

Town of Easton : our heritage, 1879-1976.

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1879



1976

OUR
HERITAGE



*Town
of
Easton*

1879

1976

EASTON TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES THE BICENTENNIAL
AT
EASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
June 12, 13, 1976

June 12

- 9:00 A.M. Grand Opening, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M. Opening of Exhibits
Attic & Basement Fair
Lost Arts Festival
Junior Lost Arts Festival
Heritage Trail
Easton History Book will be for sale.
- 12:00 NOON Old Fashioned Picnic
- 1:00 P.M. Opening Program and
Invocation
Flag Raising Ceremony (The flag was obtained
by David R. Obey.)
Flag Presentation, by Laurence J. Day, State
Assemblyman, 86th District.
Pledge of Allegiance
Honor Color Guard, V.F.W. Burns Post 388
Bicentennial Address, Sen. Walter John Chilsen
- 2:00 P.M. Picnic games, contests, races.
- 8-11:00 P.M. Old Time Country Dance (Square Dancing &
Polkas)
Music by The Zahrts, and Warren Gruetzmacher

June 13

Sunday Morning; Worship in the church of your choice.

- 12:00 NOON Opening of exhibits and lunch stands.
- 2:00 P.M. Parade of History
- 3:00 P.M. Judging of the Beard Contest
Presentations to honored residents of Town of
Easton.
- 6:00 P.M. Close of Easton Bicentennial Celebration.

TOWNSHIP OF EASTON BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

General Chairman — Mrs. Emery Thorpe

Opening Program — Palmer Gums, Marvin Matthiae

Attic to Basement — Mrs. Floyd Geurink, Mrs. Marvin Matthiae

Lost Arts & Crafts — Mrs. Alfred Hoppe, Mrs. Jack Sliwicki

Heritage Trail — Harold Jensema, Marvin Matthiae, Norman Dieck,
Emery Thorpe

History Book Subscriptions — Mr. & Mrs. John Christensen

Parade — Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Beck

Games & Contests — Oliver Hoppe

Beard Contest — Emery Thorpe

Lunch Stands — Norman Dieck, Jack Sliwicki

Machinery Display — Floyd Geurink

Typists — Joan Jensema, Jean Zaugg, Nancy Zaugg

Art Work — Mary Krueger, Lois Bergerson, Barbara Thorpe

Counselors — Township Officials — Chairman, Marvin Matthiae
Clerk, George Kalinke
Treasurer, George Bergerson
Supervisors, Norman Dieck & Jack
Sliwicki

FORWARD

A sincere effort has been made to compile the history of the Town of Easton.

Data was derived from the following:

History of Marathon County Wisconsin & Representative Citizens by Louis Marchette

History of the Territory of Wisconsin by Moses M. Strong

Rib Mountain Echoes Volume I & Volume II by Wausau

Writers Club

Weston Centennial Booklet

Wausau Daily Record Herald

Wausau Regional Writers Anthology Volume I by Wausau

Regional Writers

The history committee expresses its gratitude to the many individuals who aided directly and indirectly in the creation of this book. We are indebted to those who diligently researched official records and others who offered information from scrapbooks and through interviews.

It is realized that numerous historical episodes remain buried in the past and that other pertinent facts have not been disclosed.

This book is intended to serve as a record of the progress of the township from the pinery days to the present time. It is also hoped that it will instill in future generations a sense of pride of Easton heritage.

History Book Committee

Co-Chairmen--Mrs. Harold Jensema and Mrs. Roger Geurink

Schools--Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Beck

Township--Mrs. George Bergerson, Mrs. Harold Jensema, Mrs. Roger Geurink

Churches--Antone Thorpe, Mrs. Leonard Erdman, Peter Suwyn, Mrs. Selma Beck

4-H Clubs--Mrs. Floyd Geurink

Fire Department--Mr. & Mrs. Lester Strehlow, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sliwicki

Cub Scouts--Mrs. Frank Hanousek

Homemakers Clubs--Mrs. John Krueger

Interviews--Palmer Gums, Peter Suwyn, Mrs. Alfred Hoppe, Mrs. Hans Ellefsen, Mrs. Marvin Matthiae, Mrs. Wilbert Zahrt, Mrs. Roger Geurink, Mrs. Harold Jensema, Mrs. George Bergerson, Mrs. John Krueger, Mrs. Floyd Geurink, Mrs. Emery Thorpe

Book Cover--Barbara Thorpe

Editor--Mrs. Harold Jensema

THE TOWNSHIP OF EASTON

As one views the Town of Easton today, it is difficult to visualize it as it was in the 1800's—an area of natural, dense forest broken only by a few trails along the rivers. Today its countryside is predominantly modern, dairy farms interspersed with beef farms and well-kept residences. The German, Scandinavian, and Dutch settlements have become less distinct through intermarriage and an influx of other nationalities.

Many of the establishments of the latter 1800's and the early 1900's such as the blacksmith shops, railroad, gold mine, postoffices, apiary, saw mills and district schools have faded into the past. Of the four cheese factories, which were in operation, only Sunset Cheese and Butter Company continues to make cheese. Country stores which have closed are: Larson's Store in 1939, the Louis Gums Store in 1969, and the Sunset Grocery in 1974. The Knowles Chapel, which was built about 1890 along the Eau Claire River Road, was moved across the river to Ringle with skids and horses by Paul Marten in 1923. The once profitable mink, fox, and ginseng farms have been discontinued.

Here and there are log buildings formerly occupied by hard working European immigrants. Many of them have been deserted and are in a state of collapse, while others have been preserved and are currently used.

Four churches in the township have not only survived, but have grown in membership and outreach. These churches are: Bethany Lutheran, New Hope Community, St John Evangelical Lutheran, and Zion Evangelical Lutheran.

There are four cemeteries in the Town of Easton. The congregations of Zion, St. John and Bethany each maintain their own cemetery. The only public cemetery is Forestville which is located along county trunk N. An unkempt cemetery is found along Junction Road. Stories are told about locations of family cemeteries that were neglected and eventually became farm land.

The township has developed an efficient network of roads with the following road equipment: an Oshkosh truck with snow plow and trailer, a bulldozer, 2 power graders with plows, 1 shovel with backhoe, front loader with backhoe, a boiler, and 3 dump trucks. Of the 60 miles of roads, 16.5 miles are blacktopped.

A volunteer fire department is maintained by the township. The fire truck and equipment are housed in the town garage.

Two schools remain in the township. St. John Lutheran School provides education for grades 1-8. Easton Elementary School has children enrolled in grades 3, 4, and 5.

Today the township is served by several mail routes: Route 1, Aniwa; Route 3, Birnamwood; Route 1, Ringle; Route 2, Wausau; and Route 5, Wausau. Those areas near Wausau may receive the Wausau Daily Herald newspaper on the date of its publication.

The county bookmobile service which was started in 1948 has become very popular, for it provides many people with entertainment and education. The bookmobile has scheduled stops at the Easton Elementary School and St. John's School. Adult stops include Zion Lutheran Church, Easton Town Hall, Sunset Corner and the Palmer Gums farm.

One county park of 4.8 acres has been developed within the township. It is located east of county trunk J along the banks of the Big Sandy River. This section of the river is a man-made channel dug in 1938 as a WPA project. The straight channel eliminated the natural U turn in the river, which caused it to flood every spring and wash out the bridge.

Community culture has been enriched through the organization of various types of clubs. At the present time there are four home-makers clubs, a 4-H club, cub scouts, and a snowmobile club.

Several businesses operate in the Town of Easton today. They are:

- Barden's Bar and Grocery at the corner of Star Road and 52
- Marceille's Meats, Inc. along Junction Road
- Meurett Signs along highway 52
- Mike's Repair Shop along N
- Sunset Bar at the corner of J and Z
- Sunset Cheese & Butter Company on J and highway 52
- Wausau Foods along N
- Wierzba's Excavating on Sandy River Road
- Zahrt Implement & Service at the corner of Q and highway 52

The "neighbor helping neighbor" policy and working crews disappeared when modern machinery and electricity revolutionized farming in the Easton area. During the 1940's hay balers began replacing hay loaders, and during the 1950's combines replaced the threshing machine. Today hay crushers and 3 bottom plows are common. Of the 128 farms, a majority are equipped with bulk milk tanks, pipe lines, barn cleaners, and silo unloaders.

Other new trends in farming include fertilizers, pesticides, and DHIA records. During the summer of 1975, crop spraying with airplanes was used to combat the invasion of the army worm in corn and oat fields. Many Easton farmers attend Vocational-Agriculture night classes at the Easton School to keep pace with the latest advancements in dairy farming. Dairy farmers market their milk through Sunset Cheese Factory and through dairy plants located in Antigo, Merrill, Wausau and Wittenberg.

Rural Easton women were liberated from the drudgery of the Easton pioneer women when electricity became available to all homes in the township during the 1930's and 1940's. Today automatic washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators, dish washers, freezers, radio and television are considered necessities.

Other home improvements gradually took place. After World War II there was a rash of bathroom, sewage, and septic tank installations. During the 1960's many wood furnaces were converted to LP gas or oil. The energy crisis of 1975 caused some families to convert back to wood. Homes were carpeted and insulated. Their surroundings were made attractive with lawns, shrubs and flower gardens.

Telephone service was improved in 1968 when the telephone lines were placed underground. At this time the ten party lines were replaced by private, semi-private, and four party lines.

Today "woman's place" is not always in the home. Some of the township women take time for self-improvement by attending vocational classes held at the North Central Technical Institute in Wausau or the Easton School. Some homemakers are also employed as nurses, teachers, bus drivers, reporters and clerical workers.

City employees and retired people have found the township a desirable place to live, so residential building has steadily increased. With the increase in home and farm construction it was deemed necessary in 1961 to have a building inspector to issue building permits. By 1973 sewage and water supply regulations were adopted. There are now over 130 residences in addition to the farm homes.

Scattered patches of farm, wood land (335.5 acres); Tigerton Lumber Company land (597 acres); and 390 acres of heavily forested, county land in the eastern part of the township; offer areas for the sportsman. Here he is able to hunt and trap a variety of wild life. These same acres, along with the rivers and fire lanes, offer hours of pleasure for family sports—swimming, canoeing, tobaggoning, tube-ing, and snowmobiling. The "Snow Packers Club," organized in 1973, has marked 10 miles of trails for snowmobiling enthusiasts.

The population of the Town of Easton was 957 in 1974 and 952 in 1975.

The assessed evaluation of the township is approximately \$10,000,000 (ten million dollars).

TOWN OF EASTON SHARES THE HISTORY OF WISCONSIN & MARATHON COUNTY

1512 Ponce de Leon claimed all land from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes for Spain.

1634 France exercised jurisdiction over this land. Nicolet became the first white man to live in Wisconsin in the Green Bay area.

1673 Marquette and Joliet explored the Fox, Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers.

1763 The area now known as Wisconsin was under the rule of Great Britain.

1783 By the treaty of 1783 this area was ceded by Great Britain to the original 13 states.

1787 The Ordinance of 1787 called for a devision of the Northwest Territory among the 13 original states. It also made provision for public schools, surveying rules, and prohibited slavery.

1794 Virginia received jurisdiction over this territory. Disputes with the British were settled by the Jay's Treaty.

1805-1836 Wisconsin was part of the territories of Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois.

1830 Settlements were limited to the lead regions and older towns near Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. Lumbering began.

1836 An act of Congress established the territory of Wisconsin.

1840's Settlers who came to this area had no thoughts of farming, but had only hopes of making a fortune from the pine forest along the

Wisconsin River. The pinery settlement was regarded as temporary. The American Fur Co. monopolized the profitable Indian trade, and deliberately gave this area the reputation of having land that was stony, sandy, barren, mountainous, marshy and cold.

1845 John Le Meussurier brought his family and possessions from Fort Winnebago to Wausau. Among his possessions were 3 cows, the first animals of that kind in the Wausau area.

1850 W. D. McIndoe introduced the bill to detach territory from Portage County to create the county of Marathon. The whole county was one town. It was sometimes called town of Marathon and sometimes town of Wausau. The population of the county was 508.

1852 The energies of the people were expended in logging, sawing, running out lumber and making shingles.

1853 U.S. land office established at Stevens Point caused farmers to begin emigrating to Marathon County. "Most of the people lived at or near the mills and outside of them in not more than 20 clearings. Everywhere was forest, dark, forbidding looking.

1855-1857 These years were the "flush times of Wisconsin." An emigration unprecedented in the annals of the U.S. was coming to Wis. The great majority were German farmers, next in number were the Norwegians, and then the Irish.

1856 The county board divided the town and county of Marathon into 3 separate town organizations. These towns were Wausau, Mosinee, and Eau Claire. It is often said that Town of Easton was part of the Town of Wausau, but there are records indicating that Easton was part of the Town of Eau Claire which was renamed Weston in 1859.

1861 The Town of Easton was created by the commissioners of Marathon County. The first election was held in the house of A. L. Ackley, who lived in range 10. "This town was abolished in 1865, but reestablished a few years afterwards."

1879 This is the first year that records of town meetings were recorded. It is known that the original Town of Easton was larger. The Town of Harrison, established in 1888, was formed from part of the Town of Easton.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

Chairmen

1879-1881	Thomas McCormick	1931-1940	Charles Traeger
1892	P.F. Curran	1941-1950	William Block
1895-1898	M.C. Thorne	1951-July 12, 1952	Ray Le Gault
1904	Carl Wendt	1952-1966	Norman Block
1914-1927	Charles Bassert	1966-1975	Emery Thorpe
1928	Fred Nauta	1975-1976	Marvin Matthiae
1928, October-	Walter Kluever		
was appointed to fill vacancy			

All town chairmen are not listed, because records stated that the meetings were called to order by the chairman, but no name was given.

Clerks

1879-1881	Benjamin Gilham	1882-1887	George Freeman
1882	Charles Maynard	1891-1894	G. W. Carley

1894-1898 J. H. Zimmermann
1898-1908 Henry Wolf
1908-1936 William E. Beck

1936-1959 William Kalinke
1959-1963 Warren Mueller
1963-1976 George Kalinke

Treasurers

1881 Patrick McCormick
1892-1895 Henry Wolf
1916 Louis Gums
1928-1938 Louis Gums
1938-1944 William Wenzel

1944, July- Mrs. Ella Wenzel ap-
pointed to fill term of deceased
husband.
1951-1953 Louis Gums
1953-1969 Roland Schultz
1969-1976 George Bergerson

Some records were destroyed by fire when the Louis Gums Store burned in 1944; therefore, it was not possible to list all the treasurers.

Excerpts from Town Board Minutes, 1879-1975

- 1879 - The first town meetings were held in homes.
Pathmasters took first oath of office—one for each school district. Assessors wage was \$20. Clerks wage was \$60.
- 1880 - Contract between G. Freeman and the town to build the Hogarty Bridge across the Eau Claire River for \$395. D. R. Holbrook leased land to the town of Easton for road purposes - one rod wide on the River Road for 99 years or as long as the road exists for \$5.70.
- 1882 - Voted to let the cattle run at large.
First meeting of school dist. #4.
According to town books, people paid 7% interest on mortgages.
- 1884 - Proposed, seconded and carried to have a town house built.
Motion carried that the town house shall be built on land belonging to J. Ferguson at the N. E. corner of Sec. 33, T29 R9.
Motion passed that the house be built 16 x 24 x 12 ft. studdings.
Motion carried that the sum of \$400.00 be raised for the purpose of building a town house.
Motion carried that Thos. McCormick is to see to obtaining the lumber, doors, windows, nails, etc. for the town house.
- 1890 - Motion passed to build bridge across Eau Claire on Town Line Rd. (Now known as N)
- 1891 - (Town Hall #2) A proposition received and filed to build a town house on the Smith Rd. at the Sec. 16 and 17 and 20 and 21 and signed by 14 freeholders.
Motion passed to raise \$500.00 for the town house and it will be built at the SW corner of Sec. 16.
Paid to M. Thorsen a total of \$394.75 in Sept. of 1891.
- 1892 - Overseers of highway were also commissioners of noxious weeds in respective road districts.
Assessor salary \$85. Clerk \$100. Treasurer received 2% of all collections on tax roll before the 10th of January and 3% after that time.

- 1893-94 - Supervisors pay \$2 per day. Assessor salary \$60.
- 1895 - License to keep a saloon granted to Joe C. Digman (now known as Sunset)
- 1900 - As more people settled petitions for roads were presented during the 1900's.
Special meeting to raise \$700 for flood damages to bridges and roads.
- 1892-1909 - Organizing and re-organizing of school districts.
- 1915 - Motion carried that town buy a road drag for each road district.
- 1920 - Motion carried for town board to meet first day of each month from 9-10 in the morning from July to November to transact all business.
- 1921 - Motion carried to have a road superintendent for every district.
- 1922 - Motion passed to pay wages of 25¢ per hour per man and 50¢ per hour for man and team.
- 1923 - Motion passed to buy an Adams grader and a tractor heavy enough to handle the grader.
Motion carried that Emil Ramthum be road commissioner and be general instructor over all pathmasters.
- 1925 - Motion passed to buy a stone crusher.
Motion carried that Emil Ramthum shall run the grader for the year 1925 and receive \$6 per day.
- 1926 - Wisconsin Telephone Company set up first telephone lines in Easton.
- 1927 - Town board gave permission to Wisconsin Valley Electric Company to construct a transmission line.
- 1930 - Motion passed by ballot to leave it to the town board to let the hall out to various associations to have their entertainments or meetings there. Yes vote 197. No vote 152.
In June, a special meeting was held for the purpose of raising money to defray the cost of constructing and repairing bridges and highways damaged by a recent storm.
In July, Motion passed to build a new bridge on School Road of District #7 in the same place as the old one and to raise \$3500.
- 1932 - In June a special meeting was called on short notice for the purpose of making a grasshopper drive or to poison them. County Agent William Rogan explained the situation, a motion was then made and carried that the town provide poison and bran and white arsenic and a man be appointed in each school district to mix and deal out the poison.
- 1933 - On April 4, a motion was defeated to have the mail routes snow plowed.

Motion was made to buy 5000 feet of snow fence. The motion was carried.

In November, the town chairmans of Easton and Wausau met with the county road commissioner for the purpose of laying out and buying the right of way on range line south of the Smith Road to give employment to the needy who are supported by the town and county.

- 1934 - In April, a motion was carried to buy 5000 more feet of snow fence. Motion was passed to plow all mail routes in the winter of 1934-1935. On June 5, a special meeting was held for the purpose of poisoning grasshoppers.
- 1935 - On April 2, a motion was carried to snow plow all roads in the town of Easton in the winter of 1935-1936.
The board authorized to purchase necessary poison for grasshoppers.
- 1936 - \$500 was raised to gravel Cty. Truck N.
\$1200 was raised to gravel the Smith Road.
It was decided to buy two trucks to haul gravel.
- 1937 - The town purchased their first adding machine.
Motion carried to build a shed for all machinery.
- 1938 - Town board met for the purpose of laying out WPA project on proposed Hwy. J. - to build bridge piers, road fill to bridge, and grading roads.
In April, a motion was passed that no one out of the family of the town board shall run the town machinery.
A resolution was made to pay for necessary material not to exceed \$500 for WPA and Federal relief granted to farmers who may work there.
- 1939 - Bought autograph machine and typewriter, and have town clerk print annual report.
On April 4, a motion was passed to pay hand labor 25¢ per hour with team-50¢ per hour, labor in gravel pit-30¢ per hour.
In June a motion was carried that the clerk be authorized to borrow all money including for the new truck from the Birnamwood bank.
- 1940 - A resolution was passed and adopted to call new county prospective highway starting from County Truck N running north the Easton Center Road.
- 1941 - In April a resolution was passed and left to discussion of the town board to buy a new snow plow. If town board sees fit to trade old plow for a new one, the amount not to exceed \$2500, it may do so. In June, a motion was made by Chairman William Block to trade with Marathon Motor Sales, the old Cheverolet truck for two new Chev trucks, \$580 allowed for old truck, Town of Easton to pay \$1300 for the balance on the new truck.
- 1942 - On April 7, vote by ballot-town board asks to buy a motor patrol vote for-55, against-23, two blanks.

- 1944 - In April a resolution was passed to buy a new patrol-large size with a diesel motor. It was decided to buy a 6 ton motor patrol-a caterpillar.
- 1945 - In April, town board authorized to buy a 212 power patrol-also to buy a new truck and have it equipped with snow removal equipment, including one wing.
On June 4, a motion was carried to buy a new Oshkosh 4 wheel drive truck equipped with snow plow.
- 1946 - In April, a resolution was passed and adopted that the town board be authorized to buy a large motor patrol.
- 1947 - On April 1, the town board was authorized to make an agreement with Wausau Fire Dept. for protection during any fire and the town will pay the cost of protection.
- 1948 - On April 6, a motion was made and carried that the chairman or any town board member may work on town machinery when necessary if help or experienced help isn't available.
Town board authorized to buy $\frac{1}{2}$ yard Koering shovel complete with backhaul.
- 1949 - On April 5, a motion was carried to buy a new grader or a used grader. A Motion was made and carried to blacktop the first stretch of road of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles during the coming year-1 mile north of Hwy. N, called River Road.
- 1950 - On April 4, a motion was made and carried to dispose of old trucks and old horse grader.
Motion passed to buy a new or used tractor large enough to carry town shovel.
Motion passed to buy a new or used snow plow for the motor patrol.
Motion passed to refund 1949 tax of \$42.72 to St. John Congregation and hereafter not to assess any church property.
Town board was authorized to buy the necessary land to build a 4 rod road when they see fit for town purposes.
- 1951 - On April 3, a motion carried that town board be authorized to buy a new truck.
Motion was made to petition the county to rebuild Hwy. Z.
Smith Road officially became known as County Hwy. Z.
- 1952 - On July 8, a special meeting was held to appoint a chairman to fill unexpired term of Ray LeGault, who resigned. Norman Block was appointed.
- 1953 - On March 9, the town board was authorized to get information on fire fighting equipment which would meet approval of state fire commissioner and inquire as to the price.
On April 7, a motion was passed to buy a caterpillar tractor equipped with bulldozer and Fleco Rock teeth.
- 1954 - In April a motion was passed that the town board be authorized to look at a cat wagon, if satisfactory to buy one for moving dirt. On April 6, a motion was passed that town board buy a

suction pump and 4 tanks for fire fighting purposes to fit in average pick up-truck.

- 1958 - Motion to continue the spraying of brush on highways.
On April 1, a motion was passed that the town board and fire committee be authorized to investigate buying a water pump if they see fit for fire fighting purposes.
- 1959 - On April 7, a motion was passed that town board and fire committee shall look into buying another pump and enlarge the pond on the Norman Block property to be used for fire fighting purposes. A motion was also made to make some kind of agreement between Norman Block and the town of Easton so the town will be able to use the water for years to come.
A motion was passed that the town board has authority to pay those who use their trucks to haul water for fire fighting purposes. A motion was passed that the town board be able to pay those who help fight fires.
- 1960 - In August a motion was made to purchase parcel of land for \$300 from Norman Block, description as follows--starting at North, edge of present town property, running 120 ft. north and 363 ft. west from the center of Hwy. Q. (land for town use)
In October, a motion was carried that we purchase an oil furnace from Sandy Furnace Co. for the town shop.
- 1961 - Mrs. Dorothy Kunze was designated as a deputy county clerk for sole purpose of administering the bounty program for the town of Easton.
Motion was passed that Myron Zahrt be our building inspector at salary of \$1.25 per hour and 7¢ a mile.
In April a motion was carried that we hire Wausau Construction Co. to rebuild the Eau Claire River Bridge near the Herman Marquardt farm which had been destroyed during the spring flood.
Motion carried that the town pay their share of \$700 to purchase their first fire tanker truck.
- 1962 - On April 9, combined townships of Easton and Plover met for the purpose of opening a town dump to be located on 40 acres in the town of Easton with each township furnishing an attendant.
- 1963 - A committee was chosen to name roads in the township.
- 1964 - The town bought a new cat patroler grader for \$24,000.
Any person, firm or corporation must have a building permit to construct a building or sewage disposal system, or move a building on a public highway.
- 1965 - Town will have fire numbers for every property. Town chairman would be area Fire Commissioner.
- 1966 - Decided to buy new International truck to replace the used one (now a fire truck).
- 1967 - New town garage built at cost of \$32,000.

