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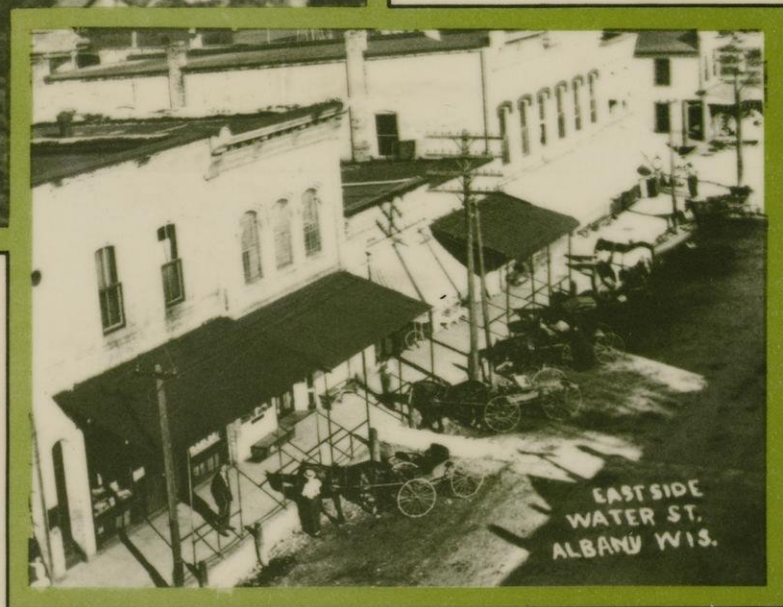
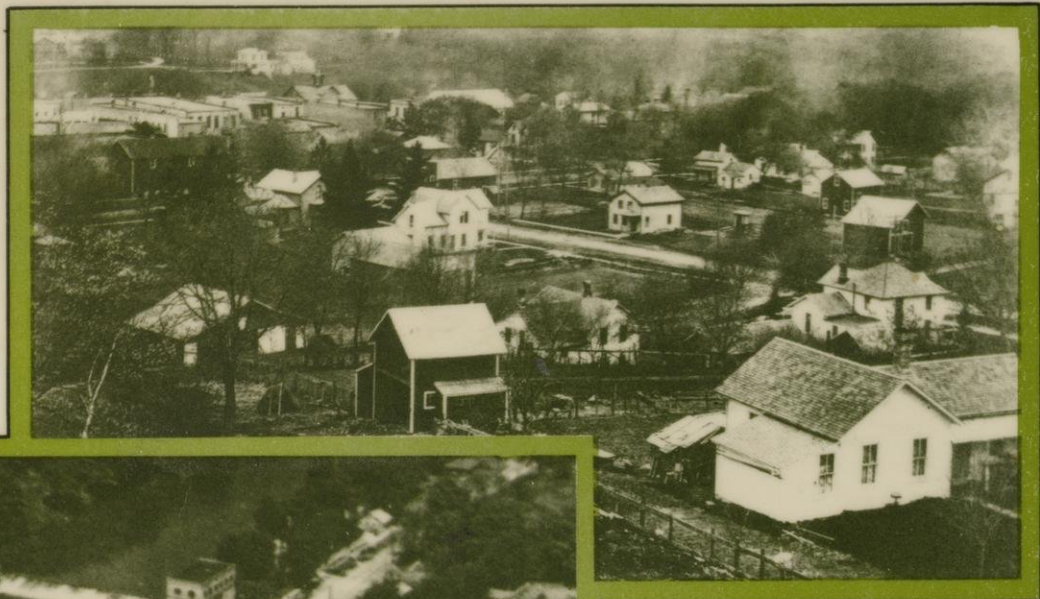
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Yesteryears--The History of Albany
Centennial Research Committee
Albany Public Library



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REFERENCE

YESTERYEARS — THE HISTORY OF ALBANY



The Albany Journal.

E 5.

ALBANY, WIS., SATURDAY, JULY 7 1883.

NUM

Notice for Incorporation.

Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of the provisions of section 854 and 855 of Chapter 40 of the Revised Statutes of 1878, and the provisions of chapter 20; of the Laws of 1880, amendatory thereto, the undersigned applicants, E. F. Warren, Thomas Gravenor, N. B. Murrey, H. B. Jones and J. E. Flood, will apply, on the eighth day of August, 1883, to the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of the State of Wisconsin, at the Court House in the city of Janesville, in the County of Rock, in the State of Wisconsin, for an order incorporating the following described territory as a village, to-wit.: Commencing at the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner, on the east side of section 23, thence south on section-line between sections 27 and 28, variation 6 degs. 45 min. east 40 07-100 chains to section corner of survey, thence west variation 6 degs. 15 min. 28 7-100 chains, $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner west 79 68-100 chains, Sugar River 21, 28 and 29; thence north variation 6 degs. 19, 99-100 chains, set 1-16 post north west corner of survey; thence east, variation 6 degs. 15 min. east 21, 80-100 chains, Sugar River 80, 00 100 chains to sections 21, 22, 27 and 28, north east corner of survey; thence south variation 6 degs. 45 min. east, 19, 95-100 chains to corner of sections 21, 22, 27 and 28; thence south 40, 00-100 chains to $\frac{1}{4}$ post, place of beginning; containing 800 acres, and comprising the whole of section 28, and the south one fourth of section 21; said territory all lying and being in the town of Albany, in the county of Green, and State of Wisconsin aforesaid; to be known by the name of the "Village of Albany"; And notice is further given, that the survey maps of the foregoing described territory, and the number of inhabitants actually residing in said territory, on the 15th day of June, A. D., 1883, both previously verified to, and left at the drug store, the place of business of Geo. W. Bartlett, in the Village of Albany, and who is a resident in said territory, subject to examination at all reasonable hours, by every person who may be interested therein. Dated at Albany, June 21st, 1883.

THOS. GRAVENOR,
H. B. JONES,
N. B. MURREY,
J. E. FLOOD, Committee.



Albany Public Library

Albany, Wisconsin



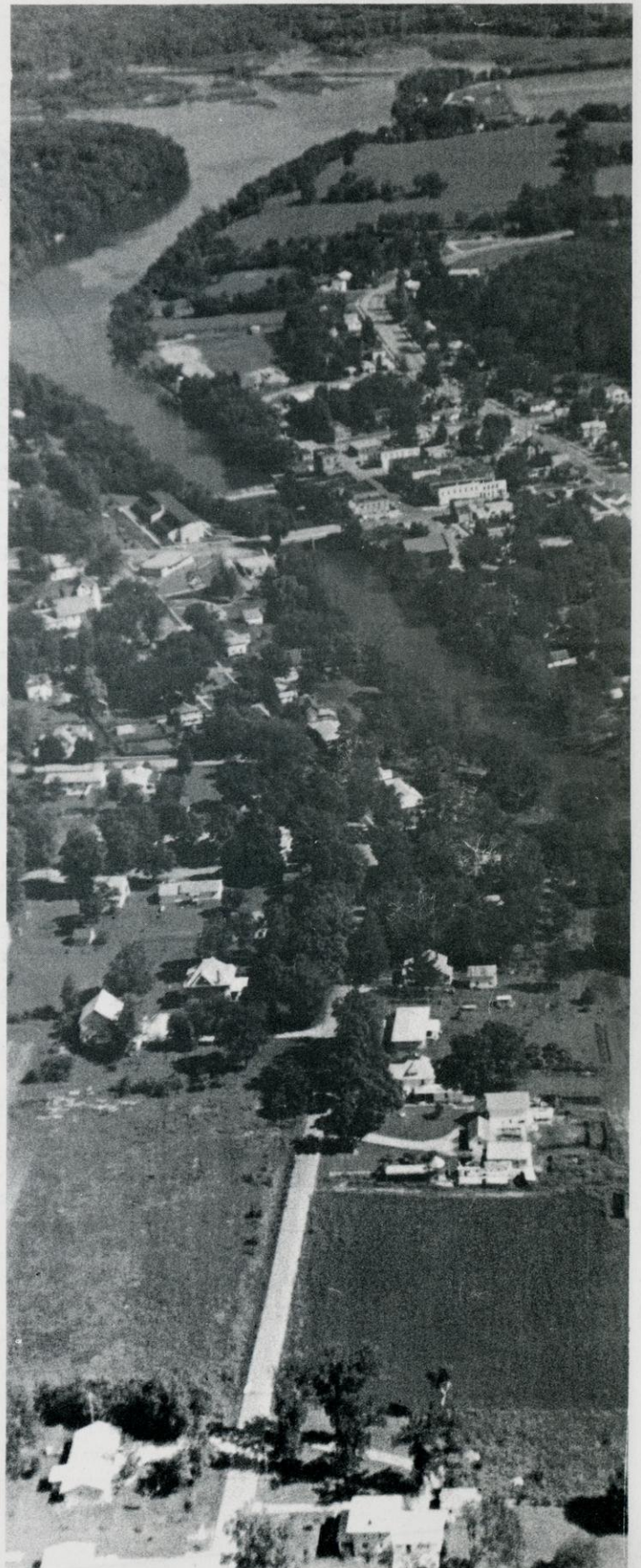
Presented by
The Centennial Research
Committee of the Village
of Albany
In Memory of

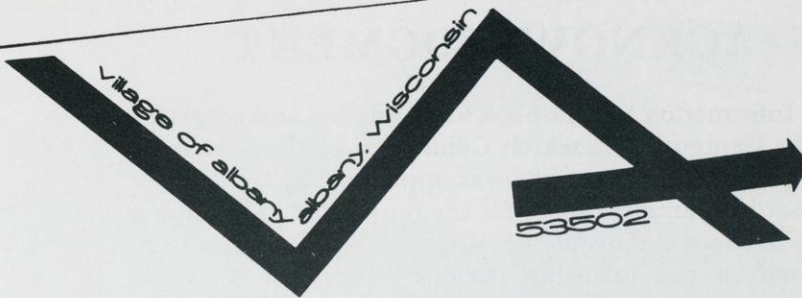
Blanche Jones and
Ernest W. Kittleson



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May 1983

To the Citizens of Albany:

It is with great pleasure that we are able to offer this collection of memorabilia of our Community's past. The availability of this collection is made possible through the unselfish loans of material by citizens of the community, and the dedicated efforts of members of our special Centennial Research Committee established to bring this information together. Editing and publishing of this book represents many hours of work by members of the committee for which they received no compensation except the satisfaction of a job well done.

You will note that this project was not restricted to the confines of the Albany village limits, but rather is a true community-wide undertaking. It was felt that there was a sense of urgency and timeliness in bringing these records together on this our centennial year of the chartering of the Village of Albany.

My sincere thanks to you who contributed and most especially to the members of the committee. I hope that such dedication to the public welfare will persist through the next century.

Sincerely,

Duane E. Dixon
Village President

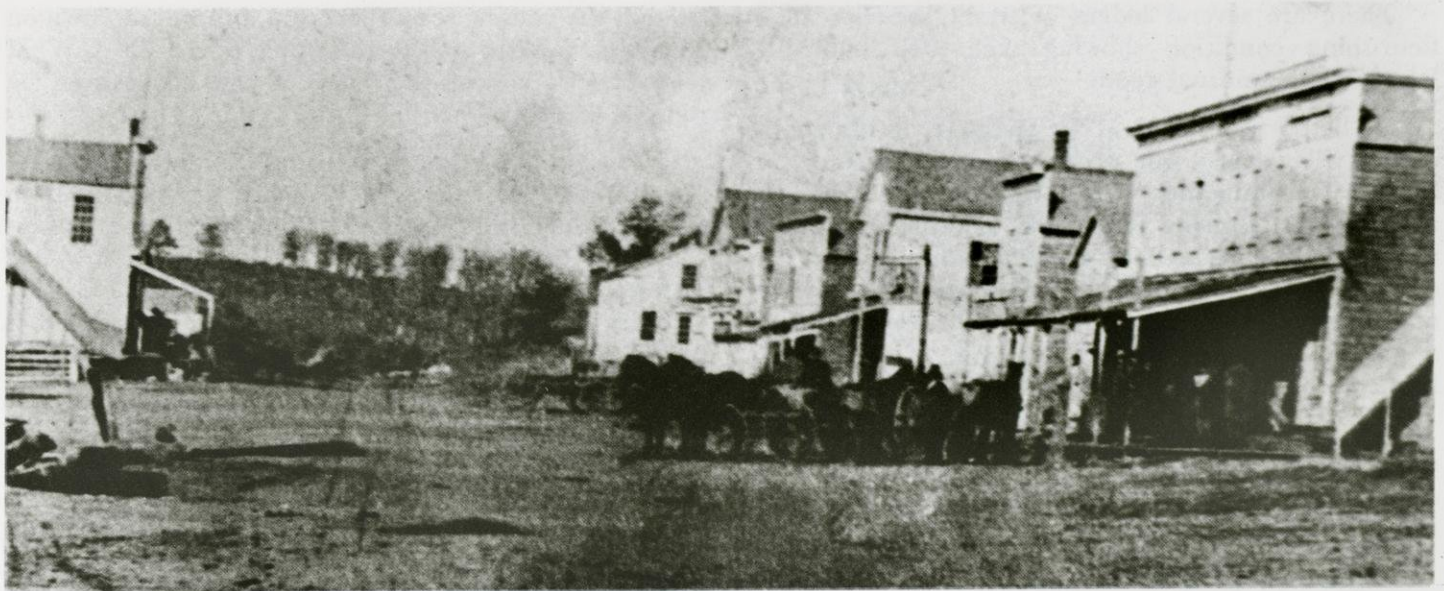
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Information for this book was compiled and edited by The Centennial Research Committee of the Village of Albany. This committee was appointed by the Village Board in January, 1983, for the purpose of publishing a book about the history of Albany. The committee consisted of the following persons: Raymond A. Pohl, Chairman; Julia Broughton, Helen Graves, Wilbur K. Dehmer, and Marcelline Graves Wilson. In addition assistance was given by Florence Atkinson, Boyd Atkinson, Mary Striker and Ervin Coplien. Margaret Pohl gave invaluable assistance. Arthur Broughton provided all photo processing. The committee gratefully acknowledges the use of photographs and mementos granted by many persons during the course of the research. Lack of space and fear of leaving out names allows the committee only to extend its appreciation to each and every one of you — whoever and wherever you may be. An attempt has been made to record the history of our village, using all recorded facts that could be discovered — also adding items of human interest that needed to be preserved. The information we learned from the following publications: "History of Green County," C. W. Butterfield, et al; "Memoirs of Green County," Charles A. Booth, Editor and "History of Green County," Helen Bingham, is acknowledged.

Also, many trips were made to the State Historical Society Library in Madison to read microfilm of the newspapers that have been published in the Village since the 1800's. If interest or items about a particular family were not mentioned, it was not intentional. It was only because needed information was not uncovered.

It is hoped that the book is enjoyed now and in the future by all persons who have a love for Albany.

A sad footnote—Albany lost two of its oldest citizens—Blanche Jones and Ernest W. Kittleson, both of whom were interested in Albany history and supplied the committee with photos and information for the book. Mr. Kittleson died at age 90 on April 28, 1983; Mrs. Jones, 94, died on May 7, 1983. Their lively interest in this book added much to its content and provided the committee with many pleasurable conversations.



Albany's bustling business district looked like this in 1865. Looking north on Water Street, the tall building on the left is probably the first flour mill built by Zebina Warren in 1849. The mill was washed away in a flood in 1867.

ALBANY BEFORE 1883

The scene that greeted the Indians who were the earliest known visitors to Albany was one of an area covered only by a luxuriant growth of grass, interspersed with flowers of every hue, and graced by the picturesque woodland-bordered river. Legend has it that the Indians called the river "Tonasookarah," meaning sugar and also referring to the maple trees along the river banks. Most of the area was in the early state of its natural timber growth with an average of twelve to fourteen trees to an acre; and these only a few inches in diameter.

The Indians came in the spring and in the fall with their children and their ponies, camping at the Docken campsite (now the Norwegian Settlement), the Porterfield spring area, the Ray Tierney farm campsite, and the Walter Wood farm area known as the Indian Gardens. Until recently, stones arranged in circles marked the campsite on the Ray Tierney farm. Allen's Creek nearby suited the Indians admirably.

"Campbell's Ford," the name by which Albany was first known, was an ideal river crossing settled by James Campbell and Thomas Stewart in 1839. Seven years later Captain Erastus Pond, master of a Great Lakes ship, and Dr. Samuel Nichols, attracted by the prospects of excellent water power and the scenic area, came to Campbell's Ford. They purchased at least part of their land from Isaac N. Arnold, an associate of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Nichols built a double log home which was shared by the Pond family for a few months until they built their own. Both homes were on the east side of the river. In 1847 several families came and Albany was on the way to becoming a thriving, populous community.

The first brick building was the home of Zebina Warren, which he built in 1851. It still stands today—east of and next door to the Albany Public Library. Built in what was platted as Block 13, the house probably is not far from the spot where Dr. Nichols built his log house.

The following story from the Albany Weekly Times of June 8, 1858, illustrates the rapid progress of the village:

"The population of about 700 is chiefly composed of the most energetic people from the eastern states. Sugar River affords one of the best water powers between the Rock and Mississippi Rivers and propels at the present time machinery for two large flouring mills, one saw mill, one cabinet and chair manufactory, one corn mill, one woolen carding and cloth dressing machine. We have in the business part of the village five dry goods stores, three groceries, one hardware, one book and drug store and 19 machine shops, such as tin, copper and sheet iron, harness, blacksmith, paint, wagon, boot and shoe, etc. We have one school house thirty by fifty feet, two stories high to be finished in modern style at a cost of about \$2,000. A spacious church, the spire of which reaches to the height of 112 feet also attracts by its beauty the attention of the traveler as he wends his way to the quiet village. One big hotel is situated on the west side of the river.

"There are several lodges of secret societies all in flourishing condition showing that each individual labors for the mutual good.

"No better illustration of the character of the people of this village need one desire, than the cemetery affords. The numerous and elegant tombstones, the absence of flattering and false epitaphs, the quiet neatness of the ornamental shrubbery that decks nearly every grave and skirts every walk shows that the dead are not forgotten; and situated as it is on an elevated piece of ground and planted with shade trees, it is certainly a beautiful place for the dead to repose in.

"Around this village is a tract of country settled by a class of people full of energy, an agricultural region the trade of which always gives evidence of a thickly settled, highly improved and well tilled area of country."

All that progress in less than twenty years time, against odds that we can only guess at, is a stunning testimonial to the character of Albany's founding fathers.

From the Albany Journal in December, 1881, the following description by the editor, J. E. Bartlett, details the village's progress in the intervening years:

"The completion of Warren's block of three store rooms, Dr. G. W. Roberts' block of one good store room and office, Murrey's block with two large store rooms, Howard's block, an imposing building on the corner—these store rooms are all full but one. The railroad brought to our village two ready-made clothing stores, two new dry goods stores, one new hardware store, two restaurants and news depots, two jewelers, one shoemaker, one fashionable milliner (perhaps bringing to this city the finest class of goods this side of Janesville), one new furniture store, with a fine assortment in that line of trade; one new harness shop; one music store, where the latest and best styles of pianos and organs can be secured—Ed Hewitt, the facetious proprietor always wearing a smile when not smoking a cigar; a lumber yard and a coal yard; one grain firm; two stock buying firms, a new firm in the woolen mills now turning out a class of goods that defies competition; a new physician that speaks German as well as English—a graduate of Ann Arbor, Michigan—well posted in his profession, a thorough gentleman and will have a large practice; a new livery stable where a good turnout can be had at all hours and gentlemanly hostlers to attend to the accommodations of customers; a general increase of population until every nook and corner where a family can stay, not to say live, is occupied! We understand that we are shortly to have a bank—already the preliminary steps are being taken to secure it. Our available water power opens chances for new industries

so that the coming season a cotton mill will sit down on the river bank to sing to the ripple of the wave. What else may follow in the wake of the boom is to be developed."

The first government of the area was township government. The Town of Albany was organized in 1849, with Aaron Broughton, Chairman; James Campbell and George W. Bagley, supervisors; S. F. Wheeler, assessor; Christopher Meinert, treasurer; Gilbert McNaught, clerk; Erastus O. Pond, S. L. Eldred, James Trow, Jeptha Davis, Justices of the Peace; S. T. Bagley, H. H. Purrington and John Jones, constables. (The record states that "Old Ruby" received three votes for constable). It was voted to raise \$75 for the support of schools, \$125 for contingent expenses.

Reinforcing the already well-defined picture of a bustling atmosphere in a growing village, this item appeared in an 1881 Albany Journal:

"We hear considerable fault found among the ladies of this vicinity in regard to the crowds that are around to congregate on the corners and in front of business places making it impossible for them to get from one store to another. Why not have a marshal who will try to remedy this?"

And in the same issue of the Journal, evidence of another institution in the village not mentioned in the previous proud recital: "On Saturday last, for the first time in many months, our lockup was graced with a prisoner all on account of fooling with a loaded bottle of alcohol. Some loud talk was indulged in by outsiders with reference to the marshal's way of taking his prisoner and we believe some threats of black eyes were made. No deaths as yet!"

The cultural side of early Albany was evident in the formation in 1857 of the Albany Lyceum, the first literary club. One of the first debate questions addressed by the group—"Resolved that education of females is of greater importance to society than education of males."

Albany seems to have had a disproportionate share of fires even before the great fire of 1883. In 1866 the hotel on Water Street burned, and two years later an entire business block of five stores collapsed in a fire. Two more business blocks of five stores were destroyed in a fire in 1870. One of the stores burned was the Jobs-Dolsen Department Store. J. W. Warren's block of store buildings was razed by fire in 1879.

Despite these hardships and disasters, Albany rebounded and moved toward incorporation as a village.

1. Gothompson, Syver and Barbra
2. Johnson, Tom and Nettie
3. Docken, John and Gunhill
4. Paulson, Gabe and Julia
5. Broten, Ole and Karina
6. Jacobson, Gabe and Nellie
7. Gilbertson, Ole and Gunhil
8. Gilbertson, Jake and Martha
9. Anderson, Andrew and Julia
10. Kittleson, Evan and Asta
11. Kittleson, Ole and Randina
12. Gilbertson, Theodore and Dena
13. Kittleson, Oliver
14. Gensvold, John and Anne
- 14a Cemetery
15. Severson, Ole and Sophia
16. Albertson, Andrew and Christy
17. Unsure of this name
18. Gothompson, Peter and Bertha
19. Johnson, Burt and Sophia
20. Norwegian School
21. Jacobson, Christ and Maren
22. Norwegian Lutheran Church

SETTLEMENTS

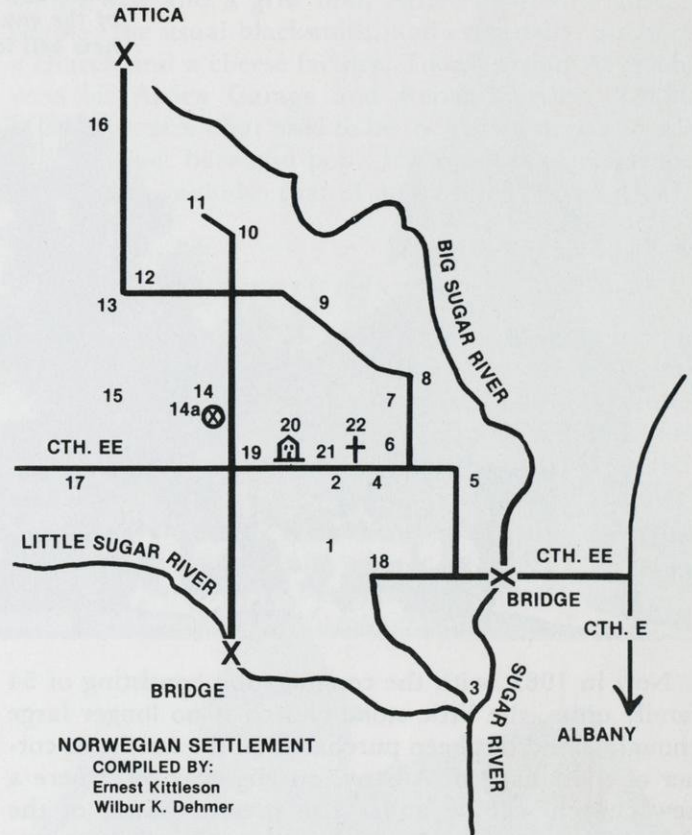
The Norwegian Settlement

When the first permanent Norwegian settlers, Syver and Barbra Gothompson and their ten children, came to the area between the two Sugar Rivers in 1849, they occupied an abandoned log building. It may have been built by a trapper, or perhaps by one of the Norwegians, Aaslok Aarhaus and a Mr. Leikvolden, who stayed only a short time. The Gothompson family had arrived in Wisconsin at Milwaukee, where they hired a team and came to Green County.

When they came, there were Indian trails along both Sugar Rivers which went all the way to Blue Mounds, 30 miles away. These trails were often a foot deep and one-and-a-half feet wide. The Indians, who were Winnebago, had their camp at the lower end of the Peter Gaarder farm, on the "island" known shortly after this as the John Gunhill Dakken place. Deer, muskrat, raccoon and fox were plentiful, as well as fish in the river. The Indians and the settlers had no serious problems sharing the area for a time.

The Gothompsons built an addition to the log house, making it a double house; and it became the stopping place for all Norwegian immigrants who passed this way, often housing an amazing number of people. It was also used for the first school.

Most of the Norwegian settlement pioneers came in the 1850's, and struggled to eke out a living on what is called Sparta sandy clay loam, not an ideal growing medium. Descendants of early settlers who live in the settlement today are Kittlesons, Gilbertsons and Albertsons.



THE ALBANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

These Lutheran pioneers very soon felt the need for worship services. The first meeting of the congregation which eventually built the picturesque stone church was held in the log house of Syver Gothompson in 1850.

In 1864 the stone church was built on the present site. That church, with some alterations, remains today. The stone came from the quarry to the northwest of the church, on the slope on the present Ivan Kittleson farm. Lime was burned in the quarry to produce mortar. The stones were laid up by Ole Gilbertson and fellow church members who gave freely of their time. Original records of the congregation are in the Norwegian language.

By 1884 there were nineteen families and several individuals belonging to the congregation. For many years a minister came from Orfordville to hold weekly worship services.

The beautiful Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was constructed in 1864 using stone from a quarry just northwest of the church. This photograph was taken in 1904 when the new bell tower was dedicated.



Now in 1983, with the congregation consisting of 54 family units, the little stone church is no longer large enough. Land has been purchased on the northeast corner of the village of Albany, on Highway 59, where a new church will be built. The present pastor of the church is Reverend Allan Schoonover. For the present, Sunday school is held at the Senior Citizen Center and Sunday worship services at St. Patrick's Catholic church in the Village of Albany.

Croake Settlement — Home of the Irish Pioneers

Halfway between Albany and Evansville, on both sides of the County line on the fertile soils of both Rock and Green Counties, is the Croak Settlement. Strictly Irish in its origin, this rural colony is typical of the pioneer building of America. Jimmy, "the King," Croake came about 1840, leaving his native home in Kilkenny, Ireland. He purchased 350 acres of land from the government, building a log cabin for himself in the woods and clearing the land for farming. This site is on Finneran Road just off the county line.

On rare occasions Jimmy walked to Janesville, hacking the trees along what is now Magnolia Road so that he would not lose his way on the return trip. When he heard that another hermit in the area had been devoured by wolves, the young "King" wrote to his two brothers, Patrick and Michael, to come and join him in this new land. That was the potato famine era in

Ireland; consequently, a sizeable delegation joined Patrick and Michael in their emigration — among them, Tom Dunphy and his wife; Tom's sister, Margaret (who married the "King"); James Croake (Jimmy the carpenter); Billy and Mickey Croake (the masons); and another James Croake; three Tipperary cousins, Edmund, Big John, and Jeffrey Croake; and Kate Ryan, a widow and her six-year-old daughter.

The first winter four families including the carpenters lived in a long log cabin, but the need for more durable homes prompted the building of a substantial stone house.

The Celtic instinct for a home and children led to many marriages, but so inherent was the love for their own that the Croakes took for husbands and wives only members of the settlement. However, six families did marry into Croake families — the Dunphy, Barron, Dawson, Finnane, Maloy and Tierney families. This meant that in time everyone on the settlement was related either by blood or marriage ties. In some instances there was a double relationship which complicated matters and caused their Yankee neighbors to throw up their hands in confusion, as a Croake, with the love of the intricate, said that the widow's Ellen had married Long Pad's son Tom and that made the children of Frank Croake the nieces of Ellen by marriage and her sister's grandchildren.

Jimmy the "King," and his wife Peggy had nine children; the first died in a smallpox epidemic. Jack, Tom, Dick, Jimmy and Mickey spent their lives living in or near Albany.

When Big John Croake's baby daughter died, the "King" set aside a portion of his farm for a cemetery, known as "Calvary on the Hill" or the "Croake Cemetery." This cemetery located on the County line is the resting place not only for those early settlers but for many of their descendants. Irish folklore has been handed down from one generation to another and many a child living in this settlement and playing on Bump's Bluff never doubted but that some day a leprechaun would be spied eating those matchless wild strawberries so enjoyable to all of them.

In the simplicity born of their temperament and the faith of their fathers, they made of "The Bush" an Arcadian spot. Ever mindful of the Croake crest—six doves and the Gaelic motto of their clan, "Buallin Se," (Dove of Peace), they dwelt in perfect harmony. Three grandsons of these early settlers are still living—Johnnie Croak, Frank Dunphy and James Dunphy. The Dunphy, Petersen and McCreedy families, all descendants of these first Irish families, still farm on the land cleared by their ancestors. Two great grandchildren of Jimmy the "King" are living in Albany—Duane Dixon and Marcelline Wilson—as well as representatives of the next two generations—Dennis Carroll and James Graves and his children, Matthew, Phillip and Megan.

Attica

Albany's families are well entwined with those of Attica—Swanns, Brewers, Keehns, Bartletts, Nyes Qualleys, Zimmermans, Petersens and others.

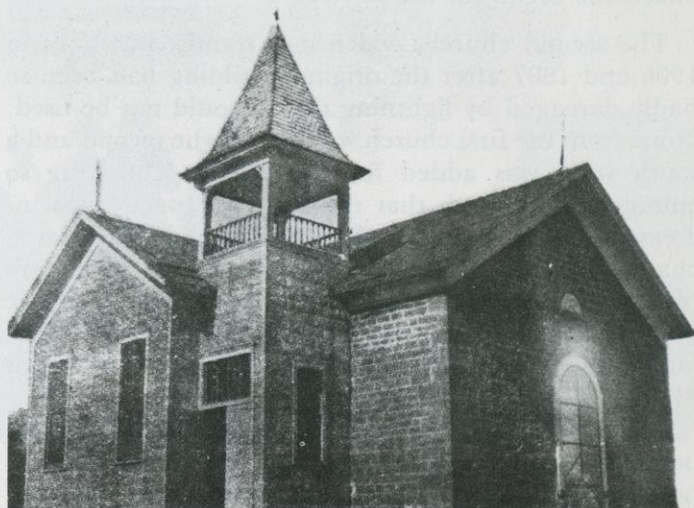
In 1845 Attica, a crossroads community in the far southwest corner of Brooklyn Township, was called Winneshiek, after an Indian chief. It then became Milford; then Winneshiek again. When the post office was established, it was learned that there was already one Winneshiek in the state so the name "Attica" was chosen after Attica, New York. Although it did not grow rapidly, Attica was a lively trading center for many



years. Originally settled for its good source of power, a six-foot head of water on Little Sugar River supporting both a saw and a grist mill, Attica boasted a store, a cooper, the usual blacksmith, and eventually, a school, a church and a cheese factory. Today Arthur A. Keehn runs his Attica Garage and Repair Service. Ronald Miller operates what used to be the Attica store and sells milk, cheese, beer and pop. The number of residences in the town includes that of auctioneer Wayne Albertson, Sr.

ATTICA COMMUNITY CENTER

In the winter of 1873-74 the people interested in building a church met in Joel Smith's home. Since they wanted the church to serve the greatest possible number of people, the Methodist religion was selected. Joel Smith, who lived just south of the present building that now serves as the Attica Community Center,



The "new" Attica Methodist Church—now the Attica Community Center was built in 1906 and 1907, and served the community until 1953. Original church, built on the same site in 1874, was destroyed by lightning.

volunteered to donate two lots if that site were chosen for the new church. Joseph Bartlett donated all the stone that they could use from his quarry, located west of Attica cemetery.

The building committee consisted of Joseph Bartlett, Fayette Jipson and Arad Ross.

In 1908 the market for milk produced by Attica-area dairymen was this cheese factory. Wooden barrels in the foreground probably were used to hold whey which local farmers hauled back to their farms, mixed with oats or barley, and fed to their pigs.

The first pastor, Reverend R. Pennigilla, also served Albany church: the first trustees were William Layton, Joseph Bartlett and Joel Smith.

The church was made of stone with a double door to the East and the altar, built of black walnut—round and high to accommodate the large bible—was located at the west end of the church. Forty seats were built by Fayette Jipson who received ten dollars for his five days of labor. The Epworth League donated funds for the material. The church was heated by twin wood stoves, one on each side of the entrance. Light for evening services was provided by four kerosene hanging lamps and two bracket lamps near the altar. The cost of the church was \$2,089.72; total donations amounted to \$2,040.70. When all the equipment had been purchased, the debt was \$453.69.

The church had its first communion in the summer of 1874 when Mrs. Joseph Bartlett made the wine and baked the bread for the service.

The second church, which now stands, was built in 1906 and 1907 after the original building had been so badly damaged by lightning that it could not be used. Stone from the first church was used in the second and a south wing was added for the pulpit. The wing so enlarged the church that the seating capacity was increased to one hundred fifty. Three red upholstered chairs, donated by stock buyer David Stephens, were placed in the sanctuary area. Mr. Hayden built the podium for \$8, and Mrs. Thomas Campbell gave the large bible and hymn books. Cost of the new church was \$1,745.27.

The church served the community for many years both for sorrows and for joys, and the last service was held in April, 1953, when Edna Zimmerman was baptized and became a member of the church.

In June, 1955, the Methodist Conference of the Western District of Wisconsin declared the church abandoned and that all its contents and the building itself should be sold, proceeds to go to the Albany Methodist Church. Nineteen families gave \$25 each—other smaller donations were received, too—and \$600 purchased the building for the community. A bell donated by Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Knapp and never installed because of its great weight now serves John Simons Grace Methodist Church in Beloit. Thus the Attica church ceased to exist and became the Attica Community Center.

The first social evening in the new community center was held on December 11, 1955,—a Christmas party and program planned by Ethel Schultz and Grace Edwards.

Maintenance of the center has included replacement of the kerosene lamps with electric lights, oil heat for the wood-burning stoves, a new roof, painting, and lawn mowing.

Through the untiring efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Swann the Attica Church building has become the Attica Community Center, the setting for continuing good times and good fellowship.

The English Settlement

The early settlers in the English Settlement, northeast of Albany, were immigrants from the English-Welsh border country, and most would be considered Welsh in nationality. They came from a hilly, beautiful land of small farms and small industrial towns which could not support the growing population.

A journal kept by Thomas Francis who came to the United States in 1855 reveals in part what the ocean crossing was like:

"The first part of our journey was very rough but very swift. One dog was blown off and drowned. Don't bring a box without some kind of feet under it to keep it up off the damp. Take care to bring no fat meat for no one in the ship likes it—bring lean—sea sickness makes the stomach weak—bring herrings. Bring some vessel to put the allowance of meat to soak in and one to keep broth in. We throw nice broth away for want of a vessel to put it in. We take our victuals to cook up on deck. I would advise you to bring plenty of provisions for hardship will come."

Among other early settlers who lived in the settlement or nearby were:

Edward and Mary Hamer Lloyd, William and Margaret Davis Francis, Benjamin and Emma Francis Swancutt, Edward and Mary Davis Davis, John and Mary Francis Williams, Edward and Mary Evans Meredith, Thomas and Elizabeth Evans Pryce, Richard and Sarah Lloyd Smout, Richard and Mary Jarman Hamer, William and Mary Lloyd Lewis, John and Anna Griffith Trow, Richard and Ann Jones Reese, Alfred and Margaret Jarman Edmunds and John Jones, whose wife Sarah Sheen did not emigrate.

The living conditions of the early days were primitive and difficult. The log houses were chinked with dirt and manure made into mortar. Mrs. Edward Davis carried all the family's drinking water for a half mile using a shoulder yoke. Early lighting was from a "bitch" light which was a rag soaked in coal oil and then lit.

These people persevered and no doubt agreed with this observation by Thomas Francis: "This is a first rate country for a man that works for his living."



English Settlement Union Church was built in 1886, and used until about 1968. Members of the congregation, pictured in the early 1900's, included, left to right: Dave Phelps, Tom Edmunds, Mae Watkins, Tom Lewis, Zella Francis, Vira M. Trow, Bill Williams, Mae Williams, Alfred and Jane Lewis and children, Jim Francis, unidentified man, Sarah Francis, Liza Watkins. Standing on steps, left to right: Mae Williams, Nellie Watkins, Jane Edmunds, Elder Graves' wife, Elder Graves, "Grandpa" Hamer, Roy and Orin Lewis (boys), John Watkins.

ENGLISH SETTLEMENT UNION CHURCH

This congregation made up of the residents of the English Settlement had its beginning in the deeding of the land for a Swancutt Cemetery in 1861. By 1887 additional land was deeded and the name of the cemetery was changed to Trow-Swancutt. A meeting was held in 1884 when the residents of the English Settlement felt there was a need for a church building. A sum of \$505 was raised with a proposal that a church be built. It was to be a non-denominational church. The church was built in 1886 with William Reese, Thomas Lewis, James Lloyd, Aaron Jones, Thomas Edmunds and James Francis serving as the building committee. The church was

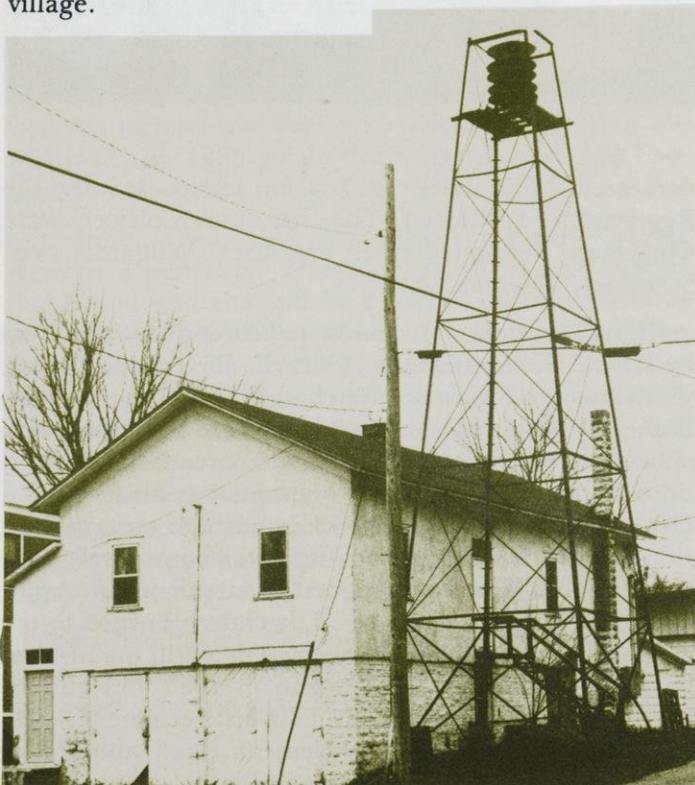
dedicated in January 1887 at a service led by the Reverend S. L. Eldred. The first church officers were Chairman, William Reese; Treasurer, William Lewis; Secretary, Thomas Lewis.

Church services were conducted throughout the years by several denominations. Elder E. P. Graves, an Advent Christian Minister, often had charge of the services. Blanche Jones, a life-long resident of the Settlement and village, remembers him well as the "preacher who continually pounded the pulpit to emphasize his sermons." She was then a small child attending the services with her parents. By 1968 the church was not actively used but a church board was named to attend to the repair and upkeep of the structure. The church burned to the ground in April, 1970. The cemetery is still maintained by a perpetual care fund begun in 1923 and administered by a cemetery board. This little cemetery lies to the west of the English Settlement Road about four miles northeast of the Village of Albany.

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

Brave and pioneering individuals who left the eastern states to seek their fortunes and to establish new beginnings in the growing Midwest are the persons who made our village what it was, what it is now and what it will be in the future. In 1883, five interested men saw the need to establish a higher form of government to direct the orderly growth of the community. The original petition, dated June 23, 1883, and signed by E. F. Warren, Thomas Gravenor, N. B. Murrey, J. E. Flood and H. B. Jobs, was presented to the Green County Circuit Court and requested that the area comprising all of Section 28 and the South One-fourth of Section 21, Town of Albany, Green County, Wisconsin, be incorporated as a village under the name of the "Village of Albany." The petition noted that the population of the village at that time was 496. After due process of law, the matter was heard before the Court at a regular session for the County of Rock at the Courthouse in the City of Janesville, the same being a special term for Green County. On August 9, 1883, the Court ruled that the territory described in the petition be an incorporated village under the name of the "Village of Albany" if the "electors shall agree thereto." The required election was held September 12, 1883; 130 votes were cast - 93 in favor of incorporation and 37 against.

From that day forward, local government has been deeply involved in the growth and development of the village.



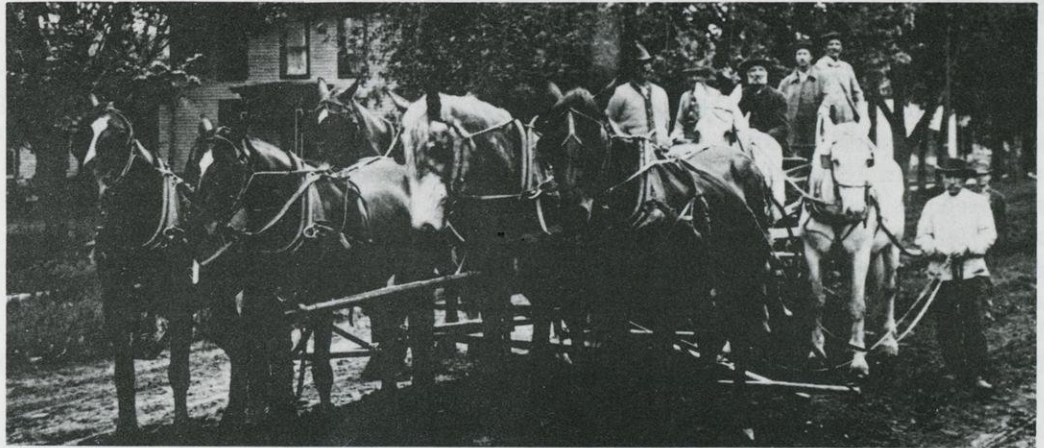
We realize it would be of interest if we listed all elected officials. Due to space requirements this is not possible; however, we do show the Village Presidents of the last 100 years:

1883 - 1885	S. H. Warren
1886	W. H. Knapp
1887	F. S. Warren
1888	Thomas Gravenor
1889	S. H. Flint
1890	J. L. Sherron
1891	E. Van Patten
1892	Peter Benston
1893	H. Brockway
1894 - 1896	E. Van Patten
1897	J. T. Fulton
1898	J. S. Smith
1899 - 1900	Thomas Carver
1901	G. W. Thurman
1902 - 1903	John Morgan
1904 - 1905	Arthur Smith
1906 - 1907	L. A. Nichols
1908 - 1909	C. W. Whitcomb
1910	John Morgan
1911 - 1913	W. R. Lewis
1914	Charles Edwards
1915	Victor Zentner
1916	Charles Edwards
1917	W. R. Lewis
1918 - 1920	Thomas M. Carver
1921	W. R. Lewis
1922 - 1924	Charles M. Dixon
1925	Fred Lockwood
1926 - 1927	A. S. Peterson
1928 - 1929	W. T. Crawford
1930 - 1931	Frank Christopher
1932	W. T. Crawford
1933 - 1935	Arthur Partridge
1936 - 1937	E. F. Partridge
1938 - 1939	O. Nuwash
1940	Arthur Partridge
1941 - 1942	Truman E. Sharer
1943 - 1944	Sever Gaarder
1945 - 1946	F. J. Bongiorno
1947 - 1952	Arthur Partridge
1953 - 1960	Edward O. Killingstad
1961 - 1962	Domenic Bongiorno
1963 - 1970	Edward O. Killingstad
1971 - 1972	Gale Gohlke
1973 - 1976	Duane E. Dixon
1977	Stephen Bakken
1978 - 1983	Duane E. Dixon

The old Village Hall was built by the Grange Society in 1879 with funds raised through sale of stock shares to members of the Society. Originally known as Patrons Hall, the building was used by the Grange and other organizations for meetings and entertainment. In 1899, stock in the Hall was transferred to the Village of Albany, and the building served as headquarters for village offices and as the fire station until a new building was built in 1973.

The population of the Village of Albany, according to the Federal Census Bureau, was as follows:

1883	496
1893	600
1903	797
1913	669
1923	741
1933	728
1943	741
1953	839
1963	892
1973	975
1983	1,051



Modern road building equipment in action in the early 1900's. Manpower, horsepower, scrapers and crude road graders were used to scrape the gutters, fill the potholes, and smooth the dirt streets around town.

One of the first problems confronting the newly elected officials in 1883 was the need for a reliable water system for extinguishing fires. The Village, especially the downtown area, had been the victim of serious fires and the Village Board called for a referendum to allow the public to decide on the expenditure of \$1,500 for such an undertaking. According to a newspaper article dated December 22, 1883, it was the opinion of the newspaper that the sentiment of the majority of the people within the village precincts was averse to the proposition to bond the village for fire protection. They felt it too expensive and too limited in coverage. The following is quoted from *The Albany Vindicator*, dated December 22, 1883: "Vote for the waterworks—Let us not again see Albany swept away by fire without having some protection. Every businessman should vote for the waterworks as a protection for his good and lower insurance rates. Every laboring man should vote for the waterworks on Saturday for the large amount of labor it will give in building and also for the protection of his home." The pleas of the press fell on deaf ears for the electorate turned down the expenditure by a vote of 75-11. In February and March of 1884, the Village Board did allow the expenditure of approximately \$300 for fire fighting equipment.

On March 5, 1891, a committee of Fred Benkert, Frank Graves and James Fulton was appointed to make inquiries and find the probable cost of an artesian well. This evidently did not come to pass as no further action was taken. On September 7, 1906, another committee was appointed—still no action. Finally on January 19, 1914, a resolution was approved which allowed the borrowing of \$20,000 at 4½ percent interest from the State Trust Fund loan. A referendum was held and approved by the voters — 95-67. On April 14, 1914, contracts totaling \$16,292.94 were awarded and work started. The well was an artesian well, 368 feet deep and was constructed at the site of what is now the old Village Hall (106 South Water Street). The well has a capacity

of 475,000 gallons per day and is still active today. A water tower, having a capacity of 40,000 gallons was also erected. A statement in *The Albany Vindicator*, dated February 12, 1914, regarding the installation of the waterworks, read as follows: "Albany is waking up. She is beginning to come to a realization of her possibilities and from now on will advance toward prosperity."

On April 1, 1890, the first of many elections regarding the question of whether any person should be licensed to deal or traffic in any spiritous malt or intoxicating liquors in the village was held. Results—83 against, 76 for. An item in *The Albany Vindicator*, dated May 5, 1887, stated that the village election passed off without much of a hustle or bustle. "Two tickets were in the field, headed respectively—'No License' and 'People's Ticket.' Many of our citizens were surprised when the ballots were counted to find that the last named ticket had been elected by at least 40 majority. This is the first time in the history of Albany where only two tickets were run and both opposed the liquor



The first community well was drilled next to the old Village Hall in 1914. The well, 368 feet deep, still has a capacity of 475,000 gallons of water per day. Original cost was \$16,292.94.

traffic. An attempt was made to have a license ticket printed and worked but no one could be found willing to have his name placed on the obnoxious ticket and it was abandoned. The fight—if fight it may be called—was ‘No saloons’ against ‘No saloons’ and ‘No saloons’ won.”

