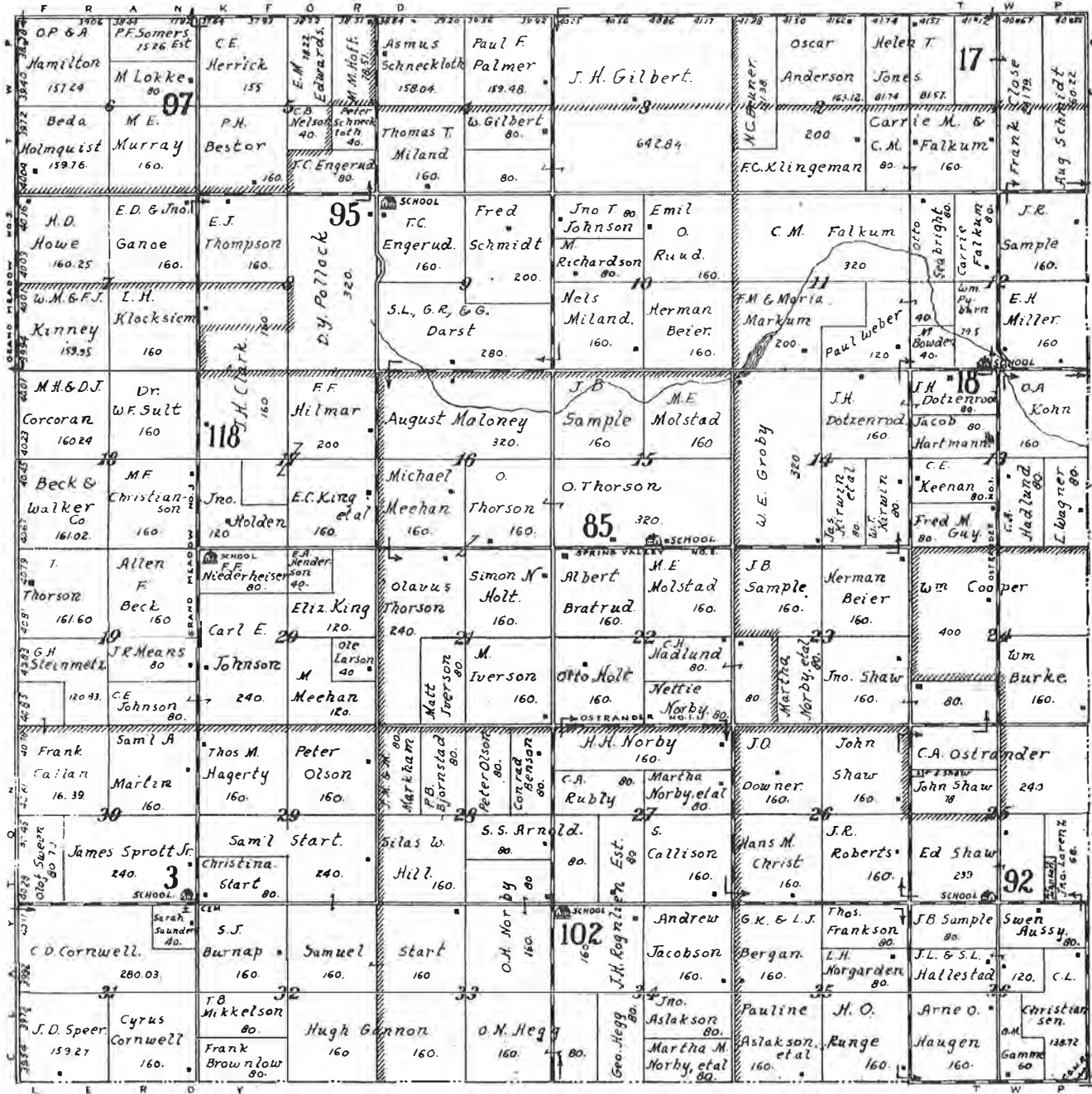
REFERENCES:

- Rail Road School
- Wagon Road Church
- Corp Line Houses
- Creek Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes

1915

Township 102 North Range 14 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA



been organized the northern part was attached to Frankford and the southern part to LeRoy Townships. In the fall of 1860 the first meeting of the voters in the township was held at the home of Robert Angell and the following officers elected: E. J. Kingsbury, chairman of the board; William Kelnar and Stephen Guy, supervisors; Ira Emerson, clerk; G. T. Angell, justice of the peace; William Cooper, assessor.

The township received its name from Bennington, Vermont, renowned for a battle of the Revolutionary War.

Bennington Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Bennington Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized May 15, 1896 and the cemetery established in 1897. The cemetery is located in Section 21, 3 miles east of Grand Meadow to the Frankford Town Hall and then 5¼ miles south on Mower County Road 14.

The land was donated by Ole Bratrud. Charter members were Rev. O. A. Bu, Nils T. Miland, Olaus Thorson, Gunnuf H. Hadland, Oscar N. Hegg, Matt Iverson, John Bjerke, Simon Holt, Tom Miland, Emil Ruud, Conrad Benson, Halvor Dalen, Peter Dalen, Thorstein Engerud, Hans Gilbertson, Johannes Ronglie, Ole Sween and Albert Bratrud.

The Bennington, Bloomfield and Ostrander congregations merged in 1958. The Bennington Cemetery Association was formed in 1947. Sigurd Miland serves as chairman.

The first burial was Ole Sween who died in 1897.

Angell Cemetery

This deserted cemetery is in the corner of a field in Section 31. Several broken stones are pushed into a pile. The readable stones list members of the Angell family.

RURAL SCHOOLS

District #3

District 3 was the first school in this township. It was erected in 1860 in Section 30. Mary McKinney taught the first year of school in this building. Later a new modern building was built on the same site.

District #18

District 18's first schoolhouse was built in 1875 in Section 12. Later it was moved a half mile west of that site. When Estella Weidman taught in this district the board members were: Elmer Groby, Mrs. Dulcie Mayland, Claude Card.

District #85

District 85 was organized and the first schoolhouse built in 1874. Clara Mehurin was hired as the first teacher. In 1942 Frances Hamlin taught. Board members were: Mrs. Georgia Bratrud, Rosevelt Thorson and Abner Holt.

District #92

The first District 92 schoolhouse was built in 1875. It was in Section 25. The first teacher was Katie Mehurin. Albert Nelson was the teacher in the 1940's. Board members were: Albert Johnson, Christ L. Christenson and Ingeman Iverson.

District #95

The schoolhouse in District 95 was first located in the southwest quarter of Section 8. Later it was located in the northwest corner of Section 9.

District #102

The first schoolhouse in District 102 was built in 1877 on the northwest quarter of Section 34. N. O. Borswold was the first teacher.

District #118

The school in District 118 known as the West Bennington School was in Section 17 in the west side. It was located five miles south and a mile west of Grand Meadow. Elizabeth Forbes Dahlgren taught in this school in 1927. She rode horseback from her home in Grand Meadow. The school was sold and moved into Grand Meadow to be made into a home.

The Schuyler Speer Century Farm



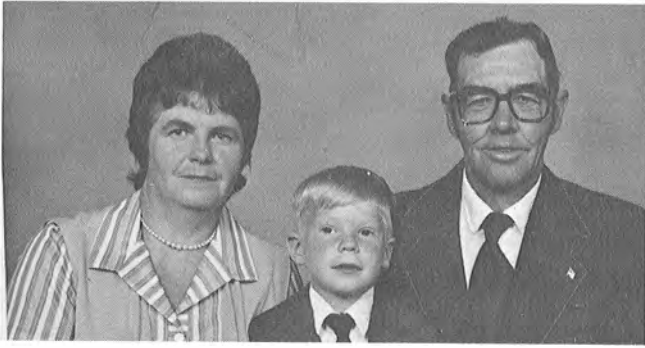
Speer Homestead



Mr. and Mrs. Elgar Speer on their 45th Wedding Anniversary

Schuyler H. Speer was born in Tyre, New York, on Sept. 30, 1828. He married Elizabeth Roberts of Newbury, Ohio, on July 7, 1858. To this union 12 children were born: Celia, Burdette, Katie, Lizzie, Fred, Allie, John, Ethal, Stella, Hattie, Franc and Oscar. Fred and Oscar died at an early age.

They settled near Union, Wis., traveling back and forth with team and buggy from Union to Moscow, Minn. Their son, Burdette, was the first white male child



Mayvls and Kenneth Speer and son Kevin

born in Moscow Township, Freeborn County in 1856. He later became blind at an early age.

Schuyler Speer served in the Civil War. When discharged from the Army in Illinois, he walked all the way home to Minnesota. The soles of his shoes were completely worn out.

In 1875, they settled in Bennington Township, Section 31.

The farm had changed ownership many times before it was purchased by Schuyler Speer on October 23, 1875. Grain was the main crop: Wheat, barley, flax and oats. They also milked a mixed breed of cattle.

On December 15, 1892, the farm was sold to their son, John. He was born November 5, 1867 near Rutland, Wis., and married Hannah Eliza Wiseman on November 2, 1892. John and Hannah bought an additional 40 acres making the farm a 160. To this union 6 children were born: Harry, Elgar, Muriel, Belva, Elizabeth and Howard.

Fire destroyed the home and a new one was built in 1918. At that time they moved the building site closer to the road where it now stands. All the building material was hauled by team and wagon from Taopi. John died on May 30, 1950 and Hannah Eliza on August 8, 1961.

On January 2, 1951, Elgar Speer became the new owner. He was born October 2, 1895 and married Agnes Larson of Spring Valley, Minn. on December 8, 1926. They had five children: Ruth, Kenneth, Dale, Virgil and Victor (twins). Elgar and Agnes moved into LeRoy where he now resides. His wife is a resident of the Riceville Nursing Home.

His son, Kenneth, married Mayvis Hanna on July 20, 1958. They took over the family farm on October 1, 1966. They have one son, Kevin James, born April 28, 1978. Small grain, corn and hay are produced on the farm along with a herd of Holstein dairy cows.

A small twister hit this area on June 13, 1976 doing minor damage to the farm.

by Mrs. Kenneth Speer

CLAYTON TOWNSHIP

The township, originally named Providence in 1858, was organized June, 1873 being then renamed in honor of William Z. Clayton who at one time owned a large tract of land there. A native of Maine, he lived a few years in Winona and for several years spent the summer months in the township. The earliest settler was John Johnson who moved into the southwestern part of the township; he was followed shortly thereafter by Hiram Thompson.

This was one of the townships that was put on the market early and bought up by speculators. The result was that settlement was greatly retarded and there were very few people living there until about 1870. By then a good share of the land had been bought from the speculators and placed under cultivation but crop failures resulted in many farmers losing their homes and the lands again fell into the hands of the speculators.

Marshall Lutheran Church

The Rev. E. Wulfsberg from Albert Lea came in 1876 and the Marshall Lutheran congregation was organized. It had grown to 17 families by 1878 when Pastor Wulfsberg was replaced by Rev. M. Langeland from Cresco, Iowa.

The pastors traveled by train and stayed in the homes of parishioners over the weekend. Services were not held weekly but once or twice a month as the pastors could get there. The bell was very important in early churches. It



Marshall Lutheran Church

was rung in the morning to remind everyone that there would be services that Sunday.

On May 17, 1890, Pastor Jensen laid the cornerstone for the first church building. It was a plain building without pulpit, pews or basement. Many improvements were made over the years. In 1912, the building was completely remodeled; a basement dug and a large stained

Map of
CLAYTON
Township
Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

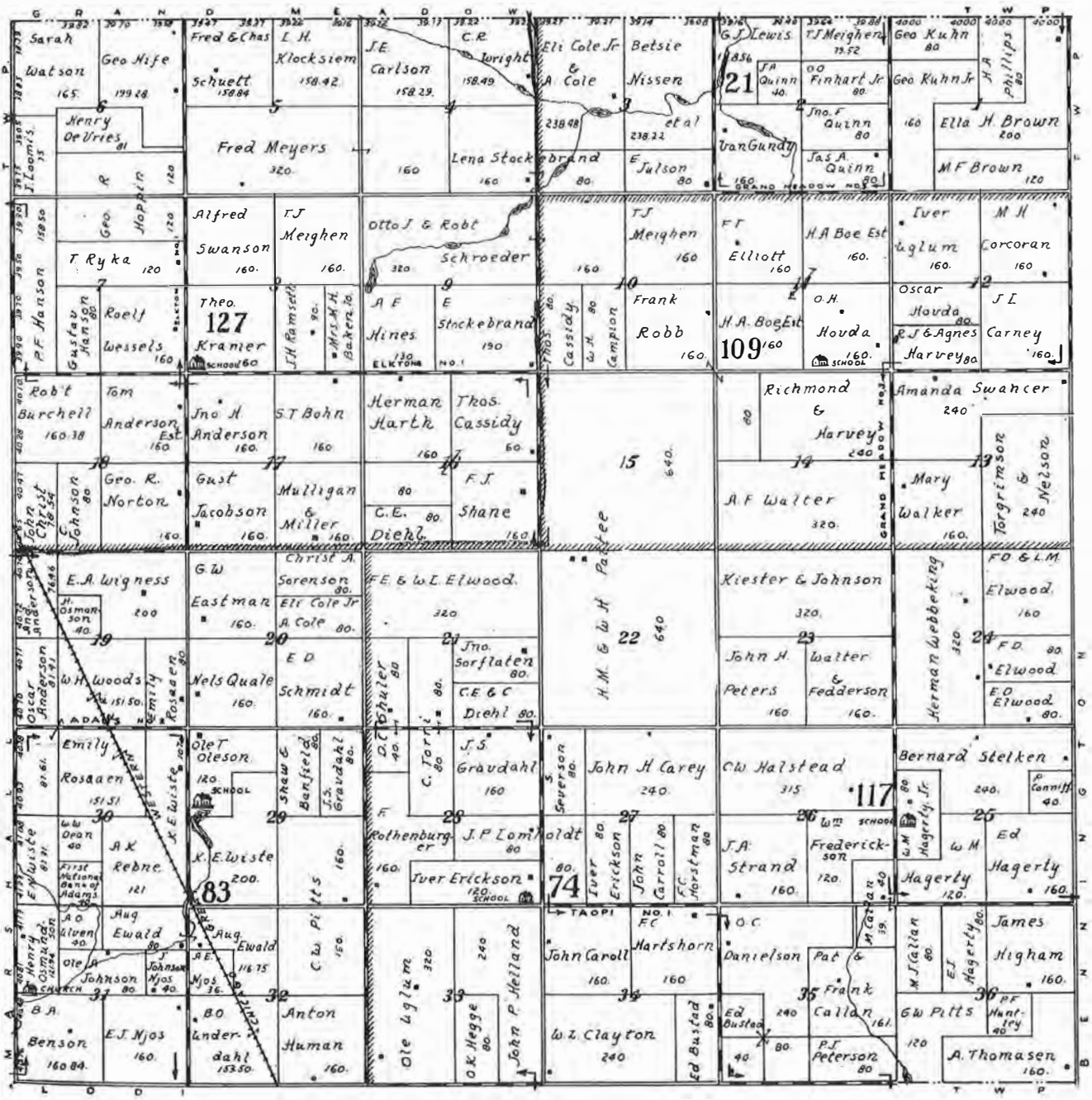
REFERENCES:

- Rail Road School
- Wagon Road Church
- Corp Line Houses
- Creek Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes

1915

Township 102 North Range 15 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA



glass window of "Christ in Gethsemane" placed behind the altar.

The latest remodelling done at Marshall has included such things as the stained glass windows added in 1952, the washrooms and well in 1955. The new interior painting and carpeting were completed in 1974 and the furnace and a new organ were purchased in 1975.

Pastors who have served the congregation are: Revs. Johann Ylvisaker, L. P. Jensen, H. J. Strand, O. Otterson, Thomas Nilsson, Lauritz Larson, K. Figenbaum, Norman, O. C. Brenna, Alfred Breivik, Luther Berven, Marvin L. Witte, Truman Mohn, Wayne Quibell, Allen Gunderson and Nancy R. Wigdahl.

Marshall Lutheran Cemetery

Olaus K. Kirkevold and Knud Snortum were buried in February and August, 1877. These are probably the first two burials in the cemetery.

Andrew and Ingebret Wiste had donated an acre of land for cemetery purposes, but due to an error in recording the deed, Henry Osmundson, who bought the adjoining land also paid for the cemetery acre. Mr. Osmundson, however, later gave the cemetery plot to the congregation and furnished a deed to the cemetery grounds.

RURAL SCHOOLS

Erickson School, District #74

The first schoolhouse in District 74 was built in 1873 and had the distinction of being the first one in the township. It was situated on land in Section 28 owned by I. Erickson. Thus it was known as the Erickson School. The first teacher was Henrietta Bevier. Before the first structure was built a summer session was held at the home of W. S. Root. Mina Hanna was the teacher.

In 1926, the first school building was destroyed by fire and all the records were lost. Another school was built by Joe Wehner Construction Company of Austin. School sessions were held each year until 1957 when the district consolidated with the Adams Public School system. The building then was used as a town hall and community building until 1976 when it was torn down.

Mrs. Hazel Hall shares these memories of the school. "Basket Socials and Pie Socials were held to raise money for school activities. Hot lunches were served in the winter. Many families donated food for the program. When a family butchered a beef, they would bring a large soup bone for the vegetable soup. The older girls would take turns preparing the food for the week. For many years the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag were recited by all to start the school day. Many religions were represented but no one objected.

Not having a well on the school grounds, families living a distance would bring the water in five gallon cream cans, traveling in a horse-drawn buggy. They were paid \$5 a month for this service.

Each spring a day was set aside for "Play Day" in the districts. It was an all day affair. Picnic lunch at noon, races, relays, spelling bees and ball games were some of the activities. Parents also attended when pupils and

teachers from several districts would gather at one school."

Some of the teachers who taught at District 74 were: Henrietta Bevier, Lizzie Slindee, Jane Morgan, Clara Peterson, Pearl Epland, Hildegard Schneider, Violet Padelford, Alfred Hanson, Myrtle Hanson, Gladys Worden, Neal Nichol, Leona Kramer, Marjorie Doty and Blanch Erickson.

District #32

A schoolhouse was erected in this district on the northwest corner of Section 32 in 1876. Miss D. K. Lee was the first teacher.

Corcoran School, District #109



Corcoran School - 1911



New Corcoran School - 1912

This school stood in the south half of Section 11. G. G. Dallen was the first teacher. Roberta Miller Turner taught this school in the years 1940-42.

Some other teachers were: Mildred Glynn, Grand Meadow; Clara Hanson, Grand Meadow and Ethel Clay, Truman, MN. In about 1950, the schoolhouse was moved into Grand Meadow and made into a home.

Callan School, District #117

The schoolhouse in this district was in the west half of Section 25. It was built in March of 1885 and school was held in it three months before it was entirely completed. It was then plastered and seats put in ready for the winter term. The first teacher was Delia McDonnough. Miss Vi Overcamp also taught in this district for two years.

District #127

This school was in the northwest quarter of Section 8. The district was organized January 4, 1900. Sarah Scanlan was the first teacher.

DEXTER TOWNSHIP

The township was named for Dexter Parritt who settled in Section 33 in 1857. His father lived with him and for a number of years, they were the only settlers in the township.

In 1855, the land of Chatfield District was brought into market from the Mississippi to the west Mower County line. The scattered settlers were unprepared to pay for their land at once.

Not wishing to be surrounded, and isolated by the lands of speculators, they petitioned President Pierce to withdraw the sale.

Six townships, north and south through the prairie center of the county, had no settlers and no names on the petition. They were not withdrawn and were speedily entered with land warrents.

The township was organized June 6, 1870 at the house of Henry Dudfield. Officers elected were: Supervisors, Dexter Parritt (chairman), Henry Dudfield, F. W. Thornhill; C. J. Shortt and Hiram Thompson, justices of the peace; D. G. Pearce, clerk; Nelson Huntington, treasurer.

Sutton

Sutton located in Section 26, didn't get platted. The Great Western Railroad went by this trading post, but when the elevator burned in 1887, the railroad dropped train service and Sutton withered on the vine.

Village of Dexter

The village of Dexter is located in the southwest part of Section 13. It was platted in 1874 and incorporated in 1878.

United Methodist Church

Rev. J. I. Allen and Rev. Ohke conducted religious services in the Peck School six miles northeast of Dexter in 1885. These seem to be the first Methodist services in the community.

In 1928, Rev. Peter I. King, pastor of the Grand Meadow Methodist Episcopal Church began holding regular services in a building belonging to the Community Congregational Church of Dexter. A meeting between officials of the Methodist Episcopal conference and the Congregational conference arranged for the transfer of the church building and other property to the Methodists.

The Pleasant Valley church building was moved to Dexter and placed perpendicular to the Congregational building. This arrangement provided room for the sanctuary and a social hall. The new church was dedicated June 23, 1929.



United Methodist Church

On August 20, 1967, ground breaking ceremonies were held for the construction of a new brick church. The first service, a Sunday School Christmas program, was held December 22, 1967, and the consecration service the following June.

Dexter Cemetery

The Dexter Cemetery is located north of the Village of Dexter in Section 13. It was platted in 1889 and was originally laid out in 72 principal lots and 306 smaller lots.

Early burials were: Derk Van Denver (1888), Stella Dickens (1889) and Callie A. Welch (1889).



Dexter Cemetery

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

On December 3, 1883, a meeting was held to organize an Evangelical Lutheran congregation. The first trustees were: Conrad Christgau, Johann Christgau and W. Jacobi. Prior to this, services had been held by various pastors and students from Red Wing and New Ulm.

In 1891, the congregation built a church on land given by the widow of Conrad Christgau. Services had been

Map of
DEXTER
Township

Scale 1 1/2 inches for one Mile

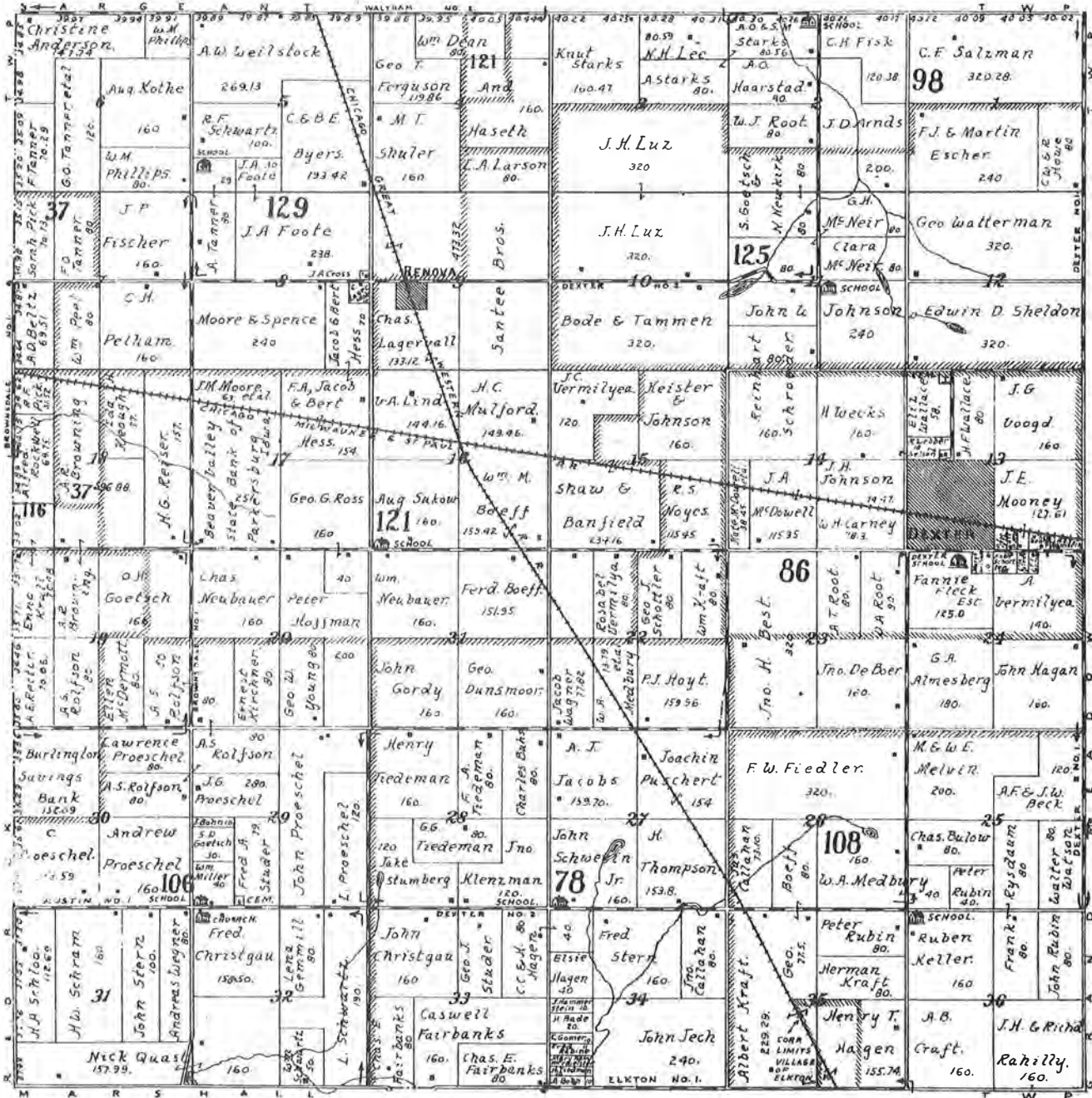
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Township 103 North Range 16 West of the 5th P. M.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

conducted in the District #106 schoolhouse across the road.

The old German custom of men sitting on one side of the church and women on the other was given up when the church was dedicated. The reason for the change was said to be so the fathers could help the mothers take care of the little children. The plan seemed to work as the children were very well behaved after this plan was started.

The church built in 1891 is still in use. In the early 40's it was extensively remodeled; rooms were added on either end, a full basement constructed and electricity and a furnace installed. In 1954, eight stained glass windows were installed in the main part of the church.

A landowner in Ohio, Houston Hays, owned land in Section 29 and donated a little more than an acre to be used as a cemetery. It was platted in lots one rod square, with a 2-foot path one way and a 4-foot path the other between the lots.

Members of the congregation cleared the ground and each member contributing labor received a lot free. Members who joined later paid \$3.00 for a lot.

Later, a cemetery association was formed; a constitution adopted and officers elected.

RURAL SCHOOLS

Maple Leaf School, District #106

The one-room school known as Maple Leaf School is still standing across from the Trinity Evangelical Church in Section 29. Some of the teachers were: Helen Sullivan, Edna Proeschal Richie, Helen Studer, Ferne Anderson and Laura Studer Hammermeister.

In 1942, the board members were: C. Irving Freeman, Edgar Christgau and Mrs. Lloyd Hammermeister.

Rural School Memories

The Maple Leaf School District #106, Dexter Town-



Maple Leaf School



Laura Hammermeister and pupils at Monticr School

ship, was built before the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Services were held in the school while the church was being built in 1891.

I always tried to get to school by eight o'clock. In the winter I had the fire to build and get my board work on the blackboards. We would have ten minutes opening exercises which would be songs such as: "America," "Minnesota State Song" and others taken from the "Golden Book of Favorite Songs." Some days we would have quotations and on some, riddles.

Classes were from ten minutes to twenty minutes long. It depended on how many grades we had. Sometimes there wouldn't be anyone in a certain grade.

I always taught phonics so the children could sound out the words. We read out loud in the reading classes. They saw, they heard and they spoke the words and I think this helped. Many took home their readers so they read the lesson over at home.

The older children had good textbooks and if we completed the history or geography book the students had a pretty good idea of these subjects. Then we would review and get ready for the state examinations required of the eighth graders in order to go on to high school.

Years ago, in 1914, the students had to go to the villages to take these tests. District 106 students went to Dexter. Then we eagerly waited a month or so for our results from the state. Eighth grade graduation day was a big day. The little towns in the county would change off

having this celebration. We all went to Brownsdale the year I graduated.

We also had fun. On good days we always played ball. We also had other games for inside and outside. We always had a Christmas program which consisted of songs, recitations and some funny dialogs. At Valentine's Day we had a valentine box. Some years we would have a basket social and have a program and a few funny dialogs. The schoolhouse would be packed.

The last hour and half on Fridays was spent on drawing, art and craft work. We took some maps and drawings to the county fair.

We were happy when the superintendent came to visit. Mrs. Rice and Miss Sherwood always brought articles to tell us about. Mrs. Rice brought a real ostrich egg and once she told us how pencils were made. She visited Hawaii, brought a coconut and told us about that. Also, when the superintendent visited she would have a penmanship class for all.

The teacher's institute was interesting. We would have at least three days where the superintendent explained new books and new ideas. We always came home with some new songs and poems for our pupils. There was also two good teacher magazines that had many helpful ideas for teachers.

The names of schools were Sunny Side, Maple Leaf, Monitor and Phillips. Some of the school board members were Nick Quast, Louis Schwartz, Fred Studer and Henry Schloo.

Just think! We could spend *ten dollars* for school supplies each year! Supplies consisted of colored construction paper, writing paper, crayons, paste, paintbrushes, hectograph ink, etc.

We didn't have workbooks, but I had to make much seat work for my little people.

There was no well at the school so we must walk to the nearest neighbor for water. The older children and the teacher took their turn at getting water.

In winter, the children would bring a jar of food which we would warm up on top of the stove in a pan of water.

We made furniture out of orange crates for the little folks to use when doing certain seat work or pasting. We made a table, four chairs and a cupboard for work supplies.

The last day of school was for fun. Most everyone in the district came with good food.

I generally bought five gallons of ice cream. Then after dinner we'd have every imaginable race and I'd give prizes. One year we even had a rope pulling contest—the east side of the district against the west.

We had good maps and encyclopedias and many library books.

As for wages, I got \$75.00 a month and up to \$95.00 a month. In my last year of teaching, 1937, I only got \$50.00.

by Laura Studer Hammermeister

The Monitor School, District #121

The schoolhouse in this district was located in Section 16. It was south of the little hamlet of Renova which no longer exists. The schoolhouse is still there and is used as

the Dexter Town Hall, where voting takes place and many groups meet for social gatherings. Teachers known to have taught there are: Elizabeth Forbes Dahlgren and Laura Studer Hammermeister.

Other schools in Dexter Township were Districts #98, (Stark School), #125, #129 (Phillips School), #98, #125 and #129.

CENTURY FARM

The Christgau Farm

Conrad Christgau purchased the 160 acre farm in Section 32 in 1882. It was sold to his son, Fredrick Christgau, about a year later.

In 1952, the farm became the property of the Diamond Park Farm Group composed of Conrad's grandsons: Arthur E., Victor A., Theodore H., Milton A. and his great-grandson Merton A. Christgau.



Helen Rolfson was one of the teachers at Monitor School

Mrs. Rolfson has Memories of Long Ago

Mrs. Guy Rolfson, Austin, recently wrote to tell about Dexter Township at the turn of the century. She is 99 years of age. Her letter follows:

"I wonder if you would be interested in a few things about Dexter Township."

"I went out there to teach in 1903. I had to have a year's experience in order to get a first grade teacher's certificate. I taught that year in the Monitor School, which still stands.

"My husband's father, Asbjorn Rolfson, came to America in 1867. He was born in Norway in 1853. At 14 years of age he stowed away on a ship which was leaving for America. He hid under some canvas on deck. They were well out at sea when he was found. They took him to the kitchen and fed him, then made him work for his board.

"When they landed they told him he would have to return to Norway, as he had no sponsor here. A man who heard them tell this said, "I will sponsor the boy." He brought Asbjorn to La Crosse and then he was on his own.

"Asbjorn worked his way to Brownsdale where some Norwegians from his home locality now lived. He learned English in the Brownsdale school, then went into Dexter Township.

"I have an old tax receipt, dated 1894 and signed by Gottlieb Seebach, county treasurer which shows a total tax of \$14.81 on an improved 80 acre farm.

"Dexter Township was politically minded. Otto Goetsch was our state representative and Victor Christ-

gau was our congressman in Washington. Albert Stark was our state senator.

"There were two railroad stops, one at Renova and one at Sutton. Renova boasted a general store with a hotel in the upper story. Travelers had to make overnight stays in those days. There was a hardware store, an elevator and I believe a milk station."

by Helen Rolfson

FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP

Frankford Township was organized in April, 1856 by temporary county commissioners meeting in Frankford Village; then the county seat. The village was platted June 2, 1856. Another settlement, by Norwegian immigrants, centered around Bear Creek Lutheran Church. Origin of the name Frankford is obscure.

Organizations active from 1911-1982 are: Farm Bureau, Frankford Grange, Frankford Boosters (a 4-H group), Bear Creek Band, Farmer's Union and B. I. Club (an organization for women).

Since this is a farming area, family businesses of 50 years duration are not uncommon. There are four farms continuously operated by the same family 100 years or more. They are: David and Marlys Goodsell, from 1856; Herbert and Ann Hanson, from 1875; Richard and Katherine Runkle, from 1882; David and Janet Lorenson.

Events

A centennial and a 125 year anniversary of Bear Creek Lutheran Church; a centennial celebration of Frankford stone schoolhouse attended by nearly 500 former teachers, pupils and friends of the school; the destruction by fire of the Lobster House followed by its rebuilding.

Changes

Country schools closed as their districts consolidated with Grand Meadow. The Milwaukee Railroad closed this branch, taking up tracks that were laid in 1870.

Frankford Township has one church, two cemeteries, a town hall and a first class dining restaurant.

by Ruth Goodsell

Frankford Village

Frankford Village was settled along the banks of Deer Creek in 1854 on a site chosen by Lewis Patchin, Bartlett Leathers and Byron Woodworth.

Families soon arrived from eastern states, houses were built and businesses started to provide for the needs of a pioneer community. The town was platted in 1856 with all the proper streets and alleys. It was appointed county seat of Mower County.

Some of the early settlers were: Sam Scribner, 1855; Andrew Scribner, 1855; Naaman Goodsell, 1856; Charles Lamb, 1856; William Harper, 1856; R. A. Donaldson, 1857; Shelburn Bostwick, 1857.

At one time there were three stores, three blacksmith and wagon shops, a grist mill, a chair and coffin factory, a shoe shop, a harness shop, and one hotel, the Patchin Hotel which also served as post office. In 1867 a schoolhouse was built of limestone quarried nearby. There was a Freewill Baptist Church across the road. A cemetery started in 1856 is very well kept and still in use. A stage line from St. Paul to Dubuque passed through the village.

Frankford provided a social center for the surrounding area with people coming from as far away as Austin and Chatfield to parties and dances. County Court was held in the village and the records stored in an upstairs room of Patchin's Hotel.

There was friction with Austin over the location of the county seat resulting in the records being stolen and taken secretly to Austin. However, when a vote was taken later, Austin was chosen.

In 1870 the Southern Minnesota Railroad came through and new towns sprang up along it, making the river settlements unnecessary. The old village withered and the land returned to farm use.

Nothing is left of Frankford now except a lovely cemetery—and memories.

by Ruth Goodsell

The Mystery of the Old Lamb House

Emily Galloway and her husband, Leo, once lived in the Charles Lamb house which was the subject of many strange tales. The first section was built in the 1850s. A separate home was moved to the site and made a part of the original house in the 1860s. This was done for Grandma Lamb. Finally a west wing was added to serve as quarters for the hired help.

The house had eight rooms downstairs, each with an exit to the outside. There was a total of nineteen doors and two stairways to the upstairs rooms because there was no connecting door. One room upstairs had no door. It could only be entered from the outside by way of a ladder through a window.

One bedroom had one window looking out. From the outside two windows could be seen. When the wing was torn down they found three floors. The middle one was worn half through in front of the extra window.

There are rumors of dark deeds which occurred in this house in the 1870s. A gang of famous outlaws is supposed to have lived there. Hence, the need for the numer-

Map of
FRANKFORD
Township
Scale 1 1/2 inches to one Mile

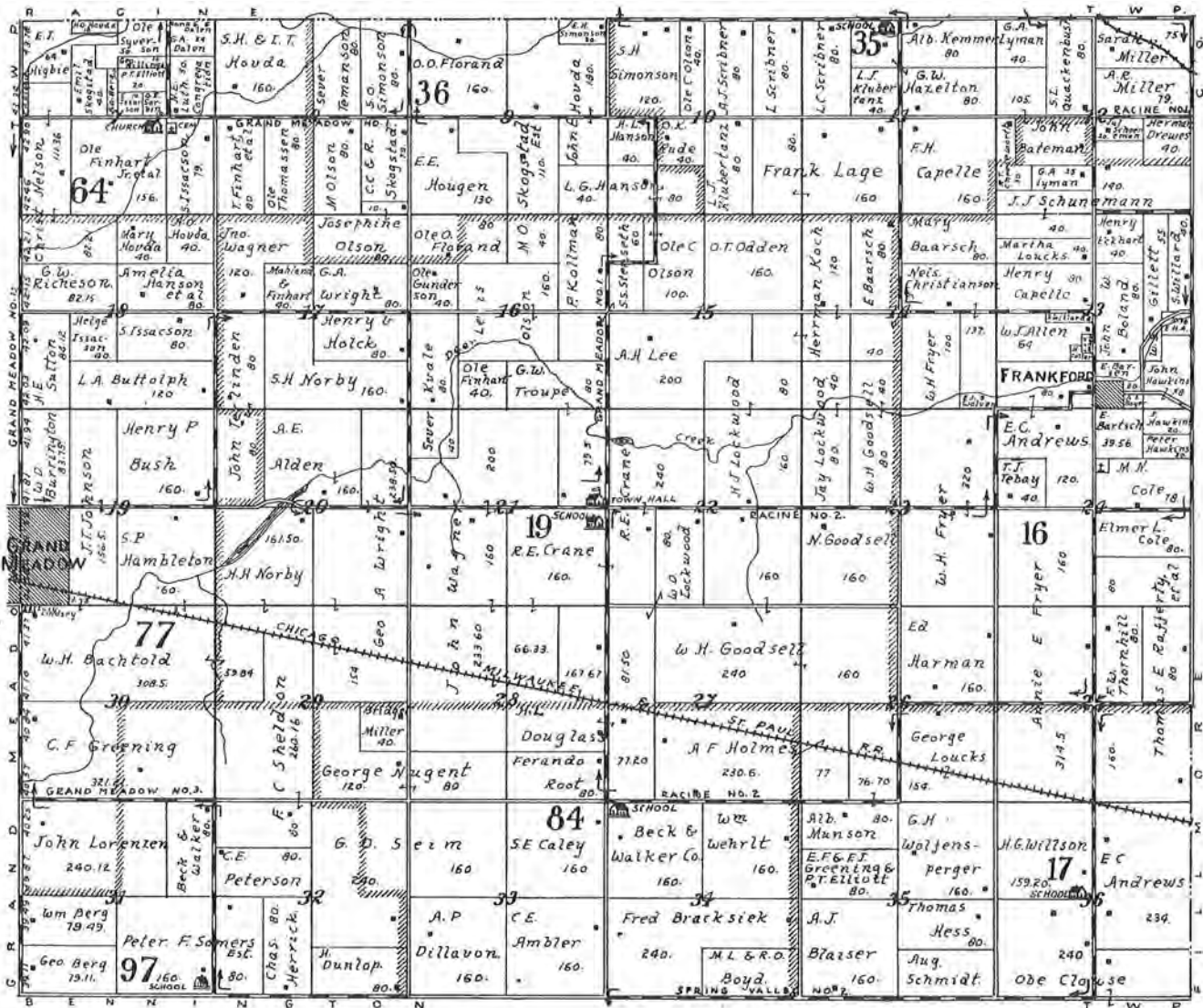
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ous exits. The worn place in the center layer of flooring near the extra window hid counterfeit plates or money until it could be picked up by other gangsters.

Gang members were also professional horse thieves. Horses seemed to disappear without a trace. It was said they were hidden in a large cave with a camouflaged entrance. Such a cave has never been found, so Emily believes the cave was sealed with rock years ago.

A Free Will Baptist Church located on one corner of the farm, burned to the ground in 1871. It burned on the night that a sheriff's posse was reported on its way to look for counterfeit plates in it belfry.

The Galloways lived in the old house from 1941 to 1975. The back door of the new home is just three feet from where the old house stood.

That is the story of the mysterious house in the ghost town of Frankford.

The B. I. Club

The B. I. Club began in the Frankford community on June 20, 1914 when six young ladies got together for more social life, to exchange ideas, and to lend a helping hand to others. The ladies were Floy Boland, Emma Hawkins, Leona Hess, Daisy and Myrtle Lyman and Anna Larson. The name was kept secret and only revealed to new members, until it was announced at their 50th anniversary as the "Bright Idea Club." They met twice a month, on Saturdays as they were still in school, and paid five cents for meeting dues. Now 68 years later, they meet once a month and pay only ten cents a month dues.



Charter Members of B.I. Club - 50th Anniversary
Left to right: Daisy Glover, Myrtle Churchill, Leona Shipton, Emma Loucks and Floy Boland.

Over 140 members have belonged down through the years with the average membership about 20 to 25.

The club's four largest projects were: Putting on a play to raise money; sponsoring the Frankford Village Centennial on May 30, 1954 at the old stone schoolhouse, a landmark of the once thriving village; June 4, 1967 sponsored the centennial of the old stone schoolhouse with 237 people registering including 9 former teachers and 50 pupils. The school had been closed since 1943. They compiled recipes for a 150 page cookbook and sold 530 copies.

The Frankford Cemetery Floral Club

The Frankford Cemetery Floral Club was organized Feb. 15, 1927 at the home of Mrs. Frank Hess with the object of improving and beautifying the cemetery. Twenty-two ladies joined and elected Mrs. Frank Hess, president; Mrs. Emma Loucks, vice president; Mrs. Bingley Gillette, secretary; and Mrs. Lee Tebay, treasurer.