- 1968 - Town Board made amendment that any person, firm or corporation moving a trailer for occupancy into town of Easton, must obtain a permit.
The town shed was finished by installing a water pump, toilet and drinking facilities.
- 1969 - The town board felt it necessary to adopt a law to restrain cattle, horses, sheep, swine and other animals from going at large on the highways and to fix penalties for the violations of said orders.
- 1970 - Amount paid for those attending fire calls be set by Fire Chief and town board with a minimum of \$10 per call.
Motion passed that town charge interest on delinquent personal property taxes.
Permit cards were issued to each resident as identification for dumping. No car bodies or dead animals allowed to be disposed of at the dump. Anyone burning buildings should have it supervised by fire chief and pay costs of supervision.
Motion passed that a sewage system be installed and approved before a trailer house permit be issued.
- 1971 - In February, the town boards of Easton and of Hewitt met to discuss fire fighting problems.
Decided to have dump open on Wednesday nights from 6-8 with Easton and Plover men alternating as attendants.
- 1972 - Decided at a special meeting that township set up own zoning ordinance.
Purchased new snow plow (\$36,000-\$40,000).
- 1973 - There shall be an approved sewage system installed and an adequate water supply before any mobile or pre-fab home can be moved in or home constructed on site. No mobile home can be used for rental purpose.
Decided that no road should be less then 4 rods wide.
- 1974 - Assessor given authority to raise all valuations to approximately 100% of full value.
- 1975 - Zoning regulations were adopted.
On January 23, the town board joined the Eastern Marathon County Towns Association.

Town of Easton Road Equipment

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1950 - Grader, \$3600. | 1968 - Truck \$5657. |
| 1951 - Snow plow for grader \$1,360. | 1971 - Truck \$6,000. |
| 1953 - Bulldozer \$18,253.28. | 1972 - Truck and plow \$29,363. |
| 1964 - Grader \$24,000. | 1973 - Front loader with backhoe \$6900. |
| 1967 - Truck \$3289. | |

TOWN OF EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1952 the town board appointed Wiebe Nauta, Ben Hoffman and Elmer Ramthum to organize a volunteer fire brigade for the Town of Easton. The first meeting was held at Ben Hoffman's home. At that meeting it was decided that Ben Hoffman was to be the first fire chief; Elmer Ramthum, the first assistant chief; and Wiebe Nauta, the first secretary.

At a town meeting on March 9, 1953 plans were made to purchase fire equipment. A water pump, hose and four water tanks were purchased in 1954. Racks were made for the tanks at pick-up truck level for easy loading of water. All fires were reported to the Norman Block home. Farmers who had pick-up trucks were notified by telephone to haul water to the fires.

In 1955 seven water holes were geographically located throughout the township. These water holes were easily accessible at all times. They were numbered, and a map was drawn showing their location. The map was in a box by the water tank rack. The first truck driver to arrive took the equipment and marked the water hole to be used.

In 1958 Wilbert Zimmerman became fire chief. Fire cards were made with all volunteer firemens' names and telephone numbers on them. The cards were mailed to all town residents.

In 1959 the water hole on Norman Block's farm was enlarged for the entire water supply. Culverts were installed, and a shed was built by Edward Klueckman near the pond for equipment.

During 1961 a group of townships; Hewitt, Wausau, Easton, Stettin, and part of Berlin, purchased a tank truck, which was kept at the Wausau fire station. This truck was to be used collectively by these townships to provide additional water in fighting fires.

It became apparent that this truck could not always be used effectively, because it was difficult to locate the rural homes. To remedy this problem a fire card filing system was implemented in 1965 through the efforts of Norman Block. Duplicate cards of fire number locations were kept in each township and at the Wausau Fire Department. Easton was the first township to complete their filing system. The cost was a little over \$3,000.00 and was paid for on a town evaluation basis.

In 1971 the towns of Easton, Hewitt and Ringle entered a cooperative agreement to fight fires. This agreement exists today.

A truck was purchased and equipped for fire fighting in 1971. The telephone alerting system was replaced by monitors which were placed in the homes of all volunteer firemen.

The volunteers sponsored benefit dances which helped to provide funds for operation and equipment.

In 1974, under fire chief, Marvin Matthiae, the brigade became a separate department. It now receives a tax levy annually from the township.

In 1975 two 4,000 gallon tanks to hold the water supply were buried west of the town garage. While in the process of digging the hole, a spring was accidentally tapped. The water was piped to the tanks and provides enough water to keep the tanks filled.

Members attend monthly, training sessions conducted at the town garage. They have also attended special classes at the North Central Technical Institute. Some of the classes have been: Basic Fire Fighting; First Aid Techniques; Preplanning and Encounter Problems; and Circumstantial Situations. Fire inspections of all public buildings are held semi-annually.

Since 1975 Lester Strehlow has served as fire chief. The assistant fire chief is Harold Jensema, the captain is Willard Rick, and the secretary-treasurer is Jack Sliwicki. The firemen are: Allen Beck, Elgart Brendemuehl, Jack Christensen, Marvin Matthiae, Earl Strehlow, Harvey Strehlow, Emery Thorpe, and Wayne Walters.

Former volunteer firemen have been: Raymond Beck, Karl Block, Merlin Block, Myron Block, Norman Block, Norman Dieck, Arnold Drews, Frank Dulak, Kenneth Fraaza, Peter Fraaza, Clarence Fust, Roger Fust, Palmer Gums, Daniel Hansen, Harland Hansen, Ben Hoffman, George Kalinke, Reno Marten, Ruben Mathwick, Oscar Morien, Gust Mueller, Walter Mueller, Wiebe Nauta, Elmer Ramthum, Roland Schultz, Marvin Swendsen, Paul Thompson, George Zahrt, Alfred Zaugg, Adolph Zimmerman, and Wilbert Zimmerman.

SCHOOL DAYS

Dist. No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 Aug. 30, 1879--To join three dists. in Town of Easton. Gilman Dist. No. 1, Holbrook Dist. No. 2 and Hogarthy Dist. No. 3.

Dist. No. 4 School Dist. formed 1883.

Dist. No. 8- Joint School Dist. Wausau and Easton formed known as McKellar.

Dist. No. 5 School Dist. 1885.

Eau Claire Public School District No. 1 (Ferris School). Records have been donated to the Red Schoolhouse in Marathon Park, Wausau, Wi.

Dist. No. 5 was organized May 13, 1911.

Dist. No. 6 was organized May 25, 1912. Petitioned to organize a new dist. out of Dist. No. 6--the children were to come from land owned in township of Easton.

Dist. No. 1 Petitioned to dissolve Jt. School Dist. No. 1 of towns of Easton and Wausau on Aug. 14, 1912. Petition signed by 34 persons.

Dist. No. 1 A ballot vote taken to split Jt. Dist. No. 1--Easton and Wausau, May 17, 1913.

Dist. No. 7 Organized Dist. No. 7 June 26, 1913. Order to take effect June 1, 1914.

District No. 1
Began as joint district Easton and Wausau.
Became District No. 7 Easton, 1914.

July 2, 1894-95 Joint district No. 1 of Easton and Wausau met, all board members present. All text books to be furnished by school.

July 17, 1894 Committee on building met and let job of building addition of 22 feet built on north end of school, new floor put in old part and a hall put at the south end. The lowest bid was for \$230.00 by Herman Ramthum.

1894-95 George Rifleman-Salary was \$20.00 per month
1895-96 Clara Whitney-Martha Kell (made school into two departments).
(total disbursements July 1, 1895 to July 6, 1896 \$594.63)
1896-97 Lillian Allen-Martha Kell
1897-98 Martha Kell-Nellie Sickler
1898-99 Louise Prahl-Agnes McGruly
1899-1900 Alma Zimmermann-Emily Nutter (expenses for year \$549.18)
1900-01 Anna Anderson-Margaret McGarth
1901-02 Nellie Miller-Ella Cain
School came under graded state laws, school was to be held for nine months.
1902-03 Ella Cain-Jane Nutter
1903-04 Helen Becker-Chloe Tilden
1904-05 Chloe Tilden-Nellie Nutter
1905-06 Elsa Beitkruetz
1906-07 Lois Bessey
1907-08 Ella Cain-Utha Wilcott
1908-09 Clara Penka-Bertha Pearson, (Ida Krause taught 3 months)
1909-10 Ida Seefeldt-Estella Wartman
Seven months of English and one month of German was taught in one room.
1910-11 Gurrda Peterson-Rose Egdahl
1911-13 Elise Gourdet-Henrietta Schuerhering
1913-14 (Split district No. 1 of Easton and Wausau, Easton became Dist. No. 7. School house site N.W. corner of Emil Kluender land one full acre, he was paid \$50.00 for acre of land and logging of it.

Disbursements of district No. 7 (1914)

April 11, clearing school ground	\$ 12.00
One acre of land	50.00
Lumber, lath, shingles	355.99
Advertising bids for school	3.60
Hauling lumber and shingles	12.00
	<u>\$433.59</u>
Sand for building (hauling)	\$ 50.00
Lumber (hauling)	4.10
Lath (hauling)	3.00
Advertising for bids for	7.55
Lumber and recording deed	64.64
	<u>\$498.23</u>

District No. 7 (Sunset)

1913-14 V. Radant
1914-15 Erna Buss
1915-17 M. Ringle
1917-19 Lulu Seidler
1919-21 Katherine McCormick
1921-22 Helen M. Green
1922-26 Johanna Pischke
1926-27 Manetta Krueger
1927-29 Alice Lombard
1929-30 Alma Beck
August 10, 1929 - Drilled new well.
1930-31 Hattie Klapart
1931-33 Gertrude Gralow
1933-34 Cecilia Walters
1934-35 Eleanor Punke
1935-37 Elsa Koosman
1937-38 Margaret Levendoski
1938-40 Ida A. Lau
April 17, 1939 - Special meeting called to discuss closing of school and transport children elsewhere. Defeated 9 to 5. The school was open the next year.
1940-41 Ida A. Lau
February 20, 1941 - School House burned down
April 15, 1941 - Special school meeting of Dist. No. 7 to rebuild school. Vote was 5 for, 38 against.
1941-42 Transport children elsewhere to school (to Dist. No. 4)

School District No. 2 Town Easton (Dewey)

Annual meeting-July 6, 1909

District is divided, resolved to move school house on the corner of Section 14. Mr. Holbrook paid \$25.00 for new site. Borrowed money from State Trust Fund for the building of the school house.

August 4, 1909-Special meeting to move school house, raise district tax of \$400.00.

July 3, 1911-Well drilled on school ground.

Total expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1905 - \$552.35.

1905 - 63 children
1906 - 93 children
1909 - 75 children
1910 - 41 children
1914 - 45 children

Teachers:

1904-5 Alma Zimmermann
1905-6 Gene Pettersen & Alice Anderson
1906-9 Anna Ellingsen
1909-10 Irma Falees
1910-11 Marie L. Chaignot

1911-12 Ranga Ellingson
 1912-13 Martha Kieffer
 1913-14 Bertha Buss
 1914-15 Alice Gleason
 1916-18 Juanita Johnson
 1918-19 Alice Gleason & Lucey Doleschal
 1919-20 Erna Zimmermann & Wilhelmina Schroeder
 1920-21 Ragna Ellingson
 1921-22 Vesta Revie
 1922-23 Regna Ellingson
 1923-24 Viola Fraedrich
 1924-26 Gertrude Hanat
 1926-27 Annual meeting-No financial report or teachers contract
 1928 Mrs. Ringstead
 1928-38 Mrs. Edith Brown, Mrs. Gertrude Mortenson, Noreen Pierce,
 Mrs. Fred Nauta, Doris Berglindt, Josephine Vesley, Inez
 Patnode, Ellen Quade. (The exact dates of the school terms
 taught are not known.)
 1938-39 Norman Albright
 1939-41 Lorraine Berard
 1941-42 Wesley Hodgins
 1942-44 Orville Sell
 1944-45 Mary Jane Zimmermann
 1945-46 Ragna Ellingson
 1946-48 Gladys Weber
 1948-49 Donald Jorgenson
 1950-51 Mrs. Esther Knight
 1951-52 Marie V. Sazama
 1952-53 Miss Jean Marchel
 1953-54 Aurella Marchel
 1954-57 Mrs. Evelyn Budzinski
 1957-58 Esther Easker
 1958-60 Mrs. Ethel Schwartzkopf
 1960-61 Mrs. Evelyn Frederick

The school property is owned by the descendants of Everett Dyke.

School District No. 3 (Farewell)

Teachers:

1931-33 Mrs. Tarsilla Kurth
 1933-35 Erna Koosman
 1935-37 Dorothy Hopke
 1937-42 Emil P. Kraegenbrink
 1938-39 School was wired for electric lights
 1942-43 Zdenka Beran
 1943-44 Earlene L. France
 1944-45 Virginia Bloom
 1945-46 Mrs. A. Burt
 1946-47 Mrs. Helen Meyer
 1947-50 Wilbur Kalinke
 1948-49 School board bought strip film projector
 1950-51 Mary Jane Szews
 1951-57 Mrs. K. McNeil
 1957-58 Mrs. Mabel Wincentzen & Delores Schuttler
 1908-1909 Ella Nutter. School held in Bethany Church until the school
 building was finished.
 1909-1910 Meta Strege

- 1958-60 Mrs. Evelyn Frederick
 1958-59 Motion carried to transport all children in district
 1959-60 Special school meeting of joint district 3, Easton and Hewitt. Good crowd attended. Mr. Moore, county school superintendent presided. He answered questions on consolidation of the school districts in the town of Easton. Children to go to the high school the majority of people favored.
 1960-61 Children were transported to Dewey.

Bethany Lutheran Church purchased the school and property for \$443.80. The congregation sold the property to Carl Borman. It was remodeled and today is the home of Keith Grayson.

School District No. 4 Town of Easton (Sunrise)

May 13, 1911-Section 20-21 of the Town of Easton taken from District No. 4 and attached to and made part of District No. 5.

- 1912 - School begins first Monday in October with 39 children, 8 months of school. Teachers paid \$45.00 per month.
 1913 - Motion passed - Any article broken by child to be replaced by the parent.
 1917 - July 7 - Motion carried to pay a male teacher if hired \$10 or \$15 more than a female. There were 47 children.
 1920 - Teachers paid \$99.00 per month.
 1931 - January 27 - Special meeting to discuss digging or drilling of a well, motion carried to drill 10 aye and 2 naye.
 1933 - July 10 - Motion carried, 15 for 9 months and 11 for 8 months of school. School to begin Monday, Sept. 4.
 1941 - July 14 - Motion carried, District 7, transport their children to this district. The school board to provide play ground equipment on school grounds.
 1942 - July 13 - Motion carried to wire school house for electricity.

Teachers:

1910-12 Meta Strege	1931-35 Helen Siebold
1912-15 Kathryn Gleason	1935-39 Erna Buss
1915-17 Anna Swanson	1939-41 Mary Artus
1917-18	1941-42 Florence Kragenbrink
1918-19 Ruth Johnson	1942-43 Mrs. Edward Bembinster
1919-20 Cora Schneider	1943-45 Olive M. Heroux
1920-21 Gladys Disney	1945-47 Joyce Wenzel
1921-23 Alice Hofman	1947-50 Clair Wiskow
1923-26 Esther Schultz	1950-51 James Wood Jr.
1926-28 Hattie Klaprat	1951-57 Gladys E. Weber
1928-29 Ruth Nelson	1957-59 Antionette Damitz
1929-30 Bernice Buelow	1959-61 Eidell Sandberg
1930-31 Grayce Boyack	District No. 4 merged into District No.7

This school is now owned by Mrs. Roy Marceille.

Easton Center School Dist. No. 5

First school board-1911

Louis F. Gums-clerk
C.B. Zahrt-treasurer
Henry Geurink Sr.-Director
Total expense for year of 1911-12 was \$1870.59 which included the cost of building the school.

Teachers:

1911-13 Alice Gleason
1913-14 Meta Bendeditz
1914-15 Hattie Buss
1915-17 Esther Zimmermann
1917-18 Signoetta Vosbury
1918-19 Jean Hagaman
1919-20 Selma Kuhnart
1920-21 Elsie A. Klemp
1921-22 Mrs. Fred J. Schoepke
1922-24 Mary Mortenson
1924-25 Emma Ohm
1925-30 V.E. Fraedrick
1930-31 Marion Zochert
1931-34 Emma Derring
1934-38 Elmer Krueger
1938-42 Ethel Will
1942-44 Irene Ellingson
1944-49 Children transported to Dist. No's. 4 & 6 and to Birnamwood
1949-51 Mary Klug
Sept. 15-School building was wired for electricity
1951-52 Leo J. Chase & Mrs. Elsie Berford
1952-53 Mary Klug
1953-54 Mrs. Ella Prah
1954-55 Martin Brett
1955-57 Mrs. Ada Bigford
1957-60 Mrs. Twila Will
1960-61 Ethel Schwartzkopf

This school was purchased by Palmer Gums. He donated the school bell to Camp Luther at Three Lakes, Wis. The school property has been recently purchased by John Cline.

School District No. 6 (Barstow)

Beginning - (Building costs, etc.)

August 6, 1912 - For school land, \$50.00
August 19, 1912 - Part of school building, \$300.00
Sept. 18, 1912 - Part of school building \$320.00
Sept. 18, 1912 - For lumber \$486.68
Nov. 1, 1912 - Balance on building school \$93.20
Nov. 1, 1912 - Painting school, \$30.00; Chalk and ink, \$1.75
Nov. 4, 1912 - Paint and oil, \$33.87
Nov. 5, 1912 - Stove and pipe connections, \$61.35
March 11, 1913 - School furniture, \$87.30; School supplies, \$23.50;
Books, \$7.15
April 1, 1913 - Books \$63.90
Total --- \$1,497.35

School started in November, 1912 Teacher salary - \$335.00

Teachers:

1912-13 Ethel Stienke	1935-36 Mrs. Gertrude Fonerek & Henry Koppa
1913-15 Erna Zimmermann	1936-39 Henry Koppa
1915-17 Mate Hackbarth	1939-40 Vivian Thiele
1917-19 Ella Nutter	1940-41 Walter Franke
1919-20 Ruth Dorelinr	1941-42 Bernice Kamke
1920-21 Lillie Bloedel	1942-44 DeLoures Kutella
1921-24 Ruth Dorelinr	1944-45 Earlene L. France
1924-28 Gertrude Radant	1945-47 Dora Schilling
1928-29 Mrs. Hunzickle & Ruth Burmister	1947-49 Joyce Wenzel
1929-31 Ruth Burmister	1949-50 Marion Hummel
1931-34 Dorothy Konkell	1951-52 Children went to Birnamwood
1934-35 Gladys Gleason	

This school building is now the home of Terrance Schilling.

The bell from this school was purchased by Palmer Gums and donated to Camp Luther, Three Lakes, Wisconsin.

Forestville School District

Started school building Nov. 19, 1914

First school board of 1914:

K.J. Vanderkam - Clerk
R. Hettinga Sr. - Treasurer
Fred Marten - Director

Paid first teacher salary of \$41.58 on October 29, 1915.

Building also known for a time as the Marten School located on Partridge Road between Forestville and Thornapple Road.

Remodeled into two room State Graded School in 1930 and reverted again to a one room school in 1938.

Approximate cost of building the school in 1914 was \$1,021.25.

Teachers:

1915-18 Martin Bauman	1931-37 Joe Siebold & Irene Piette
1918-19 Elizabeth Mooney	1937-38 Norma Dittbrender & Helen Krubsack
1919-20 Maratha Luedtke	1938-42 Helen Krubsack
1920-21 Ruth Morrison	1942-44 Joyce Wenzel
1921-24 Jean Hagaman	1944-45 Betty Jane Beauchaine
1924-25 Madge Narron	1945-48 Mary Jane Zimmermann
1925-26 Lyda Madson & Bernice Cizek	1948-51 Gladys Weber
1926-27 Madge Nauta	1951-52 Mary Klug
1927-28 Maria Peterson	1952-54 Evelyn Budzinski
1928-29 Mrs. Preston & Madge Nauta	1955-57 Elaine Brodjeski
1929-30 John Matson	1957-61 Mary Klug
1930-31 Viola Fraedrick & William Raleigh	

This school is presently used as a summer home.

By the year 1915 eight grades of education in rural school houses was available for all Easton children, but few 8th grade graduates attained a high school education. Such schooling was considered inconvenient, unnecessary and far too costly. Some children, who earnestly desired a higher education, found places to work for room and board after school and on week-ends. This meant long periods away from home. With the coming of the automobile some parents allowed their children to drive the family vehicle to and from high school daily. This accomplished a dual purpose--education for the youth and chore help for the parent. Tuition was paid by the township to the school chosen by each student.

An attempt at providing high school education within the township was made in 1930. That year classes for high school sophomores were held in one room of the Forestville School. This venture was not successful and was discontinued after one year.

Bus transportation came to the township in 1940. Some of the Easton youth began commuting to Birnamwood High School in a bus which was owned and operated by Herman Clark, who lived in the Town of Norrie. This bus was a 1937 pick-up truck which had a home made wooden box with benches on each side for seating students. A fare of \$1.00 per student per week was charged. Meanwhile, high school students who lived in the northern area of the township boarded a commercial bus that made stops along highway 52 on its Antigo-Wausau route.

In 1949 the township began providing money for the purpose of transporting high school students. The division in high school attendance continued to exist with some students being transported to Wausau High School while others were transported to Birnamwood High School. When the D.C. Everest High School was built in 1953, a majority of Easton citizens preferred sending their children to this school. In 1962 the township became a part of the D.C. Everest Joint School District, and all Easton high school students attended D.C. Everest Senior High School except those Seniors who chose to complete classes at the schools they had attended previously.

In 1960 the five school districts consolidated and for the first time all elementary school children were transported by bus. In 1961 the construction of the Easton Elementary School was completed. It had 8 grades with Mrs. Gerald Klug as the principal. Easton children were given the opportunity to attend Kindergarten in 1962. This first Kindergarten class was transported to Hatley, but succeeding classes were conducted at Easton until 1972. In 1963 7th and 8th graders were transported to D.C. Everest Junior High School.

Today the Easton School provides classes for grades 3, 4 and 5 for 107 children from Easton, Hatley and Ringle. Since 1972 Easton children in Kindergarten, grades 1 and 2 have attended school in Hatley. Those in grades 6, 7, and 8 attend Everest Middle School in Schofield, and grades 9-12 attend Everest Senior High School.

EASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EASTON FACULTY 1961-1976

Principal-Teacher and/or Principal

Mary Klug 1961-1963
Gordon Whitmore 1963-1967
Donald R. Wendorf 1967-1970
Kenneth J. Bennett 1970-1976

Classroom Teachers

Marilyn Frisch - Fall 1961
Judith Fischer Brandt - Spring 1962-1963
Evelyn Frederick 1961-1976
Eidell Sandberg 1961-1976
Ethel Schwartzkopf 1961-1976
Pamela Zebrasky 1973-1976
Donald Rahne 1974-1976
Evelyn Budzynski 1963-1972

Art Instructors

Mary Selinske 1962-1964, George Alafouzios 1964-1970,
Timothy O'Connor 1970-fall 1974, Douglas Hansen - Spring 1975,
Pamela Wulk 1975-1976

Librarians

Evangeline Kleist 1962-1967, Dorothy Kimball 1967-1970,
Sally Darmody 1970-1975, Rebecca Harris 1975-1976

Music Instructors

Richard Troyer 1962-1963, David Grade 1963-1969 and 1975-1976,
M. Annette Booher 1969-1970, Marilyn Pabst 1970-1972,
Marcie Becker 1972-1975

Phys. Ed. Instructors

Gerald Meuret 1962-1963, Donald Dietzler 1963-1966, Douglas Furst
1966-1968, Mark Simon 1968-1975, John Solheim 1975-1976

String Music - Ronald McMahon 1972-1976

Guidance Counselor - Thomas Bosman 1974-1976

Reading Specialist - Marjorie Sogn 1975-1976

Speech - Language - Pat Lytwyn 1971-73 & 1974-76, Thomas Schoepf
1974-75 (other years served direct by Mar. Co.
Handicapped board)

Special Learning Disabilities - Mary Beth Scholl Kunzer 1974-1976

HISTORY OF THE JOHN KRUEGER FARM

The present farm of John E. Krueger consists of 120 acres of land in the town of Easton. These 120 acres may be divided into three parcels of land each of 40 acres, Lots 16, 17 and 20 in Section 18. Although now they are united as part of one farm, the three lots were not always considered together.

Originally, the land belonged to the United States and the Congress could decide how it was to be used. Thus, in 1859 the United States government granted title of Lots 16 and 20 to one William McIntosh. This was done in pursuance of an Act of Congress approved March 3, 1855, entitled "An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Lands to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States."

An earlier Act of Congress (April 24, 1820) provided for the sale of certain public lands. Under the provisions of this act the title to Lot 17 passed from the United States to one Francois Cholvin in the year 1858. This transaction as well as the grant previously described were recorded in the public records at Stevens Point, since Marathon County was not organized as a county and did not keep records until later in the 1860's.

Whether or not the individuals involved in these affairs actually saw or set foot on their land is doubtful. Neither of them seems to have been concerned about their hold on the land, since both McIntosh and Cholvin eventually lost their claim on this property when they failed to pay taxes thereon. In 1862, Lot 17 reverted to Marathon County; four years later in 1866 Lots 16 and 20 also reverted to Marathon County in a tax sale.