Referenda regarding the same question were again held in 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1896 and 1897 and were soundly defeated. In 1898, the “fors” finally won. They won again in 1899. However, in 1900 the question was defeated, as it was again in 1901. In 1902, 1903, 1905 and 1907 they won—lost it in 1908 and 1909, and regained it in 1910 only to lose in 1911 and 1912. They regained the right in 1914 (at a special election) only to be defeated on April 4, 1914. The question was not brought up again until 1934 when it was defeated. On April 6, 1954, a referendum was held and the results are still in effect today—218 for and 130 against. On October 2, 1956, the Village Board denied a bartender’s license saying that they would not accept applications for women bartenders. Shades of chauvinism!

Some of the other major events that the village government was involved in were:

- 1886 — A lock-up (or pound) was established at the Engine House.
- 1888 — The Village Marshal was instructed to stop all ball playing on streets.
- 1892 — Board again prohibited ball playing in the streets.
 - Board passed an ordinance prohibiting ball playing within the village on the Sabbath.
 - Board received a complaint against smoke from the linen mill and ordered them to put up a smoke stack.
- 1895 — A franchise was granted to E. F. Warren and Fred Warren to install and maintain an electric light plant. The term was for 5 years at a price not to exceed 60 cents a light per month. 34 16-candle incandescent lights were installed on the village streets.
- 1897 — The first Village Assessor, James Broderick, was appointed.
- 1900 — Badger State Long Distance Telephone Co. was allowed to erect and maintain a telephone line through the village. A 10-year franchise was awarded on August 1, 1902.
- 1901 — The Village Board allowed the expenditure of \$225 to erect a band stand in the village park.
- 1902 — United Telephone Company was granted permission to install telephone poles and lines.
- 1906 — The Village Board agreed to purchase a steel leg bridge for a stream in the southeast part of town (Peckham’s Creek).

- “Moved and carried that the Band be allowed to practice in the Village Hall as long as they conduct themselves as gentlemen.”
- 1909 — Frank Barton and August Maulcook were allowed to rebuild or extend and maintain a building to be used as a livery stable on Lot 1, Block 19, Original Plat.
- 1910 — The Village Board renewed the Albany Electric Light Co. franchise for 7½ years.
- 1914 — Contracts for a water system in the village were awarded:

U.S. Cast Iron Pipe Co. (cast iron pipe)	\$ 5,803.71
James B. Clow & Sons (valves and hydrants)	966.75
C. H. Phillips (laying pipes)	5,827.48
W. L. Thorne (drilling well)	1,050.00
Chicago Bridge & Iron (tank and tower)	<u>2,645.00</u>
	\$16,292.94
- 1915 — First water rates were established:
 - 1st 5000 gals used per quarter .35/1000 gals
 - Next 7000 gals used per quarter .25/1000 gals
 - Over 12,000 gals used per quarter .15/1000 gals
 - A drinking fountain was installed east of the town pump on Main Street and a watering trough was established north of the Grist Mill on Water Street.
- 1923 — The Village borrowed \$12,000 at 5½ percent interest to rebuild a bridge on Sugar River.
- 1928 — Agreed to act as a depository for Hillcrest Cemetery Association funds.
- 1932 — Village property tax was eliminated for 1933.
- 1942 — An ordinance, relating to national defense and public safety, and welfare during the war emergency, was adopted.
- 1946 — Discussion started about adding fluoride to water system.
- 1952 — Petition presented requesting a municipal sewer system.
 - Authorized spending \$225 to build “Skywatch” air observation house on Highways 59 and E.
 - Approved street lighting for all night.
 - Discussed, but turned down, buying Indiana Condensed Milk Co. building.
- 1953 — Voted to proceed with constructing sewer system. Bids were received and bond ordinance for \$160,000 was approved.
- 1954 — Village bought the dam from Indiana Condensed Milk Co. for one dollar.
- 1956 — Franchise granted to Natural Gas Distributors, Inc. for gas service to Albany.
- 1959 — Village Board raised legal drinking age to 21.
- 1960 — Ground Observer Corps building (“Skywatch”) sold to S. C. Humphrey for \$65.

- 1961 — Started adding chlorine to water and started working on a "Comprehensive Plan" for village development.
 - Awarded a franchise to Wisconsin Power & Light Company to supply gas service.
 - The position of Municipal Judge was created. The first judge was Elmer Runaas.
- 1962 — The Village approved construction plans for new post office and library.
 - Albany started fluoridating the water.
 - A charter ordinance was adopted making the clerk's position appointive rather than elective.

- The fence around the cemetery was removed and concrete pillars were installed at both entrances.
- 1969 — A Village Housing Authority was created leading to the building of Riverview Apartments (101 West Main Street), a Housing and Urban Development sponsored subsidized rental unit. The unit contains 33 apartments and caters mainly to the elderly.
 - Len Schlobohm Excavating, Inc., was awarded a contract for the construction of the village's Waste Stabilization Pond and Outfall Sewer



Riverview Apartments, overlooking the river, was built in 1969. The 33-apartment complex, operated by the Village Housing Authority, is a subsidized rental unit sponsored by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- 1963 — A charter ordinance was adopted making the assessor's position appointive rather than elective.
 - Village gratefully accepts gift of new library building willed to it by the late Mrs. Lillie Morgan.
 - Village takes over ownership and operation of Hillcrest Cemetery from Hillcrest Cemetery Association.
- 1965 — The first comprehensive zoning ordinance for the village was adopted.
 - Entered into an agreement with Wisconsin Department of Transportation for major improvements to State Highway 59. The work which cost \$240,000 and funded by State and local funds, included widening, curb and gutter, sidewalks and storm sewers.
- 1967 — The village first establishes a house numbering system.
 - The old village fire bell was sold to Mrs. Carl Hannes, Sr., who has proudly displayed this bell in the front yard of her home, located on State Highway 59 near Burt Road in the southwest part of the village.
- 1968 — The Village and Town of Albany went in together to form a landfill site. The landfill area was located on land in Section 32, Albany Township and is now abandoned.

- project. This sewer system was designed for a population of approximately 1400 at a cost of \$112,000. Financing was arranged through a Farmers Home Administration bond issue.
- 1971 — A charter ordinance was adopted, combining the positions of Clerk, Assessor, Building Inspector, Health Officer and Forester. The new position to be known as "Village Coordinator."
- 1972 — A referendum was held: "Should a fire station and offices be constructed on the former Kenneth Whitaker property?" (Lots 1 through 4, Block 10, Original Plat). The voters said yes and construction plans were prepared and work commenced. The Village Clerk, Police and Fire Departments occupied their new quarters in August of 1973.
 - A sidewalk was constructed on the north side of the Sugar River bridge. It was constructed for \$16,880 of which the village paid one fourth.

- The village petitioned the Department of Natural Resources to name the new bike trail "Sugar River Trail." And they did.
- 1973 — The Village Board went to two regular meetings a month — 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.
 - The village's only well failed and was down for repairs for a few days. This prompted the local officials to undertake a major water improvement program. The project, amounting to approximately \$225,000 consisted of a new deep well (376 feet deep), new standpipe (120,000 gallon capacity), water mains, hydrants, service laterals, and a second river crossing. These improvements gave Albany a more than adequate supply of water and improved the quality of the water.
 - The first flood plain zoning regulations were adopted.
- 1974 — The Village of Albany, Albany Township and parts of Brooklyn, Sylvester and Mt. Pleasant Townships entered into a fire protection agreement, forming the Albany Community Fire Department.
- 1975 — The Village entered into an agreement with Albany Community Health Planning Council, Inc., for emergency health services (ambulance).
 - The Village started work on a ball park, located at the intersection of North Jackson Street and Washington Street. During the season this ball park is used and enjoyed seven days a week by the Albany public schools and numerous slow-pitch teams.
 - Reconstruction of the downtown area (100 block of North Water Street) was started. The work included new sidewalks, curb and gutter, brick paving, planters, plantings and ornamental lighting. This project was paid for by village taxes and abutting property owners.
 - Albany was designated a Bi-Centennial City in honor of our Nation's 200th birthday. There was a band concert; Senator Katie Morrison (Democrat 17th District) spoke, trees were planted and there was a food stand featuring old fashioned prices.
 - Albany Community Parks and Recreation Development Corp., a non-profit corporation (ACPARD) donated 32 acres of land across the street from the Village Park, to be used by the village and school as park land.
 - The village purchased 7.96 acres of land in the northeast part of the village from John Briggs, Sr., for an industrial park. A \$50,000 grant was received from Farmers Home Administration for the installation of water and sewer facilities and a road which was named in honor of Mr. Briggs.
- 1976 — Work began on the construction of the improvements in the industrial park.
- 1977 — The Village accepts a gift of an electric scoreboard for the ball park from the Coca Cola Bottling Company.
 - The Board receives word from Congressman Les Aspin that Albany is to receive a grant in the amount of \$96,000 for the completion of the downtown beautification project.
 - The Village purchases the old grist mill building from Louis Teale for \$19,000. The building was torn down to make way for a municipal parking lot and park.
 - Major repairs made to water tower #1 at an approximate cost of \$20,000.
- 1978 — A resolution was adopted forming a Joint Library Board with the Village and Town of Albany.
 - Village Board discontinues using fluoride in the village water system.
 - Village Board purchases 2.96 acres of land for \$1,750 per acre from Ralph Luedy for additional cemetery land.
 - Village Board looks into fluoridation again and resumes same on June 20, 1978.
- 1979 — The Village constructs an 8,000 sq. ft. building in the industrial park for the sum of \$90,000.
 - Village and Town of Albany abandon and close the landfill site.
 - Village Board authorizes aerial photography to be used for topographic mapping.
- 1980 — Board called for an advisory referendum on the question "Are you in favor of garbage collection service charges being paid with general property taxes?" The majority said no and the charges are billed to each user.
 - Village Board approved funds for topographic mapping of the village.
 - Open house was held on Sunday, June 29, at 2:00 p.m. at the new park, called "Tower Hill Park," located at Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue.
 - Village received a grant from the DNR to construct bathroom facilities at the ball park.
 - Building in industrial park sold to Ogden of Wisconsin for \$120,000.
- 1981 — The first annexation of land into the Village was approved. This covered 26.582 acres of land in the northeast side of town, owned by John Briggs, Sr. and Jerry and Christine Briggs.
 - A Tax Incremental Financing District was established.

- Village buys an additional 14.86 acres of land for an industrial park from John Briggs, Sr., at a cost of \$3,250 per acre.
- Because of population going over 1,000 persons, the Village is split into wards for voting purposes. Ward #1 is on the east side of the river and Ward #2 is on the west side of the river.
- Village erects new shop building (30' x 50') directly behind the old Village Hall at 106 South Water Street.
- Contracts are awarded for work in the industrial park. Street work — Kranig Excavating, Inc., \$15,858; water and sewer work — R. T. Fox Construction Co., \$81,396.
- New road in industrial park named Ogden Avenue in honor of Ogden of Wisconsin, Inc., the manufacturing firm located in the industrial park.
- Village starts update of "Comprehensive Plan."
- 1982 — 50' x 60' building is constructed in industrial park.
- Building is leased to Mike Rock Rifled Barrels, Inc., for a three-year term.
- Work begins on the restoration of the old mill power gear, which has been displayed in the mini-park downtown.
- Job descriptions for the village employees were approved. The Public Works Department was split up. There is no longer a superintendent.
- 1983 — A Centennial Research Committee is appointed for the purpose of writing a book about the last 100 years of Albany.
- Village receives bid for cable television service. An ordinance is adopted and a franchise awarded to Dowden Communications of Illinois, Inc.

The following items were taken from newspapers of the day:

DECEMBER 4, 1879 — "Through the enterprise of our worthy pathmaster, Mr. Robert Thompson, assisted by public spirited citizens, three commodious gravel walks were constructed at the principal crossing on East Water Street."

NOVEMBER 4, 1882 — "Through the enterprise and at the expense of John Hahn, Esq., a good substantial crosswalk has been laid from the church to the corner of Parker Dodge's lot on Main Street. While this enterprise is commendable in Mr. Hahn, it places his neighbors who block up their walks with wood piles, barrel staves and filth from barns and cow sheds in a most censurable light. 'Church Street,' if the property holders all along the line would follow the good example set them by Mr. Hahn, would soon be one of the handsomest avenues on the west side. If there are a number of our citizens who

build cowsheds out flush with, and obstruct the sidewalks for spite work on their neighbors, they should remember it not only injures the appearance and value of their own property but gives the town badly away. Our street commissioner should attend to these matters if he has any authority to do so. If he has no legal authority to interfere, let him earn his immense salary by delivering lectures on sanitary reformation in this little burg."

FEBRUARY 17, 1883 — "The horrible condition of the sidewalks speaks loudly for the incorporation of our village, giving us an ordinance that will compel negligent or 'don't care a continental' individuals to keep their walks free from snow, ice, wood piles or other rubbish."

MAY 20, 1886 — "The Village Board ordains that sidewalks be built on Water Street — 4 feet wide, 1 inch thick lumber — on 3 substantial stringers."

AUGUST 30, 1894 — "Property owners are putting in stone gutters on both sides of Water Street between Main and Fayette Streets. This is as it should be as the street needs the work and it shows the progressiveness of our businessmen."

OCTOBER 3, 1929 — "Work was started on new boulevard lights and they are getting the dirt off the bridge that has been collecting there all summer."

OCTOBER 24, 1929 — "We will celebrate the new cement street and new lights. A Commercial Club committee is working on a proper celebration. A fair in the Opera House, with farm produce, prizes by businessmen — a dance on the new cement pavement if weather is right, otherwise in Opera House. Eleven new lights installed by Wisconsin Power and Light. A light will be put on the water tower courtesy of Mr. J. E. Litel."

APRIL 23, 1931 — "Highway 59, between Albany and Monroe, will be oiled this year to eliminate dust."

DECEMBER 7, 1933 — "About 32 men were put to work as part of a relief measure put in force by Albany citizens. Men get 50 cents per hour for unskilled labor and 75 cents for semi-skilled — 30 hours per week."

DECEMBER 23, 1937 — "Village lights being improved on main thoroughfares leading into the village."

VILLAGE SERVICES

Albany Community Fire Department

Few towns have been so unfortunate with fires as Albany. The first large fire occurred in 1866, two years later another major fire, again in 1872 and 1880, then the big one in 1883. Through all of these tragedies the village had no fire fighting equipment, only bucket brigades and a very inadequate source of water, except for the river. The major fire of 1883 did not convince the public that adequate fire protection was necessary since a referendum to spend \$1,500 for such an undertaking was defeated. In December, 1883, an ordinance was adopted making it unlawful for anyone to erect a wooden or veneered building, barn or stable, keep or maintain any wood or lumber yard, within the limits of all of Block Number 13, all of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 in Block Number 19 and all of the unnumbered blocks next west of Blocks 13 and 19 east of the Sugar River, and north of the south line of Lot Number 6, Block Number 19, of the Original Plat, which was known as the fire district. These rules still apply today.

The Village Board did allow smaller sums of money to purchase fire fighting equipment and in February of 1886, they purchased a lot from Thomas Gravenor for the sum of \$70 to be used for a fire house.

On November 9, 1887, the first fire company was organized with the following officers:

Fire Chief	Don Osborne
Assistant Fire Chief	E. Van Patten
Capt., Hose Co.	A. W. Bliss
Asst., Hose Co.	Charles Flint

Capt., Hook & Ladder
Asst., Hook & Ladder
Capt., Engine Co.
Asst., Engine Co.
Steward

W. P. Bauer
Eli Knapp
S. L. Gothompson
Harry Edwards
Tilbury Gray

In February of 1899 a call went out again to organize a fire company. A meeting was held and Frank Graves was elected Chairman and S. E. Bartlett, Secretary. A committee was appointed for the purpose of drawing up a set of by-laws. In the summer of 1890, the Company was organized, however, the Village Board cut down the list of firemen from 50 to 25. On May 21, 1900, the Village purchased a new fire engine from Howe Engine Co. of Indianapolis, for the sum of \$1,069.50. After that many smaller items such as hoses, etc., were purchased.

On October 15, 1898, a 50-foot tower was erected at the engine house. On December 13, 1898, the Village Board voted to purchase the Grange Hall and lot for \$500. This building, which is located at 106 South Water Street, served as the village hall and fire station for many years until the new building was built at 205 North Mechanic Street in 1973.

In 1902 firemen were allowed pay of 25 cents for attendance at practice and 50 cents for attendance at fires. In 1946 they were granted a raise to \$1.50 for the first hour and one dollar for each additional hour. Today, in 1983, they are paid \$4.00 for the first hour and \$2.50 for each additional hour.

In December of 1928 an inspection by the Fire Insurance Rating Bureau revealed the following equipment: One 1928 model "A" Ford Chassis carrying 1100 feet of 2½-inch and 100 feet of 1½-inch C.R.L. hose; one



Despite five major fires during the period 1866-1883, fire fighting equipment consisted largely of a bucket brigade and simple pumping equipment until 1900, when the village bought a new fire engine. Shown is the modern equipment now used to fight fires in the village and surrounding community.

35-foot extension and one 16-foot roof ladder; one 2½-inch shutoff nozzle with tips ½-inch to 1-1/8-inch; two 2½-inch playpipes with ½-inch tips; one 1½-inch shutoff nozzle with 3/8-inch tip and some additional equipment. The inspection found discipline to be informal and no training program whatsoever. No rural fire calls were made.

Another inspection was made in September of 1946 and it was found that a 1945 500-gallon Ford American Marsh Pumper had been added, along with additional hose and ladders. Rural calls were now being made.

In 1983, the fire department has the following equipment: The 1945 Ford truck mentioned above; one 1965 Ford American LaFrance pumper, holding 500 gallons of water with a 500 gallons per minute pump; one 1975 Ford pumper, holding 1000 gallons of water with a 750 gallons per minute pump, carrying 1300 feet of 2½-inch hose; 500 feet of 1½-inch hose and 200 feet of 1-inch hose; one 1969 Ford Tanker, carrying 1800 gallons of water; one 1976 IHC Tanker, carrying 1500 gallons of water; one 1976 Chevrolet grass fire truck; and one 1980 GMC one-ton rescue truck, carrying extrication tools and first aid supplies. There is a complement of 30 men. Because of equipment updates, increased training and fire fighting abilities, in 1975, the village's fire insurance rating was lowered to a Class 6, which is excellent for a community of this size.

Prior to 1942, the fire alarm was through the telephone company located at East Main and North Water Streets. The general alarm was an electric siren operated from the telephone exchange, fire station and a control switch at a centrally located restaurant. In 1942 the fire siren was moved to a tower located next to the Village Hall (106 South Water Street). It remains there today. A new 3-tone siren was purchased in 1969 from Morgan Fire Equipment Company for the sum of \$1,676.

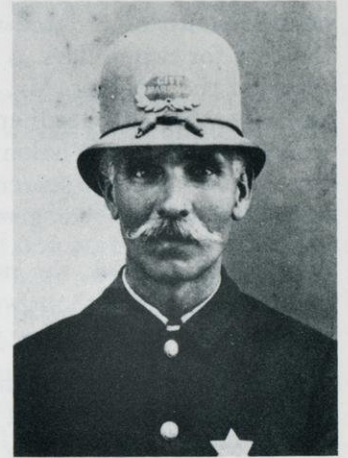
Fire Department records of many years ago were somewhat inadequate; however, we did find that the following is a partial list of men who have served as Chief over the years: Don Osborne, Tom Carver, Charles Dixon, Oren Burt, Eugene Krueger, Gene Doyle, Walter G. Althaus, Irvin Klapper and Dennis Krueger.

Albany Police Department

There is not too much recorded information about Albany's Police Department. There has always been a marshal, constable (as they called them prior to 1956) and a chief of police. Evidently Albany was such a quiet, peaceful community that the enforcement of the law did not make headlines. These are the names of our chief law enforcement officers of the last 100 years:

1883-1885	C. S. Tibbits
1886	E. Bagley
1887	W. Tilley
1888	C. A. Babcock

Village Marshal Dave Watts enforced the law in Albany from 1896 to 1900, 1902 to 1907, and in 1910 and 1911. Village records indicate that he was kept busy serving warrants and maintaining the peace.



1889	E. P. Atherton
1890	F. B. Whinery
1891	F. M. Burrows
1892-1893	W. Tilley
1894-1895	Arthur Webb
1896-1900	David Watts
1901	Charles Comstock
1902-1907	David Watts
1908-1909	C. S. Bishop
1910-1911	David Watts
1912-1920	Tom Dolan
1921-1922	Lee Phillips
1923-1932	Tom Carver
1933-1950	Dell Jones
1951	L. Torkelson
1952-1958	C. M. Sowl
1958-1962	Frank Hall
1963-1964	Donald Hanson
1965-1966	Ernie Batchelor
1966-1969	Arlin Hanson
1969-1970	Norman Glaser
1970-1975	James E. Murphy
1975-1978	Lyle R. Hauge
1978-1980	James E. Johnson
1980-1983	Richard R. Siltala, Jr.

In October of 1877, a lock-up or pound was established at the engine house.

In June of 1900 the following appeared in The Albany Vindicator: "Children Attention—The marshal informs us that the curfew must be obeyed strictly and that the ordinance will be enforced—look out or you may spend the night in the 'cooler'."

In November of 1900, a hobo was brought here from Monroe by Sheriff Gardner and appeared before Justice Richard Davis and was to be confined to the county jail for ten days. He was charged with stealing a makintosh from in front of Whalen's Store. The fellow was appre-

hended south of Monroe where he was offering to sell the coat for two dollars. A telephone message to Albany revealed the stealing. Mr. Whalen had missed the coat and when Sheriff Gardner and the prisoner came here with the coat, Mr. Whalen easily identified his property. Mr. Whalen felt the sentence was too light and that the hobo should have been given 30 days instead of ten days.

In April of 1923, the marshal was instructed to ask minors under 18 without written permission of parent or guardian to cease playing pool.

Dave Watts wore his uniform many years before his retirement. He was a quiet and stern man and his family reflected his image. Early records indicate he was extremely busy serving warrants and maintaining order in the surrounding community, and local children regarded him with awe. Many people remember little incidents in which he was involved. His greatest traffic problem was keeping horses from trotting over the old wooden bridge. A sign hung on each end of the bridge that warned of a five dollar fine for crossing the bridge faster than a walk. The following item was shown in *The Albany Vindicator* in August of 1900: "Time to Enforce Fines—Last Sunday while standing near the Main Street bridge for a time we could not help but think Albany might as well pull down the '\$5 Fine Sign' at each end of the bridge. One horse was purposely trotted almost the entire length of the bridge and many others trotted from one third to one half the length of the structure. Most horses will not trot on a bridge unless urged to do so. When an offense occurs it is voluntary on the part of the driver. Pull down the signs or enforce the fines!"

Several residents recalled Marshal Charlie Bishop. Francis Atkinson recalled walking home from school one afternoon. Down by the corner where the laundromat is now, a crowd was gathering. Francis elbowed his way to the center of the crowd. Here was the marshal confronting a big hulk of a man. Mr. Bishop turned to the crowd and shouted "in the name of the law, help me arrest this man." No man volunteered to help subdue this character. He slumped to the street and would not budge. He had no desire to relax on those canvas covered planks in our humble jail. So Bishop clamped onto this culprit's coat collar and dragged him backwards on the seat of his pants clear to the jail located in the basement of the old village hall. When Bishop retired he was hired as a janitor of the school system.

Tom Dolan left farming to wear a blue uniform. One night when the seniors were practicing for graduation, Boyd Atkinson went to pick up his sister Frances with a horse and buggy. Rehearsal was in the old Opera House, so Boyd climbed up to look in a window to see if they

were finished. As he jumped to the sidewalk, Mr. Dolan passed by. In one quick leap, he had him by the collar. He wanted to know what Boyd was up to, but Boyd was so scared, he couldn't explain. Dolan also took over the janitorship of the school system in later years.

Another Tom followed Mr. Dolan—Marshal Carver. A man high in the order of Masonry, he worked in this capacity for several years. He appeared very strict. He walked along the street one day and met Mrs. Vern Jones, her little daughter Shirley and Shirley's cousin Miriam Davis. Cautioned Blanche, "Now you little girls behave yourselves or that policeman will put you in jail." That ruffled Mr. Carver. He scolded Blanche, saying, "I like little kids to like and trust me—don't turn them against me." He gave the little girls each a nickel—a token of confidence.

Dell Jones, who followed Mr. Carver, was a popular marshal. One rule he enforced was that kids could not roller skate in the streets. However, his daughter and her cousin often were skating in the street. One day Dell saw them and promptly took them to jail and locked them in for several hours. They were so mad and scared they never tried to skate in the streets again.

Emergency Medical Service

On September 17, 1974, a meeting was held at the Albany High School for the purpose of updating the Albany community ambulance service. A large crowd attended this meeting and understood the needs of Albany. On October 15, 1974, another meeting was held at the school for the purpose of forming a steering committee. Through these two meetings a temporary community steering committee for emergency medical services was formed. On October 29, 1974, another meeting was held and this was to establish direction and goals for the future of ambulance service in the Albany



Emergency medical service is provided by the Albany Community Health Planning Council. Ambulance, purchased in 1975, is manned on a volunteer basis by 28 Emergency Medical Technicians and six drivers.

BRIDGES AND DAMS

Bridges

community. The two public meetings had discussed three options: (1) new certified ambulance with fully trained crews; (2) crews trained locally to respond to emergencies with ambulances dispatched from surrounding communities; or (3) outside sources providing the ambulance as well as the personnel with this community not participating. The public meetings discounted the third option and at the first meeting of this steering committee it was decided to proceed with the first option as the main goal.

At the first meeting of the steering committee, Stanton Steuri was chosen as chairperson, and the following committees chosen: Community Liaison; Chairman Robert Bump, James Johnson and Stanton Steuri; Legal Committee members were Arlin Hanson, LaNore Jones and John Macke; Finance Committee were Gary Lewis, Quentin Meracle and Mary Striker; Training Committee, Chairman Larry Hanson, Timothy Jones and Ardith Moldenhauer; Equipment Committee Chairman was James Murphy with two additional members to be selected at a later date.

On November 20, 1974, the Albany Community Health Planning Council was incorporated. The drive for raising funds for the ambulance was started with different committees meeting with different townships, village officials, churches and other organizations, even putting piggy banks in business places, selling memberships in the organization for \$2.50 and up. On December 9, 1974, the first officers of ACHPC, Inc. were elected. They were President Stanton Steuri, Vice President Arlin Hanson, Secretary Mary Striker and Treasurer John Macke. That evening several ambulances were on display and the group chose one. On March 20, 1975, the ambulance arrived in the village. On March 21, 1975, the ambulance number of 860 was assigned, and the first paging system was installed in the Sheriff's Department. It was decided that at 11:00 p.m. on March 22, 1975, the ambulance would be put into service. Seventeen hours later the crew made their first run with the new ambulance.

The Board of Directors consists of 15 members, 9 elected directors and 6 appointed directors (one from each township and the village). In the past 9 years we have had the following men serve as President:

1974-1975	Stanton Steuri
1975-1976	Arlin Hanson
1976-1980	Robert Bump
1980-1981	Steve Teale
1981-1983	Larry Hanson

The ACHPC, Inc., ambulance crew consists of 34 members at the present time, 28 EMT's and 6 drivers. They must attend monthly training classes and every two years they must have a refresher course on their basic EMT class. To date 652 ambulance runs have been made from this area.

In the early days of Campbell's Ford, travelers crossed the river at a shallow spot a few rods south of the present bridge.

In 1846 a low structure was placed across the river, near where the present bridge now stands, and it served its purpose well for a time. It was used not only for all traffic, but also by the women, who used it as a platform when rinsing laundry in the river, as there were no cisterns here at the time. The water for drinking purposes was all drawn by team from the spring on the Brown farm, now the Bernard Lobeck farm on Highway 59.

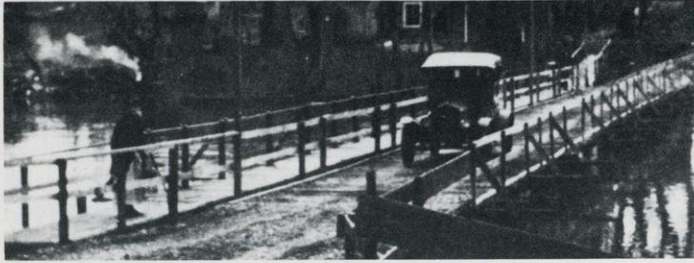
High water and ice took out the first bridge and it was replaced in 1849. Between 1846 and 1868 two or three bridges were built and succumbed to high water or ice jams. Each new bridge was built a little higher than the



This wagon bridge over Sugar River was a 120-foot long suspension bridge built in 1877 after flood waters had destroyed a series of earlier bridges. In 1923 the bridge was replaced by the present steel reinforced concrete span.

last, but all were too low. One of the first bridges did not have a railing, and there were many cases where people went off the bridge with a team and wagon or horse and buggy.

In 1868 a more elaborate wooden bridge was built consisting of two spans with a support in the center, and several feet higher than the old bridges had been. The cribs were made of heavy timbers bolted together and filled with rock, similar to those used later in the temporary bridge in 1924. The villagers thought they had a bridge that would last for years and took considerable pride in their achievement. This bridge served well until 1876, when, with many other bridges in the county, it was destroyed by flood waters and ice.



Temporary wooden bridge located just below the present bridge. The bridge, a one-way affair with a separate pedestrian lane, served to move traffic across the river while the new bridge was being built in 1924.

The following year a new bridge was constructed. It was a beautiful suspension bridge of steel and iron, 120 feet in length consisting of one span only. In 1903 metal girders and stringers were replaced, new planking was laid and sidewalks completed. While the work was being done, teams crossed the river on the ice about 40 rods above the dam. It was thought with occasional replacement of the planking that the bridge would last for 75 or 100 years.

By 1923 it was obvious that the village needed a new bridge. The proposition to raise the sum of \$12,000 as the village's share for a new bridge was carried by 159 to 74. The State Road Commission and County Board determined to build a steel reinforced concrete bridge, and would partially fund it. The Vitcenda Construction Company of Sun Prairie submitted the low bid of \$24,000.

A temporary bridge was built at the old fording place. The old bridge was removed by sawing it off at the east end and dropping it into the river.

The new bridge was started in April, 1924, and was completed that autumn. It was of solid concrete reinforced by 55 tons of steel, consisting of two spans with a concrete pier in the center.

Present bridge was built in 1924. Original concrete railings have been replaced by new steel bars. Building in background is Riverview Apartments, village operated housing unit.



The bridge is 138 feet in length and 40 feet in width, including the 6 foot sidewalk on the south side.

The beautiful and artistic spindles and coping were all made in Albany. All work of building the bridge was done by local men as far as possible. Lights for the new bridge were donated by Mrs. Lillie Morgan.

In November there was a dedication of the new bridge with more than 2,000 persons in attendance. There was a full day of activity, with band concerts, a free dinner served in the Opera House, a dedication service with many speakers, a parade, footraces, a tug of war across the bridge, and in the evening free movies and a dance on the bridge.

This bridge serves us today. The concrete railing has been removed and replaced with steel railings. In 1972 a sidewalk was constructed on the north side of the bridge.

Dams

When Nichols and Pond bought the water rights from Campbell and Stewart, they "improved the power" and built a saw mill.

In 1881 Warren and Tompkins did a complete job of repairing the mill dam. Choice timber (from three acres) was placed on the dam and weighted down with 400 cords of stone, and then covered with plank.



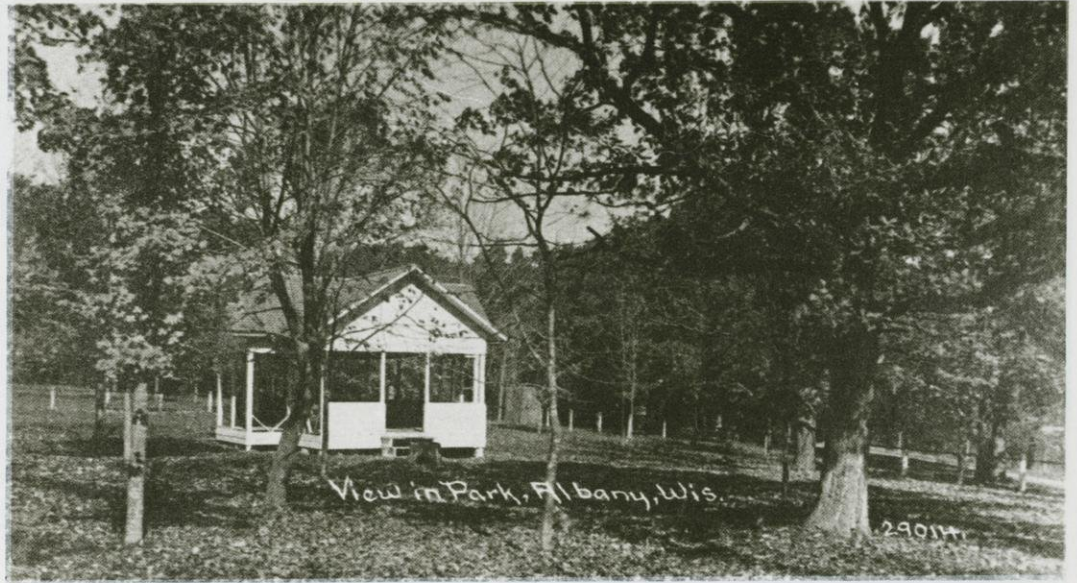
Debris, washed down the river during a high water period, piled up at the base of the dam. Building in background is the latch factory.

In 1893 a power wheel was being designed and built by S. C. Taft of Monticello for use at the linen mill. A mill race was used with this wheel.

In 1927 the dam was improved by removing the decking and apron. Workmen dug down and filled all the holes with sand and cinders; then a new deck and apron were installed.

On June 1, 1954, the village purchased the existing dam from the Indiana Condensed Milk Company.

Early view of the village park showing original picnic shelter. In background at right of building, stands the old wooden privy.



PARKS

The land for the village park between Mineral and Washington Streets was donated by Dr. S. F. Nichols in the early days before Albany was incorporated. It was referred to as the Village Square.

E. F. Warren was responsible for the planting of young maple trees in the park in the year 1887. He went into the woods with his teams and men and dug over 200 young trees which were planted with the help of many townspeople.

A band stand was built in the park around the turn of the century. It caught fire and was destroyed in 1927 while leaves were being raked and burned. It was replaced the same year by the village.

In 1930 there was a swimming program at the park in a tank furnished by the Janesville Gazette. The editor of the Herald asked: "Why can't we do something about building a pool? If we all give time and a little money, we can do it."



In 1971 the picnic shelter was erected by the Lions Club. It is the pleasant site of many gatherings throughout the summer. The Women's League bought new playground equipment in 1982.

The park was the site of the Fourth of July celebrations, the tent Chautauqua shows and the rural school playdays for many years.

Beginning in the early 1880's, if not before, and continuing until 1938, Albany had large Fourth of July celebrations. Often they were the principal observance in the area. Activities included 100 guns at sunrise, balloon ascensions, parades, competitions to catch a greased pig or climb a greased pole, band concerts, magic lantern shows, ball games and political and patriotic orations. Activities were centered in the village park where there were refreshment stands offering, among other things, soda pop and ice cream — both rare treats.

A Fourth of July parade was recalled by Earle Tilley some years ago.

"Leading the parade was Louis Nichols on a white horse bedecked with ribbons and trapping. Behind, four abreast, in perfect order come the veterans of the Civil War, their fife and drum corps pacing the march, their uniforms of blue making a striking picture as they swing along. Leading is Capt. Annis, and just behind him is Abner Webb, holding proudly aloft 'Old Glory.'"

Sturdy new playground equipment donated by the Albany Women's League helps make village park a fun place for kids. Picnic shelter, background, was donated by local Lions Club.



Village park was the center of activity for community entertainment in earlier days. This busy lunch stand, operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Harrington, was a popular spot at one early fourth of July homecoming celebration. Note that hats seemed to be very much in order for both children and adults.

Tent Chautauquas were traveling groups which brought varied programs mainly to small towns from 1903 to 1930. Albany had a Chautauqua for many years, held in the village park. It was an event eagerly anticipated by people who had few opportunities to broaden their perspective, and it is fondly remembered by many today.

The five day program in 1919 included: Lectures by the Hon. Lewis A. Harding, statesman; pilot Everett Buckley, war ace, and Yutaka Minakuchi, the famous Japanese orator. There were impersonations, chalk talks by the Avon Entertainers, dramatic readings by "the Sarah Bernhardt of the Chautauqua", vocal and instrumental music by the Kapunahou Hawaiian Musicians and a grand concert by a Ladies Orchestra just returned from France.

Season tickets were sold before a contract was signed and this required a committee of dedicated citizens. O. G. Briggs, the editor of the Albany Herald, was an enthusiastic promoter of the Chautauqua.

The rural school playdays are remembered well by those who participated in them. Rivalry was keen among the area schools for the championships in softball, foot-races, sack-races, "wheelbarrow" races and pushing a peanut with one's nose. Excitement built as the day approached at the end of the school year. Preparations included getting a new pair of "tennis shoes" and for the boys, new overalls.

In Albany's early days there was a Clinton's Park near the depot, which was frequently used by groups arriving by train. Revival meetings were sometimes held there. It was probably named for George Clinton, a Superintendent of the railroad, who was married to the daughter of James Campbell.

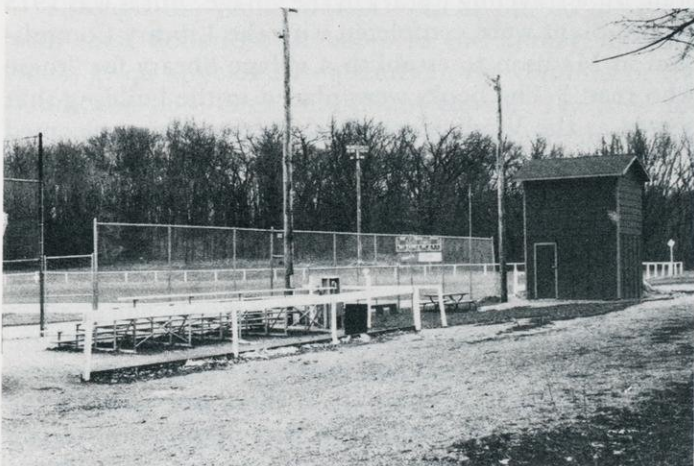
In 1972 Roy Bowman was granted permission to erect a picnic shelter in memory of his daughter in Fireman's Park on South Water Street. In 1972 the village purchased this property from the Fire Department and maintains this pleasant little park on the river, which is now known as Bowman Park.

In June of 1980 Tower Hill Park at Summit and Fourth Streets was dedicated. It is a well equipped playground at the foot of the water tower hill. It was funded jointly by the village and the Department of Natural Resources.

In 1975 Albany's largest park, ACPARD (Albany Community Park and Recreation Development) was bought with funds donated by many public spirited citizens. There are 32 acres with about 25 acres being in woodland, mostly oak.

A lighted ball park was built with generous contributions of labor and money by citizens, village funds, and a Department of Natural Resources grant. It is in constant use during the summer by community slow-pitch leagues, both men's and women's and by Little League teams.

At Legion Park on the river north of the business district there are picnic tables and a ramp for launching small boats. It is the site of the carnival at the annual Yesteryears celebration. It was the site of the village baseball diamond—later lights were installed and softball was played there.



Lighted ball park is the center of attraction in a 32-acre complex bought with funds donated by local citizens.

NEWSPAPERS

Albany has had a weekly newspaper, except for the years 1866 to 1878, since 1858. The Albany Weekly Times was edited by Mr. Dexter, who had been a teacher in the old school house on the west side.

The Albany Journal began publication in 1865 with Osgood and Bartlett as publishers and continued with some lapses until 1896. J. E. Bartlett was editor and publisher in the 1860's and again in the 1880's. An indication of a publisher's difficulties is this item: "Settle up—Last call—All those who are indebted to this office will please call and settle immediately." J. E. Bartlett advertised weekly that he would take wood in exchange for a subscription.

The Journal of the 1880's was a four page paper with the first page featuring fiction: Charles Dickens' "Hope Rashleigh" is one example. The second page contained national and international news—probably the only

source of such news for most local people. The third page consisted of advertising, none of it local—some for stores in Janesville—and many garish ads for quack remedies. Finally on the last page were local ads and local news items, which at first were very limited.

In November of 1883, a militant temperance newspaper, called the Albany Vindicator, was started. In its early years a good share of the paper was devoted to news of temperance societies and activities, both local and national. After publishing only two editions, the paper fell victim to the great fire of 1883, losing all assets. It resumed publication in late 1884, when a group of local businessmen, dissatisfied with the Journal, put up \$100 each, and persuaded Sylvester Hills, manager of the Nichols House, to become editor and publisher of the Vindicator.

He hired young Elmer Atherton as an apprentice printer. He fulfilled his dream of being the owner and editor in 1888, and continued to publish the paper until 1913, when O. G. Briggs became owner. Mr. Atherton was born in Decatur Township in 1862 and died at the age of 89 in 1951. During his long career in Albany he managed the Opera House for 30 years and was a member of the village band and orchestra for 50 years.

In 1925 O. G. Briggs changed the name of the Albany Vindicator to the Albany Herald, explaining that he considered that the name Vindicator had little to do with newspaper work. Mr. Briggs was actively interested in the community and promoted many causes.

The Herald of the 1920's was still running "continued stories" of romantic fiction. There was a column of "Poultry Notes" reflecting the great interest in purebred show poultry at that time. There were columns from the surrounding areas such as "Town Line News," "Norwegian Settlement News," and a column titled "West of Town."

A paid ad was published which warned that doctors of Green County were making a list of "dead beats," and warned, "You know who you are. Dead beats demand the most service day and night. It is time that they are taught their place." In addition to this rather surprising ad, there were news stories about illnesses and other difficulties that would not be published today.

In 1930 Thorvald Reese purchased the Herald. He was the youngest person ever to become a publisher in Wisconsin. During his tenure a "slug machine" (Linotype) was installed. Until then all type had been hand set.

Joseph Blackburn was publisher from 1933 to 1940 when the paper was sold to Ralph Molm. Under the guidance of Molm, who published the paper until 1946,

the Herald won second place honors for most improvement, from the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

Laurence and Pearl Arnold became editor-publishers in 1946; Larry's father, Lester, took over from 1949 to 1951, when the paper was sold to Stanton Steuri. Though a very young man, he had completed a course in newspaper work in Milwaukee. Stanton had great interest in the village of Albany and spearheaded many efforts to improve the quality of life here. In the fall of 1961, his National Guard unit was called up, and he went to Fort Lewis, Washington. His wife, Barbara, and his mother, Helen Steuri Zimmerli took over and published the paper for a year.

The paper was sold in 1962 to Dave Schwartz who worked hard to pay off his debt and to put out a good paper. Florence Atkinson was employed, writing news stories and helping in the office.

Herschel Williams tried, unsuccessfully, to publish the Herald for about a year, after which it was sold to George Martin. Martin is currently editor and publisher of the paper, with Diane Smith as assistant editor and Mary Striker reporter.

In the spring of 1973 the Albany Agenda began publication. It was owned by Dee Piercy who also owned the Argyle Agenda. Ronald and Beverly Johnson were the next owners. In 1979 they sold the paper to Helen and Bill Capellaro, who also publish the New Glarus Post and the Monticello Messenger. Florence Atkinson has been editor of the Albany Agenda since its inception. In 1980 when Tom O'Meara was assistant editor, the Agenda received recognition in the Most Improved Category in the Wisconsin Newspaper Association competition.

LIBRARY

The earliest indication of an interest in a village library appeared in a letter written by Frank C. Greene to the Albany Journal in 1882. Presumably the books that he placed in his news depot—200 volumes—were for sale though he referred to the collection as a “circulating library.”

In 1888 the editor of the Vindicator declared that the village needed a circulating library and wrote in his paper that he would put one hundred volumes of standard works in a library if the people would donate at least thirty dollars. The following year one hundred seventy-four volumes were placed in G. N. Bartlett's drug store. A fee of two dollars was charged for “membership” in the library.

Ten years later arrangements were made with the state for a traveling library in the village. But it was 1913 before plans were completed with the Library Commission in Madison to establish a village library for “those who read.” The books were placed in the building that served as the Vindicator office. Patrons were welcomed on three evenings a week. Among the very first group of books was Horatio Alger's “Facing the World.” The village board encouraged the creation of the library by donating ten dollars for the purchase of “a number of volumes.”

By 1914 the library had grown to contain two hundred seventy-five books and nearly two hundred readers. A plea for funds on the part of those interested in the library's expansion resulted in the presentation of two showings of “A Perfect Day” in three reels at the Opera House. Profits of twelve dollars and ninety cents were used for the purchase of new books for the library.

Modern village library, built in 1964, was made possible by donations from Dr. Lillie Morgan and her sister, Mrs. Emma Guild, along with contributions by other local residents.



A home talent play produced by an outside director netted thirty-two dollars and twenty-five cents for the library. The play entitled "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" was cast with local people—sixty per cent of the proceeds went to the producer.

In 1916 the Albany Library Association was organized with the object being to conduct a free public library in the village in a culmination of the effort on the part of the Vindicator editor "during the past three years to establish such an institution." The library continued in the Vindicator office and the state library association promised to cooperate with the local association, furnishing as many books as possible.

In the twenties when the library was located upstairs in the building where Dan Dee Nursery now stands, the Evansville Players gave a play that raised twenty-two dollars and twenty cents for new books.

Through the years Albany citizens proved generous with their donations of books to the library. Lists of books given appeared frequently in the columns of the Vindicator and, later, the Albany Herald. The need for something other than books became apparent in this item from a 1933 Herald: "Wanted by the library a table, four chairs and linoleum rug eight by ten or seven by nine. Anyone having such articles to donate bring them to the Herald Office."

Dr. Lillie Morgan and her sister, Mrs. Emma Guild, of Long Beach, California, had long dreamed of a library for Albany and had planned it to be built on the lot south of their old home here. Shirley Conway, to whom Dr. Morgan had sold that property, donated the building site for the project. Dr. Morgan had already donated furnishings of her Albany home, and proceeds from the sale of these things formed the nucleus of the library fund.

In March, 1962, Mrs. Morgan directed that estimates for a library building be made and submitted to her for approval. The Village Board voted to accept and maintain the proposed gift of a community library building. In the following year a non-profit corporation was formed for the purpose of building and operating a public library.

A total of \$24,000 was received for the library from the estates of Mrs. Morgan and her sister, and these generous ladies' dream of an Albany Public Library was realized when that institution held an open house at 203 Oak Street on November 15, 1964. Mr. Ingwell was library board president at that time, Mrs. Harry Edwards, librarian. Twenty-five hundred volumes were shelved in the library, and it was hoped that six thousand would be available for patrons.

In 1973 the summer story hour tradition began, and it is today a part of the library program conducted by Louise Spring. Also, in the seventies, Thelma Burt

volunteered to deliver books to the Riverview Apartments for the residents' reading pleasure—another activity that continues today.

The corporation which had been formed to build and furnish the library was dissolved in 1977 and the Joint Board of the Village of Albany and Township of Albany was created. Thus the library was enabled to join the South Central Library System, realizing numerous advantages in the availability of books, tapes, records, periodicals, etc.

Grace Edwards retired as librarian in 1979 and Mary Jo Powers was appointed to that post. In 1982 when Mary Jo resigned, Priscilla Bump was appointed librarian.

An annual tea for the Albany Education Association has become a part of the library tradition. Teachers are introduced to the services available at the library in a pleasant after-school atmosphere.

The generosity of the good citizens of Albany is symbolized in the quiet, friendly climate of the library. Without their efforts in the form of money, work and devotion this excellent facility would not exist for today's patrons.

POST OFFICE

The first post office in Albany, 1848, was in the general store belonging to Erastus Pond, the postmaster. The store, the first frame building in Albany, also housed accommodations for travelers who passed through Albany on the Janesville to Mineral Point stage coach.

Some of Mr. Pond's successors as postmasters were E. F. Warren, Andrew Burgor (also the first jeweler in town), Hiram Brown, L. H. Warren, Charles Campbell, Ferdinand Eldred, Hamilton Coates, and John Lemmel.

The last of this list, John Lemmel, was appointed postmaster in 1866 and held that office until 1884. A tailor, he came to America from France in 1853, enlisted in the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers in 1864, was wounded at the battle of Petersburg, and returned to Albany where he pursued his tailoring vocation and his postmaster duties. The post office building was destroyed by fire in 1868, but Mr. Lemmel managed to save the records and stamps, however, the destructive fire of 1883 resulted in the loss of stamps and old records.

