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## Colfax on the Red Cedar : 1864-1964. 1964

Colfax Woman's Club

[Colfax, Wisconsin]: Colfax Woman's Club, 1964

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Doris Dunbar

Colfax

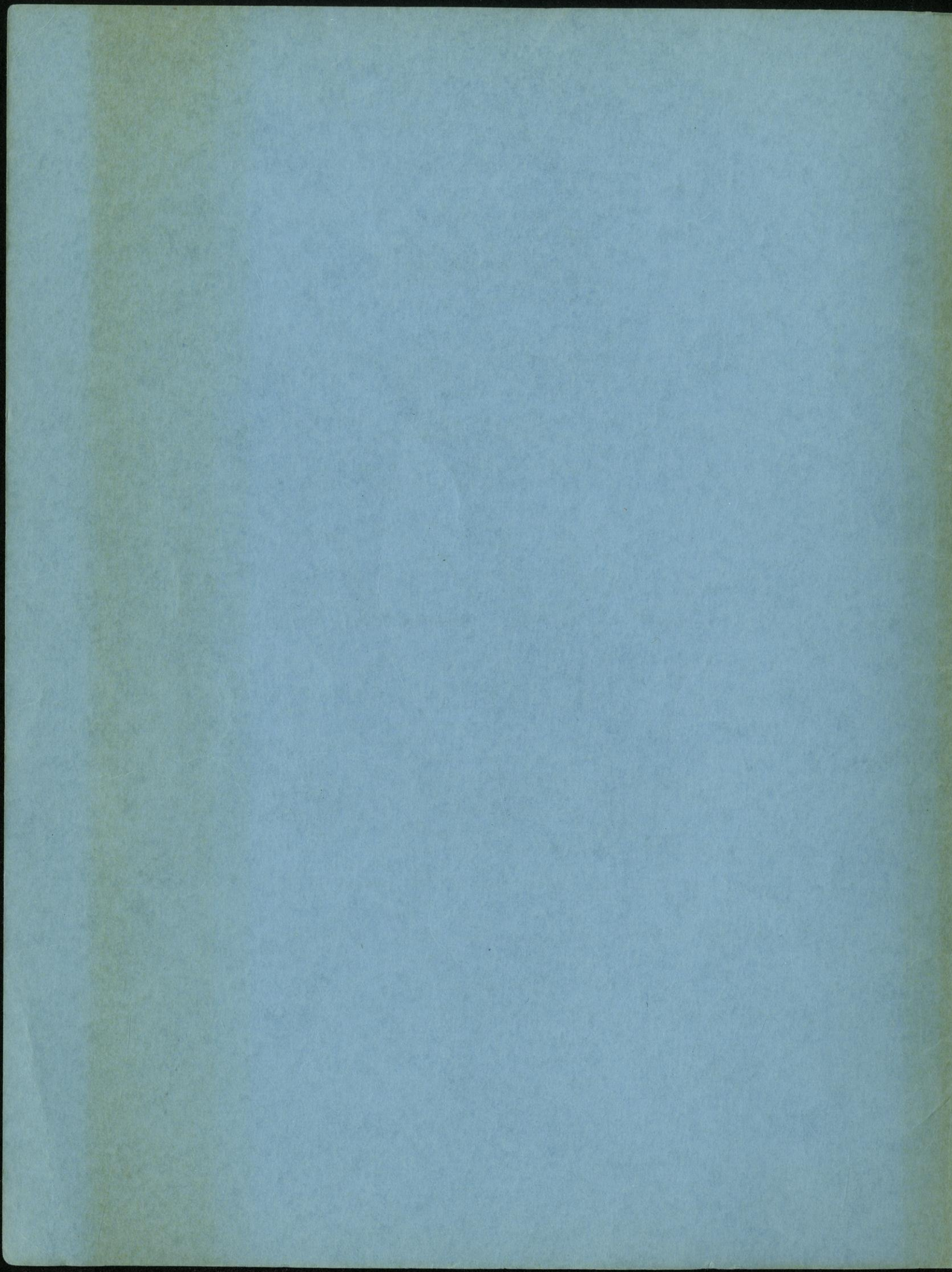
On the

Red Cedar

Colfax Woman's Club

1864

1964



*Colfax*

*On the*

*Red Cedar*

*Colfax Woman's Club*

*1864*

*1964*

# Foreword

The Colfax Woman's Club, realizing the years are vanishing swiftly, and with them the faltering voices of old friends and the disappearance of old buildings, whose walls are now crumbling, conceived the idea of setting down chronicles of the past generation for the centennial year for Colfax.

It is hoped this little booklet will create an interest in old and historical things and places, and lead to the preservation of such things, for the coming generation.

The Colfax Woman's Club, in doing this little history of Colfax's past one hundred years, wish to express their gratitude to all the people who have helped hunt down the facts for this booklet. Many people have revived their memories and given us interesting facts and stories. A lot of the very early information has been taken from the "History of Dunn County".

It has been said "All historical books that contain no lies, are extremely tedious". Our "Lies" are more sins of omission, rather than commission—for the source of a lot of our material comes from the frail memories of our oldsters. Many of the stories concern the middle of the past century.

The Club started this history as a project on Community Achievement, a nation wide contest, which was to last over a two year period, ending in 1962. We shall try and bring it up to date. The club did not win a prize, but did receive Honorable Mention at the state convention held in Madison, Wis. where the State's Federated Women's Clubs were in session. A letter recommended that a copy be placed in the state Historical Society.

We tried to do a work that would bring up some of the interesting stories of the past one hundred years, but took our Portraits of Personalities from the last fifty years, since early ones are available in the Dunn Co. History.

We do not consider this work authoritative, but we do hope it will be interesting.

Our thanks to the people who have loaned us their history books, papers and pictures.

The past is a fleeting thing, but we have tried our best to cover the highlights of the century.

Mrs. Walter Weeks, Chairman

Mrs. G. R. Thompson, Co-Chairman

# Prologue

Our friendly Colfax Village lies  
Beneath the blue Wisconsin skies . . .  
Blue skies that rest upon tall hills, ,  
That smile on valleys and where rills  
Gather together their banks between  
To form Red Cedar, calm and serene.

Of people we have quite a few,  
Among them ALWAYS someone new . . .  
Whose name and very early age  
Gets printed on a special page. . .

We have a school that's overflowing  
So much so now, there's no way knowing  
Just what to do when the big throng  
Of next year's small fry comes along.

We have our churches, one, two, three,  
All bustling with activity:  
And other functions all related  
To keep us well informed and dated.

In doing things for town and nation  
We have our Women's Federation,  
A Civic Club that has not tarried  
To grapple problems wide and varied  
That will arise in sundry stages  
Involving people of all ages.

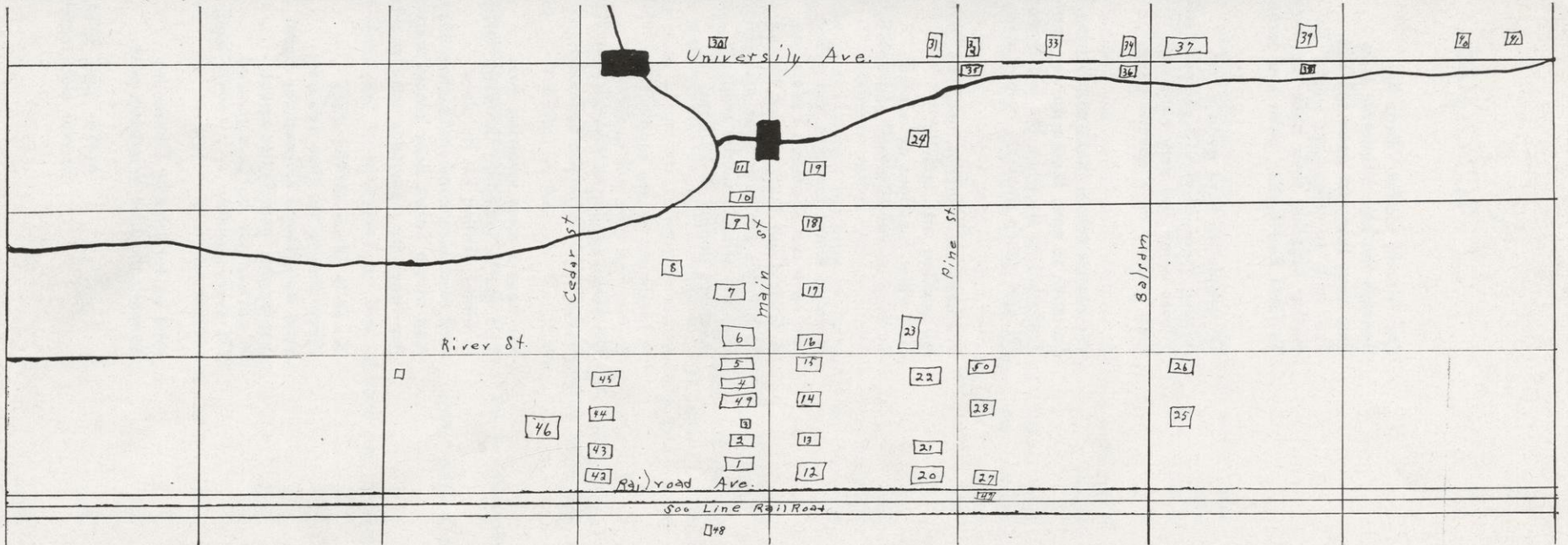
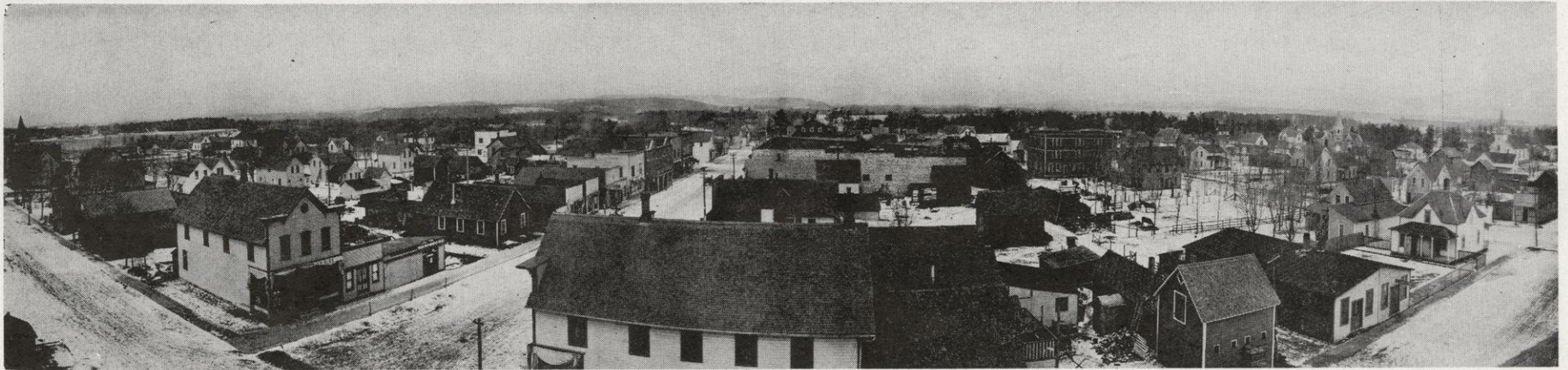
In Medicine we are supplied  
By two fine men well qualified;  
The same applies to Dentistry,  
And all who serve professionally;

We have a class involving Arts,  
And sports, including throwing darts:  
In winter, skating has its place  
And swimming comes in summer days.  
And Mirror Lake's deep placid waters  
Are fished by many sons and daughters.

So all in all we set the stage  
According to the time and age;  
And we attempt to heed the pace  
Set by the Inner-Outer Space . . . .  
A pattern new but in command  
Of every country . . . . every land.

And so our friendly Colfax lies  
Beneath the blue Wisconsin skies.

Author, Mrs. S. M. Moe,  
Former club member



- |                     |                        |                     |                   |                      |                      |                     |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Running Hardware | 8. Heyerdahl Res.      | 15. Ness Res.       | 22. Viets         | 29. Ole Nelson       | 36. Grimsrud Store   | 43. Swenson Res.    |
| 2. Blacksmith Shop  | 9. Store               | 16. Simons Res.     | 23. Barn          | 30. Mrs. Martin      | 37. Blacksmith Shop  | 44. Roen            |
| 3. Post Office      | 10. Baldwins Store     | 17. Ole Oleson      | 24. Barn          | 31. Dave Montieth    | 38. Dr. Montieth     | 45. Tom Stockland   |
| 4. Hotel            | 11. Russell Res.       | 18. Residence       | 25. Simons Church | 32. Northern Hotel   | 39. School           | 46. Hall            |
| 5. Kinney Merc. Co. | 12. Flitcroft-Thompson | 19. Peter Rosenberg | 26. Residence     | 33. Hilson Residence | 40. Christ Solid     | 47. Depot           |
| 6. Ole Nelson       | 13. Machine Shed       | 20. Burns           | 27. Bennet        | 34. Tom Severson     | 41. Slaughter House  | 48. Hand Car House  |
| 7. Millinery Store  | 14. Christ Amble       | 21. Knut Helgson    | 28. O. G. Kinney  | 35. Tom Thompson     | 42. Severin Fjelsted | 49. Noer Drug Store |

# The History of Colfax, Wisconsin Dunn County U. S. A.

Long, long ago,  
Old times never die,  
They simply fade away,  
To make room for  
The Coming of Today.

(Gladys Mead)

Colfax, Wis. was settled at the junction of the Red Cedar River and 18 Miles Creek. Colfax is said to have been first settled in 1867, although the History of Northern Wisconsin, published in Chicago, in 1881, gives the year as 1864, as that of the first settlement. Which ever date it is, John D. Simons, born July 26, 1834, is generally regarded as the first settler on the village site. He owned the land and built the first house.

There were pioneers on farm land, among them Mr. Simons, who had arrived some years earlier.

One of the original settlers, a Mrs. D. C. Baldwin, the grandmother of Miss Edna Emmerton of Colfax, contributed many papers and facts from which a lot of the Colfax history is drawn.

In April, 1858, Cyrenius Baldwin and James Mathews left Waukesha for Dunn County, going to Prairie du Chien, then by boat to Rumsey's Landing. They met Charles Boles, who brought them to where Colfax now stands. There was so much water at that time, it was almost impossible to travel around. Mr. Baldwin bought a half section of land and Mr. Mathews bought a quarter section. Mr. Mathews bought half of this land for himself and the other half for his brother, A. T. Mathews, then the men returned to Waukesha. In 1864, Mr. Baldwin drove a span of horses through, bringing his wife and children, arriving in November. They also brought along two two-year-old colts. In Oct. 1, 1864, D. C. Baldwin and Albert Hinkley left home at Waukesha, driving 121 sheep. They arrived at the J. E. Mathews home on Oct. 20, 1864. On May 20, 1865, this whole flock of sheep was burned to death by a prairie fire. These sheep were valued at from \$10.00 to \$15.00 each and wool

was a dollar per pound, so this was quite a loss.

Mr. Baldwin started a store in the village which he operated until his death in 1892. More about this in another section.

In May 1860, the James and Andrew Mathews families started for Colfax in wagons drawn by oxen. Not being sure where their land was located, they camped near the river on land owned by Cyrenius Baldwin.

It seems women through the ages have a tendency to resent each other and the wives of these two men were no exception. It is told they did their washing while camping by the river and spread it on the bushes to dry. In the meantime, a band of Indians came down the river and camped nearby. The white women, fearing the Indian women might steal their clothes, snatched them off the bushes. Immediately the Indian women became angered. It was not known if the opportunity of stealing the clothes was taken away, or the fact their honesty was questioned, that made them angry. One Indian

woman went after the daughter of Andrew Mathews, (Sarah) with a poker. A man who knew the Chippewa language, talked to the Indian women and settled the trouble. The next day the Indians moved back up the river.

To get back to Mr. Simons: he built the first house in Colfax where the Peoples State Bank now stands, in 1867, and in the spring built a mill, which will be written up in another section. Mr. and Mrs. Simons lived in their house, which was considered very comfortable for the times. Mrs. Simons decided to use one of her rooms for a store and bought bolts of calico in orange and blue, some unbleached muslin, Coates thread (which can still be bought) hooks and eyes, and matches and according to historians, had a lot of fun showing her goods to customers.

Mr. Simons must have been an enterprising man. The first year he sowed rutabagas on some newly broken ground. He had 1,400 bushels of fine rutabagas. Since the settlement



Main Street. Colfax, Wis., 1896



had no name at that time, it was called "bege" town, as everyone began to raise rutabagas. Even now, some old timers call it "bege" town.

All through the history of the village, Mr. Simon's name appears. He was responsible for the opening of at least three additions, one in 1884, one in 1897, and another in 1899. Mr. George Vorland also opened an addition in 1898, as did J. E. Rublee in 1899. Among other additions were Berg & Braaton in 1909 and Fjelsted's in 1912. The Lake View addition was opened in 1912, the Cutting Addition and the Park addition in 1915. In 1915 the population of Colfax was 100.

After Colfax was incorporated as a village in 1904, the first officers elected were: George Vorland, president, A. C. Chase, clerk, O. G. Kinney, treasurer, K. A. S. Swenson, assessor, J. H. Clark, constable, A. S. Lee, police justice, D. Pooler and Jacob Thompson, justices of the peace, and James Kidd, Dr. L. A. Larson, Peter Peterson, Jerome Beebe, E. B. Hill and O. C. Olson as trustees.

It is amazing how much produce went out of Colfax in those early days. Colfax excelled as a potato market, sending out during potato season, as many as 37 cars (train) in one day, with an average shipment of 20 cars per day. We have been told wagons were loaded high with potatoes and were lined up for blocks, all the way from the bridge to the railroad, waiting to be unloaded. Old time pictures show the streets choked with wagons.

A starch factory was built beside the present home of Mr. Rudolph Sonnenberg, to take care of potatoes which were not first run and not saleable. This has been gone for many years now, but in 1900 it used up 10,000 bushels of potatoes. One thinks of tobacco being grown only in the south, but Wisconsin farmers found it could be grown here, and it was of very good quality. Farmers reported a yield of about \$150.00 per acre. Long sheds with vertical openings for ventilation, were used to store the tobacco until it was ready to be stripped. There was a cigar factory at one time, located where the post office is now. It employed five people. Some of them were Frank Johnson, Charles Gulickson, Magie Yokes, and another woman's name we could not find and another man. The building was later replaced by the bank building (the Post Office now).

Journalism in Colfax was launched by a man who started a small publication called "The Colfax Record",

which ran only six months. According to a souvenir publication put out in 1900 by Mr. A. C. Chase, "the man, after gathering in all the free-will offerings of the people for the support of what they supposed was to be a permanent and lasting newspaper for their town, departed, leaving their constituents without value received and with no confidence left for printing offices in Colfax."

Among the early settlers in Colfax, mentioned in Mrs. Baldwin's account were: John Hill, who came in 1860, James Lowry in 1863 and John Lowry and wife in 1864, all from Waukesha County. In 1865, W. A. Mathews was married to Laura Mann of Eau Claire. Albert worked two years for the Shaw Lumber Co. then moved his family to the farm.

John and George Paul started to work for the Knapp, Stout Co. (lumbermen). John soon returned to Waukesha for his family. John and Thomas Studley arrived here by ox team in 1865 and took homesteads, as James McElwain also had done, who came here in 1860. Alex Running and David Monteith, brother of Dr. Monteith, were the legal advisers of the community in pioneer times. Carrol Lucas of Menomonie is said to have been the first school superintendent. E. B. Hill was county treasurer for a number of years.

Everyone we have talked with, say there were no saloons in Colfax, but plenty of "blind pigs" and plenty of drinking. We were told beer was served from someone's barn 58 years ago. So, we guess the five "saloons" we now have in 1964, are only the "Blind pigs" who have regained their sight.

Rev. William Galloway was the Methodist minister on this circuit in 1865. Mrs. Baldwin remembered he left his team of horses at James Kidd's and they were running in the pasture, when one of them was killed by lightning. The residence of James Kidd is now the home of Mrs. Thelma Thomley, just west of town.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Viets ran the big boarding house at Twenty-two Mile Ford, owned by the Knapp, Stout & Co., in 1877 and stayed there until 1888. It was from the ledger of Mr. Viets, kept so meticulously, that food prices were quoted in another section of this history. Mrs. Andrew Tainter, wife of another lumberman, said of Mrs. Viets. "Blessed is the home maker, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven". They got along very well with lots of fruit, blueberries, red raspberries, wild grapes and wild plums.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Russell moved to Colfax in 1877, according to the so often quoted record of Mrs. Baldwin.