In 1874 the Marathon County Board of Supervisors signed an agreement with the Wisconsin Valley Rail Road Company pledging to give the company title to 200,000 acres of county land in return for 250 shares of stock in the railroad company. At the time, the Wisconsin Valley Rail Road Company was engaged in building a railroad line from Wood County, with stations at Knowlton, Mosinee and Wausau. On April 28, 1875, Lots 16 and 20 were deeded to the Wisconsin Valley Rail Road Company by Marathon County. The company, in turn, sold half-interest in these lands to a certain William F. Thompson of Detroit, Michigan, and Judson M. Smith of Wausau, Wisconsin. This last transaction occurred on September 11, 1875.

These two lots (16 and 20) both remained the property of these individuals until the year 1877. At that time, Judson M. Smith, acting under powers of attorney received from Mr. Thompson and the Wisconsin Valley Rail Road Company, sold Lot 20 to William J. Frederick (Wilhelm J. Fraedrich). The other parcel of land, Lot 16, remained the property of the railroad company, Mr. Smith, and the heirs of Mr. Thompson, until it was sold in 1884. In that year it was purchased by Mr. August Sporleder, who retained title to this forty acres of land for nine years. In 1893 the eastern parcel, Lot 16, was sold to Friedrich Ruenger, who then deeded it to William Detert in January of 1900. Little more than a year later it was sold to John F. Krueger on March 27, 1901. Sub-

sequently, this land has remained the possession of this family and has become known to members of the immediate family as "the east forty."

Lot 17 remained county land until the year 1868. Then, it passed to its new owners, Henry Maldener and Gustavus Werlich. They held the lot for five years, then sold it in 1873 to William J. Frederick (Wilhelm J. Fraedrich).

In 1890 Lots 17 and 20 were acquired by August Rick. On Dec. 16, 1891, the new owner of these lots became August Krueger, the grandfather of the present owner.

During the course of the transaction Attorney E.B. Lord described the premises as a farm with homestead and buildings located on Lot 17. According to the present owner, these buildings included a log home, barn, and other buildings which stood at the west end and on either side of the line between Lots 17 and 20.

While most of these old buildings have been replaced by later construction, the main part of the old log barn is still standing. The records thus indicate that this log barn, which was a part of the original homestead, is over 86 years old and may, indeed, be even older.

In November of 1904 August Krueger sold these two Lots (17 and 20) to his son John F. Krueger, who by that time was married and beginning to raise a family of his own. Actually, John F. had lived on and farmed this land for several years prior to this date; he had also acquired title to the additional "east forty" in 1901. This purchase brought the total farmland to 120 acres. These three lots have belonged to the Krueger family for 75 years, passing from John F. to John E. and Margaret Krueger in the 1940's.

THE KLUECKMANN HOMESTEAD

Wilhelm and Emelie Klueckmann came to the U.S.A. in 1873 from Posen, Germany on a sailing vessel over stormy seas. The trip took nearly three months.

Arriving here in early spring, they stayed for some time with people by the name of Spilldoor, who lived on a farm next to the one which was to be the Klueckmann homestead. The Spilldoor farm is now the David Zimmermann farm.

Here they worked for room and board by helping to clear land, Emelie helped shear sheep. Thus, they earned a cow, some chickens, and sheep. They also started to clear their own land.

Their first home that summer was built of fir trees--standing them side by side, with a roof made of smaller trees slanting downward. A fire was kept burning in a pit in front of the house day and night to keep the wild animals away. By late fall a small log house was built.

Each year more clearing was made. Logs were put on a pile and burned, because there was no way to get them to the mill or city. Finally there was enough clearing to plant potatoes. Hay and oats were raised for cow and oxen feed.

Later on a log barn was built. By some time in the 1880's a two part log house was built, which had a full basement. Later siding was put over the logs.

There were five living children: Herman, Ida, Anna, Robert, and Helena. Herman was killed in a logging accident at the Nutterville sawmill in the winter of 1886. He is buried in the St. John Cemetery.

Carl F. Kraemer, father of Emelie Klueckmann, also came from Germany a short time later and lived with the Klueckmanns for a while. He was a boot maker by trade, and also made wooden soled slippers with leather tops. Later on he lived with his son-in-law and daughter, Julius and Ottlie Mueller. Mr. Kraemer died on Dec. 10, 1878. He was the oldest member buried on the St. John Cemetery.

Wilhelm Klueckmann was a stone mason and made many foundations in the neighborhood. During the winter months he gathered elm twigs which he soaked, and split into narrow strips. From the strips he wove many baskets for potato picking, for knitting and for clothespins.

Wilhelm and Emelie often told of the old Indian trail coming down through the pasture from the north. It made a turn down by the clearing, went west through the creek and over the hill past the Spilldoor farm. This was the first road leading to the west. Emelie often told of friendly Indians bringing fresh venison. In return she gave them rice.

There was a logging camp across the creek (west) on the Drews farm and there was a nice spring for water. Logs were always floated down the Sandy Creek in spring.

In 1899 Robert Klueckmann took over the farm. During the early 1900's Wilhelm and Emelie built their own small, frame house next to the log and siding house. They lived in this frame house until they died. Emelie died in January 1931 and Wilhelm died in December, 1940.

The three farmers; Charles Drews, Robert Klueckmann and Albert Hintze farmed their farms side by side from boyhood until old age.

Robert and Bertha (Aschbrenner) Klueckmann had five children: Edward, Celia, Carrie, Mary and Olga. Robert moved a frame house from the Keinbaum farm, to the present site and had it bricked in 1914. The family moved into the brick house that fall.

Edward and Martha (Borchardt) Klueckmann took over the farm in 1943 after the death of Bertha Klueckmann in August of that year. Their son Gerald and his wife, Betty, are now on the farm with their children, Debra, Gerald II, and Jeffery, which makes the fourth generation on the same farm.

MUELLER HOMESTEAD

The Mueller homestead is over 100 years old. Government Lots 5 and 8, 80 acres, were granted to Julius Mueller by the United States on April 13, 1875.

On February 11, 1890, Julius Mueller purchased an additional Government Lot 7; and in 1898 he purchased Government Lots 17 and 18. Julius Mueller farmed this land until 1903 at which time he deeded the farm to Gustav Mueller, his son, who farmed it until 1943. In 1943, Gustav's son, Walter Mueller, rented the farm. He continued to rent the farm for 14 years until Gustav Mueller's death on April 11, 1957.

Walter Mueller farmed until his death on July 28, 1970. Then his wife, Dora, sold it to her daughter, Doreen Mueller Erbrecht, and her son-in-law, Kenneth Erbrecht. The Erbrecht's now operate the Mueller homestead.

MANNING HOMESTEAD

Daniel L. Manning, Sr.'s father, James, was born in Syracuse, New York in 1854. When James was four years old, he came to the Town of Easton (then Town of Wausau) with his father, Mitchell Manning.

Mitchell Manning had served in the Mexican War. The government didn't have money to pay the soldiers for serving; therefore, the soldiers were given payment in the form of land grants. Mitchell received a land grant from President Buchanan for the former William Schlei farm. He had intended to settle in the western United States; however, because of the Indians, they settled here. His brother, Dennis, had settled here a year earlier.

"The first farm settlement in the present town was made by Dennis Manning and his brother....."

"Dennis Manning and brother Mitchell each made a large farm..."
1:546

1. Marchette, Louis. History of Marathon County Wisconsin and Representative Citizens. Richmond Arnold Publishing Co. Chicago, Ill. 1913

DONALD & CAROL FALKOWSKI FARM

S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33

United States to John Slothower Oct. 1854

John Slothower & Mary Ann, his wife, to Alexander Young April, 1866

Alexander Young & Elizabeth, his wife to Milo Kelly, Wm. Kelly &

Nathaniel Kelly June, 1866

Wm. Kelly & Margareth, his wife & Nathan Kelly & Nellie, his wife, to David Gleason March, 1873. (First parties reserve the right of way through the above bargained premises a Winter road for the purpose of drawing logs.)

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33

United States to Silas Noble June, 1857

Salas Noble & Eunice, his wife to Rowland Swift Feb. 1860
Rowland Swift & Sarah, his wife, to David Gleason Nov. 1880

S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33

David Gleason to Otto W. Greibe Feb. 1912 (Land for the Eau Claire Cheese factory)

David Gleason to Roy Gleason 1927

Roy Gleason & wife, Helen, to Wisconsin Valley Electric Co. of Wausau Dec. 1931. (Land for the 1st sub-station on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 33)

Roy Gleason & Helen, his wife, to Alex Falkowski & Harriet, his wife June, 1945

Alex Falkowski & Harriet, his wife to Donald Falkowski & Carol, his wife June 1971

THE WARREN MUELLER FARM

(Lots 4, 9, 15, 16)

United States to Thomas C. Boardman on Nov. 6, 1856

(Thomas C. Boardman died Oct. 4, 1865)

Thomas C. Boardman to Julia S. Boardman, East Haddon State of Connecticut ; Nov. 28, 1876

(Lots 4, 9)

Julia S. Boardman to August & Louis Garske Feb. 15, 1877

Louis Garske to William Fick June 28, 1880

William Fick to Herman Mueller July 7, 1882

(Lots 15, 16)

Daniel Harding to William Harding March 26, 1887

George Silverton to Edward Borchardt April 1, 1890

Edward Borchardt to Herman Mueller Jan. 27, 1892

(Lots 21, 22)

United States to Louis Scheffer Sept. 30, 1856

Louis Scheffer to Charles A. Mather Sept. 19, 1857

Charles Mather to David Hawley of New York, Jan. 30, 1872

Lydia Hawley to Finlay McDonald Jan. 15, 1889

Finlay McDonald to George Silverthorn Jan. 19, 1891

George Silverthorn to Abraham Slimmer Feb. 1, 1892

Abraham Slimmer to Lamar Sexmith Aug. 16, 1899

Lamar Sexmith to Herman Mueller July 5, 1912

(Lots 4, 9, 15, 16, 21, 22)

Herman Mueller & Bertha Mueller with son Theodore Mueller June 20, 1919

Herman Mueller died March 11, 1935

Theodore Mueller died March 16, 1937; then farm went to Clara Mueller and children, Warren and Susan March 2, 1938

Susan Mueller to Warren Mueller Feb. 20, 1959

Clara Mueller Fraedrick to Warren Mueller Feb. 1964

THE MARVIN REIMES FARM

United States To Silas Noble June 1, 1857

United States to W. Culson Dec. 2, 1857
 Silas Noble to Rowland Swift July 1, 1857
 Rowland Swift to Lucino Barlein Nov. 8, 1858
 Clerk of Co. to Marathon County April 24, 1866
 Marathon County to Joe Lamere July 15, 1869
 Joe Lamere to Chas. P. Haseltine Oct. 1, 1885
 Chas. P. Haseltine to Joe Lamere March 11, 1886
 Joe Lamere (unmarried) to D. A. Dooley April 13, 1889
 D. A. Dooley to J.E. Garrey April 28, 1890
 J.E. Garrey to Joe Lamere May 15, 1890
 Joe Lamere to Tilla Thompson Feb. 14, 1891
 Mrs. Tilla Thompson to Joe Lamere July 16, 1892
 Joe Lamere (widower) to Louis Schoepke June 17, 1893
 Louis Schoepke to William Reimes Dec. 21, 1908
 William Reimes to Alfred Reimes April 15, 1952
 Alfred Reimes to son, Marvin Reimes Jan. 1970

THE WILBERT & LORRAINE ZAHRT FARM

The 80 acre plot on which the present buildings are located
 (the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15)

United States to Joseph Taggart Nov. 1858; to J. Tasker Nov. 1858
 Joseph Tasker & wife, Maria L. to Stephen Tasker Oct. 1860
 Stephen Tasker to Elizabeth Pennock Aug. 1877
 Thomas Mendenhall & wife, Elizabeth, formerly Elizabeth Pennock to
 Henry Crass, July. 1885
 Henry Crass & wife, Mary to B.J. Pink, July 1885
 Bernhard Pink to J.M. Smith 1887
 Judson Smith & wife Thirza to Wis. National Land Co. April 1892
 Wis. National Land Co. to Michel Zahrt, 1896
 Michel Zahrt & wife, Annie, to James Faster 1901
 James Faster & wife, Kathryne, to August Zahrt Jan. 1910

The north 80, east and joining the 80 with the buildings
 (N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15)

United States to Isaac Arnold Nov. 1856
 Isaac Arnold & wife, Maria, to David Gleason 1885
 David Gleason & wife, Katie, to Judson Smith 1886
 Judson Smith & wife, Thirza to Wis. National Land Co. 1892
 Wis. National Land Co. to Augusta Miller 1901
 Augusta Miller & Albert Miller, her husband, to Herman Marquardt, 1902
 Herman Marquardt & wife, Bertha, to James Faster 1903
 James Faster & wife, Kathryne, to J.P. Jager 1909
 John Jager & wife, Annie to August Zahrt in 1928
 Sometime between 1912 and 1918 the John Treu family lived on this
 80 acres.

The south 80, also joining the 80 with the buildings
 (S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15)

United States to Isaac Arnold 1856
 Isaac Arnold & wife, Maria, to David Gleason, 1885
 David Gleason & wife, Katie to Judson Smith 1886
 Judson Smith & wife, Thirza, to Wis. Valley Land Co. 1892
 Wis. Valley Land Co. to George Reinhardt, 1899
 Wis. Valley Land Co. to James A. Faster Dec. 1901

James Faster & wife, Kathryne, to J. P. Jager April 1909
John P. Jager & wife, Annie to August Zahrt 1928

In 1938, after the death of August Zahrt, the three 80's became the property of Bertha Zahrt, his wife.
Bertha Zahrt to Wilbert Zahrt June 25, 1959

80 acre plot ($N\frac{1}{2}$ of $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15)
United States to John Salser Nov. 1857 (Marathon Co. tax deed 18)
Marathon County to Wis. National Railroad Co. April 1875
Wis. National Railroad Co. to Wm Thompson & Judson Smith 1875
F.W. Thompson being the same person so named in will of Wm. Thompson (deceased) to J.M. Smith & C.J. Winton July 1885
Wis. National Railroad Co. to Judson Smith & C.J. Winton 1892
J.M. Smith & wife, Thirza, & C.J. Winton & wife, Helen, to Wis. National Land Co. April 1892
Wis. National Land Co. to J. Hammel Oct. 1895
Jacob Hammel & wife, Julia, to Marie Nelson, May 1896
Marie Nelson & Christ Nelson, her husband to James Faster 1909
James Faster & wife, Kathryn, to Louis Zahrt 1920
Erna Zahrt, widow of Louis Zahrt, to Wilbert & Lorraine Zahrt, husband & wife 1967

ONE FARM BECOMES TWO

United States to Benjamin Holbrook April, 1874
to Smith Ventres 1880
to Tyrus Ventres, to Geo. Silvertorn, to Moses Thiriston, to Willard Gilham & Jacob Paff 1887
to Baeham Buttu 1888
to F. Jaecks 1895
to Wm. Telzlaff 1906
to Fred Nauta 1915
to Henry Nauta Dec. 1931
to Theo. Hettinga 1945
to Henry Wilke Oct. 1955
to Steve Thorn March, 1972

In 1930 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 160 acres was sold to W. O. Nauta
W. O. Nauta to Donald Smiley 1955
Albert Vollrath July, 1974

THE DYKE FARM

George Worden to Joseph Ferguson 1898
Ferguson to Ferguson 1900
Joseph Ferguson to Wm Holbrook 1903
Holbrook to Dyke 1909. This parcel of land remains in the Dyke family, but it is no longer farmed.

80 acres, located south of Z.
F.B. Ventres to Mar. Land Co. 1898
Mar. Land Co. to Elizabeth Gassage 1901
Gassage to Henry Washburn 1901
Washburn to R. Schmidt 1903
R. Schmidt to John Veldhorst 1903
Veldhorst & Annie to John Grotenhuis 1927

Grotenhuis to Dyke 1927

Everett Dyke to Bennie & Irene Sliwicki 1962

Emory and Yates Sickler - Information contributed by Gladys and Carl Sickler

In the year 1861 Pat McCormick homesteaded 80 acres of land in what was once the Town of Weston (now Easton). Later he purchased an additional 40 acres from an officer who was paid in land. Many of the soldiers who had served in the Civil War were given land as their wages, and if they had no use for this land if they lived elsewhere, they sold it to local people. In the original tax receipt from 1861, the taxes amounted to \$11.66.

In 1884, this farm was sold to Emory Sickler, who had walked to this area from Dixon, Illinois at the age of 17 in 1852. He had gotten a job logging at Callon, with the Kelly Mill, and after some time, had married and had five children. His first wife died. Later, he remarried and had eleven more children. He and his family farmed this land in summer and worked in the woods during the winter. Many of the lumberjacks worked on the farm in the summer making hay, which they took to Kellys Mill for the horses and oxen which were used in the woods during the logging operations.

In 1911, Yates Sickler, eldest son of the second family, purchased this farm from his dad. In 1963, Yate's only son, Carl, took over the family farm. He and his sister, Gladys, presently reside there. Since 1963 Gladys Sickler purchased 80 acres of the Jim Barden property, which adjoins their land to the south, and Carl bought 40 acres west of the Bill Schoepke farm, for a total of 280 acres.

While Emory Sickler farmed, he also kept busy with a blacksmith shop near Kellys Mill, where he would shoe oxen. During one period, 400 oxen appeared to have shoes handmade and shod. Some of his sons were smithies, too, and they took turns working on the farm and in the shop.

Mr. Sickler was a very resourceful man. He built the first plow ever used around here. One of his sons built a water wheel which was used to create energy in the logging mills. They were handmade with a tapered spout, called a flume. Water came down this spout to the wheel and this enabled the wheel to move and create the energy. The dam made the water come down with a great force.

In 1894, the area began fencing land as the cattle were getting more numerous and going on to other neighbors' property. Some of the original barbed wire can still be found on this farm.

At the mill in Kelly where the Sicklers worked, barges were built 22 feet square and loaded with 2" lumber and floated down the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi River and on to St. Louis. The discards of slab lumber were tossed out and people used these to build their houses. The first home on the Sickler farm was built of this type of lumber.

The second wife of Emory Sickler (Wilhelmina) was so happy with her

location on the Eau Claire River that she sent a seven-page, foolscap letter to her many relatives and friends in Germany, extolling it's virtues. Before long, many of these relatives and friends were arriving by boat. They worked at the Kelly Mill, then settled on farms in the area. Some settled along the Eau Claire River, in what is now the Town of Ringle; and one of the relatives who came to Easton was August Kurth, grandfather of Alfred Kurth.

The present road where the Sicklers live is now blacktopped and called County Truck Q. Originally it branched off the River Road and ended abruptly in Myron Zahrt's field.

Emory Sickler had a most interesting claim to fame—he was a cousin to Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Today this enlarged, efficient, family farm is the result of the hard working descendants of Emory Sickler, who were so motivated because they were proud of their American heritage.

January 21, 1881 is the birthdate of Ida Dehnel, youngest child of Mr. & Mrs. August Goede, pioneer settlers. She recalls that it was all woods when her father came here and they worked very hard, pulling stumps by hand to clear the land.

In 1909 she married Gustav Dehnel, who was a carpenter, and they moved into an old farm house in the Town of Wausau.

After a day of helping on the farm she would spend the evening spinning or knitting. She used to knit stockings for other people, and would spin late into the night. Her spinning wheel was bought at Wagner's General Store in Wausau. Today it stands in her living room.

Bees are Ida's favorite project, and they give her a small "Claim to fame—she is Wisconsin's oldest beekeeper." She has kept bees since she was 10 years old, and since then her bees have produced thousands of pounds of honey.

Mr. Dehnel died in 1951. In 1960 Ida had a new home built in the Town of Easton across from the family farm. There she continues to keep busy keeping house, maintaining a garden, preserving fruits and vegetables, and caring for her bees. Her favorite hobby is fishing. For many years she has fished Muskellunge Lake, for bluegills and crappies.

She enjoys occasional outings, many of them to the St. John Lutheran Church where she was baptized, and has been a life-long member. Every year on her birthday she gives the church a gift—a dollar for every year of her life.

She has a reputation for not only being the "bee lady", but for being the oldest resident in the Town of Easton.

Alma Rick Block's family has lived in the Town of Easton for three generations. Her parents came from Germany. The homestead is

the farm on Z now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Merriam. Alma was born there on December 9, 1894.

She remembers Indians and Gypsies begging for bread. The Gypsies stayed along the Sandy River.

During 1904 there was a drought. There was a big brush fire on the Pagal farm, which is the present home of Alma and her son, Milton. The neighbors helped put the fire out.

A car was bought in 1912. It was a Reo. In the same year there was a depression.

In 1917 Alma married William Block. A new barn was raised on their farm. After it was raised a barn dance was held in it. It also served as a place for birthday parties.

George Weber was the neighborhood fiddler. He had a handle bar mustache. He lived on the Tower Road across from the Walter Mueller farm.

Alma remembers the sawmills at Nutterville and Lodholze's. August Radandt had a repair shop across from Bardens.

In 1939 they bought their first tractor. In 1945 they connected with the electric highline.

Selma Hackbart became a resident of the Town of Easton in 1919, when she became the wife of Arthur Beck. Often she would hear her father-in-law, Jacob Beck, and his brother, John Beck, discuss the years of their settlement in the Town of Easton. Evenings she would jot down the interesting recollections of these two men.

From these records we know that Jacob and John Beck came to this area from Filmore, Wisconsin in 1882. In 1883 the brothers purchased adjoining 40's. Another brother, William, arrived at a later date and purchased the land next to John's.

Jacob and John built a shanty, which was their home until they built log houses and log barns. All the land was heavily forested, so the two men proceeded to cut the timber to make clearings for crops. The pine logs were hauled with oxen to Burns saw mill. These logs were used for building purposes, while the remaining logs of maple, oak, and elm were put on piles and burned. Any necessary supplies were obtained by walking to Stevens Point. To obtain mail, the men walked to Nutterville, where there was a post office. Attending church services also involved walking to the church, Trinity, in the Town of Wausau.

Logging was the main occupation. A few cows were raised so the families had their own milk supply. Surplus milk was churned for butter.

Soon small patches of land were ready for planting. Hay and oats were grown among the stumps. The hay was cut with a scythe and gathered with a hand rake. The grain was cut with a cradle. Later a reaper

was used, but the grain still had to be tied by hand. Threshing was done with a flail.

The first threshing machine was used in 1900. It had a small straw carrier and was driven by horse power. In 1902 the steam engine replaced the horses, but was considered dangerous because the sparks caused fires, which destroyed some barns.

Crews traveled with the threshing machine, so the women of the household were responsible for providing room and board for these men. Preparations for threshing were made days before by butchering and baking.

In 1900 the Beck home, which is the present home of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Beck, was built. The barn was built in 1903.

Indians were always peaceful. Sometimes they would pass through selling baskets.

As more land was cleared, more cows were raised and it became necessary for the farmers to sell their milk. In 1900 Mr. John Gabbut organized the farmer's creamery. In 1912 the creamery became Star Cheese factory. Many area farmers marketed their milk there.

Among the memories of Mrs. Beck of her own life was a barn dance when she was an 8 year old girl. The occasion was the wedding of Ida Weber and Albert Conn. The dance was held in the barn now owned by Ralph Weber.

She also remembers butchering bees, which were held before Thanksgiving. The neighbors would help each other butcher geese and other poultry, so it could be sold for the Thanksgiving holiday. She also recalls that there were no lawns and the animals were allowed to run free in the yards.

Mail service for Arthur and Selma Beck was changed often. When they were first married, the address was Route #2, Wausau; and they had to get their mail from Klueckman's corner on Junction Road. The route was changed to Ringle, and then to the present Aniwa route.

Recreation was provided through church activities and the annual Sunrise School Christmas programs and picnics. Sometimes families would travel on hay wagons to the Eau Claire Dells for picnics. Another source of recreation and social activity was the Badger Homemaker's Club, which Mrs. Beck helped to organize in 1926.

During depression days, Mrs. Beck made clothing for her three children; Margaret, Milton, and Gretchen, from feed sacks and flour sacks. Her oldest daughter received her first coat from a store when she started high school.

During the 1930's, there was a milk strike. Certain groups prevented farmers from hauling milk to the factories, and were also very suspicious about anyone concealing milk in a vehicle, so they adopted a procedure of inspecting all cars. At this time, it was necessary for Mrs. Beck to have surgery. On the way to the Wausau hospital, the car

was stopped and inspected. The men also wanted to inspect her suitcase, until Arthur informed them that he was merely taking his wife to the hospital, and she would not have any milk in her suitcase.

Adding to the tedious chore of hand washing, was the shortage of water. In the winter-time, snow was melted so there would be an ample supply of water. The first running water came from a barn type faucet in the pantry. Mrs. Beck was one of the first women in the area to have a washing machine. She recalls that this machine was not readily accepted in the neighborhood, because it was the general opinion that it wore out the clothes.

Driving a car became one of her skills through necessity. After an office call, Arthur was ordered by the doctor to go to the hospital for an appendectomy. Arthur told Selma she would have to drive home, so he took her to Wausau Avenue, put the car in second, and told her she should steer it just like a team of horses. She managed to drive home on the dirt road without a mishap, and still drives her own car today.