Through the years the membership increased to over 40 members. They meet once a year, usually in April or early May, with dues of 25¢ a year, which goes to buy flowers for four urns and some flower beds at the cemetery. They gather just before Memorial Day at the cemetery to do the planting. Each member who lives close enough and is able, takes one week during the summer and until frost to water and tend the flowers.

The oldest member, Mrs. Charles Lockwood, who is 102 years old, still attended meetings until entering the rest home last year.

Frankford Cemetery



Memorial for the Old School at Frankford Cemetery

The history of the nation is written in its burial grounds. The village of Frankford was on a trail from Dubuque, Iowa to St. Paul in the 1850s and 60s. A family passing through had a little child die while staying overnight at the hotel in Frankford, and the owner of the land where the cemetery is now located gave them permission to bury the child there. A child found drowned in the river was also buried there and other burials followed, some in unmarked graves. Thus started the Frankford Cemetery.

It wasn't until February 15, 1913 that a permanent cemetery association was formed. The first elected officers were: A. N. Churchill, president; L. Y. Tebay, vice president; William Jensen, secretary; J. W. Boland, treasurer. Four meetings were held that spring to get organized. The ground was leveled and seeded down. A portion was set aside as free burial place for the poor. The lot charge was set at \$10.00.

After the Frankford school consolidation the old stone school was given to the Cemetery Association in 1955. In 1978 it was sold and demolished saving enough stone for a base for the bell and placed in the cemetery. The

memorial has a plaque with an etching of the old stone schoolhouse.

The cemetery is 2.44 acres located in Section 24 of Frankford Township. The present officers of the association are: Jerry Seabright, president; Dale Baarsch, vice president; Mrs. Robert Churchill, secretary; Mrs. Marlin Rathbun, treasurer.

Two of the oldest burials in Frankford Cemetery are: Fanny A. Lockwood in 1851 and Mary A. Harris in 1855.

Bear Creek Community



Bear Creek Lutheran Church

Thirty-six Norwegian settlers left Dane County, Wisconsin and arrived in Frankford Township on July 1, 1854. They came in covered wagons drawn by oxen. They constructed their camp on Section 9.

In a few days all who were entitled to pre-empted public land had each pre-empted his homestead.

On June 22, 1856 the first regular Lutheran Church service was held by Rev. C. L. Clausen, and the church was organized that same day.

A deed for the schoolhouse ground was dated January 17, 1859.

In the first years of the Bear Creek settlement the homesteaders took no part in town or county politics. They feared they were not competent in language or knowledgeable of American governmental methods. Some years later Ole Jorgens was elected justice of the peace, and then the Norwegians began to attend town meetings.

Years ago Bear Creek was a beautiful stream of water, but now it is almost a dry run.

Extracted from A BRIEF HISTORY OF BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY by Lars G. Hanson

Bear Creek Cemetery

The Bear Creek Church was built in 1869 and finished in 1870. The decision to start a cemetery was reached at the same time.

In 1923 the cemetery records were brought up-to-date by the following committee: Carl O. Skogstad, Emil Skogstad, Sever Teamanson, and Marit Lindelien. The cemetery was separated from the church organization in 1955. At that time the Bear Creek Cemetery Association set up its by-laws; the first annual meeting was held June 18, 1956 and have continued to this time.

The first board was: Melvin Skaran, Galen Warn, Melvin Anderson, Elvin H. Hanson and Marvin Skustad. Others involved in cemetery work have been: Lars Wahl, Sigurd Kvall, Elgar Hovda and Elmer Hoeft. The current board is: Ole Isaacson, Clare Root, James Anderson, Richard Runkle and Steven Hovda.

The oldest known people buried at Bear Creek Cemetery are: John Amundson Lindelien, born December 23, 1795 and died March 13, 1872; Kari Hovda, born 1798. Several other graves are unmarked, unrecorded, or not readable.

Methodist Norwegian Cemetery — Bear Creek

This is a deserted cemetery in Section 7 of Frankford Township and is across the road from the Bear Creek Church and cemetery.

The names listed on the stones are: Anderson, Hovda, Moen and Sorben. The last burial seems to have been Anne O. Sorbon in 1940.

Sever Temanson Cemetery

One of the oldest cemeteries in the county is the Temanson Cemetery in Section 8 of Frankford Township.

In July, 1854, fourteen Norwegian families settled in the area in Section 8. Ole C. Syverud was the colony's gunsmith. He shot the first bear along the stream and the area and the creek became known as "Bear Creek." Ole Simonson Jobraaten was the blacksmith and was given the first choice for his claim and built the first log cabin. The leader of the group was Ole Olson Finhart. At one time the population of this colony was in excess of 100.

The Temanson Cemetery was used for burials between 1854 and 1870. A monument in the old cemetery commemorates the people buried there; the original grave markings were probably wooden crosses and time has destroyed them. Engravings on the monument list the names of the people buried there. Among them are Anders Torhaug (first person buried) and Erland Brufalt (the second person buried). The other names include Lindelien, Simonson, Papenchred, Rustebake, Syverud, Weeks, Moen, Jobraaten, Skalshaugen, Haugen, Flored, Skaran, Barnson, and Hovda. Many of these burials were of children.

FRANKFORD SCHOOL DISTRICTS

District #17

School District #17, Section 36 was built in 1873 and was the first permanent school building in this district. G. A. Elder taught the first term in this building. Prior to this a board shanty 12' x 14', costing \$25 to build,

was used for the school. The first teacher was Mrs. Lambertson who taught three months at \$25 per month.

District #19

School District #19, Section 21 was built of logs by Bothmel Canady in 1857. W. F. Grummons was the first to teach in the schoolhouse. Later, in 1870, the district erected a frame building.

District #35

School District #35, Section 11 was built in the year 1856 and constructed of logs. Either Frank Johnson or John Fell was the first teacher. In 1877 the log house was torn down and a new one erected.

District #84

School District #84, Section 34 had its first schoolhouse built in the northwest corner of Section 34 in 1877. Lyda Goodsell was the first teacher.

District #97

School District #97, Section 31 was organized in 1876. A. S. Woodworth was the first teacher in the schoolhouse located in the southeast quarter of Section 31.

District #163

School District #163, Section 24 was originally organized as District 1 and was the first district in Mower County. The first school in Frankford Township was located in a room over Francis Tebout's store in the village of Frankford in 1856. Miss Cunningham was the first teacher. A schoolhouse, the first in this district was built in 1867. It was made entirely of stone. The first teacher was N. W. Boyes.

Ruth Lewis Athens, who graduated from Grand Meadow High School in 1910 and taught in the rural schools for 21 years, taught in the #160 Stone School. Blanche Russell Peterson and Marjorie Jefferis, were also teachers in this school. It was affiliated with the Spring Valley System.

District #36

School District #36, Section 5 — Florin School was first taught by Marie Tommerson Berg. This schoolhouse is still standing on the Bear Creek picnic grounds near Grand Meadow. The board members for this school in the year 1942 were: Elgar Hovda, clerk; Mrs. Sanford Jorgens, treasurer; Olaus Simonson, chairman. Mrs. Olive Waldron was the teacher.

Other schools in the township for which no information was found were: 127-J, Section 1, #64, Section 6.

CENTURY FARMS

The Allen Farm

William I. Allen and his wife, Margaret, purchased their 92 acre farm on September 16, 1884. After William's death, Margaret continued to live on the farm until her death in 1943.

Webb Allen, son of William and Margaret, was the next to own the farm following his mother's death. He and his wife, Golda, purchased the shares of his brother, Charles and his sister, Pearle Steffens. Webb was employed at the George A. Hormel Co. Webb and Golda rented the farm land and used the wood land for pasture.

In the 1940s a tornado destroyed the barn and hay shed. Mr. Allen continued working at Hormel's until his retirement in 1950. The house was then remodeled.

Webb died in 1975. Golda continues to live on the farm. The 100th anniversary of the family ownership is celebrated in 1984.



Golda and Webb Allen

The Goodsell Farm

Naaman Goodsell was born in Bloomfield, New York. He was married in Ohio to Jane Goodrich of Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Naaman and Jane moved to the Frankford Township in the Minnesota Territory in 1856. The farm deed has the signature of Abraham Lincoln.

In line of succession the Goodsell farm was owned by Winfield Hiram Goodsell, 1861-1894; Hobert Winfield Goodsell, 1894-1972; and now David Kay Goodsell, born in 1932.

David's mother, Mrs. Ruth Goodsell, lives in her home a few rods east of the home place.



The Goodsell Family

Left to right: Glen, Daniel, Allen, Marlys, David, Kay and Brenda

Skogstad — Jorgens — Runkle Farm

Carl G. Skogstad and his wife, Ragnhild, purchased the 80 acre farm on Section 8, Frankford Township in August, 1883. They were both immigrants from Norway, and had been married in 1881.

Skogstad's neighbor, Teman Temanson, had land which was too wet for a building site. Skogstad sold Temanson ten acres of his dry land out of friendship. Then 40 acres were added to the Skogstad farm in 1917.

Carl and Ragnhild had three children: Clarence, Otis



Catherine and Richard Runkle

and Cora. Cora married John Jorgens in 1913 and two years later they moved into Cora's home farm. They purchased the farm after the deaths of Carl and Ragnhild. The Jorgens had one daughter, Catherine.

In 1939 Catherine married Richard Runkle of Pleasant Valley Township. They farmed in the Pleasant Valley area until 1947 when they moved to Catherine's home place.

John and Cora lived with them until John's death in 1975 and Cora's in 1976. The Runkles had purchased the farm in 1966 and continue living there in 1984. Their children are: David, Lakewood, Colorado; Marcheta (Mrs. Richard Allen), Glenville, Minnesota; and Steve, Preston, Minnesota. There are eight grandchildren.

GRAND MEADOW TOWNSHIP

Grand Meadow is a prairie township. Legend has it that it takes its name from the enthusiastic reaction of an eastern visitor who exclaimed when viewing the area from a hill, "What a Grand Meadow."

The first settler was Erland Olson. He built a log house in Section 12 in 1854. Arthur McNelly, Andrew McCabe and S. H. Rice came a little later. The township was organized in 1862 at a meeting at the B. F. Langworthy home. The following officers were elected: B. F. Langworthy, chairman; C. Knapp; O. W. Case; A. Avery, clerk; G. C. Parker, treasurer; C. B. Remington and S. H. Rice, justices of peace; W. A. Lunt, assessor; N. C. Markham and J. M. McCabe, constables.



West side of Main Street - 1900



Grand Meadow School - 1903 to 1916

Village of Grand Meadow

The village of Grand Meadow was laid out in 1870. The railroad at that time had been built as far as the creek east of town. An act passed by the legislature in 1876, authorized a village election. Officers elected were: president, E. M. Barnard; recorder, B. F. Wood; Wm. Bentley; Gilbert H. Allen and S. M. Jenks.

Grand Meadow's business district has dwindled considerably. Shopping in the larger towns made possible by good roads and the automobile has left the local merchant unable to compete. The population has steadily increased, however, due to the large number of residents who commute to nearby cities to work. The larger cities offer job opportunities, but many prefer to live in the quiet friendliness of a small town.

St. Finbarr's Catholic Church

The first Mass was offered by Father Pendergast in the Art McNally home in 1858. The priest was on a missionary trip between Austin and Winona. Father George Keller said Mass between 1861 and 1865 and the new parish was organized between 1877 and 1897. It was under the direction of Father Hurley of the St. Augustine's Parish in Austin. Father Sullivan was the mission pastor.

St. Finbarr's was a mission of Spring Valley until 1939. Father Donald Cunningham, from Queen of Angel's Parish in Austin, then began serving as priest. In 1946, Father Grafe became the first resident pastor. Father James Dandeleit of St. Patrick's Parish, LeRoy is the current pastor.

The Arthur McNally family donated a plot of land in Section 13 to be used as a cemetery. It is located one mile north and a mile west of Grand Meadow.

Harley Pack and William Liles are buried in unmarked graves in the southwest corner of the cemetery, dates unknown. The first dated graves are: James Coin, 1877; John Smith, 1877 and Mary Duffy, 1878.

Lutheran Church

"The Grand Meadow Evangelical Lutheran Church" was officially formed at the cabin of Jens Jorgensen March 25, 1876. Services were conducted at various loca-



Evangelical Lutheran Church

tions until 1879 when a church was built in the south part of town.

In 1893, several meetings were held to reorganize the congregation. The church building was moved and renovated and a church constitution was drafted. Signers of the original constitution were: Tom M. Lokke, A. D. Samso, Peter E. Peterson, A. E. Hovda, Erick E. Myhre, J. J. Weeks Jr., Ole P. Hauge, John Lindelien and Ulrick Julson.

During the period 1882 to 1893, Pastor Bue served both the Grand Meadow and the Bear Creek Lutheran Churches. It was due to his influence that these two churches later became one call.

In 1904, a new church building was dedicated built on two lots across from the schoolhouse. The basement was large enough for only a one-register furnace. No provision was made for water or any plumbing. In 1922, the church was raised and a full basement built and a new kitchen installed.

In 1954, the old church was sold to a group from Spring Valley and moved there. A new stone church was constructed on the same site and dedicated August 7, 1955.

Other pastors of the Grand Meadow Lutheran Church have been: Rev. S. O. Rondestvedt (1893-1901), Rev. O. G. Belsheim (1901-1907), Rev. A. H. Gjevre (1907-1913), Rev. H. C. M. Jahren (1913-1928), Rev. John Ritland (1928-1929), Rev. J. C. Thompson (1929-1948), Rev. John Skepstad (1948-1953), Rev. Eugene V. Holland (1953-1960), Rev. Allen T. Peterson (1960-1973) and Rev. James S. Davis (1973-).

RURAL SCHOOLS

The Overcamp School, District #20

District 20 was organized May 1, 1868. The first officers were A. O. Finhart, treasurer; O. W. Case, clerk and B. F. Langworthy, director. A schoolhouse was erected in the same year in Section 12. It was replaced by a new one in 1884. Later a belfry was added and a fine bell purchased.

This new building was well equipped with a Smith heating and ventilating system, fine slate blackboards and a sanitary water fountain. The school was known as

the Overcamp School, probably because the teachers boarded at the Overcamp home.

In 1942, the teacher was Belva Skustad. In 1944-45, Ruth Lewis Athens and Audrey Maley Queensland taught the school. The board members those years were Leo Calkins, Otis Miland and Mel Skaran. Virginia Johanns Callan also taught in District 20.

School District #21

District 21 was organized around 1868. The schoolhouse was located in Section 35 on the southeast edge of the Grand Meadow Township. All the records have been lost.

School District #53

District 53 was one of the oldest districts in the county. In early times the schoolhouse was built of logs and sod. Miss Anker was the first teacher.

In 1873, a half acre in the southeast quarter of Section 9 was deeded to the district and a schoolhouse built. In 1897, this building was moved to the southwest quarter of Section 10.

The school board members in 1942 were: Elmer Johnson, Volney Davis and Fred Sievertsen. The teacher was Laurene Davis. Volney Davis was the first Grand Meadow High School graduate and served many years on the board of District 53.

School District #69

School District 69 was organized in 1869. That same year a schoolhouse was built in the southeast quarter of Section 29. In 1879, it was moved to the northwest quarter of the section.

In 1890, a new school building was built across from the old one. The first teacher in the district was Ella Austin. Her father, Gus Austin, built the first schoolhouse.

Experiences of a Rural School Teacher (1928 - 1930)

The schools where I taught were very much alike—a box shaped building longer than wide. Two had wood and coal sheds attached, one had the shed thirty feet from the main school building.

Entry was made into the cloak room, on either side were hooks for coats and a shelf for dinner pails. Inside the door leading to the main school room was an aisle in the center leading to the teacher's desk with pupils' desks on either side. There was a potbelly stove on the right and at the back of the room, a counter on which a pail of water and dipper was placed.

Outside at the rear of the building were two outside toilets; one for boys, one for girls.

I taught all eight grades and was the janitor. I would sweep out after school, bank the fire and pray. The next morning I would be out early to start the fire in the old stove. I received \$85.00 a month because I asked for it. Other teachers were paid less. The same books were used year after year. Supplies were erasers, chalk, ink and construction paper.

I lived at a home with modern plumbing. I would ride a bicycle to school until snow came and then went on horseback. It added up to 586 miles on horseback in one school year. A few times, Earl Rice had to take me to

Map of
Grand Meadow
Township

Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

1915

Township 103 North Range 15 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA

REFERENCES:

- Rail Road School
- Wagon Road Church
- Corp. Line Houses
- Creek Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes



school in his one-horse sleigh. Twice I was stuck out in the country because of blizzards that lasted three days each.

by Mrs. Frank T. Dahlgren

CENTURY FARM

Olson/Warn Farm

Tollef Olson bought this 40 acre Century Farm in Section 14 on Jan. 29, 1875. His son, Simon J., and wife Hannah became the owners in 1907. They had two daughters, Alice and Thrasea.

Thrasea married Galen L. Warn and they took over the farm in 1947. They were the parents of two children: Shirley and Glen. Glen married Betty Edmunds and bought the 40 acre Century Farm in 1983. They have three children: Julie, Valerie and Cynthia.

LANSING TOWNSHIP

by Arlene Bonnes

The Early Days

The first to settle in the township in 1853 was H. O. "Hunter" Clark. He built a log cabin near what is now Oakwood Cemetery. In 1855 the claim was sold to William Baudler. In 1854 John Pettibone purchased land in what is now Lansing. He remained there until 1857 when he sold property to A. B. Vaughan and D. M. V. Stewart. Pettibone returned to Ohio. Alanson B. Vaughan, who Lansing is named after, had five grown sons: Phineas D., John G., Herman B., Enoch G., and Benjamin K. Each son received a quarter section of land.

Thomas Gibson settled on what is known as the Pollock farm east of Lansing and William Rutherford on what is now the Glen Uecker farm. Harcar Lyons, Jos. Gillen, Jos. Smith, John Dignan, A. H. Chapin, Lewis Thompson, Jonas Haney, George Baird, A. Bartlett and others came soon. Later George Wood, John Mathieson, A. C. Boynton, C. C. Bell, Robert Lewis, E. H. Wells, M. Teeter and others arrived to take up land.

The Vaughan family was very industrious. A. B. Vaughan built the Lansing Steam Mill in 1857. The engine was hauled by team from Wabasha, Minnesota. This ran as a saw mill until 1860 and was converted into a grist mill. This operated for three years when the engine was sold and taken to Osage, Iowa. Later a windmill was put up to furnish power.

The Lansing Cemetery property was donated by A. B. Vaughan. A log house (first building) built by A. B. Vaughan in 1855 was his residence. The first building for business purposes was built by P. D. Vaughan in 1858 and rented to John Clark. In 1859 this building was destroyed by fire. In the fall of 1864 P. D. Vaughan again opened a store stocked with general merchandise. George Wood also had an interest in the store until 1866 when the business was sold to A. B. Vaughan.

In 1860 Patrick Eagan built a home which became the Lansing Hotel. In 1864 the first host at the hotel was Benjamin Carll who operated it until 1867, then his son-

in-law, William Brown, took over. In the early 1900s it was still a hotel with restaurant and ice cream parlor. The building is now a residence.

Lansing Flour Mill

In 1877 a mill was built on the west side of the Cedar River by Higley and Richards. The building was burned in March 1883. The property was then purchased by Simon Alderson, Austin, and was rebuilt on the same site that summer. The frame building had two runs of buhrs run by a nine foot fall of the Red Cedar. The old mill wheel can still be seen today on the bank of the river northeast of Lansing.

Simon and Sophia Alderson and family moved to Austin from Council Hills Station, Illinois in 1866. The next year Simon built a grist mill on the Red Cedar River which was then known as Alderson's Mill. It had only one run of stone. This was on old Water St., now 4th Av. N.E., across from Klage's Ice Cream Store. Alderson also owned mills at Otranto and Williams, Iowa.

Information provided by Mrs. Vern (Marie Hall) Judd, Austin. Simon Alderson was her great-grandfather

Lansing Churches

Five churches have served Lansing people. They include the Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Congregational, Catholic and Lutheran. Those remaining are the St. Luke's Lutheran Church and the United Methodist Church.



118-year-old United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church celebrated their 100th anniversary in August, 1966. Their church building dates back to the early days. Bricks for the building were made by the pioneer brickmaker, Thomas Gibson. Gibson also made the bricks for St. Augustine Catholic Church, Austin. Rev. Greg Renstrom, Owatonna, is the pastor.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church began October 2, 1949 at the George Luthe home. In 1949 and 1950 the children were taken by bus to St. John's Lutheran Church in Austin for Vacation Bible School. St. Luke's was incorpor-

REFERENCES

- Rail Road
- Wagon Road
- Corp. Line
- Creek
- School Districts
- Rural Routes
- School
- Church
- Houses
- Cem.

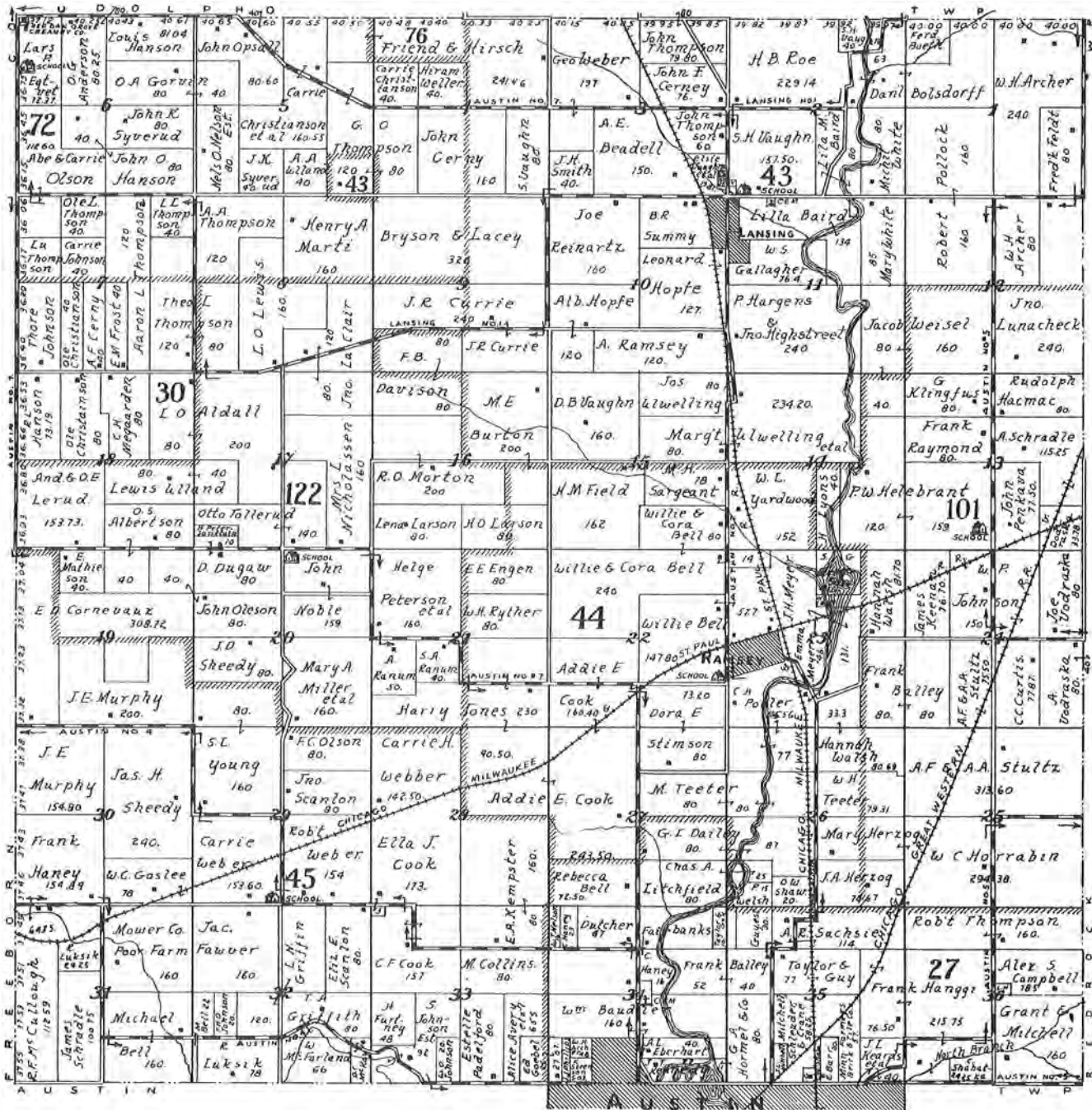
Map of
LANSING
Township

Scale 1 1/2 inches to one Mile

1915

Township 103 North Range 18 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA



ated in 1949, purchased a lot and built a chapel which was dedicated August 27, 1950. Rev. Herman Hanne- man, Brownsdale, is the pastor.

Progress and Problems

The first railroad from Owatonna to Austin through Lansing was built in September, 1867. The Milwaukee Road still operates through the village.



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

In 1915 the Lansing State Bank was organized as a locally owned institution. N. F. Banfield Jr. was president and L. S. Chapman, father of Dr. Chapman of Austin, was cashier. Adjoining the bank on the north side was a store operated by Scott Brown and also a small home. In January, 1930 a fire started in the store. The store, bank and home were destroyed. Thus the end of the bank. In 1950 another store was built by Raymond and Clara Correy on the same lot as the bank, and is now occupied as living quarters.

The Lansing Co-operative Creamery did a thriving business in its day. The original building was incorporated in Feb. 1894. A new building was erected in 1906. Old timers tell of the long waiting lines of horses and wagons bringing cans of milk into the creamery. There was time for visiting and storytelling. The creamery building is still standing.

Lansing has had several business places since the 1920s. Bert Stimson had a general store across the street from the bank, and a blacksmith shop. Sam Carpenter had a garage and also stored the first 32-volt battery-



Early picture of Lansing Farmer's Elevator

powered light system in Lansing. Only one person in the village had an electric iron. When the people would complain of dim lights, he knew just who to contact. Truman Winn had a garage business, and later a dealership for the Allis Chalmers tractors.

One of the older buildings in Lansing was once a dance hall with a pool hall and a barber shop in the basement. In 1934 it became a Tabernacle Church for a short time. In 1957 it was purchased and remodeled into a home.

There have been two elevators in Lansing. One was locally owned; the other a Hunting elevator. The Hunting elevator remains in 1984.

Post Office

The post office has been located mainly in the stores. P. D. Vaughan was the first postmaster from 1858-1875. Others that followed were: W. B. Vaughan, 1875-86; George Bartlett, 1886-89; H. H. McIntyre, 1889-1913; Mae Wiseman, 1913-15; B. L. Stimson, 1915-21; Alvin Hanson, 1921-40; Alvin Aaby, 1940-55; Elizabeth Friedrich, 1955-72; Kenneth Rolfson, 1971-79. In 1979 Evelyn Kiefer was appointed to serve the position. A garage was remodeled into a new post office in 1981.

The first Norwegian settler of Lansing Township was Lewis Thompson, grandfather of Ronald Thompson in Lansing. He migrated to the U.S. in 1845, and in 1857 settled in Lansing Township approximately 2½ miles west of Lansing. This farm has been in the family down through the years. A brother, Lee, is now living on the premises.

A few of those who live in our memory: Roy Chaffee, who was Lansing historian along with Estella Thompson; Mae Wiseman, our "old maid lady"; Guy Yarwood, the rural mail carrier; "Grandma" Miller, who owned Miller Rest Homes and gave tender loving care to the elderly; G. C. Samuels, our last depot agent; the John Pollack family, who always had fresh eggs for sale. Then there were Ira Rector and Sam Jeffers, who gave the Hall to the Methodist Church; Johnny Jerdet and Everett Carll. One would wish there were more of the old-timers around to hear their stories of years ago.

Sam Rudd has lived in our community for over 60 years. In 1928 he helped construct Highway 218 west of Lansing. Work was done with mules and horses.

We remember the ball team of a few years ago, with Palmer Quam, and Phil and Tom White; the checker games in the Alvin Hanson store and the horseshoe games by the store; the free shows on the lawn of Louie Roes home and more recently, the stock car races at the Chateau Speedway.

Former businesses include Ben Summy's stockyard, located west of our elevator; the lumberyard owned by Gus Peterson; and the grocery stores, garages and filling stations of the past.

Today there are approximately 200 people in Lansing Village. Many residents work in Austin. Hopefully, the future will see businesses restored and an increase in the number of people living in our pleasant town.

Rutherford and the Gibson Families

(The following history of the Rutherford and the Gibson families was given to Arlene Bonnes by Mrs. Evelyn Crowley, Brownsdale.)

Wm. Rutherford, John R. and Thomas Gibson, whose wife was Elizabeth R., all came to the Lansing area to homestead land in 1956.

About 1853 these families migrated from Elverstown (near Dublin) Ireland to Bardstown, Kentucky. They lived there for three years until they earned money for equipment. They spent the winter in Dubuque, Iowa, and came to Lansing in the spring of 1856.

Wm. Rutherford and Thomas Gibson claimed land just east of the Cedar River. John Rutherford family settled near Moscow. John, his wife and daughter all died of smallpox soon after they settled.

Wm. Rutherford and wife, Charlotte, had one daughter, Maria, who married Michael White. They farmed on the north side of the road, and also the Rutherford farm. William, called "Uncle Billy," was a teamster. He hauled freight from the boats that docked at Winona. The trip took one week. He also bought and sold horses. The love of horses has come down through seven generations.



Left to right: Charlotte, Maria and William Rutherford

John and Wm. Rutherford, orphan sons of John, were raised by Wm. Rutherford. Their brother and sister grew up with the Tom Gibson family along with the Gibson's 12 children. Tom Gibson was a brickmaker. He supplied bricks for many buildings and streets in Austin. The bricks for the Methodist Church (Lansing) were made in 1866.

Maria White, the only child of Wm. and Charlotte Rutherford, had nine children. Their father, Michael White, died on March 7, 1904. Maria continued to farm the 160 acre farm, raise her family and took care of her aged parents until October, 1939.

Maria was an excellent business woman and farmer,

although she had no formal education. She entertained with many early Indian stories and told of the hardships shared by these early pioneers who were the founders of Mower County.

Glen Uecker now owns the farm.

Many of Maria's grandchildren continue to live in this area. They include the children of Art Strong: Ford, Betty, Boyd and Terry. Boyd was killed on Saipan Island in World War II. The daughters of Max Braun, a Brownsdale butcher, also live nearby. Tom and Phil White also lived in Lansing.

Lansing Elementary School



Lansing Village School - 1938

Cornelia Bonnes, Willard Holmquist, Iola Miller, Herman Westphal, Aurilla Rudd, Myrtle Naatz, Walter Yarwood, Leslie Mayzlik, Carolyn Cart, Lloyd Dalager, Anna Bell Green, Lynette Toyne, Merle Bonnes, Phyllis Rudd, Orlean Grant, Betty Bird, Lloyd Yarwood, Myrnadine Lord, Gertrude Yarwood, Gaylord Grant, Douglas Thompson. Teacher: Catherine Crilly.

The existence of the Lansing School dates back 106 years to 1858, the year in which Minnesota became a state. School was first held in the small home of John Pettibone in the summer of 1858 with Ann Mathieson as the teacher. There have been four schoolhouses in the 106 year history. Three of these remain standing within a radius of three or four blocks.

The first schoolhouse was a wood frame structure built in the fall of 1858, about one mile east of Lansing. George Wood was the teacher. The school district failed to pay the lumber bill, and the building was reverted to the parties who furnished it and sold to Mrs. C. S. Rolph.

The second schoolhouse was a brick structure built in 1866 with John E. Robinson as the teacher. In the fall of 1871, a wood frame addition was added to this brick structure.

The original brick structure was torn down and construction of the third Lansing schoolhouse began in the fall of 1914. This structure remained Lansing's school until the spring of 1958. Although abandoned, it still remains standing today on the old schoolgrounds across Mower County Road #2 from the Ellis home, and across the field north of the present school building.

In August, 1956 Lansing School District #43 consoli-

dated with Independent School District #27, Austin. This is now Independent School District #492. Construction of the new Lansing School began in the spring of 1957 and was completed in the spring of 1958. This was 100 years after the construction of Lansing's first schoolhouse.

In the fall of 1958, the new Lansing School was officially opened with an enrollment of 197 students and a staff of 6 teachers, a teaching principal, a part-time clerk, 2 cooks, and a full-time custodian engineer. The new school served the students from the village of Lansing in addition to a large rural area. It included former District #43—Lansing; District #50—north and east of Lansing; District #44—Ramsey and Mapleview; District #72—Corning; and District #135—Freeborn County.

Lansing School had two principals. The first was Sterling Thompson who served in that capacity for three years. He was succeeded in the fall of 1961 by Dean Pacholl.

Lansing School had a physical plant consisting of a kindergarten; 6 classrooms; a gymnasium, which was also used as a lunch room; a kitchen; administrative offices; lavatories; a locker room; staff workroom; a nurse's room; boiler room; and several storage areas and custodial spaces.

The Lansing School had an organization of parents called "Lansing Community School Club" as far back as September 21, 1938. The group was very active with monthly meetings in the brick schoolhouse.

After joining the Austin Public School system, Lansing School had an active P.T.A. Mrs. Everett Enright was its first president.

In the mid-1970s enrollment in School District #492 was declining. It became economically feasible to close several schools. Lansing's Elementary School was one of those discontinued. The last session was in the spring of 1977. Students from this area are now bussed to Austin schools.

The parents, pupils, and teachers of the Lansing area have been proud of their school, and its role in the provision for and promotion of sound educational opportunities for all the boys and girls living in the areas north and west of Austin.

(Much of the Lansing school history was written by Dean Pacholl who was the school's principal in 1964.)

There were other Township School Districts:

School District #72-Jt., Section 6 was located in the village of Corning.

School District #122, Section 6 was organized in 1893. The school was built the same year in Section 20.

School District #45, Section 29 was organized in 1858. The first schoolhouse was built of logs by the neighbors. The first session was taught the same year by Miss Richardson during the summer. School was held in this log house until 1868 when a frame house was built. Ella J. Cook was the first teacher in this one.

The Lansing Cemetery was originally two acres in Section 11, Lansing Township. It is on the south side of County Road 2.

The Lansing Cemetery Association was formed March 2, 1864 in Lansing. Twenty-five men were present. The



Lansing Cemetery

trustees chosen were: A. B. Vaughan, N. G. Perry, and P. G. Lameroux. The price recorded for the purchase of the property was \$50.00.

At the first annual meeting in June, 1877 a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws to replace the old ones which had been lost. The price of the lots was changed from \$5.00 to \$8.00. Sixteen lots were free lots. There are 10 burials of unknown people on the free lots.

The present official cemetery record book was purchased in 1903. All the old records were copied in this book. The original minutes prior to 1903 are not available.

The oldest burial recorded is that of Mary Dutcher, who died in 1859. Gardner Mitchell, a veteran of the War of 1812, died in 1861.

Dates in the records and on the tombstones indicate the high mortality rate of infants at that time.

(Information given by Harold Cummings, Lansing, MN.)



Chapel at Oakwood Cemetery - Built in 1904

Oakwood Cemetery

Burial places were scattered in Austin's early history. For example, when Chauncey Leverich was killed, he was buried near his saloon/store. His remains were later moved to Oakwood Cemetery.

Austin had a population of 400 before anyone made a move for a cemetery. Several ladies met at the home of Mrs. J. L. Davidson to discuss the need for a cemetery. The men of the village were asked to buy land, and they bought five acres; the first part of Oakwood Cemetery. The land cost \$100 which was paid for by 20 men buying lots at \$5.00 each.

The Austin Cemetery Association was organized March 15, 1862. On an August day in 1864, men of Austin Village came with saws and axes. The women came along to make dinner. They transformed a piece of land, overgrown with brush and timber, into a fitting burial ground.

In 1894 the Cemetery Association purchased the Adler farm adjoining the cemetery. Then they purchased the Baudler Cemetery, which was on the north end of the Baudler farm. Now three cemeteries, old Oakwood, Baudler, and Cedar merged their land to become Oakwood Cemetery.

On March 7, 1904 the trustees were authorized to erect a chapel and a vault.

The GAR owned lots in the cemetery. After obtaining new lots for burial purposes they used the old lots for a soldiers' monument which was dedicated in 1906.

It is difficult to prove which is the oldest burial in Oakwood. Tradition claims the first burial to be that of Katie Clark who died of diptheria. Records of many early burials are missing and markers have disappeared. Early markers were made of a very soft stone or wooden crosses were used. They did not stand the test of time.

Oakwood is the burial spot for many area pioneers. One stone marks the burial spot of Claus L. Clausen who died in 1892. Rev. Clausen was the founder of St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, Six Mile Grove Lutheran Church, Little Cedar Lutheran Church, Bear Breck Lutheran Church and many others.

There are approximately 10,000 burials in Oakwood Cemetery now. The names on the stones gives one a sense of history in the Austin area. They include: Crandell, Truesdell, Basford, French, Hormel, Beiseker, Catherwood, Peck, Mollisen, Allen, Baird, Schleuder, Baudler, Mills, Davison, Padden, Galloway, Benton, Fenton, Woodson, Adler, Dutcher and many more.

Oakwood Cemetery is also the site of the "Hunter Clark" cabin; the area's first dwelling.

The present officers of the Cemetery Association are: Henry Oots, president; Sam Williams, vice president; Lorraine Andree, secretary; Charles Christianson, treasurer; and Richard C. Baudler and Dr. C. E. Schrafel.

City of Maplevew History

The village of Maplevew was incorporated in 1945 to provide facilities for approximately 100 families. The name derived from the row of hard maple trees on the west side of the town.

Frank Bentzin, Martin Reed and C. H. McAlister played a major role in the organizing. Elected officials of the first council were Mayor C. H. McAlister, Councilmen Andrew Esterby, Oscar Miller and Merton Day. Walter Cooke was elected treasurer. The council appointed Mrs. Christine Schueler as clerk.



Maplevew through the maples

The council passed ordinances and set up a judiciary branch with two justices of the peace, a police system with a marshal and two constables and a volunteer fire department.

Citizens of the new village loaned money to the council to pay bills and maintenance. Council members pitched in to put up snow fences, plow snow, maintain streets and many other jobs. They served without salaries. Residents took up collections to purchase gravel for the streets.

In 1948, a tract of land north of the original plat was purchased which is now the site of the liquor store, fire station, water tower, pump house and equipment garages.

Construction of a municipal liquor store and water and sewer systems were built from 1950 to 1952 with a total bonded debt of \$150,000 all paid before due date.

In 1954, four acres bordering Murphy Creek was purchased, and became Hillside Park. Also, that year Charlie Suchomel donated a lot on Clinton Street to be named Playland; a play area for young children. Volunteers cleared brush and prepared two ball diamonds at Hillside Park. In 1979 a 35' x 50' shelter was built at Hillside.

In 1958 a fire hall was built, and in 1978 a fire truck replaced the 1939 International model.

In 1959, the sewer lift station was renovated. Natural gas was made available to residents in 1962. In 1971, curb and gutter, along with storm sewer drains were constructed in the southeast section of Maplevew.

In 1962, Maplevew officials invited all Mower County city officials to a meeting which resulted in the organization of the Mower County League of Municipalities.

In 1959, 1962 and 1963, civil defense drills were held involving all citizens.

The municipal liquor store business was sold in 1981, with the city retaining building ownership.

A four-week park program is sponsored jointly by the city and the Maplevew Women's Club each summer. A Halloween parade and treats and a Christmas party with Santa and treats are annual events. These two events are sponsored by businesses with whom the city deals. In 1982, the first of a planned annual "Maplevew Days"

celebration was held with good crowds gathered to enjoy games, food, prizes and seeing old friends.

There are 1¼ miles of streets. Over the years they have been improved from mud to blacktop. The 1980 census figure showed 253 residents and 106 housing units.

Since its original organization, the offices of clerk and treasurer have been combined. The county court system has replaced the justice of the peace function. State law changed Maplevew's designation from "village" to "city."

Many city-wide events are held such as benefits for families. There are get-togethers to honor long-time employees and outstanding accomplishments of residents, park dedications, bicentennial and holiday celebrations, tree planting and social gatherings.

Maplevew Women's Club History

In 1948, about 12 mothers of the village of Maplevew met to form the Maplevew Women's Club. Their purpose was and is to provide safe play areas and equipment for all local children. They petitioned the city council for parks and eventually two were designated.

Playland is a small park centrally located. The club has had appropriate equipment installed there. Hillside Park is a four-acre site where swings, teeter totters, slide, a merry-go-round and fireplaces have been provided.

The club also co-sponsors an annual four-week summer park program which is attended by most children of the city. Daily craft and game activities are enjoyed plus a watermelon feed and a public carnival. The program is conducted by local young people.

To finance their goals the club has held many events, such as card parties, ice cream and basket socials and bake sales.

The club also cooperates with the many civic events in Maplevew.

by Marcella Wentzel

Corning

The first settlers in the Corning area came over 100 years ago. In 1911 Corning had a post office, telephone company, general store and a creamery.

A schoolhouse for District #720 was also located in the village.

The one remaining business in 1984 is Corning Seed, Inc. The owners are Robert and Darrell Thoen. The business is managed by Mark Thoen, a son of Robert.

There are seven residences in Corning.

Ramsey

Today when county citizens consider Ramsey they think of a golf course, an eating place or a residential suburb. It has not always been thus.

Ramsey was platted in 1873. It was a junction of the Southern Minnesota divisions of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Stagecoaches ran between Ramsey and Austin, and there were cafes for travelers while changing trains.

Gregson's Mill was located on the Cedar River; a short distance south of the junction. The mill's dam is still there, and "The Old Mill," a restaurant, serves meals

from the building where wheat was once converted into flour.

Ramsey Golf Club, with an 18-hole course, lies north of the old dam. The dam's mill stone is embedded in the fireplace at the clubhouse.