In 1870, J. B. McKahan built a store in Begge town, with Mr. W. R. Culbertson acting as store manager. Kris Kinney was head clerk. George Galloway hauled goods for that store from Menomonie. It has been said that the coming of the Culbertsons was the "beginning of social life in Colfax." Lulu Maud, the daughter of the Culbertsons was the first white child born in the village limits. This was on Oct. 21, 1870. She became a very good artist, and moved to California after her marriage to Oscar Knutson. After several years, Mr. J. B. McKahan sold his store to John D. Simons.

Mrs. Montieth, wife of Dr. Eli Montieth, and a very beautiful woman, walking with the grace of a queen, was the first music teacher in this part of the country.

Ole Larson arrived June 15, 1861. O. J. Running came in 1862, bringing his family of 9 children in a prairie schooner drawn by oxen. He had \$9.00 in money when he arrived. James Kidd came in 1867. Arthur Simpson came in 1865 and Andrew Simpson came in 1868.

Alec Running and J. E. Mathews started a store in 1873. The first blacksmith shop was operated by Halvor Erickson and the first barber-shop by Thomas Leach. Andrew Johnson built a large store and used the upper story for a hall, with Andrew Ajer as manager. The hall was used for all public gatherings. There was a Good Templars Lodge organized in 1898.

Andrew Johnson sold his store to O. G. Kinney and Severin Fjelsted and the concern was known as The Kinney Merchantile Co. The store was in the building now occupied by the Noer Drug Store and next door to it was the Rye building, which housed a machinery store. It had a loading platform on the front and the building was later built out to the sidewalk. You can see where it is "spliced". It was consolidated with the firm of Flitcroft & Thompson and the O. K. Hardware Store, under the name of the Colfax Store Co., with the first officers as follows: O. G. Kinney, president, Thomas Emmer-ton, vice president, E. B. Hill, secretary, T. E. Thompson treasurer and W. C. Flitcroft, manager. In 1881, the village had a population of 60.

It might be interesting to see what some of the older buildings in Colfax were once upon a time.

First there was the old Royal Hotel, which was very nice away back when. It stood on the corner just north of the Viets residence. Then there was the Northern Hotel, which is the home of Ruth DeSoto now. There is a picture of it with all men in front of it. In all the advertisements, all the hotels welcomed men and teams. Evidently women did not travel. The Zittleman Rootbeer stand was once a "dental parlour", long, long ago. A livery stable stood where the Messenger now stands. The old Union church, built by J. D. Simons stood where Dr. Frogner's home now stands. The home of La Vern Hovland was once the Levi Montieth store, a general store. A tailor had his shop in what is now the Orin Larson home. That first home built by J. D. Simons stood where the People's State Bank now stands. There was a millinery store next to the Gunderson grocery location now. Once the Alfred Peterson home stood on the site of The Farmers Store. Downstairs was a shoe repair shop and the family lived upstairs. There was a harnessmaker called Holcombe who's location we could not find.

There were many businesses which we have not been written up but some of them will appear on a plat drawn up by Mr. Viets. Those will be in the late 1800's.

Research by  
Mrs. Walter Weeks.

## AGRICULTURE OF EARLY COLFAX AND TODAY

The prairie land near Colfax was settled as early as 1860, the timberland being cleared for farms and homesteaded. People came from as far away as the New England states. The men worked in the lumber camps in the winter and farmed in the summer.

One of the first crops raised here, were rutabagas. In fact so many "beges" were raised here, the town was known as "Bege Town" since the settlement had not been given a name at that time. Before long, potatoes became a thriving crop, to take the place of the "beges". Old timers say the line of wagons loaded with potatoes extended from the bridge to the railroad track. There were no storage houses for potatoes at first, so they were stored in basements under several stores. One place where they were stored, was under the Running's store, which is now Bremer's Funeral Home. They thought by storing them, prices would be higher in the spring, but law of

supply and demand did not always work out that way, so the potatoes were hauled out on the fields and plowed under. Then warehouses were built to store potatoes. Five such buildings were owned by a Mr. Stark, Mr. Miller, Mr. Kinny, Mr. Uggen, and Mr. Scritsmeier who sold his warehouse to Dan Card.

A new venture came to Colfax during the 1890 period to make starch out of the surplus potatoes. The factory was owned by A. R. Hall of River Falls and managed by Mr. Dunn. As late as 1939, the boiler and part of the foundation was still standing on the lot near the home of Rudolph Sonnenberg. The factory paid 10 to 20 cents per bushel for the potatoes. In less than 10 years, the price of potatoes was too high to make starch profitable, so it was abandoned.

Many farmers from Stoughton, Wisconsin came to Colfax and found that raising tobacco was favorable. Large producers were Krist Kristenson, John Danielson, who lived where Neal Bates now lives, Ole Danielson, who lived where Robert Ferry now lives, J. A. Jackson who lived where Alvin Kragness lives, John and Anton Kragness, A. P. Anderson, Edwin, Anton and Halvor Anderson, Frank Pooler, who lived where Elmer Blicher now lives, and Thorvald Melgard, were names connected with the tobacco industry.

John Danielson produced a bumper crop valued at \$10,000, at 15 to 18 cents per pound. The average price was 2 to 5 cents a pound. That seems little, compared to the 40 to 50 cents a pound which growers now receive.

Tobacco farmers needed large sheds to store their product. These buildings had hinged doors along the side which could be opened during "case weather", which was a damp, foggy weather usually preceding Christmas. When tobacco leaves were taken down from their hanging and stripped and baled, graded and shipped, buyers came directly to the farmers and made bids for the crops, even before the harvest. Sometimes they even made a down payment to the producer.

Women were often employed in the tobacco harvesting and sorting. Labor was hired as all the crop ripened at the same time, so a family was needed at home and there could be no exchange of help.

Ralph Viets recalls corn was husked by hand. He and another man husked 21 acres of corn.

Blueberries were brought in to the

stores in tubs, pails and baskets and were exchanged for groceries. They got two to three cents per quart compared to fifty cents received today. People drove here from Chippewa to get berries.

Other crops were tame hay, wheat, buckwheat, oats, barley, rye and sugar beets. A sugar factory was located at Chippewa. An anecdote is told about Pete Prince and Mr. Weideman coming to Colfax from Cooks Valley with a five ton load of hay on a sled drawn by four horses. In the excitement to see who could get to the point of delivery first, Mr. Prince's load of hay tipped over on the corner of what is now 40 and M. Nine men, who were also hauling hay in this caravan, reloaded the hay and on they went. There was cooperation in those days. At the time, those men were about 18 years of age.

Certainly the contrast of ways and tools of farming in pioneer days and even fifty years ago, is marked. In the early days six or seven cows was enough to milk by hand. Now, in 1964, many, many farmers milk from forty to sixty cows, using two or three milking machines. A great many farmers now run the milk directly into a bulk tank, made of stainless steel. A milk truck comes to the farm for the milk, and it is drawn off the bulk tank, without human hands touching it. A tank of this kind costs \$2,500 and up. The pioneers, who reaped their grain by hand in the very first days, then by a horse drawn binder, wouldn't believe their eyes if they saw the huge, self propelled combine of today, which cuts and thresh the grain all in one swift operation.

In the early days hay was cut with a scythe, then a horse drawn mower. Then it had to be side-raked until it was dry enough to store in the barn. Now, tractors are used to cut the hay, then a hay conditioner is run over it to prepare it for baling. The farmers now have a machine that goes down the field and bales the hay and tosses it out. This machine will bale 1,500 to 2,000 bales of hay per day, depending upon the condition of the fields, whether they are hilly or flat etc. Hay was chopped only 10 years ago, (1954) then blown into the barn. Now only the corn is chopped and blown into a silo for cattle feed.

The new, huge tractor, which is 200 horsepower, can now pull 5 to 6 bottom plows. Whole fields can be plowed in one day.

Very few farmers have a horse on the place. Some keep one to ride, or

perhaps keep one team.

Times certainly have changed.

Research by  
Mrs. Clarence Burling  
Mrs. Walter Weeks

## PICKLES

The pickle industry in Colfax has given many a farmers wife and children a little extra money.

The Fame Canning Co. of Three Oaks, Michigan, began operation as a pickle station, July 25, 1922, with G. R. Thompson as bookkeeper and Inge Johnson as the "dill maker".

After three years, The Fame Canning Co. pulled stakes in Wisconsin and sold out to the Reid Murdock & Co. They operated under that name until a few years ago, when a consolidation occurred and they now are a division of Consolidated Foods, under whom the local pickle station now operates.

Many local boys earned their college tuition here. It is a cash crop and top prices are paid at all times. One year in particular stands out in our memory. There was some over 1,000 barrels of dill pickles processed and shipped out. Now a modern method in this year of 1964, is used and dill size cucumbers are shipped to the River Grove plant in Illinois where they are processed and on the market in a shorter time.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Thompson are still in charge of the station and still do the signing of contracts with farmers.

Research by  
Mrs. G. R. Thompson

## BEANS

We must not forget that green beans were also a cash crop for the farmer or acreage owner and a source of "pin money" for children who picked the beans at so much a pound. It was hot and hard work, yet fun when a whole group pitched in and worked together.

Contracts were signed the same as with the pickles and the farmer was given the seed by the company, so the right beans for the particular part of the country for canning, were produced. The younger the bean and the smaller, the higher the price per pound. Beans and pickles were not grown by the pioneer farmer, but this industry is of the last half of the century.

Canning peas are also grown by farmers for the canning plants. The peas are also contracted for and seed given out. A field man says when to cut the pea vines for the vinery, which is a center where the peas are shelled and sent on their way to the factory.

Research by  
Mrs. Walter Weeks

## ANOTHER COLFAX INDUSTRY

An egg grading station was opened in the Iverson Building in 1942, by Rock Peterson and was managed by Betty Berseth. Then Ruth Herman and David Herman were employed by her.

The purpose of the market was to give the farmers a local place to market their eggs with better prices.

Later it was moved to the Henry Paul building, where Ruth Herman was manager for a short time, until Sept. 1944, when Helen Sundby took over the management. In 1945, it again took on a new location known at the time as the Everson Building. At this time, Spring Valley Produce Co. purchased the station.

Eggs that were brought in by the farmers were graded and trucked to Spring Valley Produce's main station, and then shipped to various markets. During World War II, the government was their main buyer for consumption by the armed forces.

During the peak of the markets output of graded eggs, an average of 500 cases were sent out by truck in one week. The average price paid to the farmer varied from thirty to fifty-five cents per dozen. One time it reached sixty two cents per dozen.

Farmers came to market their eggs within a radius of thirty miles of Colfax.

Five ladies were employed to grade and two boys to make up crates at the peak of the business.

People employed at various times were Olive Isakson, Ruth Sylte, Mildred Langel, Gilma Gunnufson, Emma Turner, Ruby Simonson, Dorothy Hilson, Alma Lunn, Dorothy Thompson, Helen Knutson, Marjorie Snyder, and Mrs. Art Scharlau. Harland Stockland, Orrin Randal, Charles Barstad, Scotty Sutliff, Layton Knutson and Roger Klukas, helped.

With the start of other egg produce companies putting trucks on the road and picking up the eggs directly from the larger egg producing farmer, the market was forced to close in 1956, much to the disappointment of the smaller producer.

Research by  
Mrs. Leon Turner

## THE FLOUR AND FEED MILL

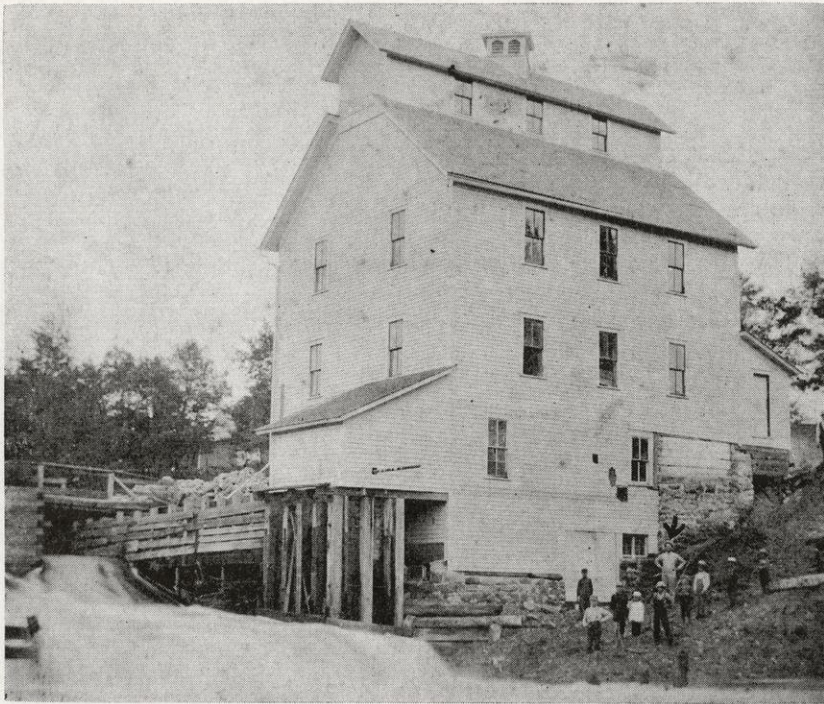
In 1869, J. D. Simons built a mill and a dam on Eighteen Mile Creek and ground wheat, corn meal and buckwheat with water power. It was a great help to the farmers, as they previously had to go to either Menomonie or to Chippewa Falls for this work. Every time there was a heavy rain, the dirt dam would wash out. This was a great boon to many people, because men and their teams of horses, would have to be hired to rebuild it and they would then get flour for their families and feed for their teams.

Mr. Simons finally gave up trying to keep a dam in repair, so in 1880, he established a feed mill in the area of where the Stovern house is now located. He used a steam engine to produce his power. Mr. Hilbert Jacobson ran the mill for him. Mr. Simons finally discontinued this mill and built one across the stream, on the bank just north of the present dam.

About the year of 1894, he sold the dam property to James Anderson of Dallas. Mr. Anderson built the dam of jack pines and dirt. He made rafts of hardwood logs which he owned at Dallas and just put them in the Red Cedar River, several miles east of Dallas. He loaded these rafts with lumber and in that way transported the lumber to build the mill, using the large logs as timbers and pilings in the building.

There is a story that darkness overtook them one day as they were floating a load of lumber down the stream, so they poled to a sandy spot on the shore and piled several inches of sand and gravel on to the raft. They then built a fire of dry branches and wood on top of the sand so they could have light for the rest of the journey.

Another story is of a fish that hitched a ride. As they were floating down the river one day, they passed by a slough, and at the edge of it, they saw a large fish in the water. So they poled the raft closer to the



Old mill run by Oscar Anderson under arrow. Harry Halvorson at top of hill.

fish in order to get a better look at it. The fish must have decided the close quarters were becoming a bit uncomfortable for him so decided to slip out of the way. He landed on top of the load of lumber. The boys, Walter Pooler and Oscar Anderson, came into town with a 4 lb. rainbow trout which they proudly showed to everyone.

After the dam was completed and the mill operating, Mr. Anderson left his son here to operate the mill with the assistance of Harry Halvorson of Dallas. Later on an electric light plant was installed in the mill. This necessitated the need of more power so a gasoline engine was installed to help out when needed.

The mill subsequently passed through the hands of Elbert Hill and T. E. Thompson, the latter selling out in 1910 to Carl O. Larson and his brother, Edward Larson. It was then known as the Colfax Feed and Electric Power Plant and was operated in its double capacity under this management. Later on Carl bought out his brother Edward's interest and operated the mill with the assistance of his sons, Melvin and Wesley, until about 1920, when they sold the Light Plant to Colfax Light and Power Company.

Melvin and Wesley both quit the feed mill business about this time. Melvin moving to Clintonville and Wesley began doing electrical wiring for O. I. Anderson. Mr. Larson was alone in the mill for a short while when his son, Reuben, who

had recently returned from navy service, went into the mill and assisted his father in its operation.

Carl Larson was in ill health for some time and passed away in January of 1934. On April 2, 1934, Eighteen Mile Creek went on another rampage, after a heavy down-pour of rain and flooded the village, doing thousands of dollars worth of damage. The mill property and dam went out in the flood.

Research by  
Lucy Brooks

## COMMUNICATION

### Telephone Exchange

The Colfax Telephone Exchange was installed in 1903, by Oscar Anderson, previous to which time the village had no local exchange but only a long distance toll line from Menomonie, controlled by Louis A. Tainter.

The first telephones installed in the village was between Dr. Larson's home and his office. Also, between the Kinney-Hill store and the Kinney warehouse near the railroad tracks. Later on more telephones were installed in the village and lines built out in the country.

Mr. Anderson operated the local exchange until Jan. 1911, when he sold it to T. E. Thompson. At the time of this purchase it had 200 telephones, which was later increased to 475 telephones.

Under the ownership of T. E. Thompson, the exchange became a family enterprise, with his daughters and sons helping in its management.

The first exchange was located in a small green building, which stood about where the old local office is now standing. In 1917, this building burned down, and there was no service for about three days. Tillie Thompson tells that the St. Paul Electric, the Bell Telephone, and other companies they dealt with came in immediately with a crew of men and they were moved across the street into temporary quarters in the upstairs rooms of the Nels Hammer Tailor Shop. This building has since been moved and is now the Orin Larson residence.

About 1913 or 1914, the exchange was again moved across the street into the Thompson Duplex and they operated it until some time in the early twenties, when another fire drove them out and they moved. This move was in the telephone exchange building from which it now operates in 1962.

Mr. Thompson sold out on Feb. 7, 1928 to the Community Telephone Company. A few years later, this was sold to the General Telephone Company, who are the present owners. The system has grown to about 600 patrons and 7 operators are employed. They work two at a time at the board, in shifts.

In late 1963, a new era in phone service was started, when the dial system went into effect. The last of the telephone operators lost their jobs and another opportunity for jobs in Colfax was gone.

Research by  
Lucy Brooks

## READ AND WEEP

In talking with Mr. Ralph Viets of Colfax, one of our older citizens who grew up here, he remembered he had his father's old ledgers. We eagerly scanned the yellow and brittle pages to see what the cost of living was away back when.

In 1888, the cost of groceries is listed, item by item, to determine the board bill for men who stayed and ate at the 22 mile ford farm (which was a hotel) and the Royal Hotel.

### August 28th, 1888

16 lbs. prunes.....	\$1.00
1 lb. corn starch .....	.10
4 lbs. soap .....	.25
8 lbs. of beef .....	.80

### August 29th, 1888

10 lbs. of beef .....	.60
10 lbs. butter .....	1.25
30 lbs. pork .....	2.00

### November 5, 1888

50 lb. barrel of flour .....	1.20
72 eggs .....	.90
10 bushels potatoes .....	1.50

### 1889 to 1890

47 lbs. pork .....	3.76
41 lbs. beef .....	3.45
1 bbl. apples .....	3.00
2 gallons syrup .....	1.00
2 gallons vinegar .....	.40
8 lbs. coffee .....	2.00
30 lbs. sugar .....	2.00
5 lbs. raisins .....	.75
1 lb. baking powder .....	.25
12 lbs. currants .....	1.00
15 lbs. beans .....	.45
125 quarts of milk .....	2.50
55 lbs. crackers .....	4.10
10 lbs. bacon .....	2.09
A chicken .....	.40
1 gallon oysters .....	1.50

### Things Other Than Groceries

Taxes .....	11.21
1 pair corset steels .....	.20
1 pair shoes .....	1.00
1 pair overshoes .....	1.60
2 lamp chimneys .....	.20
Snake root .....	.10
1 lb. tobacco .....	.20
Life insurance .....	1.50
1 pair overalls .....	.70
Paid the wash woman .....	.80
Paid Hattie (hired girl?) .....	2.40
1 bedstead and springs .....	5.00
1 washing machine .....	6.00
1 pair suspenders .....	.25
1 carpet .....	5.60
1 half bushel clover seed .....	2.62

Before the reader feels too badly when he compares prices of days long gone and today, stop and consider the wages. On April 17th, 1888, a Mr. C. W. Scritmier and team were employed.

Paid for team work hauling lumber .....	\$3.00
Paid for team work hauling shingles .....	1.50
One day's work by team .....	1.00
For cutting hay .....	4.80
Work ¼ day .....	.25
Farm work ½ day .....	.38
Paid the girl .....	1.95

All through the ledger, Hattie was paid around \$2.40. We assume she was the hired girl and that it was a week's wages. Every once in a while the ledger says "paid Ralph .25." Later on it was "paid Ralph \$5.00", so Ralph was getting older.

It was hard to acquire the goods needed, especially in the first 50 years. In the days when it was hauled either by oxen or horses from Menomonie, it took days to get supplies. There is a vast difference in transportation at the end of the century. Out of season produce was unheard of and what could not be grown, canned or dried, the pioneers simply went without. Little did our ancestors think fresh fruits and veg-

etables and flowers would fly through the sky from all over the world, in a matter of hours.

So don't mourn the "good ol' days"!