World War II brought many anxious moments to the Beck family. Margaret's husband, Albert Zimmerman was with the Army in Germany, and was wounded in action.

In 1962 Selma and Arthur moved to Wausau. Arthur passed away in 1970.

By 1982, the Beck farm will become "a century farm", having passed from Jacob Beck to Arthur Beck to Milton Beck.

Walter Mortenson—Born May 27, 1897 in the Town of Easton—son of Louis and Emma (Laffin) Mortenson. Louis came to the U.S.A. in 1880 from Denmark and settled in the Town of Easton in 1882.

Walter started working in the woods at the age of 14 or 15. One of the first jobs he had was "icing" the logging roads at night. A rectangular, wooden, water tank was fitted onto a sleigh which could be pulled from either end. This way, the sleigh need not be turned around. The team of horses were simply hitched to the desired end. There were plugs in the bottom of the tank situated over the road ruts and over the center of the road. When the plugs were pulled, the water "sprayed" over the ruts. The center, where the horses walked, was not always sprayed. This "icing" made it easier for the horses to haul large loads of logs. The horses hauling loads of logs over these "iced" roads were shod "very sharp"—The shoes had needle-like projections.

Many "Finlanders" helped build the early logging roads. The timber along the planned route was hand cut and cleared and the earth smoothed out somewhat with hand hoes. Swampy areas had to be "packed" until frozen.

Logging in this area was done only in the winter time and a team of two horses would haul loads of 5000-6000 feet of timber.

In 1912, Walter remembers having helped to log off nine forties in

the Town of Hewitt. Loggers were very wasteful in those days. Anything that couldn't be cut into two twelve foot lengths was cut into one sixteen foot length and the rest left to rot. Much beautiful timber was just left to rot.

Hardwood---maple, birch, or hemlock might be cut for railroad ties. Up "North", cedar would be cut for ties.

Near the present dam at the Eau Claire Dells Park, Walter helped cut down an elm tree which yielded 1300 feet of lumber from one log.

The cutting of logs was done with a two-man crosscut saw and with hand axes.

Most of the pine, which had been logged off in the 1860's and 70's had been cut with hand axes. This was before the time of hand saws which had "rakers". The "raker" is a device on the saw which brings out the sawdust so that it doesn't "clog up" the cut.

Two horses were usually used as a team to "skid" the logs to a loading area. Tongs and a chain were hooked to the log to pull it out of the woods.

Logs were loaded onto a sleigh using a single chain. The chain was passed under a log to be loaded and pulled over the top of the log to the opposite side of the sleigh. The chain would be hooked to a team of horses and they would pull the log up two sturdy poles which acted as a ramp to the sleigh.

A "log jammer" might also be used to hoist logs onto a load. This was a clock and tackle type of outfit which would lift logs, by use of horse power, onto a load.

There were many forest fires---"Much of northern Wisconsin had been burned over". Some fires were caused by lightning, some by carelessness, and some, it was rumored deliberately. If work was "slow", someone might set a fire in order to earn money as a "fire-fighter".

It was remembered that a fire North of Antigo burned "some of the most beautiful timber I'd ever seen". The heat of that fire was so intense that in this particular area, the timber never regrew.

Logging camps usually consisted of a cook shanty, bunkhouse, office, blacksmith shop, and horse barn.

The cook might be either a man or woman. There might be one or two cook's helpers, depending upon the size of the logging crew. There were usually 30-40 men in a crew.

The food was "good and plentiful". A meal might consist of potatoes, meat, beans, cake, pie, donuts, ginger snaps, and prunes. Each day there was a different kind of pie. The pies were made from dried fruit---raisin, prune, lemon, and apple. Mincemeat for pies was purchased by the barrel. Generally on Sunday, there would be roast pork for dinner, but this, like now, depended upon the price of pork.

The men worked from 5 a.m. to whenever done---the last man in might get done by 9 p.m. The work was hard, but---"We lived good". If

there was not work that needed to be done, the men usually had Sundays off.

Logging was a cold and often wet job and the men dressed in woolen clothing which tended to shed the wetness better. Long johns, pants, shorts, jackets, hats, socks were all made of wool. The leather mittens (choppers) had hand knitted wool liners. A rubber shoe with leather top was often worn.

The bunkhouse was a long, rather low, log building. Wooden bunks were built along the sides and in the center was a big, barrel-type stove.

The "Bull Cook" (assistant cook) carried in wood for the stove. He also kept a big can of water on the stove. The can had a faucet and this was the source of hot water for washing and shaving. Shaving was done on Sunday or in some cases not done all winter. I was assured that it was safe to say that no baths were taken all winter. The feet might get washed occasionally.

The bunks were filled with straw and a blanket was thrown over the straw. To ward off body lice, it was a good idea to use a horse blanket over the straw. "Human lice don't bother horses and the smell on the blanket kept them out of the bed."

The eating was done in the cook shanty. Some cooks wouldn't allow any talking at the table. The men were supposed to eat and get out as quickly as possible.

Table-ware consisted of tin dishes and cups and steel forks and knives with wooden handles.

There were surprisingly few injuries among the lumberjacks. It's remembered that one man broke a leg when he miscalculated and a tree fell on him. There were usually a few cuts, but "these men were well-trained lumberjacks".

Employers Insurance of Wausau got started by insuring loggers. To insure a logger, it cost the employer \$9.00 for every \$100.00 he paid out.

Sometimes diphtheria would hit the camps. Walter's Dad came home from one of the logging camps wearing a "bear fur" coat. When he got home, he threw the coat over his daughter who was sleeping on the couch. In a few days, she "came down with diphtheria" and died. It was felt that he had brought the disease home on that coat from the logging camp.

Many of the loggers had farms and after the winter stint in the logging camp, would return to their farms.

Barn Raising: A carpenter would "frame out" the barn and the crew of friends and neighbors would help raise the rafters.

Threshing: The grain was cut with a binder, tied into bundles, and sometimes had to be hauled under cover until the threshing machine arrived.

If a farmer wished to sell baled hay to the lumber companies or to the feed stores, he might hire a stationery baler to come to the farm and bale hay for him.

During the depression of the 30's, milk sold for \$.60 100 lbs. at the cheese factory. Calves sold for 2-3¢ per lb. Walter remembers buying a cow due to freshen for \$12.50— "was a real good cow too".

Indians would usually pass through the area on their way north and again on the way south. They often would trade baskets for salt pork.

Gypsies occasionally went through. They were usually eager to trade horses. "Chickens would often be missing after gypsies went through". One story claimed that the gypsies would throw out fishing lines baited with corn and make off with the chickens before the owner missed them.

The CCC started in 1939 and "did a lot of good". They replanted many trees, built wind breaks, and cut out dead trees.

Ex-servicemen and young boys, unmarried and between the ages of 17-23, could join the CCC. They received \$20.00 monthly, plus their clothes and room and board.

Walter remembers working for the WPA—hauling gravel and picking stone in below zero weather to earn a limit of \$110 before being layed off to give someone else a chance to earn some money.

Electricity came to the area in about 1937. Telephone service came about 1912 from Aniwa. There were about - twelve parties on a line.

Blacksmiths: Pete Mathisen had a blacksmith shop on River Road at Echo Corners. A Mr. Rollenhagen had one at Sunset—across from St. John's Church.

Mrs. Herbert Zimmerman (Esther)
76 years
Born November 13, 1898 in Hewitt
Father: Albert Boettcher

Both Herbert's folks were born in Germany. They came to this country in 1851 and 1865 respectively. They were married in Hartford in 1876. On October 11, 1883, they came to the town of Easton. They purchased a 200 acre farm from John Spidle. They had 14 children, 12 of whom grew up.

At this time the Oklahoma Territory had opened and covered wagons were still pushing westward. The Zimmerman farm consisted of clearing, timber, horses, good barns, and a large log house.

America suffered an economic depression in 1893.

Player pianos appeared in the 1900's and movies called flickers were spreading throughout most cities and towns. They were shown at "Nickelodeons", so named because of the five cent cost of admission.

Ballrooms were on the rise. Proper etiquette required a distance of two inches between the lady and her escort. Haircuts cost 25¢.

Herbert attended Marathon County Agricultural and Training School for one year. At 19, he took a "Short Course" at Madison. In 1916, he purchased the farm from his father. He also purchased his first car, a Ford, manufactured by Henry Ford Company. It went 20 miles per hour.

During the 1914 World War I, the family had black bread—only as much white flour as black flour could be bought. They wore hobble skirts and high button shoes.

Herbert and Esther were married September 18, 1918 at St. John Lutheran Church, of which she is still a member. Esther wore white and the bridesmaids wore green, yellow and pink. The wedding was at the Boettcher home farm.

In 1919, they purchased a mechanical milker (Emperor); this made farm chores a little easier.

Esther said they felt the depression and drought in the 1930's. Herbert would go to the Farmers Store at Third and Forest Street, and get scraps for the pigs. She said the children would go through this, finding things to eat.

Threshing days were long and busy. They would prepare five meals a day for fourteen to sixteen men. Some would stay overnight.

Esther stated they didn't go away as much as we do now. They went to church once a week and a dance once a month. This was their entertainment.

They purchased their first battery radio in 1935—a 6 volt. The farm was wired for electricity in about 1937. In 1942, their son Harold went into service, and died through a swimming accident in 1954.

In 1945, they purchased the adjoining Schlei farm. Bert & Esther moved onto this farm in 1952, and sold the present farm to David.

In 1955 they acquired their first T.V. set.

Esther joined St. John Ladies Aid in 1949, and remains an active member. She moved to Wausau in 1974.

Ida Traeger was born in Milwaukee, Wi., March 13, 1884. In 1886 she came to an 80 acre tract of land in the Town of Easton with her parents Mr. & Mrs. Herman F. Traeger. Harold Wenzel now lives on this farm.

When she was a girl, her father and brothers hauled logs to the John Lodholz sawmill for lumber to build the house and barns. Charlie Schroeder built the Traeger barn.

During the flu epidemic her brother, Herman, became very ill. A neighbor, Henry Kemp, walked to Wausau and got some medicine from Dr. Sauerhering. It was very strong. A drop was spilled on the

tablecloth and it ate a hole right through; however; it did make Herman well.

July 10, 1906 Ida married Charles E. Bessert in St. John Lutheran Church. People traveled to the church by horse and buggy. Rev. Martin Buerger officiated at the ceremony. A wedding dance was held in the barn.

They started their married life on the Bessert farm. Arnold Drews lives on this farm today. Charles Bessert was town chairman for 14 years, served two years as school clerk for Dist. 7 (Sunset School) and was trustee for Mount View Sanatorium for two years. In 1927 they moved to Wausau. Charles passed away December, 1930.

In June 1912 very heavy rains washed out the bridges. There was a large forest fire that burned for days, especially the pine trees.

The haying and grain harvesting were done by hand. Later binders drawn by horses were used. Grain was hauled into the barns, and threshed there by threshing machines run by steam engines. Water tanks moved from farm to farm. The men who ran the machines would stay overnight.

Fences were made of rails.

Ida has three children: Irene Schultz, with whom she lives; Mabel; and a son, Norman, who lives in Appleton.

In the late eighteen seventies, John Berg was married in Norway. A year or so later Gust was born and after another two years the union was blessed again with a girl named Pauline.

America was calling many Norwegians at this time and John Berg was a man determined to make a good living for his growing family in America. In or about 1882, he arrived in Wisconsin.

Through mutual acquaintance John found employment in Downsville as a planer. He spent five years working in Downsville and a few other mill towns around Downsville. During these years the family increased through the birth of Hannah, Anton, Alms, Minah and John.

About 1887, the Berg family moved to the area now known as the Town of Easton. John helped organize the Norwegian Saw Mill on the River Road near the original Mortenson homestead.

At this time Mrs. Hannah Berg had a sister who lived on a farm on the present Emery Thorpe farm. The Bergs visited her, and met other friends from Norway.

John Peterson Berg bought eighty acres, the East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$, in 1892 from Judson Smith and Charles Winton.

The Berg family built a log home, a log barn, a wood shed and a summer kitchen. They had the usual farm stock; cows, pigs and chickens. The Bergs also had a big garden where flowers and vegetables abounded.

Around 1891, the Berg family was blessed with another girl, Jenny.

John was a "man of many trades." John worked at the local Norwegian Saw Mill as a planer, sawyer, and machinist. He also helped to organize and build the first church and school in the area. The original church still stands with a few additions. John was also the neighborhood butcher and veterinarian.

This was the day of logging with prime logs, mostly White Pine and hard woods ready for harvest. Besides the Norwegian Saw Mill on the River Road there was also a saw mill at Hogarty and another one close to the present Harold Jensema home. There was a blacksmith shop at Hogarty and a general store.

Mrs. Johnson was the first Postmaster of the area. She operated the post office from the General Store that was a part of her home. She was also a very dependable, capable mid-wife of the region.

The northwest corner of Echo Road and Eau Claire River Road was the site of a cheese factory where local dairy farmers brought their milk. Later, Anton Berg bought the building and made a cabinet shop out of it.

On the northeast corner of Echo and Eau Claire River Road, there was a large General Store, which included feed, groceries and sundries. Later Albert Larson bought this building and used it for a wood-working shop. The second floor was the living quarters.

Harold Huseby and Anton Berg worked as partners, building and operating a lath mill south of the present Swendsen mill. Later years, Anton Berg made shingles in his carpenter shop.

Harold Huseby, who lived on the property of Pauline Anderson, now George Bergerson's property, made baseball bats.

The early days of this territory were famous for the logging operations on and near the Eau Claire River. At Hogarty there was a large logging camp where many of the loggers found lodging during a log drive. The lumberjacks cut down logs during the winter and stock-piled them on or near the river banks. When spring came, the loggers released these piles of logs which rolled and crashed into the river from the north. Swampers would guide logs through skidways and down to the river. Polemen or pikemen would ride the logs down the river guiding them, breaking log jams, and at times dynamiting bad jams. At the Eau Claire Dells, there was a dam with gates which permitted flow of water carrying logs through a slew and back into the river.

Logging provided a prosperous livelihood both through jobs and the fair selling price of logs, off large and small holdings of the area.

Logging, saw mills and growing agricultural community in the area prompted a railroad company to build a railroad through this area with a spur to the Norwegian Saw Mill, Kalinke and other local mills. The rail line went across the southwest corner of Berg's eighty. The line crew set up camp in a field north of Berg's house. They slept in large tents and ate their meals at Berg's.

On the Berg farm there was a bull named Dick, who was pastured next to the line crew camp. Late one night a drunken crewman, on his return to camp, thought it would be sport to tease the bull a bit. After the drunk waved a red bandana and used rough language on the bull, Dick, the bull finally started chasing him. The drunk quickly retreated to the camp. The crewmen were awakened by this time and wanted no part of this sport, so they fled to Berg's house. The Berg family was awakened by the commotion and had a good laugh when they learned that Dick, the tame bull, had frightened those big, strong, railroad men to the safety of their house.

Gust Block-90 years old-born May 2, 1885 in Germany. The Block family came from Germany when Gust was three years old on a ship. It took three weeks. They landed in New York, took a train to Wausau and from there took horses to Easton.

They cleared 80 acres with horses. Logs were hauled to John Lodholz's saw mill along N and to the Weber farm saw mill on Tower Road across from Walter Mueller farm.

Gust said bears and wolves didn't bother them. The wolves came within 10 feet and he'd ask them what they wanted and they'd run away.

He can remember when labor was \$4.00 per day for a man and a team of horses, and when corn was 40¢ per 100 pounds. They hauled their milk to Sunset Cheese Factory with horses.

Gust Block and Gust Parsch were two leaders in building St. John Church. He can remember getting a mason from Bevent. The help was all donated.

In 1921, Gust built his house, barn and shed. He spent \$900 for drilling the well.

They used a delco system for electricity. They had all their buildings wired for this. About 10 years later they put the high line through to N. All the neighbors had to sign. He sold the delco system and they installed electricity. Before this they carried a lantern from the house to the barn.

He bought his first car in 1917. It was a 4 cylinder Maxwell.

He remembers the barn dances. Anyone over 15 years old was sure to be there. The Blocks didn't have any when their barn was finished.

He went to the blacksmith, Herman Hahn, Town of Wausau. Later two brothers, Bill and Herman Roganhagen bought Sunset. One had a blacksmith shop, the other one had a bar.

He often went to Louis Gums' store.

Gust and Paul Block did neighborhood butchering.

He enjoys fishing and hunting. He remembers once while fishing on the lake, an older man beside them was splashing around beside his boat in

the water. Gust asked him if he was chasing the fish away. He said, "No, My wife fell in and I'm helping her out."

Theodore Hoppe, born Oct. 8, 1889 to August and Augustus Hoppe, who came from Germany and settled in the Town of Easton in 1888. Times were very hard in Germany.

They came to America because they did not wish to be poor tenant farmers. They hoped to find work in the city of Wausau. When they found none, they followed many others east of Wausau, bought some woodland and began to clear the land.

The first house was built of logs. The present house is on a different location. All of the work had to be done by hand, and the children helped as soon as they were big enough. Schooling for the children was limited to 6 or 7 months out of the year, and many of them concluded their formal education with completion of the 3rd grade. They had to walk through the woods to school, as there were no roads.

Ted remembers his first trip to Wausau at the age of 12. Only rarely were they taken to town, and then usually because there was a circus or fair to see.

The children helped to clear the land, to plant and to harvest the crops. Only the choicest logs could be sold because there was no market for anything but the best. It was not uncommon to burn large piles of logs, as this was a quicker way to dispose of them, than letting them rot. The fires would burn for days, as the logs were green.

Childhood memories included seeing the Indians, who were peaceful and friendly, coming in the fall of the year to gather the small evergreen branches that were then taken to Wausau and sold or traded to be used to make Christmas wreathes.

In 1912 Ted went out west to North Dakota to work in the wheat harvest. The ranchers called them "Hoboes" because they arrived by railroad and it was there that the ranchers came to hire them. The work day was from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The wheat was threshed with a steam threshing machine, which was fired by straw. Because Ted was the fireman, he had to arise at 4 a.m. because it took 2 hours of continuous firing to get the steam up to start the engine. Noon hour was only long enough to eat one's dinner. Enough money was earned out west to save some and to eventually purchase land for a start in farming.

Hunting and fishing provided both recreation and food for the table, "On one particularly good hunting trip in Plover, I found my wife Olga," Ted related. They married in 1914 and in 1921 purchased a farm just east of his childhood home. A willing and able wife was an invaluable asset to a man in those days, and Olga was all of that. She worked by his side at every task, whether it was sawing or skidding logs, breaking land, or milking the cows. Olga milked her first cow at the age of 5. Olga presented Ted with two daughters, Lorraine and Viola.

No wedding was complete without a shivaree. Neighbors and friends

surprised the bridal couple on their wedding night, and proceeded to surround the house and make as much noise as was possible, by pounding on anything made of metal; saws, kettles, bells, anything. A blast of dynamite was often the climaxing burst which brought the smiling groom forth to "pay off" the noisemakers. On one particular shivaree in Ted and Olga's memory, when the dynamite had been forgotten, the bride's father volunteered enough dynamite for a resounding blast. Windows were sometimes broken from the explosion.

Ted and Olga raised ginseng on their farm from the 1930's to the 1950's. It was a tedious and demanding procedure to build a wooden, slatted structure which housed this crop which demanded partial shade. It took 5 years to raise the first crop to harvest (ginseng seed takes $1\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. to germinate) and after that a crop was harvested each year. It was shipped to New York and then to the Far East where it was put to medicinal uses.

Electricity came to the farm in 1937. Olga remembers taking the lantern out to the barn that night in December as usual, and how both foolish and happy she felt when Ted turned on the lights.

They bought their first car in 1918, a Dodge touring car.

Ted recalls his Grandfather William Hoppe who immigrated to this country and lived with them when Ted was a boy. On one occasion when Grandfather had gone into the woods, he became lost, and was not found for three days. He was found alive and well, and able to walk home on his own two feet, although he was 83 years old.

Because he spent so much time in logging and working in the woods, Ted remembers the route of the railroad through the Town of Easton, from where it crossed Hy. 52 15 or 20 rods East of Stolze's Tavern (now Baumann's) going S.E. crossing Woodland Road just north of the bridge, following eastward and crossing Church road below Bethany Church. It continued on across the old Ellingson Farm and crossed the River Road north of the bridge where it followed across the John Mortenson farm where it crossed the river. There are still traces of the old railroad here and there. The Wright Lumber Company of Merrill owned the engine, and the cars were owned by the St. Paul Railway.

Good pure water was not always easy to find. Ted's family had to walk a mile down the road to the Mogensen farm, and carry water from their spring for use in the house.

During the First World War farm youth could get exemptions for the purpose of raising food for the troops. While many served in the army, many others stayed at home on the farm.

Karl and Anne Thorpe immigrated from Norway to Milwaukee in 1880. Karl worked for the Allis Chalmers Company for several years and was injured in an industrial accident. He decided to buy land and start farming. The Thorpes moved to the Town of Easton in April, 1889 and established a farm.

Karl and Anne had eight children who survived: Eliza, Mathilda,

Jennie, Helen, Antone, George, Oscar and Clara. Karl died at the age of 52, leaving Anne the task of raising the family and running the farm. She never remarried, but with the help of the older children, especially Antone, who took over the home farm, managed to survive the difficult days and years.

The daughters of Karl and Anne married. Some remained in the Town of Easton and some lived in Chicago. The three sons spent their entire lives in the Town of Easton. George and Oscar bought adjoining farms to Antone's.

Antone Thorpe, who was born October 26, 1895 provided the following information during an interview.

The Start:

The new settlers arriving in the 1880's and 90's came to heavily timbered land and had the advantage of being able to sell the timber for a beginning "nest egg". Those settlers arriving in later years came to land which had been cleared of timber by the many lumber companies. They still had all the stumps and roots with which to contend but no chance of selling timber for any financial help.

The Thorpes began their farm with 40 acres of heavy, timber land purchased from Jones and Gilbert Land Co. of Wausau. The price paid for a "good timber 40" was from \$200-\$250.

Clearing started by cutting, piling and burning brush and piling logs which would either be sold or burned the following year.

Rail and log fences were the permanent fences and piles of brush were often used as fences. As the farm expanded, the brush fences were simply burned.

The high land yielded rock elm, basswood, and hard maple, while hemlock predominated in the low land. The pine had been logged off in the 60's and 70's.

In the 1880's timber was hauled to the Eau Claire River to be floated to the saw mills--all logs except birch, which will not float. Some logs were sold to the Manser Lumber Co. of Kelly.

There were many early saw mills in the Town of Easton: Weber's, Bauer's, Westfall's, Norwegian Mill, Swendsen's, Zahrt's, Wenzel's, Miller's--as well as portable mills.

The price paid for hemlock on the Eau Claire in 1890 was \$2.50/1000.

During May and June, hemlock bark was peeled from logs and sold to tanneries. The bark was peeled by "ringing" a log at 4 foot intervals, splitting the bark open on the top and peeling it off with a tool called a "bark spud". The bark was straightened out to dry, leaned against the log, and later stacked into piles. It was sold to the tanneries by the cord. It is interesting to note that the "Bark Peelers" had 3/8 inch metal spikes on their shoes so they could walk on the peeled logs--peeled hemlock being notoriously smooth and slippery.

Barns: The early barns were made of logs. The cracks between the logs might have been "chinked" with mud, split "slivers" of wood, lime and sand plaster, or even cow dung. Oxen were usually used for rolling up logs. Skilled men were used for cutting the corners on the hand hewn logs.

In later years, when frame barns were built, 40 men were needed to "raise a barn." The neighbor women all pitched in to prepare meals for this crew.

Homes: The homes were mostly frame. The inside walls were of lathe plastered with clay and hair (from the tanneries) with a finish coat of lime and sand. The walls might have been white-washed or calcimined.

Water usually came from a hand dug well and was raised with a rope and bucket. The wells were usually dug at a spring area.

Almost every farm had a summer kitchen separate from the house. In the hot summer weather, all the cooking and eating was done here. The house was used only for sleeping.

Antone remembers his Dad shooting deer from the summer kitchen as they came to feed in the garden.

Families made their own soap. Lye was obtained by pouring water through wood ashes. Tallow and the lye were boiled in big iron kettles.

Butchering was done in the last days of November. Neighbors would get together and help each other make sausage. Hams and bacon were salted and smoked. In the early 1900's some women started to can meat.

The early cattle were Guernsey or mixed breed "scrubs". They were pastured in the woods and each cow had a bell around her neck, making it easier to find her when she was hidden by brush. The cows were fed only hay in the winter months and gave practically no milk.

Before creameries and the cream separator, milk was put into bowls for separating and skimming.

The butter was churned mostly with "stab churns". The butter was formed into rolls somewhat like a small loaf of bread. Some of it might be sold to grocery stores in Wausau. When a city lady came to the grocery store to buy butter, she was given a little wooden paddle with which to sample the different rolls of butter—supposedly choosing the most pleasing to her palate.