Ramsey's elementary school is now a part of Austin's School District #492.

There are many comfortable residences in the area of Ramsey, but no stagecoaches.

CENTURY FARM Lewis to Lee Thompson



Lewis Thompson Farm in late 1800s

Lewis Thompson, also known as Lars Thorson, was the first Norwegian settler. He emigrated from Gol, Hallingdal, Norway in 1845, settling first in Rock County, Wisconsin.

Thompson came to Lansing Township in 1856 and pre-empted 160 acres in Section 7. He built a log cabin. It was not totally secure. Sometimes when he returned in an evening he found that Indians had stolen food.

Lewis married Aase Tollefson in August, 1857. They were married by the pioneer Lutheran pastor, Rev. C. L. Clausen. Aase had come from Ness, Hallingdal, Norway in 1856.

In time the Thompson farm increased to 400 acres. They had nine children. They lived on the farm until 1900 when they moved to Austin. Their son, Aaron, remained on the farm.

Aaron Thompson married Rose Lien in 1902. She was also born in Hallingdal, Norway. When steam threshing came in, Aaron owned and operated a threshing rig for 20 years.

A five bedroom house was built in 1924. Aaron and Rose had seven children. Rose was twice president of the Ladies' Aid at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church.

In 1934 lightning struck the barn. It was destroyed, and a number of cows, horses and chickens were lost. The barn was rebuilt in 1934.

Lee, the oldest of Aaron and Rose's children, stayed on the farm. In 1935 he married Harriet Roberts of Austin. In 1943 Lee and Harriet purchased a farm near Waltham.

Aaron and Rose left the farm and moved to Austin. Lee and Harriet sold their Waltham place and returned to the home place in Lansing Township at that time. In 1964 they purchased the farm from their father.

Farm methods changed for Lee. In the 1950s their father's steam thresher was replaced with a combine.

More land was tilled and other progressive changes were made.

During the 1976 American Bicentennial year, Lee and Harriet received special recognition from Governor Wendell Anderson for having the farm in continuous agricultural operation since 1856.

Now the fields are leased out, but Lee and Harriet Thompson still reside in their modernized farm home. Highlights of their lives are visits from their two daughters and their families. Karen is Mrs. David Henry, Plymouth. They have two children. Mary is Mrs. Ronald Magnuson, Arlington, Texas. They also have two children.

LEROY TOWNSHIP

by Dianne Ahrens

The township lies in the southeast corner of Mower County. The Little Iowa River and its branches form the major drainage system. The township was organized at a meeting held at Daniel Caswell's May 11, 1858. The first officers elected were: N. P. Todd, clerk; Charles Smith, assessor; A. J. Porter, collector; George W. Bishop, Ziba B. Daily and William B. Spencer, supervisors.

School District #79



School District No. 79

School District 79 had its first school in a house belonging to Charles McNeal. It was located in Section 22. The first school session was in 1870. Later the district purchased a log house and an acre of land belonging to James Sample. This was used a short time until a frame building was erected.

In the year 1955 or '56 the school District 79 closed and consolidated with the Le Roy School District. Elmer Schutz, Norris Orke and Norman Orke served on the board at the time of the closing.

Teachers who taught at this school in later years were Mrs. Emma Staley, Mrs. Olga Tebay and Selma Orke.

Bethany Lutheran Church and Cemetery

The Bethany Lutheran congregation was formed in 1862 with the formal organization of the congregation in 1882. It then became an independent Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation, elected necessary officers and extended a call to a pastor. The notice of the meeting was signed by Lars Swenson, Peter J. Engelsen, John T. Watland and Ole Fuglesteen.

In 1883, Soren Engelsen donated ground located in Section 11 to be used for cemetery. The area was called "God's Acre," and in 1916 it was increased by the purchase of additional ground.

Because of declining membership a meeting was held to incorporate the cemetery. The cemetery was officially incorporated in 1950 with Silas Hotlestad as chairman. Present officers are: Mrs. Jacobson, president; Harlan Jacobson, secretary-treasurer; Enoch Sorenson, Norris Orke and Peter Johnson.

Some of the earliest burials are: Hans Nelson (1879), Carl John Nelson (1879), J. B. Skifton (1882), Niels Reiersen (1883) and Arthur S. Engelsen (1883).

CENTURY FARM

Sorenson Farm

The first owner of this Century Farm was Ananias Sorenson who bought the 160 acres in Section 2 in 1876. The second owner was his son S. A. Sorenson and his wife Louise. There were seven children in the family: Leonard, Ruben, Edna, Helen, Ruth, Enoch and Selmer.

Enoch is the third generation Sorenson on the farm. He and his wife, Marion, have three children: Stephen, Samuel and Susan; and eight grandchildren.

Old Village of Le Roy

The original village, the "Old Town" of Le Roy, is located on the Little Iowa River, Section 28, Le Roy Township. Isaac Van Houghton, a surveyor, was the first to come to the Le Roy area in 1852. Van Houghton and the group of men who accompanied him approved of the land. They returned to Lansing, Iowa and told what a good place it was for settlement.

The first actual settler in "Old Town" Le Roy was Henry Edmonds. He erected a mill on the east bank of the Little Iowa River in April, 1855.

In 1856 Edmonds sold the mill and land to Daniel Caswell, Marin L. Shook and Adoniran J. Palmer. Shook, in turn, sold his interest to Lewis Mathews. These men surveyed and platted the village of Le Roy on April 24, 1857.

Stores and homes soon began to take shape in the community. New residents joined the original settlers and the future seemed assured.

Then the coming of the railroad brought a new perspective. The route was established two miles south of the original Le Roy village. As a result, Orlando McCraney, J. H. McAlvin and P. M. Glathart began to lay out and plat a new area, which was at first called Le Roy Station. Materials for buildings were ordered to be shipped in. These preliminaries were being completed when the first train of cars arrived on the first Sunday of August, 1867.

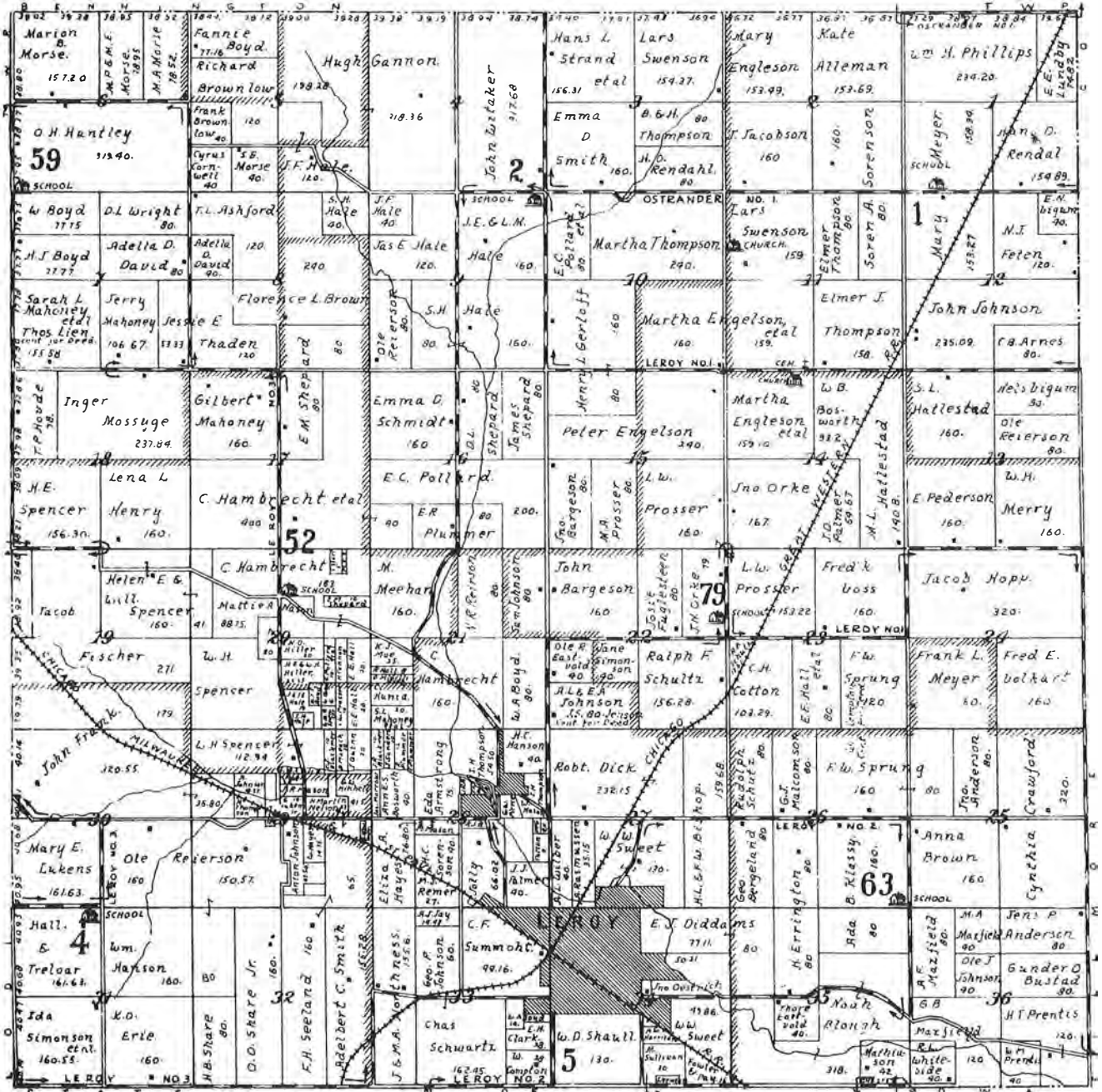
Map of
LEROY
Township
Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

- REFERENCES:
- Rail Road
 - Wagon Road
 - Corp Line
 - Creek
 - School Districts
 - Rural Routes
 - School
 - Church
 - Houses
 - Cent.

1915

Township 101 North Range 14 West of the 5th P. M.

**MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA**



Soon the commercial interests began to revolve around Le Roy Station. Gradually the "Old Town" became a defunct village.

Le Roy Village

The village grew following the surveying and platting in September of 1867. Buildings were quickly erected. Some businesses and residences in "Old Town" were moved buildings and all.



LeRoy Main Street - 1910

The "new" Le Roy was incorporated as a village in February of 1876. First officers were W. L. Henderson, A. J. Porter and William Allen. The first meetings were held on the upper floor of the hardware store. In 1895, a city hall was erected. It included a jail, fire department and council chambers. The installation of an electric light plant in 1899 made it possible to light the city streets.

Mayor A. E. Henslin set the wheels into motion to install a sanitary sewer system under the entire village in 1918. By 1920 the \$65,000 system was completed. A good sidewalk system on Main Street was completed and a Whiteway lighting system. A disagreement over the placement of the lights was resolved by positioning them on the boulevard.

A dedicated Le Roy citizen, Ole Rierson, left two bequests to the village. One was to the library and the other to establish a public park and rest rooms in the village. In 1932, the village acted upon his bequest and erected a \$11,000 block building on Main Street. With financial help from the American Legion and the Fire Company the building included a meeting room, fire hall, restrooms and council rooms.

Main Street was paved in 1948 and many other streets have been blacktopped. Major street improvements were carried out in 1968, at a cost of \$143,000.

The present Whiteway lighting systems has been modernized to meet the needs of a growing community. A new steel, elevated water tank was erected in 1956.

In 1966-67, a \$38,000 federal grant aided in the construction of a modern sewage treatment plant.

The city has two park areas for recreational purposes. The City Park, on the south edge of Le Roy, has recently undergone updating and remodeling. It offers a ball dia-

mond, picnic shelter and restrooms. The Baumbach Memorial Park, in northeastern Le Roy, was created in 1968 by Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. Its 2.9 acres are equipped with a ball field, swings, tennis court and restrooms. Le Roy teenagers assisted with this project.

For many years a local constable and justice of the peace enforced the law for the community. A lady constable, Miss Anna Price, served from 1928 to 1932. Presently the city is under the jurisdiction of county police officers.

Disasters

Fires have plagued the town of Le Roy since its early beginnings. In 1869 a \$17,000 fire nearly destroyed the new city. Many uninsured merchants were forced out of business.

In 1872, a dropped lantern caused a fire which destroyed the Williams Store and post office. Mr. Williams and a nurse, Mrs. Lincoln, perished. Other buildings were torn down to prevent the spread of the fire.

A cyclone in 1894 destroyed over half the businesses and damaged many other businesses and homes. Two were killed when the Opera House was leveled.

In 1920, the firefighters were plagued by temperatures of -30 degrees when the "tow mill" burned. Other fire disasters in Le Roy included the Le Roy Bowling Lanes in 1962, Martz Furniture and Sweet Shop in 1963 and the Le Roy Library in 1965.

On August 10, 1945, a passenger train on the Milwaukee Road derailed 2 miles west of the village. A heavy rain the night before had caused a washout of the bridge next to Highway 56. One person was killed and several injured.

The polio epidemic of the 1940's was felt in Le Roy. The school system delayed the start of school by two weeks and the library destroyed books which were returned from homes with polio infections.

First Baptist Church

The oldest organized church in Le Roy is the First Baptist Church, officially started on September 27, 1857. Earlier meetings were held at the log cabin of Henry Edmund west of the "Old Town" in 1856. Rev. C. H. Pearson was the pastor.

The Baptist Church moved with the town of Le Roy to its present site in 1867. A stone building was erected in 1869 at a cost of \$2,500. Previous to that they met at the school and blacksmith shop in the new village.

The Sunday School was organized in 1878, a baptistry was completed in 1883, and the vestibule and bell were added in 1885. The Women's Baptist Foreign Missionary Circle began in 1890. Today, this group continues as the Baptist Women's Society. The Young People's Christian Endeavor was founded in 1892, and later became the B.Y.P.U.

The cyclone of 1894 destroyed the church building and parsonage. In 1897, the parsonage was rebuilt and construction of the present church was started. The \$6,500 church was dedicated on January 7, 1900. The full amount was raised that very day.

The first Vacation Bible School was begun in 1928 and

continues as a regular church project. In 1981, the fellowship and Sunday School areas were remodeled.

Forty pastors have served the church since its beginning. The present congregation numbers 50 active members.

First Presbyterian Church



First Presbyterian Church dedicated in 1960

The hall above the Allen Hardware Store in the new village of Le Roy was the first home of the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. A. C. Ruliffson as pastor.

The Presbyterian and Methodist faiths worshipped together until the 1870's, when the first Presbyterian church was erected. It was dedicated in 1871. In 1895; an addition, including Sunday school rooms, was added and the manse built.

The "Mite Society," an early forerunner of the Ladies Guild, was organized at this time. Their first project was the digging of the basement under the church in 1910. This group is presently known as the Presbyterian Women's Association.

In 1919 the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches attempted a merger. This project was dissolved after a trial period.

A building committee was organized in 1953 and the present structure was dedicated in 1960 with membership at 286. The manse was built in 1962 on the original church ground.

Twenty-eight ministers and students have served the Presbyterian Church.



LeRoy Lutheran Church

Le Roy Lutheran Church

The Le Roy Lutheran Church was the first such congregation in the Le Roy territory. It was organized on March 5, 1867. It's first pastor, Rev. Tobias Larson, arrived in 1868.

In 1870, the congregation purchased the Old Stone School in "Old Town" and used it for 19 years. The question of where to locate a new church caused a rift in the congregation and the church split in 1890. The Le Roy congregation built and dedicated its church within the city limits in 1894. The West Lutherans built 5 miles west of Le Roy in 1891.

The Ladies Aid was formed in the spring of 1888. Through their efforts they installed a church bell in 1911.

The two churches were reunited in 1920 under the pastorate of Rev. Olaf Lin, but continued in separate buildings. On May 29, 1950, the two congregations merged with Rev. R. M. Christenson as pastor. The wood structure in southwest Le Roy was found to be inadequate and a vote to build a new church was carried on February 18, 1952.

The ground breaking for the new building was held on May 1, 1955, the cornerstone laid on August 7, 1955. First services were held on May 27, 1956, and the church dedicated June 17, 1956. The Kasota stone building was erected at a cost of 145,000. Over 7,000 hours of labor were donated.

The Women's Mission Federation which met for the first time in 1919, became affiliated with the American Lutheran Church Women in 1960. Present membership is 317.

A ramp and lift made the church more easily accessible to handicapped persons in 1980.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

The first Mass in Le Roy was celebrated in "Old Town" at the home of John Meigs by Father John McDermott. The congregation followed the town to its new location and held their services at the home of Patrick Ryan. In 1878, a frame church was built in southern Le Roy, with Father Bernard Bauman serving as pastor.

A new stone building was erected on Highway 56 in 1955. The building cost \$40,000 with most of the work done by parish members. Much of the interior was fur-



St. Patrick's Catholic Church

nished by a donation from former Le Roy resident, Thomas Pangborn.

From its beginnings the church was a "missionary church," having no priest in residence. Mass was celebrated on a regular basis by an area priest. The "missionary priest" program ended in 1956 when Father Elmer Kellen, the first resident priest, moved into a frame house next to the new church. A stone rectory was built on this spot in 1963. The interior of the church and the fellowship hall were remodeled, with the work being completed in 1980.

The Altar Society of St. Patrick's was organized shortly after the completion of the first church. This group of women has been responsible for many fund raising activities. Meetings and dinners were held in the Odd Fellows Hall in Le Roy in early days. The annual Mulligan stew was first begun in 1955 and is a continuing event. The ladies also sponsor food and clothing drives for the needy in America and around the world.

Bethany Bible Church



Bethany Bible Church

The newest of the churches serving the town of Le Roy is the Bethany Bible Church. Pastor George Bergland and 15 members organized the church on January 15, 1958, at a meeting held in a farm home near Le Roy.

The first two and a half years the group met in the Odd Fellows Hall on East Main in Le Roy. A building was erected directly next door in 1960, with the first service being held on the first Sunday in September of that year.

The building seats 150 people. It also has an office and five Sunday school rooms. A home next door to the church has recently been purchased for the pastor in residence.

Pastor Bergland served as pastor until December of 1980.

Le Roy Library

In 1901, a group of ladies, interested in expanding the educational opportunities available, and feeling a need for additional cultural influences, organized the Book Club. The group, numbering 13, met on a regular basis to purchase and pass along books. Each was to purchase two books a year and these were to be passed along every

two weeks. At the end of the year they could be given to others outside the club.

Soon the supply of books and the number of members surpassed the space available in the members' homes. In 1908, the group under the leadership of Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Sprung; formed the Library Association. They then began to raise funds for a permanent building.

The first library was in a building on Main Street, later the location of John's Tire Shop. Members served as librarians and the community was invited to share the books available.

J. D. Palmer donated lots in northern Le Roy Village for a library site. Plans were drawn up and in 1914, the city voted to assist the library project. A mass meeting raised \$5,000. With volunteer help, the building was erected in 1915. The ladies held teas to pay off the remaining \$1,000 debt and presented the building to the city on January 13, 1916.

The city began a levy for support of the library in 1921. The Library Association disbanded in 1931. The library was open 7 days a week. The first librarian to serve was Clara Silsbee. Miss Anna Price served as librarian from 1924 to 1967. Present librarian is Janice Soltau.

A fire in November of 1965 gutted the building and destroyed over 5,000 books. The Le Roy Library Association again was organized to restore the library. Through efforts of many in the community, the library reopened in the fall of 1966. It had 505 books on hand from the original library and 600 on loan from the state.

The Le Roy Library joined the county library system in 1967 and the county bookmobile makes regular stops. The library is governed by the Le Roy Library Board under the direction of the Le Roy City Council.

Le Roy Cemetery Association

A meeting was called on March 13, 1863, to consider the organization of a cemetery association. A committee under the leadership of A. J. Palmer, Rev. T. P. Ropes and William Gilson eventually established the association. Land was purchased and cleared. Following adoption of by-laws and election of officers, the land was surveyed and plots laid out.

The cemetery was readied by June of 1866. A new road was laid out to the cemetery on the west edge of "Old Town." The group was dedicated to making a beautiful final resting place for its loved ones.

The first trustees for the association were: Charles Smith, William Graham, J. D. Cowels, S. P. Bacons, T. P. Ropes, W. A. Gilson, J. M. Wycoff, Z. B. Daily and Daniel Caswell.

The important position of secretary has been served by J. M. Wycoff from 1863-1923, a 60-year term; Charles Palmer, for one year; F. M. Meyer, 8 years from 1924 to 1932; Charles Daily, 33 years from 1932 to 1965; Merle Lamson, 9 years from 1965 to 1974; and Beatrice Volkart, from 1974 to the present.

During the past 120 years the association has annexed additional lands to meet the needs of the community. It is adjoined by the Le Roy Lutheran and the St. Patrick Catholic Cemeteries. In 1969, a mausoleum was constructed costing \$2,500.

The Advent of the Horseless Carriage

As the horseless carriage became a regular sight on the streets of Le Roy, the automobile repair shop also appeared. Elmer Spencer erected the first in 1913. It became a Ford dealership. Ownership passed on to Patton and Young and eventually to the Regan Brothers.

A Chevrolet dealership and garage was erected in 1921 by Henry Wegerslev across from the Le Roy Hotel. This was later purchased by Sevrin Hiller who added a line of Plymouths as well. The Chevrolet dealership was later purchased by Kenneth Johnson.

The first gasoline business for the horseless carriages was a Shell station owned by V. A. Morrow, located next to the hotel. Standard Oil arrived in 1930 when N. J. Northness built a station. He added a bulk oil delivery service. J. P. Conton handled that end of the business. The Diamond T oil station was built near the school in 1932, and operated under the management of G. E. Hanson.

Co-op oil products were first sold in 1935 by Walt Bye and D. G. Johnson, who also operated a cabinet shop. A most modern and attractive station was built on the east edge of Le Roy in 1935 by A. J. Madsen selling Phillips 66 gasoline.

These various dealerships and names in gasoline have changed through the years. In 1982, there are only four gasoline stations serving the community. Two are self-serve only. One automobile dealership and one used car dealer remain. The Chevrolet and Ford dealerships have left the biggest marks on Le Roy.

Johnson Chevrolet

On June 9, 1941, Kenneth Johnson purchased the service station-garage previously owned by Harry Wahl. It was located on Main Street. Johnson operated the garage and service station until 1949, at which time he erected the present garage. He then received a Chevrolet franchise. The new station was put up in 1957, and is affiliated with Standard Oil. A showroom to accommodate new cars was added in 1961.

Johnson's son, Glen, joined his father in the business in 1957. He received his Chevrolet franchise in 1968. Both continue in the business in 1982.

Regan Motor Sales

W. E. and Leo Regan purchased the Ford dealership and buildings from Patton and Young of Le Roy in 1926. They continued in partnership until 1932 when W. E. Regan was killed in a hunting accident. W. E. Regan's sons, Donald and Robert, joined Leo in business. Later his son William joined also. Bill continued with the business after the other brothers moved on. Bill sold the building and left in 1968. The Ford dealership was in business in Le Roy for 41 years except for 13 months during 1942 and 1943, when the war caused a shortage of cars and parts.

John's Tire Shop

John C. Moe, a lifelong Le Roy resident and veteran of World War I, began a bulk oil dealership in 1922. In 1924, he located his gas and oil business in a building on the south side of Main Street. He served his customers at

this location until retirement in 1974. Moe served as a Firestone dealer for the area for 46 years, and as city assessor for 35.

Hanson Tire Service

In the early 1950's, Donald Hanson, a lifelong Le Roy resident, managed a service station on Highway 56. He added a recapping tire business and in 1960 he became affiliated with Goodyear Tires. A new Champlain station and Goodyear store were built on the west edge of Le Roy in 1968. Hanson established thirteen Goodyear stores in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa before semi-retiring in 1982.

Farm Related Businesses

Agriculture has been the key business contributing to the prosperity of the Le Roy community since early times. As farming became more mechanized, a number of machinery businesses were established. Among the first implement dealers were Strothers and Conklin. Throughout the years various implement dealers have sold and serviced different makes of farm machinery. Today only the Farmer's Co-op John Deere dealer serves the area.

The first lumber dealers were Haytt and Burdick who arrived from McGregor, Iowa in 1867. W. A. Coleman opened the first yard in 1868. The Co-op today handles Le Roy's lumber needs.

A large number of grain dealers have been in business in Le Roy, the first being John W. Irrabee. Today, many farm owned grain buyers compete with two local businesses.

LeRoy Creamery Association

A group of 51 members organized the Le Roy Creamery Association in 1911. Business began on April 1, in the George Harden Creamery on the north edge of Le Roy. The first officers for the organization were Fred Palmerton, John Hale, John J. Palmer and Ole Rierson. Directors were Jacob Hopp, Adolph Bhend and Richard Nelson. The buttermaker was John Scott.

Buttermaking and the LeRoy Brand Butter, continued throughout the years until 1967. Buttermaking was discontinued at that time with the retirement of Adolph Sanderson. The association erected the present creamery building in 1924 at a cost of \$30,000. New equipment and coolers have been added since that time.

The Creamery Association entered the feed and seed business in 1972. They began a fertilizer and chemical service in 1982 with the purchase of Kaiser Ag Chemicals.

The association has continued a steady growth. In 1911 business amounted to \$40,000, while in 1982 it was \$8 million. There are currently 375 shareholders. Present directors are Milo Roe, John Grass, Sr., Michael Harrington, Virgil Bergene, Fredrick Miller, Wm. McCloud and Marvin Winkles.

Managers have included Henry Turner, Walter Beck, John Lundering, Adolph Sanderson and presently Corliss Jacobson.

Farmer's Coop Grain and Stock Company

A group of local businessmen and farmers came together in 1919 to buy and sell needed supplies and farm produce on a cooperative basis. Stock valued at \$10,000 was sold and the cooperative began on April 1, 1919, in Le Roy.

The first location for the business was the Palmer, Burgess and Sons Lumber Company. In 1925, the business expanded to include the selling of coal and farm machinery. The elevator business was added to the co-op. S. V. Moen served as its first manager.

The lumberyard flourished with the community and is presently located in the remodeled original Chevrolet garage, once the location of the co-op implement business.

NEWSPAPERS

Le Roy Independent

The Le Roy News was begun by a Mr. Hayes in 1870. Renamed *The Le Roy Independent* the newspaper was housed in a new two-story brick building in 1908. The present building was erected in 1953.

The Chesebrough family, the longest running publishers, of the paper, purchased the business in 1917. E. M. and Birdie continued as partners until 1934, when Mr. Chesebrough retired.

Birdie and their son Merrill carried on until 1968. At that time the paper was sold to Carl Cassidy.

Mr. Haynes published the first paper by hand, setting type letter by letter. The first typesetting machine was purchased by the Chesebroughs in 1930. Mr. Cassidy started "off-set" printing and computerized photo typesetting methods in 1976.

Birdie served the community as a leader for many years and was chosen Outstanding Senior Citizen of Mower County in 1969.

Merrill Chesebrough worked in publishing and city government. He has served as mayor and is presently the city clerk.

Schools

The first school to serve the citizens of Le Roy was held in the home of Miss Melissa Allen in 1856 in District 4. In 1857, Daniel Caswell opened a school in his home in "Old Town."

A grout or stone building was erected that fall at the present site of the Lutheran Cemetery. It was used for public meetings as well.

When the community moved to the new town site, so did the school. A two-story brick building was built at a cost of \$5,000 in 1868. One hundred and fifty students attended the school from grade one and up. Dunbar Leach headed the staff as principal. A definite course of study was established in 1869. To meet the ever increasing enrollment, the school added extra rooms. The first addition was in 1883, the second in 1892.

The first class graduated in 1892. Members of the class were William Allen, Anna Kasson, Maude McKnight, Henry Bishop and May Avery. School board members included C. A. Roy, George Palmer, R. Hall, W. M. Walker, F. J. Young and Mrs. G. M. Alsdorf.

The school was serving all twelve grades and a larger

school was needed with a modern approach. A two-story brick building was built at the present site of the high school gymnasium.

Sports became a part of the curriculum in 1903 with the formation of a girls' basketball team and the first Field Meet. Baseball came in 1905 and football in 1909. An addition was completed in 1912.

The school built an athletic field to the east of the building in cooperation with the city. Lights were added in 1937. A \$47,000 gymnasium-auditorium, and two classrooms were constructed in 1939.

In the winter of 1942, a hot lunch program was begun and a lunchroom and kitchen were added in 1947.

As the need for education beyond the eighth grade became more apparent, four classrooms, a science laboratory and a home economics laboratory were added to the west of the gymnasium.

The largest increase and consolidation plan took place in 1956. Eighteen districts including the Ostrander Village school combined with Le Roy.

This consolidation brought the school population to 281 elementary and 214 high school students. An expansion of the school was necessary and a \$525,000 bond issue was authorized.

The construction produced a three-classroom elementary school on a five-acre site at Ostrander. Also included in the building is a library, offices, sick room, kitchen and a 40 by 60 foot multipurpose room.

In Le Roy, a nine classroom elementary addition was built directly behind the old school. The addition included many auxiliary rooms. A new and larger gymnasium was added on the site of the old school after it was razed.

A supplementary bond issue in 1958 supplied the funds for two elementary classrooms and other facilities. Remodeling created a classroom, agriculture room and industrial arts area.

The Le Roy-Ostrander schools have carried on a tradition of scoring high in music and drama.

Although the school had to temporarily close the Ostrander Elementary School because of declining enrollment, future plans are to re-open it in the 1984 or 1985 school year. Voters passed a 6 mil levy in 1981 to insure future excellence in education.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion



LeRoy Home Guard - 1918

The Meighen-Thompson American Post No. 161 was formed on November 6, 1919, by Archie Wells and Elmer Roy. It was named for Thomas Meighen and Iver A. Thompson who served and died in France in 1918.

There were forty-one charter members from the Le Roy, Ostrander, and Chester, Iowa areas. Meetings were held in a room over a local hardware store. The post was incorporated in 1938. Of the members signing the incorporation request, two still live in Le Roy; A. C. Buesing and Elmer Morine.

The post has planted memorial trees in the South City Park with markers in memory of local boys killed in action. In 1929, a monument was erected at the Le Roy cemetery with names engraved of local persons that have lost their lives in their country's armed services.

The organization has placed markers on graves of servicemen, remembered them with memorials, assisted their families with gifts of food and money and helped returning servicemen find employment. Many social events such as Old Settlers parades have been organized and sponsored by them.

The local Boy Scouts, the Junior Baseball League and the School Safety Patrol have been sponsored by the Legion. Memorial Day programs, in cooperation with the Legion Auxiliary, have been an annual event.

The post meets in the Municipal Building which they helped construct in 1932. The group won a National Meritorious Service Citation in 1930. Its membership hit a high of 81 members in 1945.

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary Meighen-Thompson Post, Unit 161, of Le Roy was organized in 1920 at the home of Mrs. F. T. Young. The members gathered for meetings at the Beehive, now the Sorenson Apartments, until receiving a charter on May 27, 1924. Meetings then were held at the Legion Rooms and eventually the Le Roy Municipal building.

Forty-eight charter members assisted in caring for the disabled from World War I and for families and children of the veterans.

The auxiliary has continued this work and in promoting patriotism and love for America.

Fifty members are presently enrolled. Activities include financial support of servicemen clubs, children's homes, veterans hospitals and support of the Viet Nam Memorial fund.

Patriotism motivates the auxiliary in their Memorial Day programs, decoration of graves, support of citizenship in school children and tribute to teachers during National Education Week.

History Club

The History Club is one of the oldest organizations in Le Roy. It was organized in 1901. It was at first named the Social Cultural Club. In 1903 it became the History Club.

The club was organized by twelve ladies as a study and mutual improvement opportunity. One rule was that there be no discussion of religion or politics.

During wartime, the club assisted the Red Cross in rolling bandages and knitting. They, along with the Gar-

den Club, sponsored the Hambrecht Memorial Cabin at Lake Louise State Park, with assistance from the State Historical Society.

Sixteen members meet monthly. The yearly calendar carries a specific subject for study.

Le Roy Garden Club

In 1917, a group of ladies interested in home care for the sick met at the Herb Lawson home in Beaver Center. This group was formally organized by Miss Swenson, a teacher in District 31, as the Beaver Mothers Club.

The group included members from Mower County and so adopted the name County Line Mother's Club. Not wishing to exclude members who were not mothers, they later changed the name again to County Line Progress Club.

Mrs. Donald McGillivray, Sr. was the leader of a successful project to promote gardening activities. On December 20, 1938, the group adopted a constitution and bylaws similar to those outlined in the Minnesota Horticulturist. Thus the Le Roy Garden Club came into being. The first flower show was held at the J. J. Johnson home.

Upon raising its membership from 18 to 70 in 1939, the club was awarded a bronze cup by the state society. It is now one of the traveling awards presented during the flower show together with five other traveling trophies which have been donated to the club.

In 1952, the club voted to landscape and care for a triangular plot of ground between Highway 56 and the Oak Dale Road, in eastern Le Roy. It still maintains this plot. The club has landscaped the area around the Le Roy Library, and maintains a planter by the Municipal Building on Main Street.

The Hambrecht Memorial Cabin at Lake Louise State Park is a club project. Books of interest to gardeners are presented to the Le Roy Library in memory of deceased members.

The club sponsored the first Farm to Market Days in 1974 and continued until 1977. They assisted with the District Flower Show, "Panorama" from 1962 until 1981.

Monthly meetings include discussion of gardening and houseplant subjects. The club numbers 24 members.

Le Roy Commercial Club

The Le Roy Commercial Club began as the Community Club in 1920 with a membership of 100 businessmen and farmers.

One of the first projects of the organization was the reconstruction of the dam at Lake Louise on the Upper Iowa River in 1925 which had been flooded out in the early 1900's. The town was threatened with loss of water rights if a new dam was not constructed. The project was partially funded by a pageant presented at the dam site. Area residents portrayed the early Indian-Settler skirmishes.

Christmas drawing for money and merchandise, a Community Christmas Tree and street decorations are under club sponsorship. Old Settler Celebrations, co-sponsored by Chester, Iowa, are another of their annual projects. The club was instrumental in the creation of

additional rental housing in 1973 and the United Fund in 1975. A major project has been the community auctions, started in 1951.

Western Day activities, in conjunction with the Le Roy Saddle Club, brought thousands into Le Roy. Parades, a rodeo featuring local entrants, and a professional rodeo have highlighted the event.

The Commercial Club continues today with a reduced membership.

More Organizations

The first members of the *Monday Birthday Club* were limited to those living on one particular street in Le Roy. The club extended its membership after an official meeting on February 10, 1947.

The club is a social organization. Two of the original members are still active, Mrs. Alice Rosenthal and Mrs. Clara Osheim.

The *Odd Fellows* began meeting in the 1870's but later disbanded in 1880. The group requested a new charter in 1892. Their meetings were held over the hardware store until the opera house was built.

The group built their own meeting hall in 1921 at a cost of \$10,000. This building was the site of high school basketball games, dances and meetings until a gym was constructed at the school.

Crochet and other handiwork was the main idea of the creation of the *Crochet Club* in 1912. Potluck suppers including family members were also held several times throughout the year.

The group meets on a monthly basis with a planned type of informative entertainment. There are twelve members and several associate members.

The *Christmas Club* was organized in June, 1913. Its motto is, "Peace On Earth, Good Will to Men." The club sponsored a Christmas Club for the sick and needy in the community.

At one time they had a Traveling Christmas Tree that was carried by bobsled to different homes of the sick and needy, caroling at the homes of shut-ins and decorating the city tree.

Today, the 12 member group meets monthly for discussions of current events and literary topics. They give financial assistance to area service organizations.

The *Social Literary Club* was organized in 1904 to improve its members in literary exercises and social activities. There were twelve charter members.

The group joined the Federation of Women's Clubs in 1914, but later withdrew from this organization. The group continues with sixteen active members and three honorary.

Three of the five charter members of the *Pleasure Club* still reside in the Le Roy area; Mrs. Howard Martz, Mrs. M. P. Morse and Mrs. Walter Beck. This club was organized in 1920 as a social and study group.

The group makes financial donations to worthy causes at Christmas time. It still continues its practice of combining social pleasure and study.

The *Veterans of Foreign Wars* became locally organized in Le Roy in 1982.

The *Modern Woodman Acorn Camp* was established

in 1892. It boasted a membership of 175 before becoming defunct in the 1930's. Recently, the Modern Woodmen Corporation has become more active; sponsoring many non-profit activities in Le Roy.

The *Isaak Walton League* began its activities in December of 1927. It assisted in acquiring the Mower County Game Refuge areas, stocking of game fish in Lake Louise and feeding of game during winter stress times.

The *Le Roy Rod and Gun Club* has continued these works. A meeting building and trap shooting area is owned and operated by the group east of Le Roy.

The *Le Roy Senior Citizens Club* was organized in 1974. Following a dinner meeting, the group voted to meet twice monthly for dinner and a program.

Organizers were Rev. Martin Thompson, Rev. Don Jernigan, Rev. Don Lundborg, M. W. Anderson, Einer Jacobson, Mrs. Hoon and Mrs. Laura Johnson. First program director for the group was Mrs. Leah Boulet.

Old Settlers Celebration

Beginning in the 1870's, Le Roy and its sister Iowa town, Chester, began a rotating annual celebration. Both towns originated in the 1860's. They shared a railroad and many residential families. The celebrations were held in Chester one year and Le Roy the next. They continued annually into the 1950's.

The celebrations included such activities as a parade, speakers, concerts by the Le Roy Cadet Band, dances, stands and a carnival. The event was highlighted by the ballgames between local teams, an Iowa-Minnesota tug of war and street dances by famous bands. Costumes and dresses from the early days were worn by the residents.

The Sunday finale was a picnic. Both communities shared food and fun at such areas as Prentiss Park, east of Le Roy, Wildwood Park and Oakdale Park.

Lake Louise State Park

Lake Louise State Park had its origin in a plot of land homesteaded by Conrad Hambrecht on the north side of the Upper Iowa River in Section 21 near the old village of Le Roy.

Hambrecht set part of his farm aside for recreation in the 1860's. This land bordered the river. Later, after a dam was placed on the Upper Iowa River to provide power for a mill, it sat on the shores of a small lake. This parcel of land was deeded to the village of Le Roy with the stipulation it be used as a park.

When the original earthen dam was washed away the community rebuilt it. The lake was named Lake Louise for Hambrecht's sister. Wildwood Park continued on as one of the state's oldest continuous recreational sites. The City of Le Roy maintained the park. An archway at the entrance and the Japanese pagoda by the dam were donated by Mrs. E. G. Thompson.

Expanding Wildwood Park into a state park called for the creation of an association dedicated to that end. The board of directors formed in December of 1962 included Helen Buesing, Carl Smith, Gordon Tangen, Henry Larson, Hagbarth Hawkins and M. E. Chesebrough. To assist the financial support of the project, memberships

at \$1 each were sold to 968 individuals and 31 organizations.

In 1963, the transfer of the property was completed and in 1966, the park became Lake Louise State Park by an act of the legislature. It included 636.22 acres of land and 25 of water. Presently there are 1,168 acres in the park. The Lake Louise State Park Association continues to work in support of the park.

Several buildings from the original holdings are still in existence. A picnic shelter built by the P.W.A. program is a highlight of the swimming and picnic area. A barn located near the ranger's residence dates back to the early settlement.

In honor of the original gift of land to the area, the summer home of Conrad Hambrecht is open to the public. The "Cabin" contains relics that relate to early settlement, collections donated by local people, and antiques. Displays of the park's resources are also housed here.

Lake Louise State Park is Minnesota's southernmost state park.

Le Roy Fire Department

Fires were common in the new village of Le Roy, as oil and wood fires were the only source of heating, cooking and lighting. In 1896, a group of citizens met in the back of the Le Roy Hotel to discuss the organization of a volunteer fire fighting force. Later that same year, the Le Roy Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated.

The first fire chief was C. J. Roy; A. S. Dahler served as captain and George Boyd was chosen secretary/treasurer. With community donated funds the group purchased a hose and cart apparatus. This piece of equipment continued in use for almost thirty years.

The volunteers were assisted in their work by the erection of a water tower and the installation of a fire hydrant system. City mains fed the hydrants throughout the town.

A truck equipped with ladders, 1,000 feet of hose and more up-to-date fire fighting tools was purchased in 1933 at a cost of \$2,500. The fire department joined the city and the American Legion Post in constructing the Municipal Building on Main Street in Le Roy in 1932. This became the home for the trucks and booster tanks owned by the department.

The Le Roy Rural Fire Association was created in 1948. A truck for combating rural fires was purchased and maintained along with the village one.

The rural and city fire departments are still volunteer in make up. They are presently combined as the Minnesota-Iowa Fire Association. They maintain two fire apparatus equipped trucks and one water tanker vehicle, housed in the rear addition to the original Municipal Building.

Le Roy Post Office

Stages and pony express riders delivered the first mail to the home of Daniel Caswell in "Old Town," established as a post office in 1853.

As the community moved to its new location, so did the post office. Mail was distributed by John Williams in a building owned by him. The train brought some mail to

the new town, but the stage was still the primary method of delivery.

Two stage routes entered Le Roy in 1870. One from Rochester and continuing to Riceville, Iowa. The other from Minneapolis via Austin. The post office was housed in buildings owned by the postmasters and changed location often. A tragic fire destroyed the post office and residents of the building in 1872.

Three rural routes were established in 1903 and combined into two in 1934. These routes now serve the Adams, Taopi and Ostrander rural areas as well as Le Roy.

The present post office building was constructed in 1969 at a cost of \$39,000.

The Le Roy "Cadet" Band

J. F. Barnum and fourteen other musically talented Le Roy citizens joined in 1887 to organize the first Le Roy Band. This group under different names, was part of the community until the middle of the next century.