Research by  
Mrs. Walter Weeks

## MAIL

In those very early days from 1862 until there was a mail system, mail was brought from Menomonie. Anyone going there, usually by oxen, brought the mail. The going was slow and it would be late at night when they arrived home. They would put each families mail on a post or any place handy, near his house. It is said that when spring came, mail was found all around the places, where it had been buried in the snow. To quote one of the earliest settlers, Mrs. D. C. Baldwin, "it seemed we did not know enough to put up a box where the mail would be safe."

When a Mr. J. B. McKahan established a store in 1870, his manager was a Mr. W. R. Culbertson, who was appointed postmaster, the office being then established.

Later, when Mr. McKahan sold out his store to J. D. Simons, the latter took over as postmaster and held it for a number of years. Miss Jessie Mathews, who became Mrs. W. C. Flitcroft, held the job for a number of years, serving in 1897. After her came N. A. Lee. It was during his administration that rural routes were established, first two routes, then five. Since those with whom we have discussed the names of those first two carriers, do not agree as to who they were, we hesitate to make a statement. It is thought those two first carriers were Mr. Siever Bjerkness and Mr. Sed Gunderson.

On Sept. 1, 1915, J. D. Burns succeeded Mr. Lee as postmaster. By this time the office was third class and 195 boxes were installed. Succeeding Mr. Burns as postmaster, was Mr. Lawrence Fjelsted, who came as the result of a change in Administration. In 1933, Alpha Ruth Anderson received her first commission as Post Master. In 1942, Miss Anderson received her permanent commission as Post Master. Up until this time, postmasters were appointed for a 4 year term, and if the Administration was changed from a Republican to a Democratic one, he served his term, but was succeeded by a postmaster who was of the same party as the Administration.

After 1942, postmasters went under Civil Service and went out of political jurisdiction. Miss Anderson is serving now — 1962.

In 1940, there were four mail trains going through Colfax. When it came train time, all the citizens who could, chiefly the men, flocked down to the post office to wait until the mail was sorted. While waiting, they would visit in the lobby, and catch up on all the current news. There was a certain group of older men who never failed to be there on "Skandenaven" day and later the "Decorah Posten" day. These were newspapers printed weekly in the Norwegian language. Always among the "lobbyists" was Egil Rasmussen, a blind man who had a newsstand in the lobby.

Now, in the year 1962, there are no mail trains stopping in Colfax. All mail is brought in by truck from Eau Claire. Neither is there any choice news items being exchanged in the lobby. So, another era is passed. Now the mail is being flown by airplanes faster than sound, trucked in by star route trucks, when the towns are off the beaten track.

There are now three mail routes going out of Colfax. One is Route 1, with Selmer Larson carrying it. He has 68.30 miles with 185 boxes and 200 families. Route 2 is carried by Walter O. Weeks with 75.85 miles and 242 boxes, serving 251 families. Mr. Conrad Frogner carries Route 3, which has 53.55 miles with 164 boxes and serving 176 families.

The office personnel in 1962 is as follows:

Regular Clerk — W. O. Arntson

Classified sub — Herbert Larson

Temporary sub — Hilly Freestone

To complete the postal history up to 1964. On July 18, 1962 occurred the death of Walter O. Weeks, carrier for Route 2. A. C. Mortenson entered the service in 1963, on June 22nd, taking Route 3, with Selmer Larson taking over Route 2 and Conrad Frogner taking Route 1.

In late 1963 a new system for speeding up mail delivery, called the zip code went into effect.

In the next 100 years, will mail be delivered to the moon? Only time will tell.

Research by

Miss Ruth Anderson  
Ralph Viets  
Mrs. Walter Weeks

## YE OLDEN DAYS

A story of ye olden days would never be complete without stories of how these rugged people of an earlier day, played as well as worked.

At first, sundown found people ready for their rest, since they, at first, had few reading materials and lighting was poor. But they began to improve and people began to go more. The women and children went along. The children were put to bed round the base burner, which was more comfortable. Old timers have said you roasted one side of you in front of the fireplace, while the other side froze. The base burner had more heat and with its isinglass windows, gave a nice, red glow.

With the work of women never done, what with taking care of their children, cooking meals, doing washing by hand on the wash board in a tub of water, some weaving their cloth for clothing, everyone making all their clothing, even to their men's clothing, there was little time for SOCIETY as we think of it today. But people did have to have some recreation.

Prayer meetings were held in homes and sing fests, also. Singin' school was held in school houses, after schools were built. Hymns and ballads were sung, everyone taking part whether or not they could really sing. These "sings" were accompanied by the melodian and later by the organ, pumped with your feet to keep the sound coming.

Quilting bees, where women from far and near, came to help quilt. Perhaps there was plenty of gossip too, to make things interesting. They stayed all day and usually brought along food to help out on the eats. Beautiful quilts were made that lasted into another generation. Not a scrap of material, which was precious, was wasted. We remember seeing a quilt made by our grandmother, using a nine patch design with the squares no bigger than a postage stamp, and some of these were pieced.

In later years, hayrides were popular — and still are, only with tractors instead of horses — and bobsled riding was fun. The double box was filled with straw and long boards placed on bricks along the sides of the box for seats. Quilts were taken along as well as fur robes, for those who wanted to keep warm or just plain snuggle up — and they did it then too. Half the fun was get-



Left to right: Rena Tweed Gilberts, unknown, Theresa Anderson Thompson, Lilly Thompson Teppen, Tilly Hjershaw, Inga Lee, unknown, Lillian Thompson Dixon, Blanch Larson Johnson, Olga Kinney — At a Tele-Steve celebration.

ting off and running alongside the sled to warm up, with someone usually getting their face washed with snow. It was thrilling to have the boy friend catch his lady love and scrub her face with snow. After all, he had to put his arm around her, if he was to wash the face of a struggling girl!

Spelling bees were also held in school houses and were not considered work, but play. For a spell down, two leaders chose up sides, until all were on one side or the other. "Teacher" gave the words to be spelled. Spelling was by syllables and phonetics and believe us, they could spell! It went something like this: advertisement. a-d, ad, v-e-r, ver, t-i-s-e, tise, m-e-n-t, ment, advertisement. They rattled it off rapidly. If a mistake was made, down sat that person, until the very last person left standing became the champion speller. It was lots of fun, lots of competition and certainly lots of practice in spelling!

We are not sure when square dancing was started, but they did square dance to the music of a fiddle. A "caller" gave the directions for the dance.

Box socials were pretty exciting. The girls and women decorated a box very fancily, and filled it with lunch for two. The men and boys bid for the box, or rather the privilege of eating supper with the owner. If a certain boy wanted the box of a certain girl, and started bidding, his friends started bidding also, just to make him pay a high price for it. And if that certain boy could get the sister of that certain girl

to reveal how her box was decorated, so he could be sure and buy it, it usually cost him something. We know of a boy that gave that sister a box of chocolates for the secret, only to have the names on the boxes switched. The money from the auction of boxes went to the school to buy something needed.

Skating was a good winter activity. But there was none of the quilted, light weight nylon suits, nor the thin, but warm tights nor was there any water-proofed material in the clothing. Both boys and girls wore long, black stockings pulled up over thick, fleece lined underwear, or woolen underwear. High topped shoes were laced up tight, so not a breath of air got to them. Their outside clothing was thick and heavy. The girls wore "kitty hoods" hand made of angora yarns and were tied under the chins. Both boys and girls wore long scarves wound around their necks. When one got all rigged up in the underwear and the long stockings, then spent time skating until they were almost frozen, they would return to the home to get warm by the old woodburning range. When the wet clothes started steaming the undies could make you itch like all get out. When the boys got so big they were ashamed of the bumpy legs caused by the fleece lined underwear and long stockings, they started to wear long pants. The girls were not so fortunate. We wonder what these boys and girls would have thought of the light-flooded, glassy smooth surface of the present indoor rink and the skating outfits which look like lovely ballet costumes.

Before the turn of the century, coasting was more fun than you could imagine. If the children had no sled, they went down hill in a dish pan or the wash boiler. No one had a store bought sled. Dad made the sleds.

By Mrs. Walter Weeks

## THE THREE R'S

The first school building in Colfax was a little log structure measuring 16x18 feet with 10 foot poles. Some historians say it was located about 80 rods west of the Methodist Church. Our oldest historian here in Colfax, who was born here in 1880, and went to school here, does not go along with this location. He says it and the second school were located on the north side. Be that as it may, Colfax did need and build a second school house, having outgrown the first one, which was ungraded. The second school was 18x20 feet, with 12 foot posts, and was built in 1871. As far as we can learn, it was on or near the property now owned by Mrs. Hattie Pecore. It was known as "the old red school" and was taught by Sarah Wilson. The first teacher is said to be Margaret Miller.

In 1889, this school house became too small, and a third was built. It was a two story frame building of two rooms, built in 1910 on the present site of the school. It was 26x50 feet and was two stories. An addition was built to it, making a three room grade school. It is thought the first teacher here was John Andrews.

In speaking of the new school, mention is made of the substantial stone building next to it, which was the high school. This high school must have been what is the grade school now. In 1924, a Mr. N. O. Reppen was the principal. In reading papers of the past, mention is made of the need to build a new high school, as more room is needed.

This may be history, but times never seem to really change. At this very moment (1962) the present principal, Mr. Donald Rice and the school board, are in the process of trying to estimate the needs of the present and determining the future needs of the schools. The present grade school is bursting at the seams and the high school is overcrowded. Grades are being taught in the Auditorium to take care of the overflow at this time. So an architect is now in the process of drawing up plans for a new school,



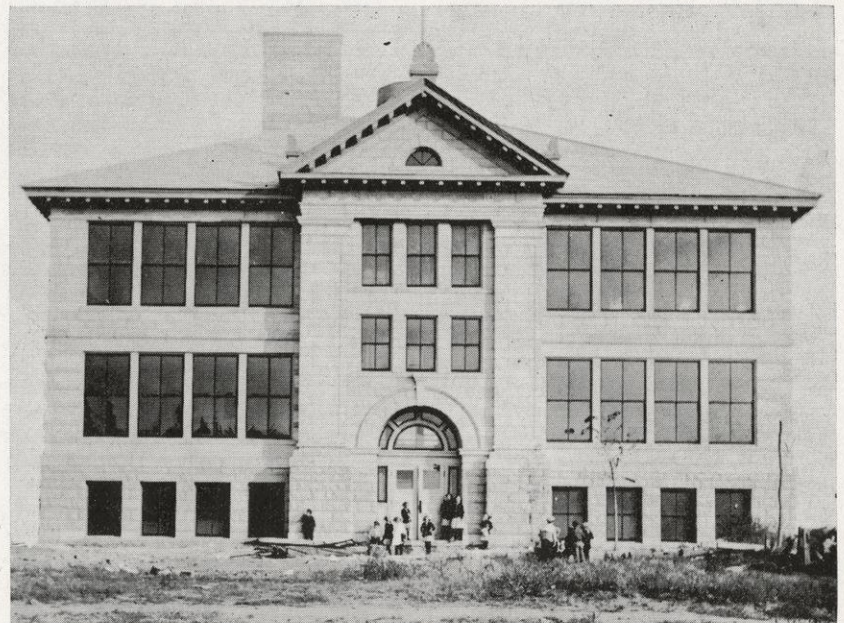
Colfax Public School — Built in 1871

which will take care of the needs for years to come.

Since we are speaking of the last 100 years in history, for the benefit of those who will come after us, it might be well to mention some of the things which are in the schools of 1962 and which might be outmoded entirely in the next century. The pioneers would have been flabbergasted at the thought of a kitchen in a school house, but the schools of today do have kitchens and a dining room, where several cooks prepare hot lunches for the entire school

body. The original idea of hot school lunches started in the bigger cities, where many underprivileged children neither had enough food nor was it hot, and it was not well balanced. In experiments, it was found the children did much better work and improved in health when they had hot noon meals. And so it came to pass, all school children have hot lunches, if they so wish.

Children of even 50 years ago, had no thought of school buses picking them up and taking them to and from school, nor was there any



This is the school just after construction was finished. At that time it housed the entire school. Now it is a part of the grade school building.

idea of gymnasium. It was enough exercise just to get to school on their own two feet. Children in pioneer times suffered many hardships getting to school. They had miles to walk and somehow the winters seemed to have been more bitter. Many could not get to school in mid-winter.

On August 30, 1962, the school board of Joint School District No. 3 at Colfax, awarded contracts to low bidders for the construction of a new elementary school. The new school is constructed on a site which was purchased as part of the school expansion program and extends north from the existing school buildings to the Red Cedar River. The new building includes twelve standard classrooms, two special purpose classrooms, kindergarten, multi-purpose area and serving kitchen, sick room, teachers' work room and administrative offices. Separate temperature and ventilating control is provided for each room. Ventilated wardrobe space is provided in each room.

Contracts totalling \$271,711 were awarded to Market and Johnson, Eau Claire, for general architectural construction. Mr. Edward F. Schmaltz of Colfax is the architect.

School began in this new building in August, 1963.

And so time and school children march on to a bright, new future.

#### Research by

Ralph Viets  
Mrs. Walter Weeks

## FASHIONS OF LONG AGO

The gowns of the past, which we dig out of our attics and parade in style shows seem very funny to our children and even to us.

The styles of a hundred years ago and later, were tight fitting bodices, with an under bodice closely buttoned to the neck. Many of the bodices used whale boning in the seams, and even in stand up collars of the later years. Sleeves were long, and tight fitting on the forearm. Leg-omutton sleeves were high fashion at one time. They were full at the top and stood up, with the part below the elbow fitted. The skirts were floor length. Some of them were flat in front, with many gores and at the back they were fuller, falling into a sort of a train. It was more of a fullness. These skirts were lined and then they had about a twelve inch facing up from the bottom. On top of that, there was a facing of hair

braid, which made them stand out a little. There was even a dust ruffle. In fact the whole thing made a wonderful street sweeper. Many, many petticoats were worn, with yards of handmade lace and insertion with tucks between the rows. Other reasons than modesty, made the long skirts and many petticoats fashionable. They were styled to keep the pioneer women warm. It is a great mystery to us today as to how those hardy women ever worked in such clothing. If our grandmothers and great grandmothers were to see the knee length skirts of 1962, not to mention the skin tight capri pants, they would probably faint. Many women were prone to fainting, since the tiny waist was high fashion and to achieve that tiny waist, it took a lot of "cinching" up, which in turn restricted free breathing.

The hats of the 1800's and early 1900's were really beautiful. Miss Edna Emmerton has a little hat which everyone borrows for plays etc. This hat is lovely. It is charreuse braided straw, with purple violets and velvet ribbons on it. It even has a "sprig" of rhinestones on it, with ties under the chin. We have a hat given to us by Mrs. George Vorland, which we prize. It is a little black bonnet type thing of soft braid. It has a brim covered with pleated chiffon. There is a black ostrich feather sticking up from the back and a rose beside it. It also ties under the chin.

Children's fashions were heavy and long. Even little boys wore dresses until they were about three years old — and curls!

In the 1960's or perhaps earlier, the fad of women's wearing pants or slacks came into being. The daring ones wore them on the street. Today, the slacks have become skin tight capri pants, or short shorts, and the dress is seldom worn. A 100 years ago the sight of a woman so dressed would have caused complete consternation — or a runaway.

Children's fashions of today are much more comfortable and are made of drip dry cottons or nylon. so there is very little ironing.

#### Research by

Mrs. Walter Weeks  
Mrs. G. R. Thompson  
Mrs. John Farner

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLFAX

The Colfax Lutheran church was a part of the Holden congregation. Its birthday was Jan. 10, 1864.

Rev. J. Woage was pastor before 1900. Rev. T. Saitveit was pastor from 1907 to 1919.

The Lutheran church was built in 1902, but not dedicated until 1907. Rev. Saitveit preached his first service June 30, 1907. At the first business meeting it was decided to complete the pulpit, baptismal font, altar and altar rail. It was also decided to buy the L. O. Berg home as the parsonage. In 1908, it was decided to transfer the parsonage to Rev. Saitveit's. This remained until 1907, when the proposal to buy Rev. Saitveit's house as the parsonage, was made and discussed, but it was decided not to do this but to increase the pastor's salary by \$200.00, plus \$50.00 in lieu of oats that had been furnished for the pastor's horses all these years. Now the automobile era had come, which necessitated a change in this arrangement.

Early resolutions that were adopted were:

1. Anyone who is married at the church, shall pay a fee of .50 for "klokkingning", said fee to go into the general treasury of the congregation.
2. All members must see to it that they bring no dog to church as they are often a nuisance (for-argelse) during services.

The union proposition seemed to be the chief matter of concern at all meetings and it resulted in a decision in favor of a union. Rev. Saitveit resigned then, to give the new congregation free hand to call a new pastor. He preached his farewell sermon Aug. 3, 1919, going to Story City, Iowa as superintendent of the Old Peoples Home and Sanitarium. All arrangements had been made for the union of the Norwegian Synod and the United Church. The whole field divided into three congregations, Colfax, Holden and Norton, Running Valley to be served temporarily by a new pastor. With the union, the birthday of the present church was May 14, 1919.

#### The Rev. Chris S. Thompson 1919-1938

With the simultaneous ringing of the church bells in the former United Church and Synod Churches at Colfax on Sunday morning, August 17, 1919, the members of these churches were called together for the first time after the union has been affected. At this service, which was held at the Colfax Park, Rev. Thompson was installed as pastor.

It had long been the desire of Rev. Thompson to publish a parish paper.





Norwegian Synod Church, Now the Lutheran Church

In 1922, it was decided that such a paper should be published. "The Parish Record" "Kirkebladet". For years it was necessary that it be a bi-lingual paper. Therefore, the Parish Record had an English Department and a Norwegian Department. The newly organized Men's Club took it upon themselves to be the sponsor of the paper. Members of the congregation were asked to subscribe to the paper for .25 per year and merchants were solicited for advertisements, such as:

"We meet all Competition of Mail Order Houses" — Ajer-Iverson Mercantile Company

Hardware, Furniture and Undertaking, Running-Martin and Co.

"Good Morning! Have You Got A Savings Book?" — Bank of Colfax

The first editor was Rev. Chris S. Thompson.

The first Business Manager was Victor Noer.

The first Assistant was Sam K. Iverson.

PAGE FOURTEEN

Dec. 1922, it was decided that the envelope system of Church Financing be adopted. Dec. 10th was set aside as the first Pledge Day. The records say one member refused to pay his share (\$1.00) of a bill for painting the church and used the following line of argument:

1. The whole proposition had not been adopted legally.
2. The painting was unnecessary.
3. No work should have been done before the cash was on hand.
4. It could have been done with less expense.

The Confirmation Class of 1930 was the first class not to be divided into two classes. All members used the English language.

The L.D.R. was organized in 1937.

After 19 years of faithful service Colfax again lost their pastor. Rev. Thompson resigned to accept a call as Superintendent of The Cour d' Alene Homes at Couer d' Alene, Idaho.

With the union of the congregation

formerly affiliated with the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, came the work of erasing the lines of separation and of using the elements into one harmonious congregation. This was Rev. Thompson's mission in coming to serve Colfax, which he succeeded in doing beyond all hope and expectation.

After Rev. Thompson left, Colfax, Holden and Norton and Running Valley held a joint meeting with the results: All congregations voted to maintain the parish intact and to issue a joint call to Rev. S. M. Moe of Brandt, S.D. Until Rev. Moe's arrival in Colfax, the committee had to consider the selection of a temporary pastor. Within their midst was a man willing and capable of serving the parish, Rev. K. Sumstad.

#### The Rev. S. M. Moe 1938-Feb. 1949

Much of the time Rev. Moe was in Colfax, was during the war years and such great efforts were put forth. The Ladies Aid put it to a vote to discontinue the circles with the aid during the war years and devote time to meet the demands of the Red Cross work with sewing, knitting, making bandages, etc. It was voted down. However, members did do the Red Cross work too.

The times changed, the following little items appeared, we think, on the church bulletin:

1939 — Wood CLC can use several cords of wood for which market prices will be paid. Anyone having wood for sale see one of the trustees. Wood will also be accepted in payment of pledges.

#### Nov. 1941

Wood Cutters, Attention!

As a gift, the Colfax congregation has received some over half an acre of uncut timber. The church council decided that the best way to turn timber into fuel would be to stage a cutting bee. Sharpen your axes and saws, men.

#### 1944

As times have changed, the needs of the church have changed. Plans were formulated to enlarge the sacristy, additional Sunday School rooms, the chancel would be changed to make room for the organ and choir. Above vestibule, a balcony to seat 60, would be built.

Late in 1948, Rev. Moe resigned to take over as superintendent of the Eau Claire Lutheran Home for the Aged.

**Rev. T. M. Boe, 1950-1957**

Called to serve only the Colfax Lutheran Church, the country churches to call a pastor of their own. Until Rev. Boe was called, Rev. G. Oppen was our substitute pastor.