Some farm wives later had 1 lb. prints to mold their butter. This was a wooden box with a fancy design carved into the bottom. The butter was pressed into the box and when unmolded had a fancy design on the top.

In the 1890's the first milk plants in this area were creameries. These creameries were later converted to cheese factories. The first cheese factory at Easton Center was built by Fred Stubbe in about 1905.

In the 1900's there were five cheese factories in the Town of Easton: Sunset on J; Easton Center on Z near the present Town Hall; Echo at Echo Corners; Pine Grove on the River Road, and Eau Claire on the River Road. All are gone now, except the Sunset.

The early crops were raised between stumps. The land was "worked up" with a harrow which was hinged in the middle in order to make it easier to avoid stumps. The harrow was built in Wausau by a blacksmith who also built farm wagons and buggies.

The crops raised were potatoes, "baggies," millet, peas, and oats which was cradled by hand. Antone remembers helping Hans Nelson dig his potatoes and how beautiful and white they were. The newly cleared land was rich in humus and the first crops grew well.

In the 1890's families strived to raise all their food, buying only flour, sugar, salt, and pepper. The diet consisted of milk, milk by-products, fruits, vegetables, and the meat the family could butcher. All kinds of wild berries were picked for sauce and jam. The berries would be put into crocks and sugared as they were used. Winter apples were packed in the hay mow for a period of "mellowing". When freezing weather arrived, they were moved into the basement. Salted herring, sold by the keg, was also popular. Sometimes families couldn't afford to buy coffee so they made a "home brew" called "Pea Coffee". It was made by roasting barley and peas.

Early cook stoves were made of cast iron. They had a fire box without grates and the draft and ash tray were on the front.

About 1900 kitchen ranges came into use. They were built of sheet iron and had a full-size oven and a water reservoir. The back was built with ledges and a warming oven. Some brand names were: Majestic, Quick Meal, Kalamazoo, and Home Comfort. These stoves were sold by a salesman who had a stove with him on a wagon pulled by mules. If a farmer purchased a stove, it was just unloaded from the wagon and left there.

Kettles were made of cast iron and had three pegged legs on the bottom. Frying pans were also made of cast iron.

Many women spun wool for yarn used for knitting mittens, stockings, and quilt fillings.

The geese gave up their feathers for pillows.

One of the womens' jobs at harvest time was to tie the grain into bundles by using two lengths of grain for the tie.

In the late 1890's binders, mowers, and dump rakes came into use. About 1900 a Deering and McCormick mower sold for \$45.00 and a binder for \$125.00.

Machinery was generally sold by an agent who came to the farm with a horse and buggy. When a delivery was made, he came with a team and wagon and assembled the machinery on the farm.

Diseases: Diphtheria, measles, and whooping cough were common diseases. In cases of appendicitis, a doctor from Wausau might come to do the operation in the home. Someone would have to travel to Wausau to get the doctor. In the early years, it was very seldom that a doctor would come out to the country. A trip to town and back with a team and wagon would be an all day affair. One doctor Antone remembers was a Dr. Sauerhering.

Home Remedies: A sore throat might be "treated" and wrapped with a woolen rag saturated with heating fat and onions or with a dirty, sweaty sock. Alum was taken for a sore throat.

Stomach ache might be treated with a dose of "Watkin's Liniment".

A cough syrup was made of pine tar and honey.

A local woman usually served as the untrained mid-wife officiating at the home deliveries. Pre-natal care was non-existent.

In cases of death, there was always someone in the country who assumed the role of undertaker and dressed the body and "layed it out". Families made their own wooden box caskets. The body was kept at home for "viewing" and there would be worship service at the home followed by one at the church. Since there was no embalming, it is understandable that summer deaths were rapidly followed by burial.

Church: Bethany Lutheran Church was the center of the community. For many years it was served by a traveling minister, with lay people in charge of services and Sunday School at other times.

The church had a horse barn, opened to the south. People could just drive their teams and wagons into it and tie the horses while they attended services.

Church "socials", picnics, and the annual 4th of July celebration were times of socializing. On the 4th of July, every horse, buggy, bicycle, or baby carriage was decorated with flags and bunting.

The Christmas Program at church was a big day for the Sunday School youngsters. Antone remembers that one year the Christmas tree was placed on a platform that revolved when someone hidden behind the scenes provided "cranking" power.

The children were given a gift besides fruit and candy.

Entertainment: Home parties also provided entertainment. It was common to play games such as, "Last Couple Run Out", "Fruit-basket Upset", and "Hide and go seek".

Box Socials at the school house were welcome events. Girls would bring a lunch in a decorated box---the girls tried their best to make the fanciest, prettiest, or most clever decorations. The boys had to bid to buy the boxes and got to sit with the girl whose box they bought. If a couple were engaged, the jokesters in the audience would often bid up the price of his fiance's box so that he had to pay dearly to be able to sit with her.

School: In the late 1880's, a log school was built near the present Walter's farm and was called Sunrise School. It was later replaced by a frame building.

Each family had to buy the school books for their children. They were: An ABC book, four different grades of readers, a small and a large geography, a small and a large history, a spelling book, and a writing book. These books were handed down from child to child in a family.

Instead of writing paper, slates and slate pencils were used. The slate pencils were thin and wrapped with paper. They would write white on the black slate.

There were no exams or diplomas and a youngster finished school at about 14 years of age.

In the early days, teachers had one year of Normal School after leaving the country school. A teacher was usually 15 or 16 years old when she graduated from Normal School. She was usually responsible for cleaning the school and keeping the stove fired in the winter. The teacher would often board at the nearest farm house.

The school was heated by a wood stove and the "drinking fountain" was a pail and dipper.

Most schools had two entrances—one for the girls and one for the boys.

In the winter, dinner pails were piled around the stove to thaw out the lunches which had been frozen during the long walk to school.

Some youngsters had to walk long distances, but they would go in "gang" and this is remembered as a fun time.

All grades were together and during one term there were 72 children enrolled with one teacher.

School room punishment was common—hitting the hand with a ruler, twisting ears, standing in the corner, or a vigorous application of a thick stick on the posterior.

Spell downs and the picnic on the last day of school were big events. Arbor Day was also celebrated. The children had a half day off and spent that half day planting trees. It's not certain how many trees survived the planting, but the day is remembered as being fun.

Roads: In 1912 there were only dirt roads. Anyone having an early auto always had to carry chains because if it rained, the road quickly became muddy and rutty.

The main auto road between Wausau and Antigo was called the Smith Road. It followed the present Cty. Truck Z to the River Road. It was named after a Mr. Smith who was a pine logger.

Mail: The first post office in this area was established in the early

1890's. It was near the present Marvin Swendsen farm and a Mr. Severson was the postmaster.

About 1900, Pete Johnson's post office served the community. This was on the River Road near the present Gordon Mortenson farm.

The first rural delivery began in approximately 1907. This was daily horse and buggy delivery on Ringle, Route 1.

Elizabeth Hoffman was born August 19, 1887 in Pomerania, Germany. She and her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hoffman, traveled to the United States by ship. It took them 6 weeks. In May, 1889 they came to Wausau and lived on McIntosh Hill for one year. In 1891 they bought a farm in the Town of Easton which is now owned by Duane Steinke.

Elizabeth first attended a school located near Frank Scholz, and later attended a school by Sunset Cheese Factory. She walked to confirmation classes conducted by Rev. Martin Buerger at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Town of Wausau. On occasion she received a ride from John Wenzel to and from church.

On September 18, 1909 she was married to Charles Wenzel at St. John Lutheran Church by Rev. Martin Buerger. Their attendants were Hattie Hoffman Zahrt, Paul Hoffman, Emil Rick and Alma Rick Block.

In 1909 Charles Wenzel bought 80 acres of land from Carl Mundt. Charles lived there until he sold the farm to his son-in-law, Roland Schultz, who operates the farm today.

A little, red barn was built in 1917 and the house was built in 1929. Logs were hauled to the Paul Seymour mill at Nutterville to be sawed into lumber. All work was done by hand. There was a clearing to the north of the buildings and they could see the Charles Seymour home.

There were many Indians and sometimes they would camp in the clearing. They were friendly, but always wanted food and wanted to sell their baskets. Gypsies would camp overnight in the August Stark woods and would beg or steal food.

In June 1912 there were heavy rains that washed out all the bridges. People had difficulty getting home and cows had to swim across the streams. Planks were gathered to put across the streams so the horses with wagons could get across. Water was so high in places that after the water receded there was grass on the trees 8 feet above the root level.

On August 13, 1940 the barn was struck by lightning and burned. Another barn was built immediately. It took 5 weeks. Ed Buchkowski was the head carpenter and had 7 or 8 men working for him. Elizabeth cooked for the men and gave them lodging. The men would go home Saturday nights. The lumber was bought from the neighbors, but the timbers came for their own woods. Timbers were put in place with a wench pulled by horses. They bought some hay from August Stark. 300 bushels of oats burned so they had to buy that also. The cows

were milked in the machine shed and the milk sold to Star Cheese Factory. Eggs and butter were sold to W.W. Albers and at times they would give them clothes.

In 1929 or 1930 when Highway 52 was being built 6 men roomed and boarded with the Wenzels. 8 loaves of bread were baked every other day because lunch boxes had to be packed for the men.

In 1918 some family members had the flu. Elizabeth's brother, Paul, had smallpox.

The W.P.A. days weren't too bad. There were government jobs which made it possible to get a certain amount of feed. A minimum of 50 lbs. of rye flour could be exchanged for wheat flour. The drought was bad in the 30's--grasshoppers ate the oats. A carload of hay was bought for \$20.00. A lot of oatmeal and cornmeal bread was eaten. Wheat flour was very scarce. The first washing machine was purchased when the electricity came in about 1930.

Matt Holzem was the first man to do the threshing. He was succeeded by August and Wm. Rick. 5 men would stay overnight--machineman, spikers, engine man and the water carrier. There were 18 or 19 men for 2 meals. A lunch with a keg of beer was also provided. Usually a bottle of whiskey was furnished for the straw stacker. Oat bundles were kept in the barn. Later bundles were threshed directly from the field.

The Wenzels attended St. John Church but in 1913 went to Zion. The pastor was the Rev. Breem. They walked to church. Mission festivals were held in August Krueger's woods and later in the Manning woods. At these festivals there were big dinners and stands for selling ice cream, candy and pop.

Barn dances were held before the crops were put in. On July 4th there were picnics at the Eau Claire Dells with relatives, friends, and neighbors. Christmas and other programs were held in school. There were also school candy socials. The most enjoyable time was the picnic on the last day of school.

Elizabeth has a daughter, Leone Schultz. Her son, Elmer, died in July, 1945.

The Kraege family--information contributed by Mrs. Bertha Grosinske, only living child of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Kraege.

Mr. Carl Kraege was born in 1850 in Germany. His wife, the former Hermine Radtke was also born in Germany in 1855. With their two children, Emil and Hannah, they emigrated to America. They lived near New London, Wisconsin. Here six children were born: Theodore, Arnold, Bertha, Herman, Albert and Fred.

The family settled in the Town of Easton around the year 1895 in the fall. They built a log cabin in the woods, and cleared the land. Later a simple frame house was built by William Kneisel. This house

still remains. A bedroom was added, being built by Mrs. Kraege, as she was very skilled in carpentry. She later built a greenhouse and was very active in flower gardening.

The Kraege's provided for their own livelihood by raising cows, pigs, chickens, and horses. They also picked berries and available herbs. They walked to Ringle to sell and trade. Later they went to Wausau with horse and buggy.

No schools or churches were near enough to attend. No doctors were available.

The family had smallpox. One son died of T B at the age of 23, so three sons, Emil, Theodore, Albert, went west for their health. Then tragedy struck again. Albert ran a ferry boat at St. Point, Idaho. He was found murdered and chained to the boat, believed to have been the victim of bank robbers. The father, Carl, lost one eye from chopping wood.

Today Mrs. Fred Kraege resides on the homestead. Her husband, Fred, is remembered in the neighborhood for his love of trapping, hunting, and fishing. Two sons, Rudolph and Albert, also live in the Town of Easton.

Clara Schoepke Gums was born in Wausau, Feb. 14, 1889. In 1901, she moved with her parents Louie and Pauline Schoepke to the Town of Easton. The farm was then owned by a Frenchman named La Mere who was married to an Indian. The farm was on the Eau Claire River and is now owned by Marvin Reimes. The present barn and granary were on the farm, but Louie Schoepke built the house and put an addition on the barn. There was a wooden bridge across the river to the east which broke in the middle when the Kraege dog chased all the Schoepke cattle on the bridge. There was a great noise but none of the cattle were hurt. Five cows were trapped in the middle of the bridge and had to be pushed in the water.

Every spring and fall Indians who lived near Kelly would stay for weeks at a spot north and west of the bridge. The men hunted and fished and the women made baskets and cared for the children. There were no buildings and the Indians brought their own poles and covering for their teepees. Some of the women would go around the neighborhood and beg for bread, eggs, potatoes and milk. Later they would come and give a present. Clara recalls, "I often played with the girls who also had to care for the younger children. They never harmed us, they had many small horses."

"I went to school part time for about 4 years, but often was needed at home. It was considered all right to stay home and help after you were 14. Someone from the family went to town almost every week and usually something was taken along to sell, like eggs, potatoes, meat and wood."

"In the spring, logs were floated down the river and I was always very scared to see the men riding the logs and breaking up the log jams. This practice was discontinued a few years later, as they had a hard

time separating the logs at Callon, Kelly and Schofield to the owner. Every log had a mark on both ends which said who owned the logs. Later the men hauled the logs in the winter on sleighs to the mills. I had seven brothers and they all worked around the area on many different jobs, but I don't remember what wages they got. I do remember they could buy a new pair of overalls for 2 days work."

"We did a lot of visiting with friends and relatives. Many times Mother and Dad would take some of the family and leave Saturday afternoon and go west of Wausau to the Town of Maine and Berlin to visit and return late Sunday night. I liked that.

Young people had more fun together then, than they have now." "There were many parties and dances in the neighborhood. We usually went to Nutterville and Sunset. We walked and then danced all night. Many dances were held in the house, granary or barn. Everybody liked music and dancing."

"It was very hard for a young person to borrow money, but if you had clothes and food you were considered well-off. If you had a good reputation and were a hard worker you could borrow money. Security was not the main reason for getting a loan."

"I like to think back to the old days, but living is much better today," - concluded Mrs. Gums in this interview.

EXCERPTS FROM OTTO SCHOEPKE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

"In 1897, my dad bought a 120 acre farm 12 miles east of Wausau on the Eau Claire River from Joe LaMere, a Frenchman, whom they called Curly Joe. We had about 30 acres of clearing, the rest was forest and there was about 1000 acres of forest adjoining my dad's land. I thought that was a fine place, a river and lots of fish in it, wild animals, deer, partridges, skunks, wood chucks, squirrels, rabbits, wild cats, otters, muskrats, and black bear."

"One afternoon I saw some Indians coming up the road. I told my dad and he didn't seem to like it very much. He told us kids to go to the house and if they stopped, he would talk to them and see what they wanted. There were about 50 of them, some walking and some riding ponies. The Chief was riding up front and men with feathers in their hair, squaws and papooses following. They stopped all right; the Chief got off his horse, held out his hand and said, "How, me friend!" Then the Chief asked my dad where Curly Joe was. Joe had married an Indian squaw so dad explained to him that he had bought the farm from Curly Joe. The Chief asked my dad if they could camp by the river. He told him they could. The Chief made a grunting sound and they all got in line and started out for the river. Bill and I watched them from a distance. The men and boys got their little axes out, dad said the Indians called them tomahawks. They started to cut poles about 8 feet long and carried them to one place and the squaws picked them up and set them about 3 feet apart and leaned them all to the center and tied them together with strings made out of buckskin and then they covered them with tanned deer skin. It was in pieces and they tied it on. In no time they had it done. They crawled in their teepees. My

brother and I went fishing with 3 Indian boys. The squaws took the fish, cleaned them, but left the heads and scales on, put some salt on and hung them on a pole over the fire. That cooked them and smoked them the same time. The Indians knew about bar-be-cuing before the white man."

"When I was 20 years old in the spring and we were through logging, my dad said, "If you figure on farming, I will give you these 3 forties and you can start making yourself a farm." He said he would help me all he could, so I thought it over for awhile and I decided to start out. One day the foreman of the log drivers came to see me. He asked if I was trying to make a farm. I told him I was and he said, "I want to hire you to go on the log drive. I'll give you two dollars a day and board. You can start day after tomorrow. When we come by your dad's place, just join the gang." I packed my woolen shirts and pants and socks in the pack sack and I was ready to go."

"The foreman sent Billy Gleason and me down the river to watch the rapids for jam-ups and when and where there were no rapids, we took two logs, put them side by side, I stuck my peeve in his log and he stuck his peeve in my log. Then we would float down to the next rapids. We got down to where my folks lived. They called it the Curly Joe Rapids. Billy asked me if I was afraid to ride those rapids. I told him if he was game we would ride her. Well, we braced ourselves and into the rapids we went. She was pretty rough, but not very long. The water splashed in our faces and sometimes we were in the water up to our knees. When we were almost there, we hit a rock, but it didn't knock us off our log. There we parted, he went one way and I the other. Billy told me to hang on. I was doing just that. I could feel my hair shoving up my cap. The water was still choppy, but we started to paddle and we got together again. I said to Billy, "You look kind of white around the gills." He said, "You are not showing much red either." We went down the river another mile and this is where Billy's folks lived. His dad was surprised when he told him that the two of us rode the Curly Rapids. His dad said he had been on the river for ten years or more, but never heard of anyone riding the Curly Rapids and we should have known better.

Mr. Henry Suwyn Sr. was born Dec. 12, 1895 in Milwaukee, Wis. He came to the Town of Easton with his parents in 1903. He had four brothers and three sisters.

Henry and his brothers helped their dad cut down and burn trees to clear the land. About a carload of basswood bolts and 100 cords of cordwood were cut each year, hauled to Hatley, and shipped by rail from there.

At age 14 he had to work as a hired hand helping the neighbors.

From July 23, 1918 to June 1919 he served in the Army during World War I, where he saw action in France.

He was married on Oct. 12, 1920. The following 4 years Henry worked in a lumber yard in Kenosha. Then he returned to this area and worked as a hired hand for the area farmers.

Henry's father died in March, 1929. Two brothers were operating the farm with their mother. Things were not going well, so his mother asked him to come on the farm. In October of 1931 Henry started running the farm on a 50-50 basis.

The first 5 years on the farm were trying ones. Not only was the depression bad, but a drought that lasted for several years added to the discomfort. There was no drilled well on the farm, so during the winter months and the dry, summer months water for the cattle was hauled from the Plover River with a team of horses. Grasshoppers added to the existing problems. The Suwyns had to get bait from the county agent to take care of the pests. During these depression years, Henry worked on the WPA shoveling granite for the Town of Easton with John Mortenson as boss. In Jan. 1932 the car was put on blocks, because the Suwyns could no longer afford to run it. Groceries were obtained by riding to town with John Geurink, the milk hauler. The car remained on blocks until the spring of 1936. On June 1st, 1936 Henry purchased the farm.

In 1939 a well was drilled which was a big improvement. It was a good well, and to this day gives an abundant supply of fresh water. Electricity also came to the farm during this year. In 1940 a new water system and drinking cups were installed in the barn.

World War II brought great changes to this family farm. In 1942 the oldest son was drafted into the army. The second oldest son enlisted in Jan. 1943 and the youngest son was anxious to enter service, so Henry decided to have an auction on the personal property, in July, 1943.

The Suwyns moved to Los Angeles, California. For two years Henry worked in the Hollywood Sash & Door. In May, 1945 the couple returned to the farm.

The oldest son, Peter, returned from service in Oct. 1945, and remained on the farm helping with the farm work. On Jan. 1, 1952 Peter and his wife purchased the farm and operate the farm today.

In 1956 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Suwyn purchased 37 acres of land in the Town of Norrie. They are living there today. They are both active and Henry spends much of his time cutting wood for his customers.

Mrs. Louise Barden will observe her 92nd birthday in Sept. She was born in Hatley in 1884 and has lived her entire life in the local area. As a young girl she was employed in various households as a mother's helper and also recalls driving horses. Her maiden name was Louise Neuendank. She married William Barden on Oct. 10th, 1904. Their first home was a log house on what is now Sportsman Road at the Sickler farm. They set up housekeeping with a few kitchen necessities given them by Mr. Barden's mother. His mother also served as midwife at the birth of their 3 eldest children.

Louise Barden furnished the interior of their home with building paper and newspaper and later put on wallpaper. She also cared for a couple of cows from which she had milk and butter. At first the milk was poured in pans and set on the cupboard shelf for the cream to rise for skimming from which she then churned butter. Later she acquired a used separator.

Trips to Wausau took all day and it was usually midnight before they returned home, because the farm horses could not go very fast and were also very tired at the end of the trip.

Mr. Barden worked in the northern woods area for various lumber companies of that time. His skills were varied, for he served as a teamster and later as blacksmith, also on occasion as cook's helper or "cook-ee". He was away in winter, and could return home only on Saturday nights. Louise was alone with their small children most of the time.

Mr. Barden followed the tradition of his father, James Barden, who was one of the first woodsmen who came to the Eau Claire River area around 1840 from Canada. James married a Ryan girl from Stevens Point and later settled on a farm on Hwy Q near N. Parts of the buildings still remain. William was born there in 1877, one of 5 children. After some years Wm. and Louise moved to the elder Barden's homestead and farmed there for many years. They also lived for a time in the town of Ringle. Wm. had a tractor and furnished power for the local silo filling crew who went from farm to farm for a length of about 4 miles east along Hwy N, filling each farmer's silo in turn. The farm owners and their sons made up the crew.

Mrs. Barden still lives in a cozy, recently remodeled, home on Hwy N, which was a Barden retirement home, and where Wm. also passed his 90th year.

Their eldest son, Ross, is also deceased. The Bardens had 8 children and her daughter, Helen, shares Mrs. Bardens home. She continues to care for a flock of chickens and does her share of the housework, finding life now considerably easier than in the early 1900's.

The Rimmer Hettinga family came to the Town of Easton in 1905 from Nebraska, where they first settled after coming to the U.S. from Holland. The house they settled in, on the farm they purchased, had been used as a bunkhouse. Their nearest neighbors were the D.J. TePaskes, who had moved here from North Dakota.

The Hettinga daughters recall feeling very desolate in this unfamiliar, heavily wooded area, but their spirits were lifted when a neighbor came with a cow to lend, and loaves of freshly baked, raisin bread. There was not even a barn or a shed for the cow, and it had to be milked outside. Trees were cut to clear the land for farming, and the Hettingas also cleared farm plots for each of the 4 sons in the same area. Three of the Hettinga sons married three TePaske daughters.

Forest fires were a constant threat to the wooded property. In the year 1907 the Hettinga farm and neighboring properties were nearly devastated by fires which spread into the hemlock tops, causing them to explode and send forth firebrands which, in turn, started new fires.

Suddenly, a black cloud appeared, and rain poured from the skies. When the Hettingas looked out the window to watch the rainfall, they saw their pastor standing with head bowed in prayer. The tired, weary men who had been fighting these fires were now granted a respite from their

labors. That evening, the entire neighborhood gathered and gave thanks for the blessing of rain.

Wood and logs had little marked value and only the best could be sold. Others were stacked and burned when dry to clear the land around the buildings. The wood would be taken to Ringle to sell, but they would receive only credit, not money to be used to purchase things in the store. Whenever they would purchase any amount, no matter how much or how little, the credit always came out even. There was never any cash to take home.

Until the first church was built, the Hettingas and their neighbors worshipped in homes, and a small schoolhouse. Mrs. Hettinga was a charter member of the Dorcas Society of the Forestville church and its first secretary. Mr. Hettinga also served on the building committee and was the first treasurer of the former Forestville Dist. School.

Besides the Hettinga descendents that live in the Easton area, there are those that reside in nine other states and the Virgin Islands.

In December, 1908, the Henry Geurink and William Reimes families moved to the Town of Easton from Sheboygan county. The men had been here previously to negotiate the purchase of farm land. It is now owned by Floyd Geurink, youngest son of Henry; and by Marvin Reimes, grandson of William Reimes.

Since both had farmed in Sheboygan county, all personal property and cattle came with them in box cars, while family members traveled by passenger coach as far as Hatley. The horses were hitched to the wagons which were loaded, and the cattle were driven to their newly acquired neighboring farms. The story is told that Effie, wife of Henry, typical, tidy, Dutch housewife, insisted the house have a thorough cleaning before putting the household effects in place. It was late in the day when they arrived, and there was only time to clean a place to put the beds for the family of 7. The rest of the boxes and furnishings had to remain outside until morning. During the night several inches of fresh, wet snow fell, covering everything! Is it any wonder that the story concludes with the comment, "You should have heard mother!"