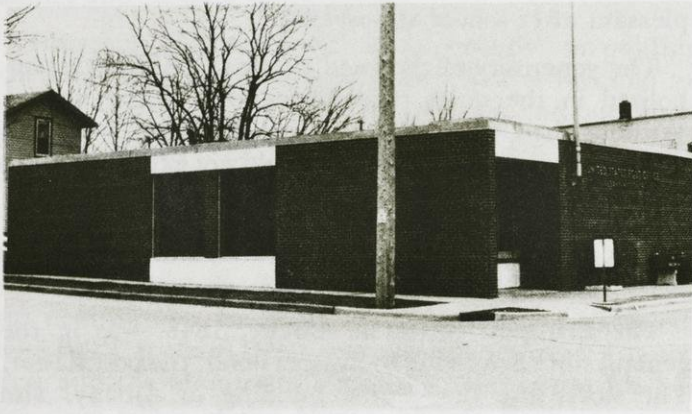
In the Brodhead Independent of March, 1878, this item—not unfamiliar today—appeared: "One of our prominent citizens being asked the distance from Albany to Monroe replied, 'Just 972 miles. I know exact-

ly because that is the distance from Albany to Washington, D.C., and it requires the same time for a letter to get here from Monroe as it does from Washington.' The answer was entirely satisfactory."

In the 1890's when Frank Broughton was postmaster, the post office was housed in a frame building that occupied the spot where the bank was eventually built and where the laundromat is now.

The Albany Vindicator of December 21, 1899, carried this item: "The Albany Post Office has been advanced from fourth to third class, thus making it a Presidential office, and fixing the postmaster's salary at one thousand dollars."

In June of 1900, the safe at the post office was blown up "by robbers with a total loss of \$200."



The first stamp books issued were publicized in the Vindicator in 1900: "It is expected that the Post Office Department will soon put on sale stamps in a booklet in such a way that they will not stick together. The books will hold twenty-four, forty-eight, or ninety-six stamps. These handy little books will be on sale about the first of April."

Before the rural mail routes were operated, picking up the mail had to be a communal effort. One of the Dunphys would have to go to Albany to collect the mail for the whole neighborhood—mostly Irish settlement folks—asking, "Anything for the Hobbs, Dobbs, or Dawsons, or the Finnanes, Dunphys, or Croakes?" They usually picked up a bushel basket full of mail.

In 1910 Dr. Blakely was postmaster; his successors were J. M. Whitcomb, Louise Whitcomb and Elizabeth Croake. During Mr. Whitcomb's tenure of office, he rented C. Meinert's building, vacated by Mr. Whalen.

Post office routine was interrupted again in April, 1912, when according to an item in the Vindicator: "Three burglars blew open the safe to the post office about two o'clock Sunday morning and secured about sixty dollars in cash. Some of the books and stamps were also taken but were found later under the approach to the handcar house. The burglars took the speeder belonging to the section foreman Thornton and went north."

A glimpse of the all-purpose nature and traffic in the early post office is seen from this 1917 article in the Vindicator: "The music counter and piano room have been removed from the post office area. A rail forming a pathway to the distributing window has been put in so that those who get their mail can form in line and get served without the usual crowding and pushing to get it first that has been customary."

After twenty-seven years in the Garret Meinert building, the post office was moved to the former Bank of Albany building. J. E. Litel had made improvements in that building, adding ten feet at the rear and painting the front and interior. In 1936 Elizabeth Croake left the post office after 23 years of service. She had been appointed by four presidents—Harding, Wilson, Coolidge, and Hoover.

First post office in Albany was housed in the general store of Erastus Pond in 1848. In 1963—115 years later—this new post office was built.

A. H. Meinert served as postmaster from September, 1936, until February, 1955. Shirley Conway, who succeeded Mr. Meinert, negotiated the contract for the new post office building in 1962 and supervised the move to the new facility, which opened in July, 1963. Those five-digit numbers now tacked on to all addresses were begun in 1963.

Upon her retirement in March, 1967, after thirty-six years of association with the post office, Shirley received a citation from Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien.

Walter Reasa was the next postmaster to serve Albany, beginning in 1967. He was followed by our current postmaster, John Briggs, Jr., appointed in 1979. Our present letter-carrier, Wayne Nipple, received a 24-year service pin in 1981.

SUGAR RIVER

The history of Albany is inextricably interwoven with the picturesque river that bisects the village. Sugar River as a power source was an impetus to progress for the pioneers; as a natural beauty area, an endless delight for recreation, and as an unpredictable sleeping giant, the cause of misery when heavy rains caused flooding and unsuspected depths resulting in drownings.

On the light side the Albany Vindicator wrote reprovingly in 1887: "Those boys still continue their disturbing custom of going bathing in nature's attire within the city limits in broad daylight. Whoever has the proper authority should see that it is stopped at once. It is a standing disgrace to our village."

Serious river problems in March, 1897, were described by the Vindicator editor:

"Owing to the heavy rains of last week the river rose to an almost unprecedented height and Albany seemed in danger of being submerged. The highest points were reached during Friday night and about noon Saturday. Warren's boathouse was demolished by the pressure of high ice and water. The dam at the west end and the linen mill race were damaged several hundred dollars worth. Water Street was submerged Saturday from the south and up to where Nichols Street intersects it and there was a good deal of water on Mechanic Street."

Two years later, however, the river yielded rich rewards to some of Albany's citizens. Under double headlines proclaiming the find was this story:

"Our little city has been thrown into the wildest excitement during the last few days over the discovery that

some valuable pearls had been found in clams taken from the bed of Sugar River. It has been known to several of our citizens for some time that three or four men had been devoting their whole time to pearl fishing, but the rumors that there was any money made in the business were very generally discredited. On Sunday the proprietors commenced drawing the waters from the mill pond and on Monday morning old and young, rich and poor, men and women, and children were out at least four hundred strong and the hunt is still on. Among those who have made the most lucky finds are: Mr. C. Sherman, one pearl sold for \$55; Jobs and Mackin, \$40; Mrs. Nancy Shafer, \$50; others ranged from \$10 to \$35. John Tilley 'takes the whole bakery' with a pearl for which he refused \$100. Scores of people are still hunting and thousands of luckless clams will daily give up the ghost to satisfy the greed for the almighty dollar."

The fun-loving nature of Albany's forefathers is evidenced in this account of a skating party on the river.

"Last Thursday was the day designated for a little fun on the ice. An invitation was issued to all to form a skating party for anyone who could place his hand on his heart and swear that he had not been skating for at least five years. Although the sun had affected the ice so that it was impossible to skate much, quite a number of boys (aged from 40 to 60 years) determined to skate or 'bust.' Many spectators had already assembled to enjoy the fun of seeing the boys skate on their ears, etc., and had already violated the first rule for spectators which was to contribute five cents for the privilege of sitting on the nearest fence. After arranging the preliminaries of buckling, tying and otherwise fastening about twelve or thirteen pairs of skates were fastened on to as many old settlers. They lit out on the ice and once in a while on all fours. But, considering the condition of the ice, they did exceedingly well for boys."



Nearly wheel-deep in water, this team and wagon are headed toward East Main Street hill just beyond Mechanic Street. In background is the Lewis house now occupied by Jessie Rendall.

The great flood, so momentous in Albany history that the Vindicator later published a velvet-finish, burgundy-colored booklet chronicling the event entitled "Souvenir of Albany Flood, September 13, 1915," is recalled graphically by people living today. One who remembers being a daring youngster remembers that her mother tied her to one of the uprights of the front porch to keep her from going near the rampaging waters.



rushing down Mechanic Street carrying out-buildings, wood sheds, poultry houses, wagons, wood piles, and everything movable with it. On Water Street the water came over the banks and forced several families to move out. On the river every boat house was swept from its moorings and broken up as it went over the dam. Large trees along the river were torn out by the roots and carried downstream. Several head of stock were drowned up the river and their bodies floated down the river. The bridge across the river was closed to traffic for several hours as a precaution for no one knew how much strain it could stand.

Flood waters surround the old Tilley house on North Mechanic Street. Shown in boat are Ronald and John Tilley, busily paddling down the street during 1915 disaster.

Flood of September 13, 1915, brought the highest water in the history of the village. Large building in center of picture is old red livery barn which still stands on South Water Street.



The Vindicator's story carried several headlines and sub-headings, among them: "Loss of property will exceed \$75,000," "Over 30 families driven from their homes," and "Both dams on Sugar River at Monticello give way on account of cloudburst." The writer said that the water was eighteen inches higher than the previous flood in January, 1882. "Residents along Mechanic Street were notified and began to get their things out but the water came too fast and they were obliged to leave their rugs on the floor and were taken out of their houses in boats. The water ran over the levee and a stream two blocks wide with a strong current was

"The drays and boat livery and bus were used free of charge all day in carrying the people about the village.

"As soon as it became known that the people were being driven from their homes, Mrs. Scott, proprietor of the hotel, sent word that the hotel was open to them free of charge and homes all over the village were thrown open to those who needed shelter and food.

"The water reached its highest mark about noon on January 29 and remained at that level for a few hours, receding two feet by midnight. By the next morning the water had gone down three feet and work was begun to make homes habitable, repairing the damage insofar as was possible."

Although the river has not flooded to such an extent since then, it has menaced the village with high water at later dates. In March, 1929, the water rose seven feet, breaking the race at the condensery and threatening to break off the end of the power plant building with the rush of the ice and water. Several business places were flooded. Massive chunks of ice floated down the river in February, 1938, again with the threat of flooding. People stopped on the bridge to watch the huge blocks crash over the dam.

In January, 1946, the high water mark was near the back doors of the H. C. Atherton and Charles Phillips homes, and a portion of the railroad track was washed out. The April, 1960, high water resulted in many flooded basements, the ball park under three and one-half feet of water, and the river lapping Mechanic Street.



Sunday outings on the pleasure steamer Mikado became a major attraction after the boat was launched in 1886. Shown at anchor in front of Reuben's Cave, the steamer regularly toured Lake Winnetka, the name given to the area above the dam.

The launching of the pleasure steamer, the Mikado, in late April, 1886, caused much excitement in Albany. Built by Professor Holiday, dentist, preacher, fiddler, the craft was 50 feet long and 15 feet wide. There were two decks, cabins fore and aft, and refreshment saloon which would supply fruits, candy and temperance beverages. A week after the launching a benefit entertainment for the steamer was given, with a basket social and music by the town's best talent, including the Cornet Band. Admission price of ten cents entitled one to vote on a name for the steamer. "The Bell of Albany" and "Mikado" were the choices.

The Mikado regularly carried its passengers up the river to Reuben's Cave and Lake Winnetka. Reuben's Cave area was leased to Dr. Holiday and wooden stairs were built near the cave to lead picknickers up to the bluff where tables were provided and a building, 24 by 50 feet, erected.

Added to the interest in the Mikado's excursions was the discovery of "health-giving" mineral springs near the cave. The interest in "Eureka Mineral Springs" greatly increased the number of passengers, who carried jugs and filled them for fifteen cents a gallon.



This log cabin was built on island located in the river just below Whitcomb Sanitarium. Cabin was eventually washed away in a flood.

That idyllic era ended in the early 1900's when the Mikado ran aground on rocks in the river. Gene Warren bought the engine to use for heating the house he built. Others tore the top deck off and removed the machinery.

All types of boats have been used, from that storied Mikado to the craft most popular today, the canoe. Old photographs show sizeable power boats as well as the row boats more commonly used. In 1916 a large two-story boat house was built on the east bank of the river. In addition to housing a large number of boats, it had a club room in the second story and a porch for those who wished to sit and view the river.

From time to time the fact that the river is there seems to have motivated the daredevil in a succession of adventurers to attempt the local equivalent of going over Niagara in a barrel. In 1932 the Albany Herald carried this story:

"About noon Sunday Chester Francis and Ivan Phelps took a canoe ride on the Sugar River above the dam. They decided to go over the dam. As they went over the dam the canoe capsized, throwing Mr. Phelps clear of the roughest water below the dam; but Francis was caught and carried under, brought to the surface and carried under again before he could struggle out of the



whirling turmoil into the current and drift downstream. Three friends waded out to bring him to shore. Francis was still in bed on Monday.”

Tragically, the river claimed a share of drownings through the years. In September of 1903 a young brother and sister, Fred Stiff, age 7 and Ina Stiff, age 11 months were drowned. In 1932 a cheeseman from Monroe dived into the river from the west bank where the water was twelve feet deep. He drowned because he could not swim. A near fatal accident ended happily, however, when Ed Killingstad saved the life of a youngster swimming near the dam, who got beyond his depth and panicked. Ed's heroism was recognized with a

Peaceful to spend an afternoon on Sugar River. Large building in background is the old ice house which served the community for many years.



Fancy wooden canoes like those above were a common sight on Sugar River in the early years. In the background is the log cabin that stood for many years on a small island just below the Whitcomb Sanitarium.

citation from the Janesville Gazette. The Carnegie Hero Award was bestowed on David Zanoni who plunged into Sugar River in June of 1947 to rescue his buddy, Garland Rankins, who fell while crossing the dam apron. Zanoni caught Rankins under water and towed him 45 feet to shallow water, battling a rapid current and rough water.

In July, 1950, the proceeds from the Fireman's Frolic were used to purchase a resuscitator, the impetus for this event being Burnell Schultz's drowning in the mill race at the dam. Other drowning victims include Elmer Anderson, Aaron Peckham, Kenneth Purdy, Dan Watts, and little Joel Spring.

In the late 50's and 60's, Stanton Steuri was the catalyst for a renewed interest in ice skating on the river. He strung up lights and with the help of would-be skaters cleared an area of ice on the river in back of his home at 300 Sugar River Parkway. Many delightful afternoons and evenings were spent there by youngsters and adults alike skating to music, also courtesy of Stanton.

In 1957 there was a community clean-up of the shore area of the river. Dead trees were snaked out and a boat ramp installed on the Legion Park area. The Legion and their Auxiliary sponsored a power boat show in 1962.

In 1968 a sand beach was created with sand donated by Herman Pluss and graded by Al Kranig, while Helen Killingstad furnished workers with food and drink during the day.



Boating was a popular pastime in Albany's early day. A visit to Reuben's cave was often a "must." In boat are Percy and Erva Atherton, with daughter Floy Atherton at far right. Others are not identified. Fancy clothes are a clue to boater's skills and boat stability in those days.

TRANSPORTATION

The sport that never seems to flag, though, is fishing. The fisherpersons are men and women, old and young, all with limitless reserves of patience. They're in boats on the river, sitting on the banks, fishing from the bridge, and even wading out into the middle. Their quarry are catfish, bullheads, walleyes and bass; and the Sugar River has yielded some remarkable specimens of each of those. From time to time the river's natural supply of fish has been augmented; for example, in 1890 100,000 pike from the state fish hatchery were received and placed in the river a mile north of town. The Isaac Walton League, the Herald noted in 1927, "has been doing good work. The Albany chapter with its small membership has done a fair share of its duty in this state, especially in inducing our legislature to pass the new laws. Further the Albany Chapter has sponsored the planting of a considerable number of fish in the rivers and creeks near Albany." In 1937 the Rod and Gun Club released 1,500 black bass in the river.

In 1877 a stage line was opened to this area by Dr. John Warren and his brother E. F. Warren. Named Warren Brothers Western Stage Line, it was one of the longest lines in the Midwest and was well known all over the United States. It covered some 4,368 miles—765 of them in Wisconsin—with operations in other states as well; in fact, as far west as California. It was reported that the Warren Brothers Western Stage lines were continually stretching out in all directions, and the government always found the Warren Brothers to be gentlemen of unquestionable integrity.



Local livery bus owned by Barton and Maulcook, was used to haul travelers to and from the depot, as well as providing transportation to other destinations. Building in background was Barton and Maulcook livery stable. Dr. L. H. Allen, local veterinarian, had his office in this building at the time the photo was taken.

Fishing can be fun when you return with this many catfish. Proud fishermen, left to right are: Harry Thurman, Archie Francis, and Donald Partridge as they appeared in 1940.

Between 1882 and 1885 other stage and mail lines were begun, one of them a line between Albany and Evansville that ran daily. Other lines which also carried the mail were operating between Evansville, Dayton and Monticello. In September of 1887 William Struck purchased the mail route between Albany and Belleville and commenced carrying the mail. Mr. Struck, an experienced stage driver, ran a "good hack and drove a good team" and could be depended upon, whatever the weather.



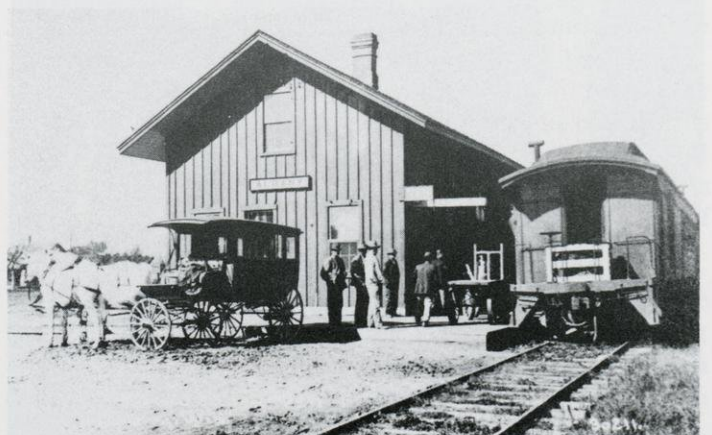
Old Number 86, presumed to be the first train to serve Albany in 1880. Henry Brockway, second from left, was the first depot agent. Boy, far left is Brockway's son, Jim.

Talk of the need for a railroad began as early as 1855. James Campbell was the leader in starting the Sugar River Valley Railroad before the Civil War. Work ceased during the war before rails could be laid. E.F. Warren was mainly responsible for getting the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad to come through Albany. Citizens subscribed \$8,000 for repairing the old road bed and laying ties. Farmers could pay their subscriptions by delivering ties to the railroad site, receiving 30 cents for large ties and 25 cents for smaller ones.

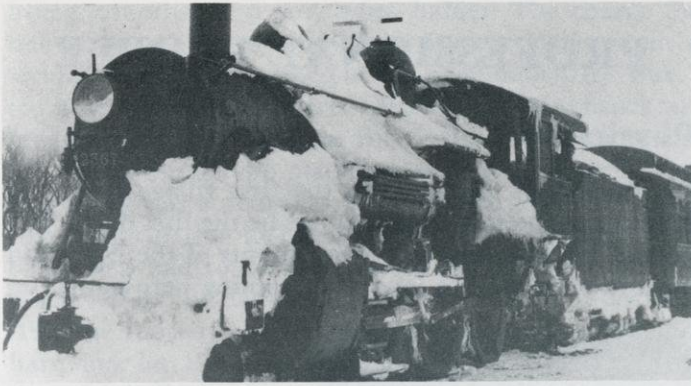
The first train came to Albany on October 22, 1880. This was a banner day for Albany. The village became a shipping center with 20 or 30 carloads of livestock going out each week. The freight house was filled with eggs and cheese twice a week. There were two round trips daily between Albany and Brodhead, with connections at Brodhead to other cities.

Material for the new depot arrived in Albany. The building as planned was to be 30 x 50 feet, brick veneer, modern style with offices and a reception room.

By 1887 the track had reached New Glarus, and when the train made its first run from New Glarus to Albany, it brought a crowd of people—mostly ladies carrying picnic baskets for an outing on the banks of Sugar River.



Train passengers prepare to depart on one of the many daily passenger trains operated by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. Local livery stable provided transportation to and from all trains.

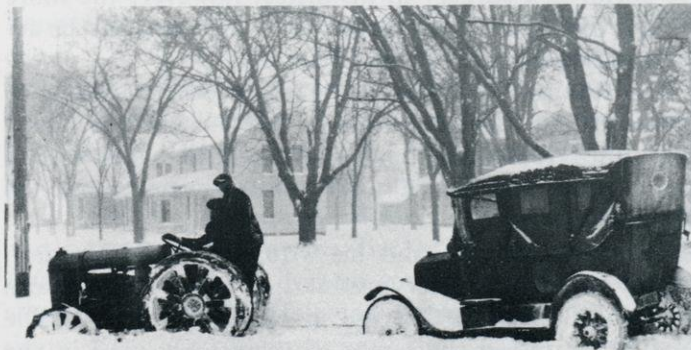


Deep snow, piled up during big blizzard on April 18, 1921, delayed this train for two days as it battled through deep drifts between New Glarus and Brodhead.

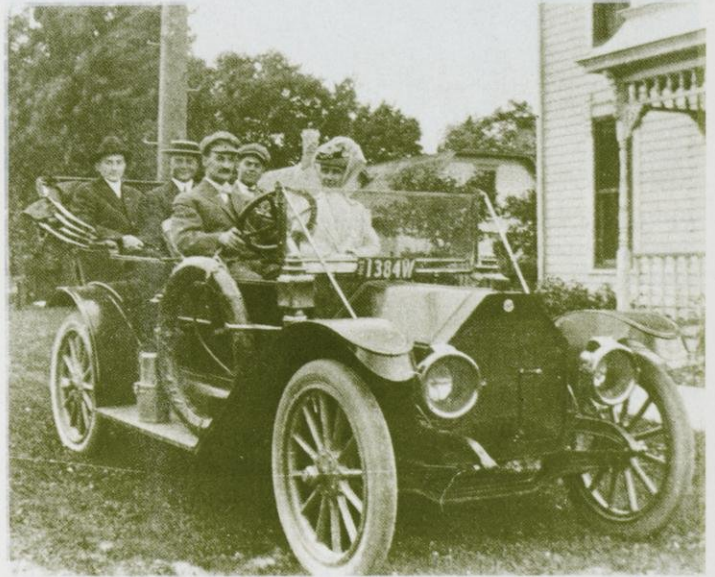
Motoring in high style around 1910. This fancy Reo may have been owned by Dr. G. W. Roberts.



John Wall tried to ride to Brodhead on the brace and brake rods under the coach of the train in 1899 and would most certainly have met his death in the process; however, Agent Brockway discovered him just as the train was pulling out, stopped the train at Peckham's crossing and extricated him from beneath the train.



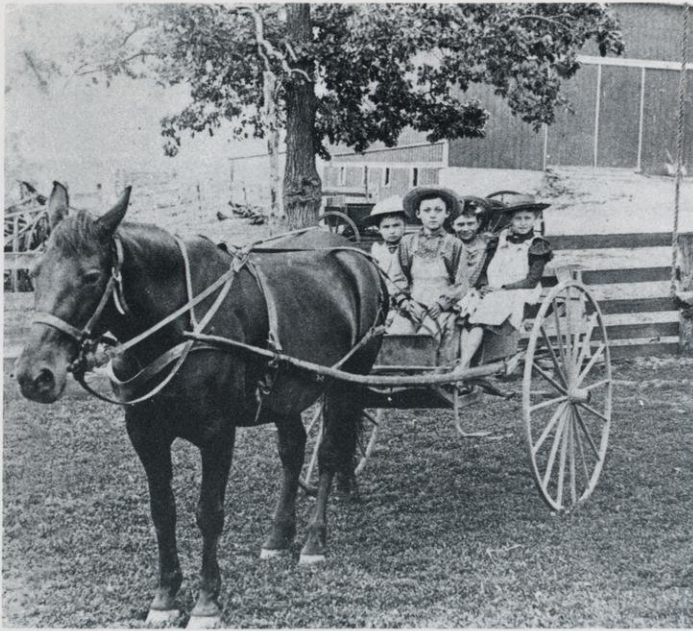
Under the headline "Limburger Special on Last Run," Helen Zimmerli wrote in the Monroe Evening Times of March 30, 1972, "From the New Glarus depot, the rails run through the valley passing out of sight, twisting and turning around the hills, and through an amazing outcrop of rock that dwarfs the train. Then there's more farm land, creeks and Little Sugar River too. Into the Albany Wildlife Area; over Allen's Creek and any number of trestles (familiar to fisherman of the area) and a magnificent view of Lake Winnetka, the name the Indians gave to the Pond area of Albany." Her story was, of course, of the last trip of "old 508, a diesel-



Preparing to travel on a sunny summer day in 1913. Tucked into this classy Buick are, left to right in front seat: Clifford Knapp, and his wife Gertie Benkert Knapp. Left to right, rear seat, are: Cliffe Gelbach, Henry Knapp, and Kenneth Knapp (Clifford's son).

powered freight train." The engine pulled two freight cars and a caboose, and it was called the "Limburger Special," Helen wrote, because of the aroma of its cargo in the early days. Another version of where the train got its name arises from the train having hit a wagon load of Limburger cheese being hauled by E. O. Kittleston. Cheese was scattered over a wide area around the scene. Both stories seem plausible.

Steady tugging was required to tow this Model T Ford through deep snow piled up during heavy late-spring snow storm that hit the area on April 17, 1921.



No license needed by this young driver. From left to right, these youngsters are: Iva Town, Ivan Town, Walter Wood, and Clarissa Wood. The date—1900.

The old Albany depot was destroyed by fire in 1980, virtually erasing the end of an era.

In 1972 the old tracks from Brodhead to Albany to New Glarus were removed and the route transformed into a snowmobile/bicycle trail. The rail beds were purchased by the Department of Natural Resources, rails and ties were removed, and crushed stone put on the grade. Planking was placed on the bridges and trestles. By 1974 the renovation was complete; dedication took place in September of that year. In the first year of its use, more than 35,000 people took advantage of it—an ideal second career for the old railroad.

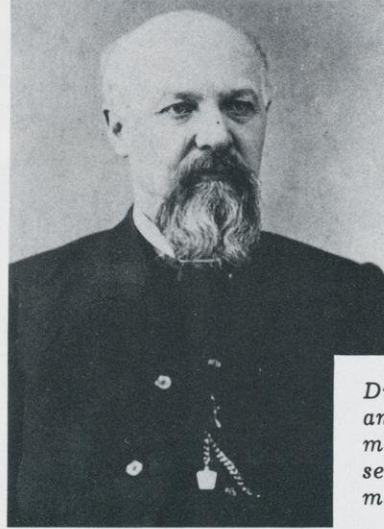
This hearse was owned by Frank Graves, local undertaker. It is shown in front of Methodist Church. Tom Mack is standing at right, driver is not identified.



PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE

Physicians

Dr. Samuel F. Nichols was the first village doctor to minister to the sick. Not only was he the first doctor but he and his wife Julia were the parents of the first child born in Albany. Not long after coming here he had to



Dr. G. W. Roberts, a physician and surgeon, began practice of medicine here in 1882. He served the community for many years.

discontinue his medical practice because of failing health. He went to Colorago Springs hoping to find relief for his asthma and died there in 1874. He was buried in the family vault in Albany.

Other doctors in the 1800's were Dr. Horace T. Persons, whose office was on Water Street; Dr. Shavalia Fayette, who stayed here only a year; Dr. E. H. Winston, who came in 1866; Dr. Ira Hales, whose advertisements proclaimed magnetic healing, a process which called for magnetized paper and medicated water; and Dr. W. E. Zeigenfuss, specializing in diseases of women, fluent in German as well as English.

In 1882 Dr. G. W. Roberts, physician and surgeon, opened an office in Albany. Like other pioneer doctors he performed surgery in his office; however, the more serious operations were performed in Chicago and he accompanied his patients on such trips.

Dr. Robert Van Dusen of Winslow, Illinois, came to Albany about the same time as Dr. Roberts but stayed only until 1884. Another physician who stayed only a short time was Dr. T. W. Nuzum who moved to Brodhead.

Dr. S. J. Morgan and his wife, Dr. Lillie Morgan, came to Albany after graduation from Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago in 1892. When Dr. Lillie was 96 years old she wrote of their early days in the medical profession, "We had learned about sanitation. We wore big coverall aprons in our operations, sterilized instruments and used antiseptics—many doctors did not do this. I delivered a thousand babies without

losing a mother and only a few babies. The charge for delivering a baby was \$10." In March, 1900, when a serious accident happened at the linen mills, Dr. "Sax," together with Drs. Roberts, Blakely and Hitchcock attended the young William Burt, who had become entangled in one of the machines as he was oiling it. Dr. Hitchcock was a dentist, but so massive were the young man's injuries that he his help was needed. Though both of his legs had to be amputated, the young Burt's life was saved by the dedicated work of the team of doctors. After he retired, Dr. Morgan invented and patented a barn door latch, no doubt motivated by years of frustration with balky latches as he made his medical rounds in the country.



The Whitcomb Sanitarium, a large convalescent home on the banks of Sugar River, has been restored by the Paul Hahn family who live there today.

The Whitcomb Sanitarium was built in 1896 by Dr. Lena Morgan and her husband, J. M. (Mart) Whitcomb. They published a 12-page booklet advertising the institution, showing pictures of the building and of the serene river and woodland setting, so ideal for convalescing patients. Dr. Lena was one of two sisters of Dr. S. J. Morgan, both of whom were physicians.

In 1898 Dr. George A. Blakely practiced medicine and surgery in Albany, as did Dr. E. S. Fessenden in 1900. Both of these doctors specialized in diseases of women. In 1907 Dr. Helgesen opened his office, advertising free consultations and the "latest up-to-date treatments." In the same year Dr. H. F. Wertz practiced medicine, handling not only his own patients but those of Dr. Roberts as well because Dr. Roberts had gone to California for the winter for Mrs. Robert's health.

Drs. S. Reeves and J. T. Lemmel were the physicians in the village at the time of the flu epidemic in 1917, when many people died nationwide. Dr. Reeves' office was at first at 205 East Main Street, later at 209 East Main Street, where Blanche Jones lives now. Dr. Lemmel's offices were on the floor above the Exchange Bank and were described in the *Vindicator* as "one of the best sites of physician's offices this side of Chicago." There was a large sunny waiting room overlooking the main street, a large operating room, a private office and a library. He practiced in Albany for 23 years.

Dr. Ben Warren had offices in the "Castle" at 200 West Main Street in 1916. In the early 1920's Dr. C. A. Wood practiced medicine here for five years, selling his practice in 1929 to Dr. A. Milton Cox, who had his residence and office in the building south of the hotel, where Esther Osborne now resides.

Dr. William E. Allen purchased the practice of Dr. J. T. Lemmel and remained in Albany until 1934 when he sold his practice to Dr. Blum, who formed a partnership with Dr. Lester Weissmiller of Madison. The two had their offices in Dr. Lemmel's suite in the bank building. They remained until 1938 when Dr. Felix Bongiorno bought their practice and became the village's one and only physician and surgeon. He remained here for over 26 years, moving to California in 1965. Since his departure Albany has been without a resident physician.

Dentists

In February, 1866, G. L. Holliday, dentist and surgeon, had his office in the second story of James Campbell's block. He also had facilities for repairing watches, clocks and jewelry.

In January, 1882, Dr. Louis A. Nichols, whose father was Dr. Samuel Nichols, opened a dental office in his residence on Mill Street just east of the public square (now known as the village park). He had a diploma from "one of the best schools in Philadelphia" and was considered a skillful operator. Teeth were extracted painlessly by use of nitrous oxide gas. His success in extracting and filling teeth "made one's mouth full of ivory hard to beat."

In 1898 Dr. A. H. Hitchcock opened his dental office in Van Patten's building. All kinds of dental work were "neatly done and teeth were extracted without pain." Until Dr. S. J. Morgan diagnosed his illness, Dr. Hitchcock was many times forced to close his office because of ill health. Dr. Morgan took him to Chicago for surgery and when he returned he resumed his practice. He remained in Albany until 1928. Another dentist here before the turn of the century was Dr. W. Carradine, who advertised "reasonable prices."

Dr. E. O. Osborne purchased the dental practice of Dr. Hitchcock and in the early years of his practice maintained his offices at 102 North Water Street. Later he purchased the home where Mrs. Osborne still resides at 104 South Water Street, equipping a section of the home as dental offices. Dr. Osborne was an active member of the Little Theatre Group in Albany, usually playing dramatic character roles. He continued to practice dentistry until his death in 1956.

Dr. C. L. Moote practiced dentistry in the late 20's and early 30's.

Dr. Donald Partridge, an Albany native, was a barber before he became a dentist. He learned his trade by working at the Mathems and Bowman shops when in high school, and used this skill to help pay his way through Marquette University. He moved his office from Lake Geneva in March, 1933, to the second floor of the Bank of Albany building. Later he moved that office to his residence where he and his wife Arlene still reside. He retired from practice in 1968 and since then Albany has been without a dentist.

Attorneys

Hiram Brown came from Massachusetts in 1842. An enterprising, well-educated man, he was prominently identified with many public activities during his residence in Green County. At first he was a teamster, hauling between Janesville and Mineral Point. He read the law and by 1849 had settled in Albany as a lawyer. One of the first justices of the peace, he practiced law here until he moved to Nebraska in 1873.

"Squire" J. B. Perry, the next lawyer, seems to have cut quite a figure. He was described as a small man who wore a tall beaver hat winter and summer. In the winter he also wore a long scarf, the ends of which hung down to his boots, and carried a walking stick as he made his way jauntily down the street. It was at his office that the petition for incorporation was written.

In 1888 two lawyers settled in Albany, A. S. Douglas, who was the district attorney, and Captain A. N. Randall, a solicitor of patents and pensions.

The next record of lawyers is in 1917 when S. L. Gothompson opened a law office at the Bank of Albany and advertised that he was a notary, dealt in real estate, insurance and collections. Lawyers who came from out of town for one day a week were Don F. Gallagher, 1928, and Randall Elmer in 1932.

In 1942 Max Armstrong, an Albany-native, opened his law office at 103 North Water Street. Late in 1943 he enlisted in the Navy, returning to Albany after his

discharge in 1946. He practiced until 1949 when he moved to Janesville.

Currently Albany has legal services on a once a week basis from Rodney Kittelsen, a native of the Norwegian Settlement and an Albany High School graduate. Rodney's law firm is located in Monroe, but he still has office hours on Wednesdays in Albany.

Veterinarians

The first veterinarian to locate in Albany was Dr. L. H. Allen, who began his practice here in 1910. A 1908 graduate of McKilliss Veterinary School in Chicago he had done veterinary work for the state before coming to Albany. When an epidemic of sleeping sickness attacked horses in 1938, Dr. Allen vaccinated over 500 horses in two weeks' time. He travelled to the farms to care for ailing farm animals and his gentle way with all pets who were brought to his office made him a favorite not only of children but also of adults. After serving the area for 42 years, he sold his practice in 1952. His hobbies in retirement were fishing and gardening, giant dahlias being his specialty. He died at the age of 76 in 1959.

Dr. John Lynn bought Dr. Allen's practice when he retired and practiced here until 1961. Dr. Theodore Poelma bought the practice at that time and when he left the village, another era had come to an end for Albany has not had another veterinarian.

Opticians

Doctors who fitted eyeglasses came to Albany on a more or less regular basis beginning in 1898, however, they did not maintain offices here. Graduates of Chicago Ophthalmic College, Drs. E. W. Ward and E. C. Doolittle both came in 1898, the former using Dr. Hitchcock's office and the latter, the Central House for consultation. In December, 1907, the Vindicator announced that Dr. E. B. Nichols, optician, "will be at the Nichols House for a one week stay." Evidently he had been in the village before as it was noted "his frequent visits here are ample evidence of his ability."

Piano and Organ Teachers

As early as 1899 the boys and girls of the village were given the opportunity to learn to play the piano. It was during that year that Mrs. Gertie Swancutt had trained her pupils so that under her direction a recital was given at the residence of Dr. A. H. Hitchcock.

That same year Miss Louise Whitcomb, who had been teaching piano, went to Chicago to take a course of instruction in instrumental music at the Chicago Conservatory of Music. She was absent for a number of

weeks and resumed her teaching when she returned. Leila Turner also attended the same conservatory in 1899 and was to take further instruction from the best music teachers. She was "an excellent performer on the piano and possessed more than ordinary ability in that line." On her return home she began teaching piano to the children of the village, going from one home to another on Saturdays for one-half to one hour lessons. Both Miss Whitcomb and Miss Turner taught for many years.

In 1927 Nellie Town Gillette, who had been teaching music in a school in Sheboygan, returned to Albany and began to give piano lessons. She says she is not sure when she quit but feels that it was at least 20 years that she trained the children of the community. Isabelle Sharer Hixson, Harriet Heitzman and Lynn Reasa Martini have also taught piano in their homes.

In 1974 Lois Barton Gressman began giving lessons to boys and girls and now gives both piano and organ lessons in her own home. Pat Waterman, who lives on County Trunk EE, teaches piano in her own home, organ in her pupil's homes. Karen Hubert, who taught music in the Albany Schools, teaches piano in her home, incidentally one of Albany's oldest homes which Karen and her husband Steve are working to restore to its original grandeur.

One of the most talented musicians to be born in Albany was Carroll Whalen, who graduated from Albany High School in 1926. He was an accomplished piano and pipe organ player, playing piano during school vacations from the time he was a freshman in high school with various orchestras. He was also hired by churches to play their pipe organs. Carroll died at the age of 37 in Kenosha where he was a teacher.

Miscellaneous

Politicians, though not necessarily members of a profession, deserve a line or two here. In 1841 Christopher Meinert, at first a Whig, then a Republican, a Greenbacker, and finally a Populist, came to Albany. Always in the vanguard of political thought, it was written of him in 1913, "if alive today he would find himself less lonesome in Wisconsin and Green County political affairs than during his lifetime."

A. B. Comstock, a long time resident of Albany, was prominent in County politics. He served on the County Board and in 1909 was a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Warren and Company store on southwest corner of Main and Water Streets next to the bridge where Dan Dee Nursery now stands. Shown in photo is Dave Watts, right, wearing cap. Photo was probably taken around 1880. Sign indicates store sold crockery, dry goods, notions and shoes, along with other items.

BUSINESSES

General Stores and Groceries

Erastus O. Pond opened the first general store in Albany in 1846. It was a small frame building which stood at 100 North Water Street.

Robert and William Richardson's store was closed after William drowned in the Sugar River in June, 1851. Robert closed the business and left the area.



This is west side of Water Street looking north as it appeared in 1912. Building at left, now the Edgewater Cafe owned by Rosalie Crabtree, was occupied by Fred N. Gelbach's Clothing Store.

There were many other stores in the early days, some owned by men whose names are remembered as prominent citizens. James Campbell opened a store in 1851; the next year Zebina and John Warren were in general merchandise. Others were Troy and Kellogg, E. Bowen,



Jobs and Dolsen, H. B. Jobs, Burt and Harris, and Charles Campbell. When he went to war in 1861, J. T. Chapman closed his store in the south part of the village. Chace's general store was in business in 1865.

During the 1870's grocery and general stores were Hahn and McDermott, Lemmel and Sons, and Warren and Company.

Advertisements for W. H. Knapp and Company, J. F. Litel, William Green, and Benkert Brothers were carried in the Vindicator in the 1880's.

In 1889 John Whalen, running the Star Grocery, modernized his store as few other merchants had done by installing an incandescent arc light. He and Ed Litel were partners, but dissolved the partnership in 1903 when Mr. Litel bought the Bank of Albany. John Whalen died in 1946 and Ivan Whalen became the proprietor. Located at 106 North Water Street, the store continued in business until the 1950's.



Well-stocked grocery and dry goods store operated by John Whalen on east side of Water Street opened during the 1880's and eventually closed in 1950's. Pictured, left to right, are John Whalen, Adolph Meinert and Frank Finn.

In the 1890's William Hein and a man named Gevers bought a store run by Ed Litel. After a few years Hein bought out Gevers; in 1910 Charles Francis bought a half interest in the store. In 1932 Bill Hein and his sister, Effie, bought the store from their father operating it together—Bill in charge of the grocery department and Effie, the dry goods. In January, 1978, they sold the store to Walter and Eileen Althaus, who operate the store today under the name "The Village Grocery." It is located at 110 North Water Street.

In 1919 Andrew Christopher and his sons, Frank and William, bought the Knapp Brothers grocery. Frank remained in Albany after his father and brother went to Rockford, assisted by his wife, Essie, and later by his

son, John, who became a partner. The partnership was dissolved in 1958 when John moved to Madison. The business was sold to Dean Peterson and managed by Danny Weber as the Albany Super Market. Weber bought it in 1965, remaining in business until 1969. The store was located at 102 North Water Street.

George and Ann Hlavachek and Dewey and Orpha Howe came from Madison and opened the Royal Blue Store at 105 North Water Street in 1934. The partnership was dissolved after a year and the Hlavacheks continued to operate the store for seven and a half years. When George went to work for Fairbanks-Morse in 1942 the store was closed. Hlavacheks, however, retained ownership of the building, living upstairs until 1978. Over the years the first floor was rented to a number of businesses, some of which were Whitcomb Appliance, Vic Peterson's Gamble Store, Flynn Appliance, Albany Carbide, Koenig's law office, and Wisconsin Power and Light. Today it is owned by Richard and Rena Flynn who use it for storage and as a party room.

Alvin Miller was in business in the 200 block of East Main Street. He bought the store from Bill Hahn in the mid-30's after having worked there for a few years. Bill would hang around there quite a bit and would watch the store for Alvin on occasion. It is said that Bill Hahn could give a sales talk on a lump of sugar and you'd think it was a diamond and buy it. This store burned when the Opera House burned in February, 1947.

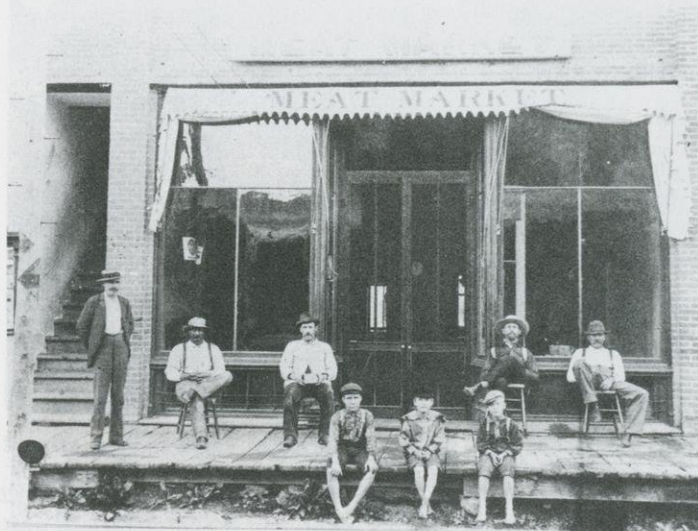


Bill Hahn's Grocery Store was located on south side of East Main Street. Pictured, left to right, are: Owner Bill Hahn, George Atherton, Mr. Hutzel, Mr. Ryan, the hotel keeper (white shirt), Sam Smout, and Earl Maughimer.

Meat Markets

In 1885 Thomas Gravenor and Arthur Smith erected a new building with iron framing and a stone foundation, 20 by 30 feet in size. This would house a new meat market, the old one having been destroyed in the 1883 fire.

The Vindicator of July 12, 1888, carried this item: "J. F. Annis and Simmons Chesebro have opened the meat market formerly run by Davis and Chesebro, and wish to announce that they will keep on hand a full stock of all kinds of meats which they will dispose of at lowest 'living' prices, and ask a fair share of your patronage. Give us a call. Respectfully, Annis & Chesebro." Though this indicates that there had been a meat market before, the writers did not find other advertisements or news stories to verify the fact.



Similarly, in 1898 Graves and Barton announced to the public that they were "again" in the meat market business one door north of their old stand. They kept a full assortment of fresh and salt meats.

Eugene (Mickey) Crawford had a meat market located on the west side of Water Street. He and his father who came from Ireland operated it in the 1930's and 1940's. During the depression Mickey had an old truck on which he put a back, filled it with ice, and peddled meat from farm to farm about twice a week. The back room of the market was a favorite hang-out for men, especially hunters and fishermen who liked to pass some time and indulge in stories and gossip.

Meat markets were barely heated, and had sawdust on the floor; beef quarters and pork sides, as well as poultry, hung from hooks in the front part of the store.

Harry Thurman took over the meat market in the early 1940's and ran it until his retirement when he sold out to George Keller, who in turn sold to Ronald Larson in 1971.

In the early 1900's the stores in the village were open Monday through Friday until 10 p.m. The lights were turned out at 11 p.m., except for Saturday night when the lights were on until midnight.

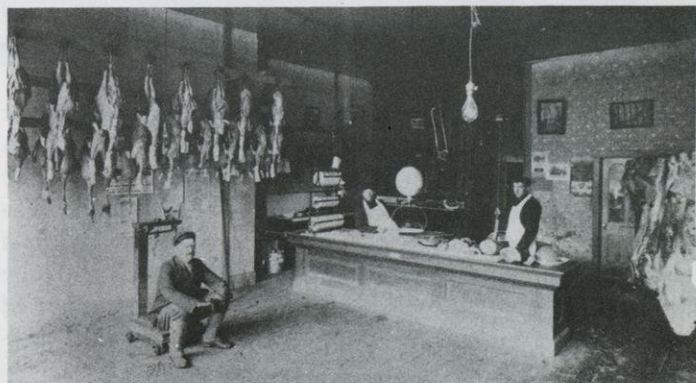
During the 1920's and 1930's the stores were open on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Saturday evening was an important social occasion, especially for farmers. An early arrival to get a choice parking space on the east side of Water Street was desirable. Sometimes a friend or relative who lived "in town" would come down in late afternoon and park so that the car could be used as a place to sit during the evening. There were benches all along the street in front of the stores and these, too, were popular spots from which to view the Saturday night activities. Adolescents would gather in groups to walk "around the block" with much giggling occasioned by the exhilarating experience of being out from under adult supervision as they made the circuit—east on Main, north on Mechanic, west on Milwaukee and back to Water Street.

In the 1930's there were free outdoor movies and street dances on Saturday evenings sponsored by the merchants. Night mail that came in on the nine o'clock train could be picked up at the post office and was eagerly awaited.

The farmers brought 12- and 30-dozen wooden cases of eggs to trade for their groceries.

Pleasant way to laze away a summer day when business is slow. This photo was taken in front of Graves and Barton Meat Market on east side of Water Street. Pictured, left to right are: George Humes, George Pryce, Frank Graves, Gurney Hayes, Ned Tippet, Scott Mathems, Bill Luce and Bill Hahn. Note wooden sidewalk, barefoot boys with caps, suspenders, and fancy shirts.

A modern meat market in the early days. There were no refrigerated meat display cases or prepackaged meats in the days when Graves and Barton ran the meat market. Dressed geese and other poultry hung from hooks along the wall, as did hams and other fresh meat.



Shoes and Shoe Repair

The first shoemaker in Albany was William Lee. J. A. Hahn came in 1855 and was still in business in 1884. In 1865 his shop was located three doors north of Dolsen's Drug Store. Austin Darling and Fred J. Smith also had shoe and shoe repair shops.

Shortly after World War II Ken Whitaker repaired shoes on the west side of Water Street just south of the present beauty shop.

In the 1940's Clarence Gilbert was Albany's shoemaker — all 340 pounds of him. He had been a cook at one time and would order an armful of pig tails from Harry Thurman, toss them in a pot with onions and other vegetables and make a remarkable stew. He lived to be an old man, making his home in a little building back of a house on South Water Street.

Drug Stores

Just because a person made a purchase of spirits of one type or another did not mean that he or she was going to drink for pleasure. In that day most doctoring had to be done at home especially in winter — distances and costs were a factor, too. There were many formulas or RX books in every home, including almanacs and many of these formulas called for alcohol, brandy or whiskey, for animals as well as humans. After a very fatiguing or



cold day, many of the older people would take about one ounce of liquor or wine in some warm water with sugar and some lemon if they had it. As a child, the writer got about one ounce of liquor (whatever the folks had) in some warm water with sugar and a little ginger if he had become wet or chilled. If he had a stomach ache he got the same, but peppermint was used in place of the ginger. One had to sip this, of course, and the feeling it left was a warm and tingly one.

The first drugs were few in number, but the most needed ones were carried by the Ponds in the first store and home about 1845 at 100 North Water Street.