The membership of the band grew with its reputation. Throughout the years many well known directors led the group including Dr. J. L. Day. Under his leadership the name was changed to the Le Roy Cadet Band. Later it became known as the Le Roy Cornet Band.

The group increased in number to over twenty-five members. At one time it was divided into two groups, the Despard Orchestra and the Wells Orchestra.

Concerts and parades were on the agenda for the group. They starred at local "Old Settlers" get-togethers, at weekly local concerts and traveled to other towns for special events.

Uniforms were provided through donations from local citizens. During the dance band era of the twenties and thirties, the band changed its style of music.

In 1934 the music teacher of the high school took on the directorship duties and the members had their own room in the new city hall. The band continued their performances until the 1950's.

BANKING IN LE ROY

First State Bank

The first bank in LeRoy was privately owned by the Henderson family. Its demise came quickly. Spring Valley financiers backed the next bank in Le Roy. In 1893, this bank was purchased by a group of local residents and given the name "The First State Bank of Le Roy." The bank was incorporated under Minnesota law.

Wentworth Hayes was selected as its first president and M. T. Dunn the cashier. The bank operated out of a general store on the main street in Le Roy. In 1914 the bank had a \$13,000 modern stone building designed and built at its present location.

During the "banking holiday" of the 1930s, the bank was reorganized and continued in its service to the town of Le Roy.

Several cashiers have served the bank in its ninety years of existence. Most notable is Hagbarth Hawkins who was employed at the bank for 60 years. He retired as president of the bank in 1961. His son, Grant Hawkins, now holds that position.

Computers now assist eight employees in serving the public.

First National Bank

The First National Bank also had its beginnings as a privately owned bank. In May of 1901, a group of prominent citizens created the "Citizens Bank." It operated under this name until 1904.

The bank was incorporated under the name of the First National Bank. William Allen was selected the first president and W. M. Frank served as cashier. The bank was incorporated for \$25,000.

The present bank was erected in 1915 at a cost of \$20,000. The material used in the building was eastern granite, a rarity for its time in this area.

The bank survived the "banking holiday," and after a sale of stock, continued serving the community. C. O. Strom served as cashier and later as president from 1929 until his retirement in the 1950's. Russell Noble now serves as president. He has five assistants.

LE ROY BUSINESSES

The Mill

The first business to be established in Le Roy was a saw mill on the banks of the Upper Iowa River at "Old Town."

An earthen dam was constructed causing a fall of water to be used for power to operate the mill. Henry Edmonds erected the mill in 1854 but sold it in 1856 to Daniel Caswell, Martin Shook and Adoniran Palmer.

In 1858, the mill changed hands and became a grist mill, then ground wheat for flour and added cornmeal and graham flour in 1914. In 1935, S. M. Vatne ground livestock feeds.

From 1910 to 1921, the building served as a location for the electric power plant.

The original mill stone is at the Hambrecht Memorial Cabin, Lake Louise State Park.

The Le Roy Hotel

In 1857, Daniel Caswell erected the first Le Roy Hotel in the "Old Town." This was sold to the county for a poorhouse and Mr. Caswell constructed a hotel in the new Le Roy. Many historic events occurred in both busy establishments. The meeting to organize Le Roy Township was held in the first hotel in 1858.

In the new village, the hotel was a stopover place for travelers and those hauling grain to Iowa's river ports. The Sweet Hotel, the present Le Roy hotel, was erected in 1898. It is three stories high constructed from sturdy and durable brick. Several owners preceded the present one, Mrs. Geneva Lowman.

The Le Roy Telephone Company

One of the first communities to establish a telephone communication system in Mower County was the village of Le Roy.

Dr. A. E. Henslin, had a need to speed up the availability of his horse and cart in an emergency. In 1900 he had three wires strung connecting his hotel room, livery barn and office with phones in all three locations. The need to expand the system became evident and a group

of local citizens joined together to further this effort. In 1903, the group incorporated and sold stock to cover expenses.

The first board of directors included Dr. Henslin, Henry Hermes and Otto Maercklein. Lines were strung to homes in the village and some rural areas. It no longer was necessary to ride to town to fetch the doctor.

The business grew and exchanges were established in Adams, Grand Meadow, Spring Valley and in the Iowa towns of Riceville and McIntire. To provide long distance service, the lines were extended to Austin to connect with the Tri-State Company.

The first fire siren was located on the telephone office building to alert the village to emergencies.

In 1911, the phone system, with 900 phones in service; was sold to the Iowa Union Telephone Company.

Le Roy Electric Plant

Fires, caused by lighting buildings with oil lamps were a constant concern to Le Roy citizens in the late 1800's. In 1899 Daniel Boswell, a Le Roy pioneer, and A. S. Dahler built the first plant to provide electric service to the town. A Russell steam engine and generator were used to generate the electricity.

Hours of electric service were from dusk to midnight. Later, as the number of customers increased, service from 4:30 a.m. to daylight was added. Service was continued until noon one day a week as a courtesy to the owners of the new electric powered washing machines.

A fire destroyed the original plant in 1910 and a new power plant was built at the mill site in "Old Town" on the Upper Iowa River. This plant utilized the water power available there.

Soon the electrical needs of the community outgrew the limited supply that could be generated at the mill site. The plant and distribution system were sold to Northeastern Iowa Power. Interstate Power now handles the electrical and natural gas needs of the community.

Le Roy Fibre Company

In 1912, the U.S. Linen Company constructed and equipped a building in Le Roy for turning flax straw into linen. Many farmers in the area produced flax, and the railroad was available for transporting the linen to distant distribution points.

The mill operated under patents held by J. W. Lappen and G. W. W. Harden and employed 60 people. The business closed in 1913 as the result of a lack of flax due to weather conditions.

The business reopened in 1929 after being remodeled to handle a different type of flax. This product was used by the American Insulating Company to produce flax tow to be used in insulation and upholstery.

The decline in flax production again required the plant to import the straw from the Red River Valley. Increased costs led to the eventual closing of the local business.

Lime Processing

In the early 1900's a lime processing business was established by Fuller and Pay to dig and crush limestone. Two kilns were built on the southeastern edge of Le Roy for removing lime from the stone. At peak production

the kiln, under the supervision of O. E. Ellefson, produced two hundred barrels a day. Twenty men were employed there at this time. This kiln was closed shortly after the depression.

In 1948 it was reopened by Bustad and Associates of Austin. The quality of the rock declined and the kiln was closed in the mid 1950's.

Eugene Hickock, a Minnesota pioneer, opened a lime and rock crushing plant on the northern edge of Le Roy in the year 1926. The plant continued in operation until Mr. Hickock's recent retirement.

The Poultry Industry

Le Roy laid claim to the title of "Southern Minnesota's Largest Poultry Center" for many decades beginning in 1899, when the Le Roy Packing Company came into being. W. J. Eaton managed the first chicken and egg business as a branch of a firm in Rochester. Misters Brown and Madison purchased the business in 1911 and renamed it the Le Roy Produce Company.

A building, with more modern equipment and with an egg cooling system, was erected in 1912 on West Main Street. A. C. Buesing managed the business beginning in 1932 until its purchase by Goodrich and Sons.

R. M. Shakelford purchased an interest in the business in the mid-1940's and served as manager during that time. Egg grading, washing and packing became more mechanized; and truck routes were established to bring the eggs to the processing plants.

Upon the death of Shakelford in 1951, Kermit "Bud" Halling became partner and manager of the Le Roy operation. In November of 1959, the Mendelson Corporation and Halling purchased the Goodrich interest in the business. They purchased the Le Roy Packing Co. in 1960, and Halling continued in the business until his retirement in 1980.

The Le Roy egg processing business ended in 1980.

Royal Puritan-Boulet Hatchery-Le Roy Turkeys

Two chick hatcheries also helped to establish Le Roy as a poultry center: Royal Puritan Poultry Farm and Boulet Hatchery.

The Puritan Poultry Farm had its beginnings in 1917 on the Cy Thomson farm, which served as a white leg-horn hatchery. The hatchery was sold in 1923 to a firm hatching Plymouth Rocks. In 1924 it was destroyed by fire. The hatchery was relocated to the southern edge of Le Roy and came under the management of Joe Schneider in 1933.

Two large incubators and feeding pens were installed and production was increased to over 300,000 chicks annually. The farm became internationally known and shipped chicks to 47 states and to countries in Europe and Asia.

Poultry shows were held in the Opera House in Le Roy beginning in 1922. Entries came from all of the United States, with the Le Roy hatcheries capturing many top awards.

The Boulet Hatchery served the local area with fine purebred chicks from its Main Street location until the mid-1960's.

Another poultry business began operation in Le Roy in

1955 in the building originally owned by the Minnesota Fiber Company. Le Roy Turkeys was owned and operated by A. M. Wells and LaVern Hansen. Turkeys from chicks to table ready, were raised and shipped to market. In 1969, 10,000 turkeys were produced. The business continued until the early 1970's.

Le Roy Products Corporation

The Le Roy Products Corporation was founded under the name, Le Roy Lures, by Donald Bothum in 1956. It was a lure production business for Herter's Incorporated of Waseca, Minnesota. Several employees put the lures together in their homes and Bothum transacted the business. Later the operation was moved to a central location.

Paul Bothum joined his brother in the business in 1958. As the business expanded into many areas it became known as Le Roy Products Corporation in 1961.

To consolidate and increase the work force, the brothers purchased a building on West Main Street and set up business there. The plastic coating extension of the business was moved to the Regan Motors building in 1968. The number of employees reached 60. The third plant was opened in 1980 in the Mendelson and Halling Building.

Brownlow's Red Owl

In 1933, Bernard Brownlow and his brother-in-law, Bert Sours, leased the Big Cash General Store from the retiring owner A. G. Larson. At that time competition in town consisted of six other groceries and a meat market. The new owners remodeled the building and added new furnishings. The business met with problems when the "Bank Holiday" dealt them a blow. Sours went on the road for Red Owl, and Brownlow remained to manage the Le Roy Food Shop.

Sours returned to the business and in 1940 they were granted the Red Owl franchise. Brownlow purchased full ownership from Sours in 1959 and his son, Robert, joined the business.

The Red Owl was one of the first in the area to go to 100 percent self-service. The Roy Hardware building next door was purchased in 1961. After extensive remodeling and modernization the area of the store was doubled. Another remodeling project in 1968 left the building as it is today.

Robert Bownlow purchased the store in 1970 and Bernard continues as a manager.

Martz Furniture

The oldest continuous business in Le Roy is Martz Furniture. Jesse Martz arrived in the new community in 1869. He began selling a line of fine furniture to the newly arriving residents.

Martz received unfinished furniture and varnished, painted and padded the pieces to meet the desires of his customers.

Jesse passed the business on to his son Samuel in 1887. Samuel continued the Martz tradition into the new century.

The name of the store was changed from Martz and Sons to Martz Brothers Furniture in 1910 when purchased by Samuel's sons, Howard and Wilbur.

The business was moved to its present location on the south side of Main Street in 1928. Laverne Martz, the son of Howard, joined the business in the 1930's. Wilbur had been elected to serve the area as a representative at that time.

In 1934, Laverne purchased the business and it became known as Martz Furniture. Laverne and his wife Barbara are the present owners. Their daughter Roberta and son-in-law, Leonard Edwards are scheduled to be future owners.

A disastrous fire in 1963 destroyed the store and other businesses in the block. A new building provided the business with 20,000 square feet of selling area.

The front of the store was remodeled in 1968 to give Martz Furniture its distinctively modern look.

The Martz family operated a funeral business in conjunction with the furniture business. Douglas Hutchins, a mortician employed by Martz since 1953, purchased the business in 1967. The name Hutchins Funeral Home was then adopted. Laverne Martz still assists with funerals.

Barbering

George Stiles served Le Roy as a barber from 1925 until retiring in 1975. Gordon Tangen worked with Stiles, later purchasing the business, and continues barbering on a part-time basis.

Former Businessmen

Prominent names from the past associated with business in Le Roy include: Orlando McCraney, J. W. Hill, W. Hayes, W. A. Gilson, D. C. Corbitt, J. D. Allen, E. F. McKee, Foster Roy, Frisbee and Son, J. M. Larrabee and Clarence, Francis and Melvin Meyers.

by Dianne Ahrens

LYLE TOWNSHIP

Lyle Township is located in the southwest corner of Mower County. It is rich farm land originally barren of timber except along the Red Cedar River.

The first settler was J. D. Woodbury who claimed a tract of land along the Red Cedar River and built a log cabin in Section 33 in 1853. He sold his claim to Benjamin Coe in June of 1855, and moved to Olmsted County.

The first permanent settlement in the township was in 1854 by Orlando Wilder and William Bean who took claim to land in Section 33. Others that came at the same time were Eben Merry who settled in Section 4 and James Foster and his son Return who pre-empted land in Sections 3 and 4. John Tift, also a settler in 1854, claimed land in Sections 4, 5 and 9 and laid out the village of Tory.

Lyle was organized as a township in 1858. The township and later the village was named for Robert Lyle, a native of Ohio. He came to the area in November of 1856 became judge of probate and was later elected representative to the state legislature from the district. He stayed until 1868 when he moved to Missouri.

RURAL SCHOOLS

Excelsior School, District #12

The Excelsior School was first taught by the Rev. Samuel Loomis in a log house in Section 3. The year was 1859. Not long after this, a school house was built through the efforts of the people in the district. James Foster furnished poplar logs for the body of the house. C. H. Huntington gave burr oak logs for the foundation. The men of the district cut down the trees and raised and roofed the building. A carpenter was then hired to complete the school and make the benches.

Charley Aultfather gives this vivid description of the inside of the old log school. It is taken from the souvenir booklet, 1859-1959, put out by pupils, teacher and people of the district.

"On the north and south sides of the room were shelves about three feet from the floor. A narrow straight shelf was under these shelves where books, slates and pencils were kept. Long benches without backs faced them. A row of lower benches were behind these for the little boys and girls. The big boys sat on one side of the room and the girls on the other. A stove stood in the middle of the room. Logs were used for fuel. When the children recited they stood in a straight line in front of the teacher's desk. The Wilson and Monroe Readers, the National Speller and The Copy Book were used. The teacher had a hickory stick but never had to use it."

The log schoolhouse served District 12 for 20 years. After this a new schoolhouse was erected on the old site in 1880. Mariah Gregg finished her summer term in the new school. Al Hickock taught the following term.

This schoolhouse from District 12 has been moved to the Mower County Fairgrounds and takes its place in the Mower County Historical Center as a symbol of all the many rural schools of Mower County which are no more.

Woodbury School, District #13

The Woodbury School was the first school in Lyle Township. The school was taught the summer of 1856 by Maria Vaughan in the Pinkerton log house, Section 32. Zillah Beach later taught in Lorenzo Moshier's house on the northwest quarter of Section 29. Thomas Parker was an early teacher as was Samuel Loomis. They taught in the Samuel Surface house.

In 1860, the district purchased a frame building in Otranto and moved it to Section 23. T. J. Locke, C. R. Houston, Erwin Lyle and Dora Clappsaddle were early teachers in this building which was used until 1874. In that year another schoolhouse was built in Section 32. Anna McCune was the first teacher. In 1908, this building burned and was replaced by a modern frame building on the same site. Dora Drews was the first teacher there.

District 13 board members in 1943 were: Harry Lenz, Mrs. T. S. Johnson and V. H. Barnes.

Silver Maple School, District #14

The Silver Maple School had its first classes in a log house in Section 5, formerly owned by John Tift. School continued there for four terms with Nellie Hawkins as teacher. A frame building was erected in 1870 for the school on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 5. Teachers in this building were Amelia

REFERENCES

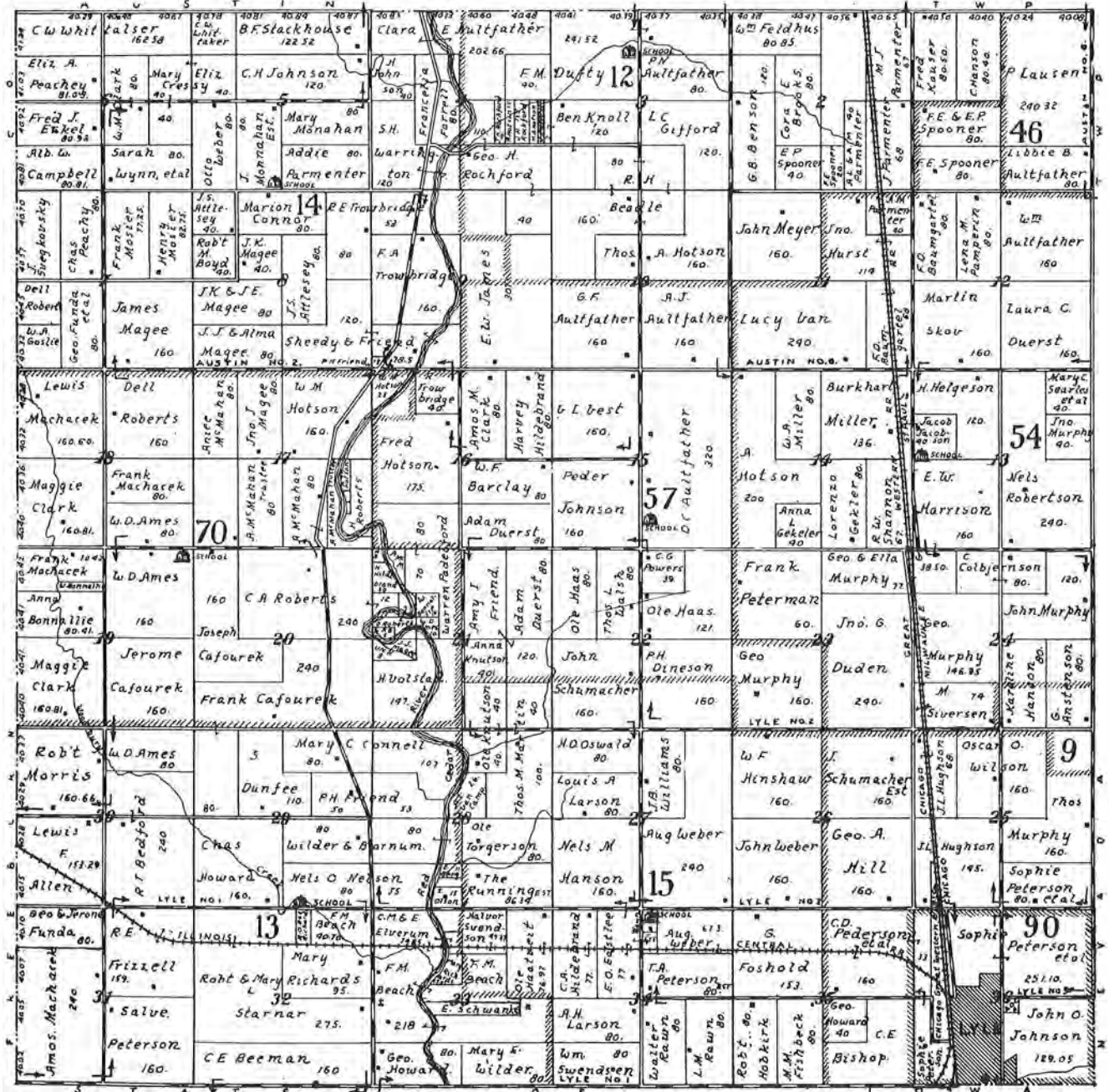


- Rail Road
- Wagon Road
- Corp. Line
- Creek
- School Districts
- School
- Church
- Houses
- Cem.
- Rural Routes

1915

Township 101 North Range 18 West of the 5th P. M.

**MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA**



Houghton and Mrs. M. B. Slocum. This building was later moved to the southeast quarter of Section 5. The school was located on the Monahan farm.

Mrs. D. Molde was the teacher in 1942. Board members that year were: J. K. Magee, A. Campbell and Mrs. N. Monahan.



Silver Maple School built in 1870

Minnercka School, District #15

The Minnercka School had as its first teacher, Thomas Parker, who taught in a primitive log cabin owned by Joseph Thompson in Section 27. In 1867 this was replaced by a frame building in the northeast quarter of Section 34. Miss Carpenter from Michigan was the first teacher. Five years later this building was replaced by a larger one and was taught by J. W. Weiser. It had to be replaced after being destroyed by a cyclone. A frame building was built on the same site.

Mrs. Eye was the teacher in 1942. The board members that year were: C. Salisbury, N. Hanson and Emma Jordan.

Red Star School, District #54

The Red Star School was organized in 1867. The first schoolhouse located in Section 12 was built of logs. Cynthia Addinton of Stacyville, Iowa, was the first teacher.



Red Star School - District #54

In 1881, a good frame structure was built in Section 13. Nina Bisit served as the first teacher in this schoolhouse. This schoolhouse has been converted into a beautiful home on Highway 218 south of Austin.

Lyle Center School, District #57

The Lyle Center School was organized in 1892. In the fall of that year the schoolhouse was built in Section 15. Araminta W. Heseman was the first teacher. It was known as Lyle Center School, perhaps because of its central location in the township. Some of the teachers in this school were: Elizabeth Jensen Heydt, Gladys Swanson, Frances Lunde and Bernice Rockney. During the latter's term the board members were: Walter Denison, Carl Haas and Frank Durst.

Geneva Pederson Johnson also taught in Lyle Center School for two year — 1933 to 1935.

Ames School, District #70

The Ames School was organized in 1867. Emma Smith taught the first school in a 12 by 16 foot frame house in Section 19. In 1874, a larger building was erected on the same site. In 1942, the teacher was Olga Hovda and the school board members were: Lee Machacek, Olive Bonnellie and Mrs. V. B. Hotson.



**Ames School Pupils - 1934
District #70**

Woodbury Church of Christ

The Woodbury Church of Christ was organized in October, 1882, by the Rev. C. S. Baeulieu. The elders were: D. Moshier and A. Howard; deacons: W. H. Martin and W. Case; trustees: C. Butts, J. Moshier and A. Howard, W. H. Martin also acted as clerk.

In May, 1884, a Sunday School was organized with W. H. Martin as superintendent. Worship was in the schoolhouse with Sunday meeting and sermons every four weeks. Membership was 19.

Woodbury Cemetery

This cemetery in Section 33 was established by J. W. Woodbury in 1855 and possibly earlier. He came to this area in 1853 and settled on the banks of the Red Cedar River. The Woodbury Creek and Woodbury School District 13 were named for him. Woodbury sold out in 1855 and moved to Olmsted County.

This was a public burial ground until June 8, 1883, when articles of association were filed. Burials were made on the east part of the center section. That portion was not plotted, and no records of burials can be found. Burials were made in 1856, as indicated by inscriptions on monuments.

Some of the early records were destroyed by fire. There are very little records of burials—only from the monuments that were placed on the graves.

The entire east half of the center section and south section have burials which were made before 1890. The Civil War veterans are buried in this area. The first death, as recorded in the early history of Lyle Township, was Margary Bean, wife of Wm. Bean, who is buried within the limits of the cemetery, but no marker can be found. The next burial, according to the monuments, was a Mrs. A. C. Chapin, wife of a Civil War veteran, on April 6, 1856. The third burial was Louis Ebbers, Sept. 6, 1856. Marjory Hite's monument has the date inscription 1792-1856.

The first child born in Otranto Township, Iowa, in 1855 was Eloise Wilder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Wilder, and was buried in 1858 in Woodbury Cemetery.

The current cemetery association officers are: Roger Campbell, president; LaVerne Tayler, vice president; Katherine Howard, secretary; Eloise Foss, treasurer; David Howard, auditor and actuary; Charles Adams, Robert Griner, Carroll Howard, and William Bell as directors; Roberta and James Howard are caretakers.

The following towns were established and are associated with the Woodbury Cemetery: 1855 - Old Otranto, Iowa; 1856 - Austin, Minnesota; 1857 - Northwood, Iowa; 1869 - Otranto, Iowa; 1870 - Lyle, Minnesota; 1900 - London, Minnesota.

Woodbury Willing Workers

The Woodbury Willing Workers is the Ladies Auxiliary to the Woodbury Cemetery Association. It was organized June 24, 1909. Officers were elected as follows: president, Mrs. W. E. Kilgore; vice president, Mrs. W. D. Ames; secretary, Mrs. P. C. Wilder; treasurer, Mrs. B. A. Bisbee.

The society activity at the cemetery was planting flowers, shrubs, trees and maintaining flower urns. A well was drilled and paid for by the society.

The society maintained records and collected annual dues from lot owners until the re-association of the cemetery in 1943. Then many of the lot owners paid the permanent fund.

Troy City

Troy City was located on the Red Cedar River about eight miles south of Austin. It was platted by John Tift on March 24, 1857, in Sections 4 and 8 of Lyle Township. Tift erected a sawmill there and at one time there was also a hotel and gristmill.

The dam was washed out by a spring flood and with it went the hopes that the settlement would grow into a thriving town.

Cedar City

John Chandler, who was born in Milton, Canada, came to Lyle Township in 1856 and took up a claim in

Section 4. He later waived his rights to the claim in favor of Caleb Stock and John Phelps who erected a stone and timber dam. They, along with T. N. Stone, built a sawmill and gristmill at the site. Part of the claim was platted for Cedar City.

The sawmill operated for nearly a year, but the gristmill ground but one grist when the exceedingly wet rains of 1858 washed out the dam and the mills. The dam and the mills were never rebuilt. Hopes that the fine water power site would enable Cedar City to rival Austin were gone.

The memory of the settlement is kept alive by the beautiful Cedar City Cemetery in Section 32 of Austin Township.

Lyle



Looking south on Main Street, Lyle - 1984



Lyle Canning Company started about 1912. Inscription reads: "A busy day at the Canning Factory."

The Village of Lyle was platted June 18, 1870, by Selah Chamberlain, D. C. Sheppard and Charles Mellrath. The plat covered a little more than the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 36 of Lyle Township.

The first elected officials were: L. W. Sherman, mayor and justice of the peace; John Trodler, O. H. Lucken and J. H. McLaughlin, councilmen; T. Irgens, treasurer; John Taskerud, recorder; F. Knutson, constable and P. McLaughlin, assessor.

In 1906, a two-story brick city hall was built at a cost of \$8,000. For many years the upper floor provided space for meetings and entertainments, but fire safety regulations forced the discontinuing of its use. The

second story was removed and the lower floor remained for use as the city hall.

Volunteer Fire Department

The Lyle Volunter Fire Department was organized October 21, 1895 with Ed Stanly as chief and E. F. Wilson as secretary.

Lyle Post Office

The Minnereka post office was established in Lyle on May 5, 1870, with W. Schellback as postmaster. On January 19, 1871, the name was changed to Lyle and Thowald Irgens became the postmaster.

By 1911, it had become a third class post office occupying a building by itself and doing an annual business of \$3,300. Mail was received from and delivered to nine incoming and outgoing trains a day.

The postmasters and their appointment dates are: Patrick J. Collins, November 20, 1886; Olaus G. Myhre, March 22, 1889; William Stanley, June 6, 1892; Frank B. Losey, September 22, 1894; George Robertson, December 10, 1895; his son, Burton J. Robertson, January 3, 1903; Harvey Hildebrand, May 22, 1913; Charley P. Fossey, June 17, 1930; Nels E. Fedson, August 6, 1935; Jay P. Mortensen, September 7, 1944; Orville J. Mortensen, Oct. 15, 1950; Darrell W. Matter, November 15, 1953; Orville J. Mortensen, December 8, 1961; Laurence L. Murphy, August 3, 1962; Violet L. Howard, September 7, 1964.

Public School



Lyle Public School - 1984

Lyle Village School District 90, formerly the eastern part of the Minnereka School, District 15; was organized in 1873. The first schoolhouse in Lyle Village was built the same year in block 4, lots 11 and 12; a gift from the owner. S. Anna McCune of Austin, was the first teacher.

In 1877, a large two-room school was built. This was served until 1906 when a new \$15,000 school was constructed and the original buildings were sold.

In 1957, the school was remodeled and enlarged in a \$530,000 building program. This was during the time of the reorganization and redistricting of the area's schools. The small rural schools were closed and their students bussed to the more modern village and city schools.

CHURCHES

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

On May 20, 1911, a meeting was held in the Lyle council chambers to organize a Lutheran congregation in

the village. The Rev. N. N. Essor chaired the meeting where a corporation was formed to build a church to be called our Saviors Lutheran.

The building committee members were: Ed Bjork, O. H. Dahl, William Swenson, K. O. Strand and Dr. P. T. Torkelson.

The cornerstone was laid September 3, 1911. On February 23, 1912, the members met with the congregations from the Six Mile Grove and Mona Churches to call a pastor to serve all three congregations. The Rev. A. E. Moe was installed at Our Savior's Church on April 20, 1913, and the church was dedicated June 22.

In January, 1951, the three congregations united to form the Trinity Lutheran Parish. A Trinity Lutheran Center was later established and a new parish parsonage was built in 1957. In April, 1959, Our Savior's decided to form a one-congregation parish. A vote had revealed a desire not to unite as a single congregation with the other two churches. Rev. Merland Johnson began serving the congregation in September 1959, and was installed January 17, 1960.

Our Savior's purchased the Six Mile Grove and Mona congregations' shares in the parish center and parsonage.

On November 7, 1961, eight and three quarters acres in the north part of Lyle were purchased from the John Hollerud estate. The building of a new church was begun in April of 1966, and the first service was held February 19, 1967. The dedication was by Dr. Melford S. Knutson, Southeastern Minnesota District President on April 16, 1967.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church has been served by Pastors N. N. Essor, A. E. Moe, G. Storaasle, C. S. Vang, O. M. Langehough, M. L. Hostager, T. G. Torvik, Paul Boe, S. V. Gjervik, David Granskou, S. O. Stenson, G. E. Rasmussen, E. G. Stolen, Merland Johnson and Harold Luecke.

Queen of Peace Catholic Church

The Queen of Peace Catholic Church was organized as a mission parish at the Lyle Village Hall May 19, 1946, by the Rev. D. A. Cunningham of the Queen of Angels parish, Austin.

The first service was held over Haakenson's Grocery in the Austin Town Hall. They met there until December of 1946, when they purchased the building on the corner of the Medical building. This had formerly been used at various times as a millinery, a restaurant, a beauty shop and a contractor's office and shop. The building was remodeled, enlarged and converted into a church ready for occupancy by December 8, 1946. It was dedicated and blessed February 9, 1947, by the Most Rev. Leo Binz, D. D., Coadjutor Bishop of Winona.

Members of the advisory committee elected in 1946 at the organizational meeting were: George Butts, Mrs. E. Adams, Don Engel, Francis Murphy and Mrs. Henry Meyer.

Land was purchased and the contract was let to build a new church in December, 1964. Edward Novak of Austin was the architect. The cost of the church, including a large dining and social hall and a completely modern

kitchen was \$75,783. The first Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Donald A. Cunningham November 14, 1965; and the formal dedication was May 22, 1966.

Pastors of the Queen of Peace parish since its beginning have been: Msgr. Donald Cunningham, Rev. Harold Gavin, Rev. John Tighe, Rev. Richard Engels, Rev. Robert Herman, Rev. Daniel Tierney and Rev. Michael Hoepfner.

Bethel Alliance Church

The Methodist congregation in Lyle sold its church building to the Halvor, Gunder, Knute and Charles Volstad families in 1906. It became known as the Lyle Mission Church and was affiliated with the Scandinavian Alliance. Knute Volstad served as the leader of the congregation until his death in 1921.

The property was given to the Christian and Missionary Alliance in 1937. The church was organized as the Bethel Alliance Church by its first pastor, Rev. Leslie Pippert, in February, 1941.

Other pastors that have served the congregation are: Bernard S. King, Howard Root, Samuel Stoesz, R. S. Yeats, Jerome Peterson, Wilbur Junker, M. H. Overback, Richard Williams, David Ashley, Roy Stenlund, L. W. Pippert, Paul Collins and Dennis Becker.

Many young people have gone from this church to serve as pastors or missionaries in foreign countries and to the Indians in the United States.

Congregational Church

The Congregational Church was organized as a union of the Methodist Episcopal and Congregational bodies and incorporated April 24, 1886.

Their church building was dedicated January 30, 1886, the sermon being given by the Rev. J. H. Marley, state superintendent of the Home Missionary Society. A parsonage was built in 1896. The first pastor was J. W. Rounce.

The church had a Sunday School, Christian Endeavor Society and a Ladies' Aid.

CENTURY FARMS

Smith/Barclay Farm

Edgar and Alida (Westervelt) Smith became owners of the 80 acre farm in section 19 in 1858. Their daughter,



The Clifford Barclay Farm, in family since 1858

Anna, married William Bonnallie. They bought the property in 1891.

William A. Bonnallie, uncle of the present owner and son of William and Anna, purchased the farm in 1938. Six years later the present owners, Clifford and Clara Barclay, took over this Century Farm.

Machacek Farm



Machacek Farm Home in 1919

Frank and Katerine Machacek bought the 70 acre farm in section 19 in 1873. It was passed down to his son Frank and his wife, Antonette and then to his grandson, Lee and his wife, Pauline.

The fourth generation, Lee Machacek, Jr. and his wife Marlene became the owners in 1953. Their children are: Mark, Sherry and Paul. Lee Jr. passed away in 1969 and Marlene has since remarried Roger Halvorson.

Hansen Farm

Christian Hansen bought 80 acres in section 1 in 1880. Four years later he went back to Harup, Denmark, and married Anna Kristina Kaad. They immediately sailed



The Christian & Anne Hansen Wedding - 1884

for the United States to make their home in the small house Christian had built. Christian Jr. and Fred were born there.

In 1891, they bought the adjoining 80 acres in Austin Township, section 36, where they built a larger house. Three more children were born there: Emma, Ella and Albert.

In 1924, Albert bought the 80 acres in Lyle Township from his father. Christian and Anna moved to Austin. The same year Albert married Lorna Miller and they moved into the Hansen family home. Four children were born to this union: Lawrence, Edward, Everett and Shirley.

At Albert's death in 1967, Lawrence inherited the 80 acres that his grandfather had purchased in 1880. Previously in 1957, Albert had given Lawrence two and a half acres in the northeast corner of section 1. There Lawrence built a home and established a trucking and excavating business.

His son, Lee, is in partnership with him and will soon be moving into the house vacated by Lawrence and Dolly in 1982. Lee has two sons, Nathan and Joshua. Albert's youngest son, Everett, and his two sons, Mark and Corey, continue to work the land.

Aultfather/Goetsch Farm

The Century Farm presently owned by Harvey and Maurine Goetsch in section 15 was purchased by her grandfather, David Aultfather from a Mr. Dexter in 1875 for \$1,400. There were nine children in David and Pamela Aultfather's family and each of them received a 160 acre farm.



Maurine (Aultfather) Goetsch

David C. Aultfather married Loretta Dietrich of Malvern, Ohio. He gained title to the 160 acres in 1889 and built the present buildings in 1914 among oak trees that are still standing. He was a breeder of pure blooded livestock, Red Poll cattle and Percheron horses, which he sold to many breeders.

David and Loretta had only one child, a daughter Maurine. She married Harvey Goetsch and inherited full title to the farm upon the death of her mother in 1965. Mrs. Goetsch taught high school English and social studies in Mower County for 30 years. She is now retired and active in the DAR and other organizations.

LODI TOWNSHIP

The first settler in Lodi Township was Almond Fryer from New York who came to the area in 1855 and settled on the banks of the Upper Iowa River in Section 14. His first cabin was poles covered with wild hay and prairie sod.

The survey name of the township was Lodi. When it was organized in February, 1874, it was named Belleview, as was the station established by the railroad company. At the first annual meeting in March they voted to restore the County Board name. The name Lodi, borne by many other townships in other states, was derived from a medieval city of Lombardy, Italy, made famous by a victory won at the bridge of Lodi by Napoleon.

At the organization meeting, J. M. Paul was chosen moderator; Thomas Kough, clerk; R. Billings, J. B. Goddard and Thomas O'Harra, judges of the election. The first officers elected were: R. Billings, chairman; J. B. Goddard and Knute Iverson, supervisors; Thomas Kough, clerk; A. Billings, treasurer; Thomas O'Harra and J. M. Paul, justices of the peace; P. P. Cavanaugh and Henry Thompson, constables.

The Taopi Farming Company was the title of a corporation formed in 1875 that owned and farmed 5,200 acres of the best land in the state. A total of 4,000 acres was under cultivation: 2,000 acres in tame grass and the rest in corn and small grain. The village of Taopi was located on the farm. The corporation went out of business and the huge farm was divided into smaller tracts, usually quarter section farms.

Taopi Village

Located on Section 9, the village derived its name from the celebrated Indian chief, "Taopi," who befriended the settlers at the time of the New Ulm massacre. It was platted in 1875 by a corporation, made up chiefly of the Taopi Farming Company, in the name of John W. Wood.

The first lot was purchased and the first house built by James Paul. O. N. Olberg put in the first stock of general merchandise and J. Martz located his furniture store there prior to moving to Le Roy.

Taopi was the site of the largest steam flouring mill in the southern part of the state. The mill was supplied with eight run of burrs and had a capacity to grind 300 thousand bushels of wheat a year. It was owned by the Taopi Mill Co.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES OF TAOPI

Presbyterian Church

A Presbyterian Church was started by elder E. Raymond of Le Roy, Minnesota. He preached once every two weeks. The first record of any church organization of Taopi was dated Sept. 30, 1877. This meeting was held in the home of Mr. L. D. Sargeant, who resided on Lot 13, Block 2 of the original town. Rev. E. Thompson was pastor.

The second meeting was to have been held Oct. 27, 1877 for the purpose of electing the officers for the "First Presbyterian Church of Taopi." Upon arriving they

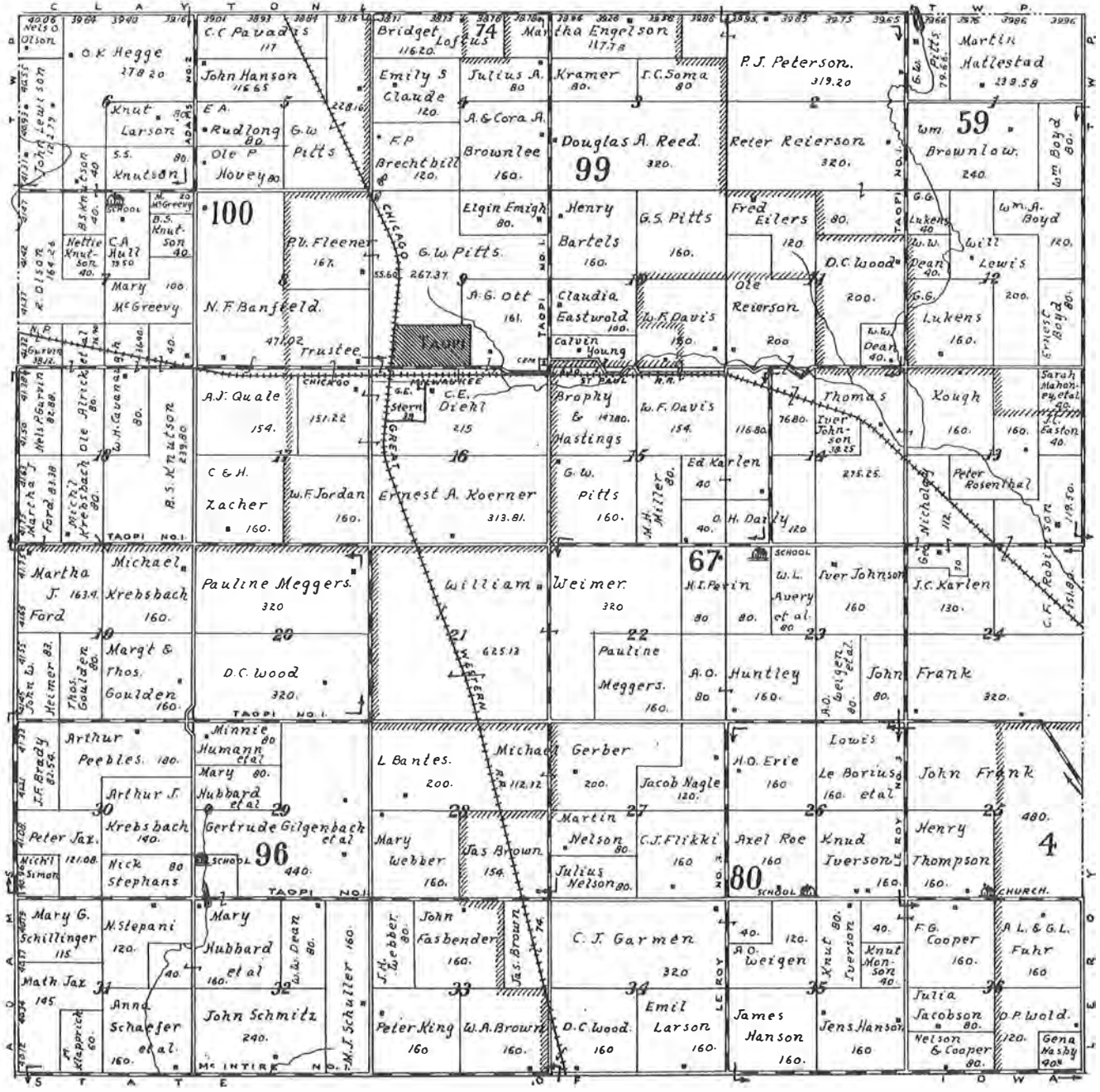
Map of
LODI
Township
Scale 1/2 inches for one Mile

- REFERENCES:**
 Railroad School
 Wagon Road Church
 Corp Line Houses
 Creek Cem.
 School Districts
 Rural Routes

1915

Township 101 North Range 15 West of the 5th P. M.

**MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA**



found Mr. Sargeant's room occupied so the meeting was postponed two weeks.