Henry Geurink had purchased 80 acres from H.W. Fraederick and 80 acres from Frank Ladwig. The 160 acres was located on the northeast corner of section 28, Town of Easton. The first owner of the farm land was Elias Mott in 1861, and several owners followed in succeeding years. The present double walled, brick home was built by John Kamp at about the turn of the century. His son, who was 12 at the time, recalled on a return visit, that he hauled all the bricks by wagon from the Ringle brick yard. There is a solid sheet of stone under the basement. The barn was also there, but was enlarged and remodeled at least twice in succeeding years. The log barn originally was used for horses and still stands today.

The nearest school for the Geurink children at that time was the Dewey school on the River Road. Later, Henry, along with other neighbors, was instrumental in having the mile of Tower Road built joining

Pleasant View with Hwy Q. Henry also helped to get the Easton Center school built. He served on the first school board and continued to serve on the school board for many years.

During the early years in the township, return visits were made to relatives in Sheboygan County, by train. Later, the trips were made by car, but it was necessary to stop overnight in some town on the way. Visits were made for several days, or even weeks with much preparation of ironing of the numerous petticoats, and ruffled dresses which were packed in trunks.

Henry Geurink owned one of the early cars, a truly deluxe 1919 Buick touring car, 7 passenger with folding jump seats between front and back. It was none too large for the 10 family members.

The Geurinks were charter members of the newly built Forestville Reformed Church, and were active in all its activities.

Two of the Geurink sons still remain on farms in the Town of Easton. Floyd lives on the home farm, and Hilbert, lives along the River Road. In addition there are many grandchildren also living in the area.

On November 14, 1905 Clarence Jensema arrived in the Town of Easton with his parents, Jacob and Jane Jensema, and his two brothers, John and Asa. This family of Dutch descent (Jacob was born in Holland in 1861) had moved from Sheboygan County to their new home, which is the farm presently owned by the Drumms on Highway 52. Clarence became a pupil at the Sunset School, which had two rooms and many children.

In March 1908 the Jensemases traded farms with the Ingersols. The Ingersol farm was located along the Eau Claire River Road. It is said that this move made Jane Jensema very happy, because she was closer to her Dutch friends. In the fall of that year, Jacob asked Clarence if he wanted to go to school. Of course the answer was in the negative and that ended Clarence's school days.

At this time there was a wooden bridge across the river, but most of the land east of the river was wilderness. The gold mine east of the river had been abandoned and had been filled with rock. It was a practice by a few people to set off charges of dynamite in the river and then gather the dead fish that floated at the top of the water.

The Jensemases raised hay, oats, and potatoes, and had some dairy cows. For a few years a creamery picked up the cream. Later the milk was hauled to Grimms (the present Frank Dulak farm). \$1.00 per hundred was paid for the milk. The Grimms had a vat in the north end of the house and made prize brick cheese from the milk. A 5 lb. brick of cheese could be purchased for 80¢. The Grimms tied Swiss bells to the necks of their pure bred cattle. It is said that these bells sent forth beautiful music throughout the neighborhood woodlands.

During the winter the men worked in the woods. Logs were dumped on the Eau Claire River ice, and went to the Manser saw mill in Kelley. Later kiln wood was shipped to the Ringle brick yard. The railroad which was located east of the river took logs to Merrill. The Wright

lumber company owned the land east of the river. Hemlock was cut and peeled in the summer. The bark was used for tanning. Indians would sometimes camp on the river flats. Later saw mills were on the flats.

Another activity that took place on the river during the winter was ice cutting. The ice was cut in large blocks and packed in saw dust. It was used throughout the year by Louis Gums for his store and by Walter Kluever who made home deliveries of milk in Wausau from his farm which is now the present Ronald Sieglaff residence on Z.

Mail was picked up at the Reimes corner, now the corner of Eau Claire River Road and Pleasant View Road. Pete Nelson was the mail carrier. During the summer he delivered the mail with a horse and buggy, and during the winter with a horse and sleigh. Later he used a motorcycle.

Barn dances were a popular form of recreation in the early 1900's. The dances were held before haying. If any new building was constructed, such as a granary, it too, was first used for dancing. At that time the circle two step was a popular dance. Many dances were held in the Jensema barn, now owned by Kenneth Fraaza, and the Fred Marquardt barn, now owned by Roger Geurink.

Other social activities included house parties, school Christmas programs, box socials, and shivarees. There was much visiting among neighbors and real concern for each others welfare. The neighbors not only visited, but they also worked together during barn raisings, threshing, silo filling, wood sawing and butchering.

Clarence recalls that in 1912 the rivers overflowed their banks causing severe flooding. His Uncle Henry Geurink went to Wausau and couldn't get home, because the Big Sandy River had flooded. He stayed at Sunset overnight. In the morning he took a different route home, but his wife had worried all night about his safety.

In 1917 Clarence bought a new Model T. It cost a little over \$300. During the winter it was put on blocks, because the roads were not plowed. However, early in the spring it was put in use. It had high wheels which enabled it to go through most of the mud and sink holes. Another spring hazard was wash-outs caused by water run off-- there were no ditches. As time went on the county plowed N so the car was driven on the river ice to N and then to Wausau. On the return trip the car was driven back up the river, but it had to be pulled up the hill to the farm. On one occasion the family was surprised when Clarence walked into the yard leading two cows. He had tried to haul the cows home in the truck via the river route; however, the ice did not hold that much weight and the truck broke through the ice.

Clarence married Alma Nienow in 1919. She was the daughter of Amelia Brandemuehl and Gottlieb Nienow. She was born and lived in the Town of Easton on a farm just south of the present Marvin Matthiae residence.

Among Alma's memories are her Grandmother Brandemuehl, who spun wool and did weaving. During the first World War her grandmother was required to have her finger prints taken because she had not secured citizenship papers. The government considered her an alien.

Alma attended the Ferris school which was located on N across from the present Elwood Christensen farm. When she was 13, she attended the new school called Easton Center. In the 8th grade she went to St. John School, also known as "the German School."

The school year was nine months, but many of the boys dropped out of school, because they were needed for work on the farms. Some boys started school late in the fall and left early in the spring. Their education extended over a longer period than eight years and so the boys were older by the time they received their diplomas.

Crocheting, knitting, and cooking were taught in the home. One of the teachers who boarded at the Nienow's, Esther Zimmermann, taught Alma the art of tatting.

In the summer of 1916 Alma decided to take sewing classes in Wausau. She boarded at her brother's home and worked for Alice and Mary Seefeldt, who had an upstairs apartment at the corner of 4th and Jackson Street. These two sisters sewed for a living. The girls in their classes did the hand basting and stitching.

In the fall of 1916 Alma went to Wilmette, Illinois and did housework for an upper class family for \$6.00 a week. The second year she received a raise to \$7.50 per week. She remembers that she had to spend almost an entire week's wages on a pair of shoes she purchased for \$7.00.

After she and Clarence were married they decided to attend the church on the River Road, because Clarence was unable to understand the German services which were held at St. John. The River Road church held services in the English language.

Hand washing on the scrub board was a laborious task; therefore, Alma's main desire was to have a washing machine, but she was determined that when she got one, it would be a machine with a motor—not one that had to have the agitator turned manually. When she went to the Fair in the summer of 1925, she saw such a machine on exhibit. It was a May Tag with a gas motor. She bought it.

To provide for more animals and larger crops an addition was built on the barn in 1926. For many years the drought made it difficult to fill the barn. There was no hay, because the new seeding did not get enough moisture to grow. The cows followed the men to the river and eagerly waited for branches to be chopped from the trees so they could devour the leaves. A feed called Vim was also fed to the animals. It looked like sawdust and cost \$3.00 per ton. To prevent grasshoppers from destroying the crops the township distributed poison. One night Charles Traeger's cows reached across the fence and ate some of the treated crop. The next morning he had several dead cows in the pasture.

In January, 1928 the Easton Center Homemakers Club was organized. Alma attended the first meeting which was held at the home of Mrs. Emil Wenzel, the present Dan Merriam farm. During the winter months the club members bundled themselves and their younger children in warm clothes and rode to club on horse drawn sleighs. They attended

regularly for the meetings provided them with social activities and education.

Medicine shows were held in a field across from the Louis Gums Store. There, under a tent, vaudeville acts would be given to attract a good sized audience of young and old. Then the showmen proceeded to give vent to well memorized jargon to promote the sale of their special tonics. For only 25¢ one could buy a bottle of tonic that would cure everything from baldness to rheumatism.

Jensemase built a new house in 1936. It had a wood furnace, which Clarence paid for by hauling wood to Wausau. The house was also wired for electricity, so in 1938 when the high line was constructed, it was a simple matter to hook on the line.

In 1950 Clarence and Alma moved to Wausau.

Today the farm land along the Eau Claire River is owned by their son, Harold Jensemase. The farm land west of the Eau Claire River Road is owned by Kenneth Fraaza.

The abstract shows that John Hogarty, a Civil War veteran, and Wm. Ackley were owners of this land in the mid 1800's.

August Hoppe was born on August 12, 1903, in the Town of Easton. He has lived in the Town of Easton all his life and still resides in the home in which he was born.

The Hoppe farm was bought by Mr. Hoppe's dad on December 3, 1888, from a William Stanton. August took over the farm from his father, August Sr., in 1927. In 1968, August retired and his son, Alfred, now operates the farm making the third generation on this farm.

In 1920, August worked for Wendorf & Wienkauf Lumber Company as a swamper. A Swamper limbed trees and cut out logging roads.

At barn raisings many neighbors got together and helped each other build barns. The Hoppe barn was built in 1910. After a barn was raised and before the barn was used for crops, it was initiated with a barn dance. 25¢ admission was charged to pay for the lunch, beer, and music.

At threshing time, neighbors also got together and helped each other. Seven or eight farmers worked at each other's place to get the grain in. Mr. Hoppe recalls as a boy listening for the steam whistle, two longs and one short. When hearing this, the kids of the neighborhood would run down the road to ride on the threshing machine as it went to the next farm.

The first car the Hoppe's owned was a 1917 open touring car. This car was bought from Clarence Jensemase in 1920 or 1921. It had side curtains and coil for each cylinder which gave no end of trouble when the coils got damp or wet. Before they were married, August and Lena and several other couples decided that they wanted to go to Wausau to a play at the Grand Theatre called "Mrs. Bixby" in which Mae Robeson

played. On the way home it started to pour and they couldn't make it up Wausau Avenue hill so they had to get out and push. One of the fellows then took out the coil and put it under his arm to dry it and kept it there an hour or so. This helped so they got the car started again. It went fine downhill, but they all had to get out and push the car up the hill. They did this all the way home from Wausau and stopped on the porch at 5:00 a.m. in the morning just as their parent's alarm clock went off. Their parents had no pity on them and they had to work all day without even a short nap.

Besides the barn dances, there were box socials to raise money for the local baseball team, called the Echo Wildcats and later, Echo Regulars. Mr. Hoppe played on this team. At one of the socials, Mr. Hoppe recalls that one of the local young men kept bidding on a box and after getting it open, found only a big fat sausage.

One of the highlights of Zion Lutheran Church, which Mr. Hoppe has attended all his life, were the mission festivals. They were held on the second Sunday in July in one of the member's woods. The organ was hauled to the woods and a worship service was held. After the service, they had a meal served by the ladies of the congregation. The Mission Festival was attended by several hundred people. In later years, this was held at the church. There were also horse barns at the church to hold the teams of the worshippers.

In 1935, Mr. Hoppe purchased his first tractor, a 1935 Fordson which had metal wheels and ran on kerosene.

In December, 1938, electricity was installed.

In the depression of the 1930's, cows sold for 1¢ a pound and eggs sold for 9¢ a dozen.

August married Lena Berntsox in 1925. Lena came from Norway with her parents in 1903. August and Lena raised three sons and have eight grandchildren.

Frank Marten was born in 1880. In 1907 he came to this area with his parents from Sheboygan County. His parents settled on a trail, now known as N. Their home was located just east of the present home of Mrs. Barden. Mr. Marten describes the area as, "trees were so thick—brush was in front of your face."

When he courted his wife, the former Minnie Hollander, he walked a distance of 8 to 9 miles to see her. She worked in Hatley at the time.

After they were married they rented a place to live for a year. Then he bought 40 acres of land for \$240—the present Paul Thompson farm. There was no road to the property, so during the winter months he hauled stone, lumber, and other building materials with horses and sleigh to build a frame house. After the house was built he was broke, so he worked as a carpenter. To get to his work he walked four miles through the woods to the Town of Plover. He also did some logging. "We cut down huge maples and hauled them to Ringle for \$5 a thousand."

The family was in an isolated area of the township. Their only neighbors were Otto Marten and the Kraeges. The areas to the north and east were wilderness. They had to walk to Ringle to get their mail. About once a month they would go to Wausau for supplies with horses and a wagon. In later years they went to Louis Gums' store. After a couple of years the road was extended to their home.

There was no well, so it was necessary to carry water in pails from the neighbors. Mrs. Marten used water from the creek for washing. Frank recalls, "She would be bent over the scrub board all day washing for our six children. She never complained."

At first the children had to walk to Ringle to school. Two or three years later Forestville School was built making the walk much shorter.

Frank Marten remarks, "We had fun, too. About every two weeks there would be a house party. The parties sometimes lasted all night. It was fun exchanging help for silo filling and threshing. We really got to know our neighbors."

After he got some cows he began hauling milk to the Eau Claire Cheese factory. He remarks, "Sometimes I didn't get back home until 10 a.m. because there would be so many other wagons ahead. Just had to wait my turn. The milk was sold for 60¢ a hundred."

If a doctor was needed, they would get one from Birnamwood. When his son, Frank, was 3 or 4 years old he had terrible pain and he then slept continuously. The doctor came and diagnosed the sickness as polio. The boy was given treatments in Wausau. During one sickness a nurse, Mrs. Bentley, came to the house for many days. When Frank asked her how much he owed her, she said, "You gave me my dinner everyday. That's my pay." The doctor had made several house calls. For that service he charged \$6.00. A hired girl was paid \$2 a week.

Frank recalls, "From 1929 to 1931 it was tough going., but we always managed to feed our family by raising a big garden, lots of potatoes, and a cow. During the drought years everything was so dry that the birch trees died."

Frank worked at Manitowac in the ship yards. He also lived in Antigo for a time.

In the 1940's he returned to the Town of Easton and bought the Paul Krueger farm, now owned by Cornelius Marten. By that time there were a total of 9 children in the Marten family. Frank farmed and in the spring made maple syrup in the woods along the Eau Claire River. One year he cooked about 80 gallons.

He and his wife moved to Schofield. They were married for 62 years and 4 months, when his wife passed away.

Mr. Marten lives alone in his Schofield home, but keeps busy by raising a big garden and chickens.

He is remembered in Easton as the man who "opened up" the eastern part of the township.

At the time of this interview Mr. Marten happily accepted an invitation to attend the Easton Bi-centennial celebration. We regret that he cannot be with us — his death occurred February 21, 1976.

Bertha Neuman Zahrt, born May 24, 1889, in the Town of Berlin, married in 1908 to August Zahrt, and moved to the Town of Easton in 1912. The Zahrts made their home on the farm presently owned by their son, Wilbert.

Bertha remembers gypsies coming to her home in the Town of Berlin and asking for food, and remembers the people complaining of things being stolen from them during the night.

Bertha and August were the parents of 9 children. The youngest, a girl, died at the age of $1\frac{1}{2}$ years.

They were members of St. John Church. The church picnics and mission festivals which were held in the woods, were big events for their family.

Their barn was built in 1917. The only dance held in this barn was the wedding dance of Louis and Erna Zahrt, Bertha's sister and August's brother.

The first car the Zahrts had was a 1919 Oakland, bought in 1920. The first tractor was a Fordson, one of the first models built by Ford, bought in the early 1930's.

She remembers some of the fires in the 1930's, which were the dry years.

Besides farming, they had a family owned sawmill with which they did custom sawing. In 1938, August met with an accident while working at the mill—a piece of lumber pierced his stomach. Gangrene set in, and a week later he died.

Bertha's son, Lawrence, was with the Occupation Troops in Japan in 1949, after World War II.

Today her son Wilbert still operates the sawmill and farm. Her sons, Lawrence and Milton, are co-owners of Zahrt Implement and Service in the Town of Easton. A daughter, Verna, Mrs. Walter Schlund, also resides in the township. Bertha Zahrt lives with her son, Wilbert, and his family and enjoys visits with her other children.

William Kalinke was born in the Town of Hewitt in 1898. He moved to the Town of Easton and farmed with his dad, Julius Kalinke in 1919.

Mr. Kalinke said the railroad came into the area in 1907. In 1908, a diphtheria epidemic spread through the country with many families losing two or three children, but the Kalinke family didn't get it. As a young man, Bill, as he is known to most people, worked for the Paul Schultz Logging Company; Wright Lumber Company; and Barker Stewart Lumber Company. Bill said that when the lumber companies came in around 1912, the Gypsies left this part of the country.

The Kalinke's had a team of oxen which Bill learned to drive. They worked better in the woods than horses because it wasn't necessary to have harnesses. Instead chains were hooked onto the wooden yoke on the oxens' necks. They sold their oxen in 1914 to the Barker Stewart Lumber Company.

Bill was in Wausau waiting at the station to leave for World War I when the armistice was signed, so he didn't have to enter the service.

Besides barn raisings and house parties, shivarees were given for newlyweds. A number of people got together and took saws, cowbells, and anything else that would make noise and carry them for miles to the Newlywed's place where they were staying and make all kinds of noise until they were given a dollar or more. Then the "shivaree-ers" would buy beer and have a party.

At one particular shivaree, Bill recalls walking through a woods. It started to rain. When the rain hit the glass globes on the lanterns, they broke, so on the way home they had no light. They got lost in the dark woods and circled a field several times before finding the pathway out. Two of the fellows didn't make it home until the next afternoon.

Bill remembers that when he was 17 years old there was a bad electrical storm and seven barns burned in one night.

Bill got his first car in 1915. It was a Ford with side curtains and a top that could be put down. Tires at that time were very expensive--from \$25 to \$28 a tire. They lasted only about 2,000 miles when driven on good roads. When the tire blew out or something else happened to it, the tire had to be replaced because it couldn't be patched. The car had to be cranked for starting and each coil made a different noise when starting.

Bill's first tractor was a 1924 Fordson which started quite easily, but a man he knew had a lot of trouble getting his tractor started. This man said he had his tractor for ten years and cranked it for 20 years.

During the depression, there was also a drought and Bill chopped down trees so the cows would have leaves to eat. He sold three of his best cows for \$15 a piece to pay the taxes.

Bill had a threshing machine with which he threshed neighbors' grain for 17 falls.

Mr. Kalinke served as town clerk for the Town of Easton for 24 years. During World War II, he was in charge of all the sugar and gas rationing stamps for a large area of Marathon County.

In 1935, Bill took over the family farm and in 1950, he retired. His son, George, continues farming on the same farm.

Bill and his wife raised a family of five children and upon retirement, moved to Wausau where they now live. At age 77, he still spends much of his time on the farm helping his son George.

Everett Dyke, born Dec. 25, 1884 and Minnie TeSelle Dyke, born Oct. 12, 1888. Information contributed by a daughter, Mrs. Edith Rastl, of Birnamwood.

After Mother and Dad were married in Sheboygan County, Dec. 17, 1909, they came to Wausau by train. I guess Dad left the team of horses in Wausau at a livery stable, which were the parking lots of that era. John Mortenson, a neighbor, had a cutter with a lively horse, so he offered to take Mother to her new home, a log house, which is still the same house that stands today. There was no heat or lights, except kerosene lamps. The woods was nearly to both corners of the property. Mother was a bride of one week, and this was quite a drastic change from the wealthy home where she had worked as a maid. She must have adapted to the new life on a small farm, as she lived there for over 36 years, until her death in 1946.

Our home was across the road from the Dewey School and many of the teachers boarded at our house, including some of their families. Margaret Ringstad taught in this school and her children James, about 4, and John nine months, all lived with us. How we loved the children, especially the baby, because my sister, Ethel, and I were the only ones in the family. Imagine, bringing strangers in to live as a member of the family! Mother didn't lock the door, as she said, "If you do that, then no one can bring you anything either." Many times we would find a bouquet of flowers, some berries that someone had picked, or perhaps bakery which was still warm.

Neighbors were always good and very helpful in times of need. Some of the neighbors were the Fred Nautas, Reinhardt Marquardts, Tesbergs and Andrew Karchers. Mrs. Nauta said when her husband, Fred, died, "Here came Mrs. Dyke walking, with a cake in one hand and the frosting in the other as the cake was still too warm to frost."

Dad had to make the wood---piles of logs, cord, and fire wood. When we needed a hired man, Dad would bring someone home from Wausau when he hauled cord wood on a horse drawn, logging sleigh. I'll never know how the horses pulled those loads down Franklin Hill as one didn't have brakes to apply as we do now. The wood was sold on Market Square.

My folks never had electricity. Mother cooked on a wood stove, carried water in and out, heated the irons on the stove---no wash and wear either, all starched clothes, boiled the whites in a copper wash boiler, plus canning and outside work.

There were no school buses. We went to high school in Wausau, and boarded at homes in town. We came home on the week-ends.

The cars Dad owned were a 1915 Ford, 1926 Ford sedan and a 1926 truck. I asked Dad why he didn't save some old coins, and he said he didn't even have money to buy stamps. Postal cards were a penny and letters were 2 cents.

Otto Kalinke was born on November 28, 1895 in the Town of Hewitt and moved to the Town of Easton in 1931. His father, Gottlier Kalinke, was granted a homestead in 1882 by Chester Arthur, President of the

United States. This homestead is still in the Kalinke family. Otto's daughter, Mrs. Delane Wincentzen and her family occupy it today.

On maps one can still find Kalinke marked on Highway 52. The St. Paul railroad track ended on Kalinke's land, which was known as Kalinke's Landing and later Kalinkeville and still later, as we find it now, just Kalinke.

Otto helped to build Highway 52 by picking out rocks and stumps. He had several saw mills, one of which was powered by a steam engine which he used for 50 years. As a young man, Otto worked loading railroad cars at Scott's Landing.

He remembers Gypsies coming around asking for whatever would be given them for nothing, and also Indians who came around selling baskets they had woven.

Otto recalls having influenza in the epidemic in 1918. His family was living in the granary at the time because their house had burned.

In the period around 1912, many of the barns in the area were built with all the neighbors helping each other and later getting together to have a barn dance before the barn was used for storing of hay and straw. At many of these barn dances, Otto played the fiddle and the button accordin, and his wife, Ethel, played the ukelele. These dances lasted all night. Many times people walked home at dawn to milk their cows.

Another thing the neighbors got together for, was butchering. They helped to cut and grind meat by hand and make sausage. After the work, they enjoyed a hamburger fry.

In 1918 Otto bought his first auto, a brand new Model-T Ford. In 1925, the Kalinke's got their first tractor, a 1925 Fordson.

Otto says the times got better during World War I. He had his papers to go to the army, but the armistice was signed so he didn't have to. He recalls that when a group of boys were ready to leave for service, the night before they left they would take over the city of Wausau for one last big party.

Otto remembers going to Bunker Hill on a handcar to go blueberry picking. This was an open, small, railroad car which ran by muscle power. Whenever they saw smoke, they had to take the car off the tracks because a train was coming. Sometimes the smoke turned out to be from someone's house chimney.

The first phone was put in the Kalinke home in 1910, by Barker and Stewart Lumber Company, but was of little use to the Kalinke's for there was no one for them to call. Otto's wife is deceased and he has one other daughter, Evelyn.

George Mogensen, born Feb. 22, 1901 to John and Jenny Mogensen, who migrated from Denmark. John went first to Upper Michigan and worked in the woods, then moved to Racine, Wisconsin, where he met Jenny,

who had also migrated from Denmark. In 1902 they moved to the Town of Easton. They were some of the last settlers in that area.

John and Jenny related the hardships of the trip on the ship and of having many of their precious possessions from the old country stolen from them when they arrived. There was also great difficulty with the language. John was a farmer's son, but Jenny was a city girl from Copenhagen, so it was not easy for her to adapt to the life with so many hardships.

To these two people were born several children, and George is the one we have interviewed. He remembers going to school rather irregularly as a child, first to the old Log School on Hy. 52, which was reached by walking over a long trail through the woods. There were often as many as 75 students enrolled in a one-room school, because everyone from age 5 to 20 was officially enrolled. The schools were dependent upon "State Aids" then too, and it could amount to as much as half of the school budget if enough students were found to be in the record book. There were never 75 students present; however, due to the fact that when the weather was good, the older students were at home to help with the farm or woods work. When the weather was cold or wet, then the younger students would stay home, as the rigors of the long walk to school through wooded areas might leave younger children with the chills or "croup".

In later years when "Farewell School" was built, and the Old Log School was no longer used, it became known as a gathering place for the young folks, and many a social and dance were held there. It was named "Ocean Wave Hall" because the floor, poorly constructed, was noticeably "wavy".