George W. Bartlett came to Albany in 1857 and began his clerkship with H. Medbury in 1860. The store was sold five different times and each time Mr. Bartlett went with the goods (he had paid such close attention to the trade and by his honesty and fidelity gained the confidence of all his employers). In 1866 Mr. W. H. Hudson and Mr. Bartlett formed a partnership and purchased the store, continuing about two years, at which time Mr. Hudson sold his interest to Dr. G. W. Roberts. The new firm opened under the title of Bartlett and Roberts, operating for seven years when Bartlett bought Dr. Roberts' interest and managed the business alone. In the great fire of 1883, his store together with his entire stock



This is the way the well-stocked drug store looked around 1910. This is the interior of the Roberts Drug Store. W. D. Roberts, druggist, (center) is shown talking to unidentified customer. Note cigar counter, right, and the large rack of post cards at left.

Roberts Drug Store, on corner of Main and Water Streets, as it appeared in about 1908. Windmill, mounted on the roof, pumped water from a well drilled beneath the building in the days before Albany had a municipal water supply.

of goods was destroyed. Before the fire had ceased to burn, he had leased another building and within four weeks was operating an entirely new drug store on another street.

Another drug store located in the Murrey Block was in business during the year 1883.

The Bartlett store was later taken over by W. D. Roberts, son of Dr. G. W. Roberts. An 1893 graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy, W. D. was born in 1864 in Ohio. His grandson, Ronald Mabie, lives in Albany.

In 1940 W. K. Dehmer, also a graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy, purchased the business. In addition to running the drug store with his wife, Catherine, he found time for many other interests, especially those which benefit Albany. He has been a leader in the conservation movement in the area. Since he retired on January 1, 1974, Albany has not had a drug store.

Hotels

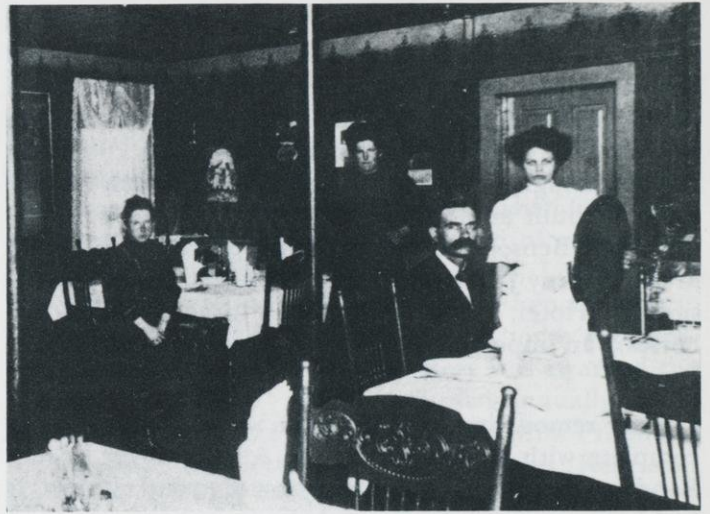
Albany, in common with other small villages, in its early days had busy, prosperous hotels. Travel was a slow and arduous undertaking, and many nights might be spent on the road. Even farmers bringing stock to be shipped from Albany, after the railroad came in 1880, might spend the night before returning home.

The first hotel in Albany was a frame building on the south side of Main at Mill Street and was started by John B. Sawyer and A. K. Stearns in 1847. Dr. Samuel Nichols purchased the property, completed the building, and opened it as the American House in 1848.



In 1882 the brick addition was built and the name was changed to the Nichols House. In 1887 it was refurbished with new and elegant furniture. There was a new horse-drawn omnibus to carry passengers to and from the "cars." Its first trip brought a full load. There were tennis and croquet courts and a livery stable. In 1888 Mr. S. L. Gothompson, a "progressive and good-natured gentleman," became the new landlord, assisted by his wife who was a "good housekeeper and a capital cook."

Albany's nemesis—fire—did not spare the Nichols House. It was damaged by fire in 1890, necessitating some rebuilding, and in March, 1900, the hotel was destroyed by fire. All the wells in the immediate neighborhood were exhausted, and the valves of the pump bringing water from the river became clogged with gravel. There was a great fear for nearby buildings, especially the old woolen mill which was being used for storing tow for the linen mill.



This was the dining room of the old Central House Hotel. Note the fancy table set-ups, bare light bulb hanging from ceiling, and large coal heating stove at right.

In 1903 the ruins still lay about as they had after the fire; the hopes of the community for rebuilding did not materialize. The lot remained vacant until the bank was built in 1958.

First hotel in Albany was the Nichols House. Frame building at right was opened as the American House in 1848, and owned by Dr. Samuel Nichols. Brick addition, left, was built in 1882, and the hotel name was changed to Nichols House. The hotel was destroyed by fire in March 1900. Man on sidewalk at left is J. W. Carver.

Central House Hotel located on South Water Street was a busy place when this picture was taken. Hotel was built around 1850, used as a dwelling by Zebina Warren from 1853 to 1879, then sold to William Hayden and called the Hayden House. In 1883 the hotel was remodeled and named the Central House. Building was torn down in 1961.



Albany's second hotel was built in the 100 block of South Water Street on the east side of the street. It was known as the Green County House and J. B. Perry was the accommodating landlord. From 1853 until 1879 it was used by Zebina Warren as a dwelling. William Hayden bought it and it was called the Hayden House. Later he built an addition and added a barn for stabling. Peter Benson, advertising as proprietor of this hotel in the Albany Journal of 1882, called his establishment simply "Hotel," and trumpeted "good stabling for horses," an important consideration for travelers of that era.

After remodeling in 1883, there was a grand opening complete with a serenade by the Albany Silver Cornet Band, an elegant supper, and a host of proud citizens. It had been renamed the Central House and was managed by Mr. S. H. Flint.

The hotel was again remodeled in 1917 by owner Mike Croake and named the Commercial Hotel. There would now be a toilet and bath on each floor and new heating equipment. Mr. Croake's son-in-law, Walter Tilley, was the manager.

As the clientele dwindled, the upstairs rooms were used as residences, and the downstairs space was occupied by a succession of businesses—Tom Flynn's tavern, a TV business, Ernest Batchelor's sporting goods shop to name a few.

Louis Teale purchased the building in 1961 from the Croake family, Ben Cleveland razed it, and the lot was used as a car sales lot. Today Albany Silo displays machinery there.

Yet another hotel, the Railroad Hotel—perhaps more of a rooming house—was located at 100 North Cincinnati Street in 1879; Mr. S. S. Hills was the proprietor at that time.

Hardware Stores

The advertisement for the Albany Hardware that appeared in the Albany Journal in 1880 gives an impression of the business. "The Albany Hardware, Charles French, proprietor, dealer in stoves, iron nails, steel locks, latches, bolts, tin ware, cutlery, shears, chains, cordage, wooden ware, reapers, racks, cultivators." This store was located on the corner of Main and Water Streets.

Around 1914 there was a Gelbach Hardware in that location; Dixon Brothers were next there, advertising a "one-minute washer" for \$9.75. The illustration in the ad showed a woman sitting in a chair, moving a long lever back and forth.



This was George F. Gelbach's Hardware in 1909. Store sold such items as Janesville and Glidden barbed wire, stoves, ranges, hard coal and soft coal, and general hardware. Small one-story building to right of hardware and next to the river was home of the Albany Exchange Bank.

In December, 1929, the Krostue, Peterson, and Dixon hardware store, located at 116 North Water Street, had a serious fire. The building was repaired and reopened.

During the same time Vic Peterson had a Gamble Store in the one-story building at the east end of the bridge. In the late 1940's Vic Sucharski operated a hardware store in that location. Domenic Bongiorno bought the Village Hardware from Charles Dixon in 1946, and in 1950 bought Vic Sucharski's store. Domenic retired in March, 1973, and Neil Stefanik purchased the business. Since March, 1981, Beth and Dan Sobacki have operated that store in the same location—116 North Water Street.



Surveying damage done by a hard wind storm, these men are standing in front of the old C. W. Baker and Company Hardware, located at 120 North Water Street, where Clayt's Bar is now located. Short man, front center, with cap, mustache, white shirt and tie is Dave Watts. Note old heating stove at right of building.

Restaurants

According to the Albany Journal in December, 1881, the railroad brought two new restaurants to Albany, but their names were not mentioned; however, in 1883, the Charley Pease Restaurant was operating in Howard's block. When Murrey's Opera House burned (1886), it



Burt's Restaurant and Ice Cream Parlor was a favorite eating place around 1914 when this picture was taken. Shown in front of the restaurant, left to right, are: Fred Stiff, Mary Roberts, Lottie Burt (owner), and Harry Flora. Restaurant was located on south side of East Main Street next to the Albany Exchange Bank.

was recorded that B. J. McAtee's Restaurant also burned. A. H. Meinert was the proprietor of Meinert's Cafe in 1911, an establishment that advertised confections, tobacco and cigars, ice cream and oysters in season. The Herm Bakery had dinners for 35 cents and sandwiches for 10 cents in 1922. Two restaurants were



This restaurant, shown here in the early 1900's, was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Tippet. Its location was 108 North Water Street, where the Center Tavern is now. Later operators of this restaurant were: Dele and Jay Harrington, Rose and Bert Spangler, and Elsie Gillette.

going businesses in 1928—E. F. Rice and wife who were proprietors of the Sugar River Cafe and Lane's in the Einbeck building, a location that had formerly been used as a bakery. Lanes opened a new restaurant in 1940, and Otto Nuwash, who had been operating the Sugar River Cafe closed it in 1943 with the result that there was no restaurant until late 1944 when Oren Burt took over that restaurant. A succession of owners followed: Reba Gilbertson, the Bernhagens, Leon Marty, Norbert Moyer, Elmer and Leila Braun, Leo and Carrie Williams, Don and Dee Riley, and today's owner-operator Rose Crabtree. In 1981 Rose was awarded the "Cream of the Crop" plaque, awarded annually to the restaurants in District 4A of Associated Milk Producers Incorporated that serve real dairy products. Rose calls her restaurant the "Edgewater;" it's on the corner of North Water and East Main Streets. Another restaurant now operating is Santerios, currently owned by Terry Kopp and Sandy Koebler, located at 106 North Water Street. It was formerly owned by Jaki Welter, Pat Lyle, Dan Stephenson, and by Ray and Rose Dudones.

Millinery

Long ago when hats were an essential part of a lady's wardrobe, as can be seen from pictures, the adver-



These grandly outfitted young ladies are (left to right); Nell Croake, Bird Meinert and Hattie Bump. Millinery shops were always a part of the Albany scene, and these ladies are probably wearing the milliner's latest and most chic creations.

tisements in papers appeared as regularly as those for more mundane products. In 1888 Mrs. E. W. Osborne advertised "the most complete stock and best selection of millinery west of Chicago." Mrs. E. P. Atherton in the same year wished to "call attention to her large and well selected stock of fall and winter millinery—hats and bonnets in all the latest designs. Also materials for fancy work and ladies' finishing goods." Ten years later Jennie Troutfetter had a new millinery and dressmaking shop in the Van Patten block next to Knapp Brothers. Also in that year Edna George advertised that she, too, had opened a dressmaking shop in Augusta Livingston's Millinery Parlor. Blanche Jones, a consultant on many facets of this history, said that Gertrude Warren and Miss Addie Davis had a millinery at the east end of the bridge—100 West Main Street.

Banks

J. E. Bartlett, proprietor of the Albany Journal, wrote editorially on December 24, 1881, "What Albany very much needs is a bank—over half a million dollars in 12 months has been paid out here for stock and produce shipped from this station."



Workmen were busy moving this building from the southeast corner of Main and Water Streets in 1912. Building had been occupied by N. Roy Bowman Barber Shop. Albany Exchange Bank was built on this site. Building is now home of a self-service laundry. Someone has printed "Don't worry" on front steps of building being moved.

In the following year the Bank of Albany was organized as a private banking institution by H. N. Simons with a capital of \$5,000. The capital was increased to \$10,000 when, three years later, it was sold to V. S. Kidd. In 1903 it was sold to the Litels—J. F., J. E., and J. F., Jr.; and it was incorporated as a state bank. Financial statements made to the State Treasurer in 1903 showed that the Bank of Albany had assets/liabilities of \$77,082.86; ten years later this figure was \$248,788.92.



This is the way the Bank of Albany looked around 1912 when it was located on the west side of North Water Street. Pictured, left to right, are: Eli Knapp, Em Broderick, Julia Dolan, Reverend Mayhew (Baptist minister), J. E. Litel, cashier, and Erwin Graves.

When J. E. (Ed) Litel retired due to ill health, Erwin Graves became cashier; Jessie Peckham, assistant cashier; Roy Phelps and Myrtle Zimmerli, tellers.

In 1938 two nervous bandits, clad in overalls and armed with revolvers, escaped with \$5,125 in cash and \$1,500 in non-negotiable registered government bonds in a hold-up at the Bank of Albany. In their haste, the bandits missed \$4,980 that was kept in an unlocked safe in the front part of the bank. During their search they forced the four bank employees, three customers, and two little girls to lie on the floor in a room adjoining the vault. After emptying the safe, the two men left through the front door; Mr. Phelps ran through the back door to a nearby store where he notified the village telephone operator to call the sheriff at Monroe. A garage employee saw the car drive away and noted that it was a black Ford with license plates attached upside down. The bank's loss was fully covered by insurance.

Modern building built in 1958 houses Bank of Albany. Bank was organized by H. N. Simons in 1882 with a capital of \$5,000.

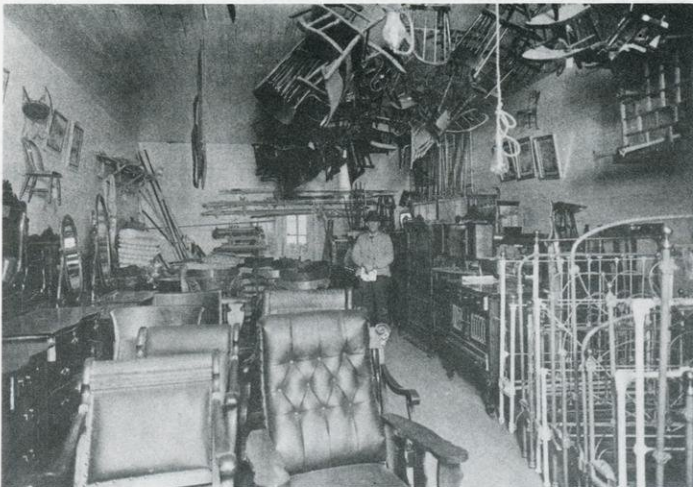


After the death of Mr. Graves in 1943, a succession of men from out of town were hired to manage the bank. Today the financial statement shows assets/liabilities of \$10,351,746.33, and the bank directors are Robert Gressman, William E. Hein, John L. Macke, Gerald E. Heitzman and Rodney O. Kittlesen. The present bank building at 102 West Main Street was built in 1958.

The Albany Exchange Bank was organized in 1902 by Thomas Gravenor and his son, J. T. Gravenor, with a capital of \$10,000. The following year they obtained the charter to make their bank a state bank. The capital increased to \$15,000 and a modern building was built on the southeast corner of Main and Water Streets. Together with the Gravenors the other directors were William Bubb, W. D. Roberts, William Broughton, and W. F. Finn; assets/liabilities in the August 9, 1913, financial report were \$148,667.78. The bank closed in 1926. The building was purchased by J. E. Litel and became the home of the Bank of Albany until 1958.

Furniture Stores and Funeral Directors

In 1866 Root and Bauerman located in Flint's block, two doors north of Dolsen's Drug Store were advertising furniture cheap, looking glasses, repairing and painting of furniture, gilt and rosewood notions. Always on hand was an assortment of coffins as well.



Interior of furniture store owned by Frank Graves as it looked around 1913 or 1914. Note the iron beds, bow-back chairs, oak dressers, and fancy—but uncomfortable—parlor chairs.

Also advertising caskets and coffins was the J. F. Maynard Furniture Store located next to the Opera House. Mr. Maynard, who was Albany's undertaker in the decade from 1880 to 1890, made his own caskets. From his record books dated 1886, it is apparent that many of the caskets he made were for children. Prices ranged from \$5 to \$40 in the record that his granddaughter Mary Striker has preserved.

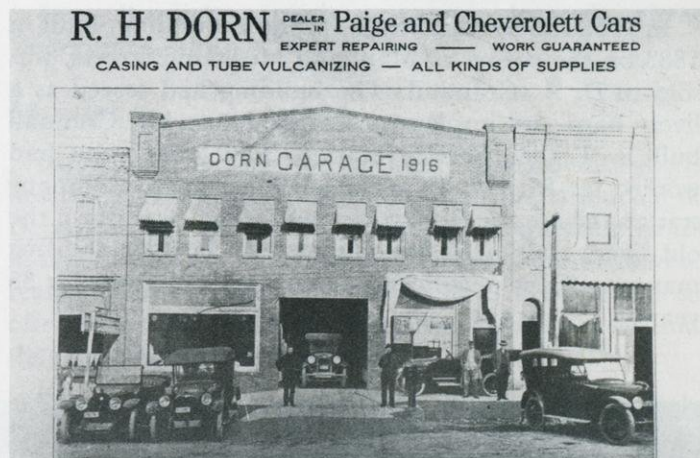
The Graves Furniture Store was also located in that building in succeeding years.

In 1927 the Atherton Brothers proposed to keep up "to the times in the way of funeral conveyances. They have recently added a fine up-to-date limousine-style funeral car."

Truman Sharer operated a furniture store on Water Street in the 1930's and 40's. He purchased the Litel home and made it the Sharer Funeral Home in September, 1941. When Truman retired, Gail Gohlke took over the business and operates it today.

Automobile Dealers

In 1916 E. R. Brewer and Frank Barton purchased the land between the "picture show" and the furniture store (corner of Water and Oak Streets) from E. F. Graves and erected a building there. They sold Buick and Ford cars. In 1917 the partners in the Albany Auto Company were Brewer and Dixon. They were selling Ford touring cars for \$460 and Ford Runabouts for \$345. In 1922 the price of a new Ford sedan was \$595.



The latest model autos are shown here in about 1920. Ray (Nick) Webb erected this building for Mr. Dorn in 1916. Later this building housed the Krostue, Peterson and Dixon hardware store. Gambles is located there today.

In the mid-1920's they sold a 1921 Ford roadster, repainted bright red, to George Smith. Someone showed him how to start it, and he drove it to his home on Bump Road. As he entered his driveway, he realized that he hadn't learned how to stop the car, so he circled around and went back to the road, then back to his driveway, shouting for help the whole time. Help arrived in the person of his son who jumped on the running board and contrived to stop the car. The car was parked; the new owner got out and never drove a car again.

Dorn's Garage, located at 116 North Water Street, was advertising Maxwell motor cars—\$645 for a touring car; \$620 for a new roadster. Later Dorn's sold Chevrolet and Paige automobiles.

In the late 1930's Floyd Montefeldt had a Ford dealership at 214 East Main Street. Louis Teale, who had been doing car repair and body work in the old mill on Main Street, bought Montefeldt out in 1943 and established the Nash-Hudson business, later to become American Motors. He sold out in September, 1980 to Jim Haddinger and Tim Kubly who operated it as AMC-Jeep. Wayne and Darlene Monte leased the building in 1982 and moved their Albany Silo Company there.

Sanford Moore established an auto repair business in 1982 in the former Texaco Service Station on the southwest corner of Main and Mechanic Streets.

Filling Stations

Ben Cleveland, seer, historian, politician and clever teller of tales, reached down into the bottom of his bag of stories to tell that in 1924 he was the first filling station owner in Albany, selling Standard Oil Products.

In 1935 the Barton Estate-Purinton building, built in 1883 on the corner of Main and Mechanic Streets, was sold to D. A. Crandall. The building had served as a livery barn and implement storage barn. Mr. Crandall built a Texaco Service Station. Fay Jones, who had worked for Roy Webb at the old Johnson Oil Company station (where the Co-Op is now), helped tear down the old livery stable. At age eighteen he became the first manager of the new business and remained there for 35 years.

Ellsworth Mabie operated the Pure Oil station at South Mechanic and State Streets. Later Warren Nipple operated a Mobil Oil station at this location.

Sam Stuntz ran a Shell Oil station on Highway 59 and Taylor Street. This building is gone now.

Walter Althaus, Sr., operated the Johnson Oil station at Mechanic and Oak Streets for many years. This station was later managed by George Flaherty.

Harry Edwards had the Mobil Oil station at the corner of Main and Water Streets, later the location of the Dan-Dee nursery building.

Implement Businesses

The farm implement business of Arthur Smith and Son was sold in 1923 to C. J. Krostue, A. S. Peterson and Charles M. Dixon. In the following decade Peterson and Dixon took over the hardware store and Krostue remained in the implement business, later selling it to Ray Haddinger. Walter Fahrney who worked there bought in; then Jake Schesser, Garland Rankins and Ed Killingstad. In a few years Bill Briggs bought Jake Schesser's interest; then sold it to his son, Jerry. Today the owners of the Krostue Implement Company are Garland Rankins, Ed Killingstad and Jerry Briggs.

This business was located on Main Street in the old Opera House and Atherton Furniture Store until a fire destroyed those buildings in 1947. Currently they are in a new building at 102 South Mechanic Street.

Businesses on the west side of South Water Street in earlier days. Old red livery stable on left (still standing) was headquarters for John Deere farm equipment dealer. Also shown is S. C. Walters' wagon shop, later a blacksmith shop.



The Dairy Industry

Years ago the milkman delivered dairy products in a horse drawn wagon; he deposited glass bottles of milk or cream on the steps of his customers' homes after checking to see what that customer had written on his order card. Eventually, the milkman drove a car or truck and his milk was delivered in waxed paper cartons. Some of those milkmen in Albany were D. L. Armstrong, John Thurman, both of whom owned the Spring Brook Dairy; Louis and Ross Sutherland; Rose and Henry Rhyner; Helen and Jack Graves; Elaine and Walter (for Pete's sake, drink Bancroft) Reasa; and Alice and Eugene Krueger.

Livestock Hauling

The name Luedy has been synonymous with livestock hauling for about fifty years in the Albany area, hauling animals to livestock markets in Madison, Milwaukee and other locations. Ralph Luedy is the proprietor. Roy Luedy hauled milk to the condensery.

Beauty Shops

Hazel Oliver opened the first beauty shop in Albany in April 1939. A year later the shop was sold to Mrs. Mary Jahnke of Madison, and Maxine Stewart became the manager, buying the business in 1944. Beauticians who worked there included Eva Jones Hein, Penny Graves, and Georgia Runaas. In 1980 the shop was sold to Georgia Runaas, and in 1982 Georgia sold it to Carol Astin. Today the shop's name is Carol's New Image and Carol's co-workers are Georgia Runaas and Terri Blumer.

Joanne's Riverside Salon at 408 South Mill Street is owned and operated by Joanne Sellnow, who has been a beauty operator for twenty years. Joanne has been in her present location for about four years. Previous shops have been in her home as is her present one.

Taverns

For many years taverns have been an important part of the business community.

What is now known as Clayt's Corner Bar at 120 North Water Street has been owned by several persons, among them Mickey Croake and son Chris, Earl and Ewald Zwickey and the present owners, Clayt and Lynnette Sowl.

The Center Tavern at 108 North Water Street was owned by Forrest and Helen Purinton, Elsie Gillette, Alvin Miller, Ronald Haase, Elmer and Nina Mauerman, Eugene and Romaine Schneeberger, and today's owners, Gary and Colleen Brewer. As of July 1, this year, the new owners will be Danny Aeschliman and Dennis Rhyner.



This old time saloon was located in a building on Main Street just east of the bridge. The heating stove, the spittoons and the ice box in the rear were typical for the times.

Flynn's Bar, 103 North Water Street, was owned by and run by Herby and Aggie Henrickson, George and Edna Stephans, Tom and Rosemary Flynn, and the owners at the present time, Richard and Rena Flynn.

Lon Burdick owned a tavern located where Yesteryears Antique Shop is now.

Movies

Not exactly movies but perhaps a remote ancestor is described in this item taken from the Albany Journal of December 19, 1889: "The stereopticon entertainments in Opera Hall on Thursday and Saturday evenings were really first class, but our people have been fooled so often by similar concerns which were 'snide' all over that they are getting a little careful."

Probably the first movies were viewed in early December of 1897 when "Edison's latest invention showing Edison's magnificent moving pictures will be exhibited in the Albany Opera House. You sit in the audience and see the great Black Diamond Express rushing along at a mile in less than a minute, a burning livery stable, the New York fire and many others both grand and laughable. This entertainment is given under the auspices of the worthy society of this city, the Eastern Star. Prices have been put very low so all can see the show both nights, admission being only: children, 10 cents; general admission, 15 cents; reserved seats, 20 cents."

Earlier the Rialto Theatre had been closed and a commission had ordered several changes in the building, but the Albany Herald of March 25, 1926, announced that the "picture show will reopen after the village being several weeks without a picture show. The movie will be

reopened to the people on Saturday, March 27, with the showing of "The Ten Commandments." Fred Leiser has made arrangements for the building and equipment and is overhauling the machines and making the necessary changes to produce first-class pictures. His aim will be to please the people. Admission: children, 10 cents; adults, 40 cents."

Apparently the theatre was closed again, for the following year this item appeared in the spring of 1927. "Fred R. Leiser who conducted the theatre here for a short time last year has leased the Opera House for a year and will install a complete up-to-date apparatus. It is expected to have the theatre open May first or shortly thereafter. The movie contract calls for four nights each week." The Star Theater operated for many years. In the 1920's A. H. Meinert was the proprietor.

Opera Houses

Pond's Hall, upstairs over Jobe's store, was Albany's first large gathering place, but in 1883 it was proving to be inadequate. Warren's Bus Line had transported over 50 passengers from Brodhead and Monroe from the depot to a masquerade ball. The hall was filled to overflowing and "the Mazy Waltz and the round dancers were a 'mazy' collision, dancers being knocked out of time and wind at every turn." This hall burned in the great fire of 1883.



In 1884 Murrey's Opera Hall had been completed and a grand opening ball was held with Prof. Wellington Brown's superb orchestra. The upstairs hall had a stage and a smooth maple wood floor "illustrious for dancing purposes." The McAtees soon opened a restaurant in the lower part of the building. Less than three years after its grand opening Murrey's Opera Hall burned, and along with it, J. W. Hicks' Drug Store and McAtee's restaurant. The fire was thought to have been started by

burglars who were trying to open a safe in the drug store. The Albany Fire Department did efficient work, aided by heavy rainfall, so the fire didn't spread to adjacent blocks.

In the summer of 1887 S. L. Gothompson built a new hall, 40 by 80 feet in size, next to Maynard's Furniture Store on Main Street. The grand opening on Thanksgiving Eve was a ball with Brown's band; a \$35 cutter was raffled. The stage scenery had been painted in Chicago and the drop curtain was of unusual quality for a country theater. The first performance in the new Opera House was Mason and Morgan's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," soon followed by "Ten Nights in a Barroom."

Over the years the Opera House was a busy place with an amazing variety of events. A Farmer's Institute was a grand success, with talks on equal rights for women, ensilage and how to build a silo, and the need for farmers to be involved in lawmaking. Steriopticon shows were popular. The Chicago Opera Company presented "Mascott" and "The Chimes of Normandy."

During the 1890's Edison's latest invention of "magnificent moving pictures" showing the Black Diamond Express rushing along was featured. Series of club dances were held, with Warren's orchestra, at a cost of \$2.50 for six dances. Wrestling matches were popular on into the next decade.

By the 1900's moving pictures were frequently shown, sometimes with illustrated songs. The silent pictures had live piano accompaniment by local people. A program of "magnificent steriopticon views" including "The Life of Christ," "American Firemen," "Fighting a Jersey Mosquito," "Housemaid's Lover," "Spanish American War" and the "World's Fair" was shown accompanied by Bartlett's orchestra with trap drums.

Opera House, left, and Maynard Furniture Store as they appeared in 1888. Note the orchestra in Opera House balcony, and gentlemen attired in suits and stovepipe hats, obviously prepared for some gala entertainment. Furniture store, which also offered coffins for sale, was typical of many small towns then and now where undertakers often supplement their incomes by operating furniture stores.

Activity continued into the 1920's with a traveling show, "Peg of My Heart;" the touching movie "Four Sons" with Margaret Mann as the mother and Tom Mix as one of the sons; and Cecil B. DeMille's "King of Kings." A Fall Fair was held, with produce entered by area farmers being judged. Poultry shows were popular; the 1924 show was the largest ever.

Until the building of the school gymnasium in 1923, many school activities were held at the Opera House—basketball games, plays and graduation exercises.

For many years there were local drama groups using the stage of the Opera House. On a bitterly cold night in 1929, a crowd had gathered to see a home talent play. The second act was just finished and Barney Mathems was giving out with his clog dance number. Roy Bowman had given his impersonations and a reading. The play featured some of the village's best talent — Doc Allen, who knew all about make-up, Colonel Dixon, Dr. Lemmel, Charley Dixon, Ed Gibbons, Fay Prestegard, Lorna Stewart and Catherine Lemmel. The door burst open and Tom Carver strode in and announced that the Krostue, Peterson and Dixon Hardware Store was on fire. That ended the performance.

The Opera House stage was still in use in 1934, when a traveling show, "Underneath the Harvest Moon," was presented.

The grand old Opera House came to a sad end in 1947. It and the old Atherton furniture store, both occupied by the John Deere Company, burned to the ground, along with Alvin Miller's grocery.

Telephones

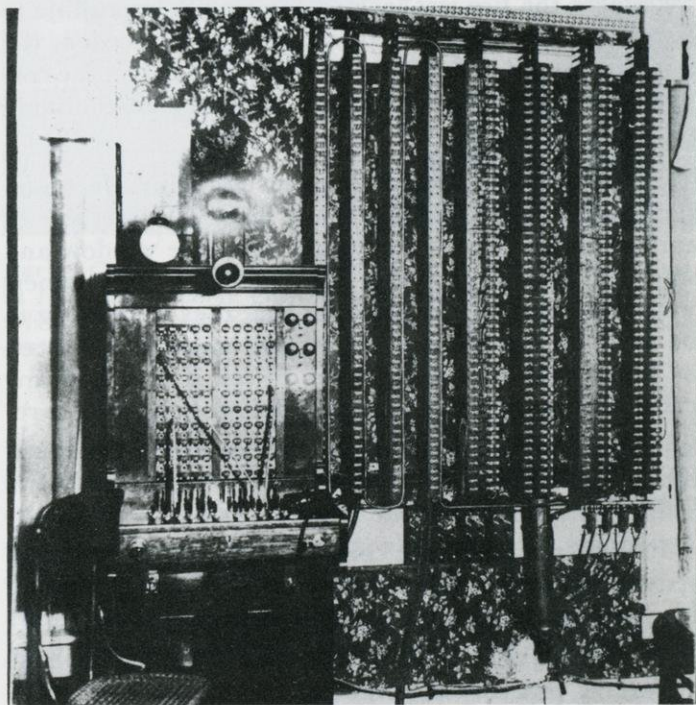
The telephone came to Albany in 1881 when a line was installed between Dr. G. W. Roberts' office and the depot. This gave quick access to the telegraph office located there. Master Fred Roberts was the telephone operator and messages could be sent for five cents. In 1888 the Wisconsin Telephone Company extended its line through Albany and placed a telephone in the Central House, connecting Albany to the outside world.



The first telephone came to Albany in 1881 when a line was installed between Dr. G. W. Roberts' office and the depot. United Telephone Company opened for business in 1903 with 40 subscribers. Pictured at the old telephone switchboard in 1961 is operator Laura Jacobson.

In the fall of 1902 stock in the projected telephone exchange was being sold by United Telephone Company. C. W. Twining, superintendent, hoped that the greater part of the stock would be owned by "Albanians."

The telephone exchange was opened for business on January 1, 1903 with 40 subscribers. It was located above the Corner Cafe at 101 North Water Street. Shortly thereafter, a toll station was established in Roberts and Son Drug Store. Farmers on rural lines were able to receive weather forecasts via their telephones.



This is the first telephone switchboard in Albany, installed in 1903. Telephone exchange office was located above the Corner Cafe at 101 North Water Street.

The editor of the paper in 1917 urged readers to install telephones as it cost only five cents a day. He also asked drivers of automobiles and motorcycles to help the "hello girls" by not leaving their mufflers open when passing the telephone office.

In about 1939 the telephone office was moved to rooms over Roberts Drug Store at 100 North Water Street. The manager of the office lived in the adjacent apartment. This made it "convenient" to answer middle-of-the-night calls.

Among the managers over the years were: Margaret Haberman, Grace Farnsworth, Flora Simmons, Elizabeth Croake, Hilda Peckham and Mabel Jones. Among the operators were: Carrie Purinton, Shirley Croake, Mary Kittleson, Elsie Gillette, Selma Sellnow, Gwenyth Schlittler, Laura Jacobson, Susan Kjorness and Marita Reinitz.

Lester Peckham was lineman and repairman from the beginning. His first wages were ten cents an hour.

Operators had several duties. In the event of a fire, the operators would sound the fire alarm. Hilda Peckham recalls that a person phoning in to report a fire sometimes was so excited that he forgot to give his name and address, but that she usually could recognize the voice and send the firemen to the correct location. After the fire alarm sounded many townspeople called in to ask where the fire was located, making it impossible to handle all the calls. If a police officer was needed, the operator would switch on a red light high up on the corner of the building. Operators also sounded the noon whistle.

Extra service was sometimes given. Laura Jacobson recalls that when she saw Louie Teale outside, out of earshot of his phone, she would open the window and shout at him to go inside and answer it. Subscribers would call and tell the operator that they were going to be away for a while and to give that message to callers, or would call after being away to ask if they had any calls. Operators were not supposed to honor these requests, but usually obliged. Young Elaine Schlittler received five cents for taking messages to people who did not have telephones.

In 1963 the telephone company converted to the dial system; new poles and lines were installed and a building for housing the automatic equipment was built at 301 West Main Street. The days of "number please" were over.

Blacksmith Shops

In Juliet Kinzie's book, "Wau-bun," (an account of the old days at the Indian Agency in Portage), a letter written by her husband John in 1883 says, "The blacksmith for these (Rock River) Indians leaves tomorrow morning to locate himself on the fork of Sugar Creek about sixty miles from this place." Further, from her book: "Robineau, the striker from the blacksmith establishment at Sugar Creek near the Four Lakes, arrived one very cold day at the Agency." Together these statements make it appear that there was a smithy just north of Albany where Big and Little Sugar Rivers meet.

A number of blacksmiths, so important to the early settlers, served the people of Albany from that time on. Among them were Uriah Story who came to Albany in 1837, Charles Barton, E. B. Dorr, and V. R. Van Curen. Captain Charles W. Burns, who saw service in both the Mexican and Civil Wars, came to Albany in 1860 and opened a blacksmith shop. After the war he returned to Albany, but did not reopen his shop until 1873. He remained in business until 1883.



Blacksmith shop operated by Ben Cleveland, Sr., and later by his son, Ben, Jr., still stands on the northeast corner of Main and Mechanic Streets. The building shown here faced south toward Main Street, but was later turned around to face Mechanic Street.

In 1865 A. Kinsley had a brick blacksmith shop on South Water Street, probably just south of the old red livery barn.

Other blacksmiths were W. J. Oliver, Cal Walters, Elmer Schwerin and Dan Lary. Ole Oleson, whose shop was located on South Water Street, was a huge, exceptionally strong man.

Of greatest interest to us today is this notice in an 1899 Vindicator. "I am here again and here to stay at last. I have again located in Albany and respectfully solicit a share of the public patronage for horseshoeing and plow repairing. All work done promptly and satisfaction guaranteed. Shop one door east of L. H. Warren's residence. Ben Cleveland."

Ben Cleveland, Sr., had stopped in Attica one day on his way from Beloit to Mount Horeb, where he was going to look at a blacksmith shop that was for sale. In Attica he fell to talking Norwegian with a Mr. Albertson, and discovered that Dave Heathman, the blacksmith there was ready to retire. Ben bought his shop, later came to Albany and was in a shop on South Water Street for a time, and then located permanently on the corner of Main and Mechanic Streets. While in Attica he taught the trade to Hank Heathman, Dave's son, and Hank became a valuable assistant.

Ben Cleveland, Jr., succeeded his father in the business, having started to help at a very early age. His first chore was to shoo the flies away from the horses backs as they were being shod.

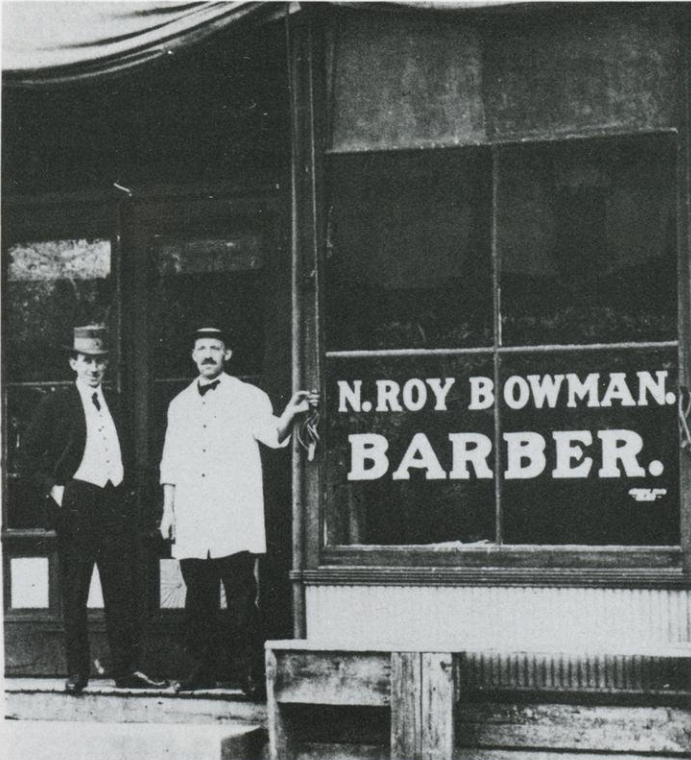
Ben, Jr., took over his father's shop when he was about 19 years old. In 1924 when the advent of the automobile was beginning to spell doom for the blacksmith business, he moved the shop to the rear of his

lot and erected Albany's first filling station. He recalls the old pumps that required the gasoline to be pumped into a tank by hand before a car could be filled. Later when there seemed to be too many filling stations in town, he went back to blacksmithing. After shoeing horses, ponies and mules, sharpening plowshares and repairing all kinds of machinery for so many years, he retired in the 1950's.

Barbershops

Over the years Albany has had many barbers, and little is known about them except their names. Among these "tonsorial artists," as they were often advertised, were: Charles Mathems, Willis Farmer, F. A. Hackley, George Smith and W. H. Wagner.

N. Roy Bowman came to Albany from Lodi in 1898 and purchased the shop of Mr. Wagner, located at Main and South Water Streets. Some time later he moved one door south.



N. Roy Bowman operated a barber shop in Albany for more than 70 years, beginning in 1898. Still barbering at the age of 96, he gave haircuts to five generations of some families. Here he is pictured, right, standing in doorway of his shop with a friend (unidentified).

He barbered there for over 70 years. At age 96, he was still riding his three-wheeler to work in all kinds of weather and he lived to be 103. He gave haircuts to five generations of some families; he had customers who remembered the War of 1812—and young men who fought in Vietnam.



Barber Claude (Barney) Mathems opened this shop in Albany in 1908 and barbered until he retired in 1968. Note the fancy mirrors, old clock, two barber chairs, and single light bulb with simple reflector hanging from the ceiling.

In addition to his remarkable longevity, Roy Bowman was known far and wide for his dramatic readings and impersonations. He was much in demand for home talent shows and at area schools. His performing ability was often used when cutting the hair of a frightened child who was visiting a barber for the first time.

Claude (Barney) Mathems, a native of Albany, opened his shop in 1908 and barbered until he retired in 1968. As a boy he had apprenticed with Roy Bowman. He had his shop in different locations, 120 and 121 North Water Street and 205 East Main Street. His shop was heated by a cast iron stove, which he fired up at 7:15 every morning.

During his 60 years of barbering he cut hair for five generations of some local families. An important feature of his shop was the "loafer's bench" where weighty matters were discussed heatedly every day. The barber shop was a daily destination for some Albany citizens.

Barney was an accomplished entertainer, being famous for his soft-shoe dancing. He sold his shop to Palmer Curless of Brooklyn when he retired. The shop was modernized—loafer's bench removed. That, however, was more than the clientele could tolerate. Reaction was so swift and so vocal that the loafer's bench was restored to its venerable position.

Nursery

Dan-Dee Nursery was started by Wilbur Dehmer in the 1970's. It was a business closely tied in with Wilbur's interest in all kinds of growing things. Much of the wide selection of nursery stock was grown on the Dehmer farm. The building, on the corner of Main and Water

Streets, was built with the labor of many older men in the village who were happy to be back at work, even though a few arguments occurred about the proper way of doing things.

The Dehmer daughters, Lita Sutherland and Diana Hall, took over the business from their father, and later Lita and her husband, Rod Sutherland, became owners of the business. In addition to selling nursery stock the firm did landscaping. Dan-Dee went out of business in 1981.

Lumberyard

Doyon and Rayne Lumber Company, a branch of a Madison firm, did business in Albany for at least 79 years. The earliest records available date to 1903. In those early years it was a busy place supplying most of the lumber and cement used in Albany buildings. At that time it was located on the east side of the railroad tracks. Among the managers over the years were: Pete Flood, Howard Ware, Bill Krueger, Garland Rankins, John Hlavachek and Warren Nipple. Lucille Atkinson worked in the office when she was in high school. Ronald Mabie, with the assistance of his wife Tommie, managed the business for over twelve years, until it closed in 1982.

Insurance

Maurice Barton, the founder of Barton Insurance Company, was a lifelong resident of Albany. After graduating from high school, he taught school in Albany for one year, and for one year in Illinois.

After graduating from college he returned to Albany and worked for the latch factory as well as starting his insurance company. The agency was at first located in a small room in the bank building, and shortly after moved into the building on East Main Street where it is located today.

In 1948 Robert Gressman joined his father-in-law in the business, which he purchased in 1959. In 1970 the Barton Insurance Company celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Mr. Barton died in 1978. Today it is the oldest business in existence in Albany.

Windmill, Pump and Jack Men

A trade of great importance to area homeowners and farmers was that of windmill, pump and jack installation and repair.

Jack Zimmerli's business was located in the old red livery barn on South Water Street. His right hand man

was his brother Al Zimmerli. Jack was nicknamed "Hammer Hans" because when things were not going right, he might "fix" them with a hammer. He was in business for many years, and probably worked on more water systems than anyone else in Albany.

Adolph Zimmerman, always with a pipe in his mouth, was a very handy man at whatever he did. He could carpenter as well as fix water systems, and also made excellent wine. His widow, Nina, lives in Albany today.

C. M. (Ole) Sowl worked for Jack Zimmerli and later went into the business for himself. He was known for coming to the aid of a farmer without water, even though it might be quite inconvenient for him. From 1952 to 1958 he was the Village Marshall. His wife, Mary, was a teacher in the Albany schools. Both he and his wife, who were well liked by everyone, died as comparatively young people. Their children live here today.

Grist Mills

Zebina Warren built the first flour mill in Albany in 1849, after buying the water rights from Nichols and Pond who had a saw mill with old fashioned "sash saws." Warren's mill, which had three run of stone, was located on the west side of Water Street. After Warren died in 1854, his heirs operated the mill until 1867 when it was washed away by high water.



In front of what was the grist mill a group surveys the ruins left by the fire of 1911. The brick shell of a building in the background was the meat market.

During the same year Eugene F. Warren, Charles W. Tompkins and Mr. Erolc bought the property and built a new mill. Twelve years later Warren and Tompkins bought out Erolc. They enlarged the building in 1881 and made it two and one half stories high. In 1896 an electrical plant was added which furnished the village with power.

Dr. Saxton J. Morgan was the next owner of the mill, having bought it from Warren in 1910; Warren had



West side of Water Street looking south as it appeared in 1910. Large building on right is the old red grist mill which was destroyed by fire in March, 1911. Note wooden sidewalks and unpaved streets.

been sole owner since 1900. A year later the mill burned but was rebuilt immediately. This fire threatened to incinerate much of Albany's business district. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wall were rescued with great difficulty from their home just south of the mill. Burning brands blew about, and men were posted on the roofs of other buildings with pails of water to put out new fires. Had there been more wind or had the fire lasted 30 minutes longer, many other buildings would have gone.

In 1925 Dr. Morgan sold the entire property to Wisconsin Power and Light. Five years later in 1929 the mill business was sold to John Sucharski. He erected a small hammer mill where Green-Rock FS Cooperative is now.

The power company used the building until about 1945 when it was sold to the Indiana Condensed Milk Company. In 1952 the building, not including the dam and race, was sold to Arthur Partridge. After his death Louis Teale bought the property from the heirs, and in 1977 sold it to the Village of Albany.

Kellogg's grist mill was built in 1857 and was located on the west side of the river on Main Street. It was constructed of 20-foot long, 11 by 11 hand-hewn oak beams. All joints were mortise and tenon. There were three run of buhrs.

About ten years later, in 1877, Kellogg sold out to William Nye and J. Montgomery, who removed the machinery and sold the building and water privileges to Eugene Warren for the Albany Woolen Manufacturing Company.

At the time the linen mill was built, the old building was moved across the street. The move was remarkable—a track of six by eights was laid under the mill and across the street, and a windlass turned by horses snaked the building across the street. The building was taken down in 1949 by Willis Kopp, Marion Wheeler and Clifford Whitehead.



Part of the devastation wrought by the fire of 1929 is shown in the foreground. In the background is a Nichols home still standing in the 100 block of Sugar River Parkway.

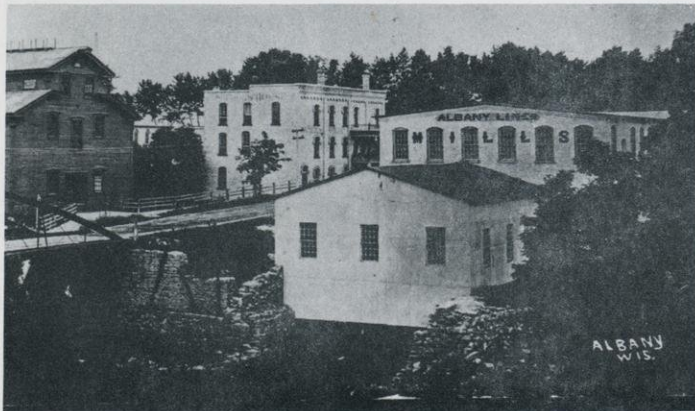


Mill and Condensery

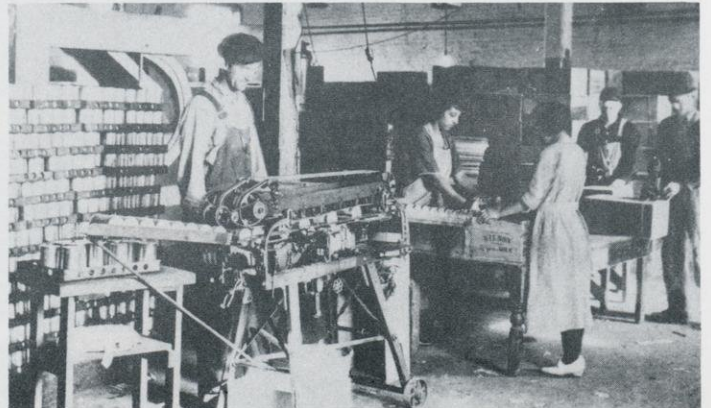
The Village of Albany had its first manufacturing plant in 1877 when S. A. Pond, Dr. John Warren and R. Glennan established the Albany Woolen Manufacturing Company. They purchased the old grist mill, which had been started by T. Kellogg, and its water privileges. The building was located on the west side of the river at Main Street and Sugar River Parkway. After renovations to the building, flannels, yarns, blankets and skirts were being woven. Richard Glennan was the first superintendent.

Rolls of linen toweling are shown stacked up inside the old Albany Linen Mill. Part of linen mill crew shown here are, left to right: Barbra Friday, Grace Roberts, Libby Friday, Lila Gravenor, and Louisa Loeffel. At far right is Mr. Burk, the foreman.

In 1892 Charles Tompkins and Lemuel Warren sold the old woolen mill to an Irishman by the name of Andrew Fleming and his sister who had it moved across the street where it was used for storage. In its place they erected a large linen mill. The tow, which at first was imported from England, later domestically produced, was carded, spun and woven into toweling. By the turn



Albany Linen Mill, right, was built in 1892 and was used to manufacture linen toweling until it finally closed in 1907. Old woolen mill, left, originally occupied by the linen mill site, but was moved to south side of Main Street in 1892. In background, center, is the Nichols House Hotel.