Church officers were elected Nov. 11, 1877, and on Nov. 17th an incorporation meeting was held. Mr. L. D. Sargeant provided the front room of his home for the purpose of worship for an annual rental fee of \$75.00.

Jan. 5, 1878, is the last record of the First Presbyterian Church of Taopi.

The Congregational Church

On May 25, 1890, Rev. L. M. Price of Minneapolis called a meeting for the purpose of organizing a church, named — Taopi Congregational Church.

Dec. 8, 1890, the present church building was dedicated by Rev. Atcheson. From this time on there were several pastors and many changes in membership. Records continue until Sept. 10, 1916. The Congregational Church had existed for 26 years, 3 months.

The Community Church of Taopi

Seven year later on Sept. 8, 1923, E. A. Conover, a student of Carleton College, organized a church and was its acting pastor. The name of the new church was "The Community Church of Taopi."

After 12 years and 3 months this church also ceased to exist.

A missionary of the Sunday School Union, Rev. John Larson called a meeting on Feb. 14, 1937, in an attempt to keep the Sunday school and church functioning. Rev. Bickell took over as pastor and reorganized the "Taopi Community Church," Jan. 14, 1939. Rev. Bickell served as pastor until April 6, 1945. He was paid 50 cents a week extra for doing the janitor work.

In 1943 the church people adopted a new constitution and name, "Community Gospel Mission," which is affiliated with the Northwest Covenant Mission. In 1945 the Sunday school, run by American Sunday School Union, was relinquished to the Community Gospel Mission Church. Several pastors filled in during the summer months until Oct. 25, 1945 when Rev. Dawson took over as pastor. He served until 1950. Several ministers took over Sunday services until June 1952-1954, when Vern Liuten accepted the pastor position. In 1951 the church was moved off the old foundation and a basement dug. The remodeling of the church was well underway.

Feb. 10, 1952 dedication services were held for the remodeled church. The name was changed to "Community Mission Covenant Church." Rev. Sandburg came Aug. 8, 1954 and served until 1957. Rev. Nreen served from July of 1957 to April of 1961.

Rev. John Larson filled in as pastor until April of 1962 when our present pastor, Carrol Main, took over the ministry of the "Taopi Community Covenant Church," which is the present name.

Note: This church has been through many changes and trying times; but, praise the Lord, it's still going.

by Jill Main, secretary

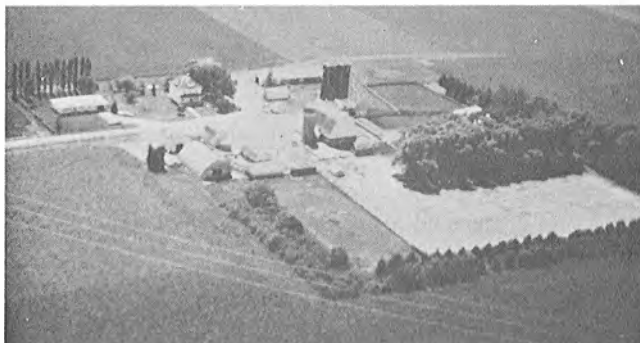
The Taopi Cemetery is located in Section 9 on the east edge of the village of Taopi. Some of the early burials include: Randall Billings, died 1877; Nina Campbell, died 1883 and William Hahn, died 1885.

CENTURY FARMS

Gilgenbach Farm

Located in Section 29, a 160 acre parcel of what is now the 440 acre Gilgenbach farm, was homesteaded in 1856.

It was purchased from the first owner by Peter Gilgenbach in 1878. Ownership passed to his son John Gilgenbach in 1919 and to his grandson Francis in 1954. His great-grandson Kenneth Gilgenbach purchased the property from his father in 1980.



The Gilgenbach Farm

Another part of the farm is a 160 acre parcel in Section 33 originally homesteaded in 1856 and purchased by John Fasbender in 1877. A daughter, Mary, married John Gilgenbach. A grandson of Mary and John, Kenneth Gilgenbach, purchased the property from the John Fasbender estate in 1974. Thus two parcels owned by Kenneth's great-grandfathers was united under one ownership. Also included in the farm is 120 acres which have been in the Gilgenbach family for 93 years.

Kenneth and Barbara Gilgenbach's family consists of three daughters and two sons. Jane (Mrs. Al Steinkamp) lives in Adams Township; Mark is in Boerne, Texas; Ron, Theresa and Karen are at home.

Nagele Farm

Jacob Nagele was born in Germany in 1855 and came to America in 1880. He bought the 120 acre farm in Section 27 January 23, 1884. His son, Arthur G. Nagele, was



Jacob and Louise Nagele



Front: Martha and Arthur Nagele. Back, left to right: Arnel, Roy, Ernest and Earl Nagele

the second owner and his grandson Roy A. Nagele is the third generation to own it.

The farm is known for its evergreen tree-lined lane. Jacob Nagele made a specialty of raising black Angus cattle, which the Nagele Brothers still carry on.

MARSHALL TOWNSHIP

Marshall Township comprises congressional township 102 north, range 16 west. It is bounded by the townships of Dexter on the north, Clayton on the east, Adams on the south and Windom on the west. Originally it was a fairly level prairie with a few small shallow lakes that have now been drained.

The first settlement in the township was in the spring of 1856 when Helge Errickson, a native of Norway, settled on the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 36. In 1857, John Osmunsen, also a native of Norway, came from Wisconsin and settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of same section.

The township was first named "York" and before organization was attached to Brooklyn (Windom) Township for administrative purposes. In May, 1870, the township was set off and ordered organized under the name of Beach Township (probably for Rev. Alanson Beach who was the chairman of the County Board at that time). Later the name was again changed to Marshall. William Rainey Marshall was governor of Minnesota from 1866 to 1870, and owned land in the township from about 1868 to 1874.

At a meeting on June 6, 1870, at the home of M. L. Corbitt, the following officers were elected: supervisors, W. L. Godard, chairman; W. M. Corbitt and Gilbert Anderson; clerk, A. N. Converse; treasurer, A. M. Converse; assessor, G. W. Corbitt; justices of the peace, G. W. Corbitt, and Stark Peterson; constables, Henry Stockwell and John O. Wold.

RURAL SCHOOLS

Roosevelt School, District #65

This district was organized in 1867 at a meeting at the



Roosevelt School - District #65

house of Ole Tolefson. Stark Peterson, Gilbert Anderson and Thomas Knudson were members of the first school board. The first term was taught by Rosella Bourgard in the home of Helga Erickson.

The first schoolhouse was built in Section 35. In 1879, it was moved to Section 25. Ida White was the first teacher after it was moved to the last location.

In the school year of 1906-07, Dora Qualee was the teacher. The school officers were O. O. Halvorson, director; A. A. Huseby, clerk and O. A. Ulven, treasurer. Fanny G. Gies was the county superintendent. There were 34 pupils in all eight grades. The desks were double and two pupils sat together. According to Mrs. Sylvia Hanson's mother, who attended the school in 1898, they went through the fifth reader and then kept repeating it.

Mrs. Hanson also started first grade in Roosevelt School in 1915-16; the last year before the school closed. Adella Sampson was the teacher with school board members: P. A. Anderson, clerk; C. J. Knutson, chairman and S. A. Slindee, treasurer.

The school closed and consolidated with the Adams School District and the pupils bussed. The school building was moved to the Peter Anderson farm south of Elkton and used as a farm building.

Riverside School, District #82

As was the practice in most of the early school districts, because the parents were concerned with the education of their children, they were taught in the homes. So it was in School District #82. However, almost immediately after acquiring land in 1874 the schoolhouse was built.

The warranty deed from Levi Foss and wife Philamena to School District #82 states that one-half acre was acquired at the cost of \$1.00. The deed was signed in the presence of A. G. Wedge and Ormanzo Allen, both early settlers in Mower County. The latter was a judge and notary public.

Some of the teachers over the years were: Colista Hoban, Charles McBride, Catherine McBride, Mary Collins (1913-1914) and Madeline Leahy.

In 1920 this school was consolidated with District #25 in Rose Creek and Elkton Schools. The land reverted back to the farm. The building was sold to Henry Syckman. Mrs. Wilfred Murphy was the last teacher.

REFERENCES

- Rail Road School
- Wagon Road Church
- Corp. Line Houses
- Creek Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes



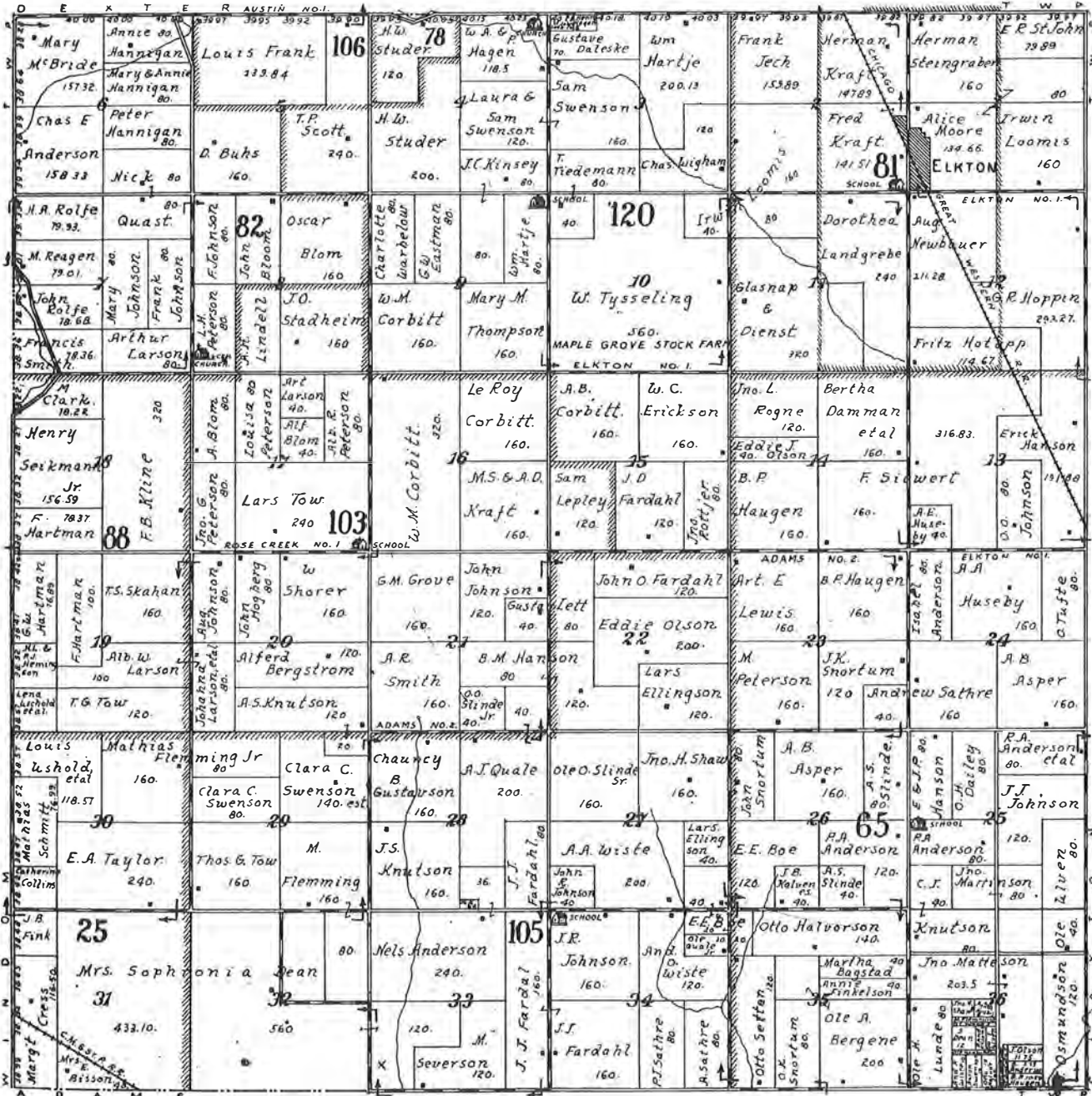
Map of
MARSHALL
Township

Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

1915

Township 102 North. Range 16 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA



Corbitt School, District #103

District 103 was organized September 20, 1879 at a meeting held at the house of Swen Anderson. The following officers were elected; George W. Phillips, treasurer; Willis M. Corbitt, clerk; Swen Anderson, director. A schoolhouse was erected that fall which cost \$1,000. The first term of school was taught by George Emery in the winter of 1879-1880. This building was located in Section 17 (on the Ronald Merten farm).

In 1911, this school district was consolidated with the Rose Creek School District. The building was used for town and local meetings until it burned.

McKinley School, District #105

District 105 was organized in 1879 and a schoolhouse erected at a cost of \$300. The building was located on the northwest corner of Section 34. The school was taught by Annie Christopherson from Udolpho.

District #120

The district was organized in 1888 and the schoolhouse was built that same fall. It was located in the northeast corner of Section 9, south of the Max Pinke's farm.

Hoflanda Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church



Hoflanda Swedish Lutheran Church

In the latter years of the 1870's several families had arrived from Sweden to the Marshall Township area of Mower County. There was a growing feeling for the need of God's guidance and on March 2, 1883, a meeting was held at the schoolhouse in District No. 103 (the Corbitt School) for the purpose of organizing a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. Sven Anderson acted as clerk at this meeting. Elected trustees were L. G. Anderson, August Larson and Andrew Peterson. Directors were John Rolf, Peter Peterson and Andrew Benson. The local name of Hoflanda was adopted for the church.

Ninety-eight families, companies and people of other faiths subscribed for the building of the church. Twenty families gave \$1.00 and the highest contribution was \$300.

Rev. Swan Anderson was the first pastor of the congregation. He would come by train to Rose Creek or Elkton and families would take turns keeping the Pastor on Saturday and Sunday. Confirmation classes were held in the summer months with a student pastor.

The congregation grew; many people have happy memories of their Hoflanda days. The "Midsummer Picnic" on June 24th was one of their happy memories.

As the older people passed away and the young people left the community, the membership began to decline and it became necessary to close the doors in 1937. The few remaining families could not see their beloved church and cemetery left unkept so they met with Rev. Carl Anderson of Minneapolis in 1937 to organize the Hoflanda Lutheran Cemetery Association. The annual meeting is the first Saturday in May. Former members and their children and grandchildren have responded with yearly dues. Donations and fund drives have helped erect a permanent fence; paint the church and establish a trust fund so that the cemetery will have perpetual care.

The oldest stone in the cemetery is L. G. Anderson (stone) son Leonard Gunnar d. 1883.

The Hoflanda Church and Cemetery are located 9 miles east of Austin, 2 miles south in Marshall Township. The nearest town is Rose Creek.

St. John's Lutheran Church



St. John's Lutheran Church

The St. John's Lutheran Congregation was incorporated in September, 1888, and a constitution accepted at a meeting November 26. Prior to that time, services had been conducted in schoolhouses and private homes by pastors from Racine and Grand Meadow Townships and from Toeterville, Iowa.

At the time the first church was built in 1887, in Section 4. One and a half acres of land was purchased from D. Hagen for the church and cemetery. Later, an additional five acres was acquired when the parsonage was built. There were but 17 members, but on the day the church was dedicated it was free of debt.

The membership continued to grow, but it wasn't until

a parsonage was completed in August, 1896, that a resident pastor served the congregation. Before that, Rev. H. Schultz lived in the parsonage at Racine. The parsonage building committee consisted of Herman Moje, John Dessler, Herman Kraft, John Jeck, Sr., and D. Buss.

Twenty-two Pastors

Following Rev. H. Schultz's 15 years at St. John's, the following pastors have served the church:

- H. Weise 1911-1915
- F. Fink 1915-1918
- R. Eilts 1918-1922
- F. Sauerbrey 1922-1924
- L. Drews 1926-1928
- H. Milius 1928-1935
- W. H. Hanselmann 1935-1937
- H. Reinke 1937-1939
- E. G. Gaede 1939-1940
- E. Staehling 1940-1941
- E. G. Gaede 1941-1953
- B. E. Petrick 1954-1960
- E. O. Kunz 1960-1965
- F. Moberg 1965-1966
- Jack Bredfeldt 1966-

In 1958, the old parish house was torn down and a new one built with volunteer labor and home-sawed lumber. Dedication was held in September, 1959. With the increase in the congregation interest grew in the building of a new church.

After receiving a memorial gift of \$10,000, plans were made in 1964 to proceed. It was built at a cost of \$37,227 with the help of volunteer labor and dedicated July 23, 1967. In 1966, the old church was torn down and the space used to enlarge the cemetery.

Elkton Village

Elkton Village, was platted in Section 1, January 25, 1887, by W. E. Richardson and Frank A. Day. On January 2, 1906, it was voted to incorporate the village and on the 30th day of that month the following officers were elected: president of the council, G. W. Eastman; councilmen, H. Kraft, C. C. Hagen and W. F. Jordan; recorder, O. J. Myhre (clerk of the election); treasurer, Sam Swenson; justices of the peace, O. M. Woods and H. Steingraber; constables, Fred Kraft and John Schuett; assessor, W. Gildemeister.

Some of the early projects the council had were: repairing the windmill, construction of a sidewalk on the



Elkton Main Street—1976

north side of Main Street in 1908, and donation of \$25 for benefit of the Baseball Nine.

Electricity was brought into the village in the late 20's, and the present water system was put in during 1946. Curb and gutter and new streets were added in 1965.

The Elkton Booster Club

The Booster Club was organized in 1969. Its purpose is to promote a friendly community and work for the betterment of the town and surrounding area.

They sponsor a Fun Day celebration each year and hold benefits to raise money and have bought Christmas decorations, planted trees and purchased the city greeting signs.

In 1978, a building was put up known as the Elkton Community Center. This was made possible by donations of money and labor from people in the area. The burning of the mortgage was held in September, 1980. Total membership is 150.

Elkton School



Elkton school students and teacher—about 1917 or 1918

The Elkton Consolidated School District was organized on January 30, 1917, when five districts voted to unite. The first members of the board of education of this newly formed district were: Henry Tysseling, president; Fred Kraft, clerk; L. C. Carder, treasurer; S. T. Bohn and Robert Keller, directors. Work on a building was started in the spring of 1918 and completed late that fall. Originally, five horse drawn buses transported the pupils. Mr. Goetschell was the first superintendent.

The first high school class was graduated in 1920. The four members of this class were Herbert Anderson, Arnold Anderson, Alfred Hanson and William Rogne.

In 1952, a gymnasium, shop and home economics room were added. The grade room addition and music room were completed in 1958.

Superintendents through the years include Billings Meredith, R. G. Hunter, R. R. Reeder, Joseph Hamre, J. W. Perry, C. Heilig, J. E. Sutherland, Tom Andrews, Verdie Ellingson, Darwin Lochner and Ralph Martinsen.

Rose Creek, Adams and Elkton voted to combine their schools in 1970. Now elementary grades are at Rose Creek, the high school and kindergarten are at Adams,

and the middle school and Elkton elementary grades are at Elkton.

CENTURY FARMS

Andrew Anderson Farm

Andrew R. Anderson was born in Norway, November 17, 1855. He came to America with his parents in 1868 and settled in Decorah, Iowa. In 1874, at the age of nineteen, Andrew Anderson went to the Dakota Territory. That year the area was stricken by a grasshopper plague. Upon his return that same year he purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Section 25 of Marshall Township.

In 1879 Anderson married Elizabeth Rasmusson, daughter of Rasmus Rasmusson. They had five children: Robert A. Anderson, Emma Syninius Hanson, Lewis Oscar, Andrew O. and Isabell Anderson Underdahl.

Although Andrew Anderson had never had formal education, he began a program of self-study. When he had obtained a teaching certificate, he taught in area schools.

At the age of twenty-four, Robert, son of Andrew and Elizabeth Anderson inherited 240 acres of land in Section 25 and conducted general dairy farming. In 1903 he married Clara Olfson. Robert and Clara had five children: Cora Elvina, Arnold Aden, Ruby Clarisse, Norman Sylvester, and Lillian Frances. Norman Anderson inherited the home place and lived there until his death in 1984. In 1980, the farm was sold to his nephew, Rodney Sprau, son of Lillian Anderson Sprau and Kenneth A. Sprau.

Corbitt Farm

Welles M. Corbitt, son of M. L. and Mary Freeman Corbitt, was born in June, 1846, in Steuben County, New York. When Welles was 12 years old, the family migrated to Olmsted County in Minnesota. After his early education in the county school he attended one term at a state normal school.

Welles Corbitt and Elizabeth Bacon of LeRoy were married Nov. 18, 1872. She was a daughter of the Honorable S. Bacon, Mower County's first representative in the Minnesota Legislature.

The newlywed couple moved on their farm in Section 16, Marshall Township, which Corbitt had purchased in 1868. They lived in a small house which he had built. There was a straw shed for sheep, cattle, oxen and horses. Corbitt then bought adjoining land, broke the virgin prairie sod and planted wheat. In the 1880's rust in the wheat caused crop failures, so he began to grow flax, barley, oats and corn.

Welles and Elizabeth had four children: Lewis, Arthur, Nellie and LeRoy.

Mr. and Mrs. Corbitt moved to Austin about 1900. Their sons, Lewis and Arthur, worked the land. Arthur married Mary Whelan in 1902 and their daughter Alice was born on the farm. They moved to western Montana in 1908.

Lewis Corbitt bought 320 acres from his father in 1927. After 1935, the land was rented for a while to

Leonard and Lucille (Corbitt) Hanson. Leonard and Lucille bought their own farm in 1943 and moved.

In 1972, Lewis Corbitt passed away and Leonard and Lucille inherited the place. Their son, Luvern, now works the land which is owned by he and his mother Lucille since the death of Leonard in 1982.

Snortum Farm

This farm has been in the Snortum family for 108 years. It is now farmed by Nordeen and Arnold Snortum. Knud Snortum came to the Adams area about 1874 along with his children Ole, Jul (John) and Marit.

They settled in Adams Township Section 2 now owned by Earl Weness. Knud passed away in 1887 and was one of the first burials in Marshall Lutheran Cemetery.

His son Jul purchased a parcel of land in Section 26 of Marshall Township November 9, 1876. In 1879, he married Betsy Knutson, who also came to America from Norway. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Knute Arneson. The Arnesons first settled in Wisconsin and later moved to the Adams area. They lived in a dugout on the north bank of the Little Cedar River where the Sacred Heart Cemetery is now located.

Mr. and Mrs. John Snortum were the parents of the following children: Marie, Carl and John Alvin. Carl married Elsie Huntley in 1924 at Cresco, Iowa. She was the daughter of Orrin and Emma Huntley of LeRoy.

Carl and Elsie had three children: Nordeen, Elaine, and Arnold. Nordeen and Arnold have lived on the farm since 1967.

NEVADA TOWNSHIP



Nevada Town Hall

Nevada is second from the west in the southern most tier of Mower County townships. It is prime agricultural land, quite level in the northern part and gently rolling in the south.

The first man to make a claim in the township was William Allen, a native of Massachusetts, in the southwest quarter of Section 29 later known as the Six Mile

REFERENCES

- Rail Road
- Wagon Road
- Corp. Line
- Creek
- School Districts
- Rural Routes
- School
- Church
- Houses
- Cem.

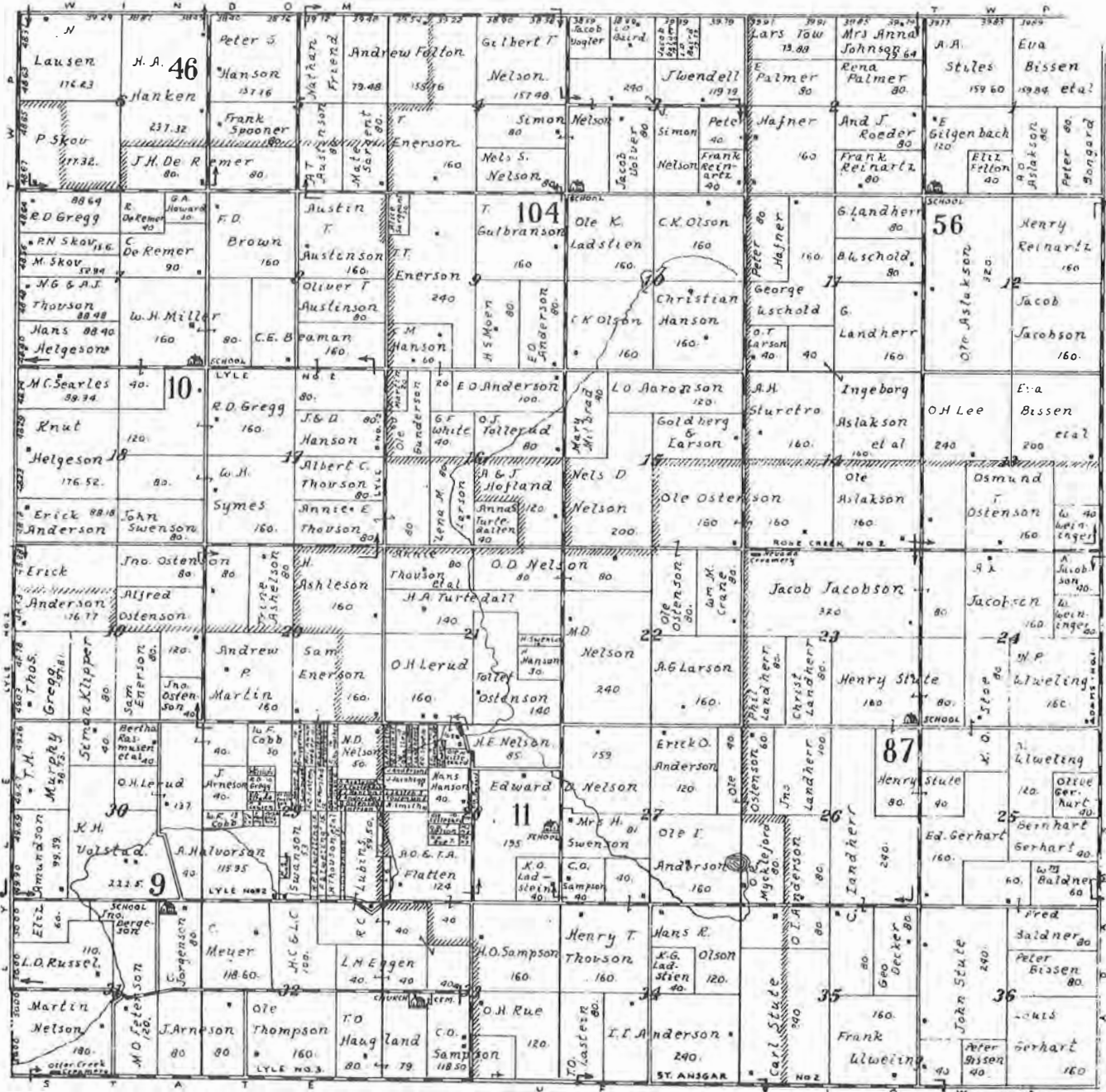


Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

1915

Township 101 North Range 17 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY MINNESOTA



Grove. In 1854, he sold his claim to Gunder Halverson and moved to Oregon.

The first permanent settlement was made by Thor Olson also in Section 29. He was followed in the same year by Ole, Andrew and Knud Anderson; Martin Hanson; Tron Richardson; Peter Martin; Aslak Oleson; Hans Swanson and Ole Sampson.

They erected a mill in Section 31, close to a big rock. It consisted of a Burr Oak stump hollowed out for the lower stone, or buhrstone. For the upper stone they used a big boulder on a spring pole.

The township was organized in May, 1858, at a meeting at the home of P. A. Bailey. Its name was derived from the California Sierra Nevada Mountains. In Spanish it means "Snowy Range." John W. Gregg and Gunder Halverson were on the first board of supervisors and P. A. Bailey was the first township clerk.

Nevada Village was platted in Section 2 by James Jarrard. A mill was built but there are no entries on the title record.

Six Mile Grove Church

Six Mile Grove congregation was permanently organized November 19, 1859. It was one of the first Scandinavian Lutheran Churches in Mower County. The first business meeting was held under the "Big Elm Tree" on the Trond Kleppo Richardson farm. Services continued there for a time and later in the homes until the church was built.

Work on construction of the Six Mile Grove Church was commenced in 1867, but the building was not completed until the following spring. The bricks were made from soil in Section 27 known as the Ed Nelson Farm. Ole Sampson laid the foundation for the church. The building committee was: the Rev. C. L. Clausen, Hans O. Anderson, Ole Sampson and Gunder Knutson.



Six Mile Grove Lutheran Church was dedicated in 1868

Cemetery

Much of the history of the area is reflected in the Six Mile Grove Cemetery. Many pioneer names may be found on the tombstones which mark burials as long ago

at 1857. Many of the headstones were made of soft rock found in the area. Erosion has almost obliterated some of the lettering, but here and there can be found readable stones from burial in 1857, 1861-62-63 and on over the years.

The first funeral in the congregation was that of Aslak Knutskass in 1856.

The cemetery, which was formerly owned and controlled by the congregation was turned over to the Six Mile Grove Cemetery Association and incorporated on March 10, 1913.

The ladies of the congregation have put on a dinner on Memorial Day for many years. They also serve lunch during the day to help pay for mowing the cemetery. The association received a large donation from a World War veteran and had a plaque made to honor all veterans buried at the cemetery. The plaque, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Christ E. Olson, has places for 100 names. Each name will be added as death occurs.

The present board members are: Russell Sampson, president; Lavern Austinson, treasurer; Glen Aanonson, secretary; Kenneth Meyer; Lorimer Nelson and Virgil Slindee.

RURAL SCHOOLS

Pinehurst, District #9

In 1857 the pupils living within the present limits of District #9 attended a school taught by Osroe Peterson in the home of Hans Swenson. School was taught in other private houses until the winter of 1865-66, when a log schoolhouse was built on the northeast corner of Section 31. The money was raised by subscription. Afterward a tax was levied and the money refunded. Christina Obey was the first teacher in this school. In 1882 a frame house was built west of the old site. The land was acquired from the Jorgenson farm on a 99 year lease.

The name "Pinehurst" was given this school by a teacher, Dana Seivert, who thought the name was appropriate because the schoolyard was surrounded by beautiful pine trees. The enrollment many times in this school reached 48. The older boys attended only after all field work was completed. It was not uncommon for young men up to 20 years old to attend school.

Some of the teachers who taught in District #9 through the years were: Howard McTigre 1902, Dora Anderson 1903, Jessie Lane, Dora Pease, Mable Kuelntap, Gladys Hagen, Lucille Levy, Dora Seivert, Florence Meyer, Nellie Thompson, Miss Rochford, Elsie Carlson, Doris Gregson, Marie Butts and Pearl Epland.

This school closed in the early 1940's. Wayne Anderson was hired to bus the students to Lyle School. Later the district consolidated with Lyle. All school property went to the Lyle District. These school board members served the last term: Melvin Martins, Clarence Meyer and Walter Eggen.

Gregg School, District #10.

This school was first taught by Sarah Austin in 1858, in a claim shanty belonging to Gregg and Austin. In 1860, a log house was erected for school purposes in the southeast corner of Section 7. Deland Richardson was



Recess at Gregg School - District #10

the teacher. Later a frame building was erected on the Pederson farm. S. Clow was the first teacher.

Nevada Center School, District #11

School sessions were held in many locations before the permanent building in Section 28 was completed. The first school in this district was held in a board shanty owned by James Gerard, in Section 21. The next term was taught by Belinda Robinson in a claim shanty in Section 22. The first schoolhouse in the town and district was built in 1858, in Section 28. Martin Hanson donated one acre for school purposes. Later in 1871 a new building was erected. The first teacher in this school was Nels Kalkon. Maris Hegge taught this school in 1942-43.

Board members at this time were: Joy Lillegaard, Gilbert Anderson and Casper Ashley.

District #56

In 1865, the first schoolhouse was erected in this district. The building was located in the southwest corner of Section 1. The school term began the following year.

District #87

This district was organized in 1870. A schoolhouse was erected the following year in the southeast quarter of Section 23. Mary Gregg was the first teacher.

Liberty School, District #104

The district was organized in 1878 and a frame schoolhouse erected in the same year, in Section 3. The first teacher was Minda H. Ruland.

The last teacher was Mrs. C. Hoskins. Board members: Arnold Enerson, Albert Anderson and Ray Reuter.

CENTURY FARMS

Anderson, Nelson, Reuter Farm

Andreas and Christina Anderson purchased land in Section 28 just east of Six Mile Grove in 1854. Their son, Hans C., married Rachel Richardson and they took over the farm in 1877.

In 1886, Christina, daughter of Hans and Rachel, and her husband Edward O. Nelson became owners of the 195 acre farm in Section 28. Sometime during this period, 119 acres across the road was added to the holdings.

Ed Nelson passed away in 1946 (Christina preceded

him in death in 1944). Their son, Alvin, and daughter, Jeanette (Mrs. Raymond) Reuter, inherited the farm.

Today, Carlton and Ramona (Ransom) Reuter own and operate the land. Carlton's mother, Jeanette, still lives in the home on the original farm.

Ashley Farm

Hamlin and Alyce Ashley live on the 160 acre farm in Section 20 that has been in the Ashley family for over 120 years. Knut Ashley and his wife Jorand bought the farm in 1862.

In 1890, Hans and Trine Ashley took over and ran the farm until 1951. Their son Hamlin and his wife Alyce took over that year.



Hans Ashley



Trine Ashley

Nelson Farm

A strip of government land in Section 31 was given to Nels Olson in 1854. Olson later changed his last name to Nelson. A house was built in 1868 and his son Martin took over the farm the same year.

Newell and his wife Bellena bought the farm from the estate of his father Martin Nelson in 1944. Today it is operated by the fourth generation, Lorimer and Sandy Nelson, who took over in 1981.

Ozri C. Brown Farm

In 1860 my grandparents, Ozri C. Brown, his wife Nancy and baby son Harry came from New York State and filed on 80 acres in Section 8, Nevada Township. Around 1870 he bought the south 80 which made 160 acres our homestead. Four more sons and two daughters were born on this homestead. They were Colonel, born in 1861, my father, Frank D., born in 1863, Chester, George, Grace and Alice.

My grandfather died in 1880 and my grandmother stayed on the farm. She married Perry Reynolds in 1882. They had a son, Harley, and a daughter, Mabel.

In 1897 our farm was purchased by my parents, Frank and Mattie Lela Brown. I was born December 18, 1896, south of the fairgrounds in Austin. When I was 9 months old we moved out here. My older sister, Mildred, was born in Austin and my younger sister, Alta, was born on this farm.

In September, 1921, I left the farm and went to Sco-bey, Montana. On February 14, 1925, I was married to Marian Hanson. We ranched for five years. Three chil-dren were born, Ozro Jr., Carroll and Lela.

In February, 1930, I shipped in an emigrant car back to Lyle. I began farming Dad's farm and bought it in 1931. A son, Frank Duane, and a daughter, Dorothy, were born here.

In 1952 my son, Ozro H., bought an acre of land on the northwest corner of the farm and built a house. In 1976 he and his wife, Mavis, bought 78 more acres of the original homestead.

My wife and I have lived here for 52 years. This is longer than any other couple. Altogether I have lived on this farm for 76 years.

by Ozro F. Brown

Enerson Farm

The Enerson farm has been in the family since 1880. The 240 acre farm is located in Section 9, Nevada Town-ship between Rose Creek and Lyle. The original owner was Torbjorn (Tom) Enerson. The present owner is Jan, a great-grandson.

Tom was born in 1854 in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin. In 1877 he married Annie Austinson. They moved to eighty acres of the present farm in 1880. An additional 160 acres were acquired later. The original home and other buildings are still being used.

Tom and Annie had eight children: Minnie, Alma, Julia, Stena, Theodore, Nora, Arnold and John. It was Arnold, born in 1896, who was to remain on the farm for the next eighty-five years.

Arnold married Lyla Hofland in 1926. In 1941 they purchased the homeplace after the death of his parents. Arnold and Lyla had two children: Loy and Colleen. Loy died in 1956. Colleen Jahr now lives in Bloomington.

In 1981 Arnold and Lyla sold their "Century Farm" to their grandson, Jan Enerson. Jan is the son of Loy.

Arnold and Lyla now live on an acreage near the farm. After sixty years as an active farmer, Arnold returns fre-quently to help out at the old homestead.

Chris Hanson Farm

Four generations have worked this land in Section 10, Nevada Township. The original 160 acres was purchased by Christian Hanson in 1883. Chris and his wife, Emma, farmed until 1936 when the eldest of their children, John, took over.

At present, the third generation, Kenneth and June, are operating the farm in partnership with their son, Kevin. Over the years additional land has been pur-chased and the 240 acre farm raises feed grain and hogs.

Sondovslie — Helle Farm

Tarje Guttormson Sondovslie homesteaded the origi-nal 80 acres of this farm in 1862. He was born and edu-cated in Norway and started teaching when he was 11 years old.

The family home was originally on Otter Creek. This creek had a sand bottom there, so it was the main road to Austin. Mr. Guttormson had a post office in his home

and traveled to Austin to get the mail for the area. Ownership of the farm passed to his daughter Annie who married Hans Turtedahl.

Alfred Turtedahl, son of Annie and Hans, took over the farm upon the death of his father in 1934. In 1948, Lena, daughter of Annie, and her husband Ole Helle bought the farm.

Ole Helle's son Hans and his wife Phyllis bought the farm in 1971. It then comprised 185 acres. Since 1977 the original 80 acres plus some additional land has been owned by Ole and Phyllis' son Jeff and his wife Kathryn.

Gregg/Murphy Farm

Papers signed by Abraham Lincoln May 21, 1861, granted ownership of 160 acres in Section 17 of Nevada Township to John W. Gregg. Ownership passed to his son Reuben D. Gregg and then to his grandson Richard Gregg Murphy.

There was a small cemetery in the field but all the graves except for two have been moved.

Richard Murphy has retired from farming and the land is rented to his son Rick.

Olson/Haugland Farm

This 160 acre farm in Section 32 of Nevada Township has been in the family since 1853. The first owner was Torses Olson who owned the property until 1898. His daughter, Tone Oline, married Nels Haugland. The farm was in their possession until 1953.

The present owner is Rudolph Haugland, son of Nels and Tone. Mr. Haugland is retired and living on the farm.

One acre of the original farm was donated by Torses Olson to the Six Mile Grove Church.

Ed Nelson Farm

The first owners of this farm in Section 34 of Nevada Township was Richard and Liv Olson who purchased the 160 acres in 1856. Their daughter Emma married Henry Thovson and together they bought the farm in 1919.

Lyla and Harriet, daughters of Emma and Henry, took over the farm on the death of their parents. Harriet's daughter, Lyla Prindle, bought part of it in 1965. The remainder of the original farm is owned by Lyla Stoike.

PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Pleasant Valley is Town 104-15, except the north tier of sections, which with the like tier in Racine, were set off from Mower to Olmsted County by the legislature of 1857, no doubt to help Austin in the contest for county seat. Judge Berry, then of Austin, was a member and procured the act by calling up a petition of the year before. It was named from Pleasant Valley, N.Y, by its earliest settler, Sylvester Hills, who came with his son Byron in 1854 and brought his family in 1855. John Rowley, Robert Reed, and Russell Hoag came in 1857. Rowley kept hotel on the Winona wheat route, and often took nearly \$100 a day for hotel bills.

The town was organized in 1858, and had the follow-

Map of
Pleasant Valley
Township
Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

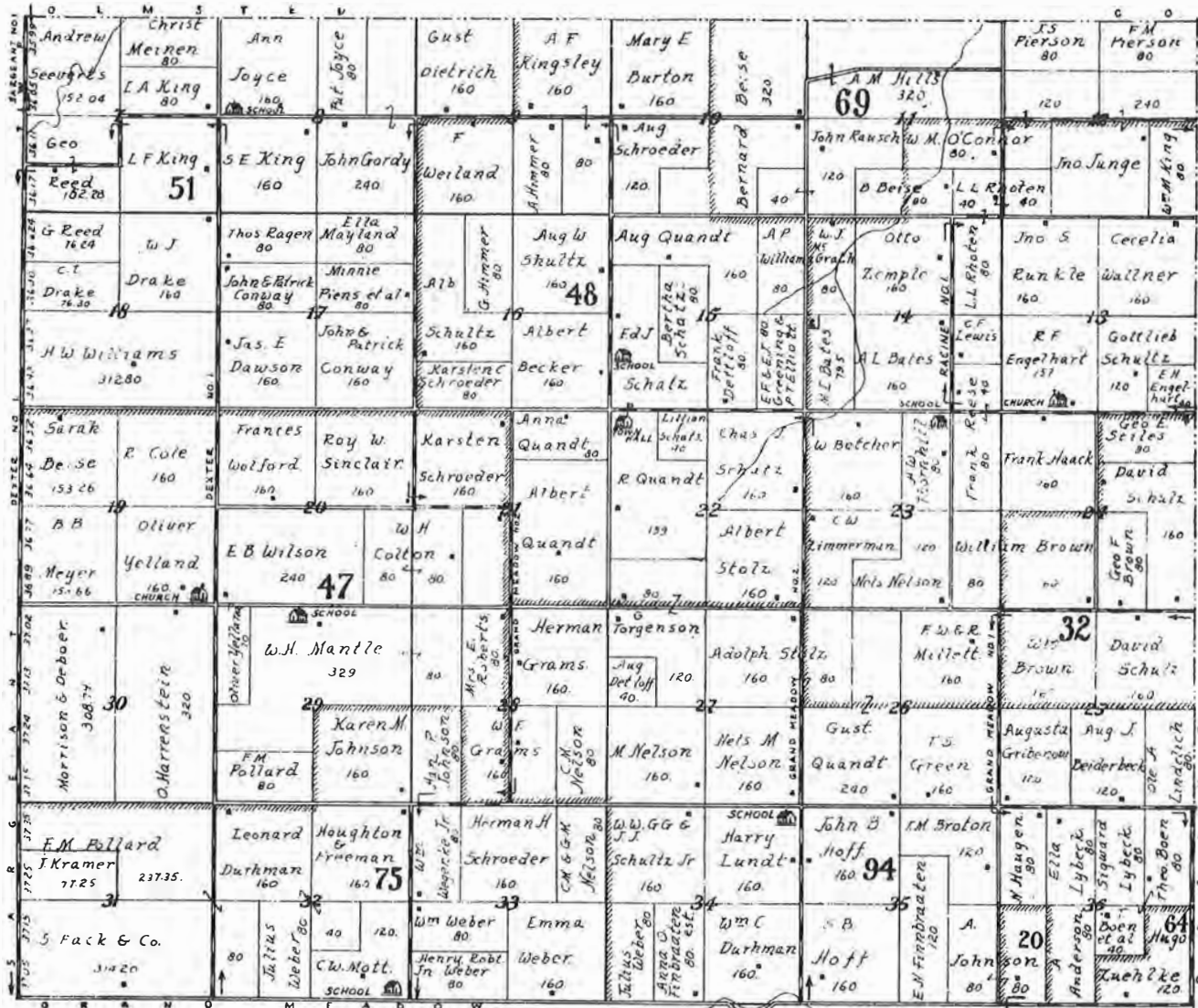
REFERENCES:

- Rail Road School
- Wagon Road Church
- Corp. Line Houses
- Creek Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes

1915

Part of Township 104 North. Range 15 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA



ing additional residents: David Wells, D. S. Ketchum, R. C. Penny, A. H. Bogart, James Grogger, D. M. Wells, and Andrew Howard. T. F. Wallace and the Hoppins came in 1860. A. E. Peck, Luther S. Bates, W. L. Stiles, W. J. Drake, A. W. Thornhill and A. J. Johnson are among the prominent late settlers. There is a German Lutheran Church on Section 12 and a good town hall on Section 22.