During Rev. Boe's stay at Colfax Lutheran, the plans formulated in 1944 were completed. Also, the Altar Guild was organized, purpose, service and study of the altar.

**Rev. S. M. Moe 1957-1961**

Our Lutheran League made a trip to Missoula, Montana for the convention.

June 4, 1958, came the tornado. The parsonage suffered some damage, but wasn't long before it was learned the parsonage and church had been blessed in escaping the destruction which had befallen the rest of our village. The church became the center for feeding the homeless, volunteer workers, National Guard men and such ladies of all churches who worked side by side.

In 1960, the congregation voted to sponsor a Home Mission Congregation, Calvary Lutheran Church, Tucson, Arizona. Our sponsorship enabled them to build Colfax Hall (educational unit).

Jan. 1961. Rev. and Mrs. S. M. Moe left CLC for the associate pastorage at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington.

**Pastor Wallace H. Aos 1961-**

During the spring of 1961, Pastor Aos was called to CLC. At present the men are having their 40th annual Father and Son's Banquet, Feb. 14, 1962. At the first Father's and Son's Banquet, tickets sold for .40.

With the passing of years and as each pastor leaves for his new call, the message is much the same. Baptisms have been administered, many young people have been confirmed, couples have come to ask the blessings of the church upon their marriage, there have been many sick calls and many of the sick have died. And such is our church history and the history to come.

**Bible Camp**

When a Bible camp was available for our young people, all were encouraged to attend. Luther Park was situated on the east shore of Prairie Lake. Through the years, rates varied from \$5.00 plus a pound of butter and a cup of sugar. This was a must from each camper.

**Mergers**

Colfax Lutheran. Part of the Norwegian Synod. 1944. It was voted to give our church a new name. Since our church is not a Norwegian any more and it was thought best to have a name that did not indicate any nationalistic group, it was unanimously voted to take the name "The Evangelical Lutheran Church". On Jan. 1, 1961, the American Lutheran Church began its operation by the merging of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, United Evangelical Lutheran Church and the American Lutheran Church.

Compiled from  
The Parish Record.

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Bethany Lutheran Church was in the country, about two miles east of Colfax on Highway 40, until 1941, when they purchased a chapel from the Lutheran Free Church, on the north side of Colfax.

They shared pastors with the Bethesda Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, Wis., until 1952. Pastor Rangen began to serve the Colfax congregation, alone. The following year, in 1953, the congregation built the parsonage, located on the north side of Colfax, on the corner of University St. and Amble St.

On June 4, 1958, the tornado completely demolished the church. Not a stick was left. But in the midst of all this desolation stood the piano, unharmed, except for weather. Until rebuilding could be done, the congregation met in the Auditorium basement. That same fall, a new and bigger church building was started, and on Feb. 12, 1959, the first meeting was held in the new church.

Bethany Lutheran Church is a branch of the Lutheran Brethren Synod, with headquarters in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

To go back a little, Bethany Lutheran Church was organized in the spring of 1899, with the following communicant charter members: Rev. J. J. Peterson, Rev. A. B. Pyre, O. Sundby, Hans Olson, Ole Eberg, Jacob Olson, Fredric Fruvæg, Gunder Israelson, Christ Gunderson and Oscar Hansen. A year older than the church of the Lutheran Brethren of America, Bethany became a member of that synod in 1900.

As we have said, the first church erected before the turn of the cen-

tury and located about two miles east of Colfax, was built at a cost of about \$800.00, which was unheard of in this year of 1962.

The following pastors have served the congregation:

- J. J. Peterson
- A. B. Dyre
- J. J. Peterson
- K. Hoel
- H. S. Fauske
- H. Hundere
- J. J. Peterson
- Tom Peterson
- R. S. Gjerde
- O. Huseby
- E. M. Strom
- A. A. Pederson
- M. A. Derumsgaard
- E. O. Hagen
- O. Monson
- R. Norheim
- M. J. Vettrus
- J. Rangen
- C. Hamre
- A. Monson
- J. Gangen
- O. Vettrus

Research by Javerna Fjelsted  
Rev. Vettrus

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

The first preaching in the community about Colfax was in 1862 by D. P. Knapp, a lay preacher, who had moved here from New York State. He held services in the school houses.

Between the years of 1858 and 1895 the following pastors worked in this region. We quote approximate dates of their pastorates.

- 1858-1861 — William N. Darnell
- 1861-1862 — Thomas Harwood
- 1862-1863 — E. S. Havens
- 1863-1865 — William Springer
- 1865-1866 — O. Burnett
- (During these years J. Holt assisted in the work.)
- 1866-1868 — J. Holt
- 1868-1871 — William Springer
- 1871-1872 — S. Dalton
- 1872-1873 — W. E. Conway
- 1873-1874 — G. T. Newcomb
- 1874-1875 — S. E. McLain
- 1875-1876 — G. W. Smith
- 1876-1877 — J. Holt, G. N. Foster, assistant
- 1877-1878 — G. N. Foster, S. Dalton, assistant
- 1878-1879 — J. P. Greer, W. E. Doughty
- 1879-1881 — William Galloway, J. Harrington
- 1881-1882 — James Haven
- 1882-1883
- 1883-1884 — A. H. Yakom



Methodist Church — Still in Use

- 1884-1886 — Robert Smith
- 1886-1888 — James D. Campbell
- 1888-1890 — Thomas Bigger
- 1890-1892 — E. B. Russell, George Derby
- 1892-1894 — John Addison Neill
- 1894-1895 — W. S. Bradley
- 1895-1897 — F. E. Lewis

During this period the above pastors were assisted at various times by G. W. Chariton, James Lawson, G. D. Brown, A. J. Davis, T. C. Golden, D. Brazee, D. Klingman, and J. H. Hainer.

Some time after 1895 a Mite Society was organized. Its membership consisted of local women of various religious faiths, whose goal was to build a church in the village of Colfax, which would serve all denominations. Previous to this time religious services had been held in homes and in school houses. This society held their meeting in the homes of the members and in the Woodman Hall

where lunches were served and socials and sales were held to earn money toward this goal. As a result of their efforts they purchased the lot on which the Methodist church now stands.

No membership roll was available but the following is a partial list of these worthy women: Mesdames A. C. Hayner, J. B. Russell, L. LE. Roen, W. J. Mathews, John Paul, D. C. Baldwin, George Higbee (Mrs. Mamie Krause) and Miss Sarah Mathews.

In 1897, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Jones, and their two daughters, moved to Colfax where he became manager of the Colfax Supply Co., which is now the Inland Lumber Co. Mrs. Jones became interested in the project of building a church and with others in November 1897, in her home, organized a Methodist Episcopal Ladies Aid.

They followed the same procedure as did the Mite Society, both striving for the same goal. Mrs. Jones was elected the first president, Mrs. J. H. Scritsmier, vice-president, Mrs. C. W. Bitney, secretary, Mrs. J. B. Russell, treasurer, Mrs. A. C. Chase, assistant treasurer.

On August 9, 1898, a meeting was held in the school house at which it was decided to build a Methodist Episcopal church. They advertised for bids for carpenter work and for lumber. The cost of the church was to be between \$1,600 and \$1,700.

In September, 1901, the congregation decided to build a parsonage. A lot just west of the church was purchased and a parsonage and barn were erected. This building was used as a parsonage until the latter part of 1920 when a trade was effected with Sidney Knapp for his residence, formerly the George Harsh residence, on Balsam Street on the east side of town. This house was used as a parsonage for but a little more than a year when in April 1922 a deal was made with George T. Vorland to trade it for his residence on Cedar Street, a few houses north of where the church is located.

During the years of 1936 to 1939, the interior of the church was covered with Nuwood which improved the acoustics greatly as well as the appearance.

In 1947-1949, an addition was made to the north side of the church basement, to provide room for two rest rooms, a fuel room and a better entrance to the basement. The entire basement was redecorated at the same time. The cupboards were improved, a gas range and new sinks were installed and a little later on an electric water heater was purchased.

From time to time memorial gifts have provided various furnishings for the church. From this source have come the pews, the lighted cross, the altar and altar candle sticks, the pulpit, the pulpit light, and railing, twenty-five Methodist hymnals, a pair of tall candelabrum, the magnolia entrance doors, the railing around the choir loft, and the carpeting in the rostrum and choir loft. Besides these things, an electric organ has been acquired through memorial funds and a set of electric chimes which are piped outdoors. Personal memorials have given the church beautiful light fixtures, an outside bulletin board, and a baptismal font. Stained glass windows were put in, with individuals giving a window as memorials. Many, many years have passed since the church

was built and many things were needed to bring it up to date.

The Methodist Church membership and constituency was large until 1900 when the United Lutherans purchased a building and organized a congregation of their own, and left the M.E. Church. Later the Synod Lutherans built a church and they too left, leaving the Methodist church with a much depleted congregation. Since that time, the Methodist Church has been a minority congregation.

Since the church was built, it has been served by the following pastors:

1897-1900 — H. P. Waldron  
1900-1901 — H. A. Snyder  
1901-1902 — L. R. Leake  
1902-1905 — T. W. Stamp  
1905-1912 — W. T. Scott  
1912-1913 — Frank Haight  
1913-1915 — A. A. Marcy  
1915-1918 — M. E. Fraser  
1918-1920 — E. J. Sachten  
1920-1922 — Frank Prucia  
1922-1926 — Albert F. Acker  
1926-1928 — E. P. Stone  
1928-1930 — J. H. Benson  
1930-1934 — O. F. Voll  
1934-1936 — Walter Thompson  
1936-1939 — Obed Asp  
1939-1942 — W. T. Walker  
1942-1944 — Roy Harris  
1944-1946 — Cecil Argetsinger  
1946-1960 — H. Folkestad  
1960-1962 — Jack Burt, Student Pastor  
1962 — William Carlson, Student Pastor

The first couple to be married in the Methodist Church was Mr. A. B. Visgar to Mrs. Ella McKinley of Chicago, on Sept. 2, 1900.

On March 18, 1943, the Methodist Church women held their annual Mother's Daughter's banquet. Mrs. C. A. Cooper played the procession-al, the decorating committee was Mrs. Vorland, Mrs. G. I. Gregory, Mrs. Lyle Douglas and Mrs. Walter Weeks. Mrs. Weeks made 250 tiny perfect little hats to use at each place for the spring theme. The program, with Mrs. George Johnson acting as toastmistress, was as follows:

Mother's Welcome ....Mrs. Martin Anderson  
Daughter's Response .....Bonnie Douglas  
Vocal Solos ...Phyllis Grimsrud  
Marimba Solos ....Chloris Weeks  
Playlet "Have You Had Your Operation" .... Seven Daughters  
Talk ....Mrs. Roy Harris  
Song "Star Spangled Banner" .... All

The cast of the playlet was, Violet Olson, Verna Peterson, Chloris Weeks, Ruth Gregory, Shirley Bird, Janice Linberg, and Corrine Maves.

History by  
Mrs. Jennie Chase  
Mrs. John Farner

## MEDICAL HISTORY OF COLFAX

According to information given by Mrs. Baldwin, Dr. Nichols was the physician who was called in, in pioneer days. That is all the information available on Dr. Nichols. No one seems to remember him.

In 1876 Dr. Eli Monteith of Iron Ridge located here and practiced for many years. It may be of interest to note that Mrs. Monteith was the first music teacher in Colfax. Dr. Monteith was killed by a train one night as he was returning to Colfax from a call. The railroad crossing was near the home of John Farner or perhaps it was nearer the Carl Hainstock home. He drove a team of horses when he was struck by the train.

May 13, 1896, Dr. L. E. Larson came from Chicago and practiced medicine and surgery until his death May 16, 1929. He also operated a hospital, which was located above Noer's Drug Store, at which place he also had his offices. He was well known and widely respected. He had a very large and successful practice. Not only was he a doctor, but he was interested in music. In 1900 he reorganized the Colfax Village Band. It would vary in membership from 25 to 45 members and by 1925 was an active organization. Dr. Larson also served as church organist at the Colfax Lutheran Church for many years.

During the years of 1898 and 1899 this territory was also served by Dr. McCoy. He was succeeded by Dr. Higgs. In 1900 Dr. Wright arrived and practiced until 1912.

In 1913, Dr. Ribenack arrived in Colfax and he practiced here until 1917.

In 1919, Dr. C. A. Cooper arrived in Colfax, after having served in the United States Army as a Medical Officer in World War I. He started in partnership with Dr. L. A. Larson, but this partnership was dissolved, after which time he carried on a private practice here until 1957. He was a member of the Dunn County Welfare Board from the time of its inception until shortly before

his death. He was also village health officer for many years. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ruth Stansbury, Downing, Wis., Dec. 7, 1960.

November 19, 1929, Dr. O. M. Felland, with his wife and family moved in from Bovey and Grand Rapids, Minn., where he had practiced for three years. He occupied the rooms above Noer's drug store previously occupied by Dr. Larson; together with Dr. W. R. Brooks, the dentist. In 1948 they moved their offices to the first floor quarters of the Sunday Building. He is still in active practice at this place. Dr. Brooks died after a lingering illness at Luther Hospital, Eau Claire, Wis., on June 24, 1963.

In November, 1961, Dr. Harlan Earnhart, with his wife and family, moved in from Edinburg, Ind., and is located in the offices previously occupied by Dr. C. A. Cooper in the Bronken Building.

Both Dr. Felland and Dr. Earnhart are members of the Staff of Luther and Sacred Heart Hospitals in Eau Claire, St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls, and Memorial in Menomonie.

They are serving a large territory, which includes not only Colfax, but parts of Elk Mound, Sand Creek, Wheeler and surrounding territories.

Material from "History of Dunn County" 1925. Information from Mr. V. R. Noer and others.

Research by  
Mrs. O. M. Felland

## DENTISTS

Dr. Hamp Barden was the first dentist in Colfax, coming in 1876. He manufactured his own tools and did good work.

He was followed by Dr. Byrens, whose office was in that portion of the Variety store, now used as a root beer stand, in the summer. This building is owned by Mrs. Ruby Zitleman.

Dr. Robert Howison of Menomonie, had a dental office there equipped with three chairs. He traveled with a horse and buggy, carrying the necessary equipment for dental work. He would stay a day at a time in each place and made Colfax, Dallas, Sand Creek, and Ridgeland and a few other towns, before returning to the head office. Dr. C. F. Clark accompanied him until he learned the territory, then he carried on alone in the same capacity.

Dr. W. R. Brooks, a native of Bloomer, arrived in Colfax in 1902 and established an office and began practicing dentistry. He retired in July of 1958, after 56 years of continuous service. One remarkable thing which should be mentioned is the fact Miss Mayme Moen became his assistant and stayed with him 46 years until his retirement. We understand Miss Moen came right out of high school to take this job.

Dr. David Frogner, a local young man, took over this practice and is here at the present time. He came to take over the practice immediately after his graduation from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Earl Kalk practiced here for a short time, then moved to River Falls. Some time later, Dr. E. W. Goetz came and stayed a few years. Dr. Gustave Krause took over his practice in 1932 and operated until his sudden death in 1953. Dr. Gordon Neumann bought the office and equipment of Dr. Krause, and is also here at the present time. Mrs. Ruby Krause, the widow of Dr. Krause, is now the assistant to Dr. Neumann.

Research by  
Lucy Brooks

## THE LIBRARY

Colfax owes its beautiful library to the undying efforts of the charter members of the Colfax Woman's Club, which was first known as the Ladies Reading Club, until they joined the state Federation. These women were so determined to start a Library, they gathered a few books here and there and were given books from time to time until they had a whole shelf of books to loan.

At a special meeting of the club on May 20, 1904, at the home of Mrs. Elmer B. Hill, the members voted to establish and maintain a Free Public Library. Mrs. George T. Vorland, Mrs. A. C. Chase and Mrs. J. D. Burns were appointed to find a suitable place to house the Library. A back room at the Bank of Colfax was secured.

Miss Mattie Ingerson was appointed as librarian at a wage of \$1.00 per month. Books, tables and chairs were donated.

Books from the Traveling Library at Madison and from the Stout Traveling Library at Menomonie were borrowed. At first progress was slow. Considerable effort was needed to keep the institution going. Money was raised from time to time from

the proceeds of dinners, bake sales, entertainments, or the sales of tags on certain days.

The Library has been housed in several buildings. In 1904 it was moved to Ingerson-Jadwin Building with Miss Ingerson hired as the Librarian at \$2.00 per month.

In 1905 it was moved to the Chase Building. Mrs. Chase acted as Librarian with a salary of \$1.00 per week.

On Feb. 13, 1906, the village board was approached on the question of financial aid for the Library. The committee was told that the population of the village was under the number specified in the state laws and an appropriation was not justified. But the women kept trying. The Library was moved in April 1907 to the home of Mrs. M. E. Fuller. Mrs. A. R. Wildes was appointed as Librarian.

At this time, the village board voted an appropriation of \$100.00 and did the same the following year. Since then the board has increased the amount.

The Librarians succeeding Mrs. Wildes, have been Miss Anna Fuller, Miss Irene Carter, Miss Cora Amble, Miss Lillie Gunderson and Mrs. Ed Rosenberg. Mrs. Rosenberg held the position for 27 yrs. before retiring. In 1950, she was succeeded by Mrs. Alice Hawkins who is Librarian at the present time, 1964.

In 1916 the Library was moved into its present location in the newly built municipal building. Since that date to this it has remained there. The Woman's Club does not actively have charge of the Library but their interest is still there. Once a year some project is put on to raise some money, which the Librarian uses to buy some extra thing her other funds would not cover. Perhaps that is the reason our library is so beautiful. A painting now and then has been bought, a piece or two of sculpture and the extras which add to the convenience of the Librarian in serving the reading public.

There is a beautiful fireplace in the library, blooming plants and vines are on desk and tables.

Some of the projects put on to raise a fund by the club, is a hobby show and antiques, an International tea with booths representing other countries, with exhibits from those countries being shown, a collection of French dolls on tour was once shown at the tea, along with a great many other events. Other Women's

Clubs are invited to be our guests and the general public is invited to attend the silver tea.

In 1954, the Woman's Club held their Golden Anniversary celebration in the library. Mrs. A. C. Chase and Mrs. W. R. Brooks were the only charter members still living, and they were there.

It is the policy of the Woman's Club to give a book to the library in memory of its members who have passed away. To date, books have been placed in the Public Library in memory of the following members: Mrs. W. R. Brooks, Mrs. J. D. Burns, Mrs. A. C. Chase, Mrs. C. A. Cooper, Mrs. Mary B. Hill, Mrs. C. K. Malmmin, Mrs. Emma Swift and Mrs. Bertha Running.

The library has grown from the original one shelf of books to over 6,000 volumes, besides encyclopedias and other reference material. When the first annual report was sent to Madison in 1908, there were 229 books. Among 153 borrowers, 667 books were circulated.

In 1961, 13,833 books were circulated among 555 borrowers.

The library is open 23½ hours a week during the school year and 16½ during the summer months.

In her report for 1963, which was sent in in 1964, Mrs. Hawkins reports that the library now has a circulation for juniors of 9,668 with 450 borrowers and for adults the circulation was 6,093 out of 184 borrowers. The number of books now in the library is 2,724 for juniors and 4,034 for adults.

The entire community is very proud of its library which is one of the best in the small towns of Wisconsin. Many individuals give money and memorial books as gifts to the library.

Research by  
Mrs. Alice Hawkins

## THE COLFAX CREAMERY

The main industry in Colfax, the creamery, was organized in 1898. It was a corporation which, in a few years, went into bankruptcy.

After this, five farmers took it over, to keep it going. Among these five farmers were Albert Mathews, Ed Benson and A. A. Anderson. Our informant could not recall who the other two men were. This group of men ran the plant for two years. then the creamery was again formed into a corporation.



**The Day the Mortgage on the Colfax Creamery Was Burned**

Mr. Gerhart Hammer was the buttermaker as well as the manager, for 15 years. Ed Close followed him. The managers through the years have not been recorded, since all of them could not be remembered. Mr. Gus Knopke went in as a board member in 1919. Mr. Elmer Hill Sr. had a hand in promoting the creamery also.

Many wanted to take in whole milk. At that time only cream was taken. In the early 30's the plant started to make casein. It was used for the same purposes as plastics are now used — for instance in coating paper.

The creamery had made money and had accumulated \$20,000 in 1928 or 1929. Feeling quite wealthy, the board thought they should build a new creamery. They found it took most of that amount to buy the right of way from the railroad. They were faced with the problem of raising the money for the building. They finally found a place in Milwaukee, that would loan them \$17,000. Five men did the unheard of thing of personally signing the note. The Milwaukee firm wanted their money, so again there was a scramble to find someone who would loan them the money to pay off this obligation. Before such a loan could be located, it is said those five men sweat blood, visioning their personal property all vanishing. But they did find the loan, and the threat of bankruptcy was over. It took between \$170,000 and \$200,000 to get everything that was needed. Not only did they need the new building, but many things kept popping up that were needed.