Inside the condensery—the “Home of Wilson Milk”—these workers are busy labeling and packing canned condensed milk. Pictured, left to right, are: Jake Webb, operating labeler; Bernice Niffenegger, Laura Holtsapple Jacobson, Harry Flora and Harry Jacobson.

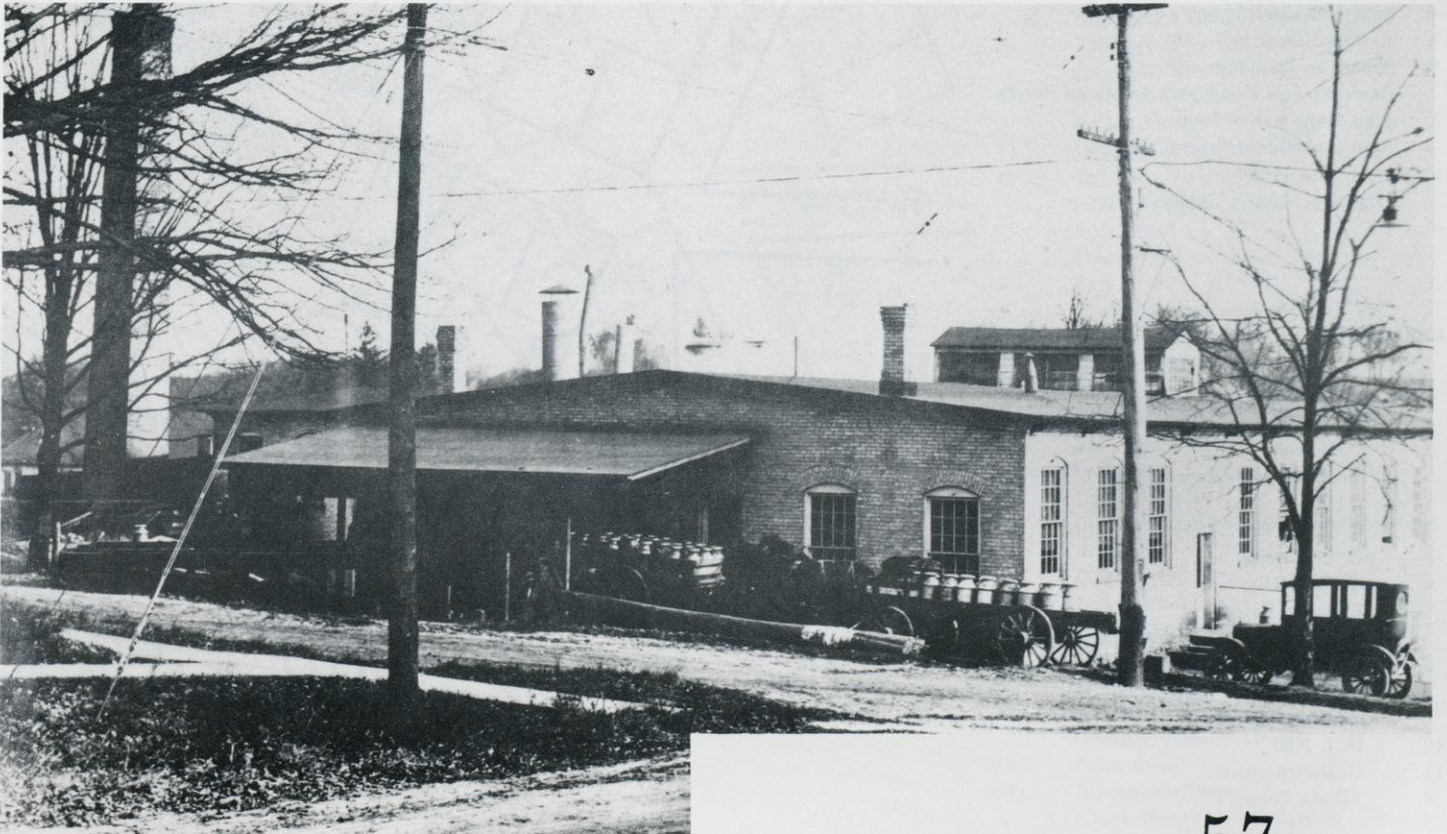
of the century the mill was sold and became Blackhawk Mills, still manufacturing toweling. Late in 1907 operations ceased and the building was vacant for many years.

In 1915 the Sugar River Canning Company was formed, and on March 11, there was the grand opening of the milk condensing plant in the old linen mill building. George Schroeder was president of the new company. In November of the same year the Indiana Condensed Milk Company bought the business. Early superintendents were Sam Parks and Cecil Pierce. From 1927 until his death in 1932, Truman Stewart was superintendent. Chester Ferguson succeeded him. This business, whose product bore the Wilson label, was an important part of the local economy, employing 35 to 50 people, and processing 35,000 to 100,000 pounds of milk a day. The plant closed in 1952 because of the declining market for evaporated milk.

The building was purchased by Emil J. Paidar, a Chicago manufacturer of barber and beauty shop equipment. As many as 40 people were employed, but by 1963 only eight people were needed, and it closed that year.

The building stood empty until it was torn down and the Riverview Apartments, senior housing, were built in 1970.

Milk haulers unloading milk at the condensery on West Main Street back in the days when milk was picked up from farmers and delivered to market with a team and wagon. Photo was probably taken in 1921 or 1922.



Dray Lines

Before the days of autos and trucks every village had one or more dray lines. A dray consisted of a wagon and a team of horses, usually bays. The wagons were flat bottomed and sometimes had very ornately painted sides with business slogans on them.

Local children might get a chance to ride up on that high front spring seat, maybe even hold the reins and drive down Main Street—the thrill that comes once in a lifetime. It was not unusual for the driver and village children to become very attached to a given horse that would sometimes last 25 years on the job. The death of such a horse was truly traumatic.

In the early papers there are frequent mentions of dray teams running away—with exciting consequences. In 1902 starting from the rear of Gevers and Heins store, a dray team ran away with a load of eggs. Careening through the alley and around the corner west, then up Water Street, it was stopped near the old engine house. Egg cases were scattered in its wake, and it sheared the rear wheels from a buggy parked on the street in front of the pool hall.

In 1917 Gothompson and Webb operated a dray line. They took pride in having the best horses and wagons to be had. They hauled coal for the condensery and other village businesses; in the summer the ice business kept them busy.

BUSINESSES

- A. Harness shop
(probably that of Capt. C. W. Burns)
- B. Bank of Albany (1858-1861)
- C. Warren Grist Mill
(owned by Hanchett and White)
- D. E. B. Dorr's blacksmith shop
- E. Charles Campbell
(dry goods and groceries)
- F. Joe Graham's harness shop
- G. Blacksmith shop
- H. Wagon shop
- I. Small grocery store
(probably owned by J. T. Chapman)
- J. Samson Tilley's wagon makers shop
- K. Farmers Hotel
(rooming house, Mr. Corliss, Prop.)
- L. James Campbell
(dry goods and groceries)
- M. Meat market
(probably that of Freeman Lewis)
- N. Hardware
- O. E. B. Noble
(hardware and implement dealer)
- P. Uriah Story
(wagon and blacksmith shop)
- Q. R. H. Hewitt
(stoves, tin and hardware)
- R. E. Bowen
(dry goods and groceries)
- S. Warren Bros.
(dry goods and groceries)
- T. Green County House
(also known as Central House, Hayden House and Commercial Hotel)
- U. Pearsons Drug Store
- V. Saw mill
- W. Sash and blind factory
- X. Kellogg's Grist Mill
- Y. American Exchange
(later Nichols House and American Hotel)
- Z. John Hahn's Shoe Shop
(had his residence upstairs)
- P.O. U. S. Post Office
(Hamilton Coates, Postmaster)

RESIDENCES

- 1. L. C. Bartlett
(he was in wagon and carriage business)
- 2. J. Rayner
(could be John Raymer)
- 3. J. Horn
- 4. R. H. Hewitt
- 5. C. L. Fayette
- 6. G. W. Hall
- 7. Ephraim Bowen
(in dry goods and general merchandise)
- 8. Hiram Bowen
- 9. C. Robinson
(in drug business)
- 10. D. J. Niel
- 11. Unknown owner
- 12. Albany School



**RESEARCH
W.K.DEHMER
FROM
MAP OF
1861**

- 13. Andrew R. Burgor
(helped to establish town of Independence one-half to three-fourths mile south of Albany, which soon failed)
- 14. Sylvester Hills
- 15. Parker Dodge
(he was in the cooper business)
- 16. Unknown owner
- 17. C. S. and Maria Tibbits
(first brick building in Albany)
- 18. Dr. Shavalia Fayette
- 19. Unknown owner
- 20. Dr. George A. Blakely
- 21. Dr. J. H. Warren
- 22. E. B. Dorr
(blacksmith shop at "D")
- 23. L. H. Warren
(in partnership with H. E. Warren—see "S")
- 24. Samson Tilley, Jr.
(wagon shop—see "J")
- 25. C. W. Tomkins
- 26. Dr. Horace T. Persons
- 27. Charles Campbell
(dry goods and groceries)
- 28. Samson Tilley, Sr.
- 29. Aaron Kellogg
(Grist Mill owner—see "X")
- 30. Unknown owner
- 31. A. Johnson
(sash, door and blind factory)
- 32. C. Warren Osgood
(printer)
- 33. S. Coates
- 34. Unknown owner
- 35. Unknown owner
- 36. J. T. Chapman
(grocery business)
- 37. Unknown owner
- 38. S. A. Pond
(probably a rental property of his)
- 39. Freeborn (Freeman) Lewis
(probably first butcher—see "M")
- 40. Richard Glennan
(mill builder)
- 41. Congregational Church
- 42. Dr. S. F. Nichols
(our first doctor)
- 43. S. A. Pond
(broker and real estate agent)
- 44. E. B. Noble
(hardware and implement dealer)
- 45. W. Hanchett
(Warren Mill)
- 46. Y. T. Lacy
(partner, Albany Times)
- 47. J. B. Perry
(attorney)
- 48. Daniel Baxter
(married Chloe Nichols—first marriage in Albany)
- 49. G. Bancroft
- 50. Union School
(now Larry Ommodt residence)
- 51. Mrs. E. O. Pond
(wife of Capt. E. O. Pond)
- 52. I. S. Dexter
(partner, Albany Times)
- 53. Paint shop
- 54. Blacksmith Shop
(Dunkelberg's, L. C. Bartlett upstairs)

Next on the scene were the early trucks with hard rubber tires, crude open cabs and flat bottoms, sometimes with stakes and boards around the platform. They were hard riding, especially over the rough roads of the day. Long Augie Wendlund and Jake Blumer had trucks of this type.

Blumer Transfer handled long distance hauling and transfer, advertising their services in the Albany Herald in 1928. In the 1930's Blumer would pick up machinery, etc., purchased in or shipped to Madison.

Tannery

In 1888 Mr. August Ackerknecht and sons founded the tannery on a small scale, and by "perservance, diligence, square dealing and hard work have built up a business that is paying them well.

"They have increased the capacity of the plant from time to time as the increase in business demanded, until they now have a well equipped steam plant, which they contemplate still further enlarging.

"They tan all sorts of fur skins, make all horse, mule and cow hides into robes, make all kinds of leather. The work they turn out in all lines compares favorably with the product of any tannery in the United States."

This business was located in the 400 block of South Mechanic Street.

Cigar Manufacturing

In 1885 the Albany Cigar Manufactory of Messrs. C. Tilley and Company, located on the west side of South Water Street, south of Main Street, was one of the most stable enterprises in the village. The business employed six hands and had expanded to occupy the second floor of the building. In 1898 they were advertising "Ponies" and "Our Special" for five cents and the "best 10-cent cigar ever made—Gold Bar."



Ice Harvesting

In the days before electric refrigeration, harvesting ice from lakes and rivers was an essential business. The ice was cut in 6 by 3 foot chunks, 17 to 6 inches thick, depending on how cold it was. It was cut with a large circular saw powered by a gasoline engine. After cutting, it was stored in an ice house; it was difficult and dangerous work.

Albany's ice house was located on the west side of North Water Street—about 207 North Water Street. The ice house had double walls filled with sawdust for insulation; the ice, too, was covered with sawdust or straw. About 700 tons were cut and stored each year.

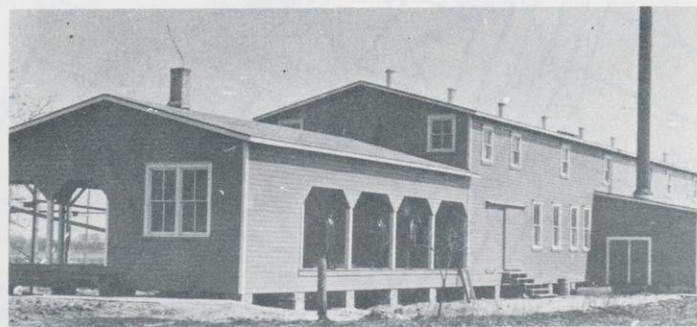
J. J. (Foxie) Blumer was the owner of the ice business in Albany. Ice was delivered to homes and businesses two or three times a week. The housewife indicated how much ice she needed by putting a card printed in large figures in the window where it could be easily spotted by the ice man.

The last time that ice was harvested in Albany was the winter of 1946-47.

Following the ice wagon to pick up the chips of ice that fell when the ice man trimmed the chunk to 25- or 50-pound size was a delight to the children of those days. But to the housewife the ice box presented some extra chores, like emptying the tray into which the melting ice drained, and shifting food about as the ice melted to keep it fresh and cool.

Canning Factory

In November of 1907 the sum of \$15,000 needed to assure Albany of a canning factory was oversubscribed.



Built in 1908, the Albany Canning Factory operated until 1923 when it finally closed. The building burned in 1925.

Chris Tilley Cigar Factory as it appeared in 1898 or 1899. Factory did a thriving business at this time, but competition from the manufacturers in other tobacco raising areas, modern equipment and growing cigarette sales eventually made business unprofitable. Pictured seated at left, Clyde Ford and Frank Barton; center, Charlie Copeland, Harry Kulp, Nate Lewis; right, Chris Tilley, Otis Thurman, Jack Francis. Two men standing, rear, not identified.



Albany Canning Factory crew around 1915 or 1916. Pictured, left to right, front row: Mrs. Burt, Mrs. Will Gravenor, Lucy Freitag, unknown, Grace Roberts, Matt Theilan, Orrie Morris, Lawrence Janes, Roy Priest, John Atherton, Jack Stewart, unknown; middle row—Tina Hamer, Delia Harrington, Etta Stewart, Em Tilley, Sarah Flora, Jen Howard, Lila Gravenor, Cindy Reese, Emily Jones, Elsie Cooney, Mr. Adams (Superintendent), Lottie Burt, Edna Walters; rear—unknown, Mrs. George Webb, Rhetty Burt, Zuie Webb, unknown, Mary Phelps, Mrs. Silas Mills, Ella Luke, Lucy Haughs, unknown, Charlie Webb, Art Stewart, Mike Jones, Bert Kingdon.

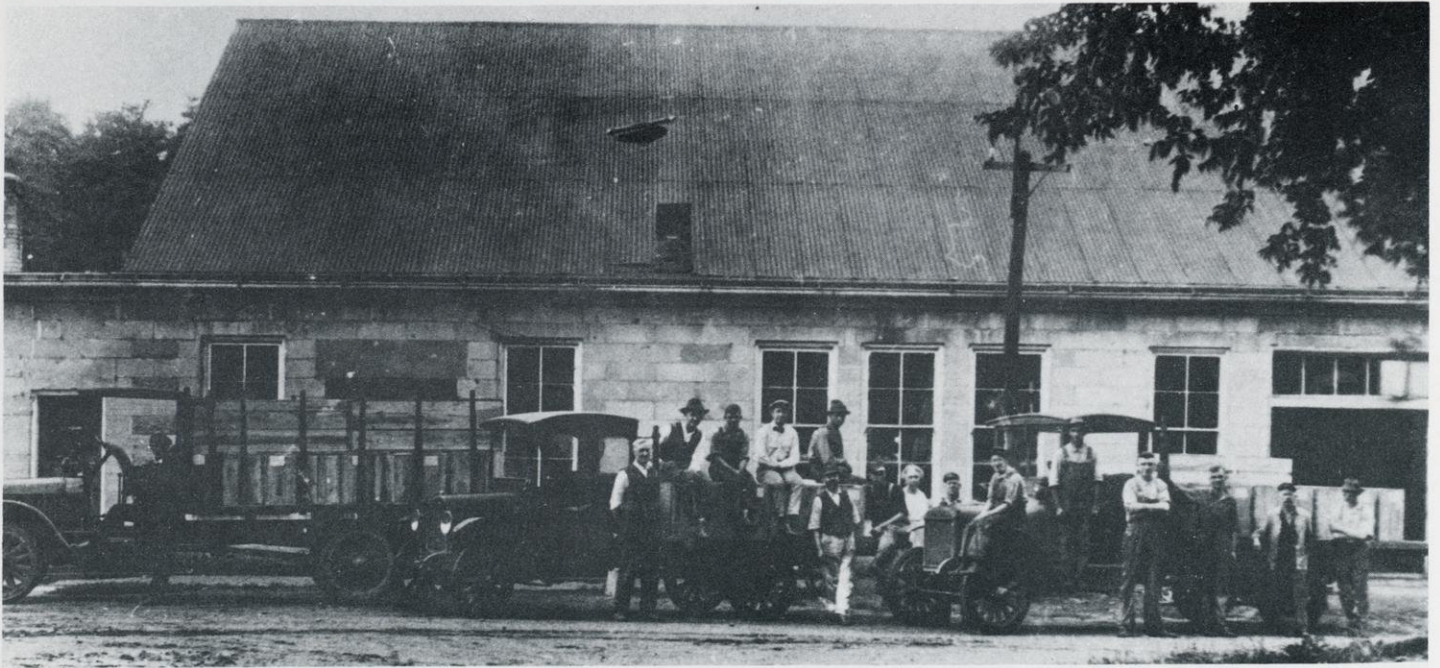
Among those leading the project were Dr. S. J. Morgan, C. S. Bishop, Will Smiley and Frank Graves. Land near the railroad track was purchased from D. J. Pryce. By spring of 1908 the 48 by 230-foot building was completed and the machinery was being installed. The factory had a capacity of 40,000 cans a day. They canned corn, peas, and tomatoes. In March of 1923 William Smith, canning factory superintendent, began to settle up accounts for the previous year because the business was not going to be operated that season. In August, 1926, the building burned, flames spreading too rapidly to be controlled. It burned to the ground; the loss was estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000. It was not rebuilt.

Latch Factory

The Whitcomb barn door latch was invented by Dr. Saxton Morgan and his brother-in-law, Harris M. Whitcomb, and was patented in 1896. Dr. Morgan had seen farmers latch their doors with string or wire and felt that



About 1911 the photographer lined up these bright-eyed, smiling youngsters in front of the latch factory for a group picture. They're all wearing "Big Jo" caps—Big Jo was a brand of flour.

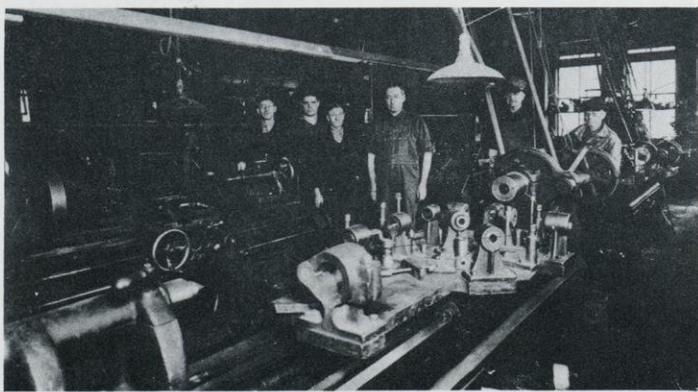


Latch factory workers pause a moment to pose beside trucks loaded with door latches bound for the Albany depot.

there must be a better way. The latch was a great success and was known all over the United States and Canada.

The Albany Hardware and Specialties Manufacturing Company building (latch factory) was erected at 201 North Water Street. The power was provided by a large engine made in France, which was fueled by crude oil.

John Wood bought the business and operated it for many years. It was sold to Fred Rust in 1957 and is now being operated by his son Tom in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Today the building is leased to Namloc.



Machinery used to manufacture door latches in the old latch factory is shown here along with some of the men who used it. Shown left to right are: Emil Steindorf, Walter Whitcomb, Harry Whitcomb, John Wood, Vic Zentner, and Odea Burt.

Miscellaneous Businesses

Frank and Grace Moyer had an antique shop on Water Street, which was discontinued after Frank's death three years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Amos Kies are the proprietors of the Yesteryear Antique Shop at 114 North Water Street.

Burgen Jewelry Store was the first shop of its kind. A. A. Wessel, a jeweler and watchmaker, kept a small jewelry shop. He was also an engraver and had engraved the loving cup presented to Mrs. Maria Tibbets on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. John Sucharski of South Milwaukee purchased the Albany Feed and Fuel Company. When he retired, John sold this business to Carl and Ed Hoehne of Iowa.

Dollar days were sponsored by Albany businessmen in the thirties; some of the prices that were quoted in the ads helps to convey an impression of those depression days.

Sugar River Cafe (Nuwashes) —
hot and cold plate lunches, 25 cents

Crawford and Thurman —
hamburg, 10 cents per pound; franks, 2
pounds for 25 cents

Albany Bakery — Cream puffs, 50 cents a dozen

Christopher and Son —
Coffee, 29 cents a pound; large can salmon,
13 cents

Hein and Francis — 100 pounds of sugar, \$4.98

Whalen's — Men's black oxfords, \$2.45;
dress gingham, 15 cents/yd.

Business Directory of 1885

The Albany business community rebounded after the disastrous fire of 1883. This business directory was published in the January 15, 1885, issue of the *Vindicator*.

General stores (groceries, dry goods and household needs)

William Green
W. H. Knapp & Co.
J. F. Litel

Drug stores (also carried groceries)

George W. Bartlett
J. W. Hicks

Meat Markets

Smith and Gravenor

Hardware stores (also carried farm machinery)

Lemmel & Warren
Osborne & Howard

Dressmakers and Milliners

Mrs. Ada Davis
Mary Greenwood
Mrs. E. W. Osborne

Tailor shop

Benkert Brothers

Boot and shoe shop

John Hahn

Jewelry store

Andrew A. Wessel

Lumber dealers

Hill & Burnham
T. G. Mitchell

Blacksmiths

Dave Pratt
J. S. Smith
D. G. Wheeler

Cooper

Parker Dodge

City Dray

J. Fred Carl

Tinsmith

Sebastian Durst
William Torboss

Tobacco Dealers

F. C. Green
Warren Howard

Barber shop

Frank Hackley

Hotels

Central House,
Peter Benson, proprietor
Nichols House,
S. S. Hills, proprietor

Public Hall

Murrey's Hall,
N. B. Murrey, proprietor

Harness shop

Humes & Bliss

Livery stable

F. S. Warren

Furniture store

J. F. Maynard

Pianos and organs

Mrs. E. J. Kellogg

Restaurants

J. A. Lockridge
Mr. and Mrs. McAtee

Cigar dealer

Tilley & Company

Wagon Makers

Tilley Brothers

Live Stock and grain dealers

Simon Brown
D. C. Stevens & Company

Newspapers

The Albany Vindicator
The Albany Journal

Insurance agent

H. T. Bemis

Wax-work

Mrs. Mary Gothompson
Mrs. Kate Mathems

Hair Goods

Mrs. William Torboss

Mills

Albany Woolen Mill, E. F. Warren
Grist Mill, Warren & Tomkins

Contractor and builder

Henry Howard

Carpenters and joiners

Walter Caradine
Erwin Howard
T. F. Keegan
Garet H. Meinert
Ira Stiff
Mort Tilley
Jake Wessel
A. L. Whitcomb
Austin A. Wessel

Masons

Willis Farmer
Mike Martin
J. J. Weaver
John E. Wall

Painters

George H. Sanders
A. W. Westerman

Physicians and surgeons

G. W. Roberts
W. C. Roberts
W. E. Zeigenfuss

Dentist

L. A. Nichols

Attorney

J. B. Perry

Notary Public

Thomas Gravenor

Private Detective

W. C. Pease

Music teacher

Mamie Howarth

Business Directory of 1983

Groceries and Meats

Village Grocery —
Walter and Eileen Althaus
110 North Water Street

Albany Locker —

Ronald and Jan Larson
121 North Water Street

Restaurants

Edgewater Cafe —
Rosalie Crabtree
101 North Water Street

Santerio's —

Terry Kopp and Sandra Koebler
106 North Water Street

Hardware

Gambles —

Dan and Beth Sobacki
116 North Water Street

Variety Stores

Linden's Corner —

Beth Wild
Ice Cream and
General Merchandise
100 North Water Street

Good Stuff —

Margaret Kauk, Hazel Ommodt
and Sue Dunphy
Handcrafted items
113 North Water Street

Kundert's Kountry Store —

Holly and Gene Kundert
Liquidation Store
111 North Water Street

Taverns

Flynn's Bar —

Richard and Rena Flynn
103 North Water Street

Clay's Corner Bar —

Clay B. Sowl
120 North Water Street

Center Tavern —

Gary and Colleen Brewer
108 North Water Street
As of July 1, 1983, it will be
owned by Dennis Rhyner and
Danny Aeschliman.

Beauticians

Carol's New Image —
Carol Astin
115 North Water Street

Joanne's Riverside Salon —

Joanne Sellnow
408 South Mill Street

Bank

Bank of Albany
102 West Main Street

Laundry

Albany Laundromat —
Melvin Arneson
200 East Main Street

Bowling

Albany Lanes —
John and Laurie Thill
212 East Main Street

Carpet Shop

Gohlke Carpet Shop —
Gale and Carol Gohlke
102 North Water Street

Funeral Home

Gohlke Funeral Home —
Gale and Carol Gohlke
403 West Nichols Street

Antique Shop

Yesteryear Antique Shop —
Amos Kies
114 North Water Street

Auto Repair

S M Auto Service —
Sanford Moore
214 East Main Street
Arthur Fredenberg
403 North Cincinnati Street

Service Stations

Union Cooperative
105 North Mechanic Street
Mobile Service — Olin Oil Company
Highway 59 and Cincinnati Street

Silo Construction and Repair

Albany Silo —
Wayne Monte
206 East Main Street

Feed Mill and Farm Supplies

Green-Rock FS Cooperative
300 North Cincinnati Street

Livestock Hauling

Luedy Stockyards —
Ralph Luedy
401 South Park Street

Farm Supply

Krueger Farm Supply —
Eugene Krueger
County E and Highway 59
Krueger Tire Service
Dennis Krueger
County E and Highway 59

Dealers in Livestock

Pryce Brothers —
William and Greg Pryce
Route 1, Brodhead

Real Estate

Albertson Realty and Auction Service
304 North Mechanic Street
Larry Stefanik Realty
Route 1, Albany

Insurance

Barton Insurance Company
Robert Gressman
205 East Main Street
Fred Baertschi and Dennis Ruef —
While their offices are located
elsewhere, they are active in
the Albany community.

Excavating

Kranig Excavating, Inc. —
Alvin and Gary Kranig
704 Fourth Street

Newspapers

Albany Herald —
George Martin
200 Oak Street
Albany Agenda —
William and Helen Capellaro
102 North Water Street

Implement Dealer

Krostue Implement —
John Deere Agency
Edward Killingstad, Garland
Rankins and Jerry Briggs
102 South Mechanic Street

Industries

Namloc, Inc. —
Subsidiary of Barber Coleman
Company, Rockford, Illinois
Precision Grinding
Claire Pryce, Manager
201 North Water Street
Mike Rock Rifled Barrels, Inc. —
Rifle barrel boring for
commercial type guns
Ogden Avenue in the
Industrial Park

Accurate Machine and Tool —

Alfred Roenneberg
Tool and Die Business
101 North Taylor Street

Albany Industries, Inc.

Albany Carbide Corporation
Duane Dixon is president and
general manager of this company,
which deals in asphalt maintenance
products. The company's territory
includes all of Wisconsin, Iowa,
Minnesota and northern Illinois.
There are seven salesmen represent-
ing the company and a crew of five
to seven men doing the sealing and
crack filling. The headquarters is
located at 800 Briggs Drive.

Ogden of Wisconsin

Ogden of Wisconsin, a division of
Ogden Manufacturing of Arlington
Heights, Illinois, has been located
in Albany since 1980. Mr. Ray
Grendys is chairman of the board.

Among items manufactured in
the Albany division are band
heaters, cartridge heaters and
thermo-couples. Carl Martin is the
manager of the local plant.

Ogden of Wisconsin has been
growing steadily since it was located
here, and now employs 40 people.
In 1982 an addition to the building
was built to furnish more manufac-
turing and warehouse space. It is
located in the Albany Industrial
Park.

SCHOOLS

The first school in what was to be the village of Albany was the "old stone school house," built in the late 1840's and located on the Nichols property which today is 203 Washington Street, the Ommodt home. Some accounts say that the old building is a part of the house, but Mrs. Tibbetts, writing in 1924, said that the school house was torn down at the time the home was built, and a large stone door step was the only portion of the old building remaining. This building was used for church services and Sunday school, as well as public school.

In 1857 a new school was built on the east side of the river, up on the hill where the present day schools stand.

It was a square two story building, with one room on each floor. The first teacher was Ed Rockwood. In the 1860's the upper room teacher was John Stevens who "ruled the room by force." He was the only person in town to take a daily paper, and he would bring it to school and read the dispatches from the Civil War battlegrounds to his students. A later teacher, a timid young man, could not handle the big boys who attended school during the winter. Then a brawny redhead, Mr. Smith, came, used his fists, and peace reigned. The school was not graded and there was no compulsory attendance.

In 1865 this school was referred to as a "select school" and was very successful. A school exhibition was held at the Congregational Church, the program consisting of declamations, singing, music by the Albany Cornet Band and a reading of "The Gem of Truth."



New school built in 1857 on east side of the river where present school complex now stands. This building had one room on each floor. First teacher was Ed Rockwood, and in 1860's upper room teacher was John Stevens. Building was eventually torn down and lumber sold to a local farmer.

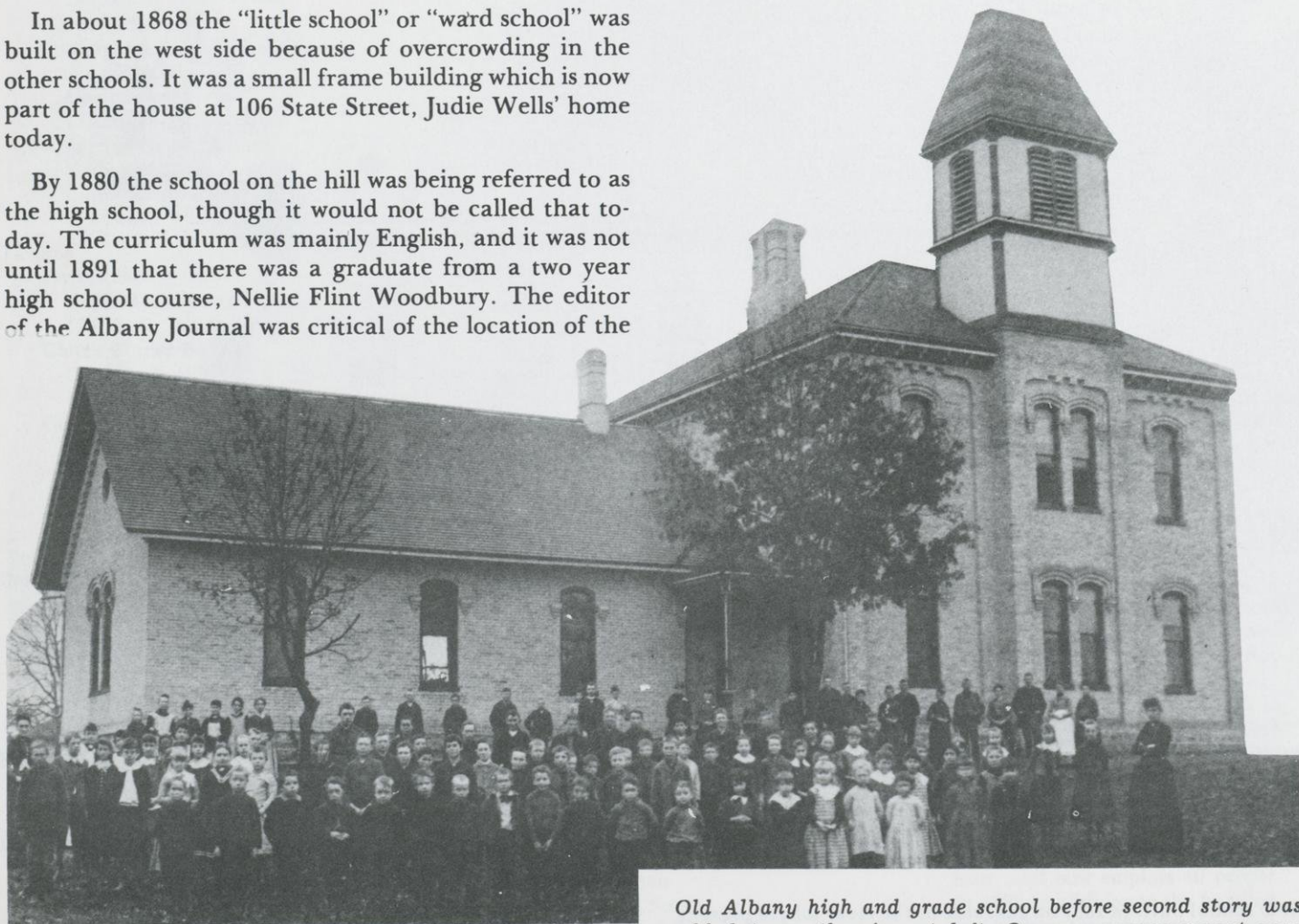
Building with one room on the west side of the river because of overcrowding in the other schools. The frame building is now a part of house at 106 West State Street. Teacher, center, is Lettie Pryce.



About 1868, the "little" or "ward" school was built on the west side of the river because of overcrowding in the other schools. The frame building is now a part of house at 106 West State Street. Teacher, center, is Lettie Pryce.

In about 1868 the "little school" or "ward school" was built on the west side because of overcrowding in the other schools. It was a small frame building which is now part of the house at 106 State Street, Judie Wells' home today.

By 1880 the school on the hill was being referred to as the high school, though it would not be called that today. The curriculum was mainly English, and it was not until 1891 that there was a graduate from a two year high school course, Nellie Flint Woodbury. The editor of the Albany Journal was critical of the location of the



Old Albany high and grade school before second story was added to north wing at left. One newspaper report says children came to the "new" school on the hill before the entire school was built, indicating that the one-story wing was built first.

school, writing that "citizens are sick at seeing their children climbing Jacob's ladder to reach the high school building," and he hoped that the rumors about moving it down the hill would prove to be true.

pupils in these subjects: Orthoepy, Orthography, Reading, Writing, Geography, Grammar, United States History, United States Constitution, Wisconsin Constitution and Physiology.



High school graduating class of 1898 was required to complete only a two-year course, common at that time. Graduates, left to right, are: rear—Harriet Thurman, Altha Graves, Emma Croake, Coyla Flint, Etta Atkinson, Ora White, and Professor Babcock; front—Mary Broderick, Henry Woodhead, Charles Reese, Grace Barton.

In July, 1887, there was a school meeting to decide on the building of a new school. About 100 citizens were present, about one-third of them women, who took an active part in the proceedings. The editor wrote: "This is the first time the ladies have had equal rights. . . in an election in this state, and we note it as a mark of advanced civilization." It was decided to purchase one acre east of the river and to erect a school large enough for 72 pupils. Seven hundred dollars was voted for that purpose with \$275 for general expenses. By November the new school was nearing completion.

In January, 1888, Miss Hattie Colton, the efficient teacher of the primary school on the west side, took her books and with her scholars moved into the new brick school on the east side where they would be warm and comfortable. The new school was a fine building, a credit to all. This is the one story wing of the old brick building used for so many years.

A month after the vote to build the small brick building, at another meeting, it was decided to build a two-story brick addition, which would be a high school. The specifications could be seen at Osborne and Howard's store. The contract was let for \$4,330 to B. S. Hoxie of Evansville. An interesting note is that there was almost immediate dissatisfaction with the new building. The floors were said to be sagging and it was called unsafe. However, it remained in use until 1939.

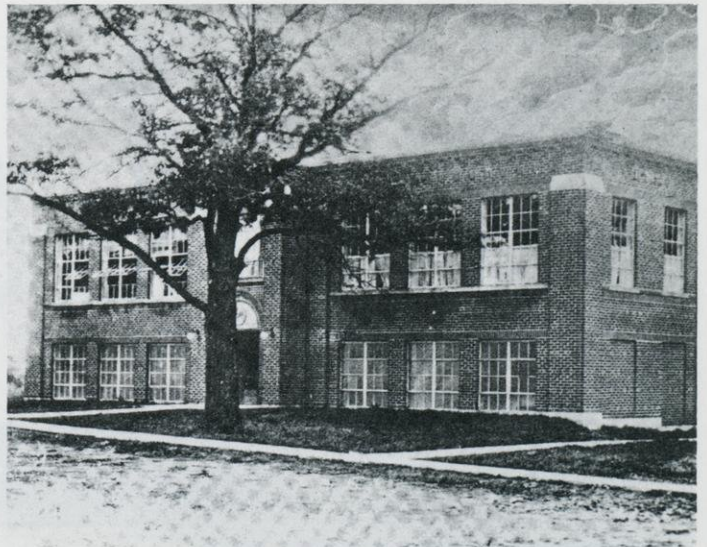
The old frame school building was sold to Walter Caradine who tore it down and removed it to his farm where the lumber was used to build a barn.

In 1887 J. L. Sherron, County Superintendent of Schools, notified the teachers of an examination for

In 1900 the school building was remodelled considerably. A second story was added to the grade school wing, larger windows were installed, halls and stairs were widened and steam heat was provided.

Miss Annie Copely and Professor Babcock worked hard to win the high school an accredited rating; they were successful in 1897, and the school became a public high school. The class of 1900 was the first to graduate under the four year course of study.

Popular activities in early high school years were dramatics and debating clubs. Occasionally, at daily opening exercises, spelldowns which included the entire high school, were held. Basketball was played in the Opera House before the students really knew the rules or had a teacher who did.



Now the oldest part of the present school system, this building was built to house the high school in 1923.

In 1916 there were two teachers and a principal in the high school, Miss Thorngate, Hertha Zarwell and N. H. Brainerd, their salaries for the year totaling \$2,080. Subjects taught were: German, History, Botany, English, Algebra, Physiology, Physics, Grammar, Arithmetic and General Science.

A former student (and later teacher) tells this story about Mr. Brainerd. He was courting his wife-to-be, who lived in another town. On Friday afternoon he always left early to catch the train, grabbing his coat and putting it on as he ran down the stairs, unnoticed, he hoped. A high school senior took a dare and sewed his coat sleeves shut, causing him considerable trouble as he made his hasty exit. He did not mention this episode to anyone until he returned to Albany for the 50th reunion of a high school class.

The students of early days enjoyed another prank. They would cut off the bell rope in the belfry so that they could not be called to class. A favorite game was anti-I-over, played by tossing a ball over the outdoor privies, which remained in use until 1923.

In 1918 a girls' Domestic Science class was being held in the house at 201 Milwaukee Street. The girls wore caps and aprons which was the standard uniform for Domestic Science in those days.

The next school construction was in 1923 when the oldest part of the present school was built. This became the high school building, and the grade school used the old 1888 building. The new building had three classrooms, (later, four) a main room and a gymnasium. The teachers and pupils helped move equipment from the old building into the new.

Among the speakers at the formal opening ceremonies was Mrs. C. S. Bishop who had taught in Albany in

1868. The school received a relic from the Battleship WISCONSIN through the courtesy of Senator Lenroot. O. G. Briggs presented it and made a brief talk.

In 1925 there were a principal and seven teachers, grade and high school, their salaries totaling \$9,542.59. Latin was added to the curriculum this year.

A high school band was started in 1928 under the leadership of Prof. John Hughes. In 1932 the band won first place at the District and State band tournaments. Before this there had been a small instrumental group taught by Alice Barton and Alfred Nelson. In 1930 Agriculture was added to the curriculum; Victor Elmer was the first teacher.

In the thirties it was recognized that the old building was inadequate, and that the dump near the school should be removed. In August of 1938 at the annual school meeting the vote in favor of a new building was 57 to 1, with one person abstaining. The building was a W. P. A. project, with \$27,000 of the \$58,165 cost granted by the Federal government. Laborer's wages for the construction were 45 cents an hour. This addition provided four classrooms, grade school gymnasium and new washrooms. The old brick building with the belfry that had been used by generations of Albany children was sold to a Milwaukee firm for \$200 and torn down.

There were two innovations in 1941; pre-school was offered for the first time, and a hot lunch program was added. Lona Lewis was the cook. The cost was 25 cents a week. Mrs. Harry "Bertie" Thurman became the cook in 1945 and stayed for 22 years.

At the annual school meeting in 1945 it was voted unanimously to purchase two school buses for transporting rural children, the cost not to exceed \$6,000.



By 1957 plans were being made for another school addition, and an option taken on adjacent land. In June of 1958 work was started on the building, which would include several new classrooms, a principal's office and an activity room, for a cost of \$129,795. This addition connected the high school and the grade school.

In November of 1963 a citizen's school study committee recommended to the board that they proceed with plans for a new building addition which would include more classrooms and a new gymnasium. There was a serious space problem at the school because of the closing of the area rural schools. Kindergarten was being held in the Peebles School and the Special Opportunity Class in the Smiley School. At a special meeting, the largest ever held, the vote was 222 to 26 in favor of a new building, for an estimated cost of \$412,000. It was felt that this would be the last school construction needed; also that it would help to assure that the high school would stay in Albany.



Albany High School graduating class of 1928 included, left to right: George Roberts, Stanley Knight, Earl Gillette, Vaughn Whipple, Helen Coplien, Alice Davis, Lucille Michaels, Marcelline Graves, and Ila Webb.

In the fall of 1965 there was an open house for the new addition, which contained four high school classrooms, a kindergarten room, a special education room, two grade school classrooms, new hot lunch kitchen and serving area, spacious lobby, kitchenette for serving at games, new locker and shower rooms, new band room with practice rooms and a new teachers' lounge. The old music room/cafeteria was partitioned to make two art classrooms. The new gymnasium was not yet finished. Other new items were the intercom system and the steel gates to shut off parts of the building when evening activities were being held.

In 1980 need was felt for new rooms for Vocational Agriculture and Industrial Arts, which in turn would

give space for additional educational equipment. Other improvements would be to the Home Economics and Business Education facilities. Ramps for the handicapped and additional fire and smoke doors would be installed. At a meeting of citizens in May 1981, the vote was 91 to 70 to proceed with the building for an estimated cost of \$325,000. In April 1982 an open house for the new addition was held and was well attended.

Two teachers had long careers in Albany schools and touched the lives of many area residents.

Alice Barton taught English, music, girl's physical education and coached drama. She is remembered as a firm but fair teacher who set high standards for her students. After more than 25 years of teaching she retired in 1960. In addition to teaching she had many other interests in the community—the library, her music and the Methodist Church being among them.

Victor Elmer came to Albany in 1930, and was Green County's first Smith-Hughes Vocational Agriculture teacher. In addition, at different times he taught Physics, eighth grade woodworking and coached basketball. He was involved with Future Farmers of America and 4-H organizations for all those years. He promoted and supervised the planting of thousands of pine trees in the Albany area, getting as many as 10,000 per year from the state. An avid fisherman, he recalls that when visiting students' farm homes during the summer to supervise their projects, he often had a fishing rod in the car, which was used when his journeys took him across Sugar River.

William Kahl, who was a teacher and supervising principal in Albany from 1931 until 1944, became State Superintendent of Schools in January 1966.

Progress from the Stone Schoolhouse with one teacher to the spreading campus on the hill with a professional staff of 36 and a broad curriculum is not only a dramatic example of the growth of education in Albany but also a tribute to its citizens' dedication to the future of their children. The school system has grown because the people have taken an active interest in every facet of its development. One of the best indicators of the integrity of their system is that the Albany schools have just initiated a self-evaluation process. Over the next six years the staff will be scrutinizing their curricula and their methods at every grade level and in every subject area, the purpose of the exercise to improve educational quality for all students in the district.

Rural Schools

The early rural settlers were as concerned with schooling for their children as were the citizens of the new settlement of Campbell's Ford.

These recollections about the first Smiley School are typical for schools of the time.

The school, 17 by 17 feet, was built of logs, for a cost of \$30. The cracks were filled with mud and the roof covered with shakes. The first stove, brought from Janesville by Asa Comstock, cost \$7. The "water system," a pail and a bucket, cost 56 cents. When there was an enrollment of 60 pupils, some had to sit on the window sills.

The older boys worked in the spring and fall and went to school only during the winter. Consequently, in the winter term there were many bewhiskered students, who often needed stern guidance.





TOWNLIN SCHOOL in 1920. The teacher, standing in the rear is Lucy Smith. Pupils in the left section: boy in front, Fay Brewer; next row, boy on left unknown, boy on right, Manny Purinton; girl in white, a Raymer; next row, boy on left unknown, boy on right, Jay Trow; girl on left, Louella Smith; girl in rear, Helen Watkins. Center section: girl in front, Melva Brewer; next row, Royce Ross and John Popanz; last row, Arlie Ross and a Popanz boy. Right side of room, front to back: Gilbert Schneider, Herman Schneider, Rose Popanz, Sarah Schneider.

This school building was on Townline Road in Brooklyn Township, but most pupils and board members were residents of Albany Township. The first school in this district was taught in a "claim shanty" in 1850. Mary Barnes was the first teacher. This school was closed in 1939 and was torn down a few years ago.

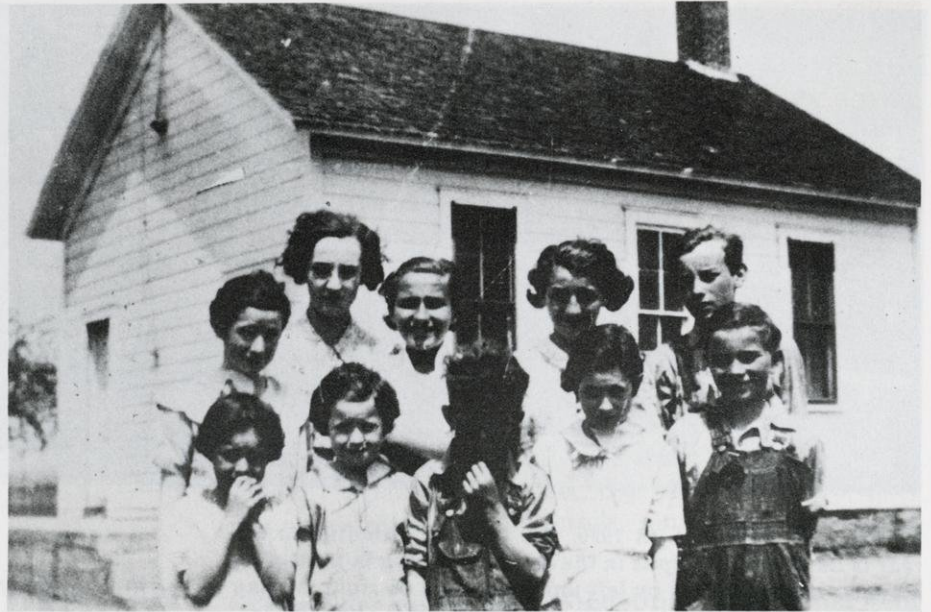
PEEBLES SCHOOL in 1884. Front row, left to right: Louie Reese, Charley Reese, Anne Larson, Rena Larson, Sophia Larson, Margaret Dunphy, Anne Dunphy, Tommie Dunphy, Johnnie Watts. Second row, Left to right: Susan Watts, Lily Eldred, Nellie Dunphy, Mary J. Lewis (teacher), Maggie Dunphy, Edith Adams. Third row, left to right: Tommie Watts, Frank Broughton, Dave Watts, Ray Broughton, Ned Lewis, Arthur Partridge, Willie Phillips, Ada Reese, Ethel Patterson, Maude Lewis, Ina Eldred, Tesha Finn, Dolly Partridge, Gertie Partridge. Men in back row: Ed Peebles, Ollie Perry, Dick Reese. In the windows: Emily Peebles, Nell Rafter (or Abbie Griffin).