Most of the students at the old log school were of German descent, and so, the German language was taught to the students of German immigrants. Most of them hated it and sometimes there were tears shed over trying to learn the strange language.

Miss Helen Schubring, his first teacher, took the students on a field trip to Glandon, a settlement some 4 miles north, by way of the railroad track. They went to see the lumbering business which included interesting equipment, and much excitement. Of course they had to walk, and the way home was especially long, notably to a 6 year old. However, Miss Schubring bought some candy in Glandon, and every now and then each child was given a sweet to provide energy to get him home.

Children often played along the railroad tracks. The loaded railroad flatcars were a never ending fascination as they came hurtling down the tracks. They could be heard coming a long way off, and as they approached, the children scurried for safety behind trees. The loads were piled very high, with a heavy chain wrapped around and one large log on top of the chain to secure it. Sometimes the top log would be jarred loose, and would come crashing to the ground as the train roared by.

The only roads at first were trails through the woods. The first actual road was the Eau Claire River Road, which was called a government road because it was built by the government before the Civil War. It ex-

tended from Callon to Hogarty. Hogarty was the center of activity, because of the logging on the River. River "Pirates" congregated there and often asked for lodging, which was just a place to lie down on the floor in the barn.

Many young men went to North Dakota to work in the Wheat harvest, to earn extra money. In 1925, they were paid \$1.00 a day. On one huge farm there were 25 teams of horses on the field at once, so great was the harvest. The rancher's sons were sent to college and were not working in the harvest field, but were men of liesure. The wheat was sold for \$1.00 a bushel, giving the ranchers a handsome profit. Three years later, on the same large ranch, John Deere tractors had replaced the horses, and in the place of the hired hands, were the rancher's sons and daughters, who proudly drove the tractors.

Men also worked in the woods to get a start. Working on the river was dangerous, and there were many burials along the river of men who lost their lives working there. There was neither time nor opportunity to take the body of the deceased to the family for burial. Logs were taken by train to Merrill or Tomahawk and then were shipped to lumber companies in Wausau. It cost a great deal to transport the logs, and so the farmers share in the money was very small. Some of the companies that bought the logs were Heinnemann, Barker & Stewart, Wright, Stang of Merrill, and Mortenson and Stone.

There was also a great market for selling hemlock bark to the U.S. Leather Company which was located on the East side of the Stevens Bridge. The hemlock bark was used to make tannic acid which was important in the tanning of leather. It took about 9 trees to make a cord of peeled bark, and the farmer was paid \$4.00 per cord. This work was done during May and June, when the logs could be peeled. The logs could then be either skidded to the river to go to Callon, or be taken by train to Merrill. This market for bark ended about 1920 when newer methods were found for obtaining tannic acid.

Farms were cleared very slowly. The fields were very small, surrounded entirely by woods, and it was very difficult to get the hay dry. The hay was stacked, and had to be hand-turned each day to let the air and sun at it. It could be dried this way in several days.

When new land was broke, it was common for a crop of rutabagas to be planted, to be used as a cow feed as well as human consumption. They grew very large in the new ground, and had to be chopped for cow feed. This was also done by hand, for most farmers had only a cow or two to start with. As the herds grew, occasionally a cow would get a whole "baggie" and would get it lodged in her throat, choking her. A local "vet" had concocted a method to push the "baggie" down, by inserting an inner tube from a bicycle in her throat, and poking a broom handle down inside the tube, thus pushing the obstacle down the cow's throat.

From 1900 to 1935, the Country Store played a very important part. It stocked everything, food, clothing and feed for the animals. The store-keeper would even order farm machinery for a farmer when the need came. Of course there was a hardware department as well.

The Cheese Factory was at its height during these years as well. Farmers hauled their own milk to the factory, which was a co-operative, run by a Board of Directors made up of themselves. About 1924 and 1925 butterfat brought 40¢ a pound. Of course test was low, so a farmer was lucky if he was paid \$1.20 to \$1.50 per hundred weight for his milk. He paid \$70 per ton for his corn which he had ground and mixed with other grain for feed.

The horses caused problems, because they were western horses that were accustomed to being outside in all kinds of weather. In the Wisconsin winters they were kept in the wooden barns which were too warm and humid for them. When they were put out and worked hard in the woods, they would often develop "heaves".

Indians were a common sight before 1910. They would ask for "Pork" which was originally a request for food, but later came to mean anything good. Sometimes they asked for surplus dogs which were used as food. The Indians were friendly, and were sometimes taken advantage of. It was known that farmers sometimes stole from each other and then blamed it on the Indians.

Indians usually had small ponies, upon which the man of the family rode. The women and children followed behind on foot. When asked why his wife did not ride, he replied "Squaw got no pony".

Farmers and loggers alike enjoyed baseball games, walking from place to place for the games. They always carried a gun in the woods, no matter where they were going, in case the opportunity might present itself to do some hunting. There were always many more guns at a baseball game than baseball bats.

Life was stark and brutal. When a mother of 10 was killed instantly by lightning when she went into the cellar to get the milk for supper, it left the home desitute. When the funeral was over, the father set about at once to find a woman to come into the home to care for his children and to be his wife. It may have been a business deal at the beginning, but their common need for each other formed a bond which grew into affection.

The River's Symphony

Have you heard the beautiful symphony?
the symphony of tree and river?
As each smooth worn rock becomes a key
O'er which liquid fingers glide forever
Making a melody haunting and free
The song of a weary soul that is seeking
a better way to its destiny, and while seeking
At times a note of pleading, a note of triumph, defeat, despair

In turn, take up, take up the rivers song
And as its music fills the air
Old Maestro wind wafts it along
And sends it echoing through the trees, that
flank the river which unending, on wave on wave of harmonies

In variations were blending
 Repeats the song for ears that hear
 Soothing the weary soul, to set it winging
 its way to realms above, unchained and free
 hearing the voice of tree and river singing
 For though it knows both longing and despair
 it does not grope in vain towards destiny
 The chorus swells the challenge, battle triumph fills the air
 The rivers course will always find the sea

by Wilhelmina S. Geurink

This poem was written about 25 years ago while Mrs. Geurink was watching the river at the Eau Claire Dells. The "river" in the poem has always meant the Eau Claire to her.

In this Bicentennial year we bear in mind the many changes in the process of time in the township—virgin forests cut, roads rerouted and rebuilt, buildings and their inhabitants in constant transition—yet, the Eau Claire River remains essentially the same.

Mrs. Geurink was born in the Netherlands in 1900 and came to Pennsylvania in 1914. In 1916 she became a resident of the Town of Easton when her father, Rev. Schroeder, accepted a call to serve the Forestville Church. She worked for her room and board while attending high school in Wausau. As a high school student she participated in the Armistice parade in a group that became a living flag by wearing red, white, and blue caps.

After one year of training at the Marathon County Normal School, she taught Dewey School and then married. Mrs. Geurink began writing in 1945 and has since contributed many songs, poems, and stories for public enjoyment. She is a member of the Wausau Regional Writers.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Cheese factories and cheese-makers:

Sunset (cooperative)—Paul Ott, Allen Langenhahn, Roger Tesch
 Easton Center (cooperative)—Klinner, Otto, Paul Grosskopf,
 Fred Stubbe, A. Kloetzbuecher, Emil Umland,
 Pine Grove (private)—Paul Krueger, Charlie Gartmann, Ray Londo
 Eau Claire (private)—O'Keefe, Joe Siebold, Gerald Klug
 Echo Corners (cooperative)—Wm. Rusch, Art Sevani, Schilling,
 Charles Umland, Ben Wiskow

Women mail carriers: Mrs. Philip Kumba, who lived 2 or 3 miles west of Hogarty, brought mail during the later 1890's to Nutterville, Sunset, Johnson and Hogarty postoffices; and a field called Oatville which was located north of Easton Center Cheese Factory. She used a top buggy or cutter pulled by horses for this 44 mile route on 3 days a week over a period of 4 years.

A Mrs. Dorothy Steckbauer delivered mail on the Aniwa route in the 1950's.

Radio: In the 1920's a meeting was held at the Dewey School by Vangel Russell, county home agent, and an assistant to demonstrate the radio. It was disappointing to all those who attended when the only sound from the radio was static.

Locker plants: In the early 1940's Easton families welcomed the construction of locker facilities at Star and Sunset Cheese factories and neighboring towns. Lockers were rented for the freezing of meat, fruits and vegetables until home freezers became available in the 1950's.

World War II activities: In Feb. 1944 Louis F. Gums, farmer and storekeeper, was named by the county war finance committee as one of the most enthusiastic war bond salesmen in the county. To stimulate the sale of war bonds Gums matched the bond subscriptions of the rest of the families in his school district.

Other national defense activities included the collection of fat, tin cans, aluminum and rubber. School children gathered milkweed pods that were used in the manufacture of life preservers.

Post war years: Easton residents scoured their homes for clothing for the war ravaged countries. Collection stations were at the district schools and the churches.

As America began producing civilian goods "waiting" became popular. There were waiting lists for appliances and cars. There were waiting lines in stores for \$4 a pair nylons.

Television: The first television sets began appearing in Easton homes around 1953. The programs were transmitted in black and white from the Green Bay channels 2 and 5. Reception was often poor and was called "snow".

Destruction: In June, 1962 part of the township was in the path of a tornado that leveled several barns along county trunk N.

1976--The Department of Natural Resources issued an order to close the Easton-Plover dump by Sept. 1976. The site has been used for 20 years.

IN MEMORIAL

★ ★ ★

Servicemen from the Town of Easton who gave their lives for their country:

March 24, 1944 - 1st Lt. Winton Wenzel, son of Mr. & Mrs. Emil Wenzel. World War II -- killed in an air crash in French Morocco.

June 20, 1944 - Tech. Corp. Dick TePaske, son of Mrs. Jennie TePaske. World War II -- killed during the invasion of France.

April 4, 1969 - Spec. 4 Robert Beck, son of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Beck -- killed while serving in the Vietnam conflict.

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Congregation dates its beginning in 1884, although services were occasionally conducted by pastors, riding "circuit", about 20 years earlier. The home of August Uecker and a small public school building near Sandy Creek, east of the present church were the sites of some of these services.

Some names from the financial records of the congregation in 1887 are; Albert Beilke, W.F. Fredrich, Gotlieb Kalinke, Julius Kalinke, Wm. Kluckmann, August Klumer, Carl Ohm, Crist Paulmann, C. Sternberg and H. Weber.

The first house of worship was a log building, donated along with several acres of land by Frederick Jaacks. In 1887, a church building was erected. It was remodeled in 1910 to include a choir loft and steeple with bells. This church building served the congregation until 1949.

St. John was part of a 3-point parish with Trinity Lutheran, Town of Wausau and St. Peter's, Town of Texas, served by the Rev. William Weber to 1876 and the Rev. Martin Buerger until 1913. The parsonage for the pastor was at Trinity.

The Rev. Herman Schmidt, 1913-1915, was St. John's first resident pastor. A parsonage was built in 1913, brick-veneered in 1917, all buildings on church property electrified in 1930, installed with indoor plumbing and hot water in 1948, and completely remodeled during 1972-1974 at a cost of \$8,026. (most labor was donated.)

St. John Lutheran School had its beginning under the leadership of the Rev. O.W.C. Boettcher (1915-1923), who taught all grades in the white frame schoolhouse, built in 1888 for confirmation classes and "summer school".

The zeal and enthusiasm of the Rev. J.H. Nau (1923-1941) prompted the congregation to build a modern, red brick school in 1925, designed by Gustave A. Parsch and approved by the State of Wisconsin. This school was remodeled and enlarged in 1961 at the cost of \$30,072. The present teachers are Mr. Wilmer Gresens, principal, and Mrs. Samuel Woodward. The present enrollment is 54.

The congregation joined the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1936.

Plans for the present church building were begun when the Rev. John F. Potratz (1943-1949) served as pastor. In 1945, the congregational property was enlarged by a strip of land, 33' wide the length of the south property line, donated by Wilbur Bliese. Not until the old church was razed was the original constitution of 1884 discovered in the cornerstone.

The cemetery, east of the church, contains graves from 1877. It was expanded by the purchase of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre from Robert Maley in 1956 for \$400.

The present church was completed in 1951 during the pastorate of the Rev. Markus Berndt (1950-1955). It is located on County Highway Z (formerly the Smith Road), just east of the junction with County Highway J. With 1500 hours of donated labor plus many special gifts, the cost of construction and furnishing was \$63,000.

The Rev. Roland Finke (1955-1960) was instrumental in amalgamating St. Johns Congregation and Zion Luth. congregation, Town of Easton into one parish. Each congregation provides half of the pastor's support and the parsonage of Zion serves as a teacherage for St. Johns. The St. John teacherage, formerly the Wandry place, was sold in 1959.

Today, the Rev. Leonard E. Erdman is the pastor of St. John and Zion parish (1961-). The membership of St. John is 445. The church property is valued at \$220,000 and the congregation is debt free.

The current officers are: Elders - Milton Block, Jerome Prah, Warren Prah, George Woodrich, Roger Zahrt, Eugene Zunker. President - Lawrence Zahrt; Vice Pres. - Lyle Kunze; Sec. Randy Marquardt; Treas. - Robert Prah; Financial Sec. - Mark Schlund. Finance Committee - Melvin Benz, John Christensen, Earl Strehlow; Trustees - Allen Langenhahn, Randy Prah, Harvey Strehlow; Board of Education - Darrell Hengel, Gerald Klueckman, Roger Tesch. Youth Counselors - Myron Block, Lyle Kunze and Earl Ramthum, Jr.

Time brings changes. German began giving way to English in 1920 and ceased in 1955. Auxiliary organizations were begun by Pastor Nau - Ladies Aid, Walther League, Mens Club. The last class instructed in German was confirmed in 1931. Confirmation dresses for the girls changed from black to white in 1903 and robes were used for confirmands since 1956. The pulpit was moved from choir loft level to floor level in 1947. The car replaced the horse and blacktop replaced the gravel in 1953. Mission festivals in the woods became mission festivals in the church after 1947. The heating fuel changed from wood to oil; the furnace replaced the stove. Families sitting together replaced the mens' side and the womens' side. Hymnbooks added the music scores. Dues gave way to freewill offerings. Individual communion cups took the place of the common cup in 1959. The voting age was changed from 21 to 18. Vacation Bible School took the place of "summer school". But one thing does not change, the Word of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Savior, which the Bible reveals to us.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first settlers in the northeastern area of the Town of Easton were concerned about their children being instructed in the Word of God; therefore, they held services in their homes, started a Sunday School, and organized a Ladies' Aid.

In 1891 the church was organized and incorporated under the name of Bethany Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Town of Easton, Marathon County, Wis. The charter members were the families of Anders Huseby, Martin Thorsen, John P. Berg, Karl Thorpe, and Ole Jensen.

Before any roads were built, the church was erected in the woods on

land donated by Mr. Smith of Wausau, Wis. Two years later when the road was surveyed, it was found that the church was standing partly on the right of way, so later it was moved to its present location.

A circuit rider, Rev. M. Mikelsen, from Rhinelander, served the congregation. He stayed over night at the home of Karl Thorpe. Pastor Loftus also rode horseback to the church. The Thorpe family would walk behind him. Mr. Thorpe fashioned a mosquito net to fit the pastor's large hat to ward off the mosquitoes as he rode through the woods.

The original church was heated with a cast iron heater, which used 2 and 3 foot wood. A long stove pipe reaching the length of the sanctuary helped to capture as much heat as possible. Seating was provided by chairs which were made by Helke's of Wausau. Later "opera seats" were used. A long horse shed was also built to shelter the teams during the worship hour.

In 1903 the first choir was organized and an organ was purchased. During this year English worship services were held on Sunday evenings. Before this time all services were conducted in the Norwegian language. In 1941 the Norwegian worship services were discontinued.

In 1909 Mr. & Mrs. John Mathisen organized and taught a branch Sunday School in their home east of the Eau Claire River. About 20 students attended classes.

In 1911 an addition was constructed on the east side of the church for Sunday School and social activities. A bell tower was also built and a bell installed.

In 1942 the building was again remodeled. The sanctuary was enlarged and a basement built. A new, wood burning furnace was installed to replace the two heaters previously used. New pews, pulpit, and baptismal fount were purchased in 1945. In 1950 an electric organ replaced the 1903 pump organ. Another room was added in 1954. In 1959 two automatic, oil burning furnaces replaced the wood burning furnace. Plumbing and modern conveniences were also installed.

Mr. & Mrs. John Mogenson donated $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land adjacent to the church property for a new, modern parsonage in 1937. Logs were cut on the church property wood lot, and some were purchased for this building. All the work was done by members of the congregation under the supervision of a carpenter. A two car garage was also erected at this time. By the united efforts of the church organizations and members of the congregation, the building of the parsonage and garage was completed without indebtedness.

During the year 1965 Bethany and St. Paul of Aniwa became a "two-point" parish.

The cemetery came into being at the time the church was founded. It was cared for by families who had loved ones buried there until 1953 when it was put under perpetual care.

A long range planning committee has been appointed, and a building fund has been established for a new church.

Present officers of the congregation are: President, Emery Thorpe; Vice-President, Harland Hansen; Secretary, Oliver Hoppe; Treasurer, Edward Ellefsen; Deacons, Stanley Nelson, Maynard Olson, and Charles Juedes; Trustees, Hans Ellefsen, Leonard Manser, and Lawrence Verpoorten.

There are now 161 baptized members. Total enrollment in Sunday School is 35.

Pastors who have served this church are:

M. Mikelsen, 1892-1894
J.A. Lofthus, 1894-1895
Vacancy
Edberg Tollefson, 1903-1904
H.A.B. Winther, 1904-1906
E.M. Vogt, 1906-1908
Rudolf Hansen, 1908-1911
Ingv. Tvedt, 1911-1913
Chas. E. Nilson, 1913-1915
Erling Kolden, 1916-1920
T.R. de Lange, 1921-1924
Student E. Vik, 1926
Student Alfred Knutsen, 1927
Rev. Green, 1928-1929

W.F. Ludwig, 1929-1930
John E. Lobeck, 1932-1936
H.O. Johnson, 1937-1940
E.M. Hansen part of 1941
Claude Millage, 1942-1950
P.A. Strommen, 1950-1957
Eugene Anderson, 1957-1958
Rev. Matter, 1958-1959
Harold Buiede, 1959-1962
Carl Musall, 1962 and 1965
Olaf Braseth, 1963-1965
Jonathan L. Sachs, 1966-1970
E. Schlachtenhaufen, 1970-1974
Vern Weeks, 1974 -

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"We, the Evangelical Lutheran Citizens of the Towns of Easton and Hewitt, open in the name of the Triune God, our first congregational meeting, the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, Jan. 26, 1896." Thus, was this congregation founded. The first officers elected were: President, Ernest Kienbaum; Secretary, August Laffin; Treasurer and Deacon for 3 years, John Beck; Deacon for 2 years, Philip Etter; and Deacon for 1 year, Jacob Beck. These men and their families with those of Ferdinand Hintze and Fredrick Hoppe comprised the congregation.

The church in this area evolved from the religious needs of two groups of people—the Lutherans living around the Kalinke settlement, and those living in the vicinity of the Beck Road. The latter group walked to services at St. John, Town of Easton, or Trinity, Town of Wausau. Before the church was built Rev. M. Burger concented to preach the Word of God in a log school house located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Kalinke Road (now 52) and Hoppe Road.

Reinhardt Kieckhaefer and John Beck each donated an acre of land for the site of the church. On Oct. 25, 1896 the church was dedicated. The cost of the church, without the siding, was \$797.29.

The congregation was served by Wausau and Birnamwood pastors from 1896 to 1902. In 1901 it was decided to build a parsonage for a resident pastor. \$150.00 was borrowed to buy the additional land needed for

the parsonage site. Three acres were purchased from R. Kieckhaefer and one acre from John Beck. The parsonage was built in 1903 and the interior finished in 1904. The first resident pastor was Rev. Christian Meyer.

In 1905 a new foundation was put under the church, the roof was shingled, siding was put on and a baptismal fount was purchased. In 1906 a Klingel-buetel, a velvet bag on the end of a long pole, was used for collecting the offerings. These were the days when the women and children sat on one side in the church and the men sat on the other side.

In 1935 a basement was made under the church, and the old, big, pot-belly heater was replaced by a wood burning furnace. For the celebration of the 50th anniversary in 1946, stained glass windows were installed as a thank offering.

The school house built in 1915 became a Christian Day School in 1929. It was closed in 1948 because of the inability to obtain a teacher.

A new parsonage was constructed in 1949.

An oil furnace was installed in 1952.

In 1957 Zion became a sister congregation of St. John.

In 1958 the church was again remodeled. A vestibule was added, the church was painted, and a Baldwin organ was purchased.

New pews were purchased in 1969. For the 75th anniversary the church interior and the basement were renovated, and the floors were carpeted.

All German services were conducted until 1923. That year English services were held once a month, and in 1928 English services were held every other Sunday. In 1954 German services were discontinued.

In July, 1962 a Vacation Bible School was started. Confirmation instructions are taught by the pastor with the aid of a lay teacher. In 1965 a scholarship fund was established to aid young people of the congregation who are preparing for full time church professions.

The congregation adopted a constitution in 1974 which gave all confirmed male and female members, who are over 18 years old, the right to vote.

The present membership consists of 256 communicant members, 66 children in Sunday School, and 18 children on the Cradle Roll.

Present church officers are: President, Maynard Bedish; Vice-President, Alfred Durth; Elders, Warren Drews, Charles Hackbarth, Mark Kueger, Melvin Kuhnert, Dan Kurth, Roland Schultz; Secretary, Howard Breutzmann; Treasurer, Allen Schultz; Finance Committee, George Kalinke, Tom Kienbaum, Gerald Laffin, Don Wenzel; Trustees, Harold Jensema, Art Laffin, Arnold Schlie; Head Usher, Richard Kurth and Youth Counselor, Aaron Kurth.

Pastors who have served this church are:

Rev. C. Theodore Bretscher, 1896-1899

Rev. F. John Ebert, 1899-1902

Rev. Christian Meyer, 1902-1905

Rev. Ferdinand Otto, 1905-1910

Rev. Walter Braem, 1910-1916

Rev. Otto Braem, 1916-1921

Rev. Herman Laabs, 1921-1927

Rev. William Ludwig, 1928-1931

Rev. Paul Natzke, 1932-1938

Rev. Martin Zimmermann, 1938-1949

Rev. William Lohman, 1950-1952

Rev. R.E. Lehman, 1953-1957

Rev. Roland Finke, 1958-1960

Rev. Leonard E. Erdman, 1961-

NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Soon after the turn of the century, several families from various locations purchased parcels of land in the heavily wooded area later known as Forestville. Those of Dutch Reformed origin, under the leadership of Mr. J. Fraaza and Mr. W. DeJong, began to gather for worship in 1903, in a Plover area school and in various homes. Later a storage shed owned by A. Kwaak, directly across the road from the present church property, was also used for worship. The shed was also used as a school.

Seeking closer denominational ties in 1905, the families then totaling twelve, enlisted the aid of the Board of Missions, Reformed Church of America, to call their first Pastor, Rev. B. Mollema, Platte, South Dakota, at a yearly salary of \$400.00, to help organize a congregation and build a church. This first pastor purchased ten acres from his brother-in-law, D.J. DePaske, built a home and provided a site for a church. Upon his departure in 1912, Rev. Mollema sold the land and home to the congregation.

The first church building was built some time after 1916, during Rev. Schroeder's pastorate. This wood frame building was built by volunteers, assisted financially by Wausau residents, supervised by William Gruneveldt, the pastor's step-son, who also made a pulpit and communion table. Furnishings in the first church included a pump organ, oil lamps, and a centrally located stove which used four-foot wood chunks.

World War I came during Rev. Schroeder's pastorate with nine young men called to army duty, all of whom returned safely. The first English service on Sunday mornings came during Rev. Schroeder's pastorate. The church was closed in 1918 during the influenza epidemic. Rev. Schroeder left at this time.

During Rev. Lepeltak's pastorate, (May 1919-Feb. 1922), automobiles were used during the summer months. The church held bazaars given by the ladies, programs by young people, and the 4th of July Sunday School picnic.

The parsonage was remodeled with the installation of electricity and running water, prior to the arrival of Rev. Baker, who served as a summer student. He was the first pastor to own a car. Mrs. Baker started a fund for a new church.

From June 1928 to Sept. 1934, Rev. Wiersma was pastor. These were difficult years during the Great Depression. In 1931 the evening service was begun and a full-time, mixed choir was organized which has continued to this day. The old, horse barn was turned into a social hall and used for social gatherings and young peoples' events.

While Rev. Kregel was pastor, (Aug. 1935-March, 1940), many new families were added. Serious thought was given to building a new church. With Europe at war, Rev. Kregel, also a National Guard Chaplain, was called to active duty.

During the pastorate of Rev. Muller, (July 1940-Sept. 1944), a new church was built which cost \$11,000.00. The cornerstone was laid in Sept. 1941 by Henry Geurink and Jacob VanProoyen, pioneer members. It was dedicated in December, approximately at the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Many men from the congregation were called to duty during World War II. Dick TePaske and Jacob Suwyn died in action overseas.