The creamery has always made butter. A list of the buttermakers could not be found, but the writer

remembers Marvin Hurley is a buttermaker and of course, there were others. G. R. Thompson learned the trade under Mr. Gerhart Hammer along about 1913.

It was in 1935 they started making powdered milk. In 1941, during the war years, an egg drying plant was started to supply the armed forces with "scrambled" eggs. To do this, the creamery started condensing milk and selling it to the White House Co.

Away back when, milk was brought into the creamery with horse and wagon. There are now 20 trucks carrying cans of milk, and 5 bulk tanks. At this time, 1964, Mr. Elmer Billie is manager of this asset in industry to Colfax.

Facts given by  
Mr. Elmer Billie  
Mr. Gus Knoepke

## THE COLFAX WOMAN'S CLUB

No history of the village of Colfax could be complete without the accomplishments of the Colfax Woman's Club, now 58 years old. Since its organization on Jan. 26, 1906, it has taken part in almost every public project that has come up.

Twelve dauntless women, tired of continually caring for children and managing households, doing their church work and the everyday things of life longed for some culture. These women decided to organize a reading club, which was named the Ladies' Reading Club, and later changed to the Colfax Woman's Club, when it joined the state Federation of Women's Clubs in February, 1916.

Those first officers were Mrs. C. S. Hawker, President, Mrs. George Vorland, Vice President, Mrs. A. C. Chase, Secretary and Mrs. Elmer Hill as Treasurer. To this day, there is still a Mrs. Elmer Hill, Jr., as an officer in the club.

When the club celebrated its 50th anniversary, Mrs. A. C. Chase and Mrs. W. R. Brooks were the only charter members left. They both attended the celebration.

Meetings were held every two weeks and still are. The Club was small but earnest and enthusiastic. These women, eager to learn by reading and eager for recreation, started what is now the lovely Colfax Library. Mrs. Chase has told us how they had a few books given them as a starter and how they slowly acquired more, until they had a shelf of books, in a lean-to shed. They took turns tending library. They finally made arrangements for the state traveling library to come to Colfax. A start was made and Miss Mattie Ingerson was appointed to serve three months as librarian.

It was the Woman's Club (or the Ladies Reading Club) that started the fair in Colfax, calling it the Community Civic League Fair. It was started primarily so that the children and young people would be encouraged to grow things to exhibit and to sew and cook and bake, along with the boys doing manual training and exhibiting their work. Premiums were offered to the young people to stimulate the competition. Livestock was then included in the competition. In 1923, the Colfax Commercial Club started to help with the fair, and later the American Legion took over the sponsorship of it.

During the war (the first World War) and the second World War then the Korean War, the women still were active in anything they could do to help. They helped in the drive for funds, sold war stamps, folded bandages for the Red Cross, as well as knitting for the Red Cross, conducted a nurses school for a few weeks, and they even adopted a French war baby, after the war. Their big interest was a baby clinic and a cooking school. To show how earnest they were in their endeavors, we submit the following poems or songs written by Mrs. John Farner:

In our kitchens oft we sat.  
Wondering what we should cook  
For our families who are always  
hungry,  
'Til we joined nutrition class.  
Now we never feel forsok  
As we plan our meals each day  
so merrily.



Bottom row, left to right: Birdie Peterson Running, Mrs. Geo. Vorland, Jennie Conroy Chase, Mrs. Tom Braeton, Hazel Peterson, Mrs. L. E. Roen, Emma Kulbec Viets, Luella Paul Rosenberg. Top row: Mrs. Granger, Mamie Running, Mattie Running Smith, unknown, unknown, Mrs. Lane, Mabel Baldwin Emmer-ton, Lena Danielson Kongsgaard, Mrs. Larsen, Mrs. Viets, Mrs. F. J. Hones and Mrs. Wilson Mathews. Several names in top row were left out.

Yum! Yum! Yum! We girls are cooking,  
 Making eats that stand the test,  
 And before an hour is o'er  
 We will beckon from the door.  
 That you join us in this happy,  
 jolly fest.  
 This little ditty was sung to the tune of "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, The Boys Are Marching". Another little song, all written in fun by Mrs. Farner, and sung to the tune of "Wearing of The Green" was as follows:

#### A Women's Song

Oh, we're a band of women gay,  
 Who love to cook and bake,  
 And anything that's good to eat,  
 We can tell you how to make.  
 We can cook for constipation  
 We can pack a lunch for school,  
 We can feed the tiny school boy,  
 And we do it all by rule.  
 We can tell you how to feed your babe  
 So it will grow up strong  
 With proper bones and muscles  
 He can join the healthy throng.  
 We can set a proper table,  
 And serve a meal with grace.  
 Now won't you come and join with us  
 And help to keep the pace.  
 We can tell you how to cook and can  
 And store your house with food,  
 And how each day to exercise,  
 And keep in happy mood.  
 Perhaps you think we're boasting,  
 Just ask us any questions  
 We will answer at our best.

You wonder where we learned our skill,  
 From whence our knowledge came,  
 We'll answer you most promptly  
 And will simply tell a name.  
 M'ss Stillman comes each month  
 to us  
 And leads us on the way.  
 Now cooking is no hardship  
 But the finest kind of play.

Lillian Farner.

Several women who had the nerve to do it, garbed themselves in black full bloomers and swung the dumbbells along with other exercises, to keep fit.

There was the time when the club put on a play called "Listen Ladies" with an all woman cast. Mrs. Jennie Chase coached them and she rehearsed and rehearsed them with no mercy because they acted crazy. At one time, everyone was mad at everyone else and would hard'y speak to each other. At a point in the play, when sandwiches were to be served, the sandwiches could not be found. The only male part was taken by Mrs. G. R. Thompson. All during practice, the Army Officer, which Mrs. Thompson was impersonating had no mustache, but someone dared Thresa to wear one that night. She always takes a dare, so appeared with the mustache. She shook the others up so much, they couldn't find the sandwiches which were to be served. Just in time, they

were located under the table and were shoved up on the table.

Club members have tried to keep in touch with the school, and to make the teachers feel welcome in the community. This has been done by having receptions, dinners with the teachers as guests, fun nights, once a country school which practically unnerved a couple of teachers. We think it recalled some of their own school days. Two years, the club placed flowers in vases on the teachers desks on opening day.

There is still talk of the style show put on to raise money for the library and other projects. It was old bridal gowns and to this day some of those various gowns still appear every once in a while.

One year the club was instrumental in bringing the Gimbel Art Exhibition from Madison, Wisconsin, showing pictures by Wisconsin artists. The first collection was valued at \$25,000. The second of the series less. Mrs. Walter Weeks was chairman of this exhibition and one can imagine her consternation and that of the draymen and janitor of the exhibition hall, when the pictures arrived. Some were so huge and packed so well in monstrous cases, they had to finally be brought in through the furnace room. Instructions were sent with the pictures, and they were to be placed under guard. It looked for a while as if they would remain outdoors, but they were gotten in and people came from other towns to see them, as well as a crowd from Colfax.

Another time the club needed to raise money, so had an out of town store put on a style show. That time a theme of "The Melody of Spring" was chosen. A picket fence was taken bodily from the Kenneth Iverson yard for a background for the roses and vines to be used as decorations. The gowns came at noon, which was a good thing. By 6 o'clock the worst blizzard imaginable was in progress with snow blowing and blocking the streets. Woe-be-gone women never expected to see a person at the show, but by 8 o'clock 250 women came and had the time of their lives.

Everything from flower arrangement classes and flower shows to CARE packages and a school for Arts and Crafts, were started by the Woman's Club. For several years, the club has subscribed to ten CARE packages.

When Colfax was hit by a tornado in 1958, and a great deal of it was destroyed, it so happened that only

five members of the club had their homes destroyed, so all the members worked day and night helping to locate food centers, clothing centers and staffing them, after the Red Cross had done the organizing. From the night of the tornado, until the following September, most of the women worked long, hard hours, along with other people from other towns. It was a club woman, working in the clothing center, who conceived the idea of using woolen clothing unfit for wear, for making wool batts for comforters, namely, Mrs. Elmer Hill. Hundreds of yards of percale was bought for coverings, and hundreds of wool comforters were made by women of the club and women of church organizations, both in town and out of town. Another Club Woman, Mrs. O. M. Felland started a fund to buy trees to replace the ones taken by the storm. With the help of many others she collected about \$600.00 which the village matched in a like amount. Ten foot trees were brought the following spring and each family was given a tree to plant. The next year, flowers and shrubbery were planted. In 1960, a thousand petunias were ordered by the club for public planting and many, many more dozens were bought by individuals to plant on their own property.

It is usually a club woman who heads the drives for polio, cancer, heart, Red Cross, etc. Mrs. Walter Weeks has headed the polio drive for 24 years, Mrs. Gilbert Gunderson, the cancer drive for 17 years, Mrs. Paul Gehring headed the heart drive for a few years until now, when only the cannisters are used. Several have had the Red Cross drive, at the request of Mr. Sam K. Iverson, who was county chairman for many years. Mrs. O. M. Felland, Mrs. G. R. Thompson, Mrs. Clarence Burling, are some of the women who have worked hard as chairman of the Red Cross.

The Woman's Club sponsors the Girl Scouts and have raised money to pay their area dues by selling birthday dates on a calendar. Mrs. O. F. Voll organized the Girl Scouts and acted as their first captain.

Little did we think, when those first 12 women started their reading club, that so much worthwhile work would be accomplished in those 58 years. As a member of the Federation the club programs have to include a few programs on certain topics or divisions, namely; Home Life, Conservation, Internal Affairs, Public Affairs, Fine Arts and Education.

We have written of the work done by older members. Our young members of the club have helped too and they will write the history of the next one hundred years of club work. It is they who will carry on the work and who in turn, will become the "older" members.

In 1962, the officers are Mrs. Ben Rosenberg, president, Mrs. Elmer Hill, vice president, Mrs. David Frogner, secretary, and Mrs. Alice Hawkins is the Treasurer. Mrs. Clarence Burling, Mrs. O. M. Felland are past county presidents, as was Mrs. F. J. Bremer. Several of the club members have been district officers, members of district committees, and state committees.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

of  
Orrin Russell Post 131

### PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we pledge ourselves together for the following purposes; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 per cent Americanism, to preserve the memories and incidents of our association during the great war, to inculcate a sense of obligation to the community, state and nation, to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of The American Legion. to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

In doing research for The American Legion Auxiliary, old minute books were delved into, but it was found the first ten pages had been removed. However, on the 11th page, this statement was found: "The Charter for The American Legion Auxiliary of the Orrin Russell Post No. 131, was applied for the year following the Armistice". Therefore, the Auxiliary must have been started in 1919, or 1920. The list of charter members has been lost.

The first president was Anna Wike Madison, who was married on Feb. 7, 1920, to Mr. Glen Madison, brother

of Mrs. Alfred Peterson. Anna Wike Madison is deceased.

The first treasurer was Mrs. Jennie Mauer, the sister of Mrs. Ed Rosenberg and Mr. Harold Peterson.

Those first meetings were held in the Odd Fellows Hall. Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. E. Cardin were very active in the unit.

The next record of meetings was beginning in October, 1935. The following officers were elected:

Mrs. H. Thompson — President  
Mrs. Anna Haugen — 1st Vice President  
Mrs. G. Johnson — Sec. & Treas.  
Mrs. B. C. Gullickson — Historian  
Mrs. C. A. Cooper — Chaplain  
Mrs. B. C. Gullickson — Publicity  
Mrs. H. Berseith and Mrs. E. Cardin — Executive Committee

On November, 1935, the Unit gave a gift of \$5.00 to Mr. and Mrs. Dalton as a Golden Wedding present.

The American Legion Auxiliary is dedicated to back the policies of The American Legion, and to assist in all their programs. Their work is carried on in the interests of Veterans and their families.

The Auxiliary gives money and support to an established scholarship fund called the M. Louise Wilson Scholarship. This is for the benefit of Veterans children who wish to further their education. There is the Poppy sale, which is carried on each year at Memorial time. The poppies are made of crepe paper and are not too much in themselves, but what they represent is very great. Veterans in the hospitals, many of them there for the rest of their life, with no hope of doing anything for their families, others who will be released, but will perhaps, remain crippled, are the ones who make the poppies. The Department hit upon this idea to occupy the minds and hands of men who need that kind of therapy. It is very difficult for many of them to make the poppies but they keep at it. The Department pays them 1½ cents for each poppy made. The Auxiliary buys the poppies and after the sale, 20 per cent of the money goes back. The rest of the poppy money is kept in a separate fund, not to be used for Auxiliary expenses, but must be used for help to veterans and their children.

There is a Child Welfare division. Its purpose is to care for the children of veterans, who for some reason, cannot do it themselves and for orphan veteran's children.



Another division of work, is Rehabilitation. Money is contributed to Camp American Legion, where handicapped veterans and their families can spend a little time in camp.

A gift shop is stocked and maintained by the American Legion Auxiliary in the hospitals. Every Unit gives gifts of handmade things or newly purchased items at Christmas time, which goes to the hospitals. Any veteran that can, goes to the little shop and picks out one gift for each member of his family and it is giftwrapped and mailed under his name. Those who are unable to leave their beds, have a wagon which goes around and allows them to also pick out gifts.

There is a Legislative division, which keeps up on all new legislation and keeps members informed of what goes on. They also support new legislation which is deemed good.

There is a Pan American division and a Civil Defense program.

The American Legion Auxiliary sends a girl to the Badger Girl's State in Madison.

Members of the Auxiliary have taken training in Audiometer and have helped give school children hearing tests.

Each year they honor the Gold Star mothers. They gave \$3.00 as a memorial to each soldier who was returned here for burial.

The Units all over the state make tray favors for hospitalized veterans trays. Colfax women made 114 tray favors for Christmas. They also help both in money and people, to put on a big Halloween celebration for the children and young people of Colfax.

After the tornado, they worked very hard helping wherever they could and in giving gifts to those who lost everything.

In the past history of the Unit, they contributed in 1957, \$11.00 for a Freedom Brick, which was a national project. The money went to help build the American Freedom Center at Valley Forge.

Each year at Christmas, fruit boxes or groceries go to veteran families. For example: In 1957, 36 fruit or grocery boxes went out to families or single people, handkerchieves were sent with a card to 7 people at the Old People's Home in Eau Claire and to the Mt. Washington Sanitarium in Eau Claire, as well

as to shut ins. They sent fruit baskets to Gold Star mothers and dads.

Ten dollars was sent for the Crusade for Freedom, Americanism is stressed and flag etiquette is emphasized. They were asked to help the P.T.A. plan summer play for children. One hundred dollars was given to the Dunn Co. Child Health Program.

In 1958, the Auxiliary sent CARE tools to Honduras.

A Junior Auxiliary for veteran's children has now been organized in Colfax.

The girls who have been sent to Girl's State in Madison up to and through 1961 is as follows:

- 1948 Lillian Olson (Mrs. Lloyd LeMense), husband in Air Force. (Mrs. LeMense died in Dec. 1961 in Germany)
- 1951 Yvonne Quivelon (Mrs. Gerald Silvernail, Augusta.)
- 1952 Ellen Peterson (Mrs. Alvin Luer, Colfax)
- 1953 Victoria Winget
- 1958 Jean Middlesdorf
- 1959 Ann Hovre (In nurses training at Luther Hospital)
- 1960 Patricia Hanson (Superior College student)
- 1961 Bonnie Lofthaus
- 1962 Donna Rice
- 1963 Kathie Hanson

The Auxiliary sponsored courses in First Aid with 15 people taking the course. They also sponsored the Kenney Fund drive and co-sponsored a Mental Health Program with the P.T.A. They place wreaths of poppies on veterans and Auxiliary member's graves. On Father's Day and Mother's Day, they remember the Gold Star Mothers and fathers.

#### Veterans Killed in Service

##### World War I

Orrin Russell  
Oscar Olson  
Hedley Sundstrom  
Herman Fruvog

##### World War II

Dermont Toycen Jr.  
Edwin C. Frogner  
Arnold A. Melgaard  
James W. Frasl  
Torgrim Teppen  
Arthur L. Berg  
Kenneth Winget  
Jerome Schwartz  
Alfred Madison  
Paul Peterson  
Robert O. Russell  
Earl M. Thompson  
Layton Knutson

Bernard Scoville  
Victor Olson  
Orrin P. Semingson  
Eibert Isakson  
Hiram Knutson  
**Korea**  
Gerald V. Rossiter  
Morris Brezee

#### Research by

Mrs. Walter Weeks,  
Mrs. Alma Gullickson  
Rena Cardin

## THE GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts were organized late in 1930 or early in 1931, by Hilda Svalstuen (Mrs. Otto Wentland) and Helen Dornick, seventh and eighth grade teachers in the Colfax Public Schools. Mrs. Leon Dunbar, then Doris Braaten, and Janice Jewett were also leaders. Later Mrs. O. F. Vold was appointed captain and still later Mrs. John Farnar became a lieutenant. In the write-up of the Woman's Club, it was stated Mrs. O. F. Voll started the Girl Scouts, but we found later we were mistaken. Mrs. Thomas succeeded Mrs. Farnar as captain.

The organization was sponsored by the Woman's Club. Some of the first Scout committee members were Mrs. C. A. Cooper, Mrs. D. R. Thomas, Mrs. German Thompson, Mrs. Arthur Anderson and Mrs. O. M. Feland. We are sure there were others, but cannot recall them.

The Scout hand book was their guide and they managed to conform to its requirements pretty well. The Scout budget was very scant so they bought material by the bolt and several patterns of different sizes. The leaders and mothers then met up at the Home Economics room at school, and a dress for each girl was cut out. Since some mothers could not sew several of us made several dresses, besides the one for our own scout or scouts.

The very first year we organized a summer camp. We secured the use of a large summer lodge on Lake Tainter, belonging to the Menomonie Boy Scouts, and borrowed several tents to house the girls. Each child paid fifty cents and furnished a certain amount of food. Mrs. Voll was our nurse and captain and Doris Braaten our life saver. This was required. Various other people volunteered to help with the classes which were held to help the girls pass various tests and earn badges. Those first years the troop was a lone Scout troop. They made their own plans, bought their own

badges, and carried on as best they could. They must have been good years for out of that group of girls they know the three Thomas girls and Winifred Rublee, are all scout leaders. Muriel Thompson and Helen Hill were scout committee members and Lois Farner is a den mother. There are perhaps others but these were the only ones that we know about.

Then the movement died out and no scout work was done until 1945 when it was reorganized and they affiliated with the St. Croix area.

The new scout committee members were Mrs. Oradinick, Mrs. Lyle Hake, Mrs. Cecil Argetsinger, Mrs. Geo. Johnson and Mrs. Frederick Bremer, Mrs. Clarence Burling, Mrs. Earl Larson, Mrs. Harlan Stone, Mrs. John Hammer and Mrs. Arnold Peterson, were the leaders. They were to meet with other leaders at an old Boy Scout camp way back in a forest, near Cornell at Camp Nawakwa. John Hammer with their two children took Mrs. Hammer to this meeting place. They were the first ones there and were a bit dismayed at the appearance of the place. It was cold and windy and as several windows were broken, it was a bit uncomfortable. So John, finding some panes of glass, busied himself with putting them in frames, to make the room more comfortable. Mrs. Hammer had brought a lunch along for herself as per instructions. In time John and the children became hungry so she let them eat her lunch. Eventually the other leaders arrived, each with her paper bag of lunch. Each person ate her lunch and poor Elaine had none. Later she was consoled for all her discomfort when her daughter Siri was one of three girls who received the Curved Bar badge. She was the first Colfax Girl Scout to receive this honor which is the highest honor attainable.

This area organization was dissolved later and Colfax Scouts became a part of the Indian Waters Council which includes Eau Claire, Chippewa, Barron, Dunn, Clark and two other counties. The Scout committee now consists of Mrs. Elmer Hill, chairman, Mrs. Raymond Larson, Mrs. Harold Olson, Mrs. Ben Rosenberg (Woman's Club), Mrs. Gordon Neuman, and Mrs. Paul Gehring.

#### CAMPFIRE GIRLS

There was an organization of Campfire Girls in the early days, before the Girl Scout movement. No details are available but only a list of the members.