This is the third of four school buildings which have served this district. As early as 1850, school was taught by Susan J. Taggart in the log house belonging to James Spencer. In 1852 a log school house was built; Phoebe Rockwell was the first teacher. In 1864 a frame building was erected, and was followed by this brick building in 1884. It was struck by lightning and burned in 1921. It was replaced by the red brick building on Highway 59 east of Albany which is now a residence.

OAK CORNERS SCHOOL (formerly called Broughton School and Eldred School) shown in about 1909. Pupils are, front row, left to right: Earl McCaslin, Bert McCaslin, Louis Moore, Harleigh Peckham. Second row, left to right: William Conners, Delle Atkinson, Dale Atkinson, Harry Burcalow, Grace Burcalow. Back row, left to right: Teacher, Jessie Dodge, Frances Atkinson, Jessie Peckham, Maude Moore, Bessie Burcalow. The first school was a log building; Sarah Cass was the teacher. This district joined Albany in 1953, and the remodeled building, on Atkinson Road, is now the home of Mary Atkinson Rogers, former pupil and teacher at the school.



ENGLISH SETTLEMENT SCHOOL about 1936. Pupils are, front row, left to right: Dolores Dunphy, "Nidge" Dunphy, Robert Flood, Bernadine Dunphy, Fred Baertschi. Back row, left to right: Mary Dunphy, Alice Davis Zimmerli (teacher), Wilma Baertschi, Miriam Davis, Franklin Dittmer. School was first taught in 1853-54 in a house belonging to William Rolfe. The next year a log school house, which was also used for church services, was built. This frame building followed and was used until the school closed in 1943. The school, which stood on English Settlement Road, across from and north of the cemetery, was moved to the Henry Rhymer farm, where it is now used as a shed.



NORWEGIAN SCHOOL IN 1908. Pupils are, front row, left to right: Alma Johnson, Fern Jacobson, Julia Zwickey, Ada Gilbertson, a visitor, name unknown, Ruth Jacobson. Second row, left to right: Thelma Gilbertson, Genevieve Jacobson, Paul Jacobson, Harold Zwickey. Back row, left to right: Teacher, Blanche Davis Jones, Luther Kittleson, Roy Shafer, Ina Gilbertson, Ida Shafer. The first school was taught by Martha Taggart at Syver Gothompson's house in 1853. The same year a log school house was erected and was used until this stone building was built. It was torn down in 1920 and the stone used in the foundation of the brick school on Highway EE, which closed in 1962. It is used as a residence today.

McDERMOTT SCHOOL about 1930. Pupils are, front row, left to right: Dorothy Jean Kildow, Margaret Rothen, Josephine Croake, Carl Ebnetter, Constance Croake, Edwin Rothen, Bob Spinhirne. Back row, left to right: Phillip Croake, Viola Kildow, Burton Reese. Agnes Croake was the teacher. In 1865 the first term of the school was taught by Peter B. Pierson in William Francis' house. In 1866 this stone school house was built. The school has been closed for many years, and the building on McDermott Road has been used as a summer home.



ALLEN CREEK SCHOOL in 1895. Pupils are, front row, left to right: Spencer Francis, Ida Lockwood, Maude Lewis, Blanche Davis, Ethel Lewis, Ed Davis, Newton Davis, Warren Smout, Ray Trow. Back row, left to right: Ethel Davis, Maggie Bufton, Elza Patchen, Tom Francis, Vira Trow, Erma Lockwood, Leonard Smout, Frank Francis, John Patchen, John Bufton. The teacher, on the far right, is Etta Zacke and the girl near her is Nettie Flint, who was visiting for the day.

A bee was held in about 1849 to cut logs and build a school. Orisna Higday was the first teacher. The log school was in use for some time until this frame building was erected. The school, which was located on Highway EE near the Allen Creek bridge, was sold after it closed in the 1930's and is now a shed on the Jack Patchen farm.



SMILEY SCHOOL This photograph was taken in 1901 at the annual Smiley School picnic. The first school was a log building, after which school was held in a house belonging to Daniel Smiley. In 1855 this stone building was erected. This district joined Albany in 1953, and the school house, on Highway 59 west of Albany, has been converted into a dwelling.

CHURCHES

There were no ministers of the gospel among the early settlers, but through the untiring efforts of Chloe Pond, Louisa M. Nichols and Maria I. Pond who canvassed every family in the neighborhood, a Sabbath School was organized in 1846. Maria Pond Tibbetts, in a paper written in her later years said, "Admiring the beauty of Sugar River, the surrounding groves that were God's first temples and having been active in Sabbath School, we went with a horse and buggy and visited the homes of the settlers within a radius of six miles. Finding an empty schoolhouse with a dirt floor by the roadside just east of Mr. Hudson's place (now the home of the Nick Quints) we felt that this would be a fine place to hold our meetings. We had no difficulty in interesting the people and at the first meeting the little building was filled to capacity. The meeting was opened by reading a passage from the testament and then all recited the Lord's Prayer. Mr. S. A. Pond led the singing with an old fashioned tuning fork. No one denomination was strongly represented but all worked together cheerfully proving that in unity there is strength."

In cold weather the meetings had to be held in the village. The people all took an active interest, and by consistent attendance a wide-awake and instructive Sabbath School was continued for several years.

About 1849 a stone school house was built in Albany and the Sabbath School then met there regularly. Passing ministers would often preach at the meetings. One of the earliest preachers who remained in Green County was S. L. Eldred who had come to this vicinity in 1843 and remained until his death. It soon became apparent a church should be built and as no denomination had the numbers to build by itself, a Union Church was erected where the present Baptist Church stands. Reverend J. D. Stevens, a Congregational minister, held the first services. Reverend James Jameson, another Congregational minister, came after Reverend Stevens left and thus this church came to be known as Congregational Church. As the numbers of worshippers grew, the need for a musical instrument was felt, so Maria Pond's four-octave melodeon was carried back and forth from her home for each meeting.

A large bell hanging in the steeple was rung for each meeting. Some time in the winter of 1876 it became cracked one frosty morning, and by December of 1887 it had been the cause of so many "profane" remarks every time it was rung that it was felt it must be taken down and replaced with a new one. Thanks were rendered to Parker Dodge who persevered in raising the necessary funds to purchase a new bell. These funds were raised by

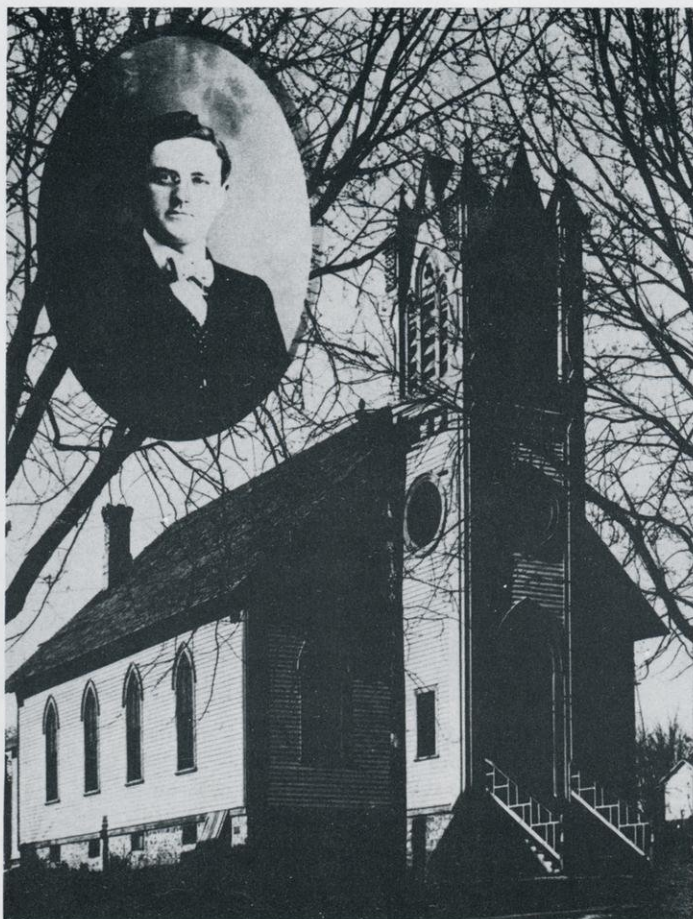
subscription from the congregation. When the church was sold to the Baptists in 1885, the bell was saved and hung in the new building. One group who gave money for the bell and also helped to raise funds for an organ was called the "Innominata Society." Their donation was \$20. Their club, composed of young women of the village, met for recreation, fun and entertainment.

Albany United Methodist

Very early in Albany's history a Methodist Episcopal class was organized in what was Oak Corners School, now Mary Rogers' home. The Class was organized by Elder Hussey; first members were Jeremiah Brewer, B. Davenport, John and Thomas Ash. Because nearly all the members of this class had moved away by 1844, the class disbanded. The stone school house on the Nichols property was the next site in 1855 for the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Among the first members were Ann Eliza Jones, the families of V. H. Van Curen, D. S. Smith, Ashael Hills and Henry Dickenson. Several ministers served this congregation until the arrival of E. W. Allen, who held services at the Kelly school house, later known as the Oak

Albany Methodist Church was built in 1884 at a cost of \$4,000. Shown is the church and its pastor in 1907.



Hill school—now the home of Orval Albright. In 1873 Reverend Richard Pengilly came to serve and remained until 1876.

During the ministry of Reverend George Tyacke, who came in 1882, the present church was built. Mrs. Chloe Nichols, though not a member of the Methodist faith, donated the property on South Mill Street, then valued at \$400, for the church. The entire community felt that she deserved a hearty thanks for the generous gift which was "for the benefit of her neighbors, the good name that fine churches give to a community and the morality of its people." The entire cost of the property was \$4,000 and at the dedication on September 24, 1884, members were asked to subscribe \$1,000.

Reverend F. Howarth, the next pastor in late 1884, was paid a yearly salary of \$550. Originally the church windows were plain glass, but in 1890 the frames were removed, sent to Chicago and the glass replaced with cut glass. A steeple bell—still in place in 1983—was purchased from subscriptions; a large kerosene chandelier was the only source of inside light.

In November and December, 1899, the stores in the village closed at 7:30 each evening to enable people to attend the great revival meeting being held at the M. E. church. On the closing Sabbath of the revival the entire congregation went to the banks of the river for the immersion baptism of two men and four women. Reverend H. B. Brenneman was the pastor.

At the turn of the century class meetings were held not only in the church at Albany but also at Attica where Joseph Bartlett was the leader, and at Kelly with Richard Pace as the leader. In Albany Frank Atkinson, father of F. L. Atkinson, acted as leader. Many of his descendants are still active in the church.

During the pastorate of J. E. Holden in 1902, Frank Roberts of Albany received his first exhorter's license; he is the only minister this church has produced.

From 1910 to 1916 two important projects were completed—a basement under the church was excavated, making a community center where Sunday School classes could be held and providing a place for all church social gatherings; also, the present red brick parsonage was built.

In 1918 when the entire country was stricken with the flu epidemic, the pastor was Reverend George Foster, whose fatherly solicitude for his parishioners ill with the flu was appreciated. The tenure of Reverend A. B. Nimz, who served for six years beginning in 1923, is still fondly recalled by his former Sunday School pupils. When the young people of the Epworth League planned a social gathering, he insisted that they invite their high school friends who belonged to the Baptist and Catholic Churches to join them for the evening—intimations of ecumenism.



Methodist Church as it looked in 1882.

Reverend W. C. Snow and his family arrived in 1929 and remained until 1936. When he retired from the ministry, he and Mrs. Snow returned to Albany where they remained. After 1936 pastors seemed to come and go at two year intervals until Bruce Willett came to replace his father, whose sudden death left the parish without a minister.

In 1939 the church was designated Methodist instead of Methodist Episcopal, which it had been. In 1954 the altar was dedicated as a memorial to Russell and Myrtle Atkinson; the cross and candlestick set, a memorial from Mabel Gillette in honor of her grandson, Gordon Steindorf; and the large Bible was a gift in memory of Bert Pryce.

The name United Methodist became official in 1969 when Methodists and United Brethren combined.

Reverend Quentin Meracle, who came in 1974, resumed serving Peace United Methodist Church (about seven miles northeast of Albany), as well as the Albany congregation. The carillon, heard throughout the village three times a day was donated in memory of Alice Barton, who died in 1970. Former church members, Stanton and Barbara Steuri donated a set of hand bells, which are played at services and programs to the delight of listeners.

During the pastorate of Reverend Dan Mitchell in 1979 new siding was placed on the outside of the church, a \$15,000 project which was given substantial assistance by Jessie Rendall, in memory of her sister Mary Sowl, and by Isabelle Sharer Hixon in memory of her husband Truman Sharer.

A sidewalk and ramp for wheel chairs was built in 1981 with money donated by the Sisson family in memory of their father Louis and in honor of their mother Ethel.

In 1982 the remodeling project began which closed the windows in the basement, insulated and panelled the walls, installed a new ceiling and lights. The ceiling was paid for with a memorial fund from Lester Peckham; financial help with the rest of the project was provided in large measure by Francis Atkinson in memory of his late wife, Lucille.

Willing Workers of Albany Baptist Church are shown at a meeting of the ladies' group in about 1915. Pictured, left to right are: front row—(probably) Avah Wood, Clara Peterson, Rosie Rhyner, and Edna Malkow. Middle row—(in white) Mabel Jones, Mary Zentner, Vera Moldenhauer, Blanche Jones, Essie Christopher, Dagmar King. Back row—Jetta Johnson, Addie Loeffel, Orpha Hulburt, Wilma Francis, Beth Wood, Jetta Hulburt. Meeting was at the Myron Flint farm.

Today there are 187 members of the Albany United Methodist Church. Services are presided over by the first woman minister in the history of Albany church—Reverend Marjorie Rice-Myers.

First Baptist Church

Sixteen members of the Gap Church requested permission by letter to form a Baptist Church in Albany in February, 1877. Meetings were held in the Peebles School and in the Grange Hall (now known as Village Hall) and the final organization occurred on March 3, 1877. At first they met for services at the Deacon Carver place and then at various other sites, including the old Congregational Church. With members coming not only from the Gap Church but also the English Settlement Church and the Peebles District as well as converts in the village, the congregation increased from its original 16 to 46 members. Elected deacons were John Lacey and L. F. Moore, and the church became a regularly constituted Baptist Church on May 28, 1877, officially admitted to the Janesville Baptist Association at Juda on September 20, 1877. Elder Smith, the first pastor, administered the sacrament of Baptism to seven new converts of the Baptist faith on Sunday afternoon in February according to an item in the Albany Journal.





Albany Baptist Church as it appeared in 1907. Church was built in 1886. Pictured above the church is the pastor of the church in 1907.

“About 200 people assembled at the river and on the bridge to witness the ceremony. As the ice was loosened from the shore and floated by the swift current down stream, the Elder proceeded out into the water; such a chattering of teeth was never before heard as ran through the crowd on the bridge. The solemn ceremony was performed without the least interruption.”

Church records were burned in a fire in 1883 which destroyed Maynard's store where the records were stored. In 1885 Brother Maynard was appointed to see what could be done about having a regular meeting place. The trustees of the Congregational Church transferred their property at the corner of Main and Jackson Streets to the Baptist congregation. Since the building needed to be replaced, it was sold to Eugene Warren for \$60. He moved it to the east side and made two dwellings from it. A new church, the main part of which was 34 by 50 feet, was built with the help of day labor. On the south side of the building was a lecture room, and a vestibule and tower extended in front of the main portion. Cost of the building, exclusive of the land, was \$3,642.91. The parish ladies raised enough money to purchase a chandelier, lamps, and carpets. More funds were needed, however, and they continued their projects, one of them being a dinner at the Grange Hall. The charge for the dinner was 15 cents; proceeds amounted to \$10.60. The church was dedicated on January 16, 1887, the sermon on this occasion being

delivered by Reverend D. E. Haltman of Delavan. Reverend D. W. Hill of the Gap Church and Reverend James Lawson of the Albany Methodist Church assisted at the dedication ceremony.

Services at the Baptist Church were published regularly in the Albany Vindicator and in 1898 read: “Preaching every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday School at the close of morning service; General Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening; Covenant meeting the first Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m.; Young People's Union every Saturday evening at 6:15—P. S. Rogers, Pastor.”

Reverend David and Mrs. Porterfield were the first residents of the Baptist parsonage in Albany, which was built in the early 1900's. The late Reverend H. A. Erickson served the longest period of time—more than 19 years.

Except for the steeple, which was struck by lightning during Reverend Erickson's pastorate, the exterior of the church looks in 1983 very much as it did when it was built. There are today 126 members and the pastor is Reverend William McIntyre.

Baptist Church as it appears today. Exterior of the church was being repaired and painted when photo was taken.



St. Patrick's Catholic Church

For the first few years a missionary priest, Father Michael McFaul, came from Milwaukee once a month to the Croake settlement to celebrate Mass and to administer the sacraments of Penance, Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony. Mass was said at one of the homes, usually at the home of Jimmy the King or Jimmy the Carpenter. Weather often delayed or prevented Father McFaul's arrival. On one occasion a young couple, Annie Ward and James Ennis, were awaiting the priest's coming so that they might be married. When he failed to make it because of heavy rain and impassable roads, they walked to Janesville where the ceremony was performed. Spinning their wool while they listened, grandmothers assumed the responsibility for eliciting letter perfect answers to the catechism questions.



First St. Patrick's Catholic Church was built in 1863 and served the parish for 100 years before being torn down in 1964.

In time priests from Monroe and Janesville served these people. When Father Sullivan of Monroe decided in 1863 that it was time that Albany had a church, James the Carpenter was one of the builders. Dunphys hauled the lumber for the building and the pews from Monroe, and the men who had returned from Civil War service laid the foundation. The list of early parish members reads like an Irish lilt—Croakes, Dunphys, Brodericks, Whalens, Maloys, Finnerans and Martins. Each Sunday Mass was said in one of three villages—

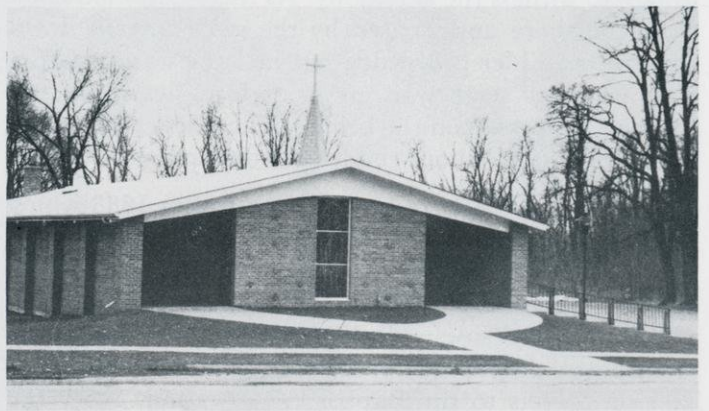
Footville, Brodhead or Albany. Sixty families comprised the Albany parish.

In 1875 a church was built in Footville and from that time Brodhead and Albany were served by the priest who lived in Brodhead. A fund-raising supper and grand ball was sponsored by St. Patrick's parish in 1896. Supper in the Central House cost a couple 50 cents; dancing to Ballou and Leaver's orchestra in the Opera House, 75 cents.

According to a news story in the Albany Journal of January 19, 1899, "Reverend Father Buckley who has been pastor of the Albany, Brodhead and Footville Catholic Churches for the past several years has been assigned to the Delavan church and is succeeded by the Reverend Father Smith of Delavan. Reverend Buckley's health has become somewhat impaired by the long drives necessary on this circuit and a change to lighter labor seemed desirable. Reverend Smith is reputed to be an earnest worker and will no doubt fill his predecessor's place acceptably."

The ladies of the parish formed the Altar Society, whose purpose was the maintenance of the church's interior. They devoted much time to crocheting fancy lace borders for altar linens, laundering the linens, and an entire day was given to cleaning the church periodically.

New St. Patrick's Catholic Church was built in 1964 during pastorate of Father Lawrence Korback.



It was during Father Lawrence Korback's pastorate when the new church was built in 1964. The 65 parish families pledged money for the building, and former parishioners as well as church members donated money for statues and altars. Focal point of the new church is the stained glass window depicting St. Patrick. The window was purchased and installed through the generosity of the late Frank Whalen. The parish owes a special debt of gratitude to the late Ray Trow for his donation, which enabled the parish to discharge their building debt in a relatively short time. Father Korback served St. Patrick's for eight years and is now pastor of St. Peter's Church in Madison.

Some of the 80 families who are current members of the parish are descendants of the Irish families who started the church in Albany, but many nationalities are represented now. Father John Gebhard who began his pastoral duties here in June, 1982, is now the pastor.

Monticello Prairie Baptist Church (Gap Church)

On March 1, 1850, the Monticello Prairie Baptist Church, now known as the Gap Church had its beginning. The church record states, "A meeting of Brethren and Sisters of Monticello Prairie and vicinity in Green County, Wisconsin, convened at the home of



Oldest church in the Albany area is the Gap Church, built in 1858. The church served the community for many years before services were discontinued in 1940.

Julius Hulburt for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming themselves into a regular Baptist Church of Christ." Several meetings were held until it was decided in September, 1851, to hold church meetings once in four weeks. Charter members were Pliny and Rizpah Colton, James and Nancy Whitcomb, Laura and Erastus Hulburt, David and Cynthia Dunwiddie, Lucretia Frazee, and Julius and Sarah Hulburt. Since there was no church building, church meetings were held in the home of Erastus Hulburt until 1856. That year a "meeting house" was built. Elder Patton, who lived in Juda, gave part of his time to this congregation, continuing until ill health forced him to resign in 1882. Prayer meetings were held each Wednesday night and covenant meetings on the last Saturday of each month. By 1875 there were 133 church members. When the pastor, Reverend S. E. Sweet, left in 1882, the church was without a pastor, but occasionally services were held when pastors passing through the village stopped to preach at services. In 1883 regular church services were resumed when Reverend W. T. Hill became pastor for both the Gap Church and the Albany Baptist Church. In 1940 it was decided not to hold services from January through March and from then until the present time nearly the entire congregation has worshipped with the Albany Baptist Church.

From 1919 until 1935 community fairs were held each fall with chicken dinners at noon, speakers in the afternoon and exhibits, which were judged during the day. Ice cream socials were held at the church in the summer and oyster suppers in the winter, all of which provided good times for members and friends of the church. In 1922 a community hall was built, thanks to the generosity of Marvin W. Hulburt. Services are no longer conducted at this small country church, but anyone passing by it on Highway 59 between Monroe and Albany would be impressed with its well kept exterior, its lawns neatly mowed, and the little cemetery adjoining it one of the best groomed and most beautifully landscaped cemeteries in Green County. The residents of the community and the descendants of these early pioneers who established the Gap Church, owe special thanks to Harland and Nellie (Town) Gillette for their dedication in the care of the grounds and building.

Free Methodist Church

The Free Methodist Church was built in 1887 on the east edge of the village. The parsonage was built across the street on the opposite corner. Of the families belonging to the church, two names remembered were the Mitchells and the Patchens. The pulpit for the church was built by the father of Fred Morton, who at that time lived behind the church. Revival meetings were held frequently, and in 1888 a camp meeting was held in Clinton's Park near the depot. Everyone was invited to one quarterly meeting on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Reverend S. L. Whitcomb, chairman of the Evansville and Platteville Districts, preached as did the newly appointed pastor of the church, Reverend W. Mickles.

In 1898 Reverend N. J. Davis was the pastor; services during his tenure were: Sabbath School, 2 p.m.; preaching, 3 p.m.; class meeting 4 p.m.

A short time later the attendance became so small that the meetings were discontinued. The church was used for a time by a German Lutheran Congregation and in 1917 was sold to the Truman Stewarts who remodeled it into a duplex. It is now the home of the Walter Fahrneys.

German Evangelical Church

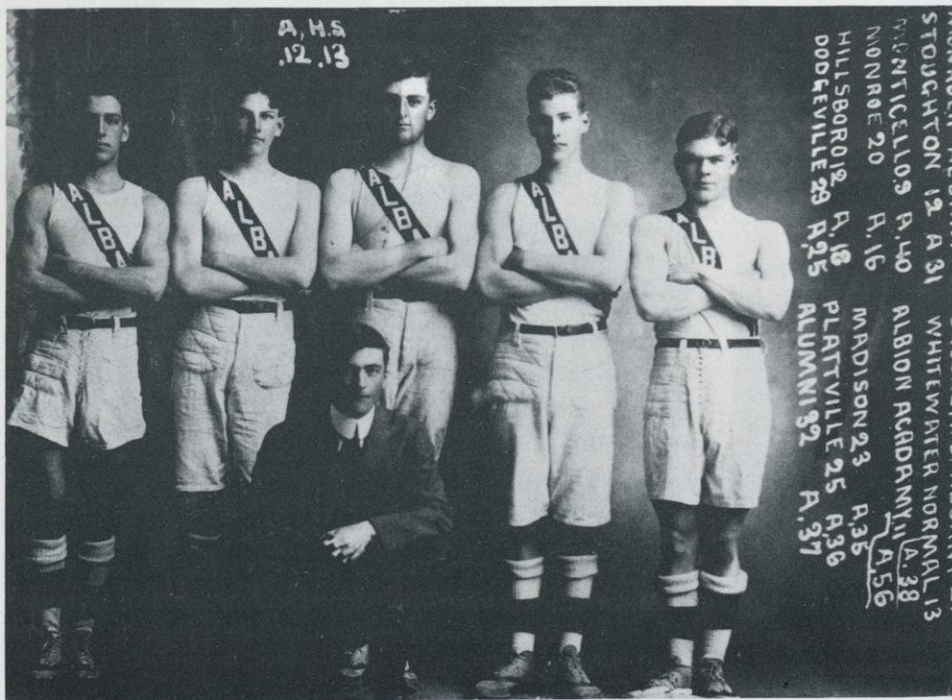
Families from the village and the township conducted German services in the Albany Baptist Church every other Sunday evening in the early 1900's. Like some other religious services of the time, women and children sat on one side of the church; men on the other. Services were conducted in German by a minister from Brodhead.

SPORTS

Sid Tilley starred in all sports at Albany High School and went on to star in basketball, football and track at (then) Platteville State Teachers College. At his graduation in 1927 he received a silver statue for being the champion athlete of the school. He was the conference high scoring center for two years, despite the fact that opposing coaches built their defenses to stop him. In 1981 he was inaugurated into the Athletic Hall of Fame at UW-Platteville.

Basketball

Basketball was introduced to Albany in the early 1900's. It was played by students with very little faculty supervision. The hoops were made by a local blacksmith and the backboards by boys at the school. No one had ever seen a game, but many were anxious to play. They



chose up sides and if there was an extra player he became the referee. The center jump after each field goal and free throw controlled the tempo of the game. The best shot on each team was called on to shoot the free throws. Games were played out-of-doors and later in the Opera House. At first they played crosswise, using half the floor, because of the posts. Later they decided to use the full floor and dodge the posts.

"The Silent Five," the Albany High School basketball team of 1913, had an outstanding record, defeating teams from larger schools. They played in the tournament at Platteville, traveling there by train. They took the 9 o'clock train to Brodhead, and then got the noon train to Platteville. They arrived just in time to play; the Platteville team was in uniform on the floor, waiting. Nevertheless, Albany won, but to their great disappointment lost their game the next day. Team members are, left to right, Bill Ruehlow, Burnett Wood, Harry Smiley, Francis Atkinson, Harry Croake. Francis Atkinson is the only surviving team member. The coach was the high school principal, C. C. Guilford. Substitutes, not pictured, were Kenneth Knapp and Walter Lewis.



Albany High School's basketball team of 1906, the Albany Tigers. Front row, left to right: Roy Phelps, Nate Tilley, Frank Christopher. Back row, left to right: Cap Smiley, Hart Croake, Ray Stewart.



Basketball was quite new in Albany when the team of 1905 posed for this photograph. Front row, left to right: Tess Warren Evans, Kit Broderick, Verna Kittleson, Leona Reese Dame. Second Row, left to right: Clarissa Wood, Alice Barton (Mascot), Mae Broderick Graves. Back row, left to right: Vera Baker Harper, Lydia Hulburt Ripley, Grace Blackford LaFlash, Flossie Morgan Smiley.



Girls' basketball was still quite new in Albany when this team became champions. Front row, left to right, Hazel Edwards, Mary Ruehlow, Harriet Tilley, Georgia Bump, Iva Town. Back row, Edith Lewis, Professor Holt, Tella Griffin.

Inter-school girls' basketball resumed in Albany in the mid-1970's. The team participates in the Girls' Division of the State Line League. Today, rules are the same as those for boys' teams. Mickey Martin is the coach.

Inter-school volleyball for girls also started in the mid-1970's and under the coaching of Lois Sherwin, two regional championships have been won—in 1976 and 1977.

The first game with an out of town opponent was in 1906 against Monroe Business College. Albany lost by a narrow margin.

The enrollment in the high school in 1914 was 35. Ten were boys; seven went out for basketball. This team scrimmaged against the local town team. They did well in the Platteville Tournament that year.

In 1932 the Albany High School basketball team triumphed over Juda 16 to 8 to win the Brodhead tournament. Bill Kahl was the coach and the team members were: Fay Jones, Bill Hein, Ed Killingstad, Alvin Miller, John Christopher, Ervin Coplein, Max Armstrong, Fay Brewer and Arthur Peterson. Killingstad and Coplein were selected for the all-tournament team.

This Albany High School team were the champions of southwestern Wisconsin in 1908-09. F. J. Holt was principal and coach. Team members are, left to right, Leslie Partridge, Charley Edwards, Frank Christopher, Lyle Barton, George Croake, Nate Tilley.



In 1964-65 Albany's basketball team, led by Coach Ivan Foote, became the State Line League champions. In 1968 another team also led by Coach Foote, trimmed the Broadhead Cardinal's plumage by a score of 104 to 84. In 1977-78 Albany's team, led by Coach Cebulski, were again State Line League champions. They had twelve straight victories in the season's play.

One more game must be mentioned, a game which drained emotions dry, leaving the players exhausted, the fans limp and the cheerleaders crying. It was the game against New Glarus in 1980 for the State Line League championship, which Albany lost 58 to 56, in the fifth overtime. Jimmy Dunphy was turning in his career's best performance, even though playing with an injured ankle. Coach John Loos submitted to Jim's entreaties to leave him in the game. A last second shot barely missed and the game was over. Coach Ken Roth of New Glarus

came into the Comet's dressing room and generously said, "It's just too bad that a team who worked so hard had to lose. New Glarus is lucky."

These names come to mind when one thinks about Albany basketball. The Sisson family were front line players for many years. Elmer Ross held the highest game score in the league. Dave Stoehr played strong ball for four years, then played on the varsity at UW-Oshkosh. Jon Kauk was ever a high scorer in the league. Denny Ruef was a blue-chip player, and has helped many boys improve their game. Danny Aeschlimann and Danny Blumer—tremendous in their speed and ball handling. On this year's team two who battled against larger opponents with superior ball handling—Grant Gibbons and Bill Trow—were named to the all-conference team.



For many years Albany had basketball teams of post-high school players called "town teams." Pictured here are the Albany Commercials who played from 1935 to 1939, having great success against teams from nearby communities. Bill Kahl, a guard, won a game by making a field goal standing at the opposing team's free-throw line. Team members are, front row, left to right: John Christopher, Vaughn Root, Jack Graves, Bill Kahl, Fay Jones. Back row, left to right: Maurice Barton, Donald Watts, Sid Tilley, Ed Killingstad, Ervin Coplein, Frank Christopher.

Cross Country

The Albany High School cross-country teams of the early 1970's under Coach Bob White brought home more trophies than the whole athletic department had won in the history of the school. At a junior high marathon in St. Charles, Iowa, when the temperature was eight above, the Albany team won the championship. Danny Aeschlimann, Ron Stetzer, Tracy Clark, Kim Lyle, Jeff Lyle and Randy Miller were the young heroes.

In 1971 the cross country team went to the State meet, winning in the Class C division. Members were: Steve Spoerry, Ron Stetzer, Todd Runaas, Jon Runaas, Tracy Clark and Tom Schmieder.

In 1975 the Albany team brought home the state trophy. This group included: Dan Blumer, Rick Janes, Ron Keegan, Joe Kopp, Steve Parmer, Mike Bandi and Dan Schmieder.

Wrestling

Albany High School had great success in wrestling in 1979 and 1980 under Coach Rick Volkman. At the Albany Invitational in 1979, Steve Kauk and Mike Tourdot placed first. In 1980 Steve Kauk, Todd Brugger, Bill Hauri and Dick Kauk brought in firsts.

Bowling

On New Year's Day in 1950 Albany gained an addition to its sports scene, with the opening of a bowling alley, owned by Emma Rechsteiner and managed by Tony Kubelius. Kenneth and Zelma Klossner owned and managed the lanes from 1957 to 1975. Today Albany Lanes is operated by John and Laurie Thill, and is a favorite recreational spot. There are three women's leagues, four men's leagues, four couple's leagues and four junior leagues.

On March 13, 1978, Denny Atkinson had the thrill that comes to very few when he bowled a 300 game.

Baseball

The game of baseball, which developed in the Northeast in the 1840's was played by young men in Civil War camps. In this way it became known throughout the country. Baseball was being played in Albany in 1878 and this game was reported in the Brodhead Independent.

"The Albany Baseball Club (known as the 'Ching A Rings of Albany') after successfully playing the Attica nine and carrying away the championship from the famous club known as the 'Slip Shods' north of this village, received a challenge to play the 'Stone School House Lightnings.' The Ching A Rings accepted the challenge at once 'you bet' and the game was played on Saturday last two miles west of Albany, the place designated for the terrible game to come off. The game was played and the Ching A Rings returned a much



Nowhere in all the world is an athlete admired more than in his own hometown. Nate Tilley, who starred in basketball and baseball in Albany High School, went on to have a long and successful career in the city of Beloit. Nate was offered a baseball contract with the old Three I League, but when offered a contract to work as an inspector in the Fairbanks Morse plant, and to play both basketball and baseball with the Beloit "Fairies," his love for both games led him to take the latter offer. He became a legend, starring in both sports for many years. In baseball he was a pitcher much feared by opposing teams. His three sons and a granddaughter inherited his athletic ability, starring on Beloit High School teams.

wiser but not happier club." Apparently the Stone School House Lightnings was a Brodhead team; this foreshadows a long athletic rivalry with our neighbors to the south.

In 1886 the Vindicator reported on a game between Albany and Brodhead. The Brodhead pitcher had hurt his arm before the game, and in the fifth inning had to leave the game. His replacement was wild and the score attests to Brodhead's problems—Albany 25, Brodhead 12.

In 1888 an exciting game between the "Magnolias" and the "Albanys" was reported. The Magnolia catcher had to leave and the Albany catcher then caught for both sides, "of course favoring his own team," and the Albanys won.

A player from this era who made it to the major leagues was Cal Broughton, a left handed catcher.

In 1910 an Albany baseball team challenged the feared "Champions of Southern Wisconsin", the Evansville team. Nate Tilley, the pitcher, picked the team: Ernie Kittleson, catcher; John Litel, first base; Harry Smiley, second; Ivan Town, third; Charlie Ather-ton, shortstop; Charles "Pacer" Wescott, Roscoe Smout and Warden Francis, outfielders; Harry Croake, substitute. They hired Frank Barton to take the team to Evansville with his horse-drawn omnibus. It was a great day for Albany—they shut out Evansville five to nothing.

Baseball continued to be a popular sport in Albany. In the 1920's and 1930's the Southern Wisconsin League, composed of teams from Albany, Footville, Magnolia, Orfordville, Evansville and Janesville was active. Games were played on a field just west of the present ACPARD diamond, and later on a field at Walt Donovan's place—near where Betty Coole lives today. The Legion Park at the north end of Water Street was the location of a later diamond. Games were played Sunday afternoon, so Sunday morning was the time for serious batting practice in many area cow pastures.

Today's descendant of baseball in Albany, with great community interest and participation, is slow pitch softball. There are over 20 men's teams in three leagues and six women's teams forming one league. In addition to league play, tournaments are held, all under leadership of Denny Ruef.

The Little League program, for boys age eight to twelve, has been led by John Thill for seven years. There are four teams in the league, and a traveling all-star team which plays teams from other towns.

In addition to Little League there is a Teener League team sponsored by the American Legion.

There is softball for girls in the eight to twelve year age group and T-ball for smaller boys.

WAR PARTICIPATION

Albany men have served in all our nation's wars beginning with the Civil War. Among the nearly 80 men from Albany Township who fought in the Civil War were Tom Mack, Preston Jordan, Ed Wessel, Erastus Hoyt, Freeman Roberts, Dr. E. H. Fessenden, J. L. Sherbondy, Billy Larmer, George Barton, Frank Howard, William Murrey, James Carver, Harlow Boughton, Richard Glennan, William Way, Henry Brockway, Eugene Warren, and brothers, Abner and George Webb.



The young Civil War soldier pictured here with his fife is Abraham Burt.

In the recorded stories of Wisconsin soldiers in the Civil War is that of Abner Webb who enlisted April 22, 1861, was wounded and mustered out November 27, 1864. This account was told by Captain Gardner, under whom Webb served, to the Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph.

"After regaining our works, we found quite a number of the enemy in and in front of the works. It was there I witnessed an act of heroism by an Albany boy as worthy of record as any act performed during the war.

"Our lines were close together at this time—so close that if you wanted your hat ventilated, all you had to do was to put it on a stick and be careful not to make a mistake and put your head in it.



Local fife and drum corps shown practicing during Civil War. At far left is Alf Eldred. Boy with drum, fifth from left, may have been Will Brown. Boy with fife, eighth from left, was Stephen Eldred, and boy with drum, ninth from left, may have been Fred Atherton. Boy on far right may have been son of George Carle, evangelist and temperance organizer. There were two boys' bands prior to Civil War.

"There was an open piece of ground about 50 or 75 yards in front of us, where a number of the killed and wounded lay. The day was very hot and there was one man among the wounded who commenced calling for water. I have heard that cry many times before and since, but nothing like that one. We could see him and he would raise himself upon his elbow and call for water with an entreaty and a pathos in his voice that would touch the heart of stone.

"It was maddening. The men all became nervous, and would move uneasily about, trying to keep up conversation but still that cry rang out.

"Soon I saw a member of my company spring to his feet, hasten to the rear and fill his canteen from the spring, come back and take off his accoutrements. I asked him what he was going to do. He replied, 'Captain, I can't stand it any longer. I am going to take that man a drink if they shoot the H--- out of me.' I called the men into line, and as we sprang over the works, we opened fire on the enemy over his head, but they did not seem to pay much attention to us, but directed their fire to the unarmed runner. He reached the wounded man, and throwing himself on the ground beside him, raised his canteen to the lips of the sufferer and let him drink of God's own beverage, so precious to a man at such a time.

"After breathing himself a moment and placing his canteen in the hands of the wounded man, he started on his return trip. The bullets of the enemy fairly rained around him, though they could plainly see what he had done. But through the storm of lead he sprang over the works untouched. With a cheery smile on his face he said, 'Well, I gave him a drink in spite of them.'"

That soldier, Abner Webb, remained active to within a few months of his death. The heroic deed was witnessed by Billy Larmer, another Albany boy who, because he was in New Orleans when war was declared, fought on the side of the Confederacy.

Mrs. Wayne Peckham, whose grandfather George Webb also fought in the Civil War, is the grand niece of Abner Webb. Two brothers, Frank and Myron Cowing, raised near Albany, served in Custer's company during the Civil War. However, unbeknownst to one another, they were each assigned to special duty which took them out of the camp. Myron came up with a detachment of men, saw the field strewn with dead and felt certain his brother must be among them. Because personal belongings had been stolen and bodies were mutilated, identification was impossible. Myron wrote to his family, say-

ing he thought his brother had been killed. Frank, too, wrote the same message about Myron. The family knew both were alive, but they had given no addresses and so could not be enlightened about the grim mistake. Each brother left the army thinking the other dead and took up army land in the west. They settled only a few score miles apart, still not knowing one another's whereabouts. Myron's neighbor, who came to buy horses from Frank, was struck with Frank's likeness to the neighbor at home. The story was unraveled, Frank accompanied the man back to his home and the brothers were finally reunited.

Another hero of the Civil War was Erastus Hoyt, who enlisted in Company F, 31st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers in 1862. In the line of duty he contracted the dread disease, chronic diarrhea, which resulted in his death. He is buried beside his comrades in the village cemetery. Erastus Hoyt Post, No. 69, G. A. R. was named after this young soldier. First officers of that post were Captain Thomas Flint, Commander; Captain C. W. Burns, S. V. C.; Captain J. F. Annis, J. V. C.; F. F. Carle, Adjutant; John Gillett, Quartermaster; N. B. Murrey, Officer of the Day; Peter Benson, Officer of the Guard; and S. F. Smith, Sergeant-major. Excerpts from

two letters now in possession of Mrs. Arlie (Mickey) Fahrney, granddaughter of J. L. Sherbondy who was also the grandfather of Mrs. Raymond (Charlene) Had-dinger, are reproduced here. The first is a letter from Edward McBride, Mount Pleasant, Green County, 5th Battery, to his friend, John L. Sherbondy.

May 23, 1863 - "The First East Tennessee and Fourth Regulars butchered them (Rebels) with their sabers before they had time to drop themselves. Now, this cutting up unarmed men looks hard, but the boys haven't forgotten how those same devils shot down our men at Stone River after they had surrendered to them. Boys burned up all their guns and camp equipage. Brought off 500 horses and 200 of their men. They took a good many more but couldn't hold them for their infantry came on to them and surrounded the Fourth Regulars and they cut their way out with the saber. It was a bold dash and a hot fight before they got through. My best wishes, E. McBride."

The second letter is from John L. Sherbondy to his "Dear Wife," dated April 2, 1865 at Rolla, Missouri. (Mr. Sherbondy had been working on the fort as a carpenter and had been detached from the drum corps



These five Civil War veterans seated in front of John Whalen's store are, (left to right) Tom Mack, Preston Jordan, Ed Wessel, Freeman Roberts and Abner Webb. The gentleman inside the store is Bert Draper.

to help out. He was a very fine fifer and no doubt a fife major. Fifes and drums were used to move the army giving such signals as charge, retreat, and playing marching tunes and funeral dirges.) "The Drum Major would not put up with it. He was not going to have his best fifer detached. He went yesterday to the Colonel and Major and he told them to have the papers made out at the adjutant's quarters and have me detached right back into the Drum Corps. So the Major told me last night I belong to the Drum Corps and always would. He would show the Captain that he could not help himself. I don't care much. I could put in my time on the Fort about as easy as any other way. Yours truly, J. L. Sherbondy.

The grandson of Squire Perry was the only Albany boy to serve in the Spanish American War. When he returned home from the war, the Albany Vindicator of September 15, 1898, carried this item: "The soldiers of the First Wisconsin were welcomed home on Saturday. Charles Wheeler was the only Albany boy who enlisted and a great demonstration was made in his honor. The martial band, a large number of the 'boys of '61' and citizens met him at the depot and escorted him to his home on the west side, which had been lavishly decorated with the national colors. Charles had been quite sick with typhoid or malarial fever, but he expected to be around again the next few days."

Approximately 75 men from Albany and the surrounding area served their country in World War I. Of these men, three gave their lives—Thomas McDermott died by accident and Walter Lewis and Herbert Jones died of disease. Many others were wounded and some were victims of the flu epidemic.

The first man from Albany to enlist was William Ruehlow; first man to set foot in France was John Litel. Private Thomas McDermott, age 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. John McDermott, who lived on a farm five miles north of the village, became the fourth man from Green County to lose his life in World War I. He entered the service in October, 1917, at Camp Grant, Illinois and trained at Camp Grant and Camp McArthur, Texas. Thomas left the United States for France in February, 1918. It was June 1 when his parents received the news that Thomas had died as the result of pistol shot wounds. A memorial service was held in the Opera House on the following evening. Father McDermott of Evansville and Reverend F. J. Jordan of Marshfield addressed the crowd who gathered for the memorial service. The hall was filled to capacity with friends and neighbors who came to express their sympathy for the bereaved family. On May 6, 1902, the American Legion Post in Albany was named McDermott Post No. 144 in honor of Thomas McDermott.

The Great War had a profound effect on the little village of Albany, in effect bringing the outside world to it as had not been done before. The editor of the paper at that time, O. G. Briggs, filled the Vindicator with war related news stories.

On Friday evening, April 6, 1917, a huge loyalty meeting was held at the Opera House, sponsored by the Sons of Veterans, Wisconsin Division and the Albany W. R. C. A parade with music by the Cornet Band, color bearers Henry Knapp and Richard Hedden, veterans of the Civil War, members of Co. H., school children and citizens marched through the village. The following resolution was read and adopted unanimously by the audience and sent to the president.

"The citizens of Albany, Wisconsin, assembled in mass meeting, assure you of their loyalty at this and all times. As Americans, faithful to American ideals of justice, liberty and humanity, we pledge you our support in our effort for democracy and service of humanity. We pray that in all things you may be conscious of divine guidance and that you will speedily see the desire of your heart for the American people and peace throughout the world. Albany is loyal to the core."

The local Defense Council met on June 8 and planned a grand and glorious celebration for July 4. Committees were appointed and work started early to ensure a successful day. The parade on July 4 was impressive with several floats, the Monroe Guards and other attractions. First prize for wagon float was won by the Worth While Girls of the Baptist Church; first prize for auto float was awarded to the Red Cross ambulance; first prize for pony rig to Lilah Hein; for individual costume, Everett Peckham, Bert Pryce, Louis Moore and Ted Luce. The baseball game in the afternoon ended in a win for Footville. Dancing in the Opera House closed the eventful day.

On May 24 and 25, 45 men and women of Albany joined the Red Cross at meetings held in the Village Hall. The Community Center in the basement of the Methodist Church was offered and accepted as a work room where ladies were to meet two days of each week. By June 21, the Red Cross drive had gained 200 members and was still increasing. To meet their quota for national Red Cross work, \$353.90 in funds had been raised. Enrollment figures reached 300. The Red Cross ladies of Albany made hospital sheets, draw sheets, pillow cases, towels, linen washcloths, knitted washcloths, tray cloths, handkerchiefs, hospital bed shirts, shoulder capes, knitted mufflers, water bottle covers, fracture pillows, ward slippers, and comfort kits. Each time a call was sent out, Albany far exceeded its goals. A total of 448 families was solicited and \$660.30 was raised, a surplus of \$160.30 over quota. Green County was the first county in the state to go over the top in this drive. Final figures showed that Albany village

and township subscribed \$750, or 150 percent of its allotment.

In the purchase of Liberty Bonds, too, Albany exceeded its quota. In the first sale 16 subscribers purchased \$25,150 worth of bonds; second campaign 379 people bought \$45,000 worth; third, \$36,000; fourth, \$84,000. On November 14, 1918, the entire front page of the Vindicator was given to news of the armistice. "The glad news," it read, "was received here at four o'clock Monday morning by a telephone message to Arthur Fleek from his nephew, Howard Eldred, Elgin, Illinois. About five o'clock the message was sent out from the telephone office, and immediately the bells and whistles announced the glad tidings and the celebration began." People came to town by the thousands to help celebrate; all day long the whistles and bells aided in keeping up the enthusiasm. There was a parade at 7:30 in the evening and a large bonfire (there had also been a large bonfire on the preceding Thursday on the occasion of the "false armistice"). Speakers at a program in the Opera House were Mrs. S. J. Morgan, Miss Emma Croake, E. P. Atherton, O. G. Briggs, Reverend D. A. Ramey, Reverend G. N. Foster, and music was provided by the Albany Cornet Band.

Soon after the "day that will live in infamy," many Albany young men enlisted and left to fight a war that lasted until August, 1945. Among these men, two from the Albany area lost their lives—Charles Gordon Steindorf, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Steindorf of Albany; and George F. Culler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Culler, rural Albany and Brodhead.