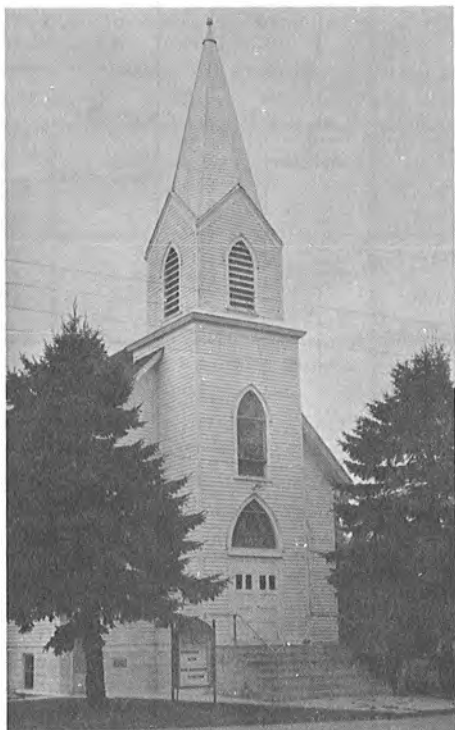
From Mower Co. Transcript Annual, 1892

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pleasant Valley Township



Rev. William Buchhop



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church was organized in 1874 by several German Lutheran families who had settled in the Pleasant Valley area. Worship services were conducted by pastors from neighboring congregations on a periodic

basis until 1882, when the first resident pastor, the Rev. P. Rupprecht, was called.

The first church building was built in 1877 and was two stories tall; the lower floor was a meeting place for worship services and school, and the second story served as an overnight dwelling for the visiting pastors. A resolution to build a new church for the growing congregation was adopted on January 22, 1896. Members of the congregation did the excavation and the contract for erecting the building was let for \$1,950. The bell, weighing about 1,500 pounds, was purchased for \$250. The cornerstone was laid on May 10, 1896, and dedication ceremonies were held in autumn of that year.

The present parsonage was built in 1909 at a cost of about \$1,500, and in 1936 the church was raised and a full basement was built underneath it. In 1945, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church of Sargeant asked that the pastor of Immanuel be permitted to serve them also, and since that time Immanuel and St. John's have been a two-point parish.

The Immanuel Ladies Aid was organized January 25, 1923, and is the oldest auxiliary group within the congregation.

The church choir was organized in 1970 under the leadership of Mrs. Audrey Durhman, and has approximately twenty members.

Rev. William Buchhop is the pastor at Immanuel Lutheran.

RACINE TOWNSHIP

Racine is in the northeast corner of Mower County. The first settler in the township was also the first settler in the county in 1852. The Jacob McQuillan family story is told in the beginning section of this volume.

In April, 1853, Thomas Cory, a native of Massachusetts, settled on the McQuillan place and entertained travelers for two years.

Bear Creek cuts across the southeast corner of the township.

Racine Township had a population of 483 in the 1980 census. The city of Racine's population was 285. The Seventh Rib in Racine is one of the popular eating places in Mower County.

The village of Hamilton was once located in Racine Township; half in Mower County and the other half in Fillmore County. The story of this notorious village is also told in the beginning section of this book.

Hamilton area is now the home of families such as the Chamberlains, Coopers and Skustads.

Salem Cemetery

"Salem's Church of the Evangelical Association of North America was incorporated at a meeting held at the Evangelical Church near Racine on November 13, 1873 and recorded in the Registrar of Deeds office on June 3, 1874."

The cemetery is located approximately two miles southwest of Racine on a gravel road known as German Road.

Map of
RACINE
Township

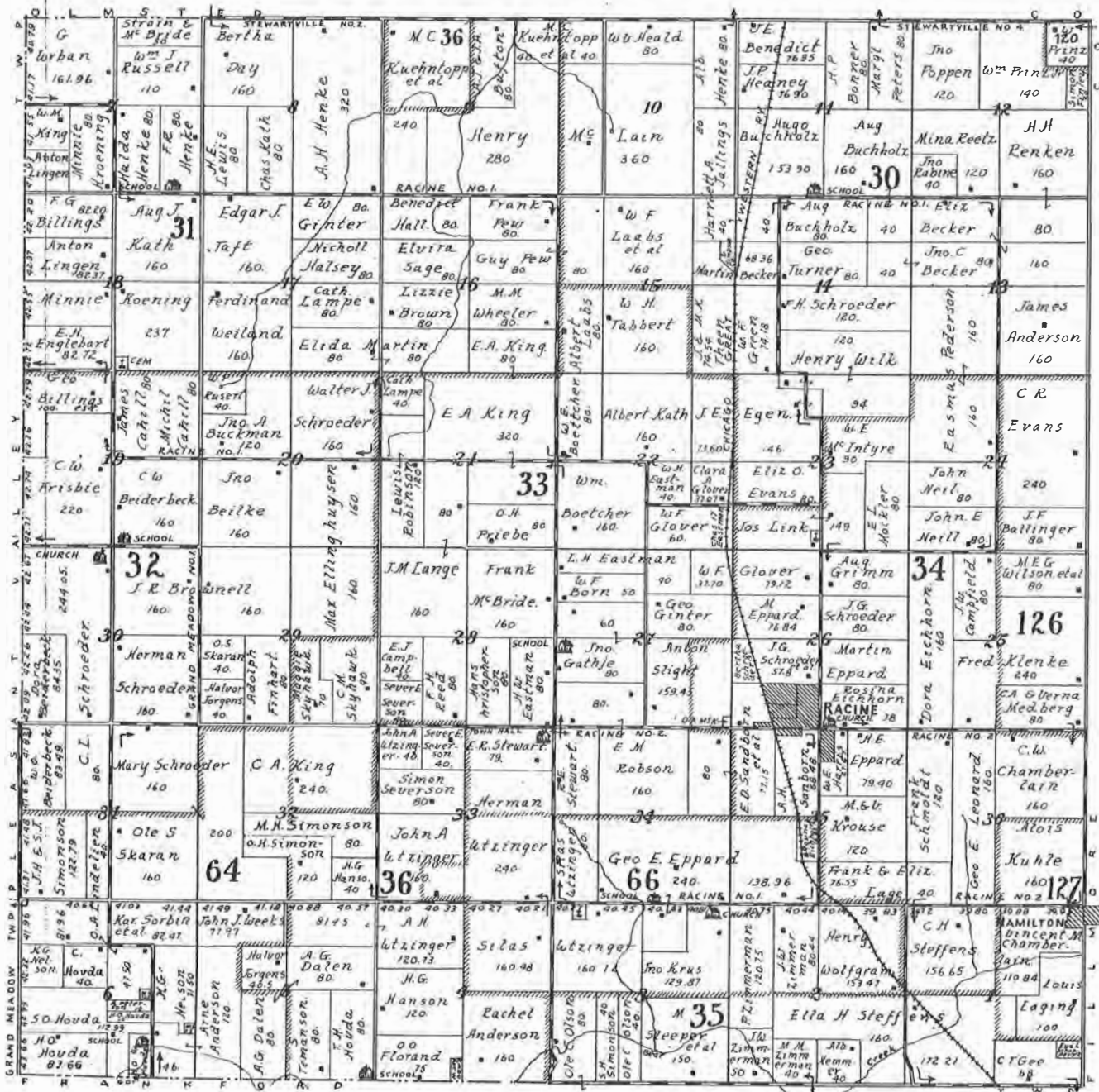
Scale 1/4 inches to one Mile

- Rail Road
- Wagon Road
- Corp. Line
- Creek
- School Districts
- Rural Routes
- School
- Church
- Houses
- Cem.

1915

Part of Township 103 and 104 North. Range 14 West of the 5th P. M.

**MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA**



The first burials were Little Frederick Henslin (d. 1865), Ella Krause (d. 1869), Jane Henslin (d. 1872), and Emilie Burkhardt (d. 1873).

When the EUB Church united with the Methodist Church, the cemetery was reincorporated as an independent tax-exempt corporation. Annual meetings are held in April-May. Current officers are: Marjorie Wolgram, Duane Koebke, Henry Mayer, Rolland Zimmerman and Pauline Utzinger.

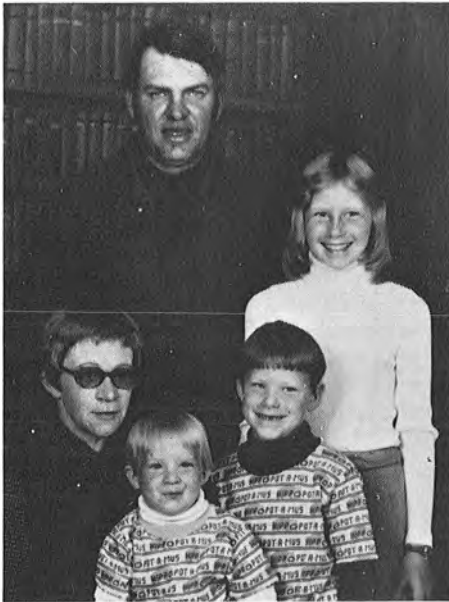
A *Deserted Cemetery* located in Section 23 contains tombstones with the names of Buck, Churchill, Crane, Edwards, Harper, Ripley and Robinson. The burials are all early dates from 1859-1874.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery is located in Section 18 of Racine Township. The land was purchased on April 6, 1878 and the plat was filed on April 15, 1878.

The cemetery association was organized by early settlers of a German church located a mile south of the present cemetery. Writing on some of the old tombstones is no longer readable. However, the earliest burial was that of Mrs. G. Schroeder who died in 1876.

CENTURY FARMS

Chauncey Davis Evans Howard Evans Farm



Raymond and Carolyn Evans
Tammy 11, Rory 6, Andy 2

The original 120 acres, of what is now the Evans farm, was bounty land granted to Aaron Smith, who was a private in the Massachusetts militia in the War of 1812. The patent rights, signed by President James Buchanan in 1859 were sold to Samuel Stuart. The farm, near Racine, was then purchased by Chauncey Davis Evans who moved from his home in Evans Mills, New York.

Chauncey Evans married Jane Gunning, who had emigrated from England. They had seven children: Idella,

Bernard, Chauncey Reuben, Sadie, Elizabeth, Belle and Amber.

Chauncey Reuben Evans bought his father's farm for \$28 an acre in 1906. He and his wife, Agnes, had three children. Roswell now lives in Green Valley, Arizona; Frances Evans Carter lives in Stewartville, Minnesota; and Howard bought his father's farm in 1945.

Howard and his wife, Joy, have five children. They are now retired to Stewartville, but still own the farm. The farm is now rented by their son, Raymond.

Raymond married Carolyn Rud. They have three children: Tammy, Rory and Andy.

Howard and Joy Evans' other children are: Eleanor Zimmerman, St. Petersburg, Florida; Alice Hobbs, Plano, Texas; Edith Yessis, Escondido, California and Mary Donot also of Escondido.

The Eppard Farm

This farm, now owned by Theodore and Esther Eppard, is closely linked to Mower County's first settlers.

Philip M. and Lucinda Eppard purchased the farm in 1861 from Walter and Catherine Booth. It is located in Section 35, Racine Township. The purchase price for the 160 acres was \$700.00.

Lucinda Eppard was a daughter of Jacob and Maria McQuillan. She had been a member of the family group which came by wagon to establish the first Mower County land claim in 1852.

On September 12, 1912 the farm was purchased by George and Sarah Eppard. They represented the second generation of family ownership.

On July 9, 1940 George's son, Theodore, received a warranty deed for 80 acres of the farm. He received the second 80 acres in 1947. Thus the original 160 acres continued as one farm.

The first log house on the farm was destroyed by fire in 1865. Phillip Eppard then built a house which still stands. This house and five acres of land has been sold.

Theodore and Esther Eppard are proud of their family heritage in Mower County's early history.

RED ROCK TOWNSHIP/BROWNSDALE

by Bonnie Williams

During 1853 and 1854 the original land surveys of Mower County were completed. This included Red Rock Township. These surveys show the town of Brownsdale was the dividing point between prairie on the east and scattered woods and prairie on the west.

It was quite likely that the wooded sections were logged sometime during the 1850's and 1860's. According to the Mower County History, 1911, one of the first buildings erected in Brownsdale was a steam sawmill which was "Soon in running order, and furnished the people for miles around with lumber to commence building their homes. It was run for several years until timber began to grow scarce . . ." Nearly all of the first buildings in town were built of hardwood lumber cut in this mill. It was mostly built of hardwood—oak, ash and walnut.

Map of
RED ROCK
Township

Scale 1 1/2 inches to one Mile

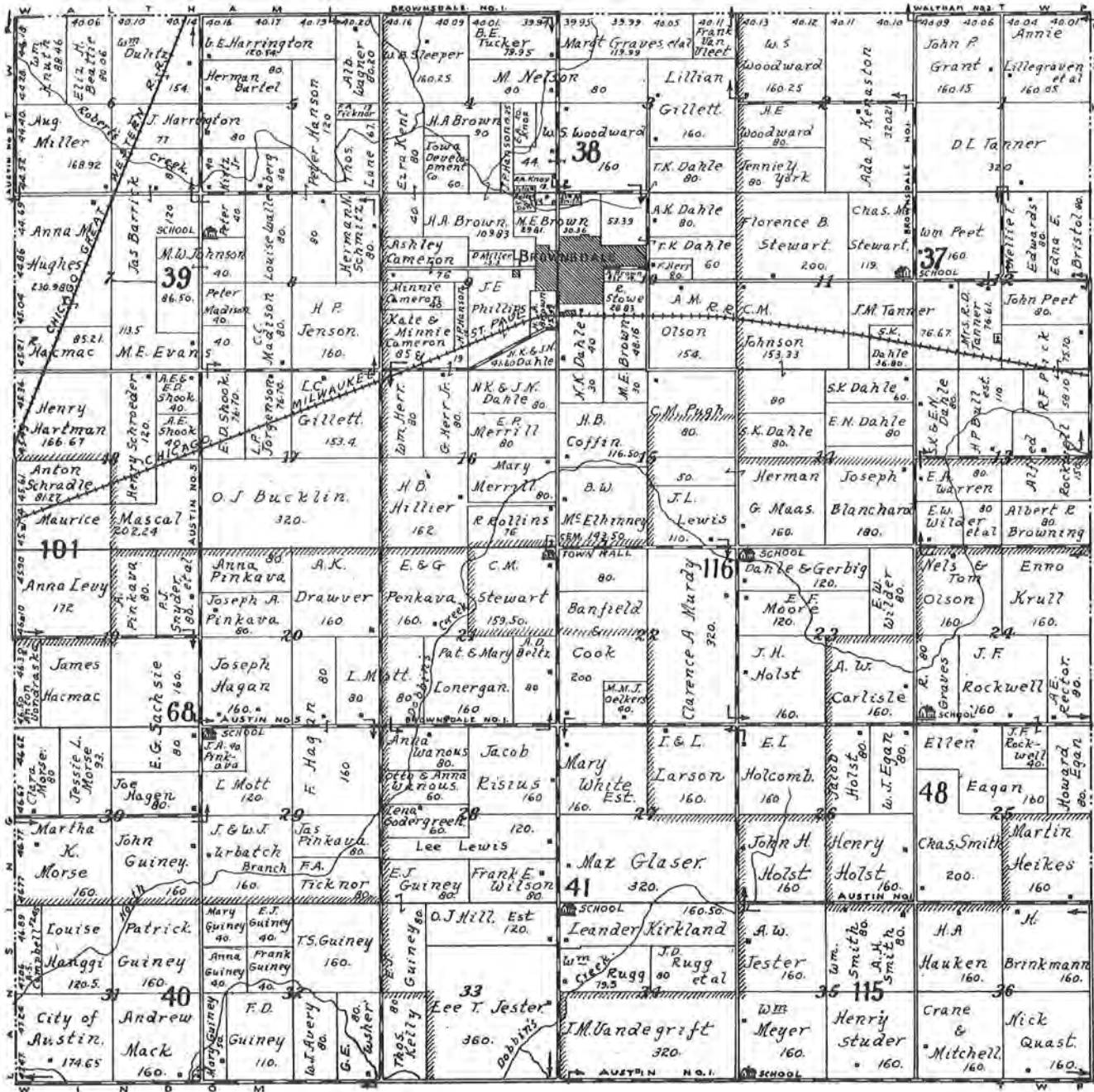
1915

Township 103 North Range 17 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA

REFERENCES:

- Rail Road School
- Wagon Road Church
- Corp. Line Houses
- Creek Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes



Now, the only wooded tracts in Red Rock Township are found along the creek bottoms such as Roberts Creek, Dobbins Creek, or those which serve as wind-breaks to the many farms that dot the countryside.

How Red Rock Township Got Its Name

In 1855 John L. Johnson brought his family from Wisconsin to what is now section 4 of Red Rock Township. They put up a sod shanty in a grove of trees which had an enormous red rock in it. As a result, the grove became known as Red Rock grove and at a later date the whole township was named for this rock. This rock can still be seen in section five in the S.E. corner of the land owned by Craig Bauman.

Brownsdale's Early Merchants

Albert L. Sleeper was one of Brownsdale's most successful pioneer industrialists. In his native Vermont, Mr. Sleeper conceived the idea of a poison fly-paper. He found that by dipping a paper in an arsenic and sugar solution he had an excellent fly poison. He began to manufacture this poison in Vermont. In 1862, he came to Brownsdale and bought a house on the southwest corner of Main and Johnson Streets.

In 1864 Mr. Sleeper sold his interest in a Vermont drug company and brought his wife, one daughter and four sons to Brownsdale. Soon Mr. Sleeper and sons began manufacturing the poison flypaper in a small frame building in the southeast part of the village.

The flypaper was made in the summer since it required a lot of air circulation to dry the large sheets of paper which had been hand-dipped in an arsenic solution. In their use squares of the flypaper would be placed on a plate and kept covered with water. The flies drank the poisoned water and died. Each sheet was warranted to kill one quart of flies.

The Sleeper business consisted of one building where the paper was dipped, two long-drying sheds and a building where the sheets were cut into small squares and packed for distribution.

By 1900 the Sleepers had built an extensive business; selling throughout the U.S. and beginning distribution in China and Japan. It was about this time that competition appeared in the form of sticky flypaper.

Albert Sleeper died in 1902. His son, Ozro, continued to manage and distribute the product until 1923. At this time the business was sold to a company in north St. Paul, ending nearly 60 years of "Sleeper's Lightning-Fly Poison" in Brownsdale.

In 1870, *Samuel Dundee*, a native of Belfast, Ireland came to Brownsdale with the intent of starting a linen factory. That fall he bought land north of what is now the George Madison and George Schroeder homes.

In the spring of 1872, Mr. Dundee formed a partnership with Herman Gunz of Austin and Harvey E. Anderson of Brownsdale. This partnership became the "Brownsdale Bagging Co." A building was built with limestone brought from Fountain, Minnesota, and machinery brought from Belfast, Ireland.

The partners contracted with area farmers to raise flax each year. For months little was talked of in Brownsdale, but the Minnesota linen industry. Unfortunately, three successive years of flax failures in Mower County, plus

the removal of the duty on foreign jute, brought about the demise of the Brownsdale Bagging Company. In the spring of 1875 the mill was sold and converted into a flour mill until 1882, when the machinery was sold and the building razed.

Benjamin F. Bacon was an early merchant of Brownsdale. He started his business in 1865 in a frame building on the northeast corner of Main and Mill Streets. He sold dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes etc. On Dec. 24, 1872



The Brown Hotel on left and B. F. Bacon building on right. Taken around 1900.

this building and most of the merchandise were destroyed by fire. The following spring Mr. Bacon built a "fine" brick building on the same site. Although Mr. Bacon continued to use this building as a mercantile until his death, it has been used for a wide variety of uses since then, ranging from grocery, post office, recreation center and off-sale liquor.

In 1963 Kenneth Hitzemann removed the Bacon building and built a gas station and parking lot. The D & J Auto parking lot is now located on this site.

B. F. Bacon held a grudge against the Sleepers. He was jealous of their large double store which gave him a lot of competition. The Sleepers were involved not only in the production of flypaper, but also had a store which sold groceries and drugs. In the 1890s Mr. Bacon opened his own poison flypaper manufacturer on the southwest corner of Main and California Streets. This enterprise turned out to be unsuccessful.

Brownsdale Boom Periods

As with most towns established in the 1800s, Brownsdale had its ups and downs. Before 1935, the village went through three "boom periods." The first boom occurred between the years of 1855-1875 during Brownsdale's formative years.

Brownsdale's founders had metropolitan aspirations for their town. These hopes were dealt a blow when Austin was given the county seat instead of Brownsdale.

There were three villages vying for the county seat, Austin in the west, Brownsdale in the center, and Frankford located in the eastern part of the county. The citizens of Brownsdale presented a petition to have the county seat located in Brownsdale, primarily due to its central location within the county of Mower. In anticipation that their city would be selected for county seat

honors, the city of Brownsdale changed its name to Mower City. The Frankford area realized they could not win and threw their support to Mower City. However, according to reports of that time, some underhanded dealings occurred through the "crooked ways of the men of Austin." On May 22, 1857, the legislature removed a tier of six sections of the Frankford voting precinct into Olmsted County. This gave Austin a majority of votes on the June 1 election. Following the election, the name Mower City was dropped and once again, the town became known as Brownsdale.

Brownsdale had a financial basis in industry and withstood the political disappointment. A few of the industries of this period were Brownsdale's steam sawmill, a boot and shoe manufacturer, and the Brownsdale Bagging Company.

The second Brownsdale boom began with the advent of the Southern Minnesota Railroad (SMRR) in the 1870s and continued into the early 1880s. With the building of the railroad, residents were less inclined to migrate from the village.

In approximately 1885 federal investigators began conducting a soil survey of various areas in southern Minnesota. According to the May 11, 1935 *Austin Herald*, "When their report was published it was found to include an analysis which said that the dirt in the vicinity of Brownsdale was the blackest and richest of any in the state if not in the entire nation." This report was widely circulated throughout the entire country, resulting in an influx of soil conscious realtors. "Gangs of civil engineers invaded the village outskirts. Farmers upon the edges of the place found their fields staked out into town lots overnight. Many salesmen followed the surveyors chains."

There was an increase in the towns population at this time, but most of the lot and block markers were merely dividing points between radish beds and potato patches. Eventually most of these new lots were seeded back into oats and clover.

Brownsdale's third boom was the real estate rampage which followed World War I. Brownsdale felt the effects of this boom more than many of its surrounding communities primarily due to the republication of the federal soil survey of 1885. At times, when farm land prices were increasing by as much as \$50 an acre overnight, it was no boom to have land speculators making matters even worse.

Brownsdale Newspapers

The *Brownsdale Journal* started July 1, 1884. The paper was edited by Mrs. Rose Moore whose husband was publishing a paper in Grand Meadow. This journal was published for three months.

The next paper was started by Bert A. Johnson, the sixteen year old son of Martin B. Johnson. Johnson began by publishing the *Brownsdale Leaflet* on August 6, 1890. He printed the paper in his home. In the spring of 1891, J. W. Buchard started the *Brownsdale News*. After only three months of printing, he sold out to Bert Johnson who then enlarged the *Leaflet* to nearly twice its original size. Johnson moved his printing office to a building north of the Brown's Hotel.

April 19, 1893, Johnson sold out to L. L. Quimby, who published the *Leaflet* until May 17, 1907 at which time it was discontinued.

In 1914 Bert Johnson returned and established the *Six Town News*. Johnson was also publishing the *Stewartville Star*. Two years later W. C. Aylesworth purchased The *Six Town News*. May, 1923, J. V. Barstow bought the plant and published the paper until 1934. In 1934 the subscription list was taken over by the *Austin Daily Herald*.

Brownsdale currently has *The Bargain Counter* which serves the Brownsdale, Dexter, Elkton, Lansing, Rose Creek, Sargeant and Waltham areas. It is published by Bill Nason.

(Information is based on "A Brief History of Brownsdale" which was first written by Forest Tanner)

Brownsdale Post Office

The Brownsdale Post Office was established in the fall of 1856. John L. Johnson was its initial postmaster. His home was his office. The mail was brought to Brownsdale once a week on horseback. A stage route was established and took over the delivery of the mail until 1870. Then the mail was delivered via the newly built Southern Minnesota Railroad. In 1904 the rural route system was established. In the 1950s a Star Mail Route was established from Austin to LaCrosse which brought mail both east and west every day.

Mr. Johnson was the postmaster until 1858 at which time Henry W. Shook became postmaster for two years. In 1859 and 1860, A. D. Brown was postmaster. Then followed a succession of postmasters: R. C. Heath; E. J. Stimson; H. Tilton; A. Stevens; Stephen Ives; A. J. Hunt; W. S. Woodward to 1897; Barstow, 1925-33; Farnsworth, 1933-38; Breedlove 1938-41; Risius 1941-45; Miss Lydia Parsley from 1945-70; Mrs. Emily Parsley from 1970-80; and Mr. Leonard Buelt from 1980 to the present.

The Brownsdale Post Office currently serves some 440 families.

Brownsdale Fires and Fire Department

Brownsdale's early history was marked by disastrous fires. This was not unusual in an era when the primary fuels were wood, coal, kerosene and oil.

The first fire occurred in 1858 with the burning of the two-year-old Brownsdale School. Then a new school building was built, and in 1871 it also burned. This schoolhouse was replaced by a third and larger two-story building. On Saturday, August 12, 1899, Brownsdale's third schoolhouse burned. The origin of the fire remained a mystery and nothing was saved. Valuable records of Brownsdale's past were lost in this fire.

Prior to the fire the people of the village had been considering building a new school. This was a controversial issue. After the fire the talk in Brownsdale was that the fire was of incendiary origin. Each side charged the other with the crime. After this fire two vacant saloons were converted into classrooms while a new two-story, four room schoolhouse was built.

When the school district was consolidated this

building was converted into an apartment building which is now in use.

In February, 1871, two warehouses owned by Gun and Anderson burned. December 24, 1872, the Ben Bacon store on the N.E. corner of Mill and Main Street burned. A fire on New Year's Eve of 1873 destroyed Mr. Richard's harness shop and residence. On January 9, 1880 fire destroyed the Cargill and Van's elevator which contained 35,000 bushels of grain. In 1884, fire destroyed the Ralf Billiard Hall.

In the early 1900s two disastrous fires raged through the business district. The first occurred at 2 A.M. on September 1, 1900. Most of the businesses on the east side of Mill Street were burned. The fire was discovered by F. M. Watson's son, who said it started under the steps of the "old Stimpson building." The Methodist Church bell was rung in warning. No corks had been provided for the acid cans for the chemical fire engine, and they were useless after the first charge.

The fire spread east and south of the S.E. corner of Main and Mill Streets. W. H. Lawrence's large dry goods and furniture store, as well as his salt and flour warehouse burned followed by the meat market. To the south it consumed William Sleeper's warehouse and J. R. Knox's barber shop. The C. L. Knos Jr. building also burned.

The firefighters broke into the hardware store and confiscated axes with which they tried to chop off the barber shop at its bottom. With a hook and rope a dozen or more men tried to drag the building into the street. Unfortunately, one wall was almost entirely burned before the men succeeded. The printing office and buildings beyond were saved.

On the lighter side: B. F. Bacon had fresh baked apples for breakfast the morning after the fire. They had been well-roasted in his show window the night before. Mrs. L. L. Quimby carried a box of type etc., across the street which required two men to carry back the next morning. Ray Suffron, reporter and staff photographer, never woke up.

The second major fire burned the business district on the west side of Mill Street on October 30, 1904. The fire started in A. D. Brown's machine shop and spread to four other shops, resulting in over \$25,000 in lost property. Among the buildings to burn were: Sleeper and son; Thompson and Skogin, hardware; A. Rockwell, building; A. E. Warren, groceries; A. D. Brown, machine shop.

The village had no fire protection to speak of, at this time. According to the *History of the Mower County Fire Departments*, after a water system was installed, the Brownsdale Fire Department consisted of several lengths of hose on a reel mounted on two buggy wheels. In 1937 J. H. Risius and Harold Hartson took a Model "A" truck chassis, mounted a 500-gallon tank on it, installed a pump and added a couple of wooden ladders. This was Brownsdale's first fire truck and was used until 1948.

In 1945, Richard Tricker was appointed Fire Chief. A twenty-man volunteer fire department was then organized. In 1948, an International K85 was purchased.

Brownsdale suffered another major fire on Jan. 28,

1949. This fire burned three buildings and resulted in over \$25,000 damage during a raging blizzard. The fire leveled an automotive garage owned by Otto Klingsheim and spread to the Hartson produce office and egg handling building. The combined efforts of the Brownsdale, Austin and Blooming Prairie fire departments saved the State Bank of Brownsdale, but could not save the other structures. For the second time in less than 50 years the east side of Mill Street was almost totally devastated by fire.

The department then added a 1,000 gallon water tank that was mounted on a Ford truck. On February 8, 1963 the Risius Motor Sales fire occurred. Firemen fought the blaze for more than four hours in the freezing cold. Even with the help of the Austin fire department, the building was a loss.

At present the Brownsdale Fire Department consists of five units: two pumpers, two tankers and one equipment truck. They maintain a force of 20 volunteers and two dispatchers who operate radios from the fire station to the fire scene when trucks are on call. The department's territory includes the townships of Waltham and Red Rock as well as the city of Brownsdale.

J. H. Risius was the first fire chief. He served until 1945. He was followed by Richard Tricker, Leo Senst, George Donovan, Kenneth Hitzemann, and Mert Jensen. The present fire chief is Don Foster.

Lengthening of the firehouse was completed in the spring of 1984. Recently the fire department received a check for \$975 from Pioneer Hi-Bred International. It will be used to purchase a self-contained respirator. The presentation was made by Alvin Akkerman, local Pioneer sales representative.

BROWNSDALE CHURCHES

History of Brownsdale Methodism

The first Methodist services in Brownsdale were held in individuals' homes by Rev. Moses Mapes in the summer of 1856. When the schoolhouse was finished that fall, the services were held there.

In 1857, Rev. Dyer, a circuit preacher, came to Brownsdale and helped in forming the first organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Brownsdale.

From 1860s to 1885 the services were held irregularly. In the spring of 1885, a religious corporation, the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Brownsdale, was formed. The church services were held in the Christian Chapel, built in 1876.

In 1891, a new church was finished. Sheds for the horses were built on the lot behind the church. This same year the first Methodist Sunday School was organized with 24 members.

In 1892, the Epworth League was organized with Miss Ethel L. Stowe, president. Before 1889 there had been a Ladies' Aid Society, but it was re-organized in 1893 and has been active in church work ever since.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society was organized March 30, 1902 with the first meeting held at the home of Mrs. James Fries. The present Woman's Society of Christian Service was formed in 1940 with Mrs. Edna Heller as the first president.

In 1956, Rev. Foster acted as pastor serving Brownsdale and Dexter. While Rev. Foster was pastor, a building fund was started.

Bids were taken and the general contract was let to Foster Construction of Brownsdale. The ground breaking ceremony was held on Saturday, Sept. 26, 1976, with the first consecration service being held on Sunday, October 23, 1977 at which time the cornerstone was laid.

The new United Methodist Church of Brownsdale was built next to the old church. Upon its completion the old church was demolished.

The new church consists of an "L" shaped structure with a sanctuary in one section and the kitchen, fellowship hall, and classrooms extending at right angles to it. The congregation is 172 strong and has approximately 71 children in attendance.

The following groups and organizations are currently active in the church: United Methodist Women, UMYF - United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Mens Group, Bible Study and a Couples Club.

On October 11, 1981 the Methodist Church celebrated 125 years of service in Brownsdale with special services and an open house. Some of the congregation's previous pastors were present and many other friends sent letters of congratulations.

Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church

The Catholic Church of Our Lady of Loretto was founded in Brownsdale on May 15, 1946. The mission parish's first Mass was offered by Father John F. Graf. Father Graf, a former air force chaplain of World War II, used the same Mass kit with which he had offered Mass in Europe. This first service was held at the Brownsdale Gun Club, and was attended by eighty persons. The first board of directors included Mrs. Marvin Beneke, Mrs. Carl Schiltz, Sid Farnsworth, Julius Schottler and Rex Crowley. Sunday, June 30, 1946, the church had its first communion. There were five members in this first communion class, Donna Mae Benson, Norena Johnson, Margaret Maas, Joan Risius and Donald Schiltz.

The following winter, services were moved to the Masonic Hall in Brownsdale. In May, 1947, ground was broken for a new church. December 7, 1947, services were moved from the Masonic Hall to the now completed church basement. Father Graf personally selected building materials for the church superstructure including stone from quarries in Faribault and Owatonna. On August 27, 1950, the first Mass was celebrated in the new building. The cornerstone was laid and the new church was dedicated on November 12, 1950. The church is constructed in Norman Gothic lines with an exterior of native stone. Cost of the completed church was \$50,000.

Father Graf left the parish in 1951. The following priests succeeded him: Father John Daly, 1951-55; Father Peter Coleman, 1955-65; Father Donald Leary, 1965-67; Father James Dandeleit, 1967-70; Father James McCualey, 1970-73; Father Syxtus Burg, 1973-78; Father Robert Herman, 1978-81; Father Peter Coleman, 1981-83; Father Francis Ryan, 1983-present.

First Baptist Church of Brownsdale

In the spring of 1856, Rev. Milo Frary, a Baptist clergyman from Connecticut, came to Brownsdale. He preached in the school for two or three years with little or no compensation. When his wife died, he returned to Connecticut. Mrs. Frary is buried in the North West Cemetery.

Other ministers conducted services here at irregular intervals thereafter. Among them was H. I. Parker, a minister of the Austin Baptist Church. Feeling the need for organization in the work of the Lord, Rev. Parker with a few Baptists wrote and adopted the Articles of Faith and Covenant. On May 26, 1867, the Baptist Church was organized. Rev. Parker became pastor of their little church. He held services here and in Austin on alternate Sundays. It was then the only church in Brownsdale.

In 1869, a resolution was passed naming the First Baptist Church of Brownsdale. A. D. Brown and H. A. Brown donated to the church a parcel of land on the corner of Oak and Main Streets to use as a building site. The First Baptist Church building was erected in 1870, at a cost of \$3,000.

In 1877 the Baptists sold the church building to the Congregationalists for \$1,250. From then on the work seemed at a standstill. On Jan. 1, 1883 the Congregational Church relinquished all claims on the building and the Baptists had a place to worship again.

In 1911 membership was 61. In 1921, during the pastorate of Rev. Volkenant, Evangelistic Services were held for three weeks. 112 people accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. Many of these were baptized and joined the First Baptist Church.

In 1923, the church building was raised and basement put under it.

In 1931, the "Daily Vacation Bible School" was started.

Rev. Boldt was called as pastor in 1937.

In 1950, under the pastorate of Rev. Oscar Smith, the Church Constitution was drawn up and accepted.

From 1955 to 1967, Rev. and Mrs. Frank Peterson served as pastor. During this time a new addition was added, making more chapel room and Sunday School rooms in the basement. The cost was approximately \$10,000. A second major project was completed in 1959 when the old parsonage was sold and a new one built at the cost of about \$15,000.

In 1967 the church observed its one hundredth birthday. Five former pastors and wives were present.

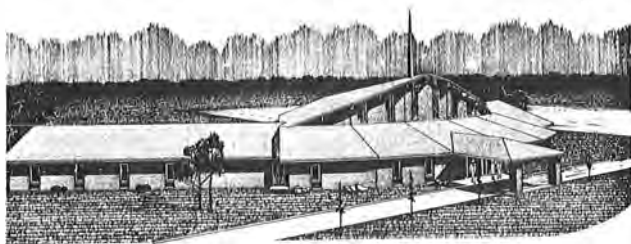
In 1975 our present pastor, Robert Yauch, accepted our call. In Sept. 1976 the church voted to build an addition to the front of the church. This enlarged the foyer, added a Pastor's study, a nursery, enlarged the kitchen and made new classroom.

We who worship in this church thank God for the foresight of the seven charter members. The present membership is 130.

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Psalm 126:3

Our Savior Lutheran Church of Brownsdale

The church was organized in Brownsdale August 15, 1937, with Rev. E. J. A. Marxhausen as its first pastor. This congregation was originally a part of the Waltham, Sargeant—Brownsdale parish. Prior to 1937 services were held at the local Methodist Church.



Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brownsdale

Charter officers elected were: Dr. James Thomson, chairman; O. E. Wollenburg, secretary; E. J. Marxhausen, treasurer; Chris Rettig, H. Wollenburg and R. Meier, trustees. Other charter members were Fred Escher, H. J. Probst and Herman Dumke.

The original building was purchased from the Presbyterian Congregation at Hayfield, Minnesota and moved 19 miles into Brownsdale. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1937. After necessary repairs and renovation the church was dedicated to the Glory of God on October 10, 1937. The total cost to the congregation at this time was \$2,400.

Renovations and enlargement of the church were made in 1948, 1961 and 1965. The congregation which began with nine families has grown to a membership today of 400 souls, and 300 baptized and communicant members.

In 1977, plans were begun for a new house of worship, and this led to the building of our present edifice—dedicated September 25, 1983. The cost was \$467,355.74. There was much volunteer help.

Seating capacity of 320, the education wing has 8 Sunday school rooms, and library, and the Fellowship hall seats 250 people. All the chancel furnishings were designed and built by Benjamin Marxhausen, a son of our first pastor.

The following groups and organizations are active in the church: Ladies' Aid, L.W.M.L., Lutheran Youth Fellowship, Young Couples Club, Mid-Life Couples Club, Senior Citizens Group, Men's Club, Altar Guild, Jr. & Sr. Choirs, Religious Instruction classes for our school-age children, Sunday School, and Adult Bible Classes are conducted weekly.

Present officers are: President - Norbert Holland, Vice President - Warren Severtson, Secretary - Terry Wangen, Treasurer - Truman Olson, Elders - Donald Meier, Leonard Blanchard, Robert Clayton, Trustees - Lyle Engelhardt, Don Richardson, Mike Lujan.

Since its organization, the congregation has been served by the following pastors: Rev. E. J. A.

Marxhausen, 1937-Oct. 1938; Rev. C. J. Knauff, Dec. 1938-July 1950; Rev. P. L. Friedrich, Sept. 1950-Oct. 1963; Rev. R. A. Grabowski, July 1964-Nov. 1964; Rev. D. E. West, July 1965-June 1968; Rev. F. C. Darkow, Feb. 1969-June 1972; Rev. T. J. Schaefer, July 1972-Oct. 1976; Rev. H. R. Hannemann, May 1977-present.

Brownsdale Organizations & Clubs

The Brownsdale Businessmen consist of representatives from nearly all of Brownsdale's businesses. This group has been in existence for a number of years. Accurate records of its meetings have been kept the past eleven years. The group meets monthly at the Blue Haven Cafe.

Brownsdale Businessmen promote the town of Brownsdale. They sponsor a girls softball team, put up Christmas decorations and hang flower baskets on Mill and Main Streets. Brownsdale Appreciation Day is under their sponsorship. The day includes a free picnic supper, a concert put on by the Hayfield High School Band, and a ball game between the businessmen and the girls softball team.



Labor Day Parade - 1952
Lucille Cross, Sally Madison, Evy Herra, Kathy Ostadabl

The Brownsdale Lions Club started on April 9, 1973 and currently has approximately 20 members. It meets once a month at the Blue Haven Cafe. The club is service oriented and sponsors a fall pancake feed and Easter bingo. It also serves as the local sponsor for the Brownsdale Cub Scouts, and delivers fruit baskets to the elderly and shut-ins each Christmas. This past year over 100 baskets were delivered. The current club officers are: Kenneth Wurzbarger, president; Don Peterson, vice president; Carlisle Madison, secretary; Don Meier, treasurer.

The Brownsdale Men's Club is a charitable and social organization. Formerly the Brownsdale Jaycees, they dropped their Jaycee Chapter in 1980. The Men's Club raises funds for the Boy and Girl Scouts as well as the local 4-H chapters. They also help maintain the local

park and recreation facilities. The club's social activities include such things as picnics and canoe trips for members and families. 18 members meet twice monthly. Roger Oelkers is the club president.