Mrs. W. R. Brooks, Leader  
Ruth Scott (Hilson)  
Gretchen Smith  
Laila Larson  
Dagmar Thompson  
Laila Hammer  
Alvilda Running Saumers  
Irene Hammer  
Eleanor Hovland

Research by  
Mrs. John Farner  
Mrs. G. R. Thompson

### THE BLACK TERROR

June 4, 1958, dawned a hot, sunny, stifling day. All that fateful day, it was hard to breathe, hard to even move. There was a yellowish haze over the country all day. Along about four in the afternoon the sky began to get black and blacker in the southwest. By five or five thirty in the afternoon, the horizon was black indeed from the ground all the way up. The thunder was beginning to roll ominously. This writer was in Ridgeland and the threatening clouds made me start for Colfax. The storm hit as soon as I got to Ridgeland, the thunder was earsplitting, and the lightening was constant and blue. Then the rain began to come down in solid walls, making it impossible to stop for fear of being

hit by other cars, yet it was almost impossible to see to go on. However, we did, arriving in Colfax about six thirty P.M. The family took to the basement immediately, but could see the trees and part of the landscape. First the trees' branches and leaves stood straight out towards the east and then it switched to the west. The sound was so deafening, sounding like several trains roaring past. Before one had time to realize what was happening, the storm was gone and the rain stopped and the sun came out.

People began to come out of their basements (those who had time to get in them and look around to see what had happened. Our yard was covered entirely with limbs, all sizes. Our awning was hanging over our picture window, but no other damage was done. In looking down the street, we could see television antennas gone and huge trees torn up, but no one realized there was any other damage. So several of the women and children started walking down town just to look. In looking toward the side of town near the Legion Hall it seemed something was missing. Then they realized it was the Juel Haugle residence, which had just been completed that day. Then the women met Mrs. Elmer Sonnenberg, who was almost in hysterics. She was going to her father-in-law's



Wreckage of Home of Philip Felland.

home. She said all the south side of town was completely blown away and that Erling Lunn was killed and his children missing. The women were so stunned they went back home to get their husbands. Then the awful reports began to come in. We fought our way downtown through the debris to the Auditorium, where a crowd was beginning to gather. There were people coming in slightly injured, telling of others who were terribly hurt. There was no telephone service to get help, no electricity and no water, as the mains were broken when the homes went, therefore draining the water tank.

The policeman, Mr. Herbert Ziebell, who's own home had been damaged, was trying to get through to Menomonie on his car radio. He finally got word out for ambulances and station wagons and doctors to come. In the meantime, our own Dr. Felland, with the help of our dentist, Dr. Neumann, and anyone else who would hold things, was giving people first aid in one form or another, so they could endure their injuries until help came and they could get to the hospital. Dr. Felland had only a small flashlight, held in his mouth, to free his hands to work. Cars which had gasoline in them, volunteered to fill them with the injured and try and get through to the hospital. These injured people were soaking wet, all covered with a strange black grime, with some of them having their clothes half torn off them.

Boy Scouts and others, were racing towards the Auditorium pushing roll-away beds carrying loads of blankets, and folding cots. Mrs. Elmer Hill and Mrs. Walter Weeks, with the help of some of the boys, were putting up cots in rows, for the injured who could not sit up, and for the elderly, who had no place to go. Some of them, most of them, in fact, were too shocked to know what to do. It was getting dark, and the ruins still unexplored for possible injured and the dead. Eventually the ambulances and doctors began to arrive. They too had to fight their way into the town, because of debris on the road. One would think there would be no need for veterinarians at a time like this but there was. Groups of them began to arrive, to treat the injured animals upon which the farmers made their living. Those that had to be destroyed, were done so by the group following with guns.

The list of the dead began to grow. The toll of the injured was mounting fast. The Red Cross began to come in and try and organize some system to the chaos. The National Guard came in and more cots had

to be set up so they might rest between tours of duty. Much, much looting began within an hour of the storm. People from as far away as Minneapolis came and were looting. It is said a group of high school kids who were at a prom in Minneapolis, came within the hour. The National Guard closed the highways in to the town to stop the looting. Many things were found by the owners and piled up until they could get help to transport it, only to find it gone when they returned. We wonder how people can enjoy things gotten in such a way.

News travels very fast in this modern age. We can only tell of this storm from our own point of view, altho we know there were many more things which happened that we know nothing about. We do know that at midnight, we started for Eau Claire still deeply shocked, to try and get word through to our children that we were safe. We managed to get through to a friend's residence in Eau Claire and phoned out son at the University of Wisconsin. One wonders what to say, while a call like this is being put through. You wonder if you should blurt it out or lead up to the story gradually. In our case, when our son came on the line, we asked him if he was by any chance worrying about us. He completely broke down, for he had been frantically trying every way to reach us and was about ready to start for Colfax. We too were shocked so much so that we thought our daughter in far off Yuma, Arizona would not hear of it, so we did not call her. However, she was having a dinner party and watching television, when the program was broken off, to announce Colfax, Wis., was completely destroyed. Unable to get a call through and practically losing her mind, she phoned her sister in Ridgeland at 2 A.M. She had only heard it then, when her husband returned from Canada. She immediately thought us dead. It was two days later, before we could reach Yuma again. We know there are a lot of other frantic stories, if we only knew them. Anita Broken in far off Connecticut, where she and her husband lived, was having a terrible time finding out if her parents were safe. In Hawaii, Verna Peterson, who worked for the FBI there, heard of the storm in two hours and had managed to get a report on her relatives, while her sister in Washington, D.C. working in the Hagerty office, got the news off the teletype.

The Victor Noer family had their niece and her family who had just arrived from Norway. Within 24 hours, her father, Rev. Folkestad,

had heard the news of the storm and was frantic. He wired the Eau Claire newspaper to find out for him and have her wire him. The newspaper did, and they also wired him telling him they were safe and unharmed. It seems people from all over the world were calling anyone they ever knew, who were from Colfax, to find the details. Many, many stories similar to these could be told, if we but knew them. Many news flashes and stories were inaccurate, as perhaps some of this is. One can be so close to a thing, you fail to see the truth.

After the horrible night had passed, those whose homes were still standing, went down town to offer their help any place they could be used. No one had the heart to do their own work, nor could they stay home. It seemed people needed to be at the center of things. The very night of the tornado, things began to arrive to be given to those who lost everything. Two huge semi-trucks arrived with tons of clothing. The Red Cross had set up a center in the Auditorium, with a center in the theater where answers to relatives inquiries were to be made. Jack Malmin, a local boy, had set up a ham station there. He stayed on duty there for untold hours as did others. When a relative wired for news someone had to contact either that person or a near relative, and had to get exact information as to injuries, loss of property etc. Then wires were sent out to the inquirer. Mrs. Mike Flynn and a young Mrs. Beyer or Buchner, we can never distinguish between those two names, and Mrs. Walter Weeks worked making contacts and writing the telegrams.

In the meantime, the Red Cross had set up a food center in the Luther Hall. With no electricity, a refrigerator truck was brought in and parked by the door, to store the meat, milk, butter etc. that was being donated, either by the Red Cross, or companies outside of town. Then began the huge task of feeding those left homeless and the hundreds of workers who came in at the crack of dawn and stayed until nine and ten at night. The workers needed breakfast, midmorning lunch, dinner, mid-afternoon lunch, supper and gallons of coffee between times. The whine of chain saws could be heard for weeks and far into the night, trying to clear the wreckage and the huge old trees destroyed. Men and women too came from all over the state. Churches sent men to work to clear the debris and their wives came to work in the food department. They brought hot dishes and cakes and

cookies by the dozens. After three weeks, the Red Cross pulled out, after briefing the local people. During the first three weeks of serving food, one member of each church aid from Colfax, was put in charge of getting the workers organized for each day. Workers stayed on from 4 A.M. until 9 P.M. It is unbelievable, but during the time the kitchen was opened, until it was closed, more than 54,000 meals had been served. Some had been cooked at the center and taken out to the farms, where there were workers too, that had to be fed.

The Red Cross, knowing what was coming, asked that we find a place for the clothing that would be coming in. They did not man this center at all. The old Gymnasium was finally chosen for that center, the new one being partially destroyed. Mrs. Leon Dunbar, Mrs. Elmer Hill and Mrs. Rheuben Larson had charge of that. Many others helped. Thousands of pieces of clothing came from every place, even out of state, some of it wonderful, some new, some very bad. Then began the task to clothe the people. The Red Cross bought new clothing for some of the families who lost a member of their family. Men had no suits to wear to attend the services for the dead. Clothing had to be found for them.

People came, no questions asked, and were outfitted, not only with all the clothing that could be found that fitted, but shoes too. All of it was used, so would not wear long, so they got lots of pieces of clothing. Until the day, when it was noticed that strange people were alking out with whole boxes of skirts, baby shoes etc. The women in charge knew it must be they were selling it some place. So it was closed until certain days, then the ones on the list, were given all the clothing they could find that fitted their needs. This work went on all through the summer. School time was coming up fast and all this huge stock of clothing was going to have to be moved. It was moved to the Auditorium basement and the work went on. Many, many women pitched in and helped sort, hour after hour and day after day, the three women heading the project being there all the time.

Fall was there and the women began to realize none of the disaster victims had quilts and blankets. The three heads of clothing thought of taking all the woolen clothing, which for some reason was not usable, and taking it to a carding mill in Minnesota, where batts would be made for ccmforters. So women who could not

work on their feet, but could sit, did the cutting off of buttons, taking out linings and zippers and preparing it for the mill. Hundreds of batts were gotten this way. Mrs. Hill ordered, with money donated, hundreds of yards of percale, both for plain backed and figured quilts. Church women from other towns as well as Colfax, made quilts. Some tied, others hemmed them. Then each family who were victims, got one quilt and they could have batts to make some if they wished.

Lots of new household utensils were sent, both to churches and individuals to distribute. These were given to families at the same time the quilts were given.

While all this was going on, great pieces of machinery was going up and down, moving all the debri of foundations and kindlewood of what was once homes.

There have been, and will still be, many stories of this storm for years to come. Things that came to mind long after things finally settled down. Mrs. Savel Haugle, now Mrs. Gilbert Gunderson, was racing home before the storm, in a small station wagon. She just got to the garage but not her house, when the storm picked up her car several times and took it into the air, then slammed it down. She says she thought, this is it. She was hurt but not so badly she could not get around. She found Mr. Albert K. Anderson who lived in a trailer house across the street from her, lying face down in her garden. She thought he was dead, but he wasn't. Being a man who likes to joke, he said later, he zigged when he should have zagged.

Some of the people in the hospitals, were beginning to get out but had no place to go. Others were to spend many weeks trying to recover. Mrs. Rose Jacobson suffered from a broken back and a body riddled with splinters. She was found, the night of the storm, in her basement. She spent many weeks suffering in the hospital. None of her lovely possessions of antique silver were ever found. She had many pieces. At this time, four years later, she has rebuilt her house exactly as it was before (its was new when it was destroyed) and she herself is healed and can walk.

Miss Anna Larson was told she would never leave her wheel chair, so she purchased a home, which had been built for a wheelchair patient. She was found, the night of the storm in her totally destroyed farm home, with the chimney on top of her. Being an indomitable person,

she asked her rescuers, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hamer, to just get the bricks off her and she could get up. But with two broken arms and a terribly broken leg with very bad cuts, she went to the hospital, there to stay until Christmas time. She had no intention of spending the rest of her life in a wheelchair and she began to work toward getting out of it. She finally got on two crutches, then one, then a cane, until she finally threw that away and decided she could make it alone. And make it alone she did. She has to walk carefully, but she does her washing, puts on storm windows and screens and even managed to have a flower bed. She is the living example of never giving up.

Many people were discharged from the hospital in a short time, but Mrs. Art Quevillon spent many weeks there, as did Mrs. Mary Lunn who lost her husband and one son, having no home left to come to.

The part of the town destroyed, has all new homes now. Mrs. O. M. Fel-land started a fund immediately after the storm for trees to replant the area. So all these new homes, have at least one tree growing. It is laughingly called "Mortgage Manor". There are many invisible scars such as the loss of family members, and the fear still in the eyes of children when a storm is brewing. And also the grown ups waste no time getting to their basements, if it looks stormy. One can always come back up.

Those who lost their lives in the storm were:

Erling Lunn  
Mrs. Rolf Lunn  
Mrs. Ted Slaga

Bill Wagner  
Mrs. Nora Gerber  
Leon Lunn  
Spencer Fjelsted  
Peter George Nilsen  
Lanny Fjelsted  
Art Quevillon  
Vernon Meindell  
R. A. Presnell

The last two men were Bloomer men killed on the highway, in their car. We think perhaps this list is not complete.

We feel Mrs. Alma Lunn was one of the really brave women. She lost her son, her grandson, her daughter-in-law, her other daughter-in-law was so badly injured, and she herself had a bone deep cut on her arm. In spite of all this, she went to work in the restaurant serving meals to crowds. The owner could get no help for the extra load, but she worked. Perhaps it was the best thing she could have done for her peace of mind.

## PORTRAITS OF PERSONALITIES

In doing portraits of personalities, we have tried to give thumbnail sketches of people who have contributed so much to Colfax in the last fifty years, rather than those of the first fifty years. The history of those people can be found in "The History of Dunn County" which ends in 1925. We have given sketches of those who have passed away and also have some on the older people of the town who are still with us and are still concerned of the welfare of Colfax. It is hard to do it justice, since so many men and women have contributed to the progress of Colfax. We realize we may have missed a great many people who should be in this section.

The names of the early settlers of Colfax sounds like a roll call of the present population. Those names such as Simons, Vorland, Berg, Braeton, Rublee, Fjelsted, Cutting, Pooler Peterson, Hill, Larson, Mathews, Thompson, Swenson, Viets, Noer, and Higbee are still prominent in Colfax.

### SAM K. IVERSON

Sam K., as he was known in town, was born Jan. 10, 1885, in the town of Tainter.

Sam K. Iverson, throughout his lifetime, was continually interested in the village of Colfax, the community at large and the County of Dunn. Two things occupied much of his life, namely; politics and community affairs. He was known as a

person who would speak straight from the shoulder and would never dodge an issue, but meet it head on and tried to accomplish things that would benefit the majority of the people. In his many accomplishments of life for the Village of Colfax and the community, he did the best job he knew how, and his efforts were honest and came from a clean and sincere heart.

He served as Mayor of the Village, for ten years and during his term many worthwhile projects were accomplished. One of them was the completion of a \$165,000 disposal plant which brought many controversies before completion. Also during his term, Colfax received a new "White Way" on Main street with new street lighting, new curb, gutter and hot mix on the street on STH "40" north of the bridge to the east of the Village limits, which was an outstanding improvement to the town, with the largest part of the financial burden paid by the state.

Mr. Iverson also served as Supervisor from the Village of Colfax in Dunn County for 24 years. Due to his tireless efforts, a couple of highways in Dunn County were placed on the State Highway System which included County Road "G" which was changed to STH "170". This resulted in the construction of a \$89,000 bridge built over the Red Cedar River in the Village of Colfax, with the cost to be borne by the state and not the village. He was also one who was instrumental in seeing that STH "40" was improved and straightened south of Colfax to STH "29".

Sam K. Iverson served on the Dunn County Red Cross board for many

years and held the position as chairman for the Village of Colfax and headed many successful drives for funds. He was County Chairman for Red Cross one year. In 1948, he received a citation from the American National Red Cross for outstanding work.

Besides other public positions, he served as a member of the Dunn County Park board for many years. He was very active for the Colfax Free Fair for 25 years and served in the capacity as announcer for the free acts, plus having full charge of all farm product displays.

He was very active in the Colfax Commercial Club, continually promoting Colfax. He was very interested in Boy Scout work. He held many positions in the Colfax Lutheran Church consisting of Chairman of the Building Committee, treasurer, usher, choir member, etc.

Sam K's occupation was a Real Estate Broker of which he was very active for 43 years until his retirement and he was well known throughout the county and territory. He was instrumental in shaping our real estate industry in the State of Wisconsin and helped sow the seeds of formulating a license law and a State Association for Real Estate Brokers. In his day, he saw an improved real estate industry for which he could take a good share of the credit. Even in his last year he was called in by the Wisconsin Real Estate Brokers Board for consultation and advice.

Perhaps some of Mr. Iverson's talents were not so well known as his public works were. He once wrote a book called "Midnight Heir", it was published and bound. Another talent was for inventing new things. In the days when he was a farmer, he thought up a way to get rid of potato bugs. He invented a bug sprayer, which he could attach to the cultivator. When he came to a potato hill, he merely pressed his foot on the lever, and out went a bug spray, which took care of the bug population. His second invention was a casting rod for trout fishing. His son described it as a hollow pipe about 2 inches in diameter and with a pressing of a button, out spun the line. It once became tangled and he put it away, intending to correct the malfunction, which he never got to. His third invention was a coin wrapping and counting machine. We have seen this little machine work and it was wonderful. All these inventions were patented and the blue prints are still in his office.



Sam K. Iverson — Esther Ager in Iverson-Ager Store

It can be said of Sam K that whatever he started, he always finished and was done for the good and majority of the people. He was a lover of children and in 1843 he donated a tract of land in the Village of Colfax as a playground for the children which was equipped by the Village and is used regularly. It is called Iverson Park. With all of the seriousness of life, he never forgot the humorous side of things. Many often heard such remarks from him as "Jumping John Rogers" and "Judus Spriest" as a couple of his pet phrases when something surprised or tickled him. In his 76 years of life, his accomplishments were many and varied and he shall be remembered by them.

On Oct. 2, 1961, Mr. Iverson went to his home, sat down in his favorite chair and passed away.

Research by  
Kenneth Iverson

#### MRS. MAMIE KRAUSE-

#### MRS. DEBBIE RYE

We have spoken of the frail and fleeting memories of our oldsters. Mrs. Mamie Krause is one of the lovely oldsters who's memories return in a flash and perhaps are gone. Not wanting to press her too much for a long record of her father, Mr. John Paul Studley, we have decided to record her memories as they came to her. Mrs. Krause now resides in a rest home in Menomonie. She and Mrs. Debbie Rye are sisters, and are the children of Mr. Studley.

Mrs. Krause was born on a farm just south of Colfax, the Middlesdorf farm, which "blew away" in the great tornado of 1958, leaving no buildings at all. She was born in 1876 and Mrs. Rye was born in 1878 on the same farm. They went to the little "red school house". Mrs. Krause recalled they wanted an education so badly, they walked three miles through badly drifted, deep snow. Once they cut their legs so badly going through the crust on the snow, they had to return home. It was the first time Mrs. Krause had missed school and she felt so badly.

At six years of age, Mrs. Krause started to school, but she already knew how to read, having learned from newspapers. As a little girl, she went to the store with her mother and she read the name of the store aloud. The astounded storekeeper said, "that little girl should

be in school". And so she started to school.

Mrs. Krause was first married to Mr. George Higbee in April 1898. They had four children. Ruth DeSoto, Mae Sanders, John and George Higbee. Later on, she married Mr. William Krause, Feb. 10 1923, having lost her first husband.

Mrs. Rye married Mr. G. G. Rye, who had a candy store and ice cream parlor, in the building which is still owned by Mrs. Rye and she still lives over what is now the tavern. In an advertisement appearing in the souvenir booklet issued in 1900 Mr. Rye advertises "candies, nuts, fruit and tobacco. Ice Cream and all kinds of soft drinks — in season". And he asks that people call on him at all times. "You will always find my prices right", quotes Mr. Rye.

Mrs. Krause said she remembered the loggers singing as they went down the river on the logs. They were the jam breakers. They bought their milk (the loggers) from the girls' father, Mr. Studley. The loggers always waved to the girls, who were always watching them, as they went down river. They put up a rope swing along the banks for the two girls. Mrs. Krause remembered they gave her a beautiful vase when they left. Some of the memories of times past were Mrs. Dwight Pooler and Mrs. John Burling bringing their children to Sunday school in the lumber wagon. She tells of an amusing incident or two involving Mrs. Kidd, an early settler. She was a portly woman and the Superintendent of the Sunday school. She found herself locked out. So, not to be daunted she crawled through a very narrow church window to get in. The children all laughed.

Once Mrs. Kidd heard a noise, so she went to the window and put her hands around her face to peer out. What she saw was astounding. An Indian was doing exactly the same thing, so only the glass was between them.

Mrs. Krause thought Dave Monteth had the first hotel. Anyway, he believed in spiritualism, and he told he could communicate with his dead wife and child. He said he asked her "how are times there?" and she replied, "good, but no drinks". As he said this tears ran down his cheeks.

John Studley, Mrs. Krause's and Mrs. Rye's father, was a soldier during the Civil War, so he was eligible for a pension. The family kept plan-

ning what they would do with it. They planned a trip back to Tennessee and Indiana to see the places he had been. There was always that anticipation "when Pa's pension comes". He owned the first grain separator. When the pension did come through, it is sad to say, the separator broke down. A rock had gone through it. So no trip. The pension paid to have the separator fixed.

Mr. Studley was on that famous march to the sea with General Sherman. He had a horse shot from under him, and next to him in the charge, a soldier had been shot from his horse, so Mr. Studley grabbed the other horse just in time and went on, otherwise he would have been trampled. He also was in Andersonville prison, during the war.

John Higbee Jr., had heard his grandfather talk so much of Tennessee and Indiana and the planned trip, that he took a trip to those places and took pictures.

John Higbee Sr., was a covered wagon train master to California. He was an expert at removing wheels where the trails were too narrow. His wife acted as midwife in those days.