Lieutenant Gordon Steindorf, A B-17 pilot in World War II, was killed in action in Germany.



Gordon was a second lieutenant in the Army Air Force, pilot of a B-17. He was reported missing in action on November 25, 1944, evidently on his first mission, for he had been in England for pre-combat training and on November 24 had written his parents that he had yet to go on his first mission. He was killed on November 25 in Muschwitz, Germany. Before entering the service, he was a student in pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin. He received his wings at La Junta, Colorado, in April, 1944. His wife was the former Laura Shelby of Evansville. Lieutenant Steindorf received the Purple Heart for wounds received in the action that resulted in his death.

Private Culler served in Hawaii, New Guinea, the Phillipines, Luzon, and Ryukyus. He was killed in action of February 23, 1945. His decorations included the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon and the Purple Heart. George's wife was Doreen Jones, the daughter of Dave Jones and the sister of Mrs. Roy (Norma) Jones Blumer, rural Albany.

In the Korean conflict of the early 50's Albany was fortunate not to lose any men in action; however, AC2 Gerald William Rhyner, 19, son of Casper and Ada Smith Rhyner, rural Albany, was killed in a truck accident enroute to Mather Air Force Base in California. A graduate of Albany High School, Gerald enlisted in the Air Force and was killed in September, 1953.

Two young men lost their lives in the "police action" in Vietnam. Private First Class Kris Blumer, 19, son of Mrs. Virginia Blumer and the late Fred Blumer, became



Kris Blumer, son of Mrs. Virginia Blumer, was Albany's first casualty of the Vietnam war.

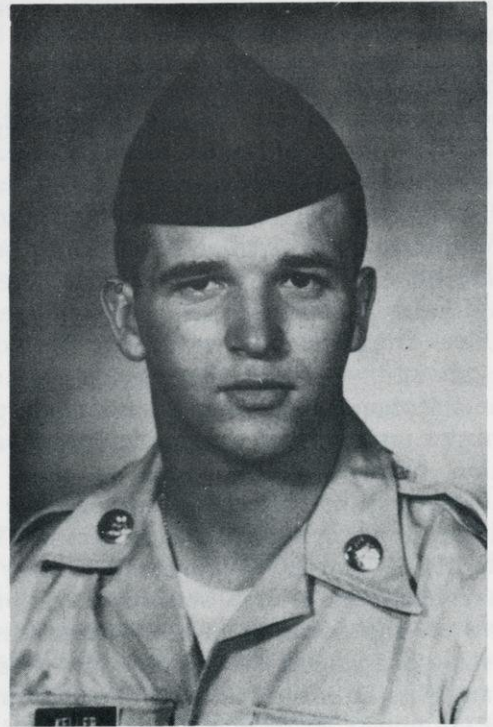
Albany's first casualty in Vietnam. Kris enlisted in the army in June, 1968, and left in the following November for Vietnam. In May, 1969, his mother received word that Kris had been injured, suffering injuries that the authorities reported as not being too serious. Complications after surgery resulted in his death on November 25, 1969. A full military burial held at the Albany High School gymnasium was accorded Kris. Reverend Oscar Stanke officiated, stating in part, "Gratitude for this young man's life, an appreciation for his life that was not lived in vain..."

In recognition of his sacrifice, Kris was awarded these medals posthumously: Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, and the Bronze Star, with this citation: "On May 15, 1969, Pfc. Blumer was serving as a rifleman with his unit on a counterinsurgency operation north of Fire Support Base Lorraine. As the friendly force proceeded through an enemy base camp, it was suddenly subjected to an intense automatic weapons and small arms fusillade from an undetermined size insurgent unit. Observing several wounded comrades lying in an exposed area, Pfc. Blumer crawled forward through the hostile barrage to offer assistance to his fellow soldiers. Seriously wounded by the insurgents' fire, he dauntlessly continued to place suppressive fire on the aggressors with devastating effect and allowed the remainder of the platoon to rescue the wounded men. While continuing his staunch resistance, Pfc. Blumer was critically wounded." From the government of the Republic of Vietnam Kris was awarded the Military Merit Award and the Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Surviving Kris are his mother and sisters, Mrs. Ellen Rothenbach, Pleasanton, Texas; Mrs. Judy Sepsy, Milwaukee; Mrs. Renee Porterfield, Brodhead; Mrs. Becky Dick, Madison; and brothers Karl and Kim of Albany.

The second young man to lose his life for his country in Vietnam was Kenneth Lee Keller. Kenneth was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Keller. The family had moved to Albany from Browntown in 1951. Kenneth graduated from Albany High School in 1967 and entered the army in June of 1969. In November, 1969, he went to Vietnam. Kenneth, known to his buddies in Indo China as "Toby," was killed on May 25, 1970, when a mine he was placing for the night protection of his unit was struck by lightning. Three of his buddies were killed in the same mishap.

Presented posthumously to his parents were the Bronze Star with a citation "for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, November 27, 1969, to May 25, 1970, in



Kenneth Keller, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Keller, was killed in action in Vietnam.

that he was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counter insurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve these problems.

"The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Veitnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgments and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect credit on himself, his unit, and the military service."

Other awards include the Air Medal for more than 25 aerial missions over hostile territory, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Veitnam Campaign and National Defense and Good Conduct Medal.

Full military funeral rites for SP Keller were held June 7, 1970, in the Albany High School gymnasium. A burial detachment from Fort Sheridan, Illinois, conducted the military rites in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Kenneth was survived by his parents, five sisters, Mrs. Robert (Sandy) Rhyner, Monroe; Mrs. Walter (Kathy) Mueller, Albany; Mrs. Jon (Margaret) Kauk, Albany; Mrs. Marlin (Karla) Neild, Albany; and Mrs. Larry (Hazel) Ommodt, Albany. Two months after Kenneth died, his brother Keith was killed in an automobile accident. Mrs. Keller, too, has passed away.

ORGANIZATIONS

Masonic Lodge

Albany Lodge No. 36 A. F. and A. M. is one of the oldest Masonic lodges in the state, having been organized in 1851. All early records were destroyed in the fire of 1883, but it is known that Hiram Brown was the first Worshipful Master. The lodge has met continuously in the rooms on Water Street that were built to their specifications after the fire. Their previous rooms had been at the same location.

The present officers are: Worshipful Master, William Pryce; Senior Warden, Richard Detra; Junior Warden, Dwight Bump, Jr; Secretary, Robert Atkinson; Treasurer, John Schmid.

Eastern Star

Chapter 86, Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Albany in 1896. The first Worthy Matron was Anna B. Sutherland; the Worthy Patron was Dr. G. H. Webster. In 1975 the lodge affiliated with Brodhead and turned in its charter.

The Past Matron's Club was organized in 1949 with Gretta Eldred, president, and Beulah Broughton, secretary, and is still active today.

In 1946 when the order celebrated its 50th anniversary, three charter members were present: Minnie Eldred, Jessie Pryce and Andrew Christopher. Gretta Eldred was Worthy Matron at that time and Francis Atkinson, Worthy Patron.

Odd Fellows

The Albany Lodge No. 75, I. O. O. F. was organized in 1854. By 1861 the lodge had nearly 90 members. So many of these enlisted to fight in the Civil War that meetings were discontinued until 1865. The fire of 1883 destroyed the Lodge Hall and all records, so names of the first officers are not known, but many leading citizens were among the early members. The lodge celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 1930. There has been no I. O. O. F. in Albany for many years.

Rebekahs

Juaneta Rebekah Lodge No. 145 was organized in 1901 with 42 members. Mrs. Maria Tibbets was a charter member. They contribute to many worthy causes: the World Eye Bank, disaster relief, scholarships and youth camps. They maintain the old I. O. O. F. Hall which they took over when the I. O. O. F. ceased to exist in Albany.

Present officers are: Noble Grand, Mary Striker; Vice Grand, Ruth McCulley; Secretary, Josie Hansen; Treasurer, Phyllis Bennett; Chaplain, Ethel Schultz; Warden, Lydia Jones; Conductor, Norma Blumer; Inside Guardian, Betty Coole; Right Supporter to Noble

Grand, Ruth Malkow; Right Supporter to Vice Grand, Rose Crabtree; Outside Guardian, Patricia Lyle, The 50th Anniversary of the lodge was celebrated in 1976.

Royal Neighbors

Pearl Camp No. 407 was organized in 1896 with 23 charter members. It is an organization of fellowship which also offers insurance to members. First officers were: Oracle, Esther Flint; Vice Oracle, Clara Comstock; Recorder, Grace Tilley; Receiver, Nellie Wessel; Chancellor, Ella Bennett; Marshall, Lillian Eldred.

Officers in 1983 are: Oracle, Helen Phillips; Past Oracle, Irene Blumer; Vice Oracle, Jessie Rendall; Receiver, Greta Eldred; Recorder, Helen Killingstad; Chancellor, Marie Oberholzer; Marshall, Bertha Blumer.

Modern Woodmen

Sugar River Camp No. 1022 of the Modern Woodmen of America was organized in 1896. It has been out of existence in Albany for many years. There are memories of its "goat" constructed of wood and covered with a goat skin, which new members had to ride. This animal and its tradition were passed along to the Royal Neighbors.

American Legion

Thomas McDermott Post No. 144 of the American Legion was organized in 1920 with 35 charter members. Officers were: Commander, G. Roy Phelps; Vice Commander, Paul Stewart; Post Adjutant, Cliffe H. Gelbach; Finance Officer, Thomas B. Draper; Post Chaplain, Robert Goslyn; Sergeant-at-Arms, Emil Steindorf; Service Officer, G. Roy Phelps.

In 1927 the Legion moved into its new building on North Water Street (now Albany Senior Center). In 1976 they built a large building across the street and to the north.

After World War II the name was changed to McDermott-Steindorf Post in honor of Gordon Steindorf.

Present officers are: Commander, Michael Alexander; Vice Commander, Dennis Parker; Adjutant, Charles Briggs; Finance Officer, Larry Ommodt; Agent, Harry Reasa.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Albany American Legion Auxiliary was organized in 1922. A special concern is service to veterans' hospitals, as well as service to the community of Albany and support of Legion projects.

No record of the officers in 1922 is available. The officers in 1925 were: President, Lucille Atkinson; Secretary, Barbra Wescott; Treasurer, Frances Gelbach.

The present officers are: President, Rosella Briggs; Secretary, Shirley Alexander; Treasurer, Hazel Ommodt.

Lions Club

The Albany Lions Club was organized in 1968 with 50 charter members. The first officers were: President, Melvin Ingwell; First Vice President, Fred Baertschi; Second Vice President, Leon Marty; Third Vice President, Walter Reasa; Secretary Daniel Weber; Treasurer, Gerald Heitzman.

The goals of the group are to support Lions International, to help those in need and to make Albany a better place in which to live. These goals have been admirably carried out. Space does not permit a list of all their many worthy projects. A recent important gift was \$1,627 toward the purchase of the "Jaws of Life" for the Fire Department and EMS. A yearly \$500 scholarship is given, many local groups are sponsored, and the Lions Camp for the blind and the Leader Dog Project are supported generously.

The current officers are: President, James Sterr; Past President, Darrell Clark; First Vice President, James Haddinger; Second Vice President, Walter Althaus, Jr; Third Vice President, Larry Marti; Treasurer, Gerald Heitzman; Secretary, Dan Weber.

Other Groups

There have been at least three businessmen's organizations, all having the aims of improving the business climate and promoting the general welfare of the village. In the 1890's there was the Albany Improvement Association. The Commercial Club was active from the 1920's to 1951, and the Community Club was in existence in the 1950's.

Go-Getters

The Go-Getters Club was organized in September, 1949, at the home of Ida Smout. It is a social and service organization, helping the sick and the needy and sending Christmas cheer boxes. Officers for 1983 are: President, Rose Crabtree; Vice President, Norma Blumer; Secretary, Betty Coole; Treasurer, Jessie Rendall; Sunshine, Mary Striker.

Winnette Homemakers

The Winnette Homemakers club was organized in 1964, and is now affiliated with Green County Homemakers. They have made many contributions to a

wide variety of worthy causes. Present officers are: President, Gloria Glass; Vice President, Marion Sperry; Secretary, Betty Brugger; Treasurer, Margaret Holtsapple.

Sugar River Homemakers

This group, which was affiliated with the University Extension, was one of the oldest homemakers clubs in Green County. It disbanded in 1982.

A. A. R. P.

The Albany chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons was organized in October, 1973. First officers were: President, Isona Gaulke Gardner; Vice President, Francis Atkinson; Second Vice President, Ann Hlavachek; Secretary, Isabelle Sharer Hixon. Meetings are now held jointly with Brodhead. This organization is concerned with matters affecting older citizens, as well as being social in nature.

Officers for 1983 are: President, Beatrice North; First Vice President, Bertha Brace; Second Vice President, Betty Coole; Secretary, Zelma Klossner; Treasurer, Jessie Rendall.

Albany Women's League

The Albany Women's League held its first meeting in June, 1971. The officers elected were: President, Sherry Hlavachek; Vice President, Patty Zurfluh; Secretary, Nancy Krueger; Treasurer, Shirley Jones; Historian, Mary Jo Dunphy.

Among their activities of benefit to the community are: the Christmas Stocking Project, which provides gifts for the needy families; sponsorship of the Girl Scouts; sponsorship of a Badger Girl to go to Girls' State; scholarships; and purchase of park equipment. This year they published the Albany Centennial Cookbook.

The current officers are: President, Janet Richards; Vice President, Julie Lefler; Secretary, Kathy Lobeck; Treasurer, Sharon Pryce; Sunshine, Debby Houlberg.

Other Groups

Former women's service organizations were the Albany Women's Club, which was active in the late 1920's and the 1930's, and the Albany Civic Club which existed in the 1960's. Both had as their aims to work toward the betterment of the village and to encourage personal growth.

The Albany Jaycettes were chartered in 1980. They sponsored many worthwhile activities, before disbanding (because there was not a Jaycee group here) in 1982.

The Albany Equal Suffrage and Literary Association was organized in the 1880's, and met for several years. In 1885 they forwarded a petition with 245 names to the



State Legislature asking for women's suffrage. Names prominent in Albany's early history are found in the membership of this group; Tibbets, Maynard, Jobes, Warren.

Senior Citizens

The Albany Senior Citizens group was organized in 1978. First officers were: Chairperson, Mary Striker; Second Chairperson, Gretta Eldred; Secretary, Ruth Whalen; Treasurer, Helen Killingstad. The club occupies the former American Legion building, which serves as a Green County nutrition site twice a week.

Current officers are: President, Helen Graves; Vice President, Julia Broughton; Secretary, Marion Mabie; Treasurer, Zelma Klossner.

Sugar River Association, Inc.

In 1975 Helen Zimmerli urged interested people to form an organization which would promote recreational activities in the community as well as make contributions to general village betterment. The first officers were: President, Ewald Zwickey; Secretary, Lita Sutherland; Treasurer, John Macke; Board members, Bill Hein and Helen Zimmerli.

This club sponsors Yesteryear Days, owns a canoe rental service and makes financial contributions to various groups.

Current officers are: President, Colleen Brewer; Vice President, Jan Albertson; Secretary and Treasurer, Lita Sutherland; Board members, Maxine Kjorness, Ron Larson and Florence Atkinson.

There was great interest in the temperance cause for many years in Albany. The earliest organization was the Sons (and Daughters) of Temperance, the Albany Division No. 198, named The Drunkard's Friend. The group pictured here is the Women's Christian Temperance Association, which was a strong and active group for many years. This group of temperance ladies meeting at home of Mrs. J. F. Maynard are: (1) Mary Comstock, (2) Jessie Humes, (3) Anna Sutherland, (4) Clara Warren, (5) Ella Warren, (6) not identified, (7) Maria Tibbets, (8) Sarah Lewis, (9) Mrs. Dr. Hill, (10) Martha Wessel, (11) not identified, (12) Mrs. J. F. Maynard, (13) Eva Warren, (14) Mrs. Van Patten, (15) Grace Maynard, (16) Martha Warren.

Boy Scouts

There was an organizational meeting for a Boy Scout Troop in Albany in 1919. C. W. Whitcomb and Cliff Gelbach were involved and Max Murrey was the Scoutmaster.

In 1938 a troop was again formed, with E. O. Osborne as Scoutmaster and John Christopher, assistant. The troop met at the Legion Hall. Other former leaders were: Duane Gaarder, Russell Fletcher and Boyd Atkinson.

Today Boy Scout Troop 107, Winnishiek District of the Blackhawk Area Council has a membership of 30 boys age 11 to 15. Phil Jones is the Scoutmaster; Assistant Scoutmaster is Larry Hansen. The troop has been an Honor Troop for the past three years and has received a National Camping Award for the past two years. They camp locally on the Crabtree property on

the Sugar River and attend the Apple River Canyon Scout Camp one week each summer.

Richard Cleaveland became an Eagle Scout in 1981. Previous Eagle Scouts were: Dick Killingstad, Keith Albright, Greg Jones, Eric Runaas and John Hlavachek.

Cub Scouts in Albany are led by Sherry Hlavachek. Webelos leaders are John Hlavachek and Mike Alexander; den leaders are Jerri Leitschuck and Linda Fiske. Membership consists of 16 boys age 8 to 10 years, who are involved in service projects for the community, as well as personal attainments leading to becoming Boy Scouts.

Dan and Beth Sobacki lead a Tiger Cub Pack of 7 year old boys.

Girl Scouts

The history of Girl Scouting in Albany—like that of many organizations—is one of alternating active and inactive periods.

One of the earliest leaders, Esther Osborne, recalls being a leader in the 1930's, along with Bea Kahl and Lottie Burt for about 25 girls of junior high school age. These leaders have outlived many of their troop members. Meetings were held in a building owned by George and Ann Hlavachek and at other locations. Hikes to Reuben's Cave and camping on the shores of Lake Kegonsa were the troop's summer time activities. Indoors they learned homemaking skills and handicrafts that were displayed in a yearly exhibit.

Organizing local troops into the present form, known as Badger Council of Girl Scouts, occurred in 1957 when "lone troops" from Green, Rock and Walworth counties joined.

In the 1950's the program was active here with Ann Bongiorno, Pearl Minder, Elaine Reasa and Kay Zwickey as leaders. The meeting place was the old Village Hall. Leaders remember accompanying the girls to day camp in Evansville.

During the 1960's and 1970's, Girl Scouts were led by Eva Farberg, Carol Gohlke, Helen Killingstad, Pat Lyle and Tommie Mabie. More recently the leaders were Ethel Anderson, Janet Beck, Charlotte Hamilton and Sandy Koebler. Activities continued in developing the Scouts' love of the out-of-doors and personal skill through badge work.

Presently there are about 50 girls and six leaders, Linda Carolan, Jane Hahn, Janice Jenkins and June Schneider for the Juniors; Linda Dieter and Janet Richards are Brownie leaders. Activities are focused on service, skill development, careers, self-sufficiency and

troop camping at New Glarus Woods. Individual members participate in day camp at Monroe and resident camp in northern Wisconsin.

FARMING

In the spring of 1840, James Campbell, Albany's first settler, planted a crop of wheat on the land he had claimed the previous year. And for the next 30 years, this crop was the main income producer in the area.

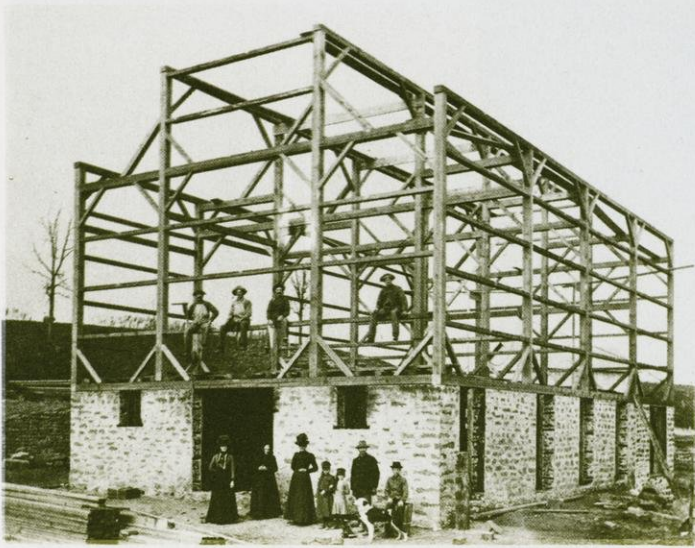
The land was productive, and wheat was one crop that could be planted, harvested, and marketed with a minimum of effort and cost.

Yields of 30 bushels to the acre were common, and on many farms were as high as 40 bushels. But as production grew, finding markets became a major problem. Except for the wheat that was consumed locally, the rest had to be transported to market in wagons. Before the railroads came, that often meant a four or five day trip to the lake ports of Milwaukee and Racine. With prices of 40 to 50 cents a bushel—and often less—profits were slim.

Around 1870, the picture changed. Disastrous prices, combined with the invasion of the chinch bug, doomed the production of wheat.



Big orphan lamb still enjoys its bottle of milk, being fed by a sober-faced young man by the well-known name of John Wood.



How barns were built before the days of prefabrication. The stone foundation, heavy beams and mortise and tenon joints meant sturdy, long-lasting buildings. This barn was built on the Fred Trow farm on Highway E about 1903, and is still standing today. Men on beam are, left to right: Walt Tilley, Mort Tilley, Charles Roberts, Ray Trow. Standing below, left to right, Vira Trow, unidentified woman, Mrs. Fred Trow, Delle Trow, Tressie Trow, Fred Trow and Don Trow.

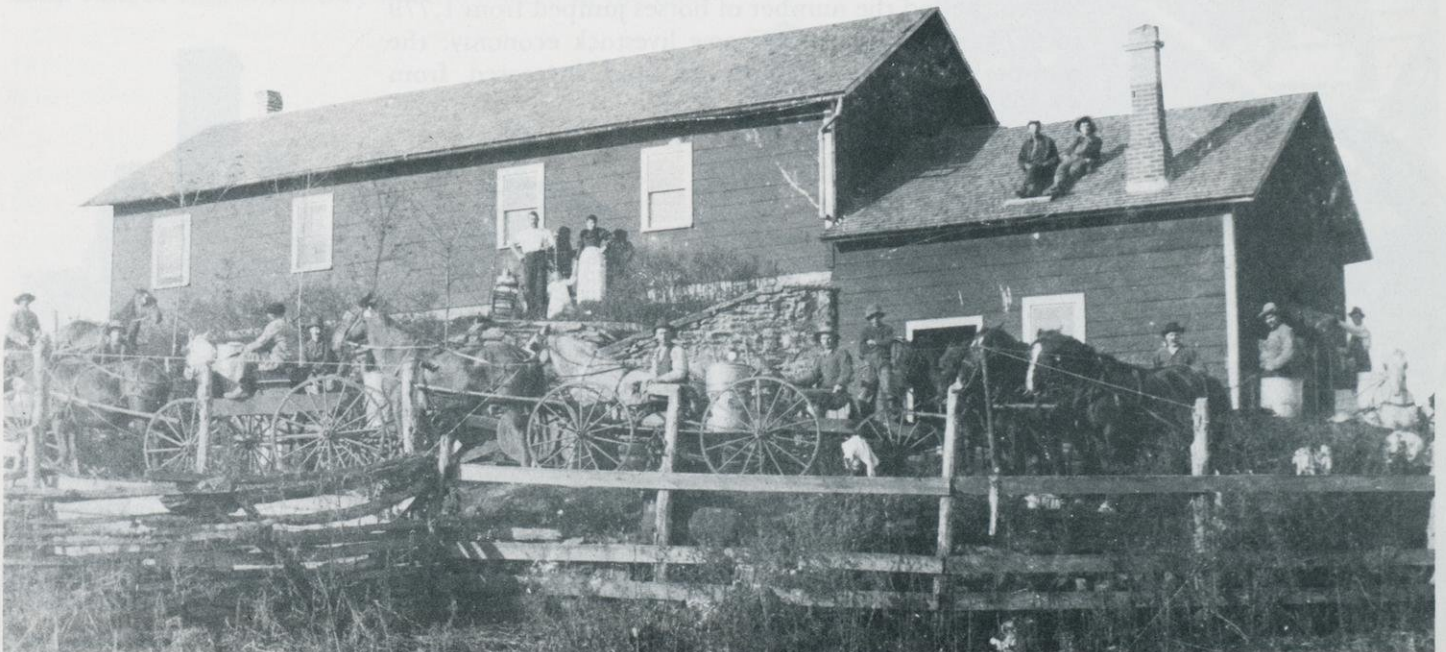
During the Civil War, demand for meat and wool encouraged farmers to switch to hog and sheep production. By the early 1880's, many farmers had begun raising dairy cattle and horses.

Much of the change that occurred resulted from the development of labor-saving farm equipment, a rapidly growing market for meat and dairy products, and the coming of the railroad, which bridged the gap between farmer and consumer.

One indication of the importance of dairying is the fact that in 1870 there were no cheese factories in the county, while in 1876 there were more than 50 factories making over two million pounds of cheese.



Edward Keehn ready to leave with his team and wagon, probably in the early 1900's. Note the high, wooden-wheeled wagon, the horse blankets and the old log building.



Milk wagons from neighboring farms wait to unload at the old Comstock cheese factory northwest of Albany. Note the big 30-gallon milk cans loaded on these wagons.

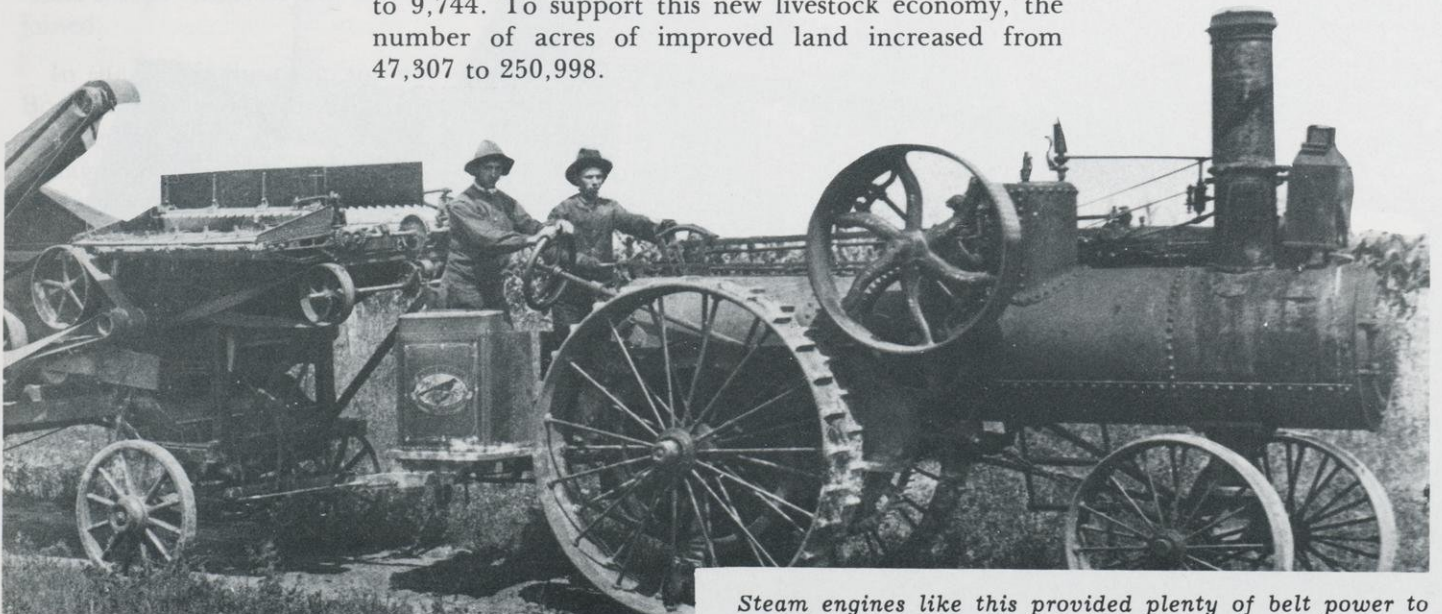


This is the way dirt counry roads were graded around the turn of the century. There were few roads which were not dirt roads. Standing at the right foreground is Abner Webb.

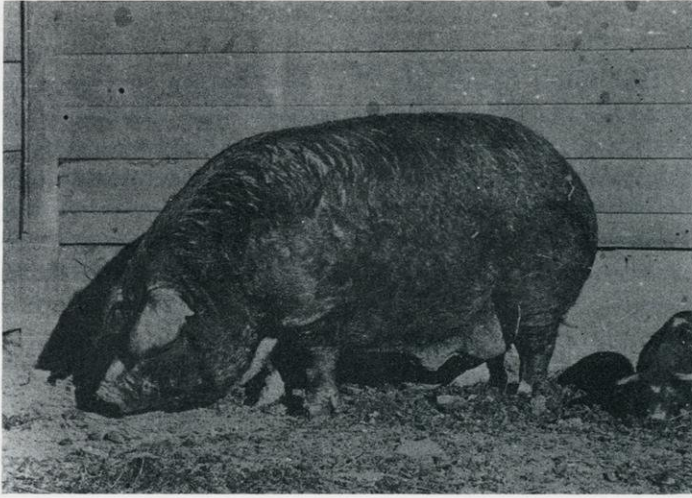
Harvesting tobacco at the A. B. Comstock farm. Except for the team and wagon, few changes have been made in handling tobacco.



From 1850 to 1870 the number of milk cows in the county increased from 1,277 to 11,474, and the number of sheep from 5,764 to 39,477. During this 20-year period the number of horses jumped from 1,779 to 9,744. To support this new livestock economy, the number of acres of improved land increased from 47,307 to 250,998.



Steam engines like this provided plenty of belt power to operate threshing, corn shredding and similar equipment during the period from 1910 to 1930. Owners of such equipment usually moved from farm to farm throughout the neighborhood threshing and shredding on a custom basis.



There's lots of ham, bacon and fatback on this old sow raised by A. B. Comstock. This not-so-dainty lady tipped the scale at a whopping 1,035 pounds. Today most hogs are marketed at about 220 pounds.

In 1882 farmers in Albany Township owned 585 horses with an average value of \$50.70, 1,602 head of cattle worth \$14.13 apiece, 6,065 sheep and lambs with an average value of \$1.63, and 635 milk cows worth \$24.70.

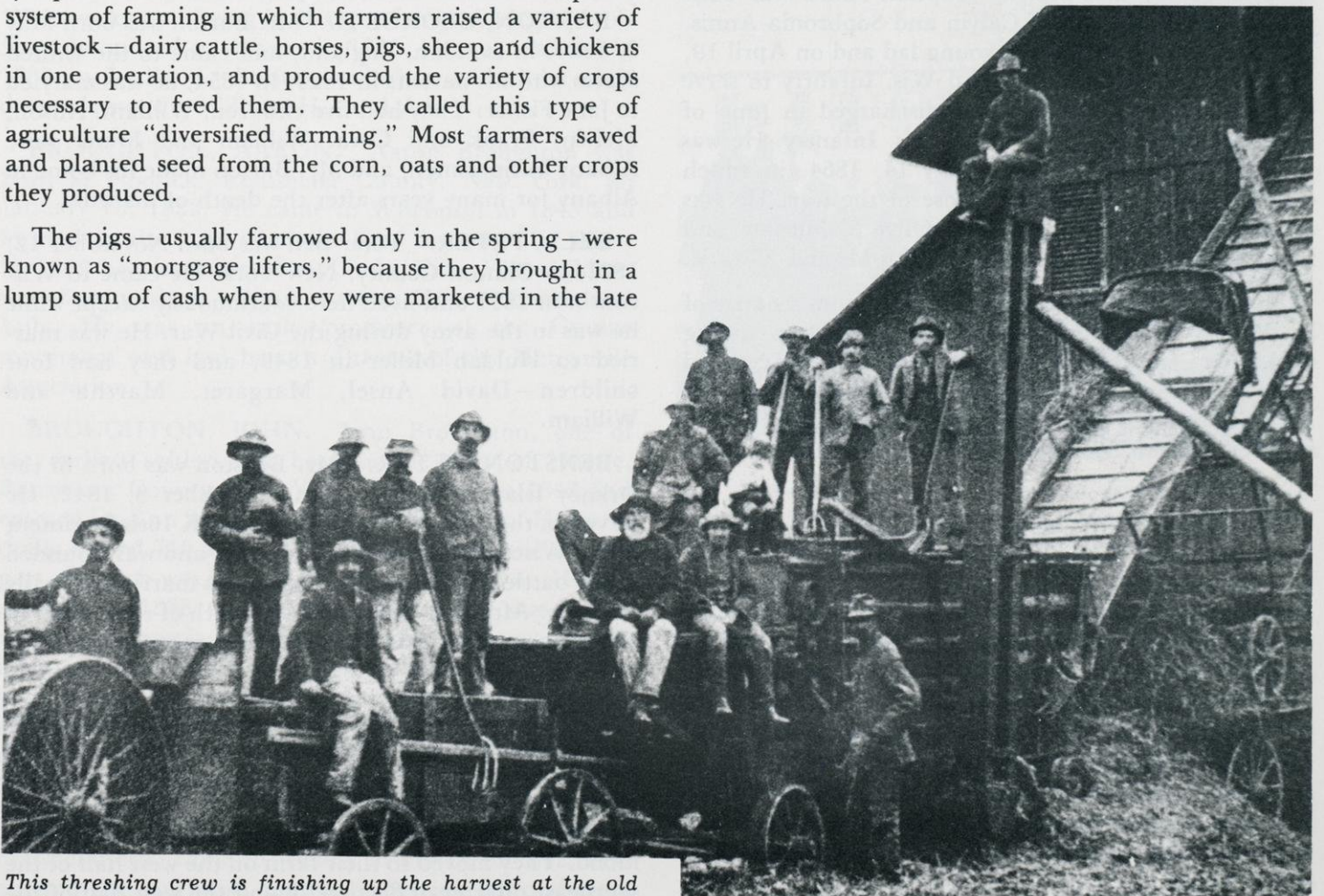
For the next 70 years local farmers depended primarily upon livestock for their income. Thus developed a system of farming in which farmers raised a variety of livestock—dairy cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and chickens in one operation, and produced the variety of crops necessary to feed them. They called this type of agriculture “diversified farming.” Most farmers saved and planted seed from the corn, oats and other crops they produced.

The pigs—usually farrowed only in the spring—were known as “mortgage lifters,” because they brought in a lump sum of cash when they were marketed in the late

fall or winter. The chickens provided a fairly steady flow of eggs, except during the winter months, and those eggs were either sold for cash or traded to local grocers for the week's supply of “boughten” foodstuffs.

Farm numbers were large and acreage small in most cases—80 to 120 acres constituted a fair sized family farm. The number of livestock per farm also was small, as was production of milk, meat and eggs.

Since World War II, the farm economy has made a major transition from livestock to production of such crops as corn and soybeans. With the development of modern farming methods farms have been consolidated and the number of farms has shrunk. The farmers who broke the prairie, and farmed with a one-bottom plow, would stare in astonishment at the huge tractors, combines and irrigation equipment. Nor would they be able to believe the tremendous increases in production in field crops, meat animals and in dairying.



This threshing crew is finishing up the harvest at the old Peckham farm. Unlike later threshing machines equipped with retractable pipe through which straw was blown into the barn or onto a stack, this machine used a rather unwieldy wooden elevator to transport straw.

PIONEER PROFILES

The following are brief biographies of persons who were pioneers in the Village of Albany and immediate area in 1883. Some persons may have been omitted due to lack of available information and time limitation. Information included was taken from the "History of Green County," dated 1884 and obituaries contained in various newspapers.

ABLEY, JACOB. Mr. Abley was born in the Canton of Glarus, Switzerland, in February of 1823. He was engaged in farming for years. He then later went to work in the carpenter and joiner's trade, coming to Albany in 1860, when he bought land on Section 30, Albany Township. He was married in 1859 to Angeline Meinert and they had six children—Maria, Cassie, Lizzie, Ida, Willie and Vena.

ANNIS, J. F., CAPTAIN. Captain Annis was born July 28, 1841, the son of Calvin and Sophronia Annis. He came to Albany when a young lad and on April 19, 1861, he enlisted in Co. C, 3rd Wis. Infantry to serve during the Civil War. He was discharged in June of 1862, reenlisted in Co. G, 22nd Wis. Infantry. He was promoted to Captain on January 14, 1864, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. He was married on March 22, 1865, to Olive S. Putnam and they had three children—B. F., Edith M. and Flora V.

ATKINSON, RICHARD. Mr. Atkinson, a native of England, was a stonemason by trade, but after coming to America engaged in farming. In 1847 he purchased 200 acres of land in Albany Township. Richard married Mary Nelson and they had eight children, six of whom survived—Ellen, William, John, Ann, Joshua, Francis and Edwin.

ATKINSON, FRANCIS. Mr. Atkinson was but six years old when brought to America by his parents, Richard and Mary Francis. In addition to farming land in Decatur Township, he finally bought the old homestead. He was married first to Sarah Jones, a daughter of John and Mary (Wilding) Jones on March 17, 1860. Twelve children were born of this union: Mary E., Frances A., Finley, Owen O., Russell B., Alta M., Annie M., Lillian M., Nellie W., and Etta M. Two died in infancy. Sarah died June 25, 1888, after which Mr. Atkinson married Margaret Bell, daughter of Peter and Huldah (Miller) Bell and one son, Francis L., was born of this union.

BAGLEY, GEORGE W. Mr. Bagley was born in Chautauqua County, New York on May 12, 1818. He first came to Albany in 1842, making the greater part of the way on foot. He purchased land in Sections 25 and 30 before returning to Michigan. He returned to Albany in 1846, building a home on Section 32. He was married to Mary A. Weed in 1848. Mary was born in Cayuga County, New York, on July 15, 1821. Mr. Bagley was a member of the first board of supervisors of the town of Albany. He and Mary had three children—Hattie, Orastus P. and Lorrain L.

BARTLETT, JOHN E. Mr. Bartlett, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Bartlett, was born at Corinth, New York, on August 9, 1847. He came to Albany in 1856 to learn the printing business in the office of the Albany Times. He remained in the office until the Civil War. After returning from the war, he started a newspaper under the name of the Albany Journal. Mr. Bartlett was married to Emma B. Payne, a native of New York state on December 25, 1866. Two children were born to them, Flora Stella, who died in infancy, and Spencer E.

BARTON, GEORGE H. Mr. Barton was born May 2, 1820, in London, England, and came to the United States with his parents in 1829. In 1854, he was married to Jane Fisher. They had five children, William, Anson, Melvin, Frank and Cora. William and Frank were Albany businessmen, and Mr. Barton made his home in Albany for many years after the death of his wife.

BELL, PETER. Peter Bell was born November 12, 1821, in Clinton County, New York. He came to Wisconsin in 1851 and lived here continuously except while he was in the army during the Civil War. He was married to Huldah Miller in 1849, and they had four children—David Ansel, Margaret, Martha and William.

BENSTON, PETER. Mr. Benston was born in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, on September 8, 1842. He served in the Civil War with Company K 16th Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers, and was wounded in the battle of Atlanta. In 1865 he was married to Emily Hulburt. After her death and the death of their child in 1867, he married Ada Crowell. They moved to Albany in 1882.

BERRYMAN, ALBERT L. Albert L. Berryman, son of Ephraim and Mary (Treater) Berryman, was born in Stephenson County, Illinois, on December 14, 1851. He was married on February 8, 1877, to Ida A. Hammond, daughter of Jacob and Eliza (James) Hammond. They moved to their farm on the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 20 and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 29, Albany Township, which contained 160 acres. They had two children—Gertie M. and Stella E.

BLAKELY, GEORGE A., DR. Dr. George A. Blakely was born in Topeka, Kansas, on May 8, 1857. He came to Albany in 1890, where he built up a good practice and was considered an excellent physician. He also was postmaster for four years. He married Jennie Bargewell on October 27, 1880, and they had three sons and two daughters.

BREWER, JEREMIAH. Jeremiah Brewer was an early settler in the town of Albany, having come here in 1844. He was a native of the Green Mountain State, born in Franklin County, August 23, 1802. He was married in July of 1834 to Mahala Croy and they started purchasing farm land until they soon owned 430 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Brewer had four children—John W., Peter W., Hannah M., and George W.

BROCKWAY, HENRY. Henry Brockway was the station agent at Albany for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. He was born at Milan, Erie County, Ohio, on June 4, 1846. After service during the Civil War and study of telegraphy in the railroad station at Whitewater and being in charge of several telegraph offices, he moved to Albany in 1883. He was married in 1868 to Lydia A. Barlow and they had three children—James F., William H., and Ada A.

BROUGHTON, AARON. Aaron Broughton was born at Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York, on January 18, 1822. He came to Wisconsin in 1843 and located on the farm where he lived for over fifty years. In 1848 he was married to Linda Flint. Five children were born to them—Frank, Arthur, Calvert, Emma and Lilly. He was an early promoter of the Grange movement and had been a director of the Mercantile Association.

BROUGHTON, JOHN. John Broughton, one of the earliest settlers was born in the town of Hoosic, Rensselaer County, New York, came here in 1842 and entered land on Section 36, Albany Township. He eventually owned 710 acres of land in one body, the greater part of which was in a good state of cultivation. He was married in 1838 to Amanda Griffin. She was also a native of Rensselaer County. Mr. Broughton was prominent in town affairs and was the assessor for several years, served as chairman of the county board and was the justice of the peace. He and Amanda had eight children—John A., Russell, Albert L., Delilah, William, Hannah Mary, Eugene and Harriet E.

BROWN, HIRAM. Hiram Brown, a native of Massachusetts, came to Albany in March of 1842, and entered the southeast quarter of Section 22, and later land on Sections 23 and 26. At an early day he was admitted to the bar and was one of the first justices of the peace for the town of Albany.

BURNS, CHARLES W., CAPTAIN. Captain Charles W. Burns was a veteran of two wars. He was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, July 18, 1825. In 1860 he came to Albany and opened up a blacksmith shop and continued in this business except for a short time during the Civil War. He was married in 1852 to Mary Counet. They had seven children, two of whom died in infancy; those surviving were Ellen, Hester, Frank, Carrie and Gertie.

CAMPBELL, JAMES. The first settler within the limits now comprising the town of Albany was James Campbell, native of the State of Pennsylvania. As early as 1839 he came here and made a claim on the northeast quarter of Section 32, and during that year he commenced improvements and hired some breaking done. During the winter of 1839-40, Mr. Campbell erected the first cabin in town, locating it on the southwest quarter of Section 30, Albany Township. Mr. Campbell was born February 19, 1814, and on November 26, 1840, he was married to Lorinda Hills. They had three children.



T. M. Carver and his family — (left to right) Ella and Clifford Carver, Addie Carver Loeffel, Wesley Carver, Jetta Carver Johnson, Tom Carver and Elsie Carver Reese.

CARVER, JAMES WESLEY. James Wesley Carver was born in Delaware County, Ohio, on February 6, 1831. He was one of the pioneers of Green County, coming here in 1853. In the same year he was married to Almira Sutton and they had five children. Mr. Carver's war record was one to be proud of and he was wounded at the battle of "Prairie Grove," Kansas.

CHASE, JOHN B. John B. Chase was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, on February 18, 1823. He came to Section 13, Albany Township in 1845. In November of 1852 he married Martha Baker, a native of Ohio. He improved his land and engaged in mixing farming, raising grain, stock and tobacco. In addition he sold Waupon windmills in this and adjoining counties. Mr. and Mrs. Chase had four children—Clark L., Phila A., Franklin B., and William B.



Mary Comstock in front of her home at 207 South Water Street, later the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mathems.

COMSTOCK, A. B. Mr. Comstock was born April 5, 1857, the son of Asa and Lydia Smiley Comstock. In 1883 he was married to Mary Jane Lewis. She died in 1912 and in 1916 he married Emma Whinery. He served on the County Board for 25 years, and later was in the Wisconsin Assembly. He was widely known as an expert gunsmith and rifleman.

COMSTOCK, ASA. Asa Comstock settled in Albany in 1845. He was born June 8, 1800, in Chittenden County, Vermont. He first married Clarissa Swan, and settled in the Chautauqua County, where his wife died. On coming to Green County he entered land on Sections 29 and 30. He was again married in March, 1839, to Lydia Smiley, who was born in Chautauqua County, New York in 1814. There were eight children of this union—Harriet, Mary, Charles, Alice, Jane A., Leander, Clara and Albert Bion.



A typical nineteenth century family group are (front, left to right) Mary Whinery, Sam Tilley and Martha Schultz; (rear, left to right) Josiah Whinery (Emma Comstock's father) and Elizabeth Tilley.

COMSTOCK, LEWIS. Lewis Comstock settled in Green County in 1854, at which time he purchased a tract of land in Section 4, Town of Albany. He was born on September 23, 1825, and was married March 19, 1846, to Louisa Cross, who was born in Fulton County, New York, in March of 1826.

DAVIS, EDWARD. Mr. Davis was born in Newton, Montgomeryshire, Wales, on March 7, 1921. He was married to Mary Davis in 1861, and shortly after their marriage they came to the United States, settling in Albany Township. They had five children: Richard, John, William, Addie and Abbie. He was a farmer until his retirement in 1884, when he and his wife moved to the Village of Albany.

DODGE, JOHN MILTON. John Milton Dodge was born May 16, 1833. He came to Albany in 1854 and first clerked for James Campbell, Warren Bros., and Ed Parker. He later went into business for himself, first running a general store for many years, then a furniture store, later a clothing store and was for several years a tobacco dealer.

DUNPHY, MICHAEL. Mr. Dunphy was born in Ireland on May 25, 1845, being a son of Thomas and Margaret (Healy) Dunphy. He came to the United States with his parents when a year and a half old. He married Margaret Maloy in 1876, and they had 14 children; Nellie, Margaret, Tom, Anna, Al, Richard, Genevieve, Joe, Josie, Frank, Charles, Raymond, James and Leo.

ELDRED, STEPHEN LEONARD, REV. Reverend Stephen Leonard Eldred was born in the town of Petersburg, Rensselaer County, New York, on July 29, 1815. In November of 1836, he was married to Roxanna Broughton, who was born in the town of Hoosic, Rensselaer County, New York, in February of 1818. They arrived in Albany in 1843 and entered land on Section 36, now known as the town of Albany. Mr. and Mrs. Eldred were the parents of seven children—Hannah, Fernando C., Stephen R., Mary R., Sarah L., Alonzo H. and Henry E. Mr. Eldred was one of the first justices of the peace in the town of Albany and also was a minister for the United Brethren Church.

FINN, WILLIAM. Mr. Finn was born in Roscommon County, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1850, settling on a farm in Albany Township. He was married and he and his wife had three sons and three daughters.

FLEEK, EDMUND T. Edmund T. Fleek was born in Hampshire County, Virginia, on January 20, 1817. He was married on June 18, 1848, to Sarah A. Bowen, and they had ten children. In the fall of 1841, he came by way of the Great Lakes to Milwaukee and walked from there to Green County, where he permanently located. He entered 160 acres of government land and engaged in farming.

FLINT, JOHN. John Flint, a pioneer of Green County, was a native of New Hampshire, born in the town of Antrim, Hillsborough County, May 26, 1800. He was married in his native county to Sally Atwood. She was born in the town of Antrim, October 20, 1803. He came to Green County in the fall of 1846. Here he erected a comfortable house with good outbuildings. Eleven children were born to them, eight of whom reached adult age, six still living in 1884—Thomas, Joshua, Lynda, Caroline, Sanford H. and Elsie.

FRANCIS, WILLIAM. Mr. Francis was born in Shropshire, England May 2, 1798. He later made his home in Radnorshire, Wales, and from there came to the United States, settling in Albany. He and his wife had five sons and four daughters. There are many descendants in the Albany area.

GLENNAN, RICHARD. Richard Glennan was an early settler in the town of Stark, Vernon County, then moved to Richland County. In the spring of 1858, he came to the village of Albany. He operated many mills in different sections of the country. He also took great interest in educational work having served as superintendent and teacher many times. He was married in 1852 to Cynthia Jenks, a native of Erie County, New York. They had five children—George, Emma, Sarah, Mary and Richard.