Homecoming for servicemen came in the early part of Rev. Laman's ministry, (Oct. 1945-Nov. 1948). The first electric organ was installed and the choir received robes. Within three years the congregation was saddened by Rev. Laman's death.

During Rev. Groetsema's stay, (Dec. 1949-May 1959), work with the children and young people was expanded. An additional ministry to the Congregational Church in Birnamwood was assumed. In August, 1955, the congregation observed its 50th Anniversary.

During Rev. Vanderbilt's pastorate, (Jan. 1960-July 1965), Vacation Bible School began, the Mary Martha Circle was organized for women, weekly Prayer and Bible Study started, and a regular ministry to nursing homes was begun. In June, 1964, an Educational wing was added to the church.

During Rev. VanBeek's pastorate, which began in June, 1967, more space was needed. The sanctuary was enlarged in 1970. It was dedicated in January, 1971. The name of the church was changed to New Hope Community Church in December, 1973. At the annual meeting in December, 1975, it was decided to build a new church on a new site.

The Northeast corner at the intersection of County Hwys N & J was purchased in 1976 as the site for the new church.

There are 85 families, 225 communicant members and 165 enrolled in Sunday School.

Present officers are Pres. Rev. Ray Van Beek; Elders Richard Van Vuren, Glenn Geurink, Victor Ten Haken (also Vice-Pres) and Kenneth Fraaza

(also Clerk). Deacons Larry Ten Haken, Melvin Merriam, Marvin Boon, David LeMahieu (also Treas.).

HOMEMAKERS CLUBS

The Town of Easton has four Homemakers' Clubs. They are the W.W.E.R. (Wausau, Weston, Easton, Ringle), Badger, Easton Center and Good Neighbors. One of the first groups, the Sunset Club, has been discontinued.

Even in the early 1900's women found it necessary to meet to learn, improve and exchange ideas in homemaking, and to try to improve the community. They accomplished these goals by participating in leader lessons. Some of the very early lessons were: using the gasoline, flat iron; hooking and braiding rugs; making patchwork quilts; re-finishing furniture; using sewing machine attachments; making homemade sausage; caring of floors; and learning first aid procedures. During the early years the women made hand lotion, tissue cream, foot stools, dress forms and mattresses and quilts from surplus cotton. Dances, card parties, auction lunches, bake sales, silent auctions, and white elephant sales provided ways of raising money. With these funds contributions were made to the Red Cross, Easter Seals, March of Dimes, Cancer Society, hospital isolation fund, various other worthy charities, and families in need.

Leader lessons still play an important part in club work today. Recent lessons have been: vitamins in our diet, decorative stitches, safe driving lessons, yeast breads, candy making, rug care, various crafts, and the study of the living habits and native foods of people in foreign countries.

Each club has family dinners at Thanksgiving or Christmas and picnics. Some clubs have special birthday and wedding anniversary parties and dine out on special occasions. Tours have been taken to places of interest throughout the county and state.

Club members have served as assistants at hearing, immunization, and x-ray clinics.

W.W.E.R. CLUB

The early records of the club have been destroyed or misplaced; however it is known that this club was organized in 1919 with the help of Mrs. Mary Brady, the first home agent in Marathon County. Mrs. Oscar Lodholz is now the oldest living member. The club's aim is to make our rural community a better place to live.

In 1939 the members purchased a strip of land from Fred and Emma Fust for the construction of a club house. People in the community advised the club that the building could be constructed with W.P.A. help. This advice proved to be correct and on July 20, 1940 "Community Club House" was dedicated. It has been and continues to be a great service to the community. Not only is the building used for W.W.E.R. club meetings, but it is also used by 4-H Clubs, cooperative associations, local churches and citizens of the area for private parties.

In the 1940's dinners were served to help defray expenses. At the present two money making projects are held each year. Since 1971 the members have installed a furnace, refinished the floors and walls, painted the exterior, rewired the kitchen, replaced the ceiling and insulated. Future plans are to install water and plumbing facilities.

The club has 34 members. The 1976 officers are:

President — Mrs. Loretta Falkowski
Vice President — Mrs. Alice Christainson
Secretary — Mrs. Barbara Marx
Treasurer — Mrs. Dorothy Fust

BADGER HOMEMAKERS CLUB

This club was organized Feb. 16, 1926 at the home of Mrs. Wm. Beck with the assistance of Miss Vangel Russell, county home agent. The charter members were:

Mrs. Wm. Beck (President)	Myrtle Beck
Mrs. Arthur Beck (Vice-President)	Mrs. Joe Carpenter (Secretary)
Mrs. Wm. Andreas	Lucille Carpenter Little
Mrs. Ed. Brandenburg (Treasurer)	Olga Klueckman
Myrtly Brandenburg	Mary Klueckman
Mrs. Chas. Wolf	

The club gave and still does a baby spoon to each newborn baby of a member. Besides the tours and lessons mentioned, this club entertained at the fair, danced the "Dusty Miller" at a pageant, and one year members were the live elephant in the "Barndoor Balehay Ringless Circus."

There are now 17 members. Mrs. Arthur Beck is the only living charter member. The Badger Club is celebrating 50 years in club work this year.

Present officers are:

President — Mrs. Alfred Beyer
Vice President — Mrs. Arthur Beck
Secretary — Mrs. Don Beck
Treasurer — Mrs. Ted. Blus

EASTON CENTER HOMEMAKERS CLUB

This club orginated on January 12, 1928 at the home of Mrs. Emil Wenzel with the help of Miss Ruth Feeney, county home agent. Charter members were:

Mrs. Emil Doede	Mrs. Paul Krueger
Mrs. Henry Gums	Mrs. Fred Schoepke
Mrs. Louis Gums (Vice-President)	Mrs. J.P. Westergard
Mrs. Charles Gartmann (Secretary)	Mrs. Emil Wenzel (President)
Mrs. Clarence Jensema	Mrs. Wm. Wenzel
Mrs. Andrew Karcher	Mrs. Charles Traeger
Mrs. Rose Zaugg	Mrs. Louis Zahrt (Treasurer)

Two major activities of the club included a play and a county project. The play called "Aunt Jerusha's Quilting Party" was given on June 27, 1931 by members and their husbands at Colonial Hall. The county project was the construction of the colliope for a county "get-together," which was a circus. The colliope was made with painted stove pipes, nails and lath.

During World War II Christmas boxes were packed for the brothers and sons of members, who were serving in the armed forces.

On February 18, 1960 the club was the first in Marathon County to contribute to Sunnyvale Manor for room furnishings. The \$200.00 contributed was realized from bonds purchased during World War II.

Mrs. Emil Wenzel is remembered for bringing the club into existence, and for 16 years of perfect attendance. Mrs. Willy Geurink composed music and words for a song called "Homemakers Closing Song". This song is used often by the club today. Fourth place in a national essay contest was won by Mrs. Geurink for her essay called "What's Wrong with Womens' Clubs?" Mrs. Palmer Gums was awarded second place in a county contest for her essay, "Crossing Bridges".

At the present time there are 10 members. The club is proud of its two active, charter members, Mrs. Clarence Jensema and Mrs. Henry Gums. January 12, 1978 will be the 50th anniversary of the club. Members are compiling a history of its' activities in honor of this occasion.

Present Officers are:

President — Mrs. Ruth Richmond
Vice President — Mrs. Louis Gums
Secretary — Mrs. Ernest Rastl
Treasurer — Mrs. Clarence Jensema

GOOD NEIGHBORS HOMEMAKERS CLUB

Miss Eileen Neidermeier was the county home agent who aided in the organization of the club in May 1956 at the home of Mrs. Walter Mueller. Charter members are:

Mrs. Wm. Block	Mrs. Gust. Mueller, Sr.
Mrs. Milton Block	Mrs. Gust. Mueller, Jr.
Mrs. Norman Block	Mrs. Louis Schlichting
Mrs. Clara Fraedrich	Mrs. Minnie Kopp
Mrs. Walter Mueller	Mrs. Arnold Schalow

In May, 1966 the club celebrated its' 10th anniversary with a dinner for members and their families at Evergreen Supper Club. Plans are being made for the 20th anniversary this year.

Mrs. Gust Mueller, Sr. is an honorary member.

Present officers are:

President — Mrs. Walter Shidell
Vice President — Mrs. Kenneth Erbrecht

Secretary -- Mrs. Norman Block
Treasurer -- Mrs. Lawrence Beck

4-H CLUBS IN THE TOWN OF EASTON

The first Town of Easton 4-H Club was organized about 1928 by Mrs. Elizabeth Coleman with the assistance of the Marathon County Agricultural office. Mrs. Coleman lived in the north area of the township. The club was called Badger Boys and was strictly a dairy project club. Girls could be members if they were interested in dairy animals. When Home Economics projects were added, Badger Girls met separately. Elmer Krueger and Mrs. Henry Gums carried on general leadership duties for these two clubs for many years.

For several years 4-H activity alternated between combined and separate boys and girls clubs, interspersed with inactive years. In 1950 County agent, C.J. MacCleavy, called an open meeting at the Dewey School which resulted in the formation of a club for boys and girls. This group was called the Badger 4-H Club. W.O. Nauta and Mrs. R.A. Mathwich were the first general leaders. The club held monthly meetings at the Easton Town Hall. It reached its' peak enrollment in the mid-1960's with a membership of 75. At present, meetings are held at the Easton Elementary School. Projects are now numerous, and reflect practically every interest of its' members.

Besides projects, other activities became popular. Beginning in 1961 and for 12 consecutive years, the Badger 4-H Club received Music and Drama honors at county and district competition under the leadership of Mrs. Floyd Geurink. Trophies for Music and Drama, and Dairying are on display in the Town Hall. The club has had a softball team at intervals through the years, including the present time. Many award trips have been won by members for excellence in project work and club activities. Present membership is 107 under the general leadership of Mr. & Mrs. Roger Prahl. Members are from Easton and neighboring townships.

During the early 1950's a Happy Easton girls 4-H club held meetings for a short time. The Easton-Ringle Club was active from 1970-1974 under the leadership of Mrs. Paul Thompson.

CUB SCOUT PACK 404

Cub Scout Pack 404 held its initial den meeting November 5, 1974, at the Easton School.

The pack is sponsored by the Easton-Hatley PTA, and receives tremendous support from the faculty, and staff of the Easton School where meetings are held each Tuesday evening during the school year.

The pack is open to all boys in grades three, four and five in the area, who may join at any time of the year.

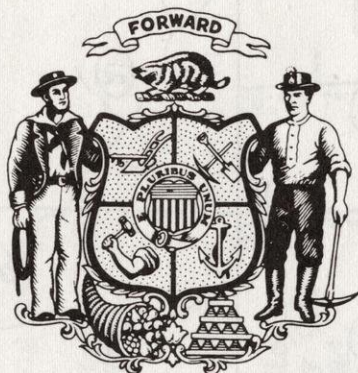
Since it was organized, the pack has won a summertime pack award and the national Boy Scout president's award. Members also participate in the 1975 Ringle Day parade and held a Bicentennial blue and gold

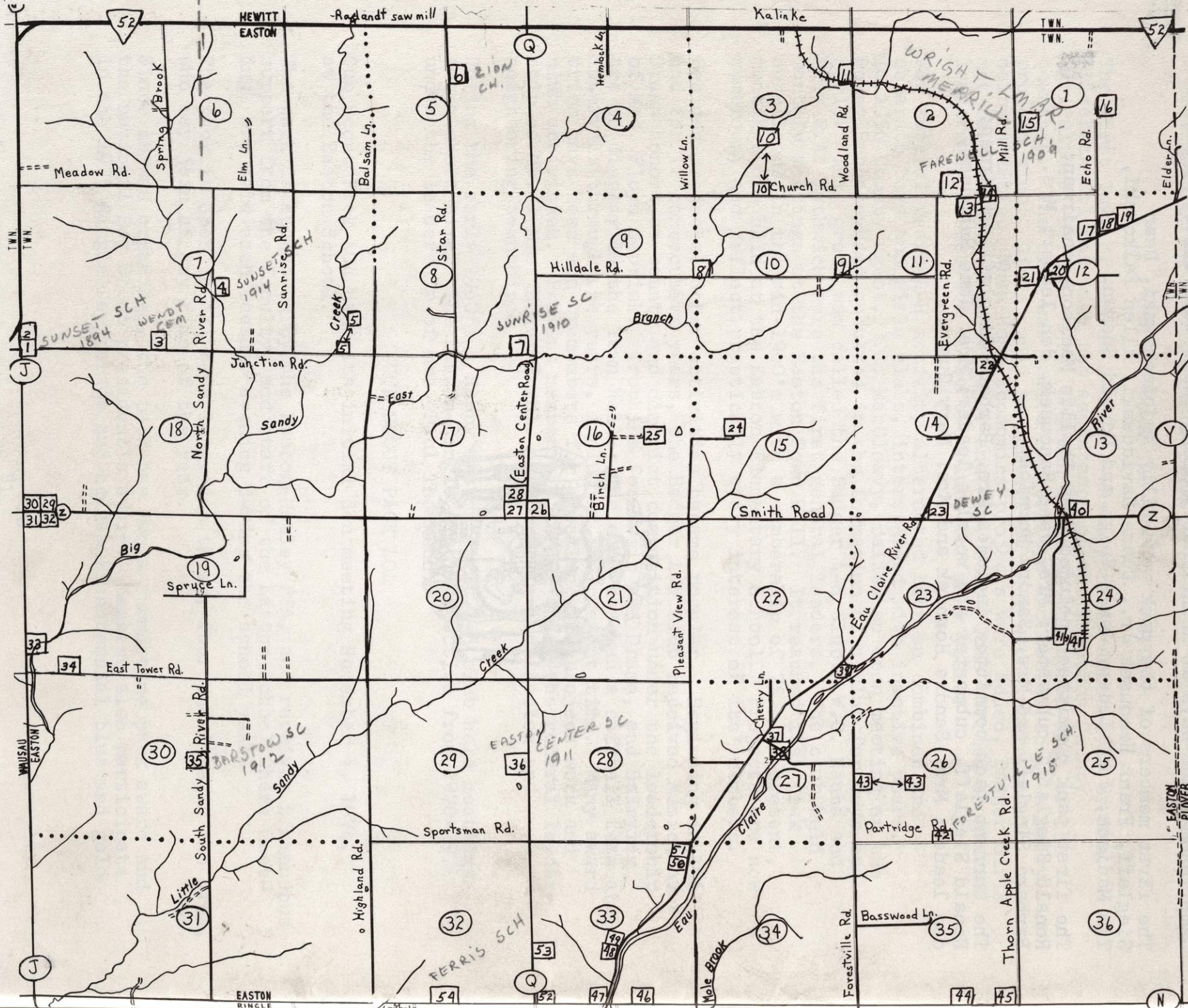
banquet. They attended a Wausau Mets baseball game, a circus and Camp Tesomas Cub Days at Rhinelander, among other activities.

The first members of the pack were Billy Wojciechowski, Dean Sieglaff, Frank Hanousek Jr., Duane Davidowski, Allen Falkowski, Tim Madison, Jeff Leder, James Voigt and Donald Gusman.

The first pack committee included Mrs. Phyllis Madison, chairman; Ronald Sieglaff, cubmaster; Mrs. Jane Hanousek, den leader; Mrs. Barbara Sieglaff and Mrs. Sandra Hornick.

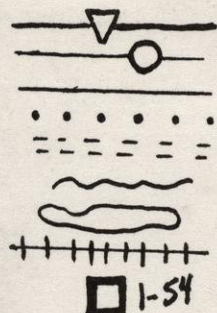
The current pack committee includes Mrs. Barbara Sieglaff, chairman; Ronald Sieglaff, cubmaster and webelos leader; Mrs. Jane Hanousek, den leader; Mrs. Sandra Hornick and Mrs. Mary Gusman.





Legend

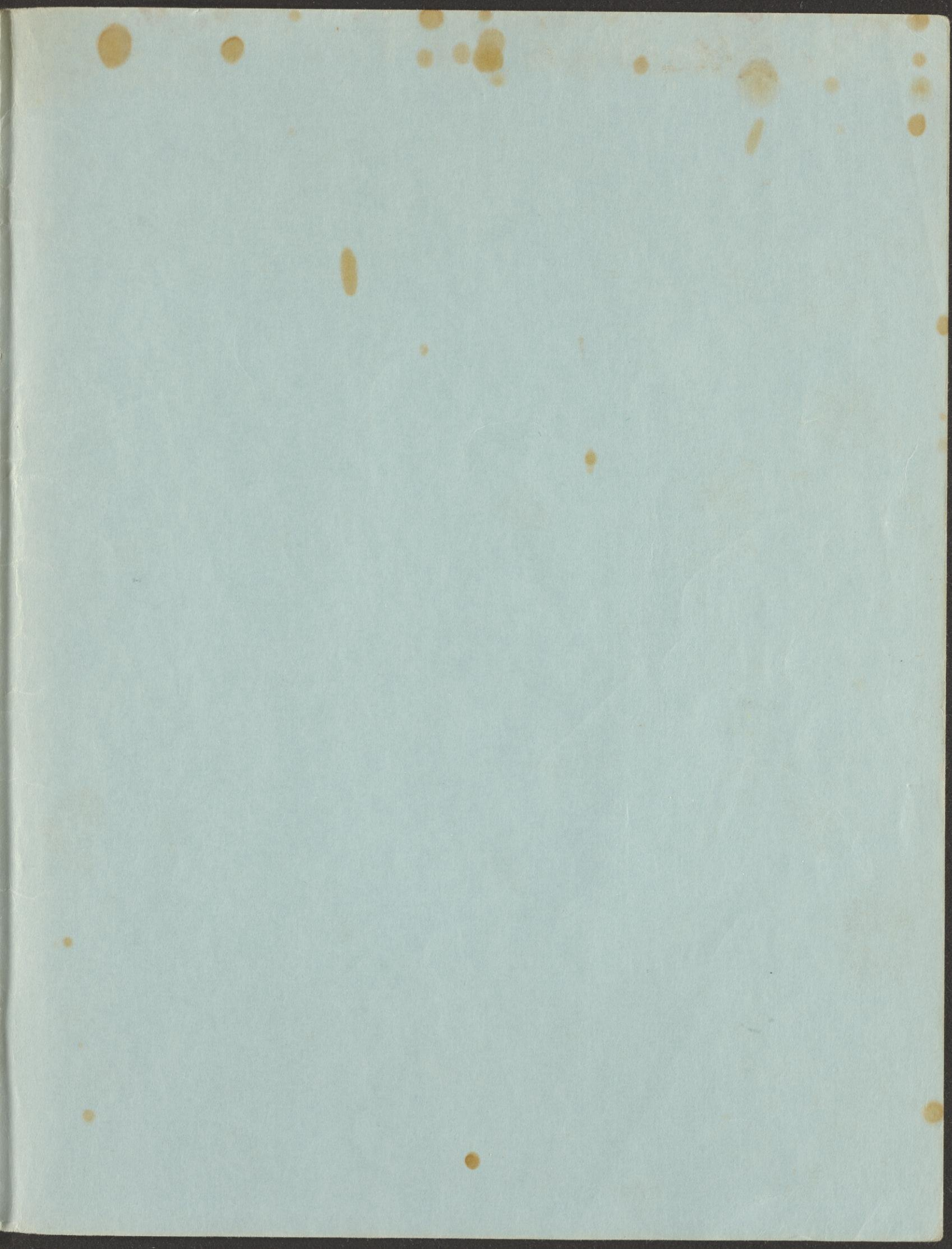
HERITAGE TRAIL



State Highway
County Trunk Highway & Section No.
Town or public road
Section lines that are not roads
Private road
Stream
Pond
Railroad
Numbers of historical sites

1. First school at Sunset 1894
2. Sunset Cheese Factory 1894
3. Wendt Cemetery
4. Sunset School Dist. No. 7 (1914)
5. Klueckmann saw mill & logging camp
(North along Sandy Creek)
6. Zion Lutheran Church & cemetery 1896
Zion Lutheran School 1915-1948
7. Sunrise School 1910
8. Bauer's saw mill
9. Thorpe's saw mill 1934-39 & 100 yr. old pine
stumps east of the mill
10. Gumz or Westfall Mill ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile north on
Sandy Creek)
11. Railroad crossing Woodland Rd.
12. Farewell School 1909
13. Bethany Lutheran Church & cemetery 1891
14. Railroad crossing Church Road
15. Swendsen's saw mill 1913
16. Severson's Post Office 1892
17. Echo Cheese Factory 1907-1940
18. Larson's Store (1909-1939)
19. Peter Mathiesen Blacksmith Shop 1912-1930
20. Norwegian saw mill
21. Peter Johnson's Post Office 1894
22. Railroad crossing River Rd.
23. Dewey School 1904
24. August & Wilbert Zahrt saw mill
25. Herman Zahrt saw mill
26. Easton Center Cheese Factory 1905
27. Easton Town Hall 1891
28. Easton Elementary School 1961
29. Rollenhagen Blacksmith Shop
30. Sunset Saloon 1880 & Sunset Post Office
1899
31. Sunset Store 1928-1974
32. St. John Church & cemetery 1884
St. John School
33. Man made river channel now County Park
WPA project 1938
34. Weber saw mill
35. Barstow School 1912
36. Easton Center School 1911
37. Pine Grove Cheese Factory
38. Curly Joe Rapids ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of bridge)
Indian Camp grounds
39. Stienke's saw mill & ice cutting site on
Eau Claire River flats
40. Railroad crossing on Z
41. End of railroad & landing ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile east)
42. Forestville School 1915
43. Goldmine ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile east) 1892, 115 ft. deep
44. New Hope Community Church (formerly
Forestville) 1905
45. Logging camp 1905-1906
46. Forestville Public Cemetery
47. Eau Claire Cheese Factory
48. Knowles Chapel 1890-1923
49. Grimm Cheese Factory 1903
50. Gums Store 1907-1969
51. First town house 1884-1891
52. First electric sub-station 1931
53. Oldest frame house in area (Wm. Barden's
birth place 1877)
54. Ferris School or Eau Claire Public Dist.
No. 1

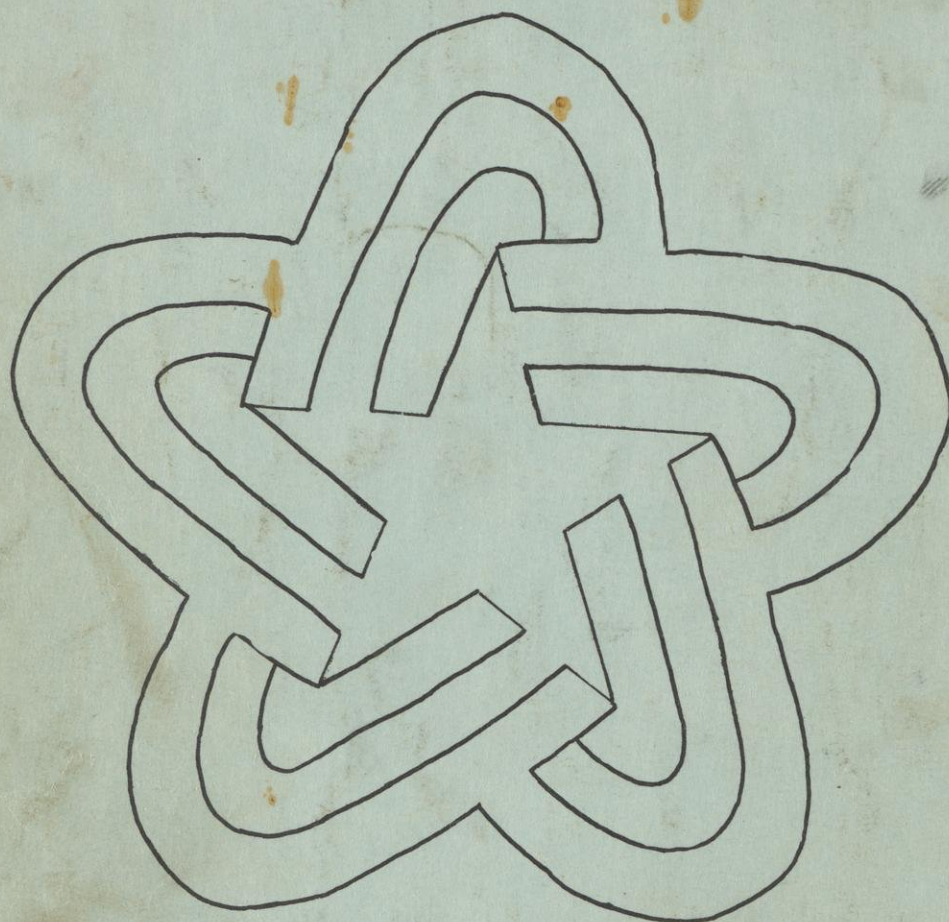
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American Revolution Bicentennial 1776-1976

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