By this time, Mrs. Krause became tired, so her interviewers did not press further for information.

Mrs. John Farner,  
Mrs. Hugh Sanders,  
Researchers.

Mrs. Krause died August 16, 1963 at the age of 87. In December of 1963, Mrs. Rye was ill and spent time at Luther hospital.

#### EGIL RASMUSSEN

While not an early settler in Colfax, we must add the name of Egil Rasmussen whose colorful personality will be remembered.

He lost his sight when young, after a tumor operation. They say a blind person's other senses develop very sharply after loss of sight, and Egil was a living example of this.

He knew every step, every voice in the town and could call that person by name.

He had a newsstand for years, and with Ruth Anderson, the postmaster, to read the name of a magazine, he could arrange his stand pretty well. In fact, he knew almost which magazine he picked up by the feel and size, but did have to have the name verified. Sometimes the magazines were put on the stand upside

down or wrong side up, but they were there.

He knew to a cent how much money he was carrying. He needed help to distinguish what denominations the paper bills were, but when he had them arranged, he knew where they were. He sometimes asked help to count the magazine money, since it was a lot of small change.

Egil even hitchhiked all over the country hereabouts. He even hitchhiked to Minneapolis and managed to get around in that city to transact business, then back home.

He kept a used violin business going on the side. Some of his hitchhiking trips were either for violins he would buy or to sell violins.

He lit his own pipe and we think he was never burned, at least not many times. He typed his letters himself, but had friends address them for him. He owned a watch that chimed the time, which interested the children.

His mother, a widow, came from Norway, leaving he and his sister until she could send for them. She married Mr. Peter Rasmussen and then sent for the children. Egil said they came with their names and addresses sewed on their backs, so they would not become lost.

He died in Luther hospital in Eau Claire near the end of 1961. His father, Peter Rasmussen is still living in the nice little house they built after the tornado took their old one.

In late 1963, Mr. Rasmussen, who is now 88 years old, had to give up living alone, so moved to Eau Claire with his daughter.

By Mrs. W. Weeks

### MARTIN ANDERSON

The parents of Martin Anderson lived on a farm near River Falls. His father was a native of Sweden and his mother of Norway. He was born on March 4, 1885. In 1914, he was married to Edna Frances Flipse of Sheboygan, Wis. and they have four children, Jane, John, James and Martin Eugene.

Mr. Anderson attended a country school and then River Falls State Normal School, which is now the State Teacher's College at River Falls, Wis. After a year of teaching, he attended the University of Wisconsin, securing a Bachelor of Science degree, which included a course in Agriculture. Even today, when some old acquaintance meets Martin, he is apt to say "I remember you when you played baseball

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at River Falls, Wis., or Madison, Wis."

His teaching experience, we have been told, includes country school, State graded school, Agriculture in High Schools and Principalship of various High Schools.

He came to Colfax, Wis. in the fall of 1927 and was Principal of the schools here. A new High School building had been built recently and the hope of the school board and the community was to operate this school in such a way that the attendance would be increased and the school become of service to the people in the surrounding territory. The graduating class in 1928, consisted of 24 students. There were six full time instructors and two part time teachers in music.

To help people realize the advantages of a high school education, he worked on the following ideas: "that learning is wealth to the poor, honor to the rich, and aid to the young and a support and comfort to the aged". He also made it evident that the Colfax High School gave every opportunity that is offered by most high schools and had the following courses: a Commercial Department, Public Speaking, Declamatory and Dramatics, Science, Mathematics, Algebra, Geometry, General Science, Physics, Home Economics, Biology, Sociology, Music, both vocal and instrumental, English, Latin and History.

Physical Education including all sports, was also on the curriculum. As the school grew, he found the school could compete successfully with schools like Menomonie, Hudson, River Falls, New Richmond, Spring Valley and Ellsworth.

A Drivers' Training Course was started in 1946.

Mr. James Sykora of Cooks Valley, ran school buses which he owned, to bring school children in to Colfax. His daughter remembers Mr. Martin Anderson, Principal, went with him to collect the fares, once a month. The school bought the first buses from Mr. Sykora.

To aid students living in the country, the school started to operate buses. The first bus was started in 1928 from the Wheeler vicinity and another the following year from the Sand Creek area. Expanding of the bus service was continued until eight buses were in operation, giving a large number of students an opportunity to receive a high school education. The graduating class in 1928 was 24, and in 1938 was 70,

with 77 graduates in 1941. The largest class to graduate was 85. So with Mr. Anderson heading the school, there was a steady increase of graduates.

The school tax in the year of 1928 was 29 mills. The tax decreased as the enrollment increased. The increased enrollment gave the school much tuition aid which resulted in the tax being reduced to 10 mills.

A piece of land was purchased for the Athletic Field and completed by W.P.A. work. Letters were sent to the Alumni of the school, asking for donations to put in a lighting system on the field and a generous response made it possible to install the lighting. The cement block shop for agriculture was a Federal donation as was most of the apparatus used for serving hot lunches.

In all, nearly two thousand pupils have graduated from the Colfax High School, a big per cent under the leadership of Mr. Martin Anderson. The Alumni are a credit to Colfax and the community and we are glad to hear of their many successes and good fortune.

Annuals have been published practically every year and we quote the thoughts expressed in the forward of one of them.

"Colfax High School always tries to maintain the highest standards and to combine seriousness and pleasure in preparing for one's life work. These, together constitute the spirit of the school. We hope to preserve the memories of work and pleasure in the pages of this book, our fifth Cohian".

When we tried to get an interview with Mr. Anderson, he would not give us much on himself, only the school in which he was so vitally interested for so many years. Mr. Anderson is now in retirement in Colfax, but many a pupil will remember always, his slow speaking and the many stories he can tell. He likes to fish, so goes on fishing trips in the summer. He and Mrs. Anderson have spent a winter or two in Florida and one in Arizona. We would bet, that as he sits on his porch high up from the street and watches all the kids going to school, that they look just like the kids that went along the sidewalks when he was principal.

### DR. W. R. BROOKS

If you see a dark haired man, with very little grey hair, sashaying down the street for the mail, it will be Dr. Brooks. Certainly his step and

his soldier straightness belies his 86 years. He was born in Bloomer on August 6, 1876. After graduating from high school, he worked as a farm hand for a few years. He received fifteen and eighteen dollars per month for this work, getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning in order to feed his team and was out in the fields as early as possible, many times working until dark.

He finally came to the conclusion that he would never be able to get ahead in life at this rate, so decided to accept a proposition which an aunt had made to him, after he finished high school. She told him she would loan him the money required to go to dental college.

He entered the Chicago College of Dental Surgery and decided he should keep an account of his expenditures so he could show his aunt how her money was being spent.

It is interesting to go through the account book and see how and where his money went and compare the difference in costs with those of today.

He and a fellow student roomed together and his share of the room rent was \$5.25 per month and before he had finished college, it had gone up to \$6.00 per month. His weekly meal ticket cost him \$3.00, but there was an item now and then for lunch, of 5 or 10 cents. He had only one rooming place and one boarding place for the entire three years.

His college tuition was \$65.00 per year, the first two years and the last year it was \$100.00. The laboratory fees were \$25.00 per year.

He had a Chinaman who did his laundry work and he paid 3 cents for a shirt and 1 cent for collars — which were separate. He could get a suit pressed for .50. He apparently sewed on his own buttons as there is an item for 12 cents for needles and thread.

He had a tailor make him a suit, consisting of the best grade of material for \$21.00. He purchased an overcoat, hat, shoes, gloves and a tie for \$14.93. A complete outfit for a bit over \$35.00!

He did do a few things for recreation as he had his skates sharpened a few times, and attended a few vaudeville shows, which did not cost too much. His landlady made the boys go to see Ben Hur, which was one of the good shows which he saw. When he wanted a real treat, he bought 10 cents worth of licorice. He got so much, that amount lasted a long time.

His largest expense items were for

books and laboratory instruments. The highest priced book was \$3.75 and the greatest instrument expense was \$17.74. His total cost for the three years of college was \$1,400.00, which he paid back to his aunt by degrees after he began his practice.

He graduated in May 1902 and was

married to Dora McWhethy in the same month and they moved to Colfax immediately. They had three sons, Clifford, who was killed when a young man working for the Bell Telephone Co., in a car accident, Walter, who now lives in The Dalles, Oregon, and Robert, a pharmacist in Fox Lake, Wis.

In 1955, his wife, Dora, died and in 1956, he married Mrs. Lucy Anderson.

He joined the G. E. Black Club in 1910, which was a study club. He attended classes on the third Friday of every month. Here he learned how to do gold foil work and became known throughout many states for the excellence of his work. Through this club he was able to keep up with the new methods of dentistry. He is a life member in the Wisconsin State Dental Society. He was a member of the Commercial Club for many years, and he also served as Village President as well as on the local school board.

He retired, after 56 years as a dentist, in July, 1958. For 45 years, he was assisted in the office, by Miss Mayme Moen, who went to work for him when she finished school.

On this very day, Feb. 12, 1962, Dr. and Mrs. Brooks are preparing to leave for a trip to Texas to visit his sister, and they are driving.

Taken from his ledger by  
Mrs. Lucy Brooks  
Dr. Brooks died on June 24, 1963.

#### GERHART HAMMER

Gerhart Hammer was born in Spring Valley, Wis., on Aug. 18, 1882.

After serving a short apprenticeship in a creamery in Spring Valley, Wis., Mr. Hammer took a course of six months in dairying at the University of Wisconsin. When he was 19 years of age, he came to Colfax on March 23, 1902.

Main Street was a dirt road and there were board walks in front of the business places Colfax boasted. The creamery, where he was hired as buttermaker, stood on what is now the Herbert Hanson property.

At the turn of the century, the important commodity in the area was potatoes and seven warehouses along the Soo Line tracks were mute testimony to the size of the potatoe crops.

While interviewing Mr. Hammer, he also recalled that tobacco was a good cash crop and a great deal was grown nearby. Where the Farmers' Store now stands, there was a frame building which was a cigar factory employing four or five people. That building is now the home of Alfred Peterson family on River St. Mr. Hammer recalls there was one telephone available to the public and that was in G. G. Rye's Confectionary store.

In 1908, while still making butter at the Colfax Creamery, Mr. Hammer bought the Albertville creamery and hired a manager to operate that plant, until 1923. By 1911, he left the employe of the Crystal creamery and bought the grain elevator, which is now the Farmer's Union elevator.

The lack of sewer and water systems in the village was a challenge to this energetic, far sighted man. so in 1913 he established a plumbing and heating business in the old Simon's building. This building stood where the People's State Bank now stands. That building was later moved to the lot where Dr. Neumann's dental office is now located and was used for an apartment building, until it burned in the 1920's.

When his venture in the plumbing business began, there were three bathrooms in the village. Much of his first experience came in installing plumbing in his own home. A great many homes in the village with older plumbing and miles of sewer and water pipes were laid by Mr. Hammer.

In 1917 he bought the creamery at Dallas, Wis., and operated that plant through a manager until 1920.

During these early days, fish and game abounded. It was not unusual for Mr. Hammer to take a couple of hours off and go up to 18 mile creek and come back with 50 trout. Game limits were unheard of then. A dozen partridge was a nice bag for a few hours of gunning.

Such prodigious energy needed more outlets and in 1915 Gerhart Hammer was elected manager of the city hall and started movies in Colfax. At that time the sole source of electric power was the mill dam plant, and the current was insufficient to operate the movies so Mr. Hammer installed his own generating plant.



By 1923, most of Colfax's homes had indoor plumbing and Mr. Hammer turned to new fields of conquer. He bought Charles Paul's interest in the Buick garage making him a partner of Ed B. Rosenberg, known to his friends, as "little Eddie".

Two years later, Mr. Rosenberg sold out to Henry Logglett and Hammer and Logglett bought the garage at Boyceville. It was at this time (1925) that they began their Chevrolet dealership. Later Mr. Logglett took over the Boyceville garage and Mr. Hammer kept the Chevrolet garage in Colfax until 1956. He then retired from business.

Mr. Hammer lost both feet by surgery, but this did not stop a man like Mr. Hammer. While he was recuperating, he became very bored with an inactive life and both he and his wife cast around to find some interest or hobby he would like to do. He tried several things but finally settled on oil painting. He became very interested and became better and better. He has even sold a few of his paintings. He isn't a "grandpa Moses" doing primitive style paintings, but rather prefers landscapes with minute detail.

Also, Mr. Hammer began to drive his car. He soon tossed aside his crutches and now uses a cane only once in a while. He walks without the aid of anything. So it goes to show what an indomitable will can do for a man. He keeps an active interest in public life. Always generous and public spirited, he has served his community in many ways.

Interviewed by  
Mrs. John Hammer

### THE SAGA OF GOLD Elbert Hill and Elling Ellingson

Just before the turn of the century, the news of the Alaskan Gold Rush reached the young village of Colfax. Needless to say, the challenge of bold adventure plus the prospect of gold, fell on many a young man's ears, but it wasn't an easy thing to pick up and leave families and jobs, to say nothing of securing the necessary provisions they needed to get into the mining country.

Eight men from Colfax accepted this challenge and in the fall of 1897, Elbert Hill, then 19 years old, was the first to leave for the gold fields in Alaska. He left alone by way of St. Paul and on to Edmonton, Canada, where he joined a group of Menomonie men, for the trip north.

They stayed in Edmonton long enough to build a boat and get more provisions for the rugged trip north. They followed a waterway course by means of the Yukon River into Dawson City. He was followed in the spring of 1898 by seven more men from Colfax. Elling Ellingson, a young "lumberjack", Chris Solid, a merchant, Ole J. Olson, John Sagmoe, Hans Nelson, Andrew Eggen and Christ Amble, went by train to Minneapolis and on to Seattle, Washington where they boarded a boat for Skagway, Alaska. They docked several hours at Ketchikan and Fort Wrangle. It was in Fort Wrangle that two of these men were robbed of \$300.00 in broad daylight.

The trips into the gold mine area were dangerous and rugged. Mr. Ellingson, the last one of this group living, told of the trip through the White Pass, a treacherous Mountain pass before reaching Dawson City. The Indians were hired to guide and pack provisions but on this particular trip they refused to go because they said "Big snow coming — no go." And they didn't. However, 45 foolhardy men, in a hurry to get to their destination, tied themselves to each other and decided to go through. They never did make it because a snowslide killed all 45 men. Mr. Ellingson told of a certain "SooPy Smith", leader of a robbery ring, and his men, went into the Pass and took everything the men had with them. Mr. Ellingson also told of spending the night on top of this same Pass without a blanket, stating that it was "pretty cold."

When they crossed the mountain they found thousands of dead horses, shot and killed because there was no food for them and they would have starved to death.

The remainder of the trip was made by boat and it was related to the writer about the many rapids, dangerous undercurrents that tormented the men as they proceeded north. Nothing would stop them reaching their destination, however, but disappointment greeted them when they did get to the area because the country was literally covered by staked out mines, leaving nothing for this group of Wisconsin men. They worked at many things to make a living and returned after 1½ years.

However, Elbert Hill spent a total of 7 years in the Klondike. He made one visit back to Wisconsin and returned to the far north. He was about two to three thousand miles away from the other Colfax men and spent the first part of his time working at hauling water, cutting wood

for a steamship company, carpentering, and finally went into partnership with a friend at Circle City where he spent the remainder of the time prospecting for gold. His friend died of scurvy and Elbert worked the mine alone for sometime.

It was a rugged life for a young man but he had the determination to work the mines. The work of gold mining in Alaska was doubly hard because the ground was constantly frozen. The gold streak was anywhere from 8 to 30 feet deep and was reached by sinking a shaft down to "pay streak". Sinking this shaft and working the pay streak was made so difficult because of frozen ground, but it was accomplished by building a fire in the hole and burning it all night. Elbert later devised a way to steam the shaft so it was not quite so dangerous.

One day when he went to visit a neighbor, he didn't find him around but the man's dog was keeping close watch on his master's shaft opening. After waiting for some time another neighbor came by and they began to investigate the shaft and before Elbert knew it, this man jumped into the shaft and died instantly, with the same poisonous gas that had taken the life of their neighbor. The constant firing in the shaft to thaw the frozen ground caused this noxious gas, which had to be expelled before they could work the mine.

One fall when everyone was preparing food for the winter, Elbert woke up one morning to hear and see a thundering herd of caribou passed right by his cabin. Thinking there would be plenty of meat all winter, they killed only two animals but much to their sorrow they never saw another animal all winter. That was a bad winter because many men starved to death and many just barely pulled through. He told of men chewing shoestrings and cooking their shoe tops for nourishment. Scurvy took its heavy toll. They had killed their horses to keep themselves alive.

None of the eight men came back to Colfax wealthy in a monetary way. Some had less than before they left, but the experience they had, must have been of value to each one. They returned to Colfax and picked up their lives where they left off. Each settled down to family life and in their own way, contributed to helping Colfax grow, each a stronger man and a better citizen.

Elbert Hill married Martha Rosenberg the year after he returned from Alaska. Five children were born to

them: Francis, Elmer, Harry, Helen and Tom.

He spent his life as a business man. He built several feed mills, at Wonewoc, Ontario and at one time owned the feed mill in Colfax. He was a business partner with his brother in the Colfax Store Co. for several years and in 1926 he started the Colfax Oil Co. At the same location today, it is now owned and operated by his three sons, Elmer, Harry and Tom.

Mr. Ellingson was married in Seattle, Washington on April 7, 1900 to Miss Mathilda Anderson. They had six children, Florence (Mrs. Art Lee) who lives in Colfax, Clarence, deceased, Orin in California, Lloyd, deceased, Ida, deceased, and Elsie who lives in Duluth.

Research by  
Mrs. Elmer Hill

#### DR. C. A. COOPER

Dr. C. A. Cooper was born Oct. 5, 1876 and raised in Racine, Wisconsin. He graduated from high school in that city in 1896. He then attended medical school in the University of Michigan graduating in 1900.

Dr. Cooper began his practice in Lodi, Wis. While there he met and married Mae Wilson, who was teaching in the public schools there.

They remained in Lodi until 1904, when they moved to Montfort, Wis. While in Montfort, their three children were born, a son Clifton and two daughters, Winifred and Ruth.

In 1912 they moved to Norwalk, Wis., staying there until 1917, when Dr. Cooper enlisted in the Medical Corp. for the U.S. Army, was commissioned as a Lieutenant and sent to Brest, France, where he served until 1918. During his stay in France, Mrs. Cooper and children moved to Sparta, Wis., where she taught in the High School, during her husband's stay in the armed forces.

In 1919, the Cooper family came to Colfax, where they remained for about 39 years. Dr. Cooper saw a big change in Colfax and surrounding country during his years away. The trip from Menomonie to Colfax on "B" was a real challenge that first day. The family thought they must be getting to the end of the civilization as the road was nothing but deep sand ruts. They made the trip in a Model T Ford with side curtains, and they needed them as it poured rain most of the trip. The children were riding with their feet

on top of boxes, suitcases, blankets, etc. Colfax looked good to all of them when they finally arrived. They found it to be a very friendly town and a progressive place to live.

Dr. Cooper was Chairman of the Dunn Co. Welfare Board for 23 years, a member of the Masonic lodge over 50 years.

After Mrs. Cooper's death on May 3, 1952, Dr. Cooper remained in the old home and continued his practice until Feb. 1, 1957. At this time he suffered from a blood clot in his right leg and had to have it amputated. This made practice impossible, so he disposed of his practice and home and made his home with his daughter Ruth, Mrs. Floyd Stansbury at Downing, Wis., until his death on Dec. 7, 1960.

Dr. and Mrs. Cooper's lives in Colfax were busy and it became home to them in every way. They made many lasting friends in those years.

Facts given by  
Mrs. Ruth Stansbury

#### RALPH S. VIETS

When the Woman's Club decided to try and write some of the history of Colfax, there was one man in town who knew everything that ever happened in the town. He also knew every building and what happened to it. When different members of the club were assigned various subjects to trace the history, each one hurried to Mr. Ralph Viets. He is willing to talk history at any time.

His 82 years rest lightly on his shoulders. He is very active and sharp as a tack. He was born May 2, 1880 at the 22 mile ford hotel, which was run by his father, E. W. Viets. He has lived all his life in or near Colfax with the exception of seven years during his childhood, which were spent in Ashland. He returned to Colfax Sept. 21, 1895.

Herbert Montieth, son of Dr. Montieth, taught him the barber trade. He served his apprentice under Mr. Montieth. He still runs his own barber shop located east of the Farmers Store. When the terrible tornado of 1958 hit Colfax, it lifted his shop off its foundation and one wall was completely blown out. It was rebuilt on the same foundation.