Other clubs include two 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies. Boy Scout Troop 101, organized in 1938, is the state's longest existing troop sponsored by a single sponsor, the Brownsdale Fire Department.

Interesting Finds

While talking to various people during the time I researched information for the new Mower County History book, I found information that I'd never heard before. Greg Gerhart of Brownsdale told me about Brownsdale's state champion white ash tree which stands on the property of Oscar Gabriel just off the S.E. corner of the fire station. Lloyd Boe and Dan Reick discovered it while working with the Rochester D.N.R. The white ash has a circumference of 125.6 inches, height of 85 feet and a crown spread of 30 feet.

Carlisle Madison, a longtime inhabitant of Brownsdale, explained why blacktop County Road # 2 has two curves in it just west of Brownsdale. When the Brown's built a hotel in Brownsdale, they wanted the main road to pass directly in front. Therefore, the road was purposely diverted to pass by the hotel on the corner of Main and Mill Streets.



Teamsters - 1976
Richard, Bob and Muriel Kvasnlcka

In 1976, a Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage retraced the old wagon trails. This time they went from the west to the east. Each state had its official representatives to carry their state's colors in the trek whose final destination was Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Richard and Muriel Kvasnicka of Rural Route Brownsdale, were teamsters for the Minnesota state wagon. The Kvasnicka's trek eastward began April 11, 1976, from St. Paul, Minnesota. July 3, their wagon, along with

many others representing the Great Lakes States arrived at Valley Forge.

An old roll-top desk from the Red Rock Town Hall furnished many interesting documents. One was a yellowed \$1,000 bond issued to the township in 1871 to aid in the construction of the Southern Minnesota Railroad.

The Mousenik

High school students from Austin Pacelli and Brownsdale achieved nationwide recognition with the launching of their homemade rockets. The Austin Rocket Society, directed by Pacelli's science educator, Sister Mary Duns Scotus, launched 35 rockets in 125 attempts. Several of the rockets contained anesthetized mice. An attempt on



(Minneapolis Tribune Photo)

Rocket Society Lineup, Minutes before the Launch

Left to right: Jensen, Sister Mary Duns Scotus, Steven Johnson, Dick King, Gary Solyst, Paul Germer, Carl Harwood, James Budd, and Calvin Aaby. Kneelling: Robert Simon, Gordon Cassidy, and Gary Hitzemann

January 5, 1957 achieved national recognition by ABC-TV's Huntley-Brinkley newscast, when they filmed the launch. Mower County Sheriff, Al Reinartz, led a procession of 30 cars to the "Red Rock proving grounds" just west of Brownsdale on the Alvin Aaby farm, now the Stephen Williams farm. At the launch site, with the aid of a cement block house for protection, the rocket club launched a 4-foot, 10-inch rocket with a passenger. The passenger was a 50¢ white mouse. The rocket was successfully launched and reached an altitude of 1,642 feet with a velocity of 221 m.p.h. The mouse did not survive the rocket landing.

Through widespread coverage, the humane society learned of the use of mice in the test rockets. As a result, the students had to appear in the Mower County Courts on "cruelty to animal" charges. After being reprimanded the charges were dropped. The mouse was buried on the Aaby farm.

The following information was received in a note from Shirley K. Cole, Austin: My grandfather, Frank Warren, and quite a lot of his relatives settled the Brownsdale area. His father ran the A. E. Warren general merchandise store until around 1918. My grandfather wrote several stories about growing up in Brownsdale and about his father's store. I am also related to the Hunts,

Clarks, Sleepers, Knox and several others that settled there.

RED ROCK TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

Tanner Cemetery

A small family cemetery located 2½ miles east of Brownsdale has been nicknamed the Tanner Cemetery. 15 of the 25 people buried are members of the Tanner family, and the other grave sites are people who were related to the family through marriage. The only access to the cemetery is a field road through the LaVerne Sheeley farm.

Hiram E. Tanner and his wife, Eliza Meeker Tanner, and their sons, DeLoss, Frank and Oscar settled near Brownsdale in 1857 in Section 1. His brother, Ebenezer E., and his wife, Lydia A. Colby Tanner, settled in Section 12 in the fall of 1859. The cemetery is located on Ebenezer's farm, now owned by LaVerne Sheeley. The last burial was Bingley Tanner in 1925.

The family considered moving the bodies to Greenwood Cemetery. Only Laverne Arthur Tanner was moved to Greenwood and placed next to his father's grave.

The first burial was Lydia A. Tanner, who died in 1861.

Greenwood Cemetery

On August 5, 1892 a plot of land in the southeast corner of section 16 was purchased from Reuben and Jane Rollings for a cost of \$10.00 by the Greenwood Cemetery Association. They were formerly the Mower City Cemetery Association. On March 31, 1931 an additional acre lying on the west side of the original plot was given by H. B. and Edna Hillier for a cost of \$1.00.

Tombstone inscriptions and records indicate the earliest burial was John Setzer, who died July 17, 1863.

The cemetery is located in Highway 56 approximately one mile south of Brownsdale, Minnesota.

The present members of the cemetery board are: Ralph Grant, president; Naomi Friedrich, secretary; Joe Walker, treasurer; Glen Stanton and Carlisle Madison, trustees.

Brown Cemetery

The Brown Cemetery, a family cemetery, was established before the incorporation of the village of Brownsdale in 1876. The cemetery is located in the northwest part of the city, on the corner of Malissa St. and Cedar Ave. When it was established it was named Oak Park, but is usually called the Brown Cemetery. It was established by Andrew D. Brown and his brother, Hosmer A. Brown. Andrew D. Brown who died May 1, 1911, is buried there. Hosmer A. Brown, who died Nov. 6, 1922, is also buried there.

CENTURY FARMS

The Rugg Family

J. Dewitt Rugg homesteaded the 160 acre farm in Red Rock Township 103, Range 17 on March 3, 1855. Title to the land was acquired by Dewitt and his wife, Barbara, on Oct. 24, 1860.

The farm has now progressed through three more generations as follows: son, William Albert Rugg and wife, Clara, as of March 7, 1914. Grandson, Everett H. Rugg and wife, Ena, as of September 7, 1951. Great grandson, William Burton Rugg and wife, Bette, as of Dec. 20, 1967.



J. Dewitt Rugg Farm - 1880

Dahle-Rockwell Family

Archibald Rockwell and his wife, Ellen, (the former Ellen Simpson) came from Randolph, Wisconsin to Mower County and purchased a farm in Red Rock Township in 1864. They had one child, Edna Mae, who was born in 1872.

Archibald and Ellen retired and moved to Brownsdale in 1891. In October of 1891, Edna Mae married Sivend K. Dahle, who had come from Hardanger, Norway. They began to operate the Rockwell farm.

The Dahle's had three children: Ella, Harold and Pearle. Sivend was active in civic activities and in the Lafayette Lodge #116, A. F. and A. M. St. Bernard Commandery, Austin. In 1928 Sivend and Edna Mae retired and moved to Austin, and son, Harold took over the farm.

Harold Dahle had married Gertrude Matson in 1925. They have one daughter, now Elizabeth Peters, Coos Bay, Oregon.



Dahle Home Place - 1983

Harold Dahle continues to live on the home place, although he has retired from active farming. The homestead has been remodeled many times. There has been a lot of living for the Rockwells and the Dahles in the old home place over the past 120 years.

Rockwell Farm

John F. Rockwell was born January 11, 1854. In 1870 he built a house on land he had acquired east of Brownsdale; 160 acres in Section 24 and 40 acres in Section 25. He was married to Orseville Nashold. They had three children; Ray, Paul and Elsie.

The farm was purchased later by Paul Rockwell and wife, Gertie. Orseville Rockwell died in 1926 and John F. in 1932.

Paul and Gertie Rockwell had six children, Fay, Paul Jr., Ross, Morrine, Guy and Harry. Gertie died in 1970 and Paul in 1983.

The farm is now owned by Guy and Harry Rockwell. A new home has been built on the site.



John F. Rockwell Farm

RED ROCK TOWNSHIP RURAL SCHOOLS

School District #37 (Tanner School)



Tanner School Reunion - 1983

The first school in this district was taught by Mrs. Angeline A. Tanner in the summer of 1859 at the house of Elder Milo Farril in Section 13. In 1860-61, school was held in the granary of E. E. Tanner in Section 12. In 1862, a frame schoolhouse was erected in Section 11 on land owned by James Steward. In 1909 Eva Strong taught 23 students for a monthly salary of \$35.00. In 1958-59 this school district consolidated and the schoolhouse was moved to Brownsdale. The last teacher was Mrs. Marshall Johnson. On the last school board were

Ted Ballinger, Harold Dahle and Vesta Staples. A 1983 Country School Reunion, a unique experience, was held at Brownsdale and was attended by former students, teachers, board members and friends at the Tanner School. Much reminiscing and remembering of happenings of the past at the school took place at this gathering.

School District #116 (Blue Star School)



Blue Star School - 1939

Front: Gerald Burnham, Dale Rugg, Donna Burnham, Pauline Clayton. Back: Robert Heydt, Robert Clayton, Kenneth Rugg. Teacher not identified.

School District #116 was organized by the legislature in 1881 and the first class was taught by Mary Rugg. The school was located in the northwest corner of Section 23 and known as the Blue Star School. Mildred Crilly was the teacher in 1939 and 1940. The board members were Donald Rugg, Mrs. Hastings, Richard Clayton. Monica Reagan also taught #116 in 1942.

School District #68 (The Hagan School)



The Hagan School - District #68—1923

In 1869 an effort was made to organize school district #68. It was not until 1876 that the organization was finalized. A frame schoolhouse was then erected and the first summer term was held. Lyle Lynch was the first teacher. The schoolhouse was located in Section 29. Leota Crilly was the teacher in 1923. Some of the families having children attending were: Hass, Hacmac, Hagan, Goodew. The teacher boarded at the Henry Hass home

directly across from the school. Mrs. Violet Hull also taught in district #68, the Hagan School, in 1942. Board members that year were Ed Guiney, Jr., Steve Hagan, Frank Bushman.

SARGEANT TOWNSHIP



Village of Sargeant



Seigel Farm Implement - about 1915

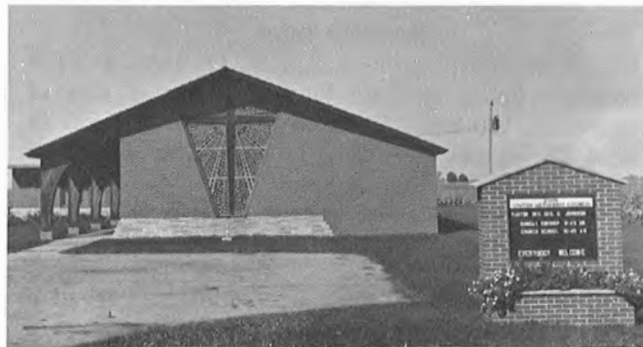
Sargeant Township is named for its first permanent settler, Henry N. Sargeant, a native of Canada. His parents, both natives of Vermont, moved to Canada in 1800 and Henry was born in Shefford County, Quebec, June 19, 1817. He moved to Dodge County, Wisconsin, in 1858 and from there to Mower County in March of 1865, where he purchased the south half of Section 11 in what is now known as Sargeant Township.

The township (104 North-Range 16 West) was organized in 1873. Up to that time the west half of its territory had been attached to Waltham and the east half to Pleasant Valley Townships.

The Chicago Great Western Railroad came through in 1887 and a station was established. The village of Sargeant was platted September 7, 1894 in Section 18 of the township.

Zion United Methodist Church

The Zion United Methodist Church has been ministering to the spiritual needs of its community since at least 1884 when a Sunday school was organized in the District



Zion United Methodist Church

113 schoolhouse. Besides regular midweek and Sunday worship services, it sponsors Sunday school classes and other organizations for all ages. The church has co-operated with the Mower County Council of Churches and the United Christian Youth Movement.

A wood frame church was erected in 1899 at a cost of \$2,400 and later a bell and a new basement put in at a total cost of \$1,000. During the ministry of Rev. H. C. Schmidt (1913-18), there was a change from the German language to English. It was difficult for many of the older people to adjust to the change in the service.

In the winter of 1922, during the pastorate of Rev. A. H. Nauman (1920-24), revival meetings were held with very fruitful results. The church's petition to the conference for a full-time pastor was granted and a parsonage was built at a cost of \$5,000. The present church was built in 1959 at a cost of \$120,000.

The congregation was first affiliated with the Evangelical Church. In 1946 a national merger with the United Brethren resulted in the Evangelical United Brethren. In 1968 the E.U.B. and Methodist churches formed a union known as the United Methodist Church.

Baptist Church of Sargeant

In 1894, Rev. Williams of the Baptist Church in Brownsdale held meetings in the first schoolhouse west of Sargeant, District 107 in Waltham Township; and from 1895 to 1897, Rev. M. B. Critchett from Blooming Prairie supplied the Sargeant church every other Sunday. The Baptist Church in Sargeant was probably built in the years 1895-96 and dedicated in 1897.

From 1897 to 1910 the church was probably supplied on a part-time basis by pastors from Brownsdale. In June, 1910, the church was sold for \$500 and the money given to the Brownsdale Church. The building was later remodeled into a duplex apartment.

Sargeant Village School, District #107

The first school building was completed in 1880 and was located just over the line in Waltham Township, Section 13. Later a two-room school was built in the south part of Sargeant Village. Classes were held through the spring of 1975. Ninth grade was taught in this school until the spring of 1924.



**School District #107
First Sargeant School - 1880**



Classroom in 1920 - District #107

RURAL CHURCHES

Evanger Lutheran Church

It was at the annual meeting of West St. Olaf Church that a resolution was adopted that granted permission to those members living south of the Mower County line to organize an independent congregation. The organizational meeting was held in the Estby School in Sargeant Township on February 5, 1878.

The new congregation was to be known as the Evanger Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. J. A. Thorson served as pastor of the congregation until the first pastor, O. G. Felland, was installed and served two years. The congregation was without a permanent pastor until 1892 when the Rev. John Linnevoold was installed.

A church was built in 1895 on a site donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ole Bungum. In 1921 Evanger became affiliated with Trinity Church in Hayfield, sharing its pastor. In 1958, Evanger voted to discontinue its affiliation with



Evanger Lutheran Church - 1976

Trinity in Hayfield and a new parsonage was built near the church. On July 15, 1922 the church was completely destroyed by a cyclone. By unanimous decision, the church was rebuilt and was dedicated May 30, 1923.

Evanger has been fortunate in that it has enjoyed a small but steady growth during its existence. Having begun with seventeen families, it now (1983) has a membership of 534 adults and children. The church has undergone several interior and exterior remodeling projects since it was rebuilt in 1923 and celebrated its centennial in 1978 with a three-day series of events. The church is affiliated with The American Lutheran Church and sponsors the American Lutheran Church Men and American Lutheran Church Women groups, a Sunday school, a Luther League and a Senior Choir.

These pastors have served the Evanger congregation: 1898-1902—Rev. S. J. N. Ylvisaker, 1902-1911—Rev. S. T. Normann, 1911-1912—Rev. S. Bervin (interim), 1912-1919—Rev. H. Halvorson, 1919-1921—Rev. J. C. K. Preus (interim), 1921-1938—Rev. B. A. Johnson, 1938-1958—Rev. E. R. Weeks, 1958-1960—Rev. G. N. Jacobson, 1960-1961—Rev. Ernest Stolen (interim), 1961-1974—Rev. Elmer Valen, 1974-1980—Rev. R. N. Torrison, 1980-1981—Rev. James Amundson (interim), 1981-present—Rev. Delbert Ring.

Zion Lutheran Church

The Zion Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation was formed in January, 1890, by a few settlers in Sargeant and Dexter Townships who held services in their homes. Pastor Halvor Ronning from the South Zumbro Congregation was the temporary pastor. The following year an acre of land was purchased and in May of 1892, the church, built at a cost of \$500, was dedicated.

The Charter Membership consisted of thirteen families: Jens Wigen, Jorgen Wigen, George Wigen, Gunder Sessing, Henrich Sessing, Ingebrigt E. Anderson, Lars Bolstad, John C. Carlson, C. W. Carlson, Gjeartu Ronsberg, John Ros, Jacob Simonson and E. J. Ellingson.

In 1941 it was decided to repair and redecorate the church and in 1958 a cross was added to the steeple. In 1965 more land was acquired for the extension of the cemetery and the congregation decided to move the church farther to the northwest, add a full basement and a new entrance. In 1973 the Articles of Incorporation were revised and the name changed to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Zion Lutheran Church



St. John's Lutheran Church

a site for a church and cemetery. In 1901, the present frame church was built at a cost of \$2,500. Over the years St. John's shared a pastor with Waltham or Brownsdale and in 1945 asked to unite with Immanuel of Pleasant Valley.

In 1972, the church structure was raised, a basement added, and many other improvements made. The congregation observed its 75th anniversary on August 27, 1972.

Some years ago a perpetual care fund was started to care for the cemetery. Members of the present cemetery committee are: Harold Miller, Lloyd Richardson and Otto Haarstad.

The cemetery has been platted out, each lot is staked and numbered. A large map is made with all lots and numbers on it and the names and dates of all who are buried there.

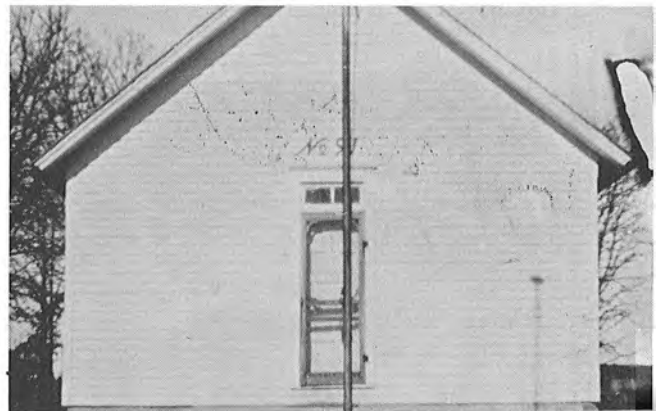
St. John's Lutheran Church

In 1877, a few German Lutheran families moved from Goodhue County to the southwest part of Sargeant Township. These early families included those of Adolph Zander, Carl Zander, August Wietstock and F. Weiss. A few years later the families of Henry Kirchner, F. Ladwig, William Prodahl and others arrived. For a time they attended services at Trinity Lutheran in Waltham or held services in their homes when a minister was available.

The congregation was officially organized in 1897, at which time Hans Augustin donated three acres of land as

RURAL SCHOOLS

School District #91



School District #91 in 1929

This schoolhouse was built in 1875 in Section 15. Eliza W. Sargeant taught the school for the first term held in the summer of that year. As most of the pupils were of Norwegian descent, instructors were employed during vacation to teach in that language. Knud Arhns was the first Norsk teacher. The school was later moved and was used as a church until Evanger Church was organized.

Some of the first teachers in District 91 were: Nat Sargeant, Lulu Fleetwood, Pearl Gorde, Christina Gronseth, Howard Soah, Lillian Austinson, Olova Lommen, George Jennings, Josephine Hallum, Vera Garner, Edna Jacobson, Mrs. T. N. Noble and Bertha Espeling. Teachers in later years were: Olive and Evelyn Anderson, Crestella Nereson, Thora Haugan, Viola Kramer, Luella Bravis, Olga Bungum and Laura Hellen.

Early school board members were: Matt Simonson, Hans Hellen, Tom Jacobson, Serena Jacobson, Albert Gronseth, Oscar Hellen and Theo. Gjerness.

After consolidation, the building was sold to Harold Hellen and was used for meetings for many years. The mothers club of this district had many promotions to earn money for purchasing materials needed in the school.

School District #111

This district was organized in 1879 with these officers: Lewis Larson, director; Ferdinand Aiger, treasurer; B. F. King, clerk. The schoolhouse was built the same year at a cost, complete with desks and seats, of \$575. The school was in Section 26. Ella King was the first teacher. During the school year 1942-43, Alice Knutson was the teacher.

The Schwartz School, District #113

The following officers were chosen when District 113 was organized in 1880. Hans Johnson, clerk; Nels Peterson, treasurer; Julius Johnson, director. The schoolhouse was built in the same year and was located in Section 9. The first teacher was T. H. Rounds. In 1884 the Evangelical Association started using the school for their Sunday school.

Some of the teachers in this school were: Estella Heimer (1913) who taught 21 children age 8 to 16 for \$52 a month. In 1942 Mrs. Cecile Hegna taught, and in 1956 Mrs. Myrtle Sanvick was the teacher. After consolidation the building was sold and the contents auctioned off.



School District #113 in 1907

The Kopplin School, District #114

District 114 was one of the last districts in Sargeant Township to be formed. It was situated in Section 32. Sunday school was conducted there between 1876 and 1884. St. John's congregation had services there. After consolidation, the building was sold to Art Zander.

CENTURY FARMS

Martin Farm

C. Delmont Martin purchased the 80 acre farm in Section 9 in 1881. His son, Frank, bought the land in 1890. The next generation, Clarence Martin, Sr., was born on the home place and lived there all his life as has his son, the present owner, C. Delmont Martin.

Del Martin and his wife, Irene, have seven children: Donald, Ronald, Roger, Sherrie, Lynda, Colleen and Marian.

Gronseth Farm



Albert Gronseth on the Home Place

James Gronseth's grandfather, K. G. Gronseth (Kittel Guldbronson) came from Norway in 1862. In 1871, Kittel married Jorond Anderson Gislegard. Three children were born while they lived on a farm in Vernon Township: Gilbert, Seri Sarah and Andrew.

In 1877, Kittel and his family moved to Sargeant Township, Section 12, and bought a 169 acre farm. After moving there, seven more children were born: Anne, Ameilie (Emma), Karin (Gaigine), Karl, Albert, Martha (Christine), and Minnie.

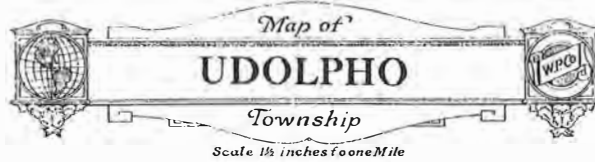
The youngest son, Albert Gronseth, married Emma O. Hanson in June of 1915. They had nine children: Stanley, Francis, Adeline, Charles, Archie, Shirley, Alice, Wallace and James. In 1926, Albert and family took over the home farm.

In 1956, James Gronseth married Janice Kylo and in 1963 they bought the family farm. They have two children: Randall and Brenda and are currently living on the home place which has been in the family since 1878.

UDOLPHO TOWNSHIP

Udolpho is the northwest corner town of Mower County, with Dodge and Freeborn Counties on the north and west, and the townships of Waltham and Lansing on

REFERENCES

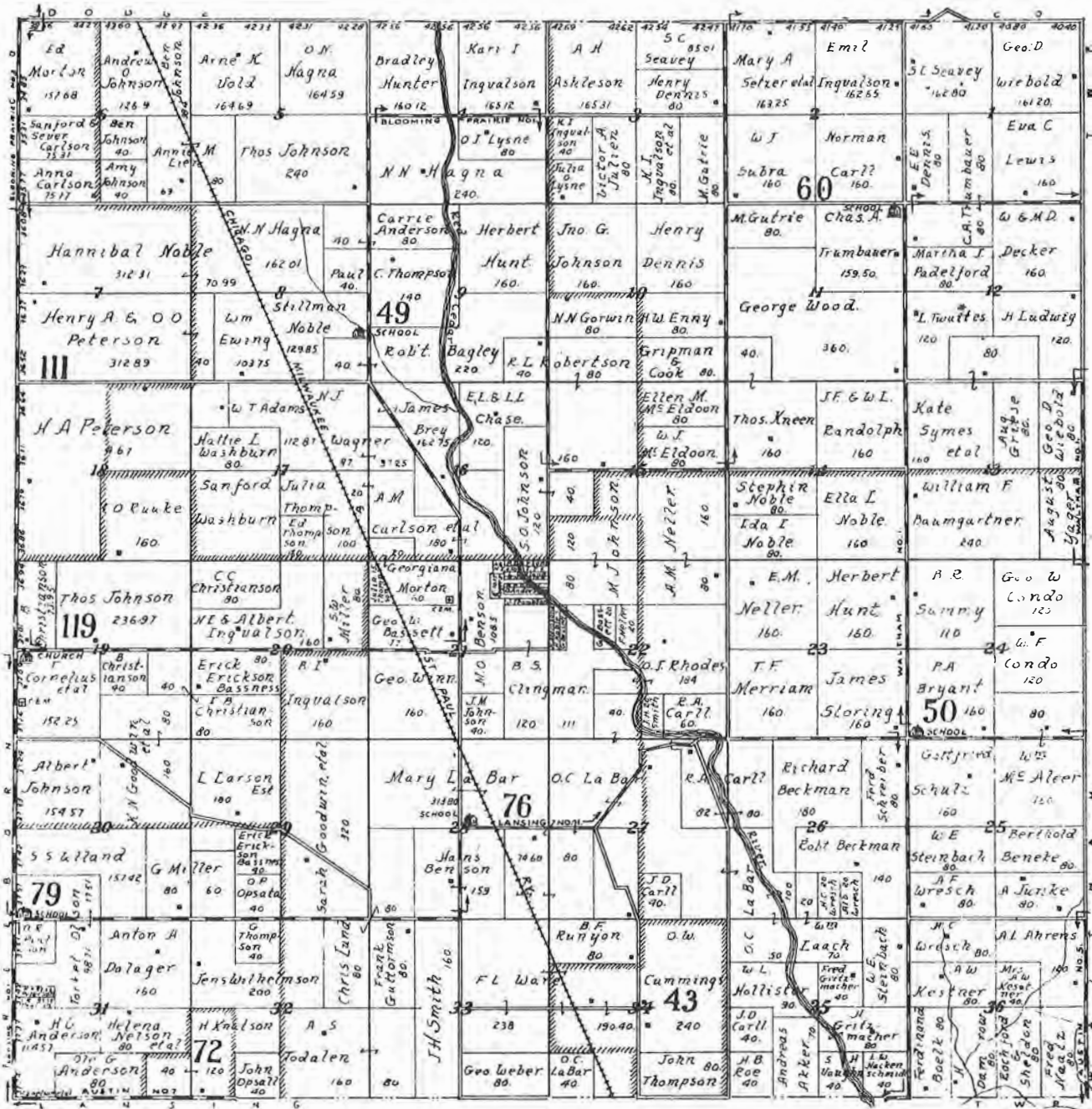


- Rail Road ———— School
- Wagon Road ———— Church
- Corp Line ———— Houses
- Creek Cem
- School Districts
- Rural Routes

1915

Township 104 North Range 18 West of the 5th P. M.

**MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA**



the east and south. The Cedar River enters the town from Dodge County in Section 4.

William Tullis was the first settler, coming in February, 1855. There followed the same year Thomas Richardson, Richard and William Green, Solomon Wilcox, Knute Olson, Andrew Anderson, Ole and Bennett Christianson. In 1856 there came the Nellers, John Day, O. D. Rhodes, Milton McCall, Andrew Ingleson, Charles N. Stimson and brother Albert, H. C. Rogers, Nathaniel Reed, George Pierson and Benjamin Vaughan; in 1857, Seth S. Washburn, Edward Bassett and John Tucker. Among the prominent persons who came later are P. A. Peterson, O. C. LaBar, the Carlls, Burr Maxwell, Robert Lee, Edwin Richards and Carlos Manchester.

The name of the town was given by Col. Rogers, from a novel, "Mysteries of Udolpho," to settle a dispute of the settlers who could not agree on a name.

The Methodists and Freewill Baptists maintained worship at an early date, but the Lutherans alone have built a church edifice.

The first birth was Nancy, third daughter of T. R. Richardson. The first death was Mrs. Caton, in the winter of 1856.

Samuel Hartley built a house, shop, and worked at blacksmithing there for three years.

From Mower Co. Transcript Annual 1892

Madison

About ten miles north of Austin motorists speed by the site of what was the town of Madison. Today Highway 218 and the Milwaukee Road bypasses the grain field where the town started September 3, 1857, and was declared dead in 1903.

Warren Brown started the village and opened a store stocking it with \$1,500 worth of merchandise. He went broke in the panics of 1858. Moody and Co. started operating a hotel and livery stable, and for a time had the post office.

The railroad refused to stop at Madison. The Moodys grew tired of walking to Lansing for supplies and quit. The buildings were sold for little or nothing and the land was planted to wheat. At the peak, Madison had the hotel, stores and a saw mill.

From Austin Herald, April 17, 1956

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1984. It has a heritage of many generations who have worshipped here and have passed on their faith to generations yet to come. The pioneers brought the church with them. It was not a building or even a congregation, but they brought their Bibles, hymn-books, catechisms and faith in their hearts.

July 4, 1855 our first settlers reached the Brownsdale area. The next day they came to what is now the Red Oak Grove community. Log cabins were built and worship services were held in their homes. If the weather was nice, services were held under the trees. "Circuit Riders" would travel between settlements. These were not ordained pastors, but more on the order of missionaries.

On October 27, 1859 the Red Oak Grove Congrega-



Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in 1975

tion was officially organized by Rev. A. C. Preus, President of the Synod. A class of four were confirmed that day. In 1867, Rev. C. L. Clausen was called to serve Red Oak Grove and four other churches. With a regular pastor the members began to turn their thoughts to building a church. The congregation was spread out over a large area. A south group wished the church erected as far south as possible and a north group wanted it centered in their community. The south group won out and the church was built on this present location.

July 7, 1869, the frame of the first church was raised. When completed the church was 40 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 18 feet high; the size of the nave of the present church. Some of the original wall is still part of the structure. The north group was dissatisfied with the location of the church and withdrew and formed a new congregation, First Lutheran of Blooming Prairie.

Six years later the membership exceeded the capacity of the church and an enlargement became necessary. An addition, 24 feet wide, 28 feet long and 16 feet high was built on the east end of the church. The front was a chancel area and behind it the sacristy.

The first women's group was organized in 1872. Half of all the money they took in was sent away for missions. April 4, 1888, the congregation voted to erect a steeple and bell tower. The Ladies' Aid bought the bell, which still today bears the legible inscription in Norwegian which says, "Given to the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation in Red Oak Grove from the congregation's "kvindeforening" (women's society) the 17th of May, 1888."

One of the early purchases by the women was the marble baptismal font that is still in use. It would be about 100 years old and cost \$27.00 when purchased. The altar, altar ring and pulpit in this first church were made by Knute Olson Gubransgaard. The altar had a painting of the Good Shepherd done by a crippled son of the builder of the church, Christian Hoel. When the church was remodeled in 1926 these chancel furnishings were given to a church in South Dakota.

The church was first heated with a potbellied stove. The pulpit was a number of steps up and it was really cold for the pastor. When it was bitter cold he preached with his heavy coat, mittens and cap on and you could see his breath when he spoke. There was no basement under the church. It has been said the services should have been held in the afternoon as it took that long to warm the building.

Directly over the furnace was a chandelier of kerosene lamps. When the furnace was really hot, the lamps would begin to swing and rotate. The men sat on the south side of the church and the women on the north side. The collection plate had a long handle and the ushers would pass it down each row. There was a "klokker," a layman, who led the singing and opened and closed the services with prayer. A Mr. Christopher-son was the first "klokker." He also organized the first Sunday School and parochial schools. The second "klokker," Mr. Opsata, organized the first choir and helped to get the first organ.

In 1925, the church was remodeled. The work was done by Lewis Lysne at a cost of \$10,000. The women had a large part in the furnishing of the remodeled church. The Sunshine Society turned their money into the building fund, and the Good Cheer Girls bought the light fixtures. The statue of Christ on the altar was given by Mrs. P. A. Peterson. The original of this statue by Thorvaldson is in a museum in Copenhagen, Denmark. The lamb on the altar was a gift to the church from Lars Aldahl.

In 1927 the north and south Ladies' Aids became one organization, the Women's Society. This was possible because this church had a basement in which they could hold meetings.

January 1, 1953 Red Oak Grove had a pastor of its own for the first time. In 1952 the two congregation parish with First Lutheran of Blooming Prairie had been dissolved. A parsonage was built, and in February, 1953 Pastor Neal Johnson and his family moved in.

In the summer of 1956 Red Oak Grove gave its first full-time servants to the work of Christ's kingdom. Sunday, July 22, 1956 Evelyn Jolson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jolson, was commissioned as a missionary to serve on the Sudan Field in French West Africa. The women have contributed to her support on the mission field. In 1956, Rose Mary Ulland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Ulland, assumed her duties as a parish worker in California. In May, 1957 Red Oak Grove was recognized as an "outstanding rural congregation" by the *Lutheran Herald* and the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*. The centennial of the church was celebrated in July of 1959.

June 29, 1969 Ordean Grant, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Grant, was ordained into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church. Ernest Johnson was also ordained in this church June 6, 1971. He had married Evelyn Jolson while on the mission field in the Cameroons.

In 1975 the need for a narthex was recognized. The remodeling project included the reversal of the interior of the church, construction of a narthex in the east with

vestibules both north and south at a cost of over \$118,000.

Much of the history of this congregation has been preserved by B. M. Christianson, who served as secretary for the congregation for many years.

The congregation has been served by the following pastors: Rev. C. L. Clausen, 1867-1871 and 1878-1884; Rev. Paul G. Ostby, 1871-1878; Rev. Svein Strand, 1884-1894; Rev. Nils Iverson, 1894-1898; Rev. Osmund Johnson, 1898-1912; Rev. H. J. Rasmussen, 1913-1949; Rev. Alf Romstad, 1949-1952; Rev. Neal S. Johnson, 1953-1959; Rev. Walter E. N. Wahl, 1960-1965; Rev. Leland E. Evenson, 1965-1973; Rev. John J. Kyllo, 1973-1981; Rev. Joel Rustad, November, 1981-November, 1982; Rev. Lloyd Kallevig, November, 1982-present.

by Mrs. Roswell (Gladys) Hanson

Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Gutterm Engen owned land in the S.W. ¼ Section 19 and consented to burials next to the territorial road and joining the west line of his farm. An irregular piece of ground covered with brush, this spot continued to be the burial ground for the next nine years following the arrival of the first settlers in 1855. Numerous graves were on this plot. The congregation had been formed, and now took action to buy the property. The new owner, Simon Ulland, offered to sell it for \$10.00. In 1864 the Red Oak Grove Congregation bought one acre of land and named it the Red Oak Grove Cemetery. For many years graves were dug wherever the church members wished, with the markers being an oak tree, or the name and date painted on a board; later small marble stones were used. In 1900 the congregation bought another acre from the new owner, P. S. Ulland, at a cost of \$25.00 an acre. The territorial road was now closed and a new road went along the west line of his farm. This acre now squared up the lines on all sides and lots were not laid out square.

Between 1915 and 1922 efforts were made to clean up the cemetery, stake the lots and survey the whole plot. Additional land was purchased so roads could be laid out for drives around the cemetery. Older citizens were requested to help locate and get information on unmarked graves.

In 1924 the cemetery incorporated and a perpetual care fund was begun. The earliest burial is Julia Benson in 1857.

Udolpho Cemetery

This cemetery was purchased February, 1862 for \$10.00 from Solomon Wilcox. It is located in Section 21 of the township.

The first person buried in the cemetery was Hoser Sprent; born Jan. 17, 1795 and died June 4, 1862.

There are 75 lots of various sizes in the cemetery and over 60% of the lots have been taken or reserved. They are available to anyone who has lived in the township sometime in their lifetime. The township clerk is overseer, with township funds used for maintenance.

Henry Bagley, a Civil War soldier, born in 1845 and died in 1906 is commemorated in a monument in the

cemetery. The monument was carved from a photograph of Bagley in his Civil War uniform.

School District #60 was located in the northeast corner of Section 11, Udolpho Township. Evelyn Kuckenbacken was the teacher in 1919. Irene M. Davies was the teacher from 1920 through 1923 and Lucille Norton in 1924.

School District #50 Udolpho Township Section 24

School District #50 had its first summer term of school in 1857. Priscilla Miller was the first teacher. The neighbors had rendered their services to build a log schoolhouse which was used until 1866. It was then replaced by a brick building in the southwest corner of Section 24. It was replaced by a wooden structure later. One of the teachers in this school was Laura Studer Hammermeister. Mrs. Andrew Lunt, Jr. taught the 1942 school term. Board members were Louis B. Yoeger, Alexander Decker, Frank Laack. This school known as the Schultz School has been made into a home.



**Schultz School District #50 Udolpho Township
Laura Studer Hammermeister - Teacher**

CENTURY FARMS

Braaten Farm

The 160 acre farm originally owned by Halvor Knutson Braaten is located nine miles northwest of Austin in Udolpho Township. The farm was purchased in 1873.

The line of succession follows through Henry J. Braaten from 1934 through 1973 and Kenneth M. Braaten from 1973 to the present time.

Bray Farm

In 1883 James T. Bray and his wife, Eliza, purchased 160 acres in Section 16, Udolpho Township. James' son, Raymond H. Bray, together with his wife, Florence O., live on the farm at the present time.

Children of Raymond and Florence Bray are: Marilyn I. (Bray) Hertle, Eileen Carol (Bray) Risch, Myrna Jean (Bray) Donkers and Nathan H. Bray.

Goodwin Farm

Nils K. Goodwin and his wife, Sarah, purchased their 320 acre farm in 1872. It is located nine miles northwest of Austin in Udolpho Township. Nels C. Goodwin and wife, Nellie, were the next generation to operate the farm.

Now Nels' son, Nathan and wife, Cleone, operate the family farm. Their children; great-grandchildren of Nils, the first owner, are as follows: Rodney N., who is married to the former Kathy James; Jon D., whose wife is Patricia Gales; Nancy E., whose husband is Allan Doulet; Suzanne J. Goodwin.



Front row: Cleone and Nathan Goodwin. Back row: Nancy, Rodney, Jon and Suzanne

Christian Oleson Rukke Farm

On May 4, 1856 the U.S. Government deeded 76.97 acres to Christian Oleson Rukke. The land was located on Section 19 in Udolpho Township. The 128 years of family ownership is one of the longest in the area. The second owner was Bjorn Christianson, son of Christian. They began to operate the farm in 1868. Bjorn's son, B. M. Christianson, became the owner in 1925.

The farm was given the name Cozy Home Farm in 1928, and filed as such in the record book of farm names.

In 1976 Mr. Christianson deeded most of the farm over to Rozwell Hanson and son, Burnell. However, the building site of 6.77 acres was sold to B. M. Christianson's son, Nathan, who now lives there.

Rozwell Hanson is a great-grandson of Christian Oleson Rukke. Rozwell's wife, Gladys is a great granddaughter and also a niece of B. M. Christianson.

Ole Johnson Farm

Ole Johnson purchased 80 acres in the northwest corner of Udolpho Township on September 18, 1868. Ole's son, Andrew, began to operate the farm in February of 1901. Odin Johnson, a grandson, purchased the 80 acres in August, 1948.

The great-grandson of the first owner, Paul O. Johnson now lives on his family's old home place.

P. A. Peterson Farm

P. A. Peterson was 22 years old in 1862 when he acquired a homestead contract on a 160 acre farm in Udol-



P. A. Peterson and family. Photo taken about 1890 next to newly built home.

pho Township. The contract was written in Norwegian. He and his wife, Korine, started farming in 1863.

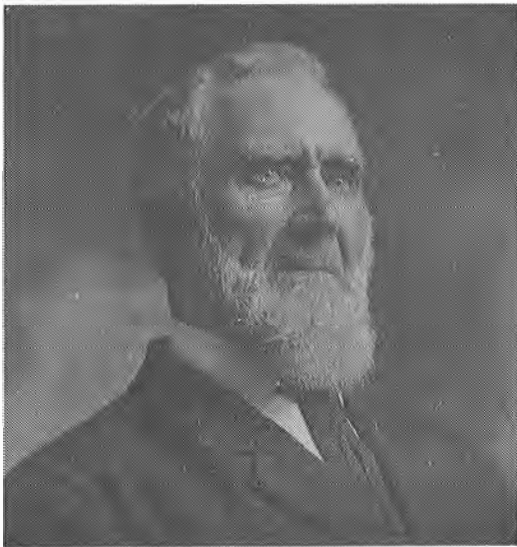
A barn was built in 1877 and the house in 1887. Both are still in use. The farm was increased to 360 acres.

The second generation to handle the farm was Osen and Henry Peterson. Osen was married to Ida Thompson. Henry remained single.

Again there is a joint ownership in the third generation with Kinley and Harland Peterson. Kinley and wife, Joyce, have two children, Ronald and Karin. Harland has two sons, Dean and Brian.

Carll/Dawes Farm

Norman Carll was born February 6, 1845 near Lyons, New York. He and his uncle, Benjamin Carll, made the trip from Hillsdale, Michigan to Minnesota on foot, driving 600 head of sheep. They reached Lansing, Minn. in October, 1864.



Norman Carll Homestead Farm

Norman and his father, Zacckariah, homesteaded adjoining 80 acre tracts in Section 2, Udolpho Township, in 1874. Norman retained ownership of the homestead until his death in 1923.

Norman Carll married Malina Sylvania Rhoades in 1870. They had two children. Cora Belle and Minnie Lucy. Minnie was only 10 when her mother died in 1889.

She went to live with an aunt in Knoxville, Tennessee and returned to Minnesota after her high school graduation.

In 1901 Minnie Carll married William Campbell Dawes and moved near Pittsville, Wisconsin. They had three children, Minnie Irene, Norman Carll and William Clifford. In 1911 the William Dawes family moved back to the farm in Udolpho Township. Minnie Lucy inherited the farm upon the death of her father in 1923.