GRAVENOR, THOMAS. Thomas Gravenor, son of William and Margaret Meredith Gravenor, was born at the Dole Mill, Parish of Llanbister, Radnorshire, South Wales, March 17, 1840. He first came to Albany in 1855. In 1862 he was married to Elizabeth Pryce Fullerton, who died in 1872, having one child, William J. In 1875 Mr. Gravenor was married to Araminta Dorman, a resident of Albany; and in 1876, with his wife and son, Willian, moved to Gold Run, Placer County, California, where he was engaged in mining. While residing in California, a son, J. T. Gravenor was born. The family returned to Albany in 1876, where another son, Eugene, was born in 1880 and died in infancy. Mr. Gravenor organized the Albany Exchange Bank in 1902 and was its president until failing health caused him to retire in 1919.

HAHN, J. A. Mr. Hahn was a native of Alsace, which was a province of France, at the time of his birth, February 20, 1832. In his young manhood he came to America, was married in Milwaukee to Theresa Neubauer, located at Albany in 1855, engaged in the boot and shoe business, which he followed for many years. He was one of the oldest members of the Albany Masonic Lodge and was buried with the impressive service of the Order. Many Masons from adjacent towns assisted in the ceremony.

HAMER, RICHARD. Mr. Hamer was born in Radnorshire, Wales, March 23, 1817. He was married to Mary Jarman in 1845 and shortly after their marriage they came to the United States, settling in Albany Township where he resided until his death in 1900. He and his wife had six boys and two girls.

HEIN, WILLIAM F. William F. Hein was born in Germany, April 11, 1838. In 1870 he came with his family to this country and settled in Green County, living on a farm before moving into the village. He was married to Louisa Budde on November 2, 1865, and they had nine children, six of whom preceded the father in death. Those surviving him were Herman, William and Mrs. A. Schindler.

HEWITT, ROBERT HUNTER. Robert Hunter Hewitt was born in the city of New York, December 26, 1828. Captain Hewitt was one of the early settlers of Albany. He started the second general store in the village and was afterward in the hardware business, enlisting in the Civil War where he served nearly four years. He was married to Chloe Pond, October 4, 1849. They were the parents of two children—Edward S. and Marguerite Bishop.

HILLS, SYLVESTER. Sylvester Hills was a native of Connecticut, born March 7, 1790. In 1856 he sold his farm in Sylvester Township and moved to Section 29, in the town of Albany. He was twice married. His first wife was Chloe Webster and they were married in Onondaga County, New York. Eleven children blessed this union, nine of whom were living in 1884—William, Ashael, Price, Lorinda, Miranda, Nelson, Elizar, Betsey and Electa. Mrs. Hills died March 6, 1832. Mr. Hills' second wife was Hannah Sutherland, a native of Vermont. They were married December 27, 1832, and had three children—Sylvester S., Chloe P., and Isabelle M.

HOLMES, ALBERT S. Albert S. Holmes was born in Rensselaer County, New York, on February 10, 1820. In 1844 he was engaged by James Eldred to come to Green County and build a house for him. He loved the country so much that he built himself a log cabin in Sections 25 and 26, Albany Township, eventually owning 200 acres of land. On July 26, 1846, he married Sarah A. Cass and they were one of the first couples to be married in Albany. Mrs. Holmes was one of the first school teachers in Albany. They had four children—Ezra S., Mary F., Vivus C. and Lee G.

HOWARD, WILLIAM HENRY. William Henry Howard was a native of the state of New York, and was born April 13, 1832. He came to Green County about the year 1853 and took up the vocation of builder. He was married on February 10, 1856, to Marietta Maxon. They had nine children. He served in the Civil War under Capt. C. W. Burns.

HUDSON, WILLIAM. William Hudson was born at Chillicothe, Ohio, on June 17, 1833, the son of James and Mary L. (Bobeau) Hudson. He was married in 1858 to Helen Hills, daughter of Ashael and Julia (Schultz) Hills, who was born in Plattsburg, Steuben County, New York. In January of 1864 they settled in Albany and he engaged in buying, selling and shipping live stock. They had one daughter Ada E., born at Albany on July 11, 1866.

HULBURT, JOHN A. Mr. Hulburt was born in Manlius, Onondaga County, New York, January 18, 1833, coming to Green County with his parents in 1839. He was married to Lorinda Smiley in 1859. They had six children, four of whom were living at the time of his death. They were: Daniel, Nellie, Julia, John, Jr.

HUMES, E. T. Eugene T. Humes was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, on August 24, 1850. Mr. Humes came to Albany in about 1878 and conducted a harness shop here. On March 1, 1879, he married Jessie Enriken of Monroe and they had one son. Mr. Humes was a prominent member of the F. & A. M. and O. E. S., and was formerly an Odd Fellow.

JOBES, HIRAM B. Hiram B. Jobes, a native of the town of Brant, Erie County, New York, was born January 30, 1838. He came to Albany in 1855 and engaged as clerk with his uncle, E. Bowen. He later purchased the stock and continued in business until September, 1883, when he sold out to J. F. Litel. He was married three times. His first wife, Ophelia H. Stetson, of Erie County, New York, was born March 8, 1837, and died July 18, 1870. He was again married in 1871 to Sarah Van Curen, who died in the spring of 1873. He was married the third time in July, 1874, to Mrs. Frances Usher Banks, who was born in Alexandria, Licking County, Ohio.

JONES, JOHN, SR. Mr. Jones was born in Newtown, Montgomeryshire, Wales in 1782. He was married to Sarah Sheen; twelve children were born to them. He came to Albany Township in 1845 with seven of his children: George, William, Aaron, Margaret, Ann, John and Jane. There are many descendants in Albany today. His wife stayed in Wales with the other five children: Hiram, David, Elinor, Sarah and Mary. Descendants of Sarah and Mary came to Albany.

KELLOGG, AARON. Aaron Kellogg was born in Floyd, New York, February 8, 1804. In 1824 he was married to Diantha Parker. In 1838 he came to Albany and was employed as a hotel keeper, farmer, miner, miller, merchant and soldier.

LEMMEL, JOHN. John Lemmel was a native of France, born in Hiertigheim, near Strassburg, November 2, 1825. He came to Albany in 1855 and had a position with Charles Campbell until 1862, when he opened a shop and carried on the business of merchant tailor until the fall of 1864, when he enlisted in the old 5th Wisconsin Volunteers, Company I. After the war he returned home and resumed his business.

LEWIS, WILLIAM. William Lewis was born in Radnorshire, Wales, on July 30, 1839. He was married to Mary Lloyd, the daughter of Thomas and Jane Lloyd in 1857. In 1860 the Lewises and the Lloyds came to the United States, settling in Albany Township, and living together for a time. Mr. Lewis purchased land and was a farmer for many years. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis—Eliza, John, Mancel, Mary, Maud, Edwin, William and a child who died in infancy.

LEWIS, WILLIAM R. William R. Lewis was born in Mt. Pleasant Township on February 6, 1856, the son of Benjamin and Eliza Lewis. He was married in 1886 to Miss Flora Wood, daughter of John Wood. They came to Albany and Mr. Lewis was very active in the village. He served as village president and was the treasurer of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Decatur and Albany. His farm contained 297 acres of the best soil of Green County.



John Litel grew up in Albany and graduated from Albany High School in 1911. He became a successful stage and screen actor, starring in the movies "Irene," "Alcatraz," "Give Me Liberty" and "My Bill," to name a few. In 1939 he remembered his home town by donating half the cost of the stage installation in the new school completed that year.

LITEL, JOHN F. John Franklin Litel was born in Bond County, Illinois, October 13, 1831. He came to Albany in 1880 and was a successful merchant until retirement in 1892. In 1860 he was married to Mary A. Mears and six children were born of the union, three of whom died in childhood. Those surviving were: John F., J. E., and a Mrs. Carraway. He served three terms as supervisor and was a member of the village board for several years.

LLOYD, EDWARD. Mr. Lloyd was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales, on March 4, 1819. He came to the United States in 1845 and to Albany Township in 1847. He and his wife, Mary Hamer, had eleven children: Mary Ann, Margaret, James, Delia, Lucinda, Betsey, Sarah, Esther, Martha, John and Lloyd.

LLOYD, THOMAS. Thomas Lloyd was born in 1815, in Wales, and was married, in 1841, to Jane Boundford. He came to Albany in 1860 and settled in Section 12, Albany Township. He and Jane had ten children: Mary, Jane, Martha, Thomas, James, William, Elizabeth, Sarah, Joseph and Edwin T.

LOCKWOOD, FRED. Fred Lockwood was born in Green County on November 7, 1858, the son of Gaylord and Elsie Flint Lockwood. On December 9, 1879, he married Ellen J. Trow and they had two children: Ernie and Ida. In addition to farming, he devoted considerable time and attention to fruit growing. He was a member of the village board and a director of the Albany Exchange Bank.

MAYNARD, JOHN F. John F. Maynard was born January 2, 1827, in New York state. He was married to Esther Ann Whitcomb on January 29, 1854, and came to Albany in the spring of 1867. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade and in the year 1880 he engaged in the furniture business, which was continued until the spring of 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Maynard had six children, four girls and two boys; the two latter died in infancy, and the fourth daughter died at the age of 17 years.

MEINERT, CHRISTOPHER. Christopher Meinert was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, July 13, 1818. He married Elizabeth Frazier, also a native of Pickaway County, Ohio, and in 1843 came to Albany, settling on Section 30. His farm contained 240 acres and he engaged in raising grain and stock, paying particular attention to sheep, and usually kept a flock of 300. Mr. and Mrs. Meinert had four children: Martha, Eli, Mary and Sarah. Elizabeth Meinert died in 1851 and Christopher married again in November, 1851, to Abigail Dora Mead and they had five children: Satirah, Garret H., Irad C., Frances M. and Dora.

MITCHELL, SAMUEL. Samuel Mitchell came from Boon County, Illinois, in the spring of 1842. He farmed for a short time before moving out of town. In 1874 he returned to Albany and bought the Green County house. After living there one year, he again left Albany not to return until three years later. He was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, January 15, 1816. He was married to Jane Frazier, a native of Pickaway County, Ohio, born in 1814. They had two children—Thomas and James.

MITCHELL, THOMAS. Thomas Mitchell was born in Boone County, Illinois, on March 19, 1841, and was one year old when he came with his parents, Samuel and Jane Mitchell to Green County. He married Lura West, better known as Ida Pond. He had purchased the Campbell farm on Section 32, which was the first place settled in the town of Albany. He was in the lumber business and also dealt in coal and wood. They were the parents of two children—Jennie and Louie.

MURREY, NAPOLEON B. Napoleon B. Murrey was born in Michigan on August 29, 1840, and was four years old when he came with his parents to Wisconsin. His early life was spent in Decatur Township. After serving in the Civil War, he returned to Albany in 1874, at which time he erected a business house on block 13 which was destroyed by fire in 1883, but was eventually rebuilt. He was married in June, 1865, to Abby Caleff, a native of Dixon, Illinois.

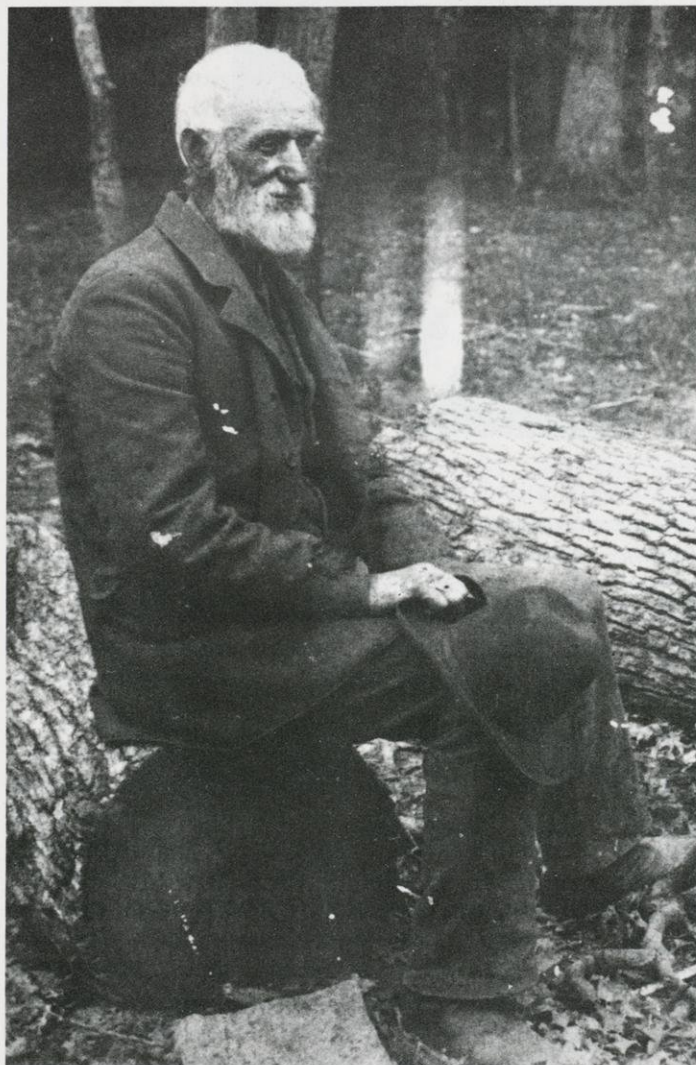
NICHOLS, SAMUEL F., DR. Samuel F. Nichols, one of the pioneers of the town of Albany, and one of the founders of the village, was a native of the Green Mountain State, born at Bennington, November 14, 1801. His father was a sea captain, and an early settler in Bennington. Dr. Nichols graduated from the Castleton Medical Institute and started his first practice in Newark, Wayne County, New York. He was married in 1826 to Julia Bartle and they came to Albany in 1846. Soon after arriving in Albany, due to ill health, he discontinued his practice, and engaged as a mail contractor, remaining in this business until 1868. Dr. and Mrs. Nichols had seven children: Chloe J., Martin V., Louisa A., Bartle W., Philander K., Louis A. and Maggie. Dr. Nichols was one of the presidential electors of district No. 2 in 1848 in the state of Wisconsin, and was chosen to transmit the result to the seat of government.

PECKHAM, ABEL. Abel Peckham came to Green County in 1851 and bought a farm in Section 26. He was born in Grafton, Rensselaer County, New York, in 1798. He was reared upon a farm, and in his youth learned the cooper's trade. He was married in 1820 to Ada Brown, who was born in Petersburg, Rensselaer County, New York, in 1800. Mr. and Mrs. Peckham were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom survived—Sally W., Rhoda D., John F., Nelson A., Winfield S., Ada, Joshua, Obadiah, Lucy J., Polly R., and Halsey.

PECKHAM, WINFIELD S. Winfield S. Peckham was born March 19, 1829, and in 1853 came to Albany and purchased eighty acres of land on Section 35. He was married on January 1, 1862, to Eleanor Bailey. They then moved to Section 27 and eventually owned 500 acres, all under fence. Mr. and Mrs. Peckham had two children—George T. and Lydia M.

PEEBLES, SETH V. Seth V. Peebles was a native of Massachusetts, born in the town of Petham, Hampshire County, May 1, 1803. He was married to May Stevens and they came to this area in 1846, settling on Section 24, Albany Township. They had four children—William H., Edwin M., Diana E. and Hial.

PERRY, JOHN B. John B. Perry was born at Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York, December 11, 1812. In December, 1846, he came to Green County and engaged in teaching at Albany in January, 1847. He moved to Albany in 1851 and was elected justice in 1852. He served as town clerk and village clerk for many years. In 1883, acting as attorney for the village of Albany, he secured the incorporation of the village. He was admitted to the bar in Monroe in 1854. Mr. Perry was married twice. He was married in 1840 to Amy M. Kellogg and they had seven children—four daughters and three sons. He was married the second time to Susan Mearns, July 1, 1883.



The old gentleman resting on a log has been identified as Israel Phillips.

PHILLIPS, ISRAEL. Israel Phillips came to Green County in 1846. He was a native of Grafton, Rensselaer County, New York, born in 1820. In 1843 he was married to Miss L. S. Hill, a native of that county. His farm contained 440 acres and he engaged in stock raising. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips had two children—Marcella and Charles. Mr. Phillips had been chairman of the County Board for many years.

POND, ERASTUS O. Erastus O. Pond, one of the founders of the village of Albany, was born in Oneida County, New York, on August 4, 1799. He was married August 6, 1826, to Margaret L. Bartle, who was born in Chenango County, New York. In 1846 he came to Albany and was the first postmaster and merchant and was prominently identified with the interest of the town and village until the time of his death in 1854.



Looking north on what is now Sugar River Parkway. The house on the left was built by Samuel Pond. The next house is the Carver house, built by Hector and Walter Carradine.

POND, SAMUEL A. Samuel A. Pond was born in Newark, New York, May 6, 1830, and came to Albany in 1846. He assisted in building the second house in Albany and was one of the foremost in bringing the railroad here. He donated the ground and helped build the first church in Albany, and assisted in organizing the first Sunday school. In 1854, at Newark, New York, he was married to Mrs. Eliza McNeil and they had five children.



Seated in the picture here is Eliza Pryce Bartlett; standing (left to right) are Thomas, Richard and Evan Pryce.

PRYCE, EDWARD. Edward Pryce was born in Radnorshire, Wales, June 20, 1824, and came to Albany in 1845. In September, 1848, he was married to Elizabeth Swancutt and they raised eleven children.

PRYCE, THOMAS, SR. Thomas Pryce, Sr., was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales. He came to Albany in 1845 and entered the southwest quarter of Section 22 and the north half of Section 27, Albany Township. He was married to Elizabeth Evans, also a native of Wales. They had nine children, six of whom survived: Edward, Caroline, Thomas, Eliza, Richard and Evan.

PURINGTON, JUDSON M. Judson M. Purington, son of David H. and Chastina (Messinger) Purington, was born in Allegany County, New York, on November 20, 1829. He came to Albany Township in 1851, purchasing land in Section 4, where he built a log house. He was married in 1854 to Isabella, daughter of Sylvester and Hannah (Sutherland) Hills. She died in 1856. Mr. Purington again married in 1857 to Chloe Hills, a sister of his first wife. He was killed by lightning on February 27, 1876. Mr. Purington left the following children: Sylvester, David, Edith, Amy and Agnes.

PURINGTON, MARTIN. Martin Purington was born in Allegany County, town of Belfast, state of New York, September 8, 1827. He came to Albany in 1845 and married Marie L. Jewell October 10, 1852. They had seven children, two dying in infancy. He served his country during the Civil War, enlisting in the spring of 1865, Co. I, W.V.I.

PUTNAM, HIRAM D. Hiram D. Putnam was born in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, on May 31, 1826, the son of John J. and Mary Magdaline (Fleck) Putnam. He was married December 18, 1856, to Sarah Cannet, who was born in Licking County, Ohio. In 1871 they came to Albany and purchased land which was within the limits of the village and built a fine brick residence. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam were the parents of three children—Charles W., Lutie V. and John H.

ROBERTS, JONATHAN H. Jonathan H. Roberts was born in the state of Maine, November 5, 1804, and came to Albany in 1844. He was married to Maria Davis in 1830 and they had three children, all sons, one of them being Dr. G. W. Roberts.

SEARLES, J. B. J. B. Searles was one of the earliest settlers in the village. He came to Green County in 1859, first settling in Sylvester and later in Albany, where for more than thirty years he was engaged in the farm implement business.

SHERBONDY, MAJOR JOHN L. Major John L. Sherbondy was born in West Moreland County, Pennsylvania, July 15, 1834. In the fall of 1854 he came to Wisconsin and settled in Albany. He was married December 25, 1859, to Elsie J. Burt. They had four children—Harrison B., Shelby L., J. E. and R. D. Mr. Sherbondy was a soldier of the Civil War, having enlisted in Company G, 49th Wisconsin and served until the close of the war.

SMILEY, DANIEL. Daniel Smiley was born in the town of Ellery, Chautauqua County, New York, June 19, 1812. He was married May 18, 1836, to Ellen Bemis. In 1844 he came to Albany and for many years he was an influential citizen of Green County. He was elected and served one term in the Wisconsin Assembly.

SMOUT, RICHARD. Richard Smout was born in Radnorshire, South Wales, September 28, 1830. As a young man 22 years of age, he emigrated to America in 1852, settling in the town of Albany where he resided for over 54 years. On May 31, 1859, he was married to Mary Lloyd, and they had nine children, five sons and four daughters—Leonard, Warren, Samuel, Mary, Olive, Belle, Bertha, Everett and Lauren.

STEPHENSON, ROBERT. Robert Stephenson was born in Ireland in 1833 and emigrated to America in 1845 settling in Albany which always remained his home. He was survived by two sons—Henry and Frank.

SUTTON, ZEBOLON. Zebolon Sutton settled in the town of Albany in 1853, where he purchased a tract of land on Section 31, and built a frame house upon it. He was born on October 14, 1801, in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He was married in 1827 to Rebecca Burt, who was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, on May 27, 1807. They had three children—Almira, George and Sarah.

TAIT, WALTER. Walter Tait, an early settler in the northern part of the town of Albany, was born in Staffordshire, England, in November, 1819. In 1847 he came to Green County, settling on Section 9, Albany Township. He was married on January 1, 1844, to Susan Green. She was born in the town of Hanover, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. They had nine children, seven of whom survived—Sarah A., Nancy M., Clara L., Almira H., Albert D., Charlotte M., and Myron J.

THOMSON, ROBERT. Robert Thomson was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, in June of 1815. He came to America in 1842, first settling in the town of Brooklyn. In 1872 he sold his farm and moved to Albany where he purchased village property and engaged in carpet weaving. His marriage took place in 1837. His wife was formerly Janet Laury, a native of Scotland. Their children were Agnes, Ann, Janet, Mary J. and Kittie.



Mrs. Maria Tibbetts as she appeared on her 100th birthday. Mrs. Tibbetts was born July 3, 1827, in Newark, New Jersey. Her parents were Captain E. O. Pond, a Great Lakes ship skipper, and Margaret Bartle Pond.

TIBBETTS, CHARLES S. Charles S. Tibbetts was born in Frankfort, Herkimer County, New York, March 16, 1834, and came to Albany in 1854. On the first call for volunteers in 1861, he entered the band of the Third Wisconsin Infantry and when the regimental bands were all dismissed the following year, he reenlisted in the Fifth Wisconsin Infantry and remained until the close of the war. He was married to Maria Pond Warren in 1856 and they had one daughter.



The home of Mrs. Maria Tibbetts as it appears today. The first brick home in Albany, it was built in 1850 by Zebina Warren.

TILLEY, SAMSON. Samson Tilley was born at the Sarn, Montgomeryshire, England, March 31, 1829. At the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to a wagon maker to learn the trade. In 1852 he came to the village of Albany and opened a shop. He was married March 25, 1860, to Elizabeth Tompkins.

TOMKINS, CHARLES W. Charles W. Tomkins, manager of the Albany flour mills, of which he was one-half owner, was a native of Ireland, born in County Wicklow, February 28, 1832. In 1852 he came to Albany to operate the mill owned by Zebina Warren. In 1868 the firm of Warren, Tomkins and Erolc was formed and a mill was built and operated by Mr. Tomkins. He was married in 1860 to Lucy A. Hoyt from the state of Maine, and they had three children—Estella, Warren and Arthur.

TROW, JOHN. John Trow was born in Beguildy Parish, Radnorshire, Wales, in 1805. About 1839 John Trow married Ann Griffiths, a daughter of John and Sarah Griffiths, Lower House farm, in Radnorshire. In the spring of 1847 John Trow and his family moved to Albany, where they bought 200 acres of land. John and Ann were the parents of John Alfred and Michael.

VAN WART, HARRY, SR. Harry Van Wart, Sr., son of Bishop and Lydia Van Wart was born in Chautauqua County, New York, on January 10, 1830. He was married January 10, 1855, to Lucy Schofield, a native of Erie County, New York, who was born April 18, 1832. Mrs. Van Wart died September 29, 1871, and Mr. Van Wart was again married on April 23, 1875, to Louisa Hamilton, a native of New York City. Mr. Van Wart had the following children: Kasie, Mae, Annie, Bessie and Helen.

WALL, MICHAEL. Mr. Wall was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, and there was married to Amelia O'Grady. They came to the United States before the Civil War. Living in New Orleans during the war, he could not find work at his trade of bricklaying, so he took a job loading bags of salt onto ships. He and his wife had five sons—William, Frank, Dan, John, and one who died young. After the war the family came to Albany where Mr. Wall and three of his sons, and later John's son, Vance, were engaged in bricklaying and plastering. Most of the brick buildings in Albany were built by the Wall family, including the large building which housed the linen mill and later the condensery.

WARREN, EUGENE F. Eugene F. Warren was born in Hogansburg, Franklin County, New York, on June 30, 1833. For a short time, he worked for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad in Janesville and then came to Albany and engaged in mercantile business with his brothers, John and Lemuel. After the Civil War, he associated himself with C. W. Tomkins in erecting a flouring mill. He continued in this profession until his death. Mr. Warren was married to Sarah S. Gleason on September 9, 1855, and they had five children, three of whom survived: Nellie S., Mary E. and Grace.

WARREN, JOHN HOLDEN, DR. Dr. John Holden Warren was born at Hogansburg, Franklin County, New York, on August 23, 1825. In 1851 he came to Albany, after graduating from Rush Medical College. In Albany he followed the milling and mercantile business with much success. He was elected to the state senate in 1857 and served for five years, winning honorable distinction as a statesman. In 1862 he was appointed by Abraham Lincoln as collector of internal revenue, an office he held for seven years. He was a stockholder and director in the Sugar River Valley Railway and was for many years the largest mail contractor in the United States, having over 100 mail routes and being president and general manager of the Western Stage Company.

WARREN, LEMUEL. Lemuel Warren was born October 27, 1791, in Montpelier, Vermont. In 1817 he was married to Betsy R. Richardson. Betsy was born in Granville, Washington County, August 1, 1793. Lemuel Warren was overseer of Hogan's Mills prior to coming to the area in 1841. Lemuel and Betsy had eight children.

WARREN, ZEBINA. Zebina Warren was born at Hogansburg, Franklin County, New York, May 2, 1821. In 1847 he came to Albany and erected a grist mill. In 1851 he engaged in the mercantile trade in company with his brother. He was married to Maria, daughter of Erastus and Margaret (Bartle) Pond. They had two children, one of whom survived—Ella, who married L. A. Nichols. Mr. Warren was prominently identified with the interests of both town and village, and was in office from the time of the town organization.

WEBB, WILLIAM. William Webb was born in Utica, Oneida County, New York, May 16, 1819. In 1882 he purchased land in the Village of Albany. He was married April 27, 1841, to Fanny Rice. She was born in the town of Boston, Erie County, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Webb had five children—Albert A., Jennie A., Roswell, Charles and Emma.

WESSEL, A. A. A. A. Wessel was born August 27, 1846, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Collier Wessel. He was married in 1881 to Sarah Murrey of Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Wessel was a jeweler for many years. He was survived by one daughter, Mrs. Hettie Broughton, and one granddaughter, Mrs. J. E. Schultz.



The pensive looking group in this photo are the Ruehlow children—Rosa, Bill, Chick, Ina and Mary.

WHITCOMB, HARRIS MORGAN. Harris Morgan Whitcomb, the son of James Martin Whitcomb and Charlene Lucinda Morgan Whitcomb, was born in Clarksville, Iowa, February 24, 1875, and moved with his parents to a farm near Albany at the age of two. Mr. Whitcomb was one of the founders of the Albany Hardware Specialty Manufacturing Company, manufacturer of the Whitcomb barn door latch and was associated with that company for 45 years before his retirement. He married February 12, 1912, to Anna Raduege, and they had three children—Walter, Helen and Lydia.



WHITCOMB, JAMES MARTIN. On August 19, 1853, James Martin Whitcomb was born, the son of James Whitcomb and Nancy Goltry in Mt. Pleasant Township. He was married June 1, 1874, in Albany to Charlene L. Morgan. Mr. Whitcomb was in the music business, teaching and selling music instruments for over 68 years. In 1904-1909, Mr. Whitcomb was the acting postmaster.

WHITCOMB, JOSHUA. Joshua Whitcomb was one of the first settlers of Green County and was born in the town of Lisbon, Grafton County, New Hampshire, on January 17, 1797. He was married to Hannah Clement and in 1842 they came to Green County, settling on Section 33, Albany Township.

A more smartly attired pair would be hard to find—then or now. They are N. Roy Bowman (left) and Ed Randall.



WILLIAMS, JOHN. Mr. Williams was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales on July 4, 1825. He was married to Mary Francis in 1855 and in the same year they came to the United States, settling in Albany Township. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children. He was a farmer for most of his life.

WOOD, JOHN. John Wood was born of Quaker parents in the city of Philadelphia on the 13th of February, 1818. He came to Wisconsin in 1839 and settled in this area. He engaged in lead mining near the village, and had charge of the Cadiz Saw Mill. He was married in 1844 to Clarissa Whitcomb, who died in 1865. He again married in 1868—this time to Jane Miller Bell. Mr. Wood held several township and county offices, and was a constable in 1870.

The two couples, doubtless dressed in Sunday best, are (seated left to right); Gean Jones and Jack Zimmerli, (standing, left to right) Louise Jones and Myrtle Zimmerli. Note the ladies' splendid hats and the rakish angle of the gentlemen's hats.



MISCELLANEOUS

The paragraphs included in this section refused to fit into any of the preceding chapters, but they are about people, places or incidents in Albany and do need to be in this book for they fill in and add to the picture of the Albany of yesteryears.

The Albany Cornet Band prepares to march in the Fourth of July parade in 1910. Shown are: (1) Elmer Atherton; (2) Ervin Graves; (3) Lester Peckham; (4) Maurice Barton; (5) Elmer Dixon; (6) Carl Jacobson; (7) Harleigh Peckham; (8) Roy Phelps; (9) Ed Gibbons; (10) Eddie Butcher; (11) Colonel Dixon; (12) Ivan Phelps; (13) Fred Roberts; (14) Andrew Wessel; (15) Albe Sherbundy; (16) Harry Atherton; and (17) Dr. Sax Morgan.

Albany's Bands

Before the Civil War Albany had two rival bands, the Saxhorn Band and the Young America Band, each with about 18 members. The Saxhorn Band had a four-horse band wagon, and the Young Americans had beautiful scarlet caps. On the day of the "Great Barbecue" (when

Sweet music there must have been when this group of musicians went into action during the big band reunion that took place in Albany on August 28, 1908.



a whole ox was roasted) there was a patriotic parade which included these bands and two martial bands with local membership. As a result of the patriotic fervor of the day, most of the band boys enlisted, many in Co. E., 13th Regiment, of the 13th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

In 1865 members of the Brass Band were requested to meet at their rooms for the purpose of reorganizing. Now that the war was over, "and there being no danger of being called up, let us take hold with a will. Signed, C. S. Tibbits."

Albany's Cornet Band was organized in 1881 by Scott Darling. The first members were: Charley Putnam, J. P. Atherton, Charley Wilder, John Flood, Andrew Wessel, John Pryce, Hector Carradine, Willie Bliss, Jim Keegan, Tim Keegan and O. H. Atherton.

In July of 1883 the editor says: "The music discoursed by the Albany Cornet Band and Mr. S. R. Eldred's Martial Band on Saturday night last, was excellent and greatly enjoyed by all. In fact, the whole town seemed full of music." The band usually played a part in community functions. They played at Albany's skating rink, in the Opera House, at prohibition rallies and at meetings to promote the building of the railroad.

The Cornet band lost many instruments in the fire of 1883, but had "enough of the toot left to make some first class music for the edification of our citizens." Several benefits were held for the band boys.

In 1886 need was felt for the building of a bandstand so that the band would not have to perform in the dust and mud of the street. It was reported in 1887 that "The ladies have recently raised enough money to build a bandstand," and continuing, "the ladies of our beautiful village—or rather, the beautiful ladies of our village—are more public spirited and enterprising than the gentlemen." At this time the band was being referred to as the Silver Cornet Band.

In 1896 Albany could boast three musical groups; the Albany Band, H. Atherton, Leader; Warren's Orchestra, F. Warren, Director; and the Hewitt and Atherton Orchestra, E. E. Atherton, Director.

The Albany Cornet Band played a large part in the many patriotic rallies held during World War I. In 1918 the band was giving weekly concerts from their new platform wagon. The band was active into the 1920's, playing on Memorial Day, at the opening of the new bridge and having a "tag day" to earn money for expenses.

In the 1930's there were Saturday evening band concerts downtown on Water Street, the membership of the band consisting of former village band members and alumni and current members of the high school band.

Reuben Folsom

On the banks of Sugar River just above the Village of Albany is a picturesque cavern known as Reuben's Cave. It was in this tiny unwholesome crack in the rock of the river bank that Reuben Folsom, the famous Nimrod of Green County's early history spent many days of his hunter's life.

Accounts vary as to the place of Reuben's birth, but many authors believe that he was a native of Canada and that he served in the regular United States Army before he drifted to Green County in 1841. His ancestry is presumably highly respectable although little is certain as to his early history. His brother is thought to have been a celebrity in the field of medicine. There are also differing stories about old Reuben's love affairs. One legend says that he was married three times and that the fourth time the marriage was declared illegal so the contracting parties went their separate ways and Reuben arrived eventually in the middle west.

Other legends have it that disappointed hopes and blighted love were the misfortunes that led Reuben to live the life of a partial recluse and to become an habitue of the woods and caves.

Old Reuben had no regular habits but was at home at almost anybody's house and he never was unwelcome. He spent many nights at the Broughton farm near Albany and in order to get the family up for breakfast so that he could go hunting by daylight, the old fellow would arise at three or four o'clock and go out to the chicken coop and start crowing. This started all the roosters to imitating him and the family awoke, got breakfast and he put in a full day and sometimes several days and nights hunting deer and wolves. It is said that Reuben was a hunter from the time he was five years old. Legend has it that one day he looked out and saw a fox running across the field, gave a whoop and with no further formality he and his dog were after the fox. He captured his prey and from that time on there was no more indoor education for Reuben. The woods and fields claimed him as their own and he grew up in the great school of nature.

Folsom hunted deer at times, but he was much more interested in the ferocious wolves that had been annoying the settlers and killing their cattle and sheep. Bounties were offered for scalps and the skins were valuable so the canny, thrifty old hunter spent most of his time trapping and killing the wolves.

The tradition is that he never killed a female wolf and if he found a den of young ones he kept them secretly hidden away until they reached a size which enabled him to get the largest bounty afforded by grown wolves. This was about five times as much as that for young wolves.



Reuben Folsom, inset, legendary hermit-hunter, who, it is said, lived in the cave pictured here during the mid-part of the 1800's

Reuben seemed to live and move in a world of wolves; he became wolfish in nature and looked and talked like a wolf. He even named his dog "Wolf." He could outwalk any ordinary human being, taking great strides as though some phantom form were dogging his footsteps. Despite his seeming surliness, old Reuben was a harmless inoffensive creature whose whole sum of usefulness undoubtedly overbalanced all the harm he ever did. However, it is quite certain that he was slightly deranged mentally. The children here were all afraid of him because he bit the heads off rats in order to show the strength of his teeth.

Time whitened old Reuben's hair and, as the years went by, the one-time athletic step enfeebled led him to the home which charity had kindly provided for the unfortunate of the earth. It was in 1870 that the veteran hunter passed away. He was firmly convinced that turpentine was a great medicine and so he slipped away one night from the attendants and took a huge dose of it. He died soon after and was buried on a hillside between Monticello and Albany. Two or three years ago his body was moved to the Gap Church yard where the citizens of Albany erected a marker for him.

From an article in the Albany Vindicator in 1926 by Pauline Gravenor.

The Castle

"This is my castle, and here will I stay," declared Mrs. Samuel Nichols to her friends, who expected her to return to New York when Dr. Nichols passed on.

She stayed, spending many hours in her sitting room on the second floor receiving friends and watching activity on the busy street below.

Dr. Samuel Nichols, who with Erastus O. Pond, came to "Campbell's Ford" in the early 1840's to found the village of Albany, built the fine three-story home for his wife in an effort to make her happy in this wilderness.

Completed in 1849, the three-story home was conspicuously situated on the hill above the river, on the corner of Main and Mill Streets. There was a large parlor, tall windows to catch the sun as it came up over the woods to the east, and a beautiful dining room on the north, with an elegant fireplace of Italian marble with brass fittings. A high front porch with French windows faced down the hill toward the river. The kitchen on the back was built of thick bricks, with a fireplace and deep casement windows. A stairway led from this kitchen on the northwest corner, to a complete kitchen facility in the back basement, where Mrs. Nichols demanded the cooking be done, and the food be carried up the stairs to be served.

Servants lived in the quarters in the front basement, on the northeast corner of the house. Here the basement was half above ground level, with entrances under the high porch, giving in effect another floor.

It was rumored that Negro servants established an "underground railroad station" in that basement room, during the pre-Civil War days, with the Nichols full knowledge and approval.

The third floor, accessible from the sleeping rooms on the second floor, was a ballroom. Many of Wisconsin's leading political and industrial figures were lavishly entertained there, and Albany's finest parties were held. The hardwood floor was excellent for dancing. Solid walnut benches around the room provided seating for the guests.

Dr. Nichols may have lent the ballroom for other purposes. Among the possessions of Mrs. A. B. Comstock, ninety years later, was found a yellowed newspaper of *The Albany Weekly Times*, dated March 12, 1861. It stated that it was published in the "3rd story of the Nichols' block, corner of Main and Mill Streets, west side of the river, Albany." The issue carried the complete inaugural address of Abraham Lincoln, and editorial comment on the problems of that day.

After Sever and Mary Gothompson gave up their three-year proprietorship of the Nichols House—the grand hotel across the street to the East—in the early 1890's, they moved into living quarters on the south side of the basement of *The Castle*. Mary started making and selling ice cream. She got the milk and cream from the creamery across the river, and the ice from the ice house for the freezing and storage. Facilities for serving dishes of ice cream were developed beneath the big porch. It became a popular treat.

Elmer Atherton, who published the *Albany Vindicator*, started advertising Mary's ice cream with the slogan, "Get your ice cream at the Castle" and a sign was put up to that effect, using Mrs. Nichols' own term for her home. Since that time it has been called "The Castle."

Mary Gothompson said she made the first ice cream cones to be sold anywhere in the area, by cutting thin squares of cookie dough and rolling them into cones while they were still warm.

Around 1900, a new owner made the fine old home into a two family dwelling. His remodeling program split the interior down the middle, lengthwise. The wide front porch was enclosed to make two "front" rooms with big windows; the entrance to the basement was sealed, building the front of the house flush to the ground from the porch floor. The small porch from the north door to the sidewalk was removed.

The pump near the entrance on the south side remained until about 25 years ago. It was removed and the well filled. The old "carriage house" is still there, having housed a variety of "rigs" and horses, and the entire gamut of automobiles. The loft, built for hay and straw bedding, has stored everything from industrial equipment and chicken pens to household furnishings. The apple trees and the wide lawn are unchanged.

When new wiring was installed in the house in the late 1940's, Charles Phillips, the electrician, called the present owner to see the construction of the house where he had removed a section of plaster. The huge beams bore the handhewn marks of the adz, and between them dangled bare uninsulated wires—the original wiring when electricity first came to Albany. "It is a wonder this place didn't burn down years ago," the electrician remarked.

There were no built-in closets. A double outside toilet was the sanitary facility until about 30 years ago. Ivy and Concord grape vines, along with other shrubbery, and huge old trees shielded the house and the toilets from view on the west.

A subsequent owner in the 1920's covered the original white clapboard exterior with red imitation brick siding, an appearance maintained until the summer of 1970, when a degree of its elegance was restored with white siding.

The traces of that early "serving" staircase from the basement kitchen are still there, as is the corner fireplace in the servant's quarters. Both first floor fireplaces are intact, but unused. Some renter ripped up the walnut benches from the third floor, and burned them in the heating stove. The ballroom has been used as an attic, a play room, a storage place for onions and sweet corn seed, and an airy spot to dry clothes on rainy days.

Even with the extensive remodeling, the addition of electricity and plumbing and furnaces, the personality and atmosphere of the old home has not changed. The foundations are too solid, the walls too thick, the rooms too full of memories and dreams to change much.

(Note: We are deeply grateful to Frances Riemer Burt for permission to publish the above story which she wrote several years ago.)

First Cars

A Rambler, the first horseless carriage in Albany was purchased by George Santos (Santer) in 1903. He had it licensed last in 1912, but drove it the last time at the dedication of the new bridge in 1924. Built in Kenosha and costing \$375, it was shipped to Albany where the wheels and fenders were assembled. Wheels were 28-inch with two and one half inch diamond-hard rubber tires. Removable kerosene lamps with red "bulls eyes" served as tail lights. It was called the Thomas 13 Jeffrey Rambler, one cylinder, 10 horsepower motor in back—air cooled with gas tank above and behind the seat. It held enough gas to go 150 miles. On sandy roads 8 to 10 miles per hour was a good speed. The lever for steering didn't work well on the sandy roads, so it was replaced with a steering wheel.



Leaving for an outing in the early 1920's are, left to right: unidentified man, Harry Maulcook, Charles Phillips, unidentified man.

Two other cars were owned by Dr. G. W. Roberts—an Oldsmobile—and Dr. Sax J. Morgan, a Lambert. There were no gasoline stations, so barrels of high test gas were shipped in.

Hunting

In Albany lore, stories of hunting abound, beginning with the story of Reuben, the wolf hunter, and continuing until today. A picture of seven hunters from Albany and their hunting trophies, a year's supply of venison, was used on the 1917 calendar for the Comstock Sporting Goods Store. Without freezers or refrigerators, their venison meat was canned and dried.

Buckshot was considered the best ammunition. Transportation was the local train. They boarded at a logger's cabin, trying to hunt in the same locality every year and become familiar with the terrain. The state game law permitted each hunter to bring home a buck and a doe.

On January 17, 1915, the Albany Vindicator reported this hunting episode.

"The third timber wolf killed in Rock County during the past few weeks was shot by a local farmer near the Burdick School house four miles west of the city. He was a member of a hunting party composed of Albany and Evansville men. The beast was evidently one of the pack which was first seen in the town of Center and which has been prowling in the woods west of town for several months past."

The record of a comparatively recent encounter with a wolf appeared in the December 6, 1940, issue of the Albany Herald.

"Deer hunters returned with a female brush wolf bagged near Magnolia, which with Gene Crawford's dog they had tracked for three days. The wolf was shot by



John L. Sherbondy might have been ready for a hunting expedition, but he took a moment to pose for this picture with his hunting hounds and double barrelled shotgun.



A group of successful hunters in 1901 with their trophies displayed in the background.

Art Jones, Albany carpenter, who went to Janesville and claimed a \$20 bounty. The wolf had been molesting sheep flocks and pig pens in the area for some time.”

In the year before this last wolf story, the Herald described the duck season as “well initiated.” All the favored spots on Sugar River and the mill pond were taken by hunters. “The stroke of seven was heralded by a salvo of detonations that would have done credit to the Siegfried line.” Among the hunters on that day were Don Partridge who bagged two ducks; L. H. Allen, four; John Christopher, three; Charlie Phillips, one; Harry Thurman, who got four ducks; and Ellsie Mabie, who, the paper said, “got wet.”

The Albany chapter of the Isaac Walton League made an effort in the decade of the 20’s to get ring-necked pheasants started in the surrounding country, and later the Rod and Gun Club released 600 pheasants and 10 coons in the area. In the 1930’s pheasant hunting was excellent among the cornfields and marshlands of the Albany area. Today, with modern farming methods, much of the marshland and good cover are gone, and with them the good hunting.

Long-time hunter Art Jones bagged this 30-pound fox on November 28, 1940. Both red and gray foxes are still abundant in the area.



Dr. Morgan and Odea Burt

The following story concerning Dr. S. J. Morgan and Odea Burt and their shop on the river in Albany, appeared in Sunday’s (December, 1940) Milwaukee Journal. Dr. Morgan and Mr. Burt turned out fascinating animated lawn ornaments in their shop. “Down by

the Sugar River here against the dam over which the waters pour ceaselessly is a little shop crammed with machinery. In it are Dr. S. J. Morgan and Odea Burt. They thought they retired years ago but here they are having a whale of a lot of fun just making whatever their fancy dictates.

"Neither one, it seems, is the boss. 'Burt does all the work,' says Doc, who forsook the practice of medicine 40 years ago to turn manufacturer and inventor. 'He can make anything out of wood or metal. Best tool and die maker in the world, too.'

"'Shucks,' says Burt, 'Doc here has all the ideas. Thinks them up easy as anything. Just look...'. And he brings out some of the things they have made for inspection. Right now they are specializing in weather vanes whose wind-driven propellers bring motion to small mounted figures. Little men who saw wood furiously in the wind, women who churn butter or wash clothes, boys riding bicycles and fretting horses.

"That the pair are here at all is due to Doc's love of invention and the uncontrollability of golf balls. As a youngster in his early teens, Doc noted the piles of shells tossed aside by persons seeking fresh water pearls in the river here and decided they would make nice ornaments. His father had a horse and a neighbor had a treadmill. So, he fixed up a deal and soon he was hard at work at the grinding wheel while the horse, walking briskly on the inclined treadmill, supplied the power.

"'We made a lot of ornaments, too,' remembers Doc with a grin, 'until the horse decided to liquidate the business. Because by and by the horse learned that he was getting no place fast by going ahead, and tried backing up.' That habit, once learned and continually used, brought an end to the pearl button business.

"Another invention of his early days was a novel sled, and the reputation he gained through that venture lives with him still. 'They say that it was a fine sled except that neither runner touched the snow,' says Doc, 'and I don't know but what they were right!'"

Doc and Odea made a lot of rolling pins, too. Any time a girl got married she could count on getting a rolling pin from the team of Morgan and Burt. "We've headed a lot of marriages in the right direction with our rolling pins," they said, "and they've been successful, too."

Moonshiner Nabbed

From the January 21, 1926, Albany Herald

"Tom Carver, deputy sheriff of Albany, was on the job Wednesday when a moonshine peddler drove into town and stopped on a downtown street.

"Mr. Carver spotted the car and the people who seemed interested in it, and just as one of the men was closing the car door the deputy stepped up and placed the driver under arrest and ordered him to get out and open up the rear end of the car. He complied with the order and the deputy found seven gallons and a quart of what appeared to be alcohol.

"The prisoner was taken to Monroe where he waived a preliminary examination and was bound over to circuit court under \$1,000 bond."

The Greenback Party

The Greenbackers believed that issuing large amounts of paper money would bring prosperity, especially to the farmer, by raising prices and making debts easier to pay. Many meetings were held in Albany and the surrounding area to promote the cause.

At a meeting in the Village of Brodhead on January 24, 1879, the following resolutions were adopted. "Resolved that the Green Back Dollar must be a legal tender for the payment of debts and by the government issued, protected, and received as absolute money at par with any other money authorized by law.

"Resolved that we demand the suppression of all bank currency, the government alone to issue money and this for benefit of all; and not to, through or for, enrichment of national banks.

"Resolved that the most essential feature of currency is the proper control of its volume in such a manner that justice may be done between debtors and creditors.

"Resolved that we demand the earliest possible legal payment of the public debt of the United States, principal and interest, in legal tender money of the United States."

The item also stated that a mass meeting would be held in the Village of Albany on Thursday, February 6, 1879, to take necessary steps to secure the cooperation of all in putting these principles into effect.

A political meeting under the auspices of the Green-Back Party was held in the Grange Hall in October, 1882. Short speeches were made by D. W. Leonard, Attica; and R. D. Crocker of Belleville. E. W. Dwight of Brooklyn addressed the meeting in the evening for one hour.

The national Greenback Party was not successful in promoting its aims, and the movement died.

Albany's history is that of a typical Wisconsin village. Historians are compelled to state facts as accurately as the truth can be ascertained. Footprints in the sands of time can be observed, their direction followed, and their destination noted. The cold facts of history do not convey the thrill of the early pioneers who stood on the banks of the river at Campbell's Ford and viewed the unmatched splendor of the swift, rippling river whose banks were shaded by giant virgin maples, birches and black oaks. They envisioned a water supply, water power, wood for lumber and fuel. They were confident other people would stop off there, catch their vision and develop a thriving community.

You have read of the physical growth of the community—its triumphs and its disasters, and through it all the desire of its people to live life to its fullest. It is uniquely true that from its beginning to the present day Albany citizens, no matter how far they get from the good earth where they grew up, have an instinctive yearning to return often to this quiet, friendly little community that still cradles Sugar River.



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