On Aug. 1, 1904 Mr. Viets married Miss Emma Kulbeck. They had six children. Vivian (Mrs. V. Grimrud) lives with her father, in one of the first buildings in Colfax. It was once a hotel and is a big, old rambling building. Another daughter, Zeld

(Mrs. Z. Bednoir) lives in Lompoc, California. His sons are Byron, who lives at Winter, Wis., Wayne and Holis, who both live in France. They are members of the Air Froce.

Mrs. Viets died in 1943. Mr. Vietz and his daughter Vivian still live in the same location.

Mr. Viets reminisces about many things, things which have happened during his 50 years as a barber. He too told of the long lines of potatoes waiting to be loaded on the train and the heaters in the cars to keep them from freezing. A man had to travel with the train to keep the stoves going.

Mr. Viets has nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The first couple to be married in the newly built Methodist church was Mr. A. B. Visgar to Mrs. Ella McKinley of Chicago, Sept. 2, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Viets, not yet married, "stood up" for them.

In the home of Mr. Viets, there is a Christmas cactus growing in a huge tub. This plant has been in that house, which was a hotel, since 1898, and the plant is blooming right now.

As this booklet goes to print, Mr. Viets is 84 years old and is still barbering at the same location.

Facts given us by  
Mrs. Vivian Grimrud

#### GEORGE HILSON

George Hilson was connected with railroad work most of his life.

The Wisconsin Central Railroad was built through Colfax in 1884. It was later taken over by the Soo Line on a 99 year lease, in 1911.

On Oct. 14, 1897, J. L. Smith took over as agent at the depot and stayed 14 years. We understand Walter Flitcroft was the first agent, however.

In 1899, the depot burned.

Mr. George Hilson was a railroad helper in 1907. On Aug. 6, 1908, he became operator in Colfax. Mr. J. L. Smith taught Mr. Hilson to be a telegrapher and agent. His first job was in Glidden, Wisconsin. The wages were \$47.50 per month then, and he had to carry a gun for protection. In time, he returned to Colfax as night operator. Then he returned to Stanley as relief operator. In 1916, D. Welch came to Colfax as agent and Mr. Hilson became agent at Wheeler, and worked there until 1925. In 1926, Mr. Hilson came back

to Colfax as depot agent, and stayed until his retirement to his home here in 1958.

Once Mr. Orrin Russell played a joke on George. He walked in to the depot with a handkerchief over his face, playing like a holdup. He was met by George's gun, which was somewhat of a surprise.

In tracing the history of Mr. Hilson's years as depot agent here some interesting facts came to light. In 1916-1917 Minerva OLeary was assistant night operator in Colfax, when a corpse came in on the night train. It was raining, but being frightened she left the corpse on the platform, in the rain, all night.

It was learned 30 car loads of potatoes were shipped out of here in one day. To keep the potatoes from freezing, Mr. Hilson said charcoal heaters were placed in the cars.

Mr. Hilson was a friend to all the kids in town. Every evening before train time, many children went to the depot to talk with him and to wait and see the train come in. One of his devout friends was Walter Weeks, Jr. He found him an old telegraph key and began teaching him the code, which enabled him in time to get his ham license.

Mr. Hilson died in August of 1961, after a lingering illness. His wife passed away two weeks later.

Facts contributed by  
Mr. and Mrs. Noel Hilson

#### VICTOR NOER

Mr. Victor Noer is like a busman on a holiday. Or the old fire horse.

Mr. Noer was born Jan. 17, 1887, the son of Ole Noer and Karen Johnson. Ole Noer established the Noer Drug Store in Colfax in 1912. In 1917, he sold the drug store to his son, Victor.

The stone drug store building was one of the first buildings in Colfax. Not THE first, but it was built very early. Three generations of Noers have had the drug store, with good chances of a fourth, when his very small grandson grows up.

Mr. Noer, being pretty well tied down to the store, having to be on call if the store was not open, has a deep interest in music. He has an extensive record library. Another interest is reading. Mr. Noer reads a great deal, so his wife, Selma tells us. He has served on the school board.

Mr. Victor Noer went to Luther College at Decorah, Iowa for four

years. After graduation, he entered the University of Minnesota, where he graduated in 1910 as a pharmacist. Ever since, he has been compounding prescriptions to heal the ills of Colfax residents.

Mr. and Mrs. Noer have five children, Rachel, Louise, Mary, Juul and Ruth.

In 1958, his son Juul took over the management of the drug store, and so began the third generation of druggists.

The reason for the busman's holiday or the fire horse, is the fact Mr. Noer may have thought he was going to retire and just sit around home, but he has far from retired. Never a day goes but what he has been there, on time, and handing out filled prescriptions. We think he would miss seeing the public every day.

On March 30, 1963, Mr. Noer died at Luther Hospital after only a few days illness.

Research by  
Mrs. Walter Weeks

#### ANDREW C. CHASE

Mr. Chase was born in Sauk County, Wisconsin in 1863. He married Miss Jennie Conroy in 1886.

Mr. Chase was vice president of the Wisconsin State Press Association for a number of years. He founded the weekly Colfax paper called "The Messenger" in April, 1897, with his wife as associate editor.

In 1901, Mr. Chase published a souvenir edition of The Messenger in pamphlet form and a copy is preserved in the Library. Another one is owned by Mr. Ralph Viets.

It is said the Colfax Messenger had a tough time getting started as the townspeople did not have much faith in newspaper men. It seems a man came to town and started a newspaper called "The Colfax Record", which ran for about six months. The man, to quote Mr. Chase, "gathered in all the free-will offerings of the people for the support of what they supposed was to be a permanent and lasting good for their town, then departed, leaving their constituents without value received and with no confidence left for a printing office." However, "The Messenger" did prosper under the management of the Chases.

Mr. Chase attended the Methodist Church of Colfax.

After selling The Messenger to Mr.

Ward L. Swift on March 1, 1917, Mr. Chase retired, remaining in retirement until his death.

Facts from Souvenir put  
out in 1900 by Mr. Chase

#### MRS. C. A. COOPER

Mrs. C. A. Cooper was born in Platteville, Wis., where she attended the Platteville Normal School.

While she was teaching in the high school in Lodi, Wis., she met and married Dr. C. A. Cooper. She was the former Mae Wilson. While her husband was in Brest, France, during the first World War Mrs. Cooper moved to Sparta, Wis. and taught in the High School there. Upon his return, they moved to Colfax, Wis.

Dr. and Mrs. Cooper belonged to the Methodist Church. For 30 years Mrs. Cooper played the old reed organ for church, weddings and funerals. For a number of years, Mrs. Cooper was treasurer of the Methodist Church. She served on the school board and was instrumental in getting the high school built in about 1925, at which time it was considered outrageous to build such an immense building, which proved, in a few short years, to be inadequate.

Mrs. Cooper was a charter member of the Colfax Woman's Club, serving as its local president and also as a District President. She was one of those gallant women who belonged to the Ladies Reading Club, later called the Colfax Woman's Club, and who really started the Library in Colfax. She could tell lots of interesting things and also funny things that happened in getting her various projects started. Mrs. Cooper was a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary and held the office of Chaplain that first year.

By Ruth Stansbury  
Mrs. Cooper passed away suddenly  
May 3, 1952.

#### JENNIE CONROY CHASE

No history of Colfax would be complete without mention of Jennie Chase, wife of A. C. Chase, publisher of The Colfax Messenger. She was associate editor of the paper. Mr. and Mrs. Chase were married in 1886.

For years and years, she gathered news of the town, both for The Messenger and for the Dunn County News. She was a charter member of the Ladies Reading Club, later called The Colfax Woman's Club.

She was one of the women who started the Colfax Lending library, in a shed, with one shelf of books. She was a member of the Methodist Church and we doubt if she missed many services, no matter what the weather. Neither did she miss any Ladies Aid meetings, helping with all the dinners and various projects of the church.

There never was a Woman's Club meeting, or a club convention that she did not attend, in town or out. We are thinking of one particular one held in Eau Claire. One delegate was to represent the club and decided to take a room at the Hotel Eau Claire. As the convention drew nearer, more club members decided they would attend and stay in Eau Claire. So the room reservation grew and grew, until there were about eight women, all housed in one room. There was a row of cots brought in. Jennie was the life of the party. She executed a sort of an Apache dance, and this was a woman in her 70's! Poor Mrs. Cooper! She had a hard day and wished to sleep, but got very little sleep that night.

In thinking of Mrs. Chase and her husband, we see them in the evening, walking arm in arm to the depot to mail letters and news items on the evening train. Mrs. Chase died suddenly when she was in her 80's.

#### MILDRED SNYDER

Mildred Snyder, wife of Leon Snyder, will be remembered in the coming years. There are very few "Mid-dleaged" people of Colfax who went to school here, who do not think of her as "the bird woman". In her younger days she gave lectures on birds and their habits. She did this in such an interesting way, no child will ever forget her. She gave birds names, such as Harry and Harriet Woodpecker, the downy woodpeckers who hung around her feeder. She would go into her yard with a pan of feed and pound on the bottom of the pan with a spoon. The birds would come swooping in from all directions, knowing full well there would be a bountiful dinner waiting for them.

Mrs. Snyder, who is still living but who has been in a hospital for many years, was a very good artist, too. She helped her husband in his photographic studio retouching negatives and doing oil color work on photographs. She did many bird paintings. She would put pink crepe paper around a vial of sugar water and hang it outside a window to

attract humming birds, so she could do a painting of them. One of her religious paintings, about 4x6 feet, in a wide gold frame, hangs in Wesley Hall of the Methodist church in Colfax. John Hammer has another of her large paintings of Lambs Creek Falls before the dam was built, hanging in his den. Another painting hangs in the Library.

Another talent of hers was carving birds from walnut. This writer found a dead bluejay, which she happily took off our hands to use as a model.

Many, many grown-up Girl Scouts will remember the tiny woman, whose feet were so small she had to wear childrens shoes, who told them so much on nature and birds, and bird houses, and who taught them bird calls and whistles of so many of our feathered friends.

When this history was started, Mrs. Snyder was ill in a rest home. Today she is being laid to rest beside her husband, Leon Snyder, who passed away on Friday afternoon, Feb. 9, 1962.

We have now learned Mrs. Snyder graduated from Stout Institute majoring in Art and taught Art in that institution.

By Mrs. Walter Weeks

#### LEON SNYDER

Mr. Leon Snyder, whose birth date we do not have, was a school teacher and a photographer. At the turn of the century, he was hired to teach rural school in Northern Dunn County. When he took the job, he had been appraised of the reputation of a certain boy in the school, by the previous teacher. Johnnie refused to talk in school. He didn't actually refuse, but he just would not speak. At recess and noon hours, he would play, yell and talk with the rest of the boys, using language unbecoming a boy of his age, or at any age for that matter.

Leon rode a bicycle to school, and one morning he came to school with a long rope wound around the handle bars. When school was called, he took the rope and quietly put it in his desk, making sure all eyes were upon him. Leon was determined Johnnie was going to talk. When school was dismissed in the afternoon, Mr. Snyder bade Johnnie to stay, and then he locked the front door, and started to pace the floor, mumbling to himself, "he is no good! He won't talk". His pace became faster, and his voice louder, "His folks don't want him. I might

just as well hang him. I could dump him in one of these deep ravines. He would never be found, and no one would ever miss him". It was Johnnie's turn now and he said "I'll talk! I'll talk!". AND NEEDLESS TO SAY HE DID EVER AFTER.

Mr. Snyder toured Norway and possibly the other Scandinavian countries on foot, taking pictures everywhere he went. At his death in 1961, many of those pictures were among his effects. He spent many years as a photographer, with most of them in his dark room. In his late years, after retirement from the studio which was on the south side, he had a hard time seeing in the daylight, and wore black glasses. At night, he took pot shots at the rabbit population, and his aim was much better at night than it would have been in the day time. He was helped in his studio work by his wife, Mildred Snyder, who did his retouching and color work.

Mr. and Mrs. Snyder had one daughter, who died when very young.

Mr. Snyder was a pretty good cabinet maker. This writer has a butternut cupboard he made. It has small panels on the sides each panel being beveled. The wood was made from trees grown on a farm, which we think belonged to relatives. The cupboard is very tall and so well put together it should last forever. We also have an antique desk of solid walnut, which was called a ledger desk. He told us it was 60 years old when he got it and he had it 40 years, so with our 10 years added to it, it is 110 years old. Mr. "Snort" Gilberts has another big walnut desk he made. It has wrought iron legs. He also bought his camera equipment, after Mr. Snyder's death, which is very antique.

Part of story from  
Glen Madison

There are many names of prominent and public spirited people of Colfax that should have appeared in this book. It seemed impossible to ever get all of them. Among them should appear Col. H. J. Lowry, retired, a well known lawyer who sat in on the Nuremburg trials after the second World War, Mr. A. R. Brcken, long a business man in Colfax, who headed the Dairy Credit Association. Mr. Berger Anderson, father of Ruth Anderson, our Postmaster, always interested in what went on in the political world, Mr. and Mrs. George Emmerton and it could go on and on. Mrs. Emmerton was the daughter of the Mrs. Baldwin, from whose notes so much of the history of Dunn County was taken.

## THIS 'UN THAT AND MANY THINGS

Mrs. G. R. Thompson recalls her father, Mr. Jerry Anderson, telling of the things that happened when he traveled among the farmers selling farm machinery. In the early days livestock was valuable to the family and they could take no chances on losing them. He told of one farmer who had a big, fat hog. The weather was very bitterly cold, so he brought her into the kitchen and tied her to the table leg for over night.

Mr. Elvin Evenson tells us he remembers Mr. Scritsmier's team that pulled a dray wagon. One horse always went down the street with his tongue hanging away out at the side.

Mr. Jack Studley was 21 years old when cast his first vote — for Abraham Lincoln.

During the war year (the second World War) an egg drying plant was started in the creamery in Colfax. Many women cracked eggs fast and furiously all day long. Mrs. Lyle Hake and Mrs. Noel Hilson were two of those women. Mrs. Hilson said they got .28 per hour and they were quite well paid. The dried eggs were shipped to army posts and overseas for our troops. Our daughter, Shirley Weeks, stationed with the air force in Calcutta, India, had "stirred up" scrambled eggs from those dried eggs, so often, she wrote she never wanted to see a scrambled egg again.

The Peterson Boys, as they are still called, live out on the river road in a big, old house. We find it was once a boarding house for quarry workers. Colfax once had a flourishing business with the stone quarry and a granite works.

With a school meeting coming up next week (Feb. 1962) it seems of interest that on Jan. 26, 1912, a special school meeting was called to determine on the question of the adoption of the Norwegian language for one hour each day in the grades, resulted in a victory for the adoption by a vote of 125 to 85. And in that same year, one of the largest loads of lumber hauled by a team, was from the Raven yards to the J. D. Burns place on the north side. It was hauled by George W. Emmerton, with his small dray team. The Burns' residence is now the home of the Rev. Walter Korsrud family. It is the parsonage for the Norton, Holden and Running Valley Churches.

In Feb. 1927, there was a four piece orchestra called the Whizz Bang orchestra. It was composed of Ole Larson, Roy Nichols, Andrew Edwards and Oscar Fjelsted.

In the same year, there was an 11 Pullman car train, a special, which passed through Colfax carrying several hundred Mennonites, a religious denomination from Western Canada to the Atlantic seaboard, where they were to board a ship bound for South America.

In Feb. 1922, Martin Fruvog wrote an interesting letter to Mr. Ward Swift telling of his trip to Sunny California as viewed from a "side Door Pullman".

An advertisement in the Feb. 1922 paper is as follows:

If you suffer from biliousness, constipation, headache, nervousness, sallow complexion, loss of appetite, bad taste in mouth, Tanlac and Tanlac Vegetable Pills will certainly straighten you out. Noer Drug Store.

Recipe to clean your jet jewelry. Rub it with a slice of fresh bread and it will come out bright and shining.

Another advertisement in the same paper was as follows:

Why mope around, half sick and listless when health and strength are yours for the asking? Take Tanlac. Noer Drug.

An interesting part of the advertisement of the Ajer-Iverson Merc. Co. was:

White goods — Checked and striped demeties and voiles, .19 per yard.

In the Messenger of March 1922 there appeared this little item. "Dr. Cooper was called to see little Yvonne Lowry last Saturday. She is improving nicely at this writing. Little Yvonne is now married and lives in Eau Claire. She is the sister of Col. Howard Lowry, who lives in retirement near Colfax.

Then there is the story of "Stony" Jackson, who was a coach here at the High School about 28 years ago. It seems he sent two boys and two girls out on a Botany trip. They returned an hour late. When questioned as to their reason for being late, they said they had a flat tire. So, Mr. Jenson being wise in the ways of young people, put each one of them in the four corners of the room, gave them a paper and pencil and told them to put down which

tire went flat. Strangely enough there were four flat tires on that car.

In May, 1913, Mr. Gilbert Gunder-son broke his arm trying to crank his auto.

Mr. Dermont Toycen tells us he is very interested in the 100 years of history in Colfax, as it will be 100 years this summer since his mother, Gustava Kongsgaard, came to Colfax. Her parents homesteaded north of Colfax on the Carl Sorkness place. His mother and Peter Peterson, father of Hazel Peterson and Birdie Running were brother and sister.

Sometime, we are not sure as we cannot pin down a date, Mrs. J. S. Burns gave a program before the Woman's Club, on "My Community" that could be for all the world, a write up of the present project. Every word is very interesting. She compared their community life of 40 years ago, which we think was 70 years ago, 30 years from now. In this write up of her talk was a description of a banquet given by the Woman's Club in the old three story Royal Hotel. It is as follows:

"We had banquets in those days. One in particular which stands out in my memory was given by the Woman's Club in the dining room of the Royal Hotel, at that time the nicest place in town to have anything of that sort, strange as it may seem to you new people.

Mr. and Mrs. Viets (Ralph Viets parents) were both living at that time and the Royal Hotel was in its prime and very nice. The members of the club and their husbands were invited to the affair, and as I remember, all the ladies had new gowns for the occasion, and the men of course wore their Sunday togs.

It was held in the evening, the tables were beautifully decorated with flowers, candles and hand painted place cards with a little toast written on each one to be read when she was called upon. Mrs. Hawker presided as toastmistress and everything was carried off in apple-pie-order. We were all 30 years old, or less, younger than we are now, and there were not so many gray-haired members in our little club, and no bobbed-hair, oh, no! Scandalous! and I do believe I was about the only one who wore glasses.

There were several brides, or near brides in our club at that time. They were Mrs. Vorland, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Emmerton, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Rosenberg and others I do not think

of just now and needless to say, they were all pretty, rosy and blushing.

There was a fine program, as well as violin and piano music furnished during the supper. All in all, it was a lovely banquet."

Colfax had it's off side too. There were at least two murders in the past century of history, that we know about.

Two men had been having their differences for quite a spell. One man had threatened to kill the other. They were hauling a big load of lumber on a sled, with the "threatener" driving. The other man was running along at the back. He suddenly jumped on the back of the load and stood there. As he jumped up, the driver whirled around and before you could move, the man on the back shot him through the heart. He was arrested, stood trial in Menomonie, and was acquitted on self defense.

The second incident involved a man and his wife who were visting in town. The man was a heavy drinker and at this particular time he was quite drunk. He came into the barber shop, barefooted with his undershirt on and a pair of pants, his hair all tousled. He was hunting

someone, but talked in such a way that the barber reported him, as soon as the man left. He told the constable he had better pick him up, as he was crazy. But they did not. He went back to his friend's house, grabbed the scissors and stabbed his wife through the heart. He came from Minneapolis, was taken there after the murder. We could not find out if he was punished or not but he did die within a short time, as the result of the heavy drinking.

A century of history holds many of life's ups and downs. Many funny stories could be told, along with the sad ones.

One of the nice things that happened to Colfax was the selection of Miss Sylvia Lee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alf Lee, as Alice in Dairyland for 1962, for the state of Wisconsin. She represented Colfax and the state in a wonderful way. Being a very beautiful, blonde girl and charming too, she also had the brains to do a wonderful job during her year of promoting dairy products for Wisconsin.

Research by

Mrs. Walter Weeks,

Mrs. G. R. Thompson.

If the lips of our forefathers are silent forever, and the old landmarks pass away, who will recall the days of the past if the loving fingers of each generation do not set down the chronicles of THEIR times?

Therefore, in doing this history, The Colfax Woman's Club of 1962, realizes the next one hundred years will be a whole, new world, with many unforeseen things taking place, as there were many unforeseen things in the past century.

The young people of today will be the historians of tomorrow. Just bear in mind, dear young people, what you may now think is antiquated and your elders equally as antiquated, your children and grandchildren will think the same of you.

Your cars, planes, cooking units and automatic washers and dryers will be as antique as the buggies, cook stoves and wash tubs of yesterday. Therefore, we put the making and the writing of the next century of history in your capable hands. May you make no more mistakes than your ancestors of the past one hundred years.

This is our wish.

Colfax Woman's Club of 1962  
Brought up to 1964