Norman Carll Dawes, born in 1906, has lived on the Carll/Dawes farm all of his life. He took over the farm work when his parents became too old to do so. The last fifteen years he has leased out the land.

Norman has kept busy since his retirement, taking down the old house and barn and building a two bedroom home. At the age of 78 he enjoys a weekly trip to Austin and an annual visit to the Minnesota State Fair.

WALTHAM TOWNSHIP

The name of Waltham was given to Town 104, - 17, at the suggestion of Charles F. Hardy, a native of Waltham, Mass., who lived for a short time in Waltham. Later he was a County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace and Judge of Probate in Mower County. This was one of the "lost townships," not withdrawn from sale and was entered with land warrants by speculators.

Nels Johnson, the earliest settler, came in the summer of 1855. He sold out to George Johnson in the spring of 1863. Barney Devlin and a Mr. Bemis came in 1856. Purdy Lounsbury came in 1864. John C. Mason of Worcester, Mass., acquired from the land warrant speculators more than a quarter of the township, principally in the northeast part of the town. Early in the spring of 1865 his agent, A. J. Burbank, came, plotted the village, erected a three-story hotel, surveyed the whole tract into forties and sold off the land rapidly.

The nearest boarding place was Purdy Lounsbury's, till the hotel was finished. Plenty of help was engaged for hauling lumber and surveying. In the course of a day, two or three would come across a quarter section or eighty that pleased them, buy it, and their places in the surveying party would be taken by other land lookers. At night Lounsbury's lean-to was so packed when they slept that when one turned over, they all must.

Those who came in at this time and were prominent in town affairs were Moses Boliou, A. J. Hunt, Capt. George and Henry Edwards.

The township was organized in June, 1866. The following appear as early settlers: John Steen, H. L. Collins and Eri Colby.

The German settlement was begun in the west part of the town a little later by the Matters. The German Lutheran Church has an edifice in this part of the town and also the German Evangelical Church one. The Village of Waltham was platted in August, 1885, and is already a thriving village. J. J. and Geo. W. Hunt, A. Lounsbury, Chas. Gage, John Hoy, C. G. Clark, A. Muncy are among the prominent men of the town.

From Mower County Transcript Annual 1892

REFERENCES

- Rail Road School
- Wagon Road Church
- Corp. Line Houses
- Creek Cem.
- School Districts
- Rural Routes

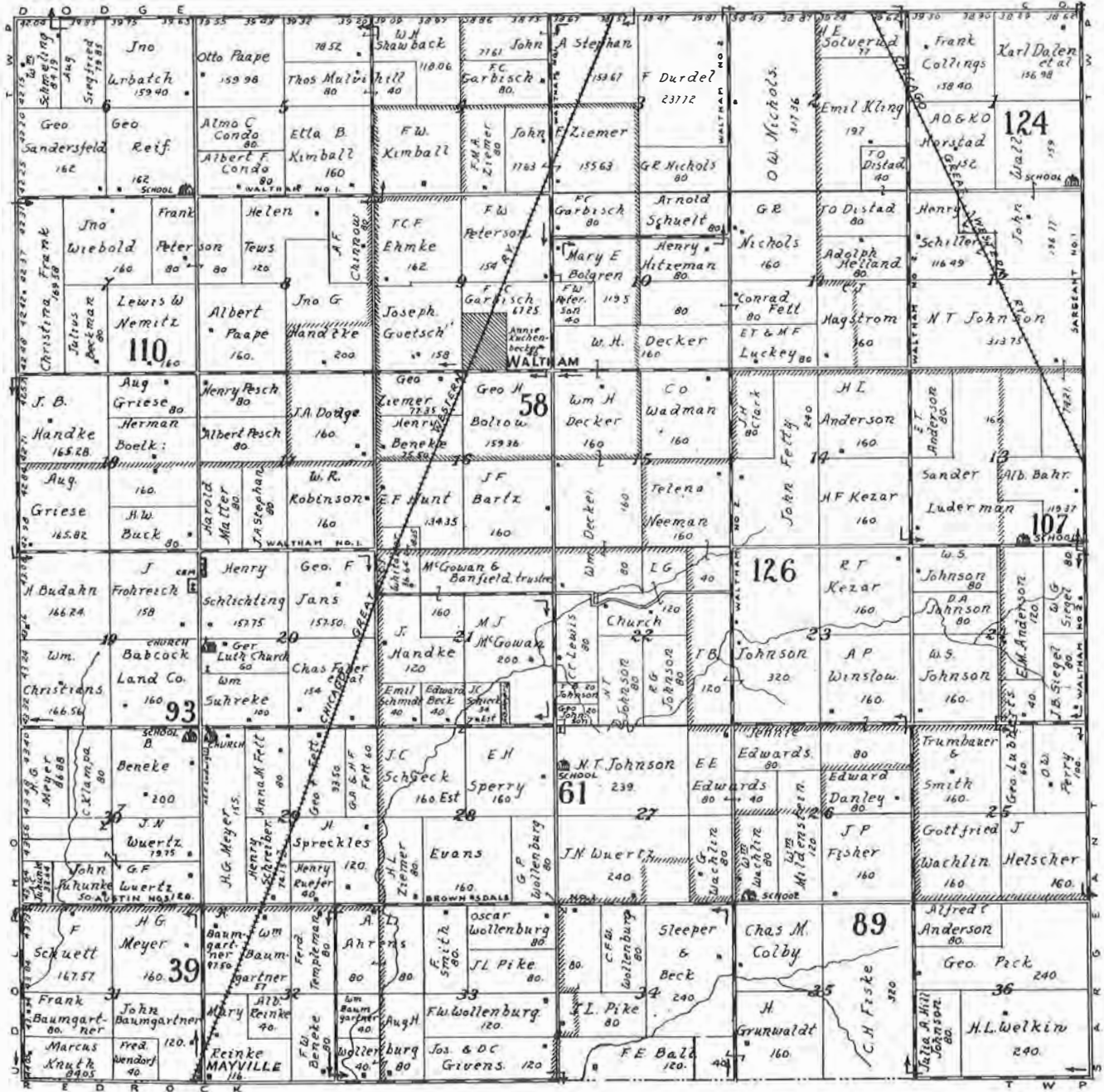
Map of
WALTHAM
Township

Scale 1/2 inches to one Mile

1915

Township 104 North Range 18 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY
MINNESOTA





Birdseye view of Waltham in 1913

Waltham was mostly prairie land with fine black soil when the pioneer settlers, Nels Johnson and C. F. Hardy came in 1855.

When the railroad came in 1885 the Village of Waltham was moved one mile to the west, and this was the beginning of the present village.

In 1911 Waltham was a thriving village with two general stores, a physician, bank, shoe shop, livery, creamery, stock buyer, carpenter shop and a variety of small shops including a flour mill with a capacity of 75 barrels daily.

Now, many changes have taken place. The school has become a part of Hayfield's District. There are fewer businesses and several local residents work in other towns.

Information from Polly Erickson, City Clerk, and from the Nov. 9, 1966 Austin Daily Herald

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

St. Michael's Congregation had its beginning when Michael Matter, Sr. a native of Germany, settled in Waltham Township in May, 1869. Being of a religious nature, he desired the spiritual comfort of religious services and invited the Rev. Wier from Lake Elmo to preach in his home from time to time.

On June 23, 1873, seven families met at the home of John Boelk to organize St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Henry Matter, Michael Matter, Jr. and George Fett were elected trustees.



Left to right: Waltham Schoolhouse built in 1899, St. Michael's Church built in 1942, old church built in 1890.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church in 1984

Pastor Wier served in the homes of the members as plans were made to erect a house of worship. Mr. Matter donated sixty acres of land. A building 18' x 30' was built to serve as a place to worship and also as a parochial school.

In 1876 the first resident pastor, J. J. Meissner, arrived and served until 1879. He was succeeded by Pastor Haack of Random Lake, Wisconsin.

In 1884, F. C. Milius, a graduate from Martin Luther Seminary of Buffalo, New York, accepted the call and began a ministry which was to continue for 43½ years at St. Michael's. During this time, a schoolhouse, parsonage and church were built. The church, built in 1890, measured 34' x 60' at the cost of \$2,084.00 The parochial school reached its height in enrollment in 1901 when 65 pupils attended.

During the pastorate of William Planz, the Sunday school was organized to replace the parochial school. The parsonage was destroyed by fire in January, 1931. A new one quickly replaced it and was ready for occupancy in March of that year.

During the pastorate of A. F. Boese, a new church was built at a cost of \$25,000. It was dedicated on August 30, 1942.

Pastors in recent years have been the Rev. I. S. Tweeten (1963-74), the Rev. Karl A. Koch (1974-77), and the Rev. David Ethan Olson (1977-present).

Current activities at the congregation include American Lutheran Church Women, three women's circles, sewing groups, altar guild, Luther League, senior choir, Sunday school, adult classes and confirmation class. The congregation sponsors an annual Bratwurst-Sauerkraut supper in the fall, bringing attention to its German heritage.

St. Michael's congregation, originally associated with the Buffalo Synod of the Lutheran Church, is now a congregation of the American Lutheran Church. As of January, 1982 the congregation had 231 baptized members, 196 of whom are confirmed.

In 1983, the 110th anniversary celebration included the presentation of eight latch hook banners made by congregation members. The morning service was preceded by the ringing of the church bell 110 times "In recognition of 110 years of grace." During the service the

choir sang "Christ is Present in Our Midst," an anthem written by Pastor Olson.

St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery is located 1½ miles west and 1½ miles south of Waltham in Section 20 of Waltham Township. At the time of organization of the church Mr. Michael Matter, Sr., who had arrived in 1869, gave 60 acres of land for the church, school and cemetery. First buried in the cemetery was Frank Gottlieb Matter who died in 1870.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran began in 1874. Pastor Johl of Claremont held services for three years in the homes of families living in the community. The congregation was formally organized August 25, 1877 with nine charter members.

Pastor Rupprecht of High Forest led the congregation beginning in 1879. That same year their first house of worship was dedicated.

After a parsonage was completed in 1884, the congregation called its first resident pastor, Rev. J. C. Martin. The first parochial school was opened that autumn. For the first 44 years of its existence the school was taught by the pastor.

A new church building was completed in 1895.

Over the years Trinity Lutheran was instrumental in organizing St. John's congregation near Sargeant and Our Savior's congregation in Brownsdale. The present pastor is Rev. Steve Goshon.

Trinity Lutheran Cemetery was established in 1879 when the first house of worship was dedicated. It was established and maintained by Trinity Lutheran Church and is located in the northeast corner of Section 19 of Waltham Township.

Bertha Louise Alvine was the first to be buried in the cemetery on May 2, 1880, and August Hermann Friedrich was the second burial on July 10, 1880.

CENTURY FARMS

George Johnson to Wayne and Lowell Johnson, 1863 to present time

George and Dorothy Johnson were natives of Leicestershire, England. They came to the United States in 1852 with their four children: Dorothy, 3; George, 2; Thomas, 1; and William, six weeks old. It took six weeks for the trip across the ocean. They first settled in Erie County, New York. In 1854 they moved to Wisconsin and bought two hundred acres in Marquette County. Nathan, Nathaniel, Lucy Ann and Daniel were born there.

In 1862 they came in a covered wagon to Mower County. They brought a team of oxen, 300 sheep, 30 head of cattle and \$20 with them. They first rented land near Brownsdale. In 1863 they purchased the south half of the west quarter, Section 22 in Waltham Township from Nels Johnson for 100 sheep and \$100. Three more children were born in Waltham Township: Robert, Elizabeth and Rebecca. Elizabeth died in 1867, the first death in the township.

George Johnson died in 1872 after being thrown from a horse. Dorothy Johnson died in 1892.

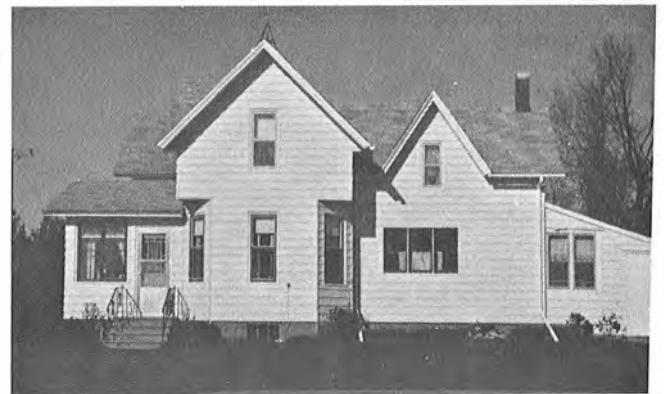


Mrs. George (Dorothy) Johnson

The next owner of the farm was Nathaniel Johnson. On March 28, 1894 he married Louisa Jane Duff. To this union were born three sons: Glenn, Robert C. and Elwin. Elwin died in 1906 and Louisa in 1937.

Glenn Johnson married Rena Heikes in 1925, and they were the next owners of the farm. Their children are: Neil, Ellen, Wayne, Mildred and Lowell. Glenn died in 1964, and the farm was purchased by Wayne and Lowell. They are the present owners.

The Ziemer Family



Ziemer Farm Home constructed in 1898

Carl H. Ziemer purchased 240 acres in Section 3 and 4, Waltham Township in April, 1881 and began to work his land.

When Carl's son, John, took over he built a new farm house in 1898. It has been remodeled over the years, and is still the family home in 1984.

Kenneth and Caroline Ziemer continue to operate this farm, which was purchased by Kenneth's grandfather over 100 years ago.

District #61 Waltham Township, Section 27

School district #61 was organized in 1866. The following year there was a summer term taught by Emma Hoy in the schoolhouse built that year, 1867. In the year 1938 the teacher was Mildred Crilly. In 1942 Mrs. Keller was the teacher. Board members were Mrs. R. Schreiber, Ed Ohms, Glenn Johnson. This school is one of the few remaining country schools still left on its original location. It is used as a town hall for meetings etc. The woods which surrounded it has been cleared away and the land used for farming.



**District #61 - 1938
Mildred Crilly - Teacher**

WINDOM TOWNSHIP

Windom Township is bounded by the townships of Red Rock on the north, Marshall on the east, Nevada on the south and Austin on the west. It is drained by Rose Creek that enters in the northeast corner from Marshall Township, meanders south near the eastern edge and then west to join the Cedar River.

The first settler, Sylvester Davis, came here in the spring of 1855 and camped in section 20. In the fall of that year he built the first dwelling in the township. Other early arrivals were: W. T. Mandeville, Alfred Richardson, Hugh Mills, Pliny Conkey, Horatio Marsh, George N. Conkey and Charles Swick.

The township was organized May 11, 1858 and named Brooklyn. It included what was later to become Marshall Township. In 1862, the state authorities requested them to adopt another name as a town had a prior claim to the name Brooklyn. For a short time it was named Canton, to which there was the same objection. In May it was christened Windom in honor of Senator William Windom of Winona.

The meeting to organize the township was held at the home of Nelson Cook, with he and Horatio Marsh and

Thomas Smith as election judges. Officers elected were: Alanson Wright, chairman; John A. Thompson and A. J. Wright, supervisors; Nelson Cook, town clerk; Horatio Marsh and William Cowan, justices of the peace; Walter Fuller, collector; Harry Slocum, constable; Roswell Slocum, assessor; E. C. Benton, road supervisor; and Henry Tearow, overseer of the poor.

Village of Rose Creek

Rose Creek, located in Windom Township, was named for the small stream which runs near the town. It had its beginning in October of 1867, when trains began running on the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. The depot was erected in 1878.



Rose Creek - 1984

On Valentine's Day, 1899, Rose Creek was incorporated. The first officers were: E. C. Keefe, mayor; James Skahan, treasurer; W. C. Schottler, clerk; N. H. Garrison, marshal; F. G. Ray, justice of peace; A. R. Sutton, constable and Peter O'Malley, assessor. The first council consisted of G. W. Phillips, R. L. Tanner and James Ballweber. The mayors since then have been John Cronan, Fred Gerhart, A. H. Landdeck, William Holmquist, William Cress, John Thill, Jr., Bernard Schammel, Maurice Halverson, Ralph Majerus, Vern Meister, Vernon Tracy, Melvin Schnorenberg, Larry Luke and at the present time, Fred Lickteig.

In 1906, Peter Weinert of Wisconsin, erected a large brick building, and entered into the general mercantile business with Henry L. Jensen. In 1920, it was sold to the Farmer's Coop, and in 1924 to George Hoard. In the 1920s and '30s many dances and basket socials were held upstairs in the hall. Everyone in the community attended including the entire family. The downstairs was used for roller skating. In later years the building was purchased and remodeled by Fred Nelsen. Several businesses occupied it until it was torn down in 1967. There is a steel building on the location now where Fred Lickteig owns and operates the Rose Creek Implement.

The Rose Creek Creamery was organized in 1910. The first buttermaker was Mr. Gulbrandson. Later Alfred Overlie was manager, then Wyman Kilgore. The creamery was closed in 1965.

John Ulwelling owned the Meat Market. It was operated by John Pulver beginning in 1915, Adolphe Christopherson in 1929 and then Elmer Jensen. In 1956, Douglas Conrath purchased the Market and enlarged it into a locker plant.

Map of WINDOM Township

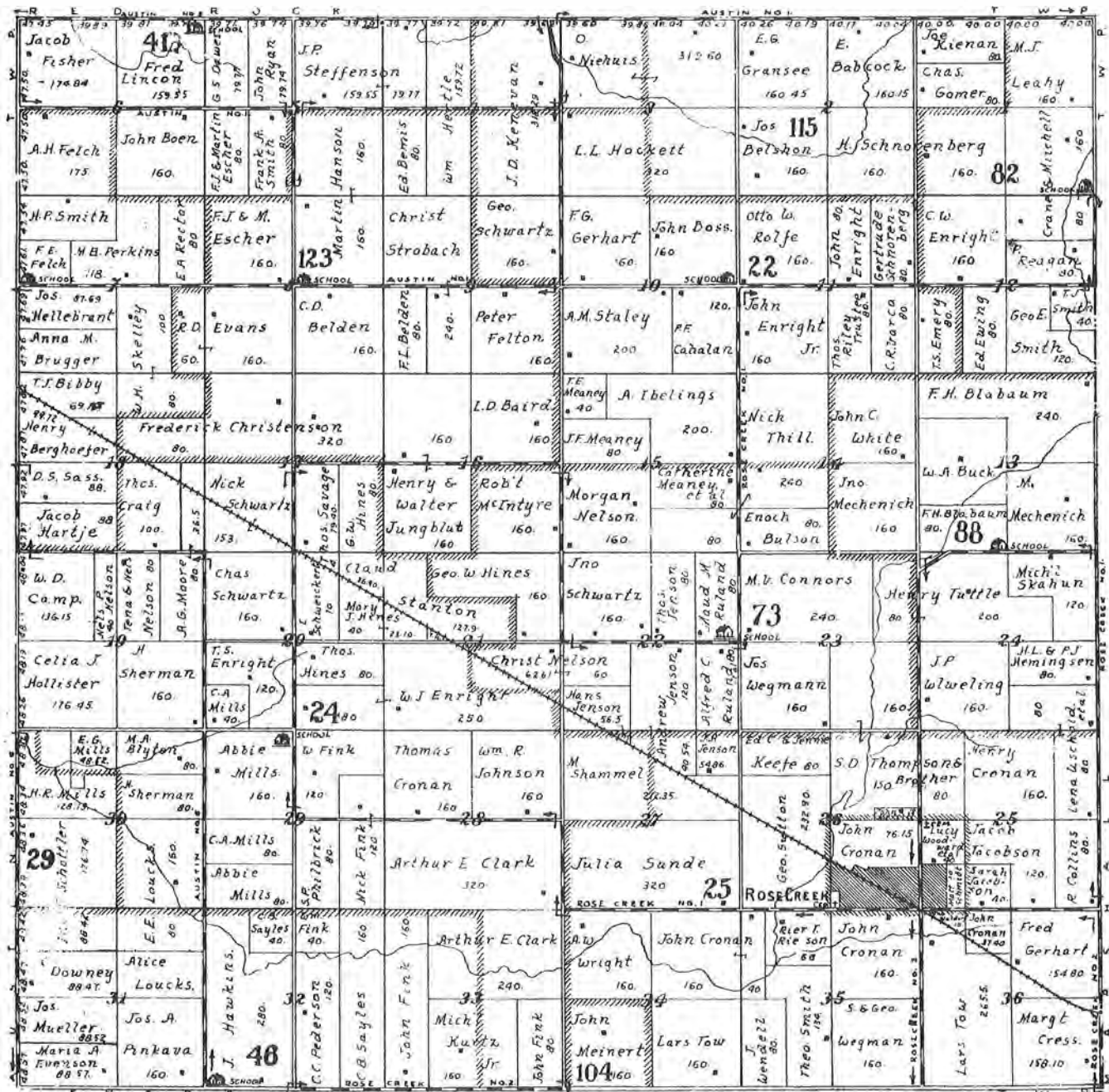
Scale 1 1/2 inches to one Mile

- Rail Road
- Wagon Road
- Corp Line
- Creek
- School Districts
- Rural Routes
- School
- Church
- Houses
- Cem.

1915

Township 102 North. Range 17 West of the 5th P. M.

MOWER COUNTY MINNESOTA



E. C. Keefe and his sister, Jennie, had a general merchandise store for many years. They had everything from shoes, clothing, hats, china to groceries. They also bought eggs in exchange for groceries. Later this building was used by Thill Implement until Jack Thill, Jr. built a large building east of the village in 1967. Thill had a very successful business until 1981, when he sold to Massey Ferguson. Now he has remodeled the old bank building, and is in the real estate business.

William Holmquist bought a building across from the Keefe Store in 1924. He operated a grocery store there until 1949. It was then sold to Maurice Halverson. Owners since then have been Bernard (Chuck) Schammel, Tom Gilson and now Don Lenz. Their wives have assisted them.

Ulven's Hardware Store has been in the family since 1913. Fred Ulven and his wife, Rena, lived in a house behind the store. They put in many long hours as he also sold gas for cars. Fred still went to the store each day after it had been sold to his son, Stan, and his wife, Helen.

Stan became paralyzed following surgery. He continues to work in the store, although he has been in a wheelchair for 28 years. Their son, Fred, and his wife, Shirley, now operate Ulven's Hardware. They have replaced the building with a larger structure.

State Bank of Rose Creek

The bank was organized by Augustine Vanx in 1902, and was incorporated in 1908. Mrs. Sophrenia Dean and her sons, Warren and William, later ran it as a private institution for many years. A new building for the State Bank of Rose Creek was built in May, 1978. It is owned by C. R. (Baldy) Hansen, who is the president.

The restaurant was owned for many years by Carl and Harriet Reinartz. Pool and cards were played in the back room. Other owners since then have been the McLachlans, Bettema and Fitzgerald, Ernest and Rose Fink, Rose Blom and Mildred Thorson. It is now called the Orange Lantern. In a part of the restaurant was a barber shop owned and operated by E. L. (Bud) Shoemaker for many years.

Louis Reinartz had a blacksmith shop and enjoyed building miniature train engines with his friend, Gerald Jacobson.

The Post Office has been in various locations. A new building was built in 1963. Some of those who have served as postmasters are: C. R. Varco, George Sutton, F. G. Ray, Thomas Cronan, Ed Keefe, Mrs. Henry Cronan, Myrtle Carlson, Lenore Merrill, Henry Cress and Lilly Trimble. The rural carriers have been John Merrill, Jacob Majerus and Donald Bissen.

Standard Oil has been in Rose Creek since March 1, 1929, when John Lewison opened an oil station. He was in business for 34 years, and owned stations for 53 years. Olaf Johnson became manager when John took over the bulk truck. A new building was built near Highway 56 in 1957. Phillip Hegge has managed the station since 1962.

In 1911 the Huntting Elevator was doing business in grain and coal, with Henry Cronan as manager. Today the elevator is much larger and is managed by Donald Morgan.

The Fire Department has always been a volunteer organization. In 1940 a rural fire company was organized. At that time a new truck pumper was purchased. The truck is manned by volunteers of the village serving the village and surrounding area. The first chief was Adolph Brown followed by John Aanonson, Bob Bottema and Waldo Flo. The present chief is Fred Ulven. A new truck was purchased in 1975.

Rose Creek's first school was built in 1874. In 1908 the building was sold to the village for a town hall and a new 4-room brick building was erected. Additions were built in 1920, 1957 and 1977. In 1920 St. Peter's Parochial school built a school large enough to include 12 grades. In the 1930s St. Peter's found it difficult to keep the school going, so the high school students attended public school, District 25. The St. Peter's school was finally closed. In 1973, because of declining enrollment and high costs, the Rose Creek, Adams and Elkton schools consolidated into the Southland District. Grades kindergarten through five are bused to Rose Creek; the middle school is Elkton; and the high school in Adams. Rose Creek also has a class for the handicapped children in the area, and have very dedicated teachers.



St. Peter's Catholic Church

The First St. Peter's Church was built in 1889. It was a wooden structure. In 1964, this was replaced with a beautiful stone structure. Later a dining hall and kitchen were built near the church.

St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery is located in section 26 on the west edge of Rose Creek. It was surveyed and platted on June 10, 1892 and became the property of the parish on July 25, 1911. It had originally belonged to Peter Kirtz and his wife, Anna. The land had been used for burials before transferred to the parish. The first burial was Mary Keefe, age 60, in 1891.

The Congregational Church was organized in 1872 and the building erected in 1873. They had 19 members and a flourishing Sunday school. In 1922, a new church was built, and is still in use. After the new building was ready for use, the ladies served many chicken and biscuit dinners, and had bazaars to earn money for the church. They also held ice cream socials in the summertime in



Congregational Church

the park in the center of town. They were entertained by a band organized by A. J. Landdeck.

The Bowling Alley Building was built in the park much later, and a park was made in the west part of town among the large oak trees. There are tennis courts and a ball diamond also.

During *World War I*, the Rose Creek community was active in the Red Cross. The women organized a working group with Mrs. Henry Cronan as president; Mrs. L. P. Albreight, vice president; Mrs. H. L. Jensen, secretary; and Lilly Carlson (Mrs. Arthur Johnson), treasurer. Many bed sheets, pajamas, and much more were made by the ladies. The Junior Red Cross was made up of school children directed by their teachers in Windom, Nevada and Marshall Townships.

During *World War II*, many men were drafted, or volunteered to go into the various branches of service. Some served overseas, and were in battles over there. Some of the men who were in the service of their country were: Olaf Johnson, Stan Ulven, John Schmit, Victor and Ambrose Ulwelling, Donald Enright, Joseph Landherr, Clarence Landherr, Sylvester Flemming, Dallas Herren, Raymond Bissen, John and Willard Meany, Dick Landherr, Al Ibling, Robert Ulwelling, Curtis Lastine, Pete Schmit, Luther Meister, Henry, John and Nick Cress, Doug Conradt, John Reagan and Manford Hansen.

The Rose Creek Literary Club was organized in April of 1922 with Mrs. C. H. Wood, chairman, and Mrs. Landdeck, as secretary. Mrs. Joy Hawkins was elected president; Mrs. Wood, vice president; Mrs. A. Wheelock, secretary; and Mrs. Joe Cronan, treasurer. Over the past 60 years, the club has had miscellaneous programs, including guest speakers, trips to places of historic value, trips to the Guthrie Theater, Cinerama, Chanhassen, book reviews, fashion shows, and papers given by the members. The Literary Club was instrumental in starting the Rose Creek Library. The new library occupied space in the village jail, and the books were donated. The club held benefit card parties, teas, costume dance, home talent play, fashion show,

and sponsored a paper drive to give the library financial support.

In April, 1982, a luncheon was held at the Cedar River Country Club at Adams, for the 60th anniversary of the Literary Club for members and former members. Mrs. Arlene Schnorenberg was mistress of ceremonies. Four charter members were present at the luncheon. They were Katie Meany, Addie Cronan, Mary Cronan and Lilly (Carlson) Johnson. The 1982 officers are: Isabelle Halverson, president; Arlene Hartwig, vice president; and Eleanor Majerus, secretary and treasurer.

In these modern times we are still a flourishing community. In addition to businesses previously mentioned, there are two beauty shops owned by Lois Kobes and Marsha Stroup; a drapery shop owned by Isabelle Halverson; an upholstery shop owned by Gertrude Hansen; a thrift shop run by Louise Schmit; Sternhagen Plaster Craft; Rose Creek Produce, owned by Julius Schultz and Stroub Brothers Farm Supply. There are also dealerships for Avon, Watkins, Shaklee, and Fuller Brush.

In 1956 Jack Thill Jr. platted out a large area for homes north of Highway 56. He has built and sold several homes since that time.

Rose Haven, a government low-cost housing project was built in the west part of this area in 1978. One of the streets is called Thill Drive. There are fifteen new homes in this area.

In 1967, Rose Creek had a big Centennial Celebration. At that time a history book was compiled by a committee which included Marvin Miner, Myles Bendtsen, Art Gordon, Fred Ulven, Ben Bendtsen and Kenneth Hanson. Some of the information in this current history was taken from this book, and I want to thank them for their research.

by Mae Jacobson Boe

CENTURY FARMS

The Meany Farm

In 1869, William Meany purchased 80 acres in section 15 of Windom Township. Following his death in 1895, his widow, Catherine, and their children operated the farm.

Gerald Meany, son of William and Catherine, was the owner of the property from 1919 until his death in 1962. John M. Meany, son of Gerald, is the present owner and lives on the 80 acre home place.

The size of the farm has increased to 410 acres, and is presently being farmed by Paul and Mark, sons of John and Novella Meany.

The Reagan/Bergene Farm

The first owner of this 180 acre farm in section 12 of Windom Township was Martin Kelley who bought it in 1866. In 1877, ownership passed to Kelley's brother-in-law, Michael Reagan.

The farm remained in the Reagan family through two more generations. Martin P. Reagan, son of Michael, became the owner in 1930; and his son, D. Bernard, in 1961.

The farm is presently owned by Brian and Teresa



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reagan, 1890
Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Reagan

Bergene. Teresa is the daughter of D. Bernard and Genevieve Reagan.

The Hollister/Loucks Farm

Abram Hollister bought this 160 acres in section 19 from his father, William, in 1891. His daughter, Alice, married Elmer Loucks in 1909 and they purchased the farm from her father the same year.

Arthur H. Loucks, son of Elmer and Alice, and his wife, Lillian, became the owners in 1937. Their son, Loren, and his wife, Betty (Jelinek) Loucks, purchased the farm in January, 1963.

RURAL SCHOOLS

District #22—Enright School



Enright School, Maude Staley - Teacher

The Enright School, District #22, was organized in 1865. Melinda Brown taught the first school in a frame building erected in the northeast quarter of section 10. Roswell Slocum donated half an acre for the schoolhouse site. Obadiah Smith, an early settler, built the first schoolhouse, known as the Slocum School.

May Coughlin taught in 1909 and other teachers were: Ethel Taylor, Florence Gerlach, Clara Mourne, Minnie Nichols, Elizabeth Meany and Maude Staley. The older

boys attended school only in the winter months as they were needed to help work the farmland in the summer.

A new school was built in the years 1914 and 15, which was much bigger. The old one was moved with twelve horses to the Enright farm a half mile south of the school. Some of the teachers who taught in the new school were: Ethel Schubert, Alice Stadheim, Rosabelle Larson, Edna Ostrander, Helen Bergstrom and Lila Monahan.

School was in operation until about 1933 when it consolidated with Rose Creek and included in Southland School System. Meetings were held in the school until 1938. The building and contents were sold and the building was moved to Burr Oak Addition southeast of Austin and converted into a home, where it stands today.

District #23—Burr Oaks School

Burr Oaks School, District #23, originally included what later became district 40. Samuel Little and wife, Amanda, on May 8, 1867, deeded the property to District #23.

When the district was divided, the southern part retained the old number and a temporary building was erected on the land donated by Little. Amanda Streaver taught the first term. In 1868 a schoolhouse was erected on the same site. Rebecca Otis taught first in this building. In 1893, Obadiah Smith built another schoolhouse on the site. For his work he received \$200 and the old building which he traded for a team of horses.

Some teachers who taught in the Burr Oak School were: Ethel Milbrand, 1920; Mrs. Arthur Johnson, 1930; Betty Strong, 1940 and Wilma Nobbs, 1953. During the time Wilma Nobbs was the teacher, a history of the school was compiled. Interviews were taken from members of the district. Lists of teachers, their salaries and length of time taught in the district were included in this very complete recording for the Centennial (1853-1953) tribute to District #23. Gladys Hagan taught in this district in 1942. Board members were: Joseph Helebrant, Fred Gravenish and Joseph Praizler.

District #24—Saint's Rest School

Saint's Rest School, District #24. Organized in 1857, the first school was taught by Mrs. Horatio March in her home. The following year, a school building was erected on what was then the Mills farm. It is believed to have



Saint's Rest School - 8th Grade
Left to right: Winnie Enright, Tillie Fink, Mary Craig, Olge Fjirstad, Tina Fink, Marg Fink

been one of the earliest schoolhouses in the state of Minnesota. Kate Bailey was the first teacher.

Over the years, the building was kept in good repair and did not need to be replaced as so many of the other early schools. During the term of 1911-12, Emeline Hart was the teacher.

This story handed down by word of mouth from the first settlers tells the interesting way the name "Saint's Rest" came about. A man moving through the county in a covered wagon reached the neighborhood on a Sunday. At this time there were no roads; just trails. His wagon became mired in the mud. He tried to get help, but the settlers were all in church. No one would leave to help, nor after service would they go to his aid, because it was the Sabbath. Someone later remarked that "The Saints were all at rest." That neighborhood and the school was characterized by that name.

Mrs. Winifred (Enright) Murphy has shared memories of the time she and ten of her brothers and sisters spent in this school nearly 80 years ago. There were woods on three sides, a well near the school, a coal shed and outdoor toilets. Usually there were 20 to 25 pupils in all eight grades. The children brought their lunch in tin pails as many of them lived a great distance from the school. At noon and recess outdoor games were played: baseball, tag, pump-pump pullaway and run, sheep, run in the woods and hazel brush near the building. Christmas always meant an evening program where each of the pupils took part with songs, poems, plays, etc., an event attended by the whole neighborhood. On Valentine's Day, it was the custom to have a program in the evening with a basket social following. The ladies brought beautifully trimmed baskets with lunch for two. Each man would proceed to bid on the basket he suspected was brought by his favorite lady. After all baskets were auctioned, everyone had a partner for lunch.

Saint's Rest School closed around 1944-45. The pupils were then bused to Austin. The school building is used as a farm building on the Oliver Whalen farm, after serving proudly as a place of learning for almost 100 years.

District #40—Oak Grove School

Oak Grove School, District 40, was originally part of District #23. School was first held in this district in 1857 taught by Jane Reeves. The school building was a board shanty owned by Henry Fero and located in section 6. In the fall, a log schoolhouse was built, the first in the township. Maria Slocum was the first teacher in this school.

In 1867, the district was divided and #40—Oak Grove School began. A schoolhouse was built in the northeast corner of section 6. Amelia Houghton was the first teacher. Muriel Reagan, one of the many teachers in this school, taught in 1942.

Ella Guiney, a country schoolteacher, remembers the following experiences as a teacher in District #40. The Bailey boys, Melvin and Celus, who were black, lived with an aunt and uncle on the Tichner farm. The kids mistreated them at another school, so they were assigned to Miss Smith's (Ella Guiney) care.

"One day Melvin and Celus were not at their desks so I looked around," said Ella. "I found them a ways down the road sitting in the weeds." It seemed the other kids had been poking them and calling them niggers. From then on Melvin and Celus were sent home ahead of the other pupils to assure their safety."

Ella continued. "About that time a basket social was held at the school. For the program Melvin and Celus sang and danced a jig. The parents and children enjoyed it so much that after they forgot that Melvin and Celus were black. Later the boys returned to the South."

Ella Guiney also taught in the Enterprise (Varco) School, District #29. In the early 1900s this was the largest rural school in the county boasting all of 60 pupils. She stayed about a mile from the school at the home of the Schulers. Board and room cost \$3 a week, and her salary was \$60 a month, the highest paid teacher in the rural school system.

District #46—Hawkins School

Hawkins School, District #46 was organized in 1869. The following year a board shanty was put up on land donated by J. C. Hawkins in the southwest corner of section 32. The first term was taught by Maggie Smith. In 1874, a frame building was erected on the same site with James Woodard the teacher.



Hawkins School, early 1900s, Helen McShane - Teacher

These interesting notes concerning the Hawkins school were given by Ella Marie Lausen. "At the annual meeting on July 17, 1886, G. B. Hart was elected treasurer and J. C. Hawkins, clerk. A motion was passed to levy \$75 for building a coal shed and outhouses. The school term was decided to be seven months with five months in the winter commencing the first Monday in November and two months in the summer commencing the first Monday in May. Teachers' wages were \$150 for the seven months. In 1887, it was voted to purchase a stove, and if funds were sufficient, to also purchase a dictionary."

In 1928, a Mothers' Club was organized. It continues today, now known as "The Friendly Neighbors."

Membership includes those living or who have lived in the District 46 area.

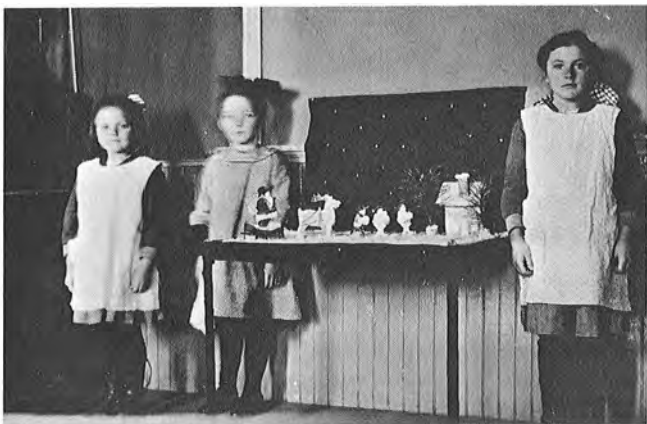
The school closed when many other schools were consolidated. Some joined the Rose Creek District and others, the Lyle District. The contents of the school were sold at auction, and the building was moved to the Art Loucks' farm and torn down.

Mrs. Geneva (Pedersen) Johnson remembers some of the teachers who taught through the years at Hawkins School. Around 1917, Mrs. Lester Berry (Florence Wilder); 1918-19, Blanche (Matthews) Hawkins; 1919-20, Agnes (Boyington) Wade; 1921-23, Winefred (Enright) Murphy; 1923-24, Edith Hill; 1924-30, Mable Lightly; 1930-31, Vesta (Moltz) Staples; 1931-33, Geneva (Pedersen) Johnson; 1933-35, Dale Baldus.

District #73—The Centennial School

Organized in 1869, the first building was a cheap structure on the southwest corner of section 14. Alice French was the first teacher. In 1875, land was acquired from Charles Ruland, and the following year a better building was erected. Newell Slocum was hired as the first teacher in the new schoolhouse. It was called "The Centennial School;" erected 100 years after the country's independence.

The school closed and consolidated with the Rose Creek District in 1917. Myrtle Smith was the teacher during the last year the school was in session.



Centennial School

Left to right: Marle Schwartz, Helen Ruland, Irene Schwartz

District #82

The first school in this district was taught by Maggie Smith in 1867. It was held in a house erected by Thomas Smith in the northeast quarter of section 12. A few weeks later a frame building was built on the southeast corner of section 12.

District #88

This district originally included District #25 which later became the Rose Creek Village School. Organized in 1859, the first school was held in Patrick O'Maley's house and taught by Sarah Slaven. In 1864, a log house was erected on the southeast quarter of section 23.

Columbia School, District #123

This district was organized and a schoolhouse erected in 1893. The first teacher was Olive Savage.

A Teacher's Memories of the Rural School

Eight years a student, two years a teacher, and a couple of years a member of the Mother's Club in the same school is a unique experience, not enjoyed by many, I am sure.

I attended Hawkins School, District #46, located southeast of Austin, for two weeks to get used to the school I would attend the following fall. My home was one mile from school and extreme weather, only, interrupted the daily walk.

I started my teaching career in District #46. Teaching in the 1930s included being a full-time janitor, as well as an instructor in all eight grades. There were fires to build, water, coal and wood to carry in, and ashes to carry out. The youngest pupils were seated closest to the jacketed stove. In cold weather, especially after the weekend, the building took a long time to warm up. Long heavy stockings, heavy undergarments, etc. were worn in those days. I remember how good the hot lunch would taste as supplement to our dinner bucket sandwiches. Each day a different family provided the makings and the pupils were appointed to prepare the food. Thus, we were receiving a lesson in Home Ec.

Organ-playing teachers found the pupils enthusiastic singers. Morning exercises consisted of singing, memorizing and quoting "Memory Gems," listening to the teacher read from a book, and contests such as identifying birds from the bird cards put out by the Arm and Hammer Soda Co.

After recess on Friday afternoons, time was spent making posters, booklets, penmanship, sewing, weaving raffia baskets and making other articles. Many of these were taken to the Mower County Fair to be a part of the Rural School Exhibit. How proud we were of the ribbons won.

Christmas programs were popular. There were candles on the Christmas tree which were lit during the program. They were very serious fire hazards; especially with a group of children in the small space the tree occupied behind the curtains.

During my first year of teaching I had only three attending until spring when three more moved into the district. Some teachers had thirty or more students and all eight grades. Somewhere in between the two extremes would have been much more desirable.

These are but a few of the treasured memories I have kept from the years when I was a Mower County Rural Schoolteacher.

By Geneva Pedersen Johnson

Prairie View Cemetery

The Prairie View Cemetery was laid out in 1881 by John Merrill. The first burial was that of Amos Hickok, April 1, 1882. It is located in Section 25, of Windom moved to other cemeteries; the majority to the Rose Creek Cemetery in Austin Township.